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PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

The new indoor track in progress at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Opening of New Indoor Track at Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 16, 2024) —The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the

M-NCPPC, announces completion of the indoor track installation at Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex. The Department remains committed to providing an ultra-modern track amenity that will enhance the community's athletic experiences.

The indoor track underwent scheduled replacement of flooring due to the end-of-life time limit. Other improvements include:

- Complete replacement of two

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Town of Upper Marlboro Appoints Carol Richardson as New Town Administrator

"Her areas of experience and expertise blend perfectly with our long-term vision for the Town of Upper Marlboro"

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 15, 2024)—Carol Richardson, an experienced government management professional with more than 10 years of municipal leadership background, has been named Town Administrator with the Town of Upper Marlboro, Mayor Sarah Franklin announced today. Richardson most recently served as Town Manager for the Town of Cottage City in Prince George's County.

During her impressive career Richardson also served as Director of Economic Development for the City of Cambridge, Maryland. She was responsible for the development of the Mace's Lane Community Center, which required the partial demolition and renovation of the old Mace's Lane School Building that once served as the only high school for African Americans in Dorchester County, Maryland. This facility will provide youth programs by the Boys and Girls Clubs (BGCA) of America and will be the first BGCA facility built on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

Carol Richardson, Town Administrator with the Town of Upper Marlboro

Richardson also served as manager of the Arts and Entertainment District. She was responsible for overseeing state and federal grants, as well as the city's Façade Improvement Program and New Resident Senior Tax

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Governor and First Lady Moore Welcome Guests for Black History Month Open House

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 19, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore this weekend opened the doors of Government House to hundreds of invited guests in celebration of Black History Month. The celebration honored Maryland's rich history and 2024 as the Year of Civil Rights in Maryland with performances from Prince George's County's Kingdom Fellowship A.M.E. Church choir and artworks from various Maryland institutions.

"Here in Maryland, we will protect, preserve, and celebrate our rich history—and that's what this open house is all about," said Gov. Moore. "Today we come together to honor how far we have come and how far we still need to go—and I encourage all Marylanders during this Year of Civil

Rights to practice our history, protect our history—and participate in our history by making history of your own."

"As First Lady, I am committed to transforming Government House into an educational and cultural hub where all Marylanders feel welcomed and represented—and that's why I am proud to open our home in celebration of Black History Month," said First Lady Dawn Moore. "This celebration is an opportunity to not only honor our history but share it with all Marylanders."

Thirteen pieces of artwork from the Maryland State Archives, the Banneker-Douglass Museum, and the Maryland Center for History and Culture were displayed during the event. The collection of artworks on display provided a powerful exploration of those who have contributed to social justice in Maryland and beyond. The collection also highlights the works of talented Black artists.



PHOTO CREDIT MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore with the Prince George's County's Kingdom Fellowship A.M.E. Church choir.

Hoyer Partners With United States Bomb Technician Association and Bowie State University to Prevent and Address Bomb Threats on HBCU Campuses

By PRESS OFFICER
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 15, 2024)—On Tuesday, February 13, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined leadership from Bowie State University (BSU) and the United States Bomb Technician Association (USBTA) for a roundtable discussion and training on how to address and prevent bomb threats on Historically Black College and University (HBCU) campuses. Representatives from Coppin State University and Morgan State University were also in attendance. Following a string of bomb threats at HBCUs across the country, including three at BSU in early 2022, Congressman Hoyer led efforts to ensure that HBCUs have the support and resources needed to protect students, faculty, and staff.

"The thousands of students who attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities across America should be focused on earning their degree, not on threats of racially motivated violence," said Congressman Hoyer. "The increase in coordinated bomb threats and the rise of racially motivated hate crimes targeting these pillars of culture, identity, and academic excellence in our community is deeply disturbing. I am committed to facilitating greater partnership between the federal government, law enforcement, and university leadership to ensure HBCU staff, students, and faculty can learn and work in a safe environment."



PHOTO COURTESY CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER'S OFFICE

Dr. Aminta Breaux, president of Bowie State University and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer at the roundtable discussion and training on how to address and prevent bomb threats on Historically Black College and University (HBCU) campuses.

"Our mission is to research, test, and train to combat these types of threats and IED situations," said USBTA President Sean Dennis. "We are excited about this opportunity to collaborate with our HBCU partners and to contribute to the improvement of safety and security on campuses within our communities. Let's stand together in safeguarding our educational institutions and fostering a secure learning environment for all."

"Ensuring that our campus community is safe at all times is paramount," said Dr. Aminta Breaux, president of Bowie State University. "I want to thank Congressman Steny Hoyer for the unwavering support he has always provided to our HBCUs, and particularly for introducing Bowie State to the United States Bomb Technicians Association. The expert training they provided for our police officers and other staff will prepare us to effectively respond to future threats to the safety of our campus."

In February 2022, Congressman Hoyer sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas urging for a thorough investigation into the string of bomb threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) around the country. USBTA has been conducting bomb threat management courses with law enforcement in Maryland's Fifth District and, after coordinating with the office of Congressman Hoyer, adjusted the curriculum to ensure the trainings were applicable for college and university campus environments as well.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Remembering the night four teens ran a dozer into Foulis

“Two classrooms at Benjamin D. Foulis Junior High School in Morningside were unusable today after a bulldozer, apparently set in motion by four youths, crashed through a wall of the school last night.” Thus begins the opening paragraph from *The Evening Star*, April 18, 1975.

A clipping about this event blew out from under my typing desk. It must have been there for 49 years, a tribute to my house-cleaning. Now, after all this time, it wanted me to feature it in my column.

The clipping continues: “The 14-ton bulldozer left a gaping 9-by-12-foot hole in the brick and cinderblock wall of a home economics classroom on the first floor of the two-story school at 4601 Beaufrd Rd.

“According to Peter D. Blauvelt, chief of security for Prince George’s County schools, four teen-age boys were seen running from the scene but were not caught. They apparently started the machine, rode it and then jumped to safety before it plowed through the wall.”

This event is often cited by old-time Morningsiders, many claiming to know who the culprits were. Perhaps one of them is reading this now.

By the way, there is Benjamin D. Foulis Middle School Alum, with—according to the Net—880 members. It was founded about 15 years ago. If someone can give details, I’ll do a story.

Town of Morningside: turning 75!

The Town was incorporated, and the first election held in 1949. The first mayor was Mrs. June Stocklinski. Early Town accomplishments, after incorporation, included road improvements, town-managed trash collection, streetlights, volunteer police department, and street signs. In the Morningside newsletter, Mayor Cann announced there will be celebrations for this Diamond Jubilee. And I will be telling you about them.

The Morningside meeting room is available for rental. They’ve had everything from baby showers to weddings to repasts there. Book soon; prime dates are going fast. Call 301-736-2300.

Morningside Recreation Committee announces up-coming events: Lunch with the Easter Bunny, March 16; Senior Event, April 13; Skate Van & Ice-Cream Social, June 22; Fourth of July Parade, Family

Fun Day and Fireworks, July 4. Also, Town Election, May 6.

Morningside auctioning two vehicles

The Town will be auctioning off two vehicles from their fleet, a 2011 Ford Crown Victoria (mileage 116,498), and a Chevrolet Silverado LS Extended Cab and Dump Body Bed 4x4 with snowplow (mileage 47,835). Both sold As-Is.

Interested persons can submit their highest bid in a sealed envelope, with the vehicle listed on the outside of the envelope and drop it off at the Town Hall between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at which times the cars can be viewed (but not driven). Deadline: March 18. Bids will be opened March 19. The Town reserves the right to deny the highest bid if their threshold is not met.

Morningside VFD seeks new firefighters

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Live-In Weekend at the firehouse: March 1–3. Ride along with their members. Learn about their Live-In Program. To register or for information, call 301-736-4342.

Changing landscape

The new Baden Branch Library has opened, with dedication ceremonies, in Brandywine. It boasts an outdoor garden, interior treehouse reading nooks, comfort room, expanded adult and teen collection, Ready 2 Read Center, child-sized tables (for doing homework), and distinct separation between the adult area and the children’s area. I know it’s beautiful. And now I would like to discuss the Surratt’s Clinton Library? When will it open?

Once Upon A Child, in Waldorf, has gently used clothes for kids, sizes preemie to youth 20. “Really great prices.” Also, great sales on weekends. Located at 2987 ShaSho Place, Waldorf.

A home at 12304 Keys Road N., in Brandywine, has been sold for \$600,000.

Mass in Tagalog?

Fr. Ryan Pineda, pastor of St. Philip’s Church in Camp Springs, now has Mass in Spanish on Sundays at noon. Also, he says Mass in the Tagalog language every second Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. These are in addition to weekend and daily

Masses in English. For information, call 301-423-4244.

This week my grandson Conor took me to a Spanish Mass there on Ash Wednesday. The Mass was well-attended, and with Spanish music. Conor and I tried to follow in Spanish missals; he was better than I (and I have a college degree in Spanish).

Raymond Crayton, NOAA meteorologist

Raymond Benjamin Crayton, 92, formerly of Camp Springs, died February 2 at his home in White Plains. He was born in Uniontown, Pa., son of Earl and Ethel Crayton.

He grew up in Mt. Braddock, Pa., joined the Air Force in 1949 and became a Weatherman. He retired after 23 years and after being stationed at various locations in the U.S., Newfoundland, Panama, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

During AF years, he attended college and received a BS in Math from Rollins College in Florida. Then he worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service as a meteorologist and computer specialist for 20 years.

His last station was Andrews, and he moved his family to Camp Springs.

He was a fan of the Baltimore Orioles, Washington Commanders, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, enjoyed reading the newspaper, being online, and shopping at Amazon.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise, children, Angela Eisenbraun and Anthony Crayton, 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, six great-great-sons, and sisters Lois Null and Louise Tristani.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Kevin Gray, Feb. 25; Angela Hutchinson and Thomas “TJ” Flaherty, Feb. 27; Terrence Flaherty, Feb. 28; Winifred Lanehart, Mar. 1; Karen (Elborne) Stern, Harold Titus and Shelley Lynn Cook, March 2.

And last week I told you about Gerry Joliffe, of Suitland. Since his birthday is unique, I’m telling you again. He was born on Leap Day 1952, which would make him either 72 or 18. He died on Feb. 21, 2014, at the age of 62. 2014 was not a Leap Year.

Happy anniversary to Clifford and Nancy Lantz, on Feb. 26; and to Freda and Michael McDonald, their 44th on Feb. 28. *Happy Leap Day, February 29!*

Brandywine-Aquasco

NATIONAL HARBOR

During Black History month, National Harbor launches African American travel self-guided tours for year-round. The impact of African American heritage can be found all around National Harbor. <https://www.nationalharbor.com>

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY EVENTS

Some interesting African American History events are Memphis Sanitation Strike (1968), The North Little Rock High School Desegregation Crisis (1957), Lynching of Laura and L.D. Nelson (1911), The Greenville Library Desegregation Crisis/The Greenville Eight (1960). <https://www.blackpast.org/events>

Some important dates in Black history are Maryland passes first law banning interracial marriage, 1664, Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770, Declaration of Independence 1776, Thomas Paine publishes Anti-Slavery Tract, 1775. It is estimated that around 100,000 slaves escaped to the North via the Underground Railroad between 1810 and 1850.

Black History month was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the Early 17th century of African Americans living in the United States today.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. had the greatest impact on Black History. He needs no introduction; his impact will forever bear repeating. A Baptist minister and activist, King became the most powerful leader in the civil rights movement until his death in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. King was going to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers in the city when he was assassinated. He reminded the world of a dream filled with hope, change, equality. “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.” King was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize at just 35 years old. According to nobelprize.org, when notified of his selection, he said he would turn over the \$54,123 prize money to furthering the civil rights movement. <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>

ROSA PARKS

Rosa Parks stood up for civil rights by sitting down. On December 1, 1955, she refused to move to the back of a city bus. Her act helped end segregation laws in the South. “Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today’s mighty oak is yesterday’s nut that held its ground.”

Park’s actions went on to trigger a 381-day boycott of the bus systems by Black Americans that was organized by Martin Luther King, Jr. who was 26 years old at the time. The boycott led to a Supreme Court ruling that desegregated public transportation in

Montgomery. It was not until the 1964 Civil Rights Act that all public accommodations nationwide were desegregated. Wikipedia

HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman was born into slavery on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in 1822. An abolitionist and social activist, she was an escaped enslaved woman and perhaps the most well-known of all the Underground Railroad Conductors. During a ten-year span, she made nineteen trips into the South and escorted over three hundred slaves to freedom. Tubman returned to the South again and again. She found slaves seeking freedom and escorted them to the North. Becoming friends with the leading abolitionist of the day, Tubman took part in antislavery meetings. She died in 1913. <https://harrietubmanbyway.com>

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

Prince George’s County Alumni Chapter Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance Affair will be at Martin’s Crosswinds at 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland on Sunday, June 23, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$70 per person: \$700 per table.

Ads for our souvenir booklet are: Full page \$100; Half page \$50; Back page \$150; Patron: \$10 each. Email to: rlcbowler@comcast.net. If you are unable to come, and would like to make a donation, any amount is appreciated. Payment for tickets, donations, ads, or patrons, please make checks payable to (PGCAC) and mail to: Mrs. Rose Coleman at 3703 Ivy Hill Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Note: Payments can also be paid by CASHAPP: \$princegeorgecac. Remember: Whatever you can give is appreciated. With sincerity, Addie L. Martin PGCAC President.

“Alumni, Supporters and Friends, the Prince George’s County Alumni Chapter of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. continues to understand first-hand, the tremendous value of providing scholarships to deserving young people at our beloved Bowie State University. This is why our Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance Affair continues to be our signature event.”

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Brandon Freeman, Vincent Woodard, Darion Smalling, Joachim Neckere, Janice Patterson, Dr. Anthony Thomas, Rachel Cain, Lauren Crawford, Marvies Davies, Gloria Garrett, Fern Green, Emmanuel Oghogho, Ronald Davis, Jean Noel, Malcolm Terry, Anthony Davis, Matthew Oghogho, Isabella Oghogho, Karmalita Contee, Maleke Glee, Lynn Harper, Lawrence Oghogho and Romania Pinkney who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in February.

Administrator from A1

Credit, and served as administrator for the Enterprise Zone.

“We are excited to have Carol join our team,” Mayor Franklin said. “Her areas of experience and expertise blend perfectly with our long-term vision for the Town of Upper Marlboro. I know she will be an invaluable resource in helping us advance our ambitious agenda in the years ahead. The town’s commissioners and I are eager to work with her.”

Mayor Franklin said Richardson started in her new role [on] Monday, Feb. 12 and was formally sworn in the next day.

For more than a decade, Richardson was a government affairs and policy consultant specializing in community development, economic development, and environmental policy and management. She worked with for-profit and non-profit organizations in addition to county and state government. Richardson also represented clients regarding community development and planning. In that key role, she served as liaison between community groups, developers, and public officials.

During her professional experience, Richardson served various members of Congress as a senior level staff member that included roles as Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. As a professional staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee, she was responsible for entrepreneurial development programs that assisted women, minorities, and veterans.

Richardson has extensive knowledge of federal housing policy, community development, and economic development policy. She previously served as the Reporting and Compliance Manager for the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust. She also served as a liaison to community groups, business associations, and governmental entities. Her political involvement and campaign experience is extensive, having served as an advisor for various political campaigns in the State of Maryland.

Richardson succeeds Kyle Snyder, who resigned last August to take the position as Town Manager with the Town of Berwyn Heights, also in Prince George’s County.

Around the County

Sam Houston State University Announces Fall 2023 Dean’s List

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (Feb. 13, 2024)—The students listed on the Dean’s List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for the Fall 2023 semester.

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Julia Pardaans**

Prince George’s County Exercises Right of First Refusal to Preserve 221 Units of Affordable Rental Housing

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 12, 2024)—The Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) exercised the County’s Right of First Refusal (ROFR) in the purchase of three multi-family properties, Central Gardens Apartments and Millwood Townhomes, both in Capitol Heights, and Capitol Square Apartments in Brentwood. Using ROFR, DHCD was able to preserve a total of 221 units of affordable housing. Central Gardens Apartments, located at 1 Cindy Lane, Capitol Heights, is a 94-unit apartment building, where 71 units were preserved as affordable; Millwood Townhomes, located at 1418 Karen Boulevard, Capitol Heights, is a 75-unit townhouse community, where 73 townhouses were preserved; and Capitol Square Apartments, located at 4000, 4003, 4011 38th Street Brentwood, is a 118-unit apartment building where 77 units were preserved.

Since the revamping of the Right of First Refusal program in 2021, Prince George’s County has preserved through ROFR the affordability of 1,887 multi-family units to date.

“With increasing market demand of rental property, exercising our Right of First Refusal program on these multi-family properties is critical to preserving naturally occurring affordable housing, which is increasingly becoming a disappearing asset in the region,” said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. “Ensuring equitable growth and the creation and preservation of quality affordable housing is a cornerstone of the County’s economic development platform, and we are excited that we are able to provide even more affordable housing opportunities for Prince Georgians.”

Central Gardens Apartments and Millwood Townhomes were acquired by the Hudson Valley Property Group. In coordination with DHCD, the owner committed to 30 years of affordability. The Hudson Valley Property Group also received a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for each property and over \$1.5 million for Central Gardens Apartments and over \$1.6 million for Millwood Townhomes from the ROFR Preservation Loan Fund for renovations. Both multi-family properties are located less than one mile from the Blue Line Corridor, the County’s anchor initiative for economic development. The Blue Line Corridor represents the next big destination for the County and region. It will become a major economic engine for the County by catalyzing development, creating jobs, and incentivizing the development of a sports and entertainment-branded corridor.

Capitol Square Apartments were acquired by Brookwynn Capital and Shift Capital. In coordination with DHCD, the owner committed to 40 years of affordability. Brookwynn Capital and Shift Capital also received a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the property and \$2.7 million from the ROFR Preservation Loan Fund for renovations.

According to County Resolution CR-51-2015, the County may exercise its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) when an owner of a multi-family rental facility of 20 units or more intends to sell a multi-family property. DHCD has the authority to purchase the property or assign its rights in an effort to stabilize, preserve, and expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households and increase the availability of quality, affordable rental housing in designated areas of the County.

COMMUNITY

Racing Against Waste: Neighborhood Design Center's Trash Dash Brings Fun and Purpose to Bladensburg Waterfront Park

By PRESS OFFICER
Neighborhood Design Center

The Neighborhood Design Center's (NDC) annual Trash Dash seeks teams of eco-warriors for a competition to see who can collect the most trash in one hour. Like fundraising races, teams of 5–10 people are encouraged to get sponsors to donate to support their clean-up efforts as they race against the clock, competing for prizes in categories like most trash collected, best found object, and team spirit. This family-friendly, earth-friendly FUNdraiser brings the community together to steward our public places all for a great cause in a blend of clean up, community spirit, and friendly competition. The inaugural Trash Dash removed 55 bags of trash from polluting the Anacostia Watershed making a huge impact on local water. The winners get one-of-a-kind trash trophies, swag, and bragging rights.

Where: Bladensburg Waterfront Park 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Who: This event is organized by the Neighborhood Design Center and is open to teams from the community, including families, friends, corporate groups, and local organizations. Team captains can sign up groups at

<https://ndc-md.org/news-and-stories/trash-dash-2024/>.

Captains will be asked to complete the team registration and submit the fee on behalf of your team. Upon completing the form, the captain will receive a sharable link allowing each participant to join the group. After you join, you'll receive an email with your team fundraising page to track how you stack up against the competition over time. We'll also share a few insider tips and resources to help your fundraising efforts along.

When: **Sunday, April 14, 2024**, from 1–3 p.m.

- Welcome, lunch, and safety briefing: 1–1:30 p.m.
- Clean up competition 1:30–2:30 p.m.
- Wrap-up and prizes: 2:30–3 p.m.

The Neighborhood Design Center is a nonprofit organization committed to providing design assistance and community development services to low-income neighborhoods and communities across Maryland. With over five decades of experience and more than 4,000 completed projects, NDC has earned a distinguished reputation as a partner in enhancing community environments. For more information, please visit www.ndc-md.org.

Six in Ten People With Alzheimer's, Dementia Will Wander

Alzheimer's Association offer tips to prepare for this emergency situation

By PRESS OFFICER
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (Feb. 18, 2024)—Wandering and getting lost is common among people living with Alzheimer's or other dementia and can happen during any stage of the disease. Six in 10 people living with dementia will wander at least once; many do so repeatedly. Although common, wandering can be dangerous—even life-threatening—and the stress of this risk weighs heavily on caregivers and family.

"Anyone who has memory problems and is able to walk is at risk for wandering," said Cindy Schelhorn, senior director of communications and marketing with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Even in the early stages of dementia, the person can become disoriented or confused for a period of time and may not remember his or her name or address."

Behaviors that may indicate an increased risk of wandering include:

- Forgetting how to get to familiar places
- Talking about fulfilling former obligations, such as going to work
- Trying or wanting to "go home," even when at home

The stress experienced by families and caregivers when a person living with dementia wanders and becomes lost is significant. Planning ahead and being prepared is critical when for this dangerous—and potentially fatal—situation occurs. When preparing an emergency plan, be sure to:

- Ask neighbors, friends and family to call if they see the person alone.
- Keep a recent, close-up photo and current medical information on hand to give to police.
- Know your neighborhood and any dangerous areas nearby, i.e. bodies of water, dense foliage, bus stops, or busy roads.
- Create a list of places where the person may wander, including past jobs, former homes, places of worship, or a favorite restaurant.
- Consider enrolling the person in a wandering response service.

"When a memory-impaired person goes missing, don't wait. Begin looking immediately," said Schel-

horn. "Many people who wander are found within 1.5 miles of where they disappeared. If the person isn't located within 15 minutes, call 911 and report that a person with Alzheimer's disease or dementia is missing."

Wandering situations can happen even to the most diligent of caregivers. Following are strategies to help lower the chances of a wandering incident:

- Identify the time of day the person is most likely to wander. Plan activities, such as folding laundry or preparing dinner, to keep the person engaged and reduce anxiety, agitation and restlessness.
- Reassure the person if he or she feels lost, abandoned or disoriented. If the person wants to "go home" or "go to work," use communication focused on exploration and validation. Refrain from correcting the person.
- Ensure all basic needs are met, including toileting, nutrition and hydration.
- Avoid busy places that are confusing and can cause disorientation.
- Use devices that signal when a door or window is opened. This can be as simple as a bell placed above a door or as sophisticated as an electronic home alarm.
- Do not leave someone with dementia unsupervised in new or changed surroundings. Never lock a person in at home or leave him or her in a car alone.
- If the person is no longer driving, remove access to car keys—a person with dementia may not just wander by foot. The person may forget that he or she can no longer drive. If the person is still able to drive, consider using a GPS device to help if they get lost.

The Alzheimer's Association can provide families and caregivers with additional guidance on keeping people with memory issues safe. For more information, call the Association's free 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org/safety.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®.

KEEN Greater DC and Partner the University of Maryland's Kinesiology Department Announce KEEN Sports, New Free Programs for Children With Developmental and Physical Disabilities

By PRESS OFFICER
KEEN Greater DC

KEEN Sports is a new KEEN Greater DC program with partner, the University of Maryland's Kinesiology Department. During KEEN Sports programs, athletes and UMD student-volunteers come together for one-to-one recreational activities.

Activities are individualized and tailored solely to the needs of the athlete. They include throw a basketball, kick a soccer ball, roll a hula hoop, explore the gym, engage in imaginative play or use some other equipment on hand. Athletes burn energy, meet and interact with volunteers and make friends.

KEEN Greater DC is a non-profit volunteer led organization that provides one-to-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities at NO COST to the families. KEEN's vision is to foster self-esteem, confidence, skills, and talents of its athletes through non-competitive activities.

"KEEN is partnering with the University of Maryland's Kinesiology Department to provide more free programs to families in Prince George's County," said NAME, KEEN Greater DC. "During KEEN Sports, athletes and UMD student-volunteers join together for one-to-one activities that are individualized and tailored solely to the needs of the athlete."

During the sessions parents have valu-

able respite time.

KEEN Kids Sports enrollment is open to children and teens with disabilities, ages 5–15 years old. Enrollment is required: Register Here (more information at www.keengreaterdc.org)

Location: University of Maryland School of Public Health, 4200 Valley Drive, College Park, Md.

For more information contact Beth at info@keengrdc.org or visit www.keengreaterdc.org.



New Hospice of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament This Spring at the Cannon Club

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 12, 2023)—Become a member for the day at an exclusive golf resort while helping a not-for-profit with a 45-year history of caring for your neighbors. Hospice of the Chesapeake is excited to introduce a new golf tournament to be held **Thursday, April 18**, at The Cannon Club in Lothian, Maryland. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

The event will honor the deluxe tradition of the organization's popular fall golf tournament to include a full breakfast, lunch on the course, an awards dinner, beverages on the course, range time, greens fees, golf cart, and a goodie bag.

Proceeds from the event will benefit nearly 4,000 people in your community who receive hospice care, more than 2,000 patients who turn to supportive care for help with complicated illness and more than 3,000 people who find

comfort with the organization's grief counseling and support groups each year.

To reserve your foursome or to become a sponsor or underwriter, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/cannon-golf>. For details, contact Lauren Thurston at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

Hospice of the Chesapeake's mission is caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For more information, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Officer Fights to Deter Drivers Like One Who Injured Him

By LYDIA HURLEY
Capital News Service

Less than four months after losing his legs in an attempt to stop a reckless highway driver, a Montgomery County police officer is at the forefront of a movement to crack down on negligent driving in Maryland.

Sgt. Patrick Kepp plans to testify on two bills in the state capital of Annapolis this session—traveling from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, where he is still in active recovery from last October's incident.

"When I was brought into the conversation about new laws being created, right away, I knew it was something I wanted to do," Kepp said.

Rehabilitation is his first priority, he said, but treatment won't get in the way of his new mission. "I will be there in Annapolis to make sure these bills happen," Kepp said.

Kepp announced his plans [last] week in a press briefing alongside Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and Montgomery County lawmakers who are taking up the cause with him. Kepp's story has inspired them to craft new legislation that would punish repeat offenders of reckless driving.

"I'm going to call it the Sergeant Pat Kepp Bill on Reckless Driving," said Delegate Greg Wims, D-Montgomery County, calling Kepp a "hero."

Reckless driving isn't a new phenomenon in Maryland. Outraged by stories of dangerous driving on the Beltway or the Ocean City Expressway, Maryland

lawmakers have in years past proposed legislation meant to stop these behaviors. This session, two other bills, separate from Kepp's, are making their way through the legislature, specifically aimed at ending the deadly game of drag racing or "exhibition driving."

But Kepp's bill is a personal one, inspired by an officer who patrolled the sponsoring lawmakers' home district. Elrich visited Kepp while he was in recovery to propose the idea of working together on this set of bills, the officer said.

The two bills have not been filed, but the sponsors say they share common goals. The bills would change existing criminal law to widen the definition of what constitutes reckless and negligent driving and increase penalties for those crimes, the sponsors said.

One penalty they will propose is requiring offenders to appear in court for their offenses. "It's way too easy for a driver to just pay a fine and get back on the road and do what they were doing before," Elrich explained.

Sgt. Kepp, who worked as an officer in the alcohol initiative unit, says these bills will "give a little more teeth to some of our laws." Additionally, he hopes the law will address the "overall frustration" with the difficulty enforcing existing reckless driving laws. The penalties aren't tough enough, he said, and the fines aren't a good enough deterrent.

In the early morning hours of last Oct. 18, Kepp had just finished his shift when he heard a radio report of a speeding driver on Interstate 270. He joined other

officers in an attempt to stop the driver. While Kepp was standing outside of his car, the driver struck him and left him critically injured, as Elrich recounted in the press briefing.

The Montgomery County Police officers on duty that night knew the driver "had a history of speeding and taunting police into chasing him," Elrich said. Police say the driver targeted and intentionally hit Kepp, Elrich said, and he is now being charged.

Both of Kepp's legs were amputated due to the injuries he sustained that night. Now he said he spends every day—from 9:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.—at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center undergoing rehabilitation. He joined the Zoom call for Elrich's press briefing from the medical center, wearing a blue dry-fit shirt and a short military-style haircut.

It has been four months since the accident, and Kepp said he has had a dozen surgeries since.

Still, he wants to speak on behalf of legislation that "will strengthen our laws and make our roadways safer," Kepp said.

The aim of the bills is "not for everybody to be thrown in jail, have huge fines, or lose their licenses," Kepp said, but rather to end reckless driving, especially by repeat offenders.

Elrich said he hopes the law will stop people from "ignoring lights and sirens from law enforcement, breaking the rules of the road ... and performing car tricks like drifting, peeling out, and doing donuts in the middle of a road."

"All it takes is a moment's loss of control over that vehicle," Elrich said. "Instead of being entertaining, it would take little to transform it into a deadly incident."

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

How Uninsured and Underinsured Americans Can Access Free Covid-19 Vaccines

"We have more tools than ever to protect against serious COVID-19 disease and death, but we must make sure everyone has equitable access to those tools."

—CDC Director Mandy Cohen

COVID-19 vaccines prevented an estimated 18 million hospitalizations and more than 3 million deaths in the United States, while saving about \$1.5 trillion in medical costs in the first two years after they were introduced.

The nation's vaccination strategy, aimed to quickly deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, achieved remarkable success by vaccinating 270 million Americans within the first two and a

half years after its approval. This accomplishment was largely attributed to the fact that anyone could receive a vaccine at no cost, regardless of their insurance status.

More than 40 Urban League affiliates across the country supported this effort by partnering with community health clinics, hospital systems, local pharmacies and health departments to bring the vaccines directly to community members. They established pop-up vaccine clinics in Urban League offices, churches, schools, community centers, housing complexes, senior centers, local colleges and universities, farmers markets and street fairs to ensure their communities had reliable and convenient access to the vaccines. In total, Urban

League affiliates hosted more than 850 vaccine events and clinics, administering more than 120,000 vaccine doses to community members.

However, after the public health emergency ended in the spring of 2023, the federal government stopped purchasing and distributing the vaccines for free to individuals. Although most uninsured and underinsured Americans remain eligible for free vaccines, many are unaware of how to access them. Consequently, many have delayed getting their updated COVID shots out of fear of being charged, leaving the most vulnerable Americans unprotected amid the current surge of COVID-19 cases this winter.

Most adults are able to receive the COVID vaccine at no cost through their private insurance, Medicare or Medicaid plans.

However, there are still between 25 million and 30 million adults without health insurance, and additional adults whose insurance does not cover all vaccine costs. Paying out-of-pocket for the updated COVID vaccine is a significant burden for most uninsured adults, who are disproportionately low income and people of color. Given they are often in poorer health compared to those who are insured, they are even more vulnerable to serious illness and death from COVID-19 infection. People of color are also disproportionately experiencing long-term symptoms and health problems following a COVID-19 infection, a condition known as Long COVID. Long COVID does not affect everyone the same way, but common symptoms include fatigue, fever, cough, headache, chest pain

and shortness of breath for weeks, months or years after COVID-19 illness. Long COVID has disrupted many lives and is keeping as many as 4 million people out of work in the U.S.

Anticipating this crisis, the Department of Health and Human Services created a public-private partnership called the Bridge Access Program to ensure continued access to COVID-19 vaccines. Bridge Access provides free COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs. Bridge Access providers include Walgreens, CVS, and pharmacies in the eTrueNorth network; select local healthcare providers; and HRSA-supported Health Centers.

To find an approved Bridge Access provider:

- Go to vaccines.gov, enter your zip code, select the vaccine you prefer, and check the Bridge Access Program participant box.
- Select your preferred location and make your appointment.
- When you arrive for your appointment, confirm that your vaccine should be covered under the CDC's Bridge Access Program based on your insurance status.

The availability of free COVID-19 vaccinations through the CDC's Bridge Access Program is critical as we navigate the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19. By getting vaccinated, we can protect ourselves and the health of our entire community—especially the most vulnerable among us.

—February 16, 2024

Ben Jealous

Executive Director, Sierra Club



Big Polluters vs. Our Kids

Far too often, big polluters feed us the lie that we have to choose between clean air or a healthy economy. Last week, the Biden-Harris administration made a big move that shows Americans do not have to choose. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released updated protective air quality standards that will save both lives and money.

Simply put, if you work outdoors, have a child with asthma, or an elderly family member with a cardiopulmonary disease, this new standard will make it easier to breathe.

The new National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter, or soot, are a big deal. Soot is one of the most dangerous and prevalent air pollutants. It enters the deepest parts of our lungs and bloodstream where it causes asthma, heart attacks, and premature death.

Moms Clean Air Force, a self-described "Mom-partisan" group founded to protect children from air pollution and climate impacts, notes that "air pollution can lead to premature births, lower birth weight, and neurocognitive impacts as particulate matter can reach the developing fetal brain."

Soot is created by coal plants, diesel vehicles, and factories. And this new rule is expected to clean up the air for the 91 million people who live in counties that experience unhealthy spikes in daily soot pollution.

The most impacted communities? You guessed it: communities of color and low-income communities.

It is the same old awful yet unsurprising story: redlining, racist zoning practices, and other factors have put Black and low-income neighborhoods near

or downwind from the sources of air pollution. Fence-line communities near ports, highways, and power plants are disproportionately exposed to higher-than-average levels. Addressing soot pollution in our air has a unique urgency for these communities that bear the hardest brunt.

The new EPA standard will directly save an estimated 4,500 lives per year. It will prevent 5,700 new cases of asthma each year. As for the economic benefits, it will result in 290,000 fewer lost workdays per year and bring as much as \$46 billion in net health benefits in 2032, when the standards are in full effect.

Reducing air pollution and protecting the air we breathe are moral obligations not just to our children but to future generations. EPA Administrator Michael Regan recognized as much when he told reporters the new standard would "shape the world our children will inherit tomorrow."

Given the undeniable health and economic benefits of stronger soot standard, and the moral imperative of protecting our kids' health and futures, you would expect passing the new standard to have been a slam dunk. But the updating of the soot standard faced fierce opposition. We must recognize that opposition for what it was: outrageously immoral.

Big polluters and their allies fought tooth and nail against the improved soot standard. They relied on the same misinformation they have used for years, which has never once come true. They made up fake

obstacles to complying with improved standards. For example, they tried to use wildfire smoke as a reason why certain jurisdictions would not be able to comply with the new standards. But the EPA has clearly stated that soot from wildfires can be discounted from regulatory decisions.

The fossil fuel industry and other polluters grasped at every straw they could. But we know that protecting clean air leads to stronger economies, better health outcomes, and is simply the right thing to do. More than 600,000 people submitted public comments to the EPA last year in support of stronger standards. The Biden-Harris administration deserves credit for heeding the call.

The opposition from big polluters is a reminder that there will always be those who try to stop us when we reach for a better future. That even goes for something as basic as cleaner air and the longer life expectancies, economic opportunity, and healthier bodies that come with it.

It is also a reminder of our moral obligation to keep fighting to make sure the benefits of the new EPA standard reach the communities that need them most.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club and a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

—February 10, 2024

Hogan's Run for U.S. Senate Is all the Buzz Among Former Capitol Colleagues

By LYDIA HURLEY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 15, 2024)—Larry Hogan's recent decision to run for U.S. Senate comes as a shock to many of the state's lawmakers—especially Democrats who worked with the former Republican governor and think he wasn't all that cooperative with the legislature.

Now, he's aiming to serve as a lawmaker himself, this time on the national level.

Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore City, told reporters this week he thought the former governor "did not seem to be an enthusiast of the legislative process."

"I was very taken aback to see that he is interested in introducing bills, working with legislators, trying to create coalitions to build consensus and pass laws," Ferguson said. "That's the role of the U.S. Senate."

Over a month into the legislative session, Maryland lawmakers are hard at work on their own initiatives in Annapolis. Still, Hogan's decision to run for Senate has been the talk of the town for many of them.

Nearly a year after his term ended and Democratic Gov. Wes Moore took office, Hogan's legacy remains a topic of controversy that echoes through the halls of the State House. The former governor vetoed some of Democrats' favorite bills on topics like abortion, gun restrictions and an education blueprint.

Moore himself aimed a punch at Hogan during the State of the State address on Feb. 7, saying that the former executive spent too much time picking fights with the legislature instead of showing "real leadership and engagement" in Annapolis.

Hogan could potentially have some appeal to moderate and independent voters in a general election, as a frequent critic of former president Donald Trump. But Maryland Democrats say this shouldn't qualify him as a moderate in the minds of voters.

In his first interview since he announced his Senate campaign, Hogan said that it's "not necessary" to enshrine the right to abortion in Maryland's constitution, though he would oppose an outright nationwide abortion ban, according to the Baltimore Banner. Democrats were quick to offer their critique.

"Anyone who thinks that there is no threat to women's reproductive rights and abortion access is delusional," Gov. Moore said

in response to Hogan's comments on Wednesday, February 14.

Moore said the country has seen the Supreme Court "dismantle decades of precedent overnight," and he asserted that Republicans continue to "stand by" as women's reproductive rights are attacked across the country.

This November, Marylanders will be asked to vote on whether to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution. In 2023, the General Assembly voted to include a referendum on the November 2024 ballot.

Hogan's administration commits to "finding common ground for a common good," according to a statement on his Senate campaign website. Hogan's campaign boasts eight years of successful tax cuts, a balanced budget and a record surplus as governor. Capital News Service has reached out to Hogan's campaign several times this week for comment but received no reply.

Some Maryland Republicans believe Hogan has a chance of winning. He has proven he can win in Maryland on a statewide basis and can find a way to map out how to be successful, said Sen. Stephen Hershey, R-Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil and Caroline counties.

"A U.S. senator election is going to be certainly based on presidential turnout, where the national candidates are at the time, so many different things that come into play during those elections," said Hershey.

Hogan was one of the Republican party's more outspoken critics of former president Donald Trump, who is likely to be at the top of the ticket in the fall. Hogan even claimed he voted for late former president Ronald Reagan over Trump in 2020.

"We haven't had a Republican in the U.S. Senate from Maryland since the '80s. It will be a challenge for him," Del. Jason Buckel, R-Allegany, said. A win for Hogan is going to be an "uphill climb," Buckel said.

After the former governor vetoed several bills with widespread support from Democratic lawmakers, there is "no chance" Democrats in Maryland are going to vote for Hogan, Sen. Cheryl Kagan, D-Montgomery, said.

"He has a terrible record that he's now going to have to defend. It's hard to imagine how he could be successful," Kagan said.

Kagan also voiced concerns about the impression that Hogan is a moderate. "He's not nearly as moderate as his PR people try to make us believe," Kagan said.

Senator Benjamin Kramer, D-Montgomery, echoed this sentiment.

"Although he has done an outstanding job of creating this impression that he is a moderate, he is far from that," Kramer said.

Dereck E. Davis, the state treasurer, a Democrat, said a Hogan win could threaten Democratic control over the U.S. Senate.

"If they were to vote for Gov. Hogan, effectively they're voting for Mitch McConnell," said Davis, referring to the Senate Republican leader from Kentucky. "It could flip the Senate."

Still, he said, it never hurts to have a different point of view like the one Hogan might bring to the national Republican party.

"It's always good to have diversity of thought. I'm not going to get into internal Republican Party politics," he said. "But I think it's healthy when you have various viewpoints . . . It's great not to have groupthink and rather to have competing ideas."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should I Claim Social Security at 68, or Wait Until I'm 70?

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 have a question regarding my SS benefits. I turned 68 this month and work part time. I earned \$28,000 last year but will probably gross \$36,000 to \$38,000 this year. My husband collects his SS, and he earned \$25,000 last year. I was told by a financial planner that I should apply for my benefits now, instead of waiting until I'm 70. I would collect \$1700/month at 68 and \$1944/month if I wait. Which is the smarter move? **Signed: Seeking Answers**

Dear Seeking: I'm sure your financial advisor would agree that your decision on when to claim your Social Security comes down to just a few basic things—1) how badly you need the money, 2) your life expectancy, and 3) whether you will receive a spousal boost from your husband when you claim.

Because you have already passed your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months, your work earnings won't negatively affect your monthly SS benefit amount. If you claim now, however, your work earnings will affect how much of your SS benefits will be subject to income tax. Assuming you file your income tax as "married/filing jointly," up to 85% of the Social Security benefits you receive during the tax year will become part of your income taxable by the IRS. If you do not urgently need the extra money that your SS will provide, then waiting longer to claim will also postpone paying income tax on your received benefits, and that may be a consideration.

Your life expectancy is key in making your decision on when to claim. You already know that your benefit will be \$244 per month more if you wait until you are 70 to claim. If you claim at 68 (e.g., this month), you will collect about \$40,800 by the time you reach 70. If you, instead, wait until age 70 to get that extra \$244/month benefit, it will take you about 14 years collecting at the higher rate to offset the \$40,800 you would have received had you claimed now (in other words, you would break even moneywise at about age 84). If your life expectancy is longer, then waiting to claim may be the better choice. Of course, no one knows how long they will live but, for general guidance, average life expectancy for a woman your current age is about 87. Family history and your current health are obviously influencing factors as well. If you wish to get a more personal estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest using this tool: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

In the end, if you believe you will attain at least average life expectancy and you don't urgently need the money now, waiting longer will not only give you a higher monthly benefit in your later years, but also the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. If, however, you have reason to suspect you won't achieve at least average life expectancy, or you need the SS money sooner, claiming before age 70 is likely the better move.

One other thing to consider: If your benefit as your husband's spouse will be more than your own earned maximum SS retirement benefit, then you should claim your SS benefit now. Your maximum benefit as a spouse would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age entitlement and, if that is more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then claiming now to get your maximum spousal benefit would be your best choice. To get a spousal benefit from your husband, your personal FRA entitlement (not your age 68 amount) would need to be less than half of his FRA entitlement. If that isn't the case, then you should make your decision based only on your own Social Security entitlement, as described above.

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.

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Track from A1

- layers of track surfacing
- Installation of two new pole vault plant boxes
- Installation of eight new long jump boards
- Wiring and audio/visual upgrades
- Flooring installation under the stands (to be completed after track season)

Managed by the Department's Capital Planning and Development Division, the project was carried out by Barco Enterprises Inc. and Miller Sports Construction. Renovations were completed from August 2023 to January 2024. The Complex continued to offer a variety of programs while renovations were made. Now well under way, the 2023–2024 indoor track season was only minimally affected by the closure.

"The Department of Parks and Recreation has invested heavily to provide the highest quality indoor track and field experience for our residents and rental clients. The recent track renovations and upgrades have been well-received by our patrons, athletes, and rental clients," according to Tara Stewart, Division Chief, Aquatics and Athletic Fa-

Hon. Todd M. Turner Chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program's Class of 2024

Long-time Prince George's County Governmental Leader; one of 52 selected for statewide professional development program

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

EASTON, Md. (Feb. 13, 2024)—Leadership Maryland recently announced that the Hon. Todd M. Turner, Executive Director, Prince George's County Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) has been chosen to participate in their statewide professional development program as a member of the Class of 2024.

Turner is one of 52 individuals chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program's 31st class, who will complete the eight-month, hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital issues. The program will run from April to December, and include 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 will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

"We are excited to announce our next class and welcome these accomplished and motivated individuals to the Executive Program," said David Fike '16 (LM) president and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "This year's class selection process was competitive, and after careful review of over 100 applications, I am thrilled to share that the 52 members of the Class of 2024 represent a powerful cross-section of leaders who have the desire to make a

broader impact within our state. The knowledge, experience, and connections they will gain in our program will prepare them to do just that."

Turner was appointed by Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsbrooks and confirmed by the Prince George's County Council to serve as the second OEA Executive Director in October 2022. OEA is responsible for increased accountability and oversight by identifying fraud, abuse, and illegal acts and supports the Board of Ethics to exercise its authorities granted to it under the Prince George's County Code of Ethics. Prior to serving as Executive Director, Mr. Turner served eight years as a member of the Prince George's County Council, representing the 4th Council District, where he served two consecutive years as Council Chair and one year as Vice-Chair. In addition, he served as a Council Member for the City of Bowie (2005–2014), representing the 3rd Council District (2005–2011) and as an At-Large member of the Council (2011–2014). He served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2007–2009, becoming the first African American to hold the position in the City's history. Executive Director Turner is a graduate of the Academy of Excellence in Governance at the Institute of Governmental Service of the University of Maryland (2017), the Leadership Greater Washington class (2017), and the Leadership Prince George's class (2012). In addition, he is a recipient of the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Government (2014).

Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program 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 leadershipmd.org, call 410-841-2101 or email info@leadershipmd.org.

Leadership Maryland is a statewide non-profit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's Executive Program selects as many as 52 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders 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. And new in 2024, Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program brings together a class of 30 of the state's rising stars and gives them the skills and tools they need to advance in their careers. With an alumni network comprised of leaders from all industries and regions of the state, Leadership Maryland has established thousands of Marylanders on their career leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change. To learn more, please visit leadershipmd.org.

Deputy Secretary Julia Glanz Selected for Leadership Maryland Executive Program's Class of 2024

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Deputy Secretary Julia Glanz one of 52 selected for statewide professional development program

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (Feb. 15, 2024)—Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development today announced that Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Julia Glanz has been chosen to participate in Leadership Maryland's statewide professional development program as a member of the Class of 2024.

"I am proud to congratulate my friend and Deputy Secretary Julia Glanz on being hand-picked for this group of talented, accomplished Leadership Maryland members," said Secretary Jake Day. "I know she will continue to lead with compassion and kindness, just as she has for her entire career. Congratulations to Julia and the rest of the Class of 2024!"

Glanz is one of 52 individuals chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program's 31st class, who will complete an eight-month program 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 multiculturalism/diversity across the state.

"We are excited to announce our next class and welcome these accomplished and motivated individuals to the Executive Program," said David Fike, president and CEO of Leadership Maryland. "This year's class selection process was competitive, and after careful review of over 100 applications, I am thrilled to share that the 52 members of the Class of 2024 represent a powerful cross-section of leaders who have the desire to make a broader impact within our state. The knowledge, experience, and connections they will gain in our program will prepare them to do just that."

Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Glanz, who joined the department in March 2023 and was appointed as Deputy Secretary in December 2023, previously served as City Administrator and Acting Mayor of Salisbury.

For more information on Leadership Maryland, visit <https://www.leadershipmd.org/>.

EarthTalk® 4 Day Workweek = Good 4 Climate

Q&A

By Taylor Connelly February 15, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:

What are the climate benefits of switching over to a four-day workweek?

—P. Proby, Denver, CO

Nearly 200 companies across the globe have completed six-month trials of a four-day workweek with promising results. Juliet Schor, an economist and sociologist at Boston College, is leading the trials with the nonprofit group Four Day Week Global. Schor says, "Stress, burnout, mental health, physical health... job satisfaction... all of those are going in the right directions." While the four-day workweek seems to improve employee lives, the results of the trial also suggest that the shorter workweek has climate benefits as well.

The four-day workweek benefits the environment by lessening the environmental impacts of commuting, reducing energy consumption and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. In 2021, the transportation sector was the leading contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., accounting for around 28 percent of total emissions nationwide. By committing to a four-day workweek every employee could reduce their commute by 20 percent. Furthermore, during a six-month trial, workers spent less time commuting by car and more time biking and walking.

Another major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is lighting, heating, cooling and generally powering up office buildings. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that commercial and residential buildings account for nearly 13 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Keeping offices closed (or partially powered down) for an extra day per week could yield significant emissions reductions. Schor found



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

The four-day workweek benefits the environment by lessening the environmental impacts of commuting, reducing energy consumption and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

that just a 10 percent reduction in work hours is linked to a 8.6 percent fall in carbon footprint.

Along with climate benefits, the four-day workweek provides employees with their own perks. During a 2022 trial in the U.K., of 70 firms, 56 said they planned to keep a four-day workweek in place after the trial ended. The most commonly cited benefits of the trial were increased productivity and significant financial savings for employees. Employees saved money on both trans-

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Workweek from A5

portation and childcare during the trial. The UK trial also found that during the four-day workweek daily production rose by 22 percent. This statistic exemplifies the main goal of four-day workweek which is the idea of improving efficiency by avoiding overworking employees. Rethinking the culture around work and the desire to constantly produce could not only benefit employees, but could yield reductions in carbon pollution.

The idea of the four-day workweek sounds great, but is it really viable? The fact is, most companies have been able to implement the four-day workweek without seeing a decline in productivity. A case study in New Zealand focused on Perpetual Guardian, an estate management company that started using the four-day workweek in 2018. The results were beyond expectations. Employees maintained their work output by eliminating unproductivity during work hours and working more efficiently. Additionally, all 240 employees experienced a 24 percent improvement in work-life balancing, while maintaining their high productivity levels. The employee perks, combined with the climate benefits, make the four-day workweek an increasingly strong option for businesses.

CONTACTS: A four-day workweek could be better for health and the climate, companies find, <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2024/02/a-four-day-workweek-could-be-better-for-health-and-the-climate-companies-find/>; The Climate Benefits of a 4-Day Work Week (32hrs), <https://4dayweek.io/pro/environment>.

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Track from A5

ilities. "The Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex's management team and the Department's Capital Planning & Development Division were very purposeful in selecting design elements and upgrades to enhance the experience for everyday users, avid fitness participants, and competitive athletes within Prince George's County and the Region."

The Department appreciates patrons' patience and understanding while these necessary upgrades were made. Some final additional improvements to the facility surfacing, specifically under the bleachers, will be completed once the track season has concluded. For other questions about the indoor track, contact splex@pgparks.com.

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