

# The Prince George's Post



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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT ITAVCOLLAB

Center, ITAVCOLLAB Founders Aishia Phillpotts-Manley and Shoa Phillpotts with 2021 Retreat Guests.

## DMV Health & Wellness Sister Duo Look to Make Change on How Black Women Self Heal

By PRESS OFFICER  
ITAVCollab

WASHINGTON (Aug. 16, 2023)—Sister duo Aishia Phillpotts-Manley and Shoa Phillpotts founded It Takes A Village Collaborative (ITAVCollab) in 2019 to better provide community-based wellness programs with a twist on holistic healing for black women and the black community. After seeing firsthand examples of the disparities black women face within their Caribbean household, the duo decided to center their efforts on creating a non-profit that empow-

ered black women to center their health and wellness while equipping individuals within the black community with wellness resources to better heal and develop for a more practical lifestyle through mental, physical, and spiritual health.

ITAVCollab has created annual events and programs to better serve black women & men, black youth, and formerly incarcerated women. Their 8-week hybrid program "To Be Me" equips women who have been previously incarcerated with a safe environment to connect with themselves, grow their advocacy

skills, and establish a supportive network within their own community. In partnership with the National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens, ITAVCollab infuses a holistic approach to wellness to build self-confidence, awareness, resilience, opportunity, and advocacy skills for participants.

"By promoting self-healing practices and wellness techniques, we aim to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses and improve overall mental and emotional well-being within our community," said Co-founder Shoa Phillpotts.

After four years of creating safe and creative spaces of healing for black women and the black community, ITAVCollab is hosting B.E.I.N.G the Healer & The Healed, a one-day retreat under its Queen B.E.E Talks Wellness program on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023 from 10-4 p.m. at the Wellspring Manor in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The day-long retreat will feature interactive sessions with the intent to support and guide attendees' active wellness journey through intimate life coaching, therapy, yoga, fitness, and holistic healing. Attendees are welcome to register at [itavcollab.org](http://itavcollab.org).

### Event Details:

**Title:** B.E.I.N.G the Healer and the Healed  
**Acronym for BEING:** Breathing, Enlightenment, Intuitiveness, Nurturing, and Grounding

### When:

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023**  
Time: 10-4 p.m.

**Where:** Wellspring Manor,  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
11311 Drumsheugh Ln, Upper  
Marlboro, MD 20774

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE:**  
COLLABORATIVE  
I.T.A.V.COLLAB

**Web:** [www.itavcollab.org/wellness-programs.html](http://www.itavcollab.org/wellness-programs.html)

**Social Media:**  
**IG:** @itavcollab  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ITAVcollab>

## County Health Department Offers Essential Tips to Safeguard Against Mosquito-Borne Illnesses

Prince George's County Health Department reminds people to take precautions against mosquitoes

By LAUREN MOSES  
Office of the Health Officer

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 18, 2023)—In response to the Maryland Department of Health's recent announcement confirming a positive case of locally acquired malaria in a Maryland resident who lives in the National Capital Region, the Prince George's County Health Department wants to remind residents about the importance of protecting themselves against potential exposure to mosquito-borne illnesses. The risk of mosquito-borne illnesses increases in the summer and continues into the fall because of the increased mosquito activity.

"Educating our residents on ways to reduce mosquito pools is the best way in preventing mosquito-borne illness," said Sanmi Areola, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services and Education. "We are asking our residents to take the necessary steps to eliminate standing water around their homes and to reduce their exposure to mosquito bites which will reduce your chances of getting infected."

### Protect Yourself and Your Family—Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Many mosquitos that transmit viruses bite between dawn and dusk. It is possible for mosquitos that bite in the daytime to also transmit viruses. To the extent possible, stay indoors at dusk and at dawn when mosquitos are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes when outdoors.
- Spray insect repellent with the active ingredients of DEET or Picaridin (both provide longer-lasting protection than others) on exposed skin and clothing when outdoors, following product directions.
- Treat clothes and gear with prod-

- ucts containing 0.5% permethrin.
- Use screens on open windows and repair any holes.

### Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites

Reduce breeding mosquitoes in your yard and in your neighborhood by eliminating standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs.

- Remove discarded automobile tires and put drainage holes in playground tires.
- Remove or turn over buckets and other containers that can collect rainwater.
- Turn over children's wading pools, wheelbarrows, canoes, and garbage can lids.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.
- Flush bird baths and potted plant drainage trays twice weekly.
- Fix dripping outdoor water faucets and eliminate puddles under air conditioners.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools.
- Adjust tarps over pools, boats, etc. so that rainwater will not collect.
- Treat containers that cannot be emptied (such as rain barrels or abandoned pools) with an insecticide that specifically targets mosquito larvae. Look for products such as Mosquito Torpedoes, sold in garden centers and hardware stores.
- Ensure corrugated drainpipes are placed correctly so that they do not retain water. If pipes are above ground, empty them once a week. Attach flexible screening to the open end to prevent mosquitoes from entering.

For more information, please visit the County Health Department website at [health.mypgc.us/MosquitoPrevention](http://health.mypgc.us/MosquitoPrevention)

## Building Faster & Smarter: PGCPS to Open Six New Schools During 2023-24 School Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County  
Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will open the doors to six new state-of-the-art schools for the 2023-24 school

year, underlining historic investments in modernizing rapidly aging school buildings and addressing growing enrollment.

Known colloquially as the Blueprint Schools, they include four building replacements—Drew-Freeman Middle School in Suitland; Hyattsville Middle School; Kenmoor Middle

School in Landover; and Walker Mill Middle School in Capitol Heights—and two new schools, Sonia Sotomayor Middle School at Adelphi and Colin L. Powell Academy in Fort Washington. Overall, the schools will provide capacity for 8,000 students.

"These new schools show

what is possible in public school construction through innovation and collaboration," said Superintendent Millard House II. "The Blueprint Schools program is a model for school systems across this nation. We are

See SCHOOLS Page A5

## 8th Annual McCeney March Returns Sept. 30

By PRESS OFFICER  
Laurel Historical Society

On Saturday, Sept. 30, Laurel community members are invited to join the Laurel Historical Society for the eighth annual McCeney March in honor of James "Jim" McCeney, a community activist, devoted LHS board member and avid walker. All proceeds will go toward local educational programs and scholarships.

McCeney is fondly remembered for his work as board chair, treasurer and president of the Laurel Historical Society for many years, as well as his cheerful morning greetings to passersby during his daily walks through Old Town Laurel. Since 2016, participants in the annual McCeney March have honored McCeney's memory by retracing his steps and visiting some of his favorite locations in historic Laurel.

"This year's McCeney March will honor Jim's memory by adding a new component to the event that will make the day a fun-filled learning experience about the history of the city Jim loved so much," said Bob Mignon, chair of the McCeney March committee.

From 10 a.m. till 12 p.m. on Sept. 30, McCeney March participants will have the chance to gather at the Laurel Museum and from there enjoy a self-guided walking tour through historic Laurel by visiting any or all of the eight interactive stops along a scenic 1.25-mile route.

Following the route in any order, walkers can visit four stationary stops to read signage about Laurel's history since the mid-19th century, as well as hear from volunteers at four interactive stops about in-depth history on St. Mark's United Methodist Church, the Laurel Museum, Old Laurel High School and Emancipation Park.

While most of the terrain is level, there are a few hills to climb from Ninth Street to the Museum. Participants may also drive the route, as parking is available at all of the interactive stops.

"This year's McCeney March will be really exciting because we will be remembering Jim and his legacy in Laurel while also learning more about the history of the town he loved so much," said Ann Bennett, executive director of the Laurel Historical Society. "Expanding the walking portion to include a self-guided tour with stationary and interactive stops will allow more participants

to learn more about Laurel's history and what we do at the Historical Society."

Following the walk, participants will gather at noon in the Pool Meeting Room at the Laurel Municipal Pool for a closing reception where pizza and light refreshments will be served for lunch. Members of the Laurel Historical Society will speak about the positive effects of donations on local educational programs, and the 2023 James B. McCeney Scholarship winners will be presented.

At 12:30 p.m., the event will also honor the memory of Mildred Awkward, a long-time St. Mark's parishioner and avid home baker, with the return of the Cold Oven Pound Cake Challenge. The pound cake challenge will be judged by Mayor Craig Moe, Laurel Board of Trade President Marilyn Johnson, a member of Mrs. Awkward's family and a member of the Laurel Historical Society. Attendees can sample the different cakes, meet the Awkward family and take home Mildred Awkward's prized cold oven pound cake recipe.

"We expect the second annual 'Cold Oven Pound Cake Challenge' to be even better than the first because we have last year's champions to defend their awards," said Bennett.

Finally, from 12 to 4 p.m., the Laurel Museum will be open with the current exhibit "It's All Laurel: City Limits and Beyond" and the Museum

Shop will have local gifts available for purchase. The exhibit explores the four counties that are part of Laurel and further expands on the history of some of the stops from the McCeney March walking tour. It strives to demonstrate that "Laurel" is more than the areas within the city limits. Focusing on communities ranging from Scaggsville to Russett to the historic African American community of Bacontown, the exhibit reveals the breadth of Laurel—geographically, demographically and historically.

Registration fees for the McCeney March are \$25 per adult, \$10 per child and \$60 for a family of four. Registration is available online at [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/the-mcceney-march.html](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/the-mcceney-march.html) or in person at the Laurel Museum. Sponsorship information can be found at [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/store/p153/McCeney\\_March\\_Sponsorship.html](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/store/p153/McCeney_March_Sponsorship.html).

The Laurel Historical Society is located within the Laurel Museum at 817 Main St. in Laurel, Md. The Laurel Museum is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. The current exhibit "It's All Laurel: City Limits and Beyond" runs through August 2024. Admission to the Museum is free. Research requests and tour groups can visit on weekdays by appointment. For more information contact [info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org), 301-725-7975 or [www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org).

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Bomb discovered in suitcase, scary story in 1982

This is what happens when you dig through old papers—I found this awful story which ran in The Washington Post on Thursday, March 4, 1982.

“An Andrews Air Force Base mechanic was arraigned yesterday on federal charges of attempting to destroy a commercial aircraft, after FBI agents said he placed a bomb in his wife’s suitcase before she left National Airport Tuesday morning.”

It turns out that the culprit was Airman 1st Class Martin Thomas Bradley, 27, of 6920 Pickett Drive, Morningside.

His wife, Staff Sgt. Mary Jo Bradley boarded a Braniff Airlines flight bound for Dallas-Fort Worth Airport to attend a training session. When she began unpacking in her room at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas, she found what looked to be a bomb.

The bomb contained one pound of plastic explosives, two pounds of gunpowder and a large number of two-inch nails. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farrar said “checked luggage is ordinarily not screened! Apparently, something went wrong.”

Bomb disposal units at Shepard AFB safely removed the device from the suitcase. Officials would not comment on why the bomb failed to detonate.

Since the previous November, the Bradleys had shared the Pickett Drive home with Ellen Van Deusen, a Marine sergeant also stationed at Andrews.

FBI agents searched the house and found a cardboard box containing black powder, electrical wiring similar to that found on the bomb, and two sections of the Feb. 8 Washington Post. The classified section of that edition was found with the bomb in Texas.

According to the FBI affidavit on Feb. 17, Martin Bradley had discussed marital problems with a friend “over beers.” According to the FBI, the friend suggested, “Why don’t you get rid of her?” According to the affidavit, Bradley said, “I am—just wait and see.”

Martin Bradley was arrested while on duty at an Andrews AFB hangar at 4 a.m. the next day and was being held at the County Detention Center in Upper Marlboro on \$400,000 bond. I tried to find out what eventually happened to him but couldn’t. Maybe one of you can check it out.

### Town of Morningside:

So, here’s the Scoop! Morningside is hosting a Back-To-School Event on Friday, September 15, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Enjoy a Free Make-Your-Own-Ice-Cream-Bar (while supplies last). There’ll also be Roller-Skating (though, skating wavers must be signed by a parent). And a Give-a-Way Raffle for students.

Last week I said the board covering the smashed windows at GI Liquors was down. Well, now it’s up again. You’ll have to wait another week.

Morningside’s next meetings will be the Work Session, Tuesday, Sept. 12, and the General Town Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 19. Both beginning at 7 p.m. For Morningside information: 301-736-2300.

### Neighbors & other good people

My next-door neighbors, John and Stacie Smith, held a big celebration at their home, for their 20th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Nathaniel B. Thomas is currently the Pastor of Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church. He has served there since 1993.

Rear Adm. Yvette Davids is the first female superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy since its founding in 1845. My brother Joe Mudd and Nephew Mike Mudd both graduated from the Academy, and I think they would approve.

Theresa A. Mudd, my son-in-law John Mudd’s aunt, died Aug. 16 at the Charleston Senior Community in Waldorf. She was a lifelong resident of Charles County, residing primarily in Indian Head and Waldorf. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Peter’s in Waldorf.

### Changing landscape

Washington’s Union Station is in line for major expansion and the one who’ll do it is the one who redeveloped the historic Post Office Building in Manhattan. I hope he does a good job!

I have a great interest in our Union Station because train travel is my favorite way to go. In college years, I took the Grand Truck, a Canadian train, back and forth to college from South Bend to Saginaw, Mich. In 1948 I took the train from Saginaw to Mexico City to attend summer classes. In 2007 I took my 16-year-old grandson Zak Seidman across the country (Chicago, Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio, Cincinnati) for a month. I regularly took the train if it went where I wanted

to go. One of my last was the Auto Train to Florida. Who knows where I’ll go next.

A home at 6705 McKelden Drive, in Skyline, sold for \$477,000 in January.

### Places to go and things to do

The Bill Pickett Rodeo is coming up at the Prince George’s Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena Sept. 23, opening at 1:30 p.m. The Rodeo celebrates and honors Black Cowboys and Cowgirls and their contributions to building the west.

The LaPlata Firehouse Museum is open on selected dates, at 3 Firehouse Alley in La Plata. For group visits, call Danielle Mandley, at 301-934-8421.

### I love newspapers

They are in trouble everywhere. In the past week I’ve heard two horror stories: Daughter Therese, in Brownsville, Tex., sadly reported that the Brownsville Herald, which began publication in 1892, is cutting distribution to two days a week.

Nephew Mike Mudd, in Dunkirk, told me The Washington Post will no longer deliver in his area. Hungry for a morning paper, they now take The Baltimore Sun. But they miss the Post.

### College hockey player Eric Bennett killed in crash

Eric J. Bennett, 21, of Dunkirk, an ice hockey player at Stevenson University, in Owings Mills, died July 22 in a fatal car crash in Calvert County. He was the son of Willie H. Bennett Jr. and Erica Banks-Bennett, brother of Willie III and Samara.

Services were at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington. In the wake of Eric’s tragic death, the University community came together to mourn and pay tribute to him. Candlelight vigils, tributes, and messages of support flooded social media.

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Judy Busky, Earl Simms, Rebecca Capps and my great-granddaughter Mary Adela McHale, Sept. 1; Suzanne Kenney, Sept. 2; Arvilla Atkinson, Andrelic Howard, Sept. 3; Loretta Carter, Sept. 4; Frank Howard, Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, Harietta Boo Henson, my great-granddaughter Nina McHale, and Dan Needham, Sept. 6; Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; and Mike Dawes, Sept. 9.

Happy 48th anniversary to Charlie and Bobbie Deegan who were married Sept. 5, 1975.



PHOTO COURTESY DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

The bleachers at DuVal High School are in poor condition.

## Duval Tigers Football Booster Club Demand Upgrade of Deplorable and Unsafe Football Facilities

LANHAM, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—The newly installed DuVal High School Football Booster Club recently toured the football facilities to which their children have been subjected. They were left outraged by the state of (the original) bleachers which are in such poor condition and these parents question how they have passed inspections over the years. Notably, a cheerleader was injured when she stepped on a plank that was damaged. Likewise, a spectator at the August 22, 2023 home game was nearly injured after having a bleacher plank collapse after he stepped on it.

Likewise, the DuVal High School football playing field has never had lighting installed which prevents performing night games and is not well maintained. Their scoreboard does not work and there is no press box—all of which is absolutely substandard and deficient as compared to surrounding high schools.

The upgrade of these facilities has long been postponed—so there is growing skepticism about the proposed 2024–2025 start of renovations. This club also believes that there are many upgrades that cannot wait for the upgrade project because the safety of athletes and patrons is at risk. There is also a morality impact—these athletes bring their talent and pride to the school and the county but do not feel valued when they have neglected football facilities. The neglect and bias is questionable so these football parents are demanding funding and attention to address these disparities.

“This booster club has the mission of advocating for healthy participation of our athletes, through fundraising and other support. Now, we must shift gears to just get the basics for our children and keep people safe.”—Booster Club President, Melva Najiy

*The Roaring Tigers Football Booster Club are parents and community volunteers of 60+ student athletes.*

## County Health Department to Host Back to School Flu and Immunization Clinics to Ensure a Healthy Start for Students

*County Health Department to Extend Immunization Clinic Hours to Evenings and Weekends*

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 21, 2023)—The Prince George’s County Health Department is pleased to announce the launch of its highly anticipated back-to-school flu and immunization clinic initiative, which aims to prioritize the health and well-being of students as they prepare to return to the classroom for the upcoming school year.

“The Prince George’s County Health Department recognizes the critical importance of safeguarding our community against preventable diseases,” said Dr. Matthew D. Levy, Acting Health Officer. “By offering these essential immunizations, we strive to contribute to the overall health and safety of our community’s students.”

The clinics will provide a comprehensive range of immunizations, including routine childhood vaccinations, COVID-19 immunizations, and flu shots to children and teens between the ages of 2 months and 18 years with limited or no health insurance. Additionally, the clinics operate on a sliding fee scale based on income, ensuring every child can access essential vaccines regardless of their financial situation. This year, the Health Department is offering extended weekend and evening hours for the back-to-school clinics.

### Health Department Immunization Back-to-School Clinic Schedule:

- The Cheverly Health Center (3003 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785) offers back-to-school immunizations:
  - Mondays–Fridays 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
  - Extended Evening Hours: Tuesday, September 5–Friday, September 8 Tuesday, September 12–Friday, September 15 4–7 p.m.
  - Extended Weekend Hours: Saturday, September 9 Saturday, September 16 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

- The Maternal and Child Health Center at Laurel (14207 Park Center Drive, Suite 102, Laurel, MD 20707) offers back-to-school immunizations:
  - Mondays–Fridays 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

### Health Department 2023–2024 Flu Clinic Schedule:

- Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Vincent Pallotti High School, 113 St Mary’s Place, Laurel, MD 20707 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 5, 2023, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Thursday, October 12, 2023, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770 1–7 p.m.
- Cheverly Health Department, 3003 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785 Mondays–Fridays 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Health Department’s back-to-school immunization clinics are by appointment only. To make an appointment, please visit the immunization clinic scheduling portal. **Parents or legal guardians must bring a copy of all your child’s immunization (shots) records.** For additional information, visit the Health Department website here: [health.mypgc.us/Immunizations](http://health.mypgc.us/Immunizations)

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### MIGHTY WONDERS OF AQUASCO, MARYLAND

The Black Gospel Music Restoration Project was established in 2018 and is directed by Baylor Associate Professor Robert Darden. Since 2008, Baylor University librarians have digitized over 8,381 songs. Dwandalyne Reece, curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, is so excited about the efforts of Baylor University’s Black Gospel Music Restoration Project. The project’s goal is to create a digital copy of every song released by every Black gospel artist or group during the “Golden Age of Gospel” that spanned the 1940s to the 1980s.

“The Old Ship of Zion” by the Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland is one of these recordings. Darden and his team believe the record was cut around 1960 in one of Aquasco’s tiny street corner studios. Darden saw the song as an example of the regional importance of gospel. “Maryland was the site of numerous plantations in the Civil War era and some of the worst events during the Civil Rights era,” he explained, “In the middle of all that, this group goes into the studio and cuts this song that says three times, ‘There’s nothing but love in God’s water.’ That you can sing an inclusive song like that during times like those in a place like that, well, that is special. The Black Gospel Music Restoration Project’s copy of the Mighty album is one of only two known to exist.

### BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

“This school year O, Lord belongs to only you. Please lead the way in all we say, think and do. May we always welcome everyone with respect and grace, and may your presence be felt throughout the entire place. Please be present in every classroom. A mentor in morning meetings. A protector to every entrance, and a peace with every greeting. Bless the work of our hands to help shape every mind. Not only with academics, but genuinely be kind. Let us be good stewards of the children sent our way. Seeing them through your eyes as they learn, grow, and play, and through every month and every season this blessed school year will bring. May it be built on the firm foundation of seeing you in everything.” Words by Kendra Bunch-Neal who was our worship leader at Clinton United Methodist Church August 20, 2023.

### JOHN ISABELLE ACRES

John Isabelle Acres Farm “Real Black History” by Todd Johnson. John Robert Johnson, my great Grandfather: John Robert Johnson purchased seventy acres of the Rosemount Plantation in 1901. John Robert was the son of Richard H. and Elsie Diggs Johnson. The father of Richard H. was Bernard

Matthew Johnson, a slave from Nairobi Kenya.”

“John Robert and his wife, Isabelle Pinkney Johnson raised eleven children on the Johnson farm. The family harvested tobacco, raised chickens, cattle, pigs, and vegetables. John Robert died in 1925, leaving Bernard (Bud) Matthew Johnson, the second son, to become the farm patriarch.”

“Bud and his brothers continued to work on the farm as children. For most of them a formal education was sacrificed for the sake of “saving the family farm.” “Bud remained on the farm, until his death in September 1993, raising tobacco, tending the animals, and vegetable garden with seasonal assistance from his siblings”. Johnson Farm was subdivided in 1975. It then became John Isabelle Acres where 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation descendants of John Robert and Isabelle Johnson live today.

### ODE TO OUR ANCESTORS

Words by Kendra Y. Neal: “Our complexions may range in many shades from vanilla to mahogany can be found, even in the hues of our almond shaped eyes from light hazel to chestnut brown. Our ancestors fought long and hard for the freedoms we have privilege today but what still stands out above all the rest is knowing how to pray. Unfairly treated, sold off, and torn. Not aware of what was ahead. Separated from family, deserted, and lonely and the looming fear and dread. But then, came those old spiritual songs that rang out from morning till night while working those tired old bones seemed to make everything all right.” “Nowhere to go, but simply look up to the one, who is always there. Would comfort those worn-out souls with the promise that Jesus cares.”

### CENTENARIAN

In May Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton a member of Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church was one of Centenarians honored at the Department of Parks and Recreation Annual Centenarians Luncheon. She was unable to attend the Luncheon, so on July 14, 2023, Pastor Shemaiah visited Mrs. Hamilton at her home and presented her with her certificate. “Always a blessing to be in her presence.”

### EAGLE HARBOR

Eagle Harbor was originally known as Trueman Point, a riverport established in the early 18th century to serve as a shipping point for tobacco plantations located in the Aquasco area. In 1747, it was considered by the Maryland colony as an official tobacco inspection station, but it never realized that designation. Wikipedia.

# COMMUNITY

## Acclaimed Actress Lynn Whitfield, Keynote Speaker for Prince George's Film Festival—Take Two Closing Reception Brunch & Awards Presentation

*Conversations about her Illustrious Movie Career, and Highlighting Icon Role in "Eve's Bayou"*

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—The Prince George's Film Festival is excited to announce that the highly regarded actress Lynn Whitfield, will take center stage as the Keynote Speaker for the Closing Celebration Brunch, and awards presentation. Following her keynote speech, attendees will be treated to an insightful dialogue titled, "A Conversation with Actress Lynn Whitfield."

### An Illuminating Conversation with a Celebrated Actress

Join us as we delve into the insights and experiences of Actress Lynn Whitfield, a remarkable talent

who has left an indelible mark on the world of film and entertainment. This event is a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the art of storytelling and the impact of film on our lives. As Lynn Whitfield expresses, "I am thrilled to be the Keynote Speaker for the Prince George's Film Festival. It's an honor to be part of an event that celebrates the power of storytelling and the boundless possibilities of cinema."

The closing event will also honor the exceptional filmmakers and artists whose work has fascinated audiences throughout the festival at the 2023 Awards Presentation. "Every year, our awards presentation is a moment when the magic of storytelling comes alive, honoring the incredible work of filmmakers who have poured their hearts and souls into their

creations," said Donna Foster, General Manager of the Prince George's Film Office. "Through these awards, we not only recognize their dedication and creativity but also encourage a community of filmmakers to continue pushing the boundaries of storytelling. The stage is set, the spotlight is on, and we eagerly await to applaud the remarkable talents, including the legendary Lynn Whitfield, that make the film festival an unforgettable experience." This event promises to be a memorable culmination of cinematic excellence.

### A Weekend of Celebration and Inspiration

This second annual Prince George's Film Festival is back with a dynamic lineup of workshops, panels, exclusive screenings, and invaluable networking op-

### Event Details

**Who:** Actress Lynn Whitfield  
**What:** Closing Reception Brunch & Awards Presentation, including "A Conversation with Actress Lynn Whitfield"  
**When:** Sunday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
**Where:** MGM National Harbor Ballroom, 101 MGM National Ave, Oxon Hill, MD

portunities. From Thursday, September 28, through Sunday, October 1, attendees have access to immerse themselves in a world of creativity and storytelling in community with fellow film enthusiasts, creators, filmmakers, and industry power players.

Visit [www.pgfilmfestival.com](http://www.pgfilmfestival.com) for passes, tickets, and more information.

### Founding Festival Partners

The Prince George's Film Festival is founded and generously supported by the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, Prince George's Film Office, Bowie State University, and Experience Prince George's.

## RAM Needing Volunteers for Free, 2-day Healthcare Clinic in Largo, Md.

Call for volunteers for pop-up clinic coming to Prince George's in November

By PRESS OFFICER

Remote Area Medical

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 15, 2023)—Remote Area Medical—RAM®—a major nonprofit provider of pop-up clinics delivering free, quality dental, vision and medical care to those in need—is seeking volunteer medical, dental and vision professionals and general support staff for its Nov. 11–12 clinic. The two-day clinic is to be held at Prince George's Community College, located at 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774. This clinic is in collaboration with The Links, Incorporated's Prince George's County (MD), Mount Rose (MD) and Willow Oak (MD) chapters.

RAM is also in need of general support volunteers to help set up on Friday, Nov. 10 and take down on Sunday, Nov. 12. Overnight parking staff to greet patients is also needed, and interpreters can volunteer to aid patients through the process, either in the parking lot or during clinic operations. Individuals do not need to work in the medical field to volunteer as general support. If you or your organization would like to volunteer your time to help provide free healthcare services to the Largo, Md. and surrounding communities, please visit our website at [www.ramusa.org](http://www.ramusa.org) or call us at 865-579-1530.

All RAM services are free, and no ID is required. Free dental, vision and medical serv-

ices will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Services available at a RAM free clinic include dental cleanings, dental fillings, dental extractions, dental X-rays, eye exams, eye health screenings, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglasses made on-site, 's health exams and general medical exams.

*About Remote Area Medical: RAM is a major nonprofit organization that operates pop-up clinics delivering free, quality dental, vision and medical services to individuals in need who do not have access to, or cannot afford, a doctor. Founded in 1985, RAM has treated more than 910,000 individuals with \$189.5 million worth of free healthcare and veterinary services. Since its foundation, more than 196,000 volunteers—comprised of licensed dental, vision, medical and veterinary professionals, as well as general support staff—have supported RAM's mission.*



PHOTO COURTESY REMOTE AREA MEDICAL

Remote Area Medical is seeking volunteer medical, dental and vision professionals and general support staff for its Nov. 11–12 clinic.

## The Ivy Community Charities of Prince George's County, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Iota Gamma Omega Chapter, Team Up for Their 28th Annual 5K Walk/Run Soul Fitness Weekend

By PRESS OFFICER

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Iota Gamma Omega Chapter

• Health and wellness vendors

Registration for this event can be found at <https://www.iccpgc.org/events-1/5k>.

The Ivy Community Charities of Prince George's County, Inc., in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Iota Gamma Omega Chapter, will host its annual 5k Walk/Run Soul Fitness Weekend Sept. 23 through Sept. 25. This hybrid event will be held both virtually online and physically at Watkins Regional Park located in Kettering, MD.

This weekend event is aimed at focusing on the health and well-being of participants and their families, volunteers, spectators and sponsors. This event is welcome to participants of all ages. There are several ways for the community to be engaged with this event such as:

- The 5k Walk/Run (virtually and in-person)
- The Soul Fitness 50/50 Raffles
- Virtual health presentations and workshops

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® (AKA) is an international service organization founded in 1908 at Howard University in Washington, DC. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American, college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha comprises 320,000 members in over 1,046 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Led by International President and CEO Dannette Anthony Reed, Alpha Kappa Alpha is often hailed as, "America's premier Greek-letter organization for African American women." For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and its programs, visit <https://aka1908.com>.

## Ukrainian Guests Artists and USAF Band Perform in Joint Concert

By PRESS OFFICER

United States Air Force Band

WASHINGTON (Aug. 22, 2023)—The United States Air Force Band and members of the Singing Sergeants will host three Ukrainian guest artist musicians for a joint concert on Sept. 16. This concert celebrates the international partnership between the two nations and features a diverse program by both Ukrainian and American composers. The concert is free and open to the public though does require tickets. Free tickets are available at [bit.ly/45zH28C](http://bit.ly/45zH28C).

Saturday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center  
 4915 E. Campus Drive  
 Alexandria, VA 22311

As a bilateral military music collaboration, the concert will showcase the strong friendship between the United States and Ukraine while celebrating the rich musical traditions from both countries. The Concert Band and members of the Singing Sergeants will perform music from both nations, such as Mykola Lysenko and Semen Hulak-Artemovsky from Ukraine, as well as John Williams and John Philip Sousa from the United States.

The concert will feature Col Maksym Husak, director and conductor of the National Presidential Orchestra of Ukraine and two soloists - Serhii Hurets, tenor vocal soloist with the National Presidential Orchestra of Ukraine, and Pavlo Gintov, a Ukrainian born/New York City-

based pianist. This event will be a reunion for Mr. Gintov and Col Schofield, who previously collaborated in 2015, when Col Schofield was the commander of The United States Air Force Band in Europe, repeating their performance of the American classic, "Rhapsody in Blue," by George Gershwin.

The United States Air Force Band is the premier musical organization of the U.S. Air Force. Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., The United States Air Force Band honors those who have served, inspires American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and connects with the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America.

OFFICE OF CENTRAL SERVICES  
 Land Acquisition and Real Property Division



NOTICE: REQUEST FOR SPACE("RFS")  
 OCS-RFS-DSS-2023-8:

### DSS WARM NIGHTS EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING

Prince George's County's Office of Central Services ("OCS") is seeking offers for land for new construction or existing free standing building(s) that is currently ready for occupancy or could be renovated to be occupied as an emergency temporary housing for residents experiencing an episode of homelessness. It is the County's strong preference to purchase a site, land, or the redevelopment of an existing building in the fulfillment of this requirement, but the County will also consider lease structure or ground lease options that include a path to ownership.

Responsive offers, among other things, should provide space that is within one building and contiguous on a single floor is preferred. However, properties [campus complex] that include multiple buildings may be considered. **ISSUANCE DATE: AUGUST 1, 2023**

#### DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:

Offers will be received and considered on a rolling basis starting and this solicitation shall remain open until the County has awarded a contract that satisfies the entirety of this requirement.

Offers must be e-mailed to: [OCS\\_RealProperty@co.pg.md.us](mailto:OCS_RealProperty@co.pg.md.us)

#### ATTENTION:

Ikenna Udejiofor, Administrator  
 Land Acquisition and Real Property Division (LARP)

#### REFERENCE:

DSS Warm Nights Emergency  
 Temporary Housing RFS DSS-2023-8

#### SUBMISSION FORMAT AND DUE DATE:

Please submit two (2) electronic copies (1 PDF and 1 Word version.) Offers must be submitted to OCS with all required supplemental information and documentation, by 3:00 pm, September 4, 2023, else the offer will not be considered.

Addendum: If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFS or if additional data is necessary to enable interpretation of provisions of this RFS, such revisions or additional data will be made available online at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/4212/Development-and-Solicitation-Opportunit>



**No phone calls, please.**  
 1400 McCormick Drive | Suite 336 | Largo, MD 20774

# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Remembering the March on Washington

In August 1963, I was a new law school graduate starting my last year of intensive preparation to become a civil rights lawyer under the tutelage of an extraordinarily gifted and committed band of attorneys at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and Educational Fund, Inc., in New York City. God was headed south to Mississippi and Alabama and Georgia and Louisiana and North Carolina and I would be going along for the scariest, most exhilarating, most challenging years any human being could hope for. But first came a thrilling, buoying moment that was one of the great days of my and our nation's life: the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

I drove Ella Baker from New York City to Washington, D.C. for the March in my brother

Julian's well-worn Volkswagen Beetle. Bob Moses and Jane Stenbridge, the young white woman from Georgia who was the first employee Ella Baker had hired for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), traveled with us. We stayed with my sister Olive. On August 28 I stood on the National Mall with uncontained excitement and tears with Bob Moses, Ella Baker, Julian Bond, and 250,000 others. A photograph captured our group in the crowd with our arms linked, singing. "We Shall Overcome" was the anthem of the day. The March brought a whole community together across race and class as a show of unity and a collective gathering of people seeking jobs and justice. And then Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. electrified us all as he

told America about his dream. We shared that period of hopefulness that Dr. King's dream, which was also our own, could be realized in America in our lifetimes with the help of our hands and feet and voices.

Sixty years later, the iconic image of the March remains Dr. King delivering the inspiring "I Have a Dream" message he spontaneously added that day at the end of his speech. But the central metaphor that made up the first half of his speech was the bounced check America had written to its Black and poor citizens. Dr. King said we had come to the nation's capital to cash a check America had written nearly two hundred years earlier. He reminded us that when our nation's founders wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, they had created a promissory note that guaranteed all Americans the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But instead of honoring that promise for Black Americans, America had defaulted on it and given us a bad check that had come back marked "insufficient funds." Dr. King said those of us who had come to the March on Washington were there to cash our checks because we refused to believe "the bank of justice is bankrupt" or that "there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation." He then reminded us of the urgency of the mo-

ment. The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. has put the original three-page copy of the speech that Dr. King brought to the podium on display to commemorate this 60th anniversary. One of the images that jumps out from the worn typewritten sheets is the underlining under the word now: "We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of Democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." As Dr. King delivered it he added: "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."

This message is still our charge today if we would hear, heed, and follow it. The Children's Defense Fund will serve as a supportive partner for the anniversary event on the National Mall on August 26—"Not a Commemoration, a Continuation!" Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children, and sixty years later, our hands, feet, and voices are still needed.

—August 25, 2023

## Stop for School Buses: What Are the Laws in Maryland?

By MSP OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATION  
Maryland State Police

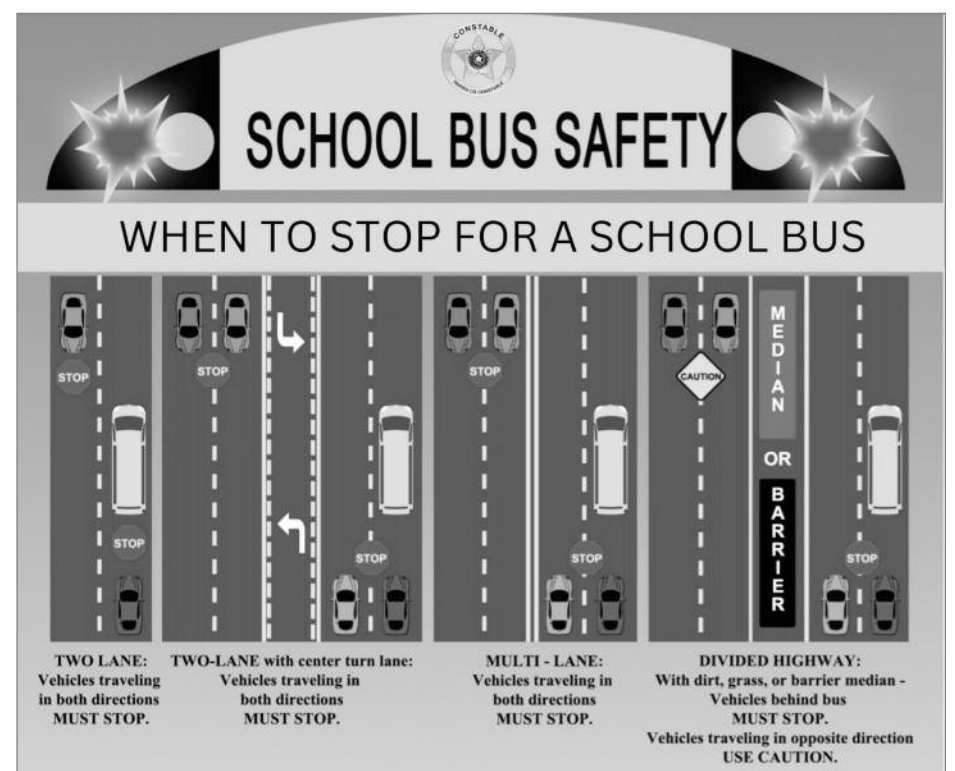
PIKESVILLE, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—Maryland State Police and the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) remind motorists to stop for school buses as students return to class next week.

Drivers must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus with the stop arm extended and the red lights flashing. Do not pass the bus from any direction until the stop signals are off and the bus is moving again. Motorists in Maryland are not required to stop if the road is separated by a physical median—such as dirt, grass, or a barrier.

Millions of children ride school buses and are most at risk when they get on or off the bus. There were 1,009 fatal school-transportation-related crashes from 2011 to 2020, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The MCSS encourages Marylanders and visitors to:

- Pay attention when driving, especially in school zones and during times of day when school buses are typically on routes.
- Stop when a bus stops. It is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing.
- Prepare to stop when the school bus is flashing its yellow lights and be cautious of students beginning to move toward the bus during these times.
- Students of all ages are unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for the unexpected and maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.
- Violators who are stopped by a police officer face a fine of up to \$570 and three points on their driver's licenses. Infractions carry a monetary penalty for each violation. For additional school bus safety tips, visit the Maryland Highway Safety Office.

IMAGE COURTESY MARYLAND STATE POLICE



## Governor Moore Announces Appointments to the Prince George's County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore today announced appointments to the Prince George's County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission. Bridgette Ann Greer will serve as chair.

"The Prince George's County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission promotes excellence within Maryland's judiciary and reflects the abundant legal talent in Prince George's County," said Gov. Moore. "I am grateful for all of the appointees' commitment to serving Prince George's County and the great state of Maryland."

There are sixteen Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commissions, established by Executive Order. The commissions advertise judicial vacancies; seek recommendations for judicial candidates from their own membership, bar associations and members of the general public; set closing dates for the submission of judicial applications; and evaluate applicants based on a variety of factors including integrity, temperament, legal knowledge, and professional experience.

Governor Moore's appointees to the Prince George's County Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commission include:

### Bridgette Ann Greer, Chair

Bridgette Greer has served on the Prince George's County Judicial Nominating Commission under Governors Hogan, O'Malley, and Glendonning. Ms. Greer practices employment law and currently serves as a member of the Prince George's County Personnel Board. She previously served as the deputy director of the Prince George's County Office of Human Resources Management and

as an attorney in the Prince George's County Office of Law. Ms. Greer is a recipient of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's President's Award and received the Gladys Noon Spellman Public Service Award from Prince George's County government. She serves on the Maryland Consumer Council and as an ambassador for Infinite Legacy, a non-profit dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

### Patricia Arzuaga

Patricia Arzuaga is senior counsel at Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., where she serves as the organization's lead regulatory attorney and advises executive leadership on delivering high quality, affordable health care. For the past 14 years Ms. Arzuaga has served on the board of directors of the Latin American Youth Center. She is also the chair of the After School Dance Fund, an organization created to offer Latin dance classes to children in Montgomery County and serves on the board of directors for CASA de Maryland.

### Robert "Bob" Charles Bonsib

Robert "Bob" Charles Bonsib is a partner with the firm Marcus & Bonsib, LLC. Mr. Bonsib is a criminal defense attorney with more than 45 years of criminal trial experience. He formerly served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland and an assistant state's attorney in Prince George's County. Mr. Bonsib is a past chair of the Prince George's County Bar Association Criminal Law Committee and currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association.

### Janelle Ryan-Colbert

Janelle Ryan-Colbert estab-

lished and manages the Colbert Law Firm, LLC, where since 2008 she has maintained a practice spanning employment law; Title VII claims; family law; criminal defense; contract, administrative law and general civil litigation; broad civil litigation; and employment law in state and federal courts. Ms. Ryan-Colbert also serves as an attorney advocate for Civil Justice, Inc. and the Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Inc.

### Bradley Scott Farrar

Bradley Farrar is a partner with the Law Offices of Shipley & Horne, P.A. His practice areas include complex land use, zoning law, and real estate law. Mr. Farrar currently serves as the president of the board of directors of the Prince George's Child Resource Center, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to creating healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers. He is a member of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association.

### Manuel "Manny" R. Geraldo

Manny Geraldo is a partner with Robinson & Geraldo where he has broad practice including business litigation, contract disputes, family law and real estate litigation. He is a former president of the Prince George's County Bar Association and is a former member and chair of the Maryland Board of Airport Zoning Appeals.

### Christine H. Murphy

Christine Murphy is the managing attorney for the Jaklitsch Law Group, where she maintains a personal injury practice. She previously worked as an assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County in the homicide division and has tried hundreds of cases. In 2016 she was named a Top 100 Civil Plaintiff's Attorney

by the National Trial Lawyers and has been re-named every year since. Ms. Murphy also serves on the board of directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association.

### Obie Patterson

Obie Patterson has a distinguished career serving the citizens of Prince George's County, most recently as State Senator for the 26th Legislative District, 2019-2022. Sen. Patterson's key leadership roles included serving as Deputy Majority Whip, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight and Vice-Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation. Prior to the Senate, Sen. Patterson served on the Prince George's County Council, 2008-2011, where he chaired the Oversight Committee for the \$1 billion National Harbor project and monitored Minority Business Enterprise utilization and local resident participation. And from 1995-2006, he served in the House of Delegates, where he chaired the Legislative Black Caucus and the Legislative Black Caucus Foundation. Sen. Patterson is a former research biologist, management analyst, equal employment opportunity specialist and program analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### April Nicole Richardson

April Nicole Richardson is a former white collar crime investigator and prosecutor. She is currently a managing member of Food Opportunity, Inc., a company that creates and supports opportunities for women and minorities in the food industry. Ms. Richardson also serves as an attorney and business consultant for the Private Practice Law Group and is on the board of directors of the Maryland Food Center Authority.

### Robyn Seabrook

Robyn Seabrook has worked in the field of education and education law for 20 years. She is currently the director of government & policy for the Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education. She formerly served as deputy general counsel for the University of Maryland—University College, as vice president and associate general counsel for Morgan State University, and as an education law private practitioner.

### Erica J. Suter

Erica Suter is recognized for her work as a post-conviction criminal defense attorney. She currently serves as the director of the Innocence Project Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law and was an adjunct professor at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. She is a past president of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association.

### Steven Bruce Vinick

Steven Vinick is counsel to Stein Sperling Bennett DeJong Driscoll, PC where he has more than 20 years of practicing personal injury and criminal defense. Mr. Vinick is a frequent lecturer before many organizations, including the National Business Institute, the Maryland State Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Association, where he presents on numerous topics including civil litigation, Medicare and criminal defense.

### Zachary William Worshtil

Zachery William Worshtil's practice primarily focuses on estates and trusts, real estate litigation and general civil litigation. Mr. Worshtil is a partner with the Law Office of Ralph W. Powers, Jr., P.C. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association and the board of directors of University Park Sports.

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Receives Financial Literacy Grant to Boost Financial Education Programs in Maryland's Underserved Communities

By PRESS OFFICER  
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) is committed to making a positive impact in local underserved communities in the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area. The Foundation is pleased to announce that it has received a \$2,500 financial literacy grant from the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC in support of FCF's numerous community-centric financial education programs.

During this past year, the Foundation has been actively investing in a wide range of financial literacy programs, including funding educational scholarships, providing small grants to K-8 educators, introducing "The Millionaire Club" program in local schools and con-

ducting financial education sessions for local elementary and middle schools.

As part of its educational programming this past spring, the Foundation and FedChoice Federal Credit Union staff provided a number of interactive educational sessions for Cora L. Rice Elementary School 3rd grade students about savings, budgeting and investing. The students and teachers also took part in a special "insider" tour of its headquarters. The detailed tour included the students' participation in an interactive workshop on budgeting and investments followed by a series of focused presentations by the FedChoice staff. In addition to financial education, students learned about different career opportunities available to them in the future. As the new academic year starts in these schools next week, the Foundation will continue its work with Cora L. Rice Elementary School

students and expand to G. Jacob Gholson Middle School, where these elementary students will soon attend.

"We greatly value our collaboration with local schools and the opportunity to create meaningful programs that will benefit not only the students, but also their families, teachers and the larger community," stated Andrey Gidasov, FCF Executive Director. "The generous grant from the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC will help many young people from underserved communities develop essential skills and practical tools to support their financial independence."

*The FedChoice Charitable Foundation was founded in 2017 and offers financial well-being programs in local communities while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community.*



PHOTO COURTESY FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation and FedChoice Federal Credit Union staff provided a number of interactive educational sessions for Cora L. Rice Elementary School 3rd grade students about savings, budgeting and investing.

### Schools from A1

grateful to our partners for bringing to life these fully modernized learning environments."

#### 2023-24 School Year Highlights: New Leadership

Superintendent Millard House II joined PGCPSS from the Houston Independent School District, where he led the nation's eighth largest school district. He released his 90-day plan last week with a focus on equitable teaching and learning environments, safety and security, and family and community engagement. House will also host listening and learning sessions this fall for stakeholders to share input and priorities with his administration. In addition to new executive leadership, 34 new principals are at the helm, including new administrators for Gwynn Park, Northwestern and Potomac high schools.

#### Building Faster & Smarter: Blueprint Schools Open Doors

To deliver long overdue new schools, PGCPSS has reimagined not only the way schools are built, but also how they are financed. Through the Blueprint Schools public-private partnership, PGCPSS is the first public school system in the nation to leverage a full-scope alternative financing model to accelerate new school construction. A second phase of schools to be built under the alternative financing model is underway.

#### Focus on Safety

PGCPSS is implementing new safety tools for the 2023-24 school year including a clear backpack policy for students in ninth through 12th grades. The school system is also phasing in security screening devices in all high schools and some middle schools.

## Prince George's County's Minority Construction Industry Day Showcases Triumph of Collaborative Development and Opportunities for Minority-Owned Firms

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Central Services

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Aug. 24, 2023)—The Office of Central Services successfully hosted the Minority Construction Industry Day event at the Newton White Mansion in Upper Marlboro on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023. The event focused on the upcoming planned construction projects for the County. Several notable County-based and located minority construction firms were in attendance to receive an extensive reveal of upcoming capital construction opportunities including functional information on how to participate in more than \$600 million in project opportunities. With an impressive turnout of more than 250 attendees, the event celebrated the County's commitment to construction excellence within the industry, further illuminating the County as a trailblazer in providing equitable opportunity.

"Our Administration has continued to create opportunities for local, small, and minority-owned businesses through programs in our Office of Central Services," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Small and minority-owned businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and we are committed to helping these businesses continue to grow and thrive. We want to thank the Office of Central Services for all they do to support our growing and vibrant business community."

Attendees were able to hear from the Department of Corrections, Police Department, Department of Social Services, Memorial Library System, Office of Central Services, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Fire/EMS and Prince George's Community College about upcoming construction projects. The event further amplified Prince George's County's commitment to construction excellence, equitable opportunities, and community growth.

In addition to profiling over 30 future construction projects valued over \$600 million, the event also highlighted the accomplishments of the Alsobrooks Administration for delivery of projects through the Office of Central Services. Over the past 4 years, the Office of Central Services completed capital construction related projects valued at approximately \$255 million of which \$198 million or 78% of the total value of projects was completed by Prince George's County certified small and minority businesses.

A significant highlight of the day was the awards ceremony honoring County-located construction firms that demonstrated exceptional prowess in successfully completing construction projects within the County. These firms were lauded for their contributions to the community and their commitment to delivering quality results that align with the County's service values.

Both General Contractors and Architectural Firms were awarded plaques presented by the Director of the Office of Central Services, Deputy Director of Technical Operations and Associate Director for Capital Improvement Program. Those firms and their projects are

as follows:

- **Corenic Construction**
  - Shady Glen Fire Station
- **Warren Builds**
  - Police Headquarters
  - Facilities Appearance Audit (FAA)
- **Nardi Construction**
  - Wayne K. Curry Building
  - Laurel Library
  - Department of Corrections Health Building
- **Rich Moe Enterprises**
  - Circuit Court Cafeteria
  - Brandywine Maintenance Building
  - Department of Corrections Housing Unit
  - Bladensburg Library
- **Tuckman Barbee**
  - Hyattsville Library
  - Forensic Lab
- **Specialty Construction Management**
  - FAA McCormick Drive Facilities Modernization
  - County Administration Building Garage
- **RSC Electrical and Mechanical**
  - 9400 HVAC
  - 92001 Supplemental Cooling and Shelter Restroom Upgrades
- **E&R Construction**
  - County Circuit Court Projects
- **Commercial Industrial applicators**
  - County Buildings (exterior work)
- **Heller Electric**
  - County Car Chargers Installation Program
- **Architects**
  - **Arel Architects**
    - Shady Glen Fire Station
    - Circuit Court Academy
    - National Harbor Pier Project
  - **KDA Architects**
    - County Government 10-Year Facilities Master Plan

"Minority Construction Industry Day was a clinical display of intentionality by Prince George's County Government in identifying an impressive array of capital construction opportunities for County-Based Small and Minority Business participation, valued at \$600 million", said Jonathan R. Butler, Director for the Office of Central Services

The Minority Construction Industry Day underscored the palpable impact these construction projects will have on the Prince George's County community. From improved County facilities to enhanced commercial spaces, the County's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its residents was evident throughout the event.



### I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County, MD

#### Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (presentation starts at 6:30 p.m.)  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>

#### In-Person Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (presentation starts at 7 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Oxon Hill High School (Auditorium), 6701 Leyte Dr, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center (Multi-purpose Room), 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

John R. Lewis High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, VA 22150

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study (495 Southside Study), an environmental study evaluating the potential extension of the Express Lanes system on the southern section of the Capital Beltway (I-495) by 11 miles from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Since introducing the 495 Southside Study at the Public Information Meetings in May 2022, VDOT has developed proposed preliminary alternative concepts to address identified transportation needs within the study area, which are to extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495, provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans. VDOT will share preliminary alternative concepts for review and input at upcoming public meetings to inform the range of alternatives that will be carried forward in the study.

The virtual public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with a presentation at 6:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside> or call 703-691-6715 for information about how to access and participate in the virtual meeting.

The in-person public information meetings will be held on Wednesday, September 13, at Oxon Hill High School, Tuesday, September 19, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, and Wednesday, September 20, at John R. Lewis High School. All meetings will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Meeting display boards will be available to review, and VDOT representatives will be present to answer questions.

VDOT, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, is conducting an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771.

Review and provide input on VDOT's preliminary alternative concepts that will inform the range of alternatives to be carried forward in the Environmental Assessment on the webpage (<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>), or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. Meeting materials will be posted on the study webpage prior to the public information meetings.

Provide your input by completing a public opinion survey at <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>, and by providing your written comments at one of the meetings or submitting them by October 2, 2023 to Nick Nies, AICP, VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study NEPA Project Manager, 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23235, or email [495Southsideexpresslanes@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:495Southsideexpresslanes@VDOT.Virginia.gov).

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

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