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Lakisha Hull Selected as New Director for the Prince George's County Planning Department

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Announces Appointment

By CALISTA BLACK
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 7, 2023)—The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announced its appointment of Lakisha Hull as the new Director for the Prince George's County Planning Department following a six-month-long nationwide search. Beginning January 8, 2024, Hull will assume leadership of the department charged with advising and working with the Planning Board, elected officials, and the community to

shape land use planning, zoning, and economic development plans for the County. She will report to the five-member Planning Board and lead more than 200 staff members in the development of master and sector plans, studies, data-driven initiatives, and policy updates, as well as the review of development applications and the preservation of environmental resources and historic properties.

"Lakisha's leadership will be beneficial as Prince George's County—diverse in both land use and in population—continues to evolve in this highly competitive region, and we collectively work



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC
Lakisha Hull is the new Director for the Prince George's County Planning Department.

to realize the goals outlined in Plan Prince George's 2035—the approved general plan for the County," stated Peter A. Shapiro, Chair of M-NCPPC and the Prince George's County Planning Board. "With her extensive background in planning, development, zoning, permitting, and policy and regulation, we are confident that Lakisha will contribute greatly to the County's priorities for vibrant transit-oriented development, healthy communities, sustainability, and economic growth."

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Prince George's County Council Elects District 5 Council Member Jolene Ivey as Chair

District 9 Council Member Sydney Harrison Elected as Vice Chair

By LINDSAY WATTS
County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council, during the Exchange of Gavel ceremony on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, elected District 5 Council Member Jolene Ivey to serve as Chair for the 2024 Legislative Year.

Council Member Ivey was sworn onto the Prince George's County Council in December 2018, and was recently re-elected for her second four-year term in November 2022. Previously she served two terms in

the Maryland House of Delegates, where she was Chair of the Prince George's Delegation from 2013–2014.

Among Council Member Ivey's priorities on the County Council are children and their families, the fight for environmental justice and sustainable practices, and ensuring residents receive speedy, effective, and courteous services from the County government. She helped start Family Connects, a pro-

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Library Board of Trustees Seeking New Members

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 4, 2023)—The Prince George's County Board of Library Trustees is looking for new members to join its governing board in 2024 and play a vital role in guiding a diverse and innovative award-winning urban library system that serves more than 967,000 residents.

The Library Board, the seven-member policy-making body that guides the development of library services for Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), hires and evaluates the Library's chief executive officer, sets systemwide priorities, oversees library resources to make sure they are used effectively toward achieving systemwide goals, reviews and approves policies, serves as a representative for the Library at community events, and advocates for the system among members of the public and policymakers.

"The PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees is looking to add members to a group made up of talented and dedicated people who recognize the positive impact and importance public libraries have in communities, will support PGCMLS leadership and staff, and will work hard to advance

the mission and vision of PGCMLS through governance and advocacy," said Board of Library Trustees President Angela D. Smith. "To serve on the board is an opportunity to contribute to the wonderful work being done by PGCMLS, which provides resources, services, materials, and equal access to opportunities and experiences to Prince George's County."

Board members, who must live in Prince George's County, serve without pay for staggered five-year terms, but they may serve for a shorter time if appointed to complete the term of a vacant seat. Members are expected to attend board meetings, which take place every other month, and additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Members are also asked to serve on one of three committees (personnel, budget and planning, or community engagement), as well as take on a leadership role by serving as a board officer or the chair of a board committee at some point during their time as a member.

Applications must be received by January 2, 2024. For more information about the board, by-laws, past meetings, and more, or to submit or print an application, visit <https://www.pgcmls.info/join-the-board>. Physical applications are also available at PGCMLS library branches.



PGCMLS Call for Applications to the Board of Library Trustees

Learn more and apply at pgcmls.info/join-the-board

Paper applications are also available by request at a service desk



Come help shape the future of one of the top public library systems in the country!

Moore Counters Political Polarization With Positive Messaging

By KIERSTEN HACKER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 5, 2023)—Gov. Wes Moore flashed his signature smile to the crowd as he pointed to people saying, "We need you," and thanking everyone like he'd just won an Os-

car. The smile and shoutouts that punctuated the October launch of his service year program have become characteristic of Moore's optimistic style.

"At a time when some of these folks and politicians seem to be more interested in making points than making a difference; at a time when neighbors

don't talk to each other because one votes red and one votes blue, service will save us," Moore said to a crowd of hundreds at the celebration for the Service Year Option and Maryland Corps.

"Service will save us" has become his mantra, as he rolls out his optional service year program for high school graduates. Political and rhetoric experts say Moore's employment of this kind of optimistic language, sunny delivery and disdain for the trench warfare politics of today are unusual and unusually effective for the times.

There is a spiritual element to the phrase "service will save us," and it's a positive language flourish that gives people hope, said Michael Cornfield, research director of the Global Center for Political Engagement at George Washington University.

Moore even doubled-down on the biblical style, referencing James 2:26

Gov. Wes Moore smiles as he speaks with Service Year participants on Oct. 27.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE/KIERSTEN HACKER

during the launch event speech as he discussed the opposition to establishing the programs.

"And then there were the believers, many of whom are in this room, and the people who also understood that belief was not going to be enough, that work was necessary, too," Moore said. "Because as the good book says, faith without work is dead."

The governor calls for service so often that it's become a song, "Service by (Governor Wes Moore)," featured on the Grammy-nominated album "Hip Hope for Kids" by Baltimore-born DJ Willy Wow. Within the first 30 seconds of the track, Moore says "service will save us" and continues, arguing that through service, "we can achieve things no one thought possible."

"I'm delivering a positive message because I've never been more optimistic about the future of our state or our country," Moore said in an email statement to Capital News Service. "I believe that unity will prevail and we won't let the political vitriol we are seeing win the day, and my belief is based on what is happening right here in Maryland."

The hopeful message and positive language are a counterpoint to national politics, where political speech has become increasingly caustic and crude and

party lines have hardened.

Examples of that language are numerous. Recently, former President Donald Trump, in a Veterans Day speech, called his opponents "radical left thugs" who "live like vermin;" Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., called President Joe Biden "Hitler" on X, formerly known as Twitter, leading House Democrats to seek her censure; the Democratic National Committee marked each GOP presidential candidate's photo with "MAGA" and trolled Trump with a mobile billboard circling the Miami Republican primary debate venue; and even back to 2016, Hillary Clinton called Trump's followers a "basket of deplorables."

A Pew Research analysis from 2022 found that the ideology of Democrats and Republicans was farther apart than in the last 50 years, though the division has been widening for years.

Moore, however, emphasizes the positive, much like several former presidents.

"And here's a politician who is a throwback to (Barack) Obama and to be bipartisan about it, to (Ronald) Reagan, and to (John F.) Kennedy.... who

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Governor Wes Moore

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Remember Pearl Harbor?

Longtime Morningside Mayor Jerry Glaubitz was stationed in Pearl Harbor aboard the USS San Francisco on December 7, 1941.

He was in Honolulu with friends when the frenzied announcement came, "All sailors report to their ships!" He recalled that smoke swelled from destroyed ships and buildings as bombs exploded from the Japanese fighters. "I will never get that out of my mind," he told the Associated Press when he was interviewed.

Within days, President Roosevelt declared war.

A year later, on December 23, 1942, Jerry took leave to marry Jean Loree Quapp. He continued to serve in the Navy—enduring several night battles—until 1945 when WWII ended. He and Jean came home, and Jerry went to work at the Naval Research Lab. In August 1947 they moved to Morningside, and in 1961 Jerry was elected mayor.

But he wasn't finished with Pearl Harbor; he became president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors. He was holding that position on the 50th anniversary in 1991 when he returned to Pearl Harbor, this time with Jean. They had the honor of hosting President George W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush for the anniversary ceremonies.

If Jerry and Jean were still here, they would have celebrated their 81st wedding anniversary this month. They were married Dec. 23, 1942, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, while Jerry was on leave from the USS San Francisco.)

Town of Morningside

The Town will soon have speed cameras on Suitland Road. There will be two cameras in the 6500 block, one in front of the Exxon station, near the intersection of Skyline Drive westbound and one across the street in front of the strip mall eastbound. Once the cameras are in place, there will be a 30-day warning period; after that, a \$40 ticket will be issued.

December meetings: Work session, December 12; Town Meeting, Dec. 19. Information, 301-736-2300.

A Tribute to Morningside

Several years ago, I ran this in my column. I think Wayne Neale wrote it on behalf of the Neale Family. It's still good and this seems like an appropriate time of the year to run it again:

"I didn't know it at the time, but there is something about Morningside that made it the perfect town in which to be raised. We

knew nearly all the members of the families in the community, as most families contained 4 or 5 children. Everything from the Christmas tree lighting ceremony to the school Christmas program was attended. Athletic summer programs, the Cub and Boy Scouts, safety patrols on the corners when school was out, and after school basketball in the playground.

"Teachers that you knew and respected. White's Grocery for penny candy and a crewcut at Johnson's Barber Shop. And, as we got older, the sub-teen and teen clubs. The firemen were residents and role models, and the ladies participated through the firehouse Ladies Auxiliary. The police were the fathers of our classmates.

"As I think about now, it is has a lot of resemblance to Jimmy Stewart's movie, It's a Wonderful Life."

Rose wins

At our Thanksgiving dinner, each person at the table guesses Time's Man of the Year. This year, granddaughter Rose Seidman named Taylor Swift. The rest of us strongly disagreed. Now that she has proven the winner, she's seeking apologies from all who doubted her. (To show you how out-of-the-loop I am, I didn't know what Taylor Swift looks like or why she's famous.)

Changing landscape

Signs posted at Andrews Manor Shopping center bear this announcement: Planning Board Hearing on Dec. 14, at 10 a.m., will be virtual, regarding "Approval of a private school for 148 students and a day care center with a maximum enrollment of 60 children, companion to an existing church within an integrated shopping center." For information: 301-699-CALL.

Prince George's County has proudly announced a significant economic growth and development milestone. Over the years, 2011 to 2021, the County successfully added 55,000 new jobs, marking a considerable achievement in its commitment to economic prosperity and community, development according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data.

A home at 4313 Frank Street, in Skyline, has sold for \$400,000.

Good Hope Road is gone

My grandparents, Dr. Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Mudd, lived on Good Hope Road in Anacostia, where my father, Richard Dyer Mudd, grew up. He talked often about the shops on Good Hope Road, such as the best

place to get ice cream. But his ancestral home—as well as the ice cream store—are long gone. And now the name of the road is gone, too. On Saturday, Nov. 19, there was a gathering on Good Hope Road to officially rename it Marion Berry Avenue in honor of the four-term Mayor of Washington who died in 2014.

place to get ice cream. But his ancestral home—as well as the ice cream store—are long gone. And now the name of the road is gone, too. On Saturday, Nov. 19, there was a gathering on Good Hope Road to officially rename it Marion Berry Avenue in honor of the four-term Mayor of Washington who died in 2014.

Places to go & things to do

Festival of Lights continues at Watkins Park. Drive through three miles of wonderful lights and displays, and afterwards enjoy a cup of hot cocoa by the bonfire. Hours are 5 to 9:30 p.m., through New Year's Day. Admission, \$10 for cars. Bring a canned good for the local food bank. Pre-register for hayrides or horseback riding by going to <https://www.pgparcs.com/742/Festival-of-Lights>.

Zoo-Lights are back at the National Zoo. Now, in its 15th year, Zoo-Lights is brighter than ever and will run for 23 select nights, Dec. 7–10, 21–23 and Dec. 26–30. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, it will take place from 5 to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 5 to 8 p.m. This year admission is \$5 per person. Parking is \$30. Info: nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights.

Corrections

I can certainly add this to my column because I so often have to admit a mistake. Sorry about that. I appreciate your keeping me honest.

For example, several sharp-eyed reviewers reminded me that I mistakenly said Kresge's was the shop in the middle of the first stores in Andrews Manor Shopping Center. I was wrong! It was Woolworth's.

Karen Rooker emailed that it was her first job.

Sue wrote, "It was always Woolworth's in Andrews Manor. Remember their lunch counter and pet department with live fish and birds?"

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Bradley Wade and David Williams III, Dec. 17; Charlene Baker and Paul Ratliff, Dec. 18; my grandson Michael Gallegos, Dec. 19; Ricky Nichols, Dec. 20; former Morningside Mayor Irving Robinson, Dec. 22; Carol Desmarais, Paul Ford and Russ Kyser, Dec. 23.

Happy Anniversary to Margaret & Leslie Greene, who married Dec. 18, 1982.

Happy 38th Anniversary to Pastor Kelvin McCune, of Suitland Road Baptist Church, and Mrs. McCune, on Dec. 21.

Chair from A1

gram within Child Resource Connects, which provides nurses to visit new parents in their homes to support them and connect them with services, if needed.

A parent to five sons with her husband, Congressman Glenn Ivey, Ivey also co-founded Mocha Moms, a national support group for mothers of color.

"As Prince George's County grows we should make sure that our families thrive along with it. Strong parents lead to great students, a more vibrant economy and safer communities," Ivey said.

District 9 Council Member Sydney Harrison, was elected to serve as Vice Chair. Council Member Harrison was elected to his first 4-year term on Council in 2018.

Council Member Harrison has served as Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County after being elected to the position in 2014. He was also the former Vice Chair of the Maryland Clerk's Association, and current member of the Democratic Central Committee - 27th Legislative District, former small business owner and former real estate professional. Council Member Harrison is an active community member, serving the nonprofit sector, and conducting missionary work around the world raising awareness for victims of domestic violence and foster care children.

Around the County

Little Chapel Food Pantry Sunday, December 17, 2023

The next St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution will be held this **Sunday, December 17, 2023**, from 9 a.m. to noon, while supplies last. Our Pantry is located behind the main church building at the corner of 6th and Prince George Streets in Historic Laurel (by the playground), one block off of Main Street. We will have non-perishable items, frozen items, and some produce available while supplies last.

—*St. Philip's Episcopal Church*

Three High Schools Recognized for Advanced Placement Excellence

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Dec. 7, 2023)—Seniors at College Park Academy, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Bowie High School were recognized for academic achievement in the Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) Capstone Diploma program, a multi-year, project-based learning experience that develops critical thinking, research, collaboration and presentation skills.

Ten students earned their Capstone Diplomas by earning scores of three or high in AP Seminar, AP Research and on four additional AP Exams. Twenty-five seniors were awarded the AP Seminar and Research Certificate for scoring a three or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research.

Additionally, the College Board announced that College Park Academy and Eleanor Roosevelt High School have been named to the AP School Honor Roll, earning Platinum and Bronze distinction respectively. Both schools earned this recognition for their commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness.

At College Park Academy, where students begin to prepare for college level work in sixth grade, all students took at least one AP exam during high school with more than 40% taking five or more exams. This year, more than 60% scored a three or higher on at least one of the exams.

"High school students are required to enroll in one of six signature programs culminating in a student-designed capstone project through AP® Seminar and AP® Research courses," said Christopher Irwin, Instructional Lead Teacher and AP® Coordinator. "In partnership with the University of Maryland, we offer a challenging and rewarding educational experience."

At Roosevelt, 45% of seniors took at least one AP exam, with 34% scoring three or higher. Eleven percent took five or more AP exams.

"Eleanor Roosevelt's AP program has been student-centered since day one, and our Advanced Placement Program has been successful for three decades," said Dr. Marisha Stewart, AP Coordinator. "Our success is due to promoting teacher collaboration, eliminating barriers for students, systemically supporting teachers, employing data to drive change and optimizing the master schedule."

The College Board's Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) gives students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school and potentially earn credits towards their college diploma.

—*PGCPS*

Local Student Graduates From UT Tyler

TYLER, Texas (Dec. 7, 2023)—The University of Texas at Tyler recognize[d] fall 2023 degree candidates during fall 2023 Commencement December 7.

Upper Marlboro, MD: **James McKenzie**, Master of Business Administration

—*The University of Texas at Tyler*

Minnesota State University, Mankato Award 1,772 Degrees at End of Fall Semester

MANKATO, Minn. (Dec. 11, 2023)—Minnesota State University, Mankato awarded 1,772 degrees to 1,617 students at the end of the fall 2023 semester.

Lanham, MD: **Fuad Argaw**, BS, Construction Management, Cum Laude

Riverdale, MD: **Katlyn DeGroat**, BS, Dental Hygiene, Summa Cum Laude

More information about the Minnesota State Mankato fall commencement is at <https://www.mnsu.edu/commencement-services/commencement-information/>.

—*Minnesota State University*

Brandywine-Aquasco

FDHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association-Upper Marlboro with friends of Frederick Douglass High School (Prince George's County, Maryland) had the pleasure of interviewing Mrs. Gwendolyn DeVille who is a resident of Brandywine, Maryland. Not only did Mrs. DeVille graduate from FDHS, but she also came back to Douglass to teach and ultimately became a Guidance Counselor.

This was an extra special occasion because the interview was 100% conducted by the students as part of a class "hands on" day in the Dion Johnson studio. Under the supervision of two other alumni, Ms. Lawrence, the videography teacher at Douglass, Mr. Kennedy and the students did an amazing job. This passion project is documenting the history and legacy of the various buildings that comprise Frederick Douglass High School and life in Upper Marlboro throughout those years. If your family has multiple generations that have graduated from FDHS, we would love to speak to you. Send us an email fdhsauppermarlboro@gmail.com.

JAZZY, JAZZY, JAZZY A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

You are cordially invited to bring in the Holiday Season with the sounds of the Bowie State University Community Jazz Ensemble Tuesday, December 19 in the Bowie State University's Fine and Performing Arts Center in the Recital Hall. The time for this celebration is 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy holiday standards of popular Christmas music performed by the ensemble. Admission is free to all. Location: Dr. Gilbert E. Pryor, Jr. FPAC Room 3132 Bowie, Maryland, 20715. Contact Dr. Gilbert E. Pryor, Jr. Email: gpryor@bowiestate.edu Categories Fine and Performing Arts, Performance/Exhibit.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Our mission is to provide low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens access to services. To advocate for needed services, to establish approaches and programs that will elevate the quality of life and independence in the southern Prince George's and northern Charles County communities. Our Core beliefs are neighbor helping neighbor. Volunteers working together to help meet our community's need for food, shelter, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance and other safety-net services.

Community Support Systems, founded in October 1995, is a grassroots community-based 501(c)(3) social service agency serving in need low and moderate-income families and individuals in the rural areas and outer suburbs of Prince George's County in District 9 and northern Charles County, specifically Waldorf. They serve

their clients through a combination of food, limited financial assistance, advocacy services and some remarkable volunteer efforts.

We operate three food pantries. The Baden Food Pantry is located at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish Hall in Baden on Wednesdays. The Accokeek Food Pantry is located at Faith United Methodist Church in Accokeek on Fridays. Their third pantry, Mission Nutrition, is held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine.

Our Advocacy Programs helps people access programs such as food stamps, energy assistance and other county, state, we have cultivated partnerships with other County agencies to bring services such as workforce development to our residents through the American Job Center and federal programs to which they may qualify. We have cultivated partnerships with other County agencies to bring services such as workforce development to our residents through the American Job Center Community Network in Prince George's County and the Charles County American Job Center. We have joined in providing financial literacy services by our partner SON-ABANK. We work in partnership with a number of nonprofits and county agencies to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Our Shared Senior Living Home is a comfortable, low-cost home in Brandywine for seniors who function independently in the areas of personal hygiene, shopping, cooking, and eating. Rent is assessed on a sliding scale according to income. We have other 'seasonal' programs such as our Back-to-School Drive, Adopt an Angel, Holiday Baskets, Flea Markets, Volunteer Appreciation, Super Bowl to name a few.

CSS is operated by paid staff and about 100 volunteers. These individuals are skilled, caring, and compassionate, living our values and core beliefs. The office of Community Support Systems is located in the Chapel of the Incarnation, 14070 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD 20613. Phone 301-372-1491. We are open Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed. <https://communitysupportsystems.org/about-us/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

The M-NCPPC Black History Program returns to Harmony Hall Arts Center with its annual exhibition in honor of Black History Month Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For over 40 years, the Black History Program has worked to preserve, honor, and celebrate Prince George's County's rich African American heritage. The annual exhibition is part of this tradition. Come out and explore stories from our county's past that highlight the challenges and triumphs of the African American community. Ticket Price: FREE, event category: Arts. Harmony Hall Arts Center (301) 203-6070.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY AT&T

Selected in the 2023 Class of Rising Future Makers is Mount Rainier native Asia Alexander who is a junior majoring in Journalism at Howard University.

Mount Rainier Student Honored in AT&T's 2023 Class of Rising Future Makers

By PRESS OFFICER AT&T

DALLAS (Dec. 4, 2023)—AT&T Dream in Black is proud to announce the winners of the 2023 Rising Future Makers Showcase, a dynamic initiative recognizing and supporting students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) making an impact in their communities and on their campuses. This annual program empowers the next generation of innovators, while fostering diversity and inclusion in the ever-evolving tech landscape.

The Rising Future Makers Showcase reflects AT&T's long time support of HBCUs, continued commitment to empowering diverse communities and dedicating resources that foster economic growth while helping bridge the digital divide, which disproportionately impacts communities of color. With each class, AT&T Dream In Black provides access to technology and

resources, connecting students to their greater possibilities.

After a rigorous selection process, the 2023 Rising Future Makers Showcase presents HBCU students from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating creativity, technical prowess, and a commitment to leave a legacy of impact on society. The 2023 class hails from 15 colleges and universities and aspire to become leaders in their fields.

How is AT&T supporting these students?

Each student will each receive \$5,000 presented by AT&T 5G, a 5G-enabled tablet with one year of AT&T service, among other gifts. They will also gain access to professional workshop opportunities, including mentoring sessions with AT&T executives aimed at growing their network and furthering their professional development.

The AT&T Rising Future Makers Showcase will culminate with a win-

ner's event at the AT&T Headquarters in Dallas, Texas, where the 25 students will be officially welcomed into the AT&T Dream In Black family to kick off their journey as a Rising Future Maker. Additionally, AT&T will host an intimate panel discussion with notable AT&T executives and Rising Future Maker Coach, Blake Newby, to discuss the importance of creating culturally engaging platforms that help amplify and inspire the next generation of Black professionals.

As part of this year's AT&T Rising Future Makers Showcase—AT&T is also implementing a device drive, benefitting Atlanta-based high school students. For every 5 Rising Future Maker Showcase applications, AT&T promised to donate a device to a high school student in need, ensuring that seniors and juniors have a device of their own to support their future. This year's Rising Future Makers Showcase saw a 143% increase in applications, re-

sulting in AT&T distributing 200 laptops to high school students in need, reinforcing its commitment to help bridge the digital divide and remove barriers to affordability, access, and adoption of tech.

"This campaign stands as a powerful embodiment of our unwavering commitment to connecting communities of color to greater possibility, through AT&T's purpose-filled sponsorships," said Sabina Ahmed, Assistant Vice President of Sponsorships & Experiential at AT&T. "With Dream In Black and the Rising Future Makers Showcase, we remain dedicated to ensuring that HBCU students aren't merely heard but are resoundingly celebrated and provided with the tools and resources to foster growth and innovation."

"We are inspired by the overwhelming response to the Rising Future Makers Showcase," said Michelle Jordan, Chief Diversity Officer. "There is immense hunger for knowledge and opportunity among our youth, and we are humbled by the opportunity to empower the next generation with the support they need to reach their dreams."

Visit AT&T Dream in Black.

Grief Support Programs Offered by Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN Hospice of the Chesapeake

Adult grief support programs meeting this winter PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 4, 2023)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups for adults that will be meeting this fall. Groups will meet in person at locations in Anne Arundel, Calvert and Prince George's counties as well as virtually.

The following grief support groups will meet in person:

• **Drop-In Grief Support Groups** are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties as follows:

- North Beach Senior Center, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays Jan. 2, Feb. 6 and March 5.
- Southern Pines Senior Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, Maryland, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 9, Feb. 13 and March 12.

- Chesapeake Life Center, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 10, Feb. 14 and March 13.
- Calvert Pines Senior Center, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19.

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Evening Group** is a weekly group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. The cost is \$10 per session. It will meet on the center's campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 3 to March 27. One group will meet both in-person and virtually:

- **SoulCollage Grief Support Group** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8 and March 4 at the center's office at **9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, in Largo, Maryland**, as well as via Zoom. Childcare is not provided, and children are not

permitted in any of these groups.

The following group will meet virtually via Zoom for Healthcare:

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Morning Group** is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Jan. 9, Feb. 13 and March 12.

Except for drop-in groups, registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Yoga and nature featured in adult grief workshops

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 4, 2023)—From spending time with nature to learning mindful movement techniques, Chesapeake Life Center offers creative programs for adults to find a path to healing from grief.

- **Grief and Movement**—Movement has long been used to help those who are grieving cope with the impact of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

Two teens paint a friendly therapeutic horse at a Chesapeake Life Center workshop held at Maryland Therapeutic Riding in 2022.

loss. This workshop will use aspects of yoga including gentle stretching, breathwork and mindful walking. It will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 17, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

- **Nature Informed Therapy 4-Week Workshop**—Nature has a great power to heal us emotionally, and research backs this up. Time spent in natural settings can lower stress hormones, reduce feelings of anxiety and depression, and offer many other benefits. This four-week support group series will include immersive walks in nature, time spent focusing on the cycle of the seasons, and working with natural objects to both contain and express the grief experience. It will meet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, March 7 to 28, at **Lake Artemesia Natural Area, 8200 55th Ave., College Park, Maryland**. The cost for the series is \$40.

Registration is required for both programs and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Children and teen grief program returns to Maryland Therapeutic Riding

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 4, 2023)—When Chesapeake Life Center's Phoenix Rising Group gathers this winter, they'll be

joined by equine friends, too. That's because the group for grieving children and teens will be spending a Saturday afternoon at **Maryland Therapeutic Riding, 1141 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, Maryland**.

Horses are incredibly sensitive to human emotions and their emotional intelligence can be a helpful tool in one's journey through grief. No horse experience is needed, and all activities are unmounted.

Phoenix Rising meets quarterly to provide children ages 6 to 18 the opportunity to come together to socialize and feel supported in their grief. Groups are divided by age and grade level based on enrollment. Understanding that grief has no timeline, this quarterly program is open to everyone, no matter when your loss took place.

The session will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 24 and the cost is \$25. Registration is required and on a first-come, first-served basis. You can register by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Chesapeake Life Center expands children and teens grief program to 3 counties

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 4, 2023)—This winter, Chesapeake Life Center will offer its Stepping Stones Four-Week Grief Support Group for newly bereaved youth. Additionally, families will have the option to attend in **Anne Arundel, Charles or Calvert counties**.

The group is for children and teens ages 6 to 18 whose loss occurred within the last 12 months. Counselors will focus on normalizing grief reactions, teaching coping skills and providing opportunities to remember the loved ones who have died.

Groups will be divided by age and grade level based on enrollment. A social space will be provided for parents and guardians while the children meet.

The dates, times and locations are as follows:

- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 9 to 30 on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, and in the Burnett Center for Hope & Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland.
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 5 to 26 on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, and at 2505 Davis Road, Waldorf, Maryland.

The cost for all six weeks is \$60. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org

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COMMUNITY

Melwood and Children's National Hospital Announce Partnership of Specialized Summer Camp for Children With Disabilities or Chronic Medical Conditions

For the first time, the two organizations are coming together to offer a shared summer camp program for kids and teens with disabilities or chronic medical conditions across the mid-Atlantic region.

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Dec. 7, 2023)—Melwood, a leading employer, advocate, and preferred provider for people with disabilities, and Children's National Hospital, a nationally ranked pediatric health system dedicated to providing exceptional medical care, are proud to announce an inclusive summer camp experience for kids. Camp Accomplish will offer customized week-by-week programming for kids and teens with disabilities or chronic medical conditions that's specially tailored for each child's distinct needs. The camp will be located at the Melwood Recreation Center in Charles County, Maryland.

For the first time ever, these two dedicated, highly credentialed teams are coming together to offer a distinct summer camp for kids and teens with disabilities or chronic medical conditions across the mid-Atlantic region. By uniting the deep-rooted dedication of the Melwood team with the unmatched medical expertise of the Children's National team, the camp will offer an unforgettable experience, whether campers are navigating a chronic health condition or learning how to thrive with or without disabilities.

Every one of the camp's distinct experiences throughout the summer is tailor-made to serve campers and welcome them as they grow through

multidimensional programming. The activities for campers include swimming, equestrian activities, creative and performing arts, sports, climbing walls, adventure activities, nature, horticulture, STEM, culinary and much more.

Melwood has provided an inclusive summer program for children for the past 25 years, welcoming kids with and without disabilities to share the joy and fun of summer camp. The inclusive nature of Camp Accomplish also facilitates generational change, as kids learn and play with one another.

"Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we move into our next chapter of Camp Accomplish," said Larisa Kautz, President and CEO of Melwood. "Our programs will provide children with and without disabilities or chronic illnesses opportunities to learn and grow, and together with Children's National, we're committed to making the experience for campers the safest and best it can be."

As a subsidiary of Children's National, Brainy Camps opened its doors in 1994 as a unique summer camp specializing in care for children, offering week-long, condition-specific, residential summer camps, as well as year-round support groups and leadership training programs. In 2009, Brainy Camps became part of Children's National and continued to provide children with chronic illnesses the opportunities to meet peers, mentors and counselors with the same conditions and discover that they are not alone in the world.

"Children's National has proudly offered a unique summer camp specializing in care for children for decades," said Michelle Riley-Brown, MHA, FACHE, President and CEO of Children's National. "By coming together with Melwood's Camp Accomplish, we know we will continue to provide a quality camp experience for every camper."

"Melwood has deep appreciation for the value of partnerships with other organizations, businesses, and nonprofits," said Scott Gibson, Chief Strategy Officer at Melwood. "This collaboration between Melwood and Children's National Hospital is another example of how strategic partnerships can create new, exciting and one-of-a-kind opportunities to advance our mission and better serve our region."

"Summer camp is a place to explore new passions and cultivate new friendships, but it's often been out of reach for children with chronic health conditions or disabilities," said Elizabeth Wells, M.D., Senior Vice President, Center for Neuroscience and Behavioral Medicine at Children's National. "We are proud to collaborate and bring our dedicated medical expertise, highly trained counselors, and safety-always practices to Camp Accomplish."

For more information about Melwood's Camp Accomplish, please visit: CampAccomplish.org.

Melwood is one of the largest employers of people with disabilities in the country, employing more than 1,600 workers—nearly 1,000 of whom are people

with disabilities. Founded in 1963, Melwood advocates for and empowers people with disabilities by expanding opportunities to work and thrive in community. Melwood offers job placement, job training, life skills for independence, and support services to more than 3,000 people each year in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Melwood also has an inclusive summer camp program for children and provides additional youth and community recreational services for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit www.Melwood.org.

Children's National Hospital, based in Washington, D.C., was established in 1870 to help every child grow up stronger. Today, it is the No. 5 children's hospital in the nation and ranked in all specialties evaluated by U.S. News & World Report. Children's National is transforming pediatric medicine for all children. The Children's National Research & Innovation Campus opened in 2021, a first-of-its-kind pediatric hub dedicated to developing new and better ways to care for kids. Children's National has been designated three times in a row as a Magnet® hospital, demonstrating the highest standards of nursing and patient care delivery. This pediatric academic health system offers expert care through a convenient, community-based primary care network and specialty care locations in the D.C. metropolitan area, including Maryland and Virginia. As a non-profit, Children's National relies on generous donors to help ensure that every child receives the care they need.

Maryland Military Facilities Probing Groundwater for 'Forever Chemicals'

By FATEMA HOSSEINI and
CECELIA SHILLING
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Dec. 6, 2023)—Maryland military facilities are in the early stages of remedial investigations into "forever chemicals" that jeopardize drinking water supplies in groundwater after a September report by the Department of Defense identified hundreds of military sites across the country as at risk for such chemicals.

The facilities include high-profile Joint Base Andrews, home to Air Force One, as well as Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade, Fort Detrick, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the Naval Research Laboratory-Chesapeake Bay Detachment in Calvert County.

The potential contamination involves chemicals known as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which are a family of thousands of chemicals used in firefighting foams, heat-resistant products, and many other items.

The Pentagon has been under fire for years from communities, environmental organizations, and Congress for failing to recognize the dangers of hazardous chemicals used in military operations and for being slow to clean up facilities.

The DOD has initiated remedial investigations at 275 Defense Department and National Guard sites for potential PFAS contamination, 245 of which, in-

cluding 11 locations at 10 Maryland sites, are close to groundwater aquifers.

Some of these sites are part of aquifers that serve as primary or secondary drinking water sources.

Robin Broder, deputy director of Waterkeepers Chesapeake, said PFAS is a known issue around military bases and is more likely to become a human health issue by contaminating water and crops.

Military bases often use firefighting foam in emergencies and training exercises. Foam that still contains PFAS can seep into soil, evaporate into the air or run off into waterways.

PFAS run-off can also contaminate fish and harm people who eat the contaminated seafood.

In 2021, the Maryland Department of the Environment found elevated concentrations of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, or PFOS, a chemical in the PFAS family, in redbreast sunfish, yellow bullhead catfish, and largemouth bass in Piscataway Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River.

"Cleanup efforts are challenging and costly," said Dr. Arthur Daniel Jones III, a professor in Michigan State University's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and associate director of the MSU Center for PFAS Research.

Such chemicals are difficult to remove from the environment after contamination and have very few natural processes to break them down, he said.

"Part of the challenge is that...we certainly don't know very much about how the mixtures of PFAS...

are toxic," Jones said. "There are PFAS in foods, household products...Almost every person on the planet is already contaminated by PFAS."

Exposure or consumption of PFAS has other potential health risks, including fertility and immune system issues, developmental delays in children, increased cancer risks, and hormone interference.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground, an Army facility, states on its website that tests of its drinking water showed PFAS contaminants below the Environmental Protection Agency's advisory level of 70 parts per trillion.

"The Army is committed to ensuring quality drinking water is provided to its soldiers, family members, and civilians," the website says. "We continue to work with our state and federal partners and will ensure the community is kept updated on the status of our investigation."

The Army site is in the planning stages of the remedial investigation, said Quentin Johnson, Aberdeen's director of public affairs.

Similarly, Joint Base Andrews emphasized that its drinking water, which comes from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, is unaffected by PFAS.

According to a statement by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at the Joint Base Andrews Field Office, the extent of PFAS impacts on groundwater at the site is unknown, but groundwater samples have indicated the presence of these chemicals. Further samples are being collected to determine the degree of contamination.

"This is a slow process complicated by the fact that we are sampling at an active airfield on an active military installation with active missions critical to

national security," said the statement said. "At JBA, it takes months to collect samples and get back results."

The Air Force, however, has removed all fire suppression systems that contained PFAS chemicals from the base, according to the statement.

Joint Base Andrews said it has informed local communities, health departments, and government bodies about the PFAS issue.

Two sites at the Naval Research Laboratory - Chesapeake Bay Detachment will be investigated by the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program for PFAS: a fire testing area and a former firehouse, according to a statement from the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Atlantic.

The fire testing area is already under investigation, and the firehouse will be studied in 2024 to "investigate the nature and extent of the PFAS and assess potential human health and ecological risks," the statement said.

In 2018, the Navy's off-base water sampling in communities near the Chesapeake lab revealed no perfluorooctanoic acid, also called PFOA (another chemical in the PFAS family), or PFOS levels above the EPA limit of 70 parts per trillion.

"The Maryland Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provide regulatory oversight on the remediation of contamination, whether from PFAS or other contaminants, at military sites within the state," said Jay Apperson, a representative from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

See **MILITARY** Page A6

Messaging from A1

is preaching and practicing the politics of hope, and it's sort of a counter-trend right now," Cornfield said. "So that's sort of remarkable."

When speaking about the call to service, Moore frequently references and quotes Sargent Shriver, the Maryland-born founder of the Peace Corps under President John F. Kennedy. For members of the Baby Boomer generation, Cornfield said, mentioning Shriver creates an instant connection to the "Kennedy notion of public service."

Moore couples his rhetoric to role-switching—appealing to constituents as a combat veteran, a devoted family man, a sports bro celebrating the Orioles at Pickle's Pub by Camden Yards or reaching out to areas in Maryland with high concentrations of Republican voters.

"We are leading by example, and showing the rest of the country what good government looks like," Moore said in the statement. "Here in Maryland, we are working in partnership with Democrats and Republicans; business owners and employees; Marylanders from big cities and small towns—bringing everyone

to the table."

Like his predecessor, Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, Moore speaks out against divisiveness and tries to create a positive image for the public, said Todd Eberly, associate professor of political science at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

"Regardless of what other folks in politics might think with regard to insincerity, that's completely irrelevant to this. This is about how the public sees it. And (Moore) is very good at conveying to the public this optimistic, 'I know we can' attitude," Eberly said. "And that worked incredibly well for Hogan, at least politically."

Moore's overall approval rating rose to 60% from 55% in June, according to an October Gonzales Poll. Among Republican voters, his approval jumped from 19% to 30%, while support from Democrats remained strong at 78%, up one percentage point.

Along with "service will save us" Moore often uses the phrase "service is sticky," meaning that you form a bond with those you serve with. At a time when many have lost a sense of civic engagement as social media and mobile devices isolate them, Eberly said, service can push against this idea.

Moore answered "service," when asked during an interview at the Center for Workforce Inclusion's 2023 Equity Summit, what gives him hope during these divided times." He frequently shares his ambition of making this "Maryland's decade" or alludes to his campaign slogan to "leave no one behind." As he outlined his goals in his first State of the State address, he adopted the attitude that Maryland could address any obstacles it faces with an emphasis on service.

"But still, that idea of appealing to our optimism instead of our pessimism, I think has great appeal. Because there are no shortage of voices right now, who are trying to do nothing but cash into our pessimism, to make us believe that we can't accomplish everything, that it is, in fact, too hard to do some of the things that we want to do," Eberly said.

Eberly, like Cornfield, likened Moore's optimism to the rhetoric of Reagan, who "constantly spoke in aspirational terms." Moore's audience shoutouts, too, harken to Reagan's State of the Union address in the 1980s, according to Cornfield.

Critics, such as Richard Vatz,

professor emeritus of rhetoric and communication at Towson University, said Moore's optimistic language hasn't translated into change that addresses the most pressing issues in Maryland.

"If I were his rhetorical adviser, and I had no ethical problem with what he focuses on, I'd tell him he's doing a great job," Vatz said. "The consistent smiling—he acts as if he's not threatened by anything, I mean these are the qualities that very popular leaders have."

Vatz, who has been criticized by Towson University students and faculty for his role as the faculty adviser of the school's chapters of Turning Point USA and defunct Youth for Western Civilization, said that Moore has mastered charisma and political persuasion, but fails to solve problems regarding violence, education and finances.

In his first legislative session, Moore signed over 100 bills into law, one of them being the bill that authorized his service year. That success may not carry over to his next session, which begins in January, and in the face of these new challenges, his rhetoric could change, the experts said.

Throughout his leadership, he has been consistent about bridg-

ing socioeconomic and political divides. Being a state that "gets to know each other again" by serving together, Moore says, will put Maryland on the path to overcome political vitriol and become a national leader.

Eberly said that current politics "paints a picture of a bitterly divided and angry American populace," while Moore's message is "that's not who we are and let's try to get back to the heart of who we are as a people."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George's County Leads Hospital Construction and Expansion in the Region

The county has six new construction and expansion projects in the medical industry

By PRESS OFFICER
PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 5, 2023)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation is proud to announce that the county leads hospital construction and expansion in the region with six current projects. The list, compiled by the Washington Business Journal, profiled the 18 regional health care development projects across the region. Each

site is undergoing either a new build, expansion, or renovation and does not account for the outpatient practice of ambulatory care centers.

"Prince George's County has an unprecedented six active/pending healthcare projects," said Alexis Allen-Shorter, Business Development-Health & Life Science, PGCEDC. "For too long, residents have chosen to travel out of the county for specialty care. This investment in healthcare infrastructure will

impact our community socially and economically. With access to specialty care closer to home, residents are statistically more inclined to seek out care and complete follow-up appointments, thus decreasing rehospitalization, misuse of emergency services, and mortality. Not only will the completion of these new projects propel Prince George's County to becoming a destination for specialty care and elective procedures, but we will also be able to attract and retain

highly skilled healthcare practitioners to the county."

The six sites include:

- Adventist HealthCare's Fort Washington Medical Center Replacement (Fort Washington, MD)
- Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center's Women's Health Pavilion (Lanham, MD)
- Kaiser Permanente's Largo Medical Center Expansion (Upper Marlboro, MD)
- University of Maryland Capital Region Health's Cancer Center (Largo, MD)

tal Region Health's Cancer Center (Largo, MD)

- Encompass Health Corp.'s Rehabilitation Hospital of Bowie Expansion (Bowie, MD)

- University of Maryland Capital Region Health's Laurel Medical Center Expansion (Laurel, MD)

This period of growth has seen a diverse range of industries flourish in the county, including technology, healthcare, education, and service sectors, contributing to a dynamic and resilient local economy.

That vertical economic trajectory will only expand with the recent announcement of the Federal Bureau of Investigations headquarters coming to Green-

belt, MD. This decision will bring generational transformation and investment for Prince George's County and the State of Maryland because large federal job centers have driven job and income growth in the region. When the Federal Government decided in 1941 to locate the Pentagon on the west bank of the Potomac, that decision created decades of additional investment in Virginia.

Prince George's County remains committed to continuing this trajectory of growth and prosperity in the health care field, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive economy for all its residents.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I'm Returning to Work; What Should I Do About Social Security?

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 started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year. I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration. Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit. **Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily.**

Dear Un-retiring: You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320.

The first is to simply contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 (to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later). If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA). At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained (with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record). That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working, or until your FRA, or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid. In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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

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

Odessa L. Phillip P.E. '23 Graduates From Leadership Maryland

Assedo Consulting, LLC President & CEO and Laurel resident recognized at December 5 ceremony

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

EASTON, Md. (Dec. 5, 2023)—Leadership Maryland announced today that Odessa L. Phillip P.E. '23, President & CEO at Assedo Consulting, LLC, has completed the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Founded in 2012 by Phillip, Prince George's County-based Assedo Consulting provides public engagement and planning services for infrastructure projects. Leadership Maryland honored Phillip, a resident of Laurel, and the entire Class of 2023 at its 30th graduation ceremony held December 5 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. As a graduate, Phillip is now a member of Leadership Maryland's powerful alumni network, consisting of more than 1,300 esteemed leaders from all industries and regions of the state.

Phillip was one of 48 individuals chosen by a committee to complete Leadership Maryland's eight-month hands-on learning program. The class participated in an orientation and closing retreat that bookended five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most vital issues impacting economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity across the state. More than 100 experts representing Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit communities served as panelists and guest speakers.

"On behalf of our staff, board, and



PHOTO COURTESY ASSEDO CONSULTING, LLC
Odessa L. Phillip P.E., President & CEO at Assedo Consulting, LLC.

membership, I congratulate our 30th Leadership Maryland class on completing the program and joining our alumni family," said David Fike '16 (LM), president and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "From the very beginning, the members of this year's class demonstrated their willingness to engage and learn as we traveled around the state. They truly embraced this experience and I am excited to see how they will apply it."

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership

Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit www.LeadershipMD.org, call 410-841-2101 or email Info@LeadershipMD.org.

Leadership Maryland is a non-profit organization offering professional and youth development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its current and future leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's professional development program selects as many as 53 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. Leadership Maryland also offers Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW), the state's premier leadership development program for middle and high school students. For more than 65 years, MLW has provided peer-led summer residential and community outreach programs that empower participants—known as delegates—to take ownership of their personal development as they grow in self-awareness, set measurable goals, and collaborate with peers in diverse groups. Together, Leadership Maryland and MLW have established thousands of Marylanders on their lifelong leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change in all aspects of their lives and within our state. Visit leadershipmd.org or mlw.org.

Director from AI

"I am grateful for the opportunity to bring my planning and transportation expertise to further support the mission, vision, and values of the Planning Department," said Hull. "I look forward to leveraging multi-agency partnerships and collaboration with the public, various governmental agencies, businesses, and other key stakeholders. It is an exciting time to lead a team of professional planners to further implement the goals and policies of the adopted Plan. With such a rich history of diverse communities and great state of the art facilities, I will strive in balancing sustainability efforts and innovation, while encouraging best practices for Prince George's County."

Hull succeeds Andree Green Checkley, Esq., who retired in May 2023. Acting Planning Director Suzann M. King will resume her position as Deputy Planning Director of Administration. "Suzann is a tremendous asset to our leadership team, and we are grateful for her dedication and expertise during this period of transition," said Shapiro. "In addition to guiding the department with planning initiatives and the launch of new programs, Suzann has successfully led the relocation efforts of our offices to our new headquarters in Largo, Maryland—as aligned with the unified vision outlined in Plan Prince George's 2035."

About Lakisha Hull, AICP, LEED AP BD+C

Lakisha Hull brings more than 20 years of professional experience in community planning, land development, permitting, policy and regulation, transportation planning, urban design, and zoning serving in government agencies in the cities of Charlotte, N.C., Orlando, Fla., and Los Angeles, Calif. She most recently served as Planning Director of the City of Miami, Fla. where she led a department of seven divisions: Administration, Art In Public Spaces, Comprehensive Planning, Hearing Boards, Historic and Environmental Preservation, Land Development, and Urban Design. Throughout her career, she has led successful budget development and implementation, strategic planning of organizational units, permitting process efficiencies, and innovation in long-range planning policies and initiatives. Hull has led successful public participation plans, updates to codes and policies, and managed large-scale projects and streetscape plans with cumulative construction budgets of over \$5+ billion. She prioritizes professional development to ensure that she leads multi-disciplinary teams who are able to apply the latest planning principles and customer service strategies as public servants.

Hull earned a dual master's degree in architecture and city and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Design. She holds a bachelor's degree in

architecture from the University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Hull earned professional certifications from the American Institute of Certified Planners and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. She is a member of the Urban Land Institute, American Planning Association, and U.S. Green Building Council.

The Prince George's County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission—a bi-county agency set up under State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. In Prince George's County, the agency also administers the public recreation program. Visit www.pgplanningboard.org for more information.

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Visit www.pgplanning.org to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

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Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, a member of the Congressional PFAS Task Force, emphasized the urgency of addressing PFAS contamination in a recent statement to Capital News Service.

"I recently joined my colleague Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D) of Pennsylvania and many others in urging the Department of Defense to swiftly address its growing backlog of military sites contaminated with PFAS," Raskin said. "We also urged the DoD to adequately fund cleanup efforts at contaminated sites across the country, including the White Oak Naval Surface Warfare Center in my district and several other sites in our state."

Jones said there aren't many "good" ways to get rid of PFAS. "Even if you're drinking water that has very low levels of PFAS in the water, most of what you drink today is going to be with you for years," he said. "... And there are very few natural processes that break down PFAS, so in essence, that's why they're called forever chemicals."

Other Maryland sites where PFAS investigations are underway or planned are the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Carderock Division - Annapolis Detachment, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division, U.S. Naval Electronic Systems in St. Inigoes in St. Mary's County and the Martin State Air National Guard Base in Middle River.

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