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COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin (at the podium) attempts to give a lecture at the University of Maryland Thursday (March 28) but is interrupted by people protesting Israel's military action in Gaza. University President Darryll Pines intervenes here after Raskin was unable to give his prepared remarks.

## Raskin Speech at University of Maryland Disrupted by Protesters

By YESENIA MONTENEGRO  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (March 28, 2024)—Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin's planned lecture on democracy [last] Thursday at the University of Maryland instead turned into a lively discussion on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Raskin was invited to give the Irving and Renee Milchberg Endowed Lecture and his intended subject was "Democracy, Autocracy and the Threat to Reason in the 21st Century."

"Progress in history requires not just reasoning, which is certainly necessary, but it's not sufficient, because it also requires the addition of the pro-social emotions, as the psychologists call it, of solidarity, empathy, love and the political virtues of justice and equality and freedom," Raskin said at the start of his speech.

His remarks were interrupted just a few minutes later by pro-Palestinian protesters shouting that Raskin is a "complicit in genocide." In response, Raskin said that he wished the protesters had engaged in a conversation with him, rather than "heckling."

Raskin emphasized that he has taken a strong position on returning the hostages held by Hamas, has advocated a military ceasefire, and has championed a two-state solution. As he attempted to continue his lecture, protesters continued interrupting and shouting. Various protesters questioned Raskin's actions since the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

"We need a new peace movement too, if you are the representatives of it," Raskin said. "Because you're not engaging in real dialogue with people and you're not convincing anybody."

Protesters supporting Israel and those backing Palestine from both sides continued heckling and arguing with each other, making it impossible for Raskin to continue. He then abandoned the speech and said he was open to taking questions from the audience, leading to more discourse among protesters.

"It's very tough to solve problems in the Middle East here at the University of Maryland in the physics department," Raskin said.

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## First Group of Student Caddies From University of Maryland Golf Course Earn Full College Scholarship

By PRESS OFFICER  
Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

GLENVIEW, Ill. (March 29, 2024)—Five student caddies from the University of Maryland Golf Course in College Park, Maryland, have been awarded the Evans Scholarship—a full housing and tuition college scholarship offered to golf caddies—following a final selection meeting interview held at Wilmington Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware, on Feb. 7.

The group, who are all from the D.C. area, will begin college this fall as Evans Scholars, attending one of the Program's 24 partner universities nationwide, including the University of Maryland in College Park. All decisions on awarded schools will be finalized by March 15. The Evans Scholarship is valued at more than \$125,000 over four years. The full group of winners is listed below.

The Western Golf Association (WGA), headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, has supported the Chick Evans Scholarship Program through the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930. Known as one of golf's favorite charities, it is the nation's largest scholarship program for caddies.

To qualify for the Evans Scholarship, each student must meet the Program's four selection criteria and show a strong caddie record, excellent academics, demonstrated financial need and outstanding character.

Currently, a record 1,130 caddies are enrolled at 24 universities nationwide as Evans Scholars, including nine at the University of Maryland. More than 12,040 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since the Program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. in 1930.

As the Evans Scholars Program continues to grow nationwide, more students from newer areas in the East, including in and around Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, are being introduced to the opportunity to caddie and potentially earn a full college scholarship.

Three years ago, the WGA first launched a youth caddie program at the University of Maryland Golf Course, as part of its Caddie Scholar Prep initiative aiming to introduce qualified students to caddying and the opportunities it provides, including earning money and college scholarships. The program is funded by the WGA and covers the cost of caddies for golfers. This is the first group of awarded Evans Scholar caddies to come from that effort.

"What was amazing to me was this first group coming out three years ago, not knowing anything about golf and clueless as to what they were going to experience," said Jeff Maynor, director of golf at UMD Golf Course. "They'd never been to a course before, they were nervous, and I'm sure they thought, 'No one here is like me.' To see where they are today—comfortable walking up to golfers and chatting with anyone, it's been a total transformation. It has pushed them out of their shell and taught them that it's OK to try something new. They were our first group of pioneers, and they will make it easier for all the caddies who follow in their footsteps. I truly admire the courage it took for them to do this—and the ultimate reward was earning a life-changing scholarship to college."

One of the caddies, Antoinette Davis, of Clinton, Maryland, was raised by a single mother who worked tirelessly to ensure her children, including a son with disabilities, had the best possible education. "As he grew older and needed surgeries, I would help take care of him while my mother worked to support us," she said. "I felt blessed to be able to help and support my family in any way. The sense of community that my family has created for me has taught me that I would like to be a sense of support for many people."

She found a similar sense of community in the caddie program. "As I think about who I want to become, I focus on the many success people around me, like my mother, my teachers, the golfers I have met caddying and other influential people in my life who have been models of the qualities I want to possess as I grow older," she said.

Selection meeting interviews for Evans Scholar finalists will continue nationwide through spring. When the 2023–24 selection meeting process is complete, an estimated 340 caddies from across the country are expected to be awarded the Evans Scholarship.

"We are thrilled to welcome this new class of UMD Golf Course caddies to the Evans Scholars family," said WGA Chairman Steve Colnitis. "Their dedication in the classroom, on the golf course and in their communities represent what our Program has been about since 1930."

In 2021, the Evans Scholars Program began sending student caddies to the University of Maryland, as part of its ongoing expansion plan in the East. The ESF has also purchased a building near campus, which will serve as the future home of the Caves Valley Evans Scholars Scholarship House.

Funds for the Scholarship come mostly from contributions by more than 38,500 supporters across the country, who belong to the Evans Scholars Par Club program. Evans Scholars Alumni donate more than \$15 million annually, and all proceeds from the BMW Championship, the penultimate PGA TOUR Playoff event in the PGA TOUR's FedExCup competition, benefit the Program. This year, the BMW Championship will be held Aug. 20–25 at Castle Pines Golf Club in the Denver area. The BMW Championship was held at Caves Valley Golf Club outside Baltimore in 2021 and will return there in 2025.

Below is a complete list of winners who will begin college this fall as Evans Scholars.

Name	Hometown	High School
Chelsea Ayivor	Lanham	Elizabeth Seton HS - Bladensburg
Antoinette Davis	Clinton	Bishop McNamara HS - Forestville
Delaney Lester	Washington, D.C.	Elizabeth Seton HS - Bladensburg
Rafael Munguia	Hyattsville	Bishop McNamara HS - Forestville
Betsy Pacheco	Riverdale	Elizabeth Seton HS - Bladensburg

To learn more about the WGA and ESF, visit [wgaesf.org](http://wgaesf.org).

The Western Golf Association conducts six national golf championships and sponsors the nationally acclaimed Evans Scholars Foundation. Headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, the organization was founded in 1899 by 11 Chicago-area golf clubs to promote their interests in golf. In addition to the BMW Championship on the PGA TOUR and the NVS Invitational presented by Old National Bank on the Korn Ferry Tour, the WGA conducts four prestigious amateur championships, the Western Amateur, the Western Junior, and the Women's Western Golf Association's Amateur and Junior championships.

Established by the WGA and famed amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr., the Evans Scholars Foundation provides full housing and tuition scholarships to high-achieving caddies across the country. Currently, a record 1,130 caddies are enrolled in 24 leading universities across the nation as Evans Scholars. The Program, which is supported by the WGA, is funded by contributions from more than 38,500 Par Club members, including Evans Scholars Alumni, as well as proceeds from the BMW Championship. Since the Program's inception in 1930, more than 12,000 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars.



A large Maryland blue crab is featured in a brand-new conservatory concept at MGM National Harbor.

## MGM National Harbor Unveils Grand D.C., Maryland and Virginia-Themed Conservatory, Immersing Guests in Regional Charm and Culture

By PRESS OFFICER  
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (March 25, 2024)—MGM National Harbor is debuting a brand-new conservatory concept honoring the iconic sights of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

MGM National Harbor's latest conservatory display highlights the beauty of the community with replicas of famed sites and symbols in the DMV. The 15,000-square-foot space is filled with vibrant florals and oversized elements that capture the elegance of the region. The current display is open 24/7 to the public and will be up through November 17.

### Maryland

- A 20-ft.-tall replica of Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse in Annapolis

- Large Maryland blue crab
- Ten oversized Black-eye Susans, the state flower of Maryland
- Two flying seagulls
- U.S. flag and Maryland flag atop the lighthouse

### Virginia

- A 30-ft.-tall replica of the Cape Henry Lighthouse and lightkeeper's cottage near Virginia Beach
- Oversized flying cardinal to represent Virginia's official state bird

### Washington D.C.

- Scaled 40-ft.-tall Washington Monument with aluminum cap that mirrors the original
- Large cherry blossom tree

### Overhead

- Sixteen oversized orange and yellow flowers

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Former Morningsider, Keenus Clark, dies at 90

Marion Keenus Clark, Sr., 90, formerly of Morningside, died February 23 in Waldorf.

He was born in Louellen, Ky., to Arvel and E. Beatrice Clark, and spent his early years in Washington. He graduated from Chamberlain High School.

In the 60s and 70s, the Clark family lived on Woodland Road in Morningside.

In his early life, Keenus (as he was often called) was an excellent artist and enjoyed sketching and painting. He also enjoyed breeding and raising Arabian horses.

He served in the Army's 8th Infantry Division in the 1950s. Later, he managed shoe stores in Prince George's County. In retirement he was a bus driver for Charles County Schools.

Keenus was preceded in death by his wife Elaine, parents and brother Arvel Clark Jr. Survivors include his sister, Shirley Anastasi; his children, Juanita Hood, Sharon Wright, "Kenny" Clark and Keith Clark; nine grandchildren and five great-grands.

A private memorial service will be held later.

### Town of Morningside: Election 2024, Election 1984

Upcoming Town events: Senior Event on April 13; Skate Van & Ice-Cream Social, June 22; and on the Fourth of July, the Parade down Suitland Road, followed by Family Fun Day and ending the day with great fireworks.

April Town Meetings: Work Session, April 9; Regular Town Meeting, April 16. Both beginning at 7 p.m. Rec Council meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For information: 301-736-2300.

On May 6, the annual Town Election will be held.

Just for kicks, I looked up the Council election of May 7, 1984, 40 years ago. The candidates were Jane L. Cowan, Everett M. Gatta, Charles J. Kiker and Walter J. Sienkiewich. Kiker was re-elected with 93 votes; Sienkiewich won with 93 votes.

### Neighbors & other important people

Congratulations to Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller who was

inducted into Maryland Women's Hall of Fame March 21. She is the second woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor and the first woman of color and immigrant elected to statewide office in Maryland. Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, she immigrated with her family when she was 7 years old. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Monsignor Andrew James Cassin, founding Pastor of St. Bernardine Parish in Suitland, died Feb. 23 at Blue Ridge Christian Homes in Rapine, Va. In addition to St. Bernardine's, he helped complete an addition to the school of St. Peter's in Waldorf. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. John the Evangelist in Waynesboro.

### Important County meeting coming up

Kenia Spivey, President of the Skyline Citizens Association, has been busy attending meetings hosted by Prince George's Delegates. She pronounces them "very productive and informative."

She reports that there's a very important meeting coming up, with Prince George's County representatives, on Wed., April 3, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Suitland Community Center, 4600 Regency Lane. County officers will be on hand to talk about what's going on in the County, specifically with their Departments.

Kenia hopes you'll put it on your schedule.

### Free PGCC tuition for District 8 residents: Spread the word!

To date, \$2 million dollars has been allocated to the Local Impact Grant/Scholarship Funding at Prince George's Community College just for District 8 residents, and help is needed to spread the word to District 8 neighbors! (Skyline is in District 8.) When MGM Casino was built, a portion of the gaming and tax revenue was dedicated to the surrounding community through the MGM Local Impact Grant Fund.

District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III has announced a new program that uses MGM Casino revenue to provide free tuition at Prince George's County Community College.

The program is available to those living in the six-mile radius surrounding the casino in District 8 and some border areas of District 7 (Skyline). While the program was initially funded at \$1 million, the Prince George's County Council allocated another \$1 million to serve more residents and keep the program going beyond the upcoming semester.

For information, go online to the Free PGCC announcement.

### 95 Years Ago, Back in 1929

Stan Holmes, former President of the Skyline Citizens, dropped by to wish me a happy 95th birthday, and he presented me a birthday card listing significant things that were happening in my birth year, 1929:

- Most popular names: Mary, Betty, Dorothy, Helen, Robert, James, John, William.
- New house cost \$7,246; dozen eggs, 48 cents; loaf of bread 6 cents; postage stamp, 2 cents, movie ticket, 15 cents. Average annual income, \$1,528.00.
- Academy Awards began. Best film, Wings; best actor, Emil Jennings; best actress, Janet Gaynor.
- Born in 1929: Martin Luther King, Jr., Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Ed Asner, Bob Newhart, Dick Clark, Anne Frank, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.
- Sports winners: Philadelphia Athletics (AL); Green Bay Packers; Stanley Cup Winner, Boston Bruins.
- In the news: Herbert Hoover inaugurated 31st President; Wall Street Crash; Great Depression begins.
- First appearance: foam rubber, Bingo, frozen foods, car radio, 7-up drink).
- 1929—Year of the Snake. A Year to Remember.

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Jonathan Charters, April 6; Amber Lee (Cook) Rye, April 7; Debbie Callison, April 8; Donna Wood, April 11; (Darlie) Fay Norton and Donald Brown Jr., April 13.

Happy Anniversary to Chuck and Laura Smith Jenkins, April 10, and Tex and Rickie Beardmore, their 60th on April 11.

Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) with birthdays and anniversaries.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church and Christ United Methodist Churches Cooperative Parish celebrated their Annual Women's Day March 17, 2024 ("The Power of God Through A Woman") Psalm 46.5, NIV at Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor, Rev. Dr. Johnnie Cogman, Washington East District Superintendent, Rev. La'Trelle Easterling, Resident Bishop.

Memorial Moment for Elizabeth Hamilton, Angela Savoy, Arietha Savoy, Shonnita Lee, Barbara Pinkney, Lillian Makle, Shirley Hicks.

Special presentations honoring Seniors from Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, Mrs. Berline Brooks, Mrs. Rosie Wilkerson and Mrs. Hatti Shivers. Seniors from Christ United Methodist Church honored were Mrs. Evelyn Love, Mrs. Catherine Brooks. These Seniors were honored for their excellence in Ministry.

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church 2024 Woman of the Year Award was presented to Mrs. Geneive Butler. Christ United Methodist Church 2024 Woman of the Year Award was presented to Mrs. Lillian Duckett. Young Woman of the Year Award was presented to Miss Anastasia Proctor.

Latrell Pinkney was presented the Award for Excellence in Ministry. A surprise Nominee Award was presented to Pastor Shemaiah Strickland.

Guest Speaker was Dr. Jacquie Myers, a native of Jamaica. She grew up in Brooklyn, NY, where she graduated from the School of the Arts in New York City, NY. After which Jacquie joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a Drill Instructor for 8 years at which she was medically discharged after a 10-year career. After leaving the military, Dr. Myers became a professional musician and studio vocalist, traveling around the world.

Dr. Myers completed a BS in Technology and a BA in Music Technology, a master's in music/music Tech from Purdue University with honors and received a Doctoral Degree in Christian Counseling with honors.

Called to ministry in 1993, she was licensed by Rev. Orland Richmond at Northside Christian Church and served as staff minister and church musician. She was a minister of music for several churches over the span of 30 years. Dr. Myers has preached and conducted many vocal, praise and worship workshops all over the country. Jacquie and her husband, Dr. Olver Myers, are currently serving Faith Restoration Ministry Clemson after being ordained as Elders by Pastor Donald Major, Pastor of Faith Restoration Ministries International in 2014. Earlier this year, Jacquie was honored to accept the mantle of Apostle by the Faith Restoration Ministry International.

Dr. Myers serves as the Vice President of Administration and Intercessory Board Chair for Issachar Summons Ministry, Campus Minister for Clemson University, spiritual advisor and director of the Clemson Gospel Choir. She volunteered and resurrected The R.C. Edwards Middle School Chorus. Dr. Myers is an instructor and facilitator for Jacksonville Theological Seminary, Bible College and Director of Faith Restoration Bible Institute. Jacquie volunteers for Service Dogs for Veterans as a finder, foster, and trainer of dogs in shelters for veterans who suffer from PTSD and MST pretesticular women vets.

Dr. Myers is married to her best friend Rev. Oliver Myers, an awesome and powerful warrior of the Kingdom of God. They have five children and one awesome granddaughter.

Acknowledgments: "The Women's Day Committee of our Cooperative Parish would like to thank everyone for your prayers, words of encouragement and support of our two-day event in the life of our Parish. To all our participants in our worship experience. Thank you. Special words of appreciation are expressed to our guest speaker, Dr. Jacquie Myers, for sharing the Word of God with us. We pray that God will continue to richly bless each one of you.

### ESTHER WILLIAM AND DAVEY YARBOROUGH

Esther Williams and Davey Yarborough will perform Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Harmony Hall Regional Center at 2 p.m. The address is 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. Davey Yarborough and Esther Williams take listeners on a journey through many musical genres, infusing themselves into the music with Yarborough's captivating woodwinds and Williams's soulful vocals. Together they lay the foundation for a jazz performance you will not forget. Tickets: \$25/person.

### CLUB Z OF BOWIE SAT PREP BOOTCAMP

Club Z's SAT Boot Camp will equip students with test-taking skills, strategies and confidence to perform well on their upcoming exam Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at South Bowie Library, 15301 Hall Road Meeting Room #2, Bowie, Maryland. General admission \$99.00. Sponsored by Erica King.

### SAARC

The 75,000 sf Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Center (SAARC) in Brandywine, Maryland is the first of its kind in Prince George's County and features multi-generational recreation offerings for citizens in the region. Enhancing the community experience, SAARC features a natatorium, fitness center, elevated running track, and a variety of programming space for the community.

## Protesters from A1

Darryll Pines, the president of the university, later stepped in and terminated the lecture early.

"He came here to speak about where our democracy is going in our country," Pines told Capital News Service. "What you saw play out actually was democracy and free speech and academic freedom. From our perspective as a university, there are the difficult conversations that we should be having."

Pines added that he wished, however, that the protesters had been more civil. He also praised Raskin's patience and empathy when responding to the protesters' comments and questions.

"I wanted to make a plea for constitutional patriotism in defense of democracy and freedom around the world," Raskin told CNS about his original speech. "Their sentiments were perfectly consistent with a lot of what I had to say."

"I'm not really opposed to heckling," the congressman added. "But it seems like heckling today is all about drowning out the speaker, and that's totally antithetical to the spirit of free expression."

Howard Milchberg, University of Maryland professor of physics and electrical and computer engineering, along with his wife Rena Milchberg and their three children, started the lecture in 2019. It celebrates the memory of Howard Milchberg's late parents, who survived the Holocaust.

"It didn't go as planned, but it maybe turned out better than normal," Howard Milchberg told CNS. "It was an actual exercise of democracy rather than a story about democracy."

## Prince George's Film Festival Announces 2024 Dates and Call for Films

*The 3rd Edition, Presented by Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council and Prince George's Film Office, Takes Place September 26–29*

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGAHC

LARGO, Md. (March 15, 2024)

—The Prince George's Film Festival, presented by the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council and the Prince George's Film Office, announced that the third edition of the festival, PGFF – Take 3, will take place from September 26–29, 2024, in the heart of the vibrant Mid-Atlantic region, Prince George's County, Maryland. With its rich cultural tapestry, diverse communities, and picturesque landscapes, this dynamic location sets the stage for unparalleled cinematic magic.

"Now in its third year, the Prince George's Film Festival has become a highlight of our cultural calendar, attracting filmmakers and film lovers from across the region and beyond," said Rhonda Dallas, CEO and Chief Curator of Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. "We believe that film has the power to inspire, educate, and spark critical conversations. One of the goals of the Prince George's Film Festival is to create a space where diverse voices and perspectives can be heard, and where filmmakers can connect with audiences on a deeper level."

Submissions for PGFF – Take Three are now open through May 15, 2024 (early), July 16, 2024 (regular), and August 17, 2024 (last minute). The festival welcomes submissions in various categories including narrative features, documentaries, short films, animation, and international and student films. Filmmakers are encouraged to submit their work through Film Freeway, where they can find more information about submission guidelines and eligibility criteria.

"We are ecstatic to once again open our doors to filmmakers and audiences alike for our third edition of the Prince George's Film Festival. We are looking for films that push boundaries, tell compelling stories, and reflect the lush diversity of Prince George's County," said Donna Foster-Dotson, General Manager of Prince George's Film Office, and Director of Prince George's Film Festival. "This festival is a celebration of the incredible talent and creativity within our

community, and we can't wait to see the stories filmmakers will bring to the festival screen."

PGFF – Take Three aims to highlight the best in independent cinema, providing a platform for emerging filmmakers to share their stories with a broader audience. Selected films will have the opportunity to be screened virtually and on-site at the festival, which will take place at various venues across Prince George's County on September 26–29, 2024. In addition to film screenings, PGFF – Take Three will feature community screenings, workshops, panel discussions with filmmakers, high-impact networking receptions, dedicated events, and award ceremonies. Stay tuned for more exciting updates, including program announcements, special guests, and ticket sales information. While the dates are set, ticket sales will open later, so be sure to keep an eye out for when you can secure your spot at this remarkable celebration of films.

The Prince George's Film Festival is proudly produced by Green Gigz, Inc., a New York-based experiential event and activation company. For more information about PGFF – Take Three, including how to submit a film for consideration, please visit [www.pgfilmfestival.com](http://www.pgfilmfestival.com).

### Founding Festival Partners

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

*About Prince George's Film Office: Their mission is to streamline the path to completing film projects in Prince George's County by helping filmmakers navigate state and county permits, production protocols, and resources hassle-free and expeditiously.*

Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) leverages its partnerships to support and provide various arts and cultural programming opportunities, art-centered economic development programs, grants, as well as advocacy initiatives for legislative support of the arts at the County and State levels.

# COMMUNITY

## Calendar of Events

### The US Air Force Band's Airmen of Note Featuring Pianist Dave Kikoski

Date and time: Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Description: Join the The United States Air Force Band Airmen of Note for a Jazz Heritage Series concert featuring pianist Dave Kikoski! A highly regarded jazz pianist, Mr. Kikoski emerged in the New York jazz scene in the 1980s and quickly established himself as one of the top players, well known for his post-bop style and spontaneous swinging play.  
 Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 Netherton Dr, Alexandria, VA 22302  
 Contact: Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USAFBand>

### WABA Youth Vision Zero Town Hall, Youth Transportation Summit

Date and time: Saturday, April 13, 2024, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.  
 Description: Are you interested in transportation safety? Do you want to meet your elected officials and hear their priorities? Do you want to learn how to advocate for your community? Do you need service hours? If you are a Prince George's County High School student and your answer is "yes," to any of those questions, sign up for our Vision Zero Youth Town Hall! You'll also have the option of entering a DPW&T video competition to earn a \$100, \$75, or \$50 gift card. The video competition details link is available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transportation-safety-town-hall-tickets-852959233027>. The theme of the video competition is: 'Be Seen, Be Alert, Be Safe,' to promote traffic safety. Food will be served to registered participants. Everyone must register to attend the event: via Eventbrite.  
 Cost: Free  
 Location: Hyattsville Branch Library, PGCMLS, 6530 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782

### Earth Awakening Festival

Date and time: Saturday, April 13, 2024, 12–4 p.m.  
 Description: If you loved Lattes with Lambs as much as we did, then you won't want to miss the Earth Awakening Festival! The Accokeek Foundation's annual spring event is back, and it's springier than ever. Join us to meet the new lambs and goats, explore the gardens and trails, enjoy spring crafts and activities, and learn about Piscataway culture. Earth Awakening will be packed with sheep shearing demonstrations, spring storytimes, Piscataway cultural demonstrations, fiber arts, scavenger hunts, and an heirloom plant sale.  
 Cost: Free; Suggested donation: \$10: contributions are encouraged to support efforts like the Heritage Breed Livestock Conservation program (feed a new momma and her baby!) and experiential learning for over 15,000 local youth.  
 Tickets: [https://34488.blackbaudhosting.com/34488/tickets?tab=2&txo\\_bjid=4f899c31-7bfe-4ace-abba-01ca2894ddc4](https://34488.blackbaudhosting.com/34488/tickets?tab=2&txo_bjid=4f899c31-7bfe-4ace-abba-01ca2894ddc4)  
 Location: Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607  
 Contact: [info@accokeek.org](mailto:info@accokeek.org), (301) 283-2113

### Trash Dash FUNdraiser

Date and time: Sunday, April 14, 2024, 1–3 p.m. (Rain Date: Sunday, April 28)  
 Description: Working side-by-side, teams of 5-10 will clean up the park's waterfront piers, walking paths, and picnic areas—all while engaging in friendly competition to see who can clean up the most trash, and raise the most funds for NDC! Winners get a handmade trophy, swag, admiration, and potentially a few disgruntled glances from your defeated opponents. We'll be sure to fuel up beforehand with food and refreshments while listening to music in a family-friendly vibe.  
 Cost: Team registration fees are: 5–6 people: \$100; 7–8 people: \$150; 9–10 people: \$200  
 Register: <https://ndcmd.app.neoncrm.com/forms/trashdash2024registration>  
 Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

### District 6 Earth Day Cleanup

Date and time: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 9 a.m.  
 Description: Join us for a meaningful Earth Day cleanup! Let's come together at Bishop McNamara to make a positive impact on our environment. Sign up now to be a part of this rewarding initiative and help us create a cleaner, greener community for all. RSVP: [bit.ly/3fHRZCM](https://bit.ly/3fHRZCM)  
 Location: Bishop McNamara High School, 6800 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747

### Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland Expungement Fair

Date and time: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
 Description: A criminal record can significantly impact your ability to obtain housing, public benefits, financial aid, occupational licenses, quality employment, citizenship and much more. Legal professionals will be available to evaluate your record, discuss options, and assist with expungement filings. Bring your identification and court documentation, if available. **Maryland Arrest and Convictions ONLY.**  
 Location: Hemingway Memorial AME Church, 6330 Gateway Boulevard, District Heights, MD 20747  
 Register: <https://www.pgsao.org/event>

### Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea and the Arts

Date and time: Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
 Description: Featuring: Live Music, Cooking and Gardening Talks Vendors of Plants, Herbs, Quality Crafts and Fine Arts, Food Vendors, Kids' Activities. Picnic Tea Boxes, including scones, tea sandwiches, pastries and tea, will be available to purchase online starting April 1 for pick up at festival.  
 Location: Montpelier House Museum, 9650 Muirkirk Rd, Laurel, MD 20708  
 Contact: (301) 377-7817, [https://www.pgparcs.com/event\\_list/herb-tea-arts-festival](https://www.pgparcs.com/event_list/herb-tea-arts-festival)

## What Storm, What Thunder By Myriam J.A. Chancy Is 2024 One Maryland One Book Selection

Maryland Humanities' Statewide Reading and Discussion Program Marks Seventeen Years

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
**Maryland Humanities**

BALTIMORE (March 18, 2023)—Maryland Humanities is pleased to announce the selection of *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J.A. Chancy for the 2024 One Maryland One Book program.

The Haitian-Canadian-American author's novel follows a cast of characters during the 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti. They realize that everything they thought was certain suddenly isn't, as they endure the chaos of a natural disaster. Readers witness an NGO architect, a water-bottling executive, a drug trafficker, an immigrant cab driver, and others in scenes before, after, and during the earthquake.

*What Storm, What Thunder* made the shortlist for the Aspen Words Literary Prize and the longlist for the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. Chancy's 2010 novel, *The Loneliness of Angels*, also made the latter list. A forthcoming novel, *Village Weavers*, is set for release in April.

Maryland Humanities will announce details on the tour this summer and a calendar of free public events, including an Author Tour, will be available online beginning this summer.

A selection committee consisting of eighteen Marylanders—including teachers, scholars, librarians, writers, booksellers, and community workers representing ten counties and Baltimore—chose the novel for One Maryland One Book. A public call for books under the theme of "Restorative Futures" garnered nearly 250 titles, from which the committee then made their selection.

"The novel takes its title in part from an epigraph by Frederick Douglass," says Chancy, "himself from the Baltimore area, writing in his essay, 'What to the Negro is the fourth of the July?' in 1852: 'For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.' Of course, Douglass was not calling for disaster but for seismic change in America's social order in ways that I believe the reality



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

### Front cover of *What Storm, What Thunder*

of the earthquake called for in the Haitian context in more recent years."

Chancy adds: "It is not lost on me that Maryland has been home to many people from what was once called Saint Domingue, from the period of the Haitian Revolution to Douglass's appointment as US ambassador to Haiti from 1889–1890, to the more recent influx of Haitian emigrants."

Maryland Humanities CEO Lindsey Baker says: "This year's One Maryland One Book theme feels important and timely. I'm looking forward to seeing what resonates with Marylanders about *What Storm, What Thunder* and the amazing programming I know our partners will come up with."

Through our Maryland Center for the Book program, Maryland Humanities created One Maryland One Book (OMOB) to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. We invite readers to participate in book-centered discussions and related programs at public libraries, high schools, colleges, museums, bookstores, and community and senior centers the state. One Maryland One Book is sponsored by The Institute of Museum and Library Services via



PHOTO CREDIT N. AFFONSO

### Author Myriam J.A. Chancy

the Maryland State Library Agency, as well as The Library of Congress Center for the Book, and PNC Foundation.

About Maryland Center for the Book The Maryland Center for the Book (MCFB)—an affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress—develops and supports literary programs and outreach activities that engage citizens across Maryland in literature and reading. As a program of Maryland Humanities, MCFB highlights our region's literary heritage and calls attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy, and libraries. Want to discuss the book now or get updates on upcoming events? Join the conversation on the Maryland Center for the Book page.

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. For more information, visit [www.mdhumanities.org](http://www.mdhumanities.org). Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

## Applications for Library's Social Justice Camp 2024 Now Open

By ANDREA CASTILLO  
**PGCMLS**

LARGO, Md. (March 29, 2024)—Tenth-grader Mischa Smith has attended the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Social Justice Camp the last two summers, delving into projects exploring human trafficking and Black representation in anime. Attending the camps has allowed her to broaden her perspective, connect with friends new and old, and build her public speaking skills through one of her favorite activities: pitching a passion project to a panel of judges who provided feedback and awarded pretend dollars to their favorites.

Applications for the Library's third annual Social Justice Camp this summer are now open to local teens through Tuesday, April 30, and Smith hopes to return for another summer.

"It's very engaging, fun, and educational. It's a very good program for teens—it's amazing," Smith, 15, said. "The more you participate, the better it is."

Teens can choose from one of two sessions at the Bladensburg Branch Library from July 22 to 26 or at the Fairmount Heights Branch Library from August 5 to 9, both scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. PGCMLS is hosting Social Justice Camp in partnership with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR), with support from the Pull Up Fund. A committee will review applications, which are expected to be competitive, and decisions will be sent on Friday, May 10. Those placed on the waitlist will be notified soon after.

"We are excited to host our third annual Social Justice Camp. The past two years have shown teens' desire to be involved in their communities," said Isaiah West, teen services specialist for PGCMLS. "We have seen project proposals ranging from social media campaigns to scholarships to small businesses, each one addressing a specific injustice that these teens see daily in their communities. It is empowering to see so many young people wanting to create change."

Social Justice Camp is aimed at teaching



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

### Teens attend a previous Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Social Justice Camp.

teens how to engage in advocacy and activism, make connections in the community, and more. Past camp sessions have included lessons about young activists and social justice movements in the United States, community organizing, social entrepreneurship, and ethics, as well as sessions to build leadership, research, time management, and problem solving skills, as well as self-care and creative activities.

PGCOHR and PGCMLS have worked together to host Social Justice Camp since the program's inception in 2022, and the camps are an extension of the Youth Leadership Academy PGCOHR hosts throughout the year, said Kyla Hanington, PGCOHR's public outreach and engagement division manager. Originally launched virtually during the pandemic, Youth Leadership Academy's first in-person session will take place at the Bladensburg Branch Library in April. The Bladensburg Branch Library is also home to PGCMLS' Social Equity Commons that includes recording gear for archiving community oral histories and a portable kitchen for programs.

"Bringing those programs together really elevates our youth leaders and heightens their social justice awareness," Hanington said. "We love working with the library and staff with a commitment to social justice and elevating all Prince Georgians."

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 on-line library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve book lovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. PGCMLS is the recipient of two Top Innovator Awards from the Urban Libraries Council (2023 - Democracy; 2021 - Workforce and Economic Development). Learn more at [pgcmls.info/about-us](http://pgcmls.info/about-us).

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Supreme Court Abortion Case Is “The Remnants of the Lost Cause Still Blowing in the Political Winds”

*“This is less about policy and more about pure and simple voting harvesting. Obviously, there is very little support for neonatal care or curbing the death penalty, so ‘pro-life’ is a ridiculous misnomer. They are less pro-life than they are pro-political power—their own ... This is the remnants of the Lost Cause still blowing in the political winds.”*

—Vanderbilt Professor of History  
Jefferson Cowie

The Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine’s mission statement claims to “uphold and promote” the principle of “providing healthcare with the

highest standards of excellence based on medical science.”

In reality, the mission of AHM, which is represented by an SPLC-designated hate group, is to deny people healthcare, using standards based on junk science.

The Supreme Court this week heard arguments in AHM’s ongoing effort to eliminate the safest and most common method of abortion in the United States by invalidating the FDA’s approval of mifepristone, one of two drugs used in the procedure.

AHM’s initial victory, granted by the extremist federal judge for whom the group explicitly

“shopped,” was partially overturned by an appeals court that affirmed the FDA’s initial approval, but invalidated later regulations that expanded access and applications of the medication.

Eliminating or restricting the use of mifepristone would disproportionately harm Black women, who are nearly three times more likely than white women to die of complications from pregnancy or childbirth—and almost 30 times more likely than women in other wealthy countries. More than 1,200 women died from pregnancy or childbirth in 2021 alone.

Women of color account for six of every 10 people who seek abortions, and 75% of those seeking abortion care are living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The majority of Black Americans live in states where abortion is either effectively banned or severely restricted. Black women are less likely to have the means or ability to travel to other states. Furthermore, pregnant people of color are more likely to experience miscarriage, for which mifepristone is part of the most effective treatment.

The risk of dying from mifepristone, in contrast, is “nearly nonexistent”—approximately one death per year since the FDA approved it 24 years ago. The death rate from Viagra is 10 times greater.

“Fundamentally, mifepristone is one of the most safe and effective medications used to provide abortion care or treat early pregnancy loss. Without it, pregnancy will be even more dangerous than it already is,” the American Medical Association and

other medical societies wrote in an amicus brief. “Women are at least 14 times more likely to die during childbirth than during any abortion procedure.”

To make the ludicrous case that mifepristone is dangerous, AHM relied on discredited researchers and flawed research. As the ACLU pointed out in its amicus brief, the most cited “expert,” self-admittedly “not a really good researcher” was published by a group that accused President Obama of hypnotizing people with his speeches and argued that HIV does not cause AIDS. Another claimed her expert opinions on mifepristone were based on her experience as an OB-GYN, even though she stopped practicing the year mifepristone was approved.

It’s clear that AMF’s mission has nothing to do with providing health care or upholding science. The powerful extremist Christian nationalist group Alliance Defending Freedom, which represents AMF, has also sued one Virginia school district for teaching students about racism and another over teacher diversity training. The organization claims anti-racism policies in schools violate students’ constitutional rights.

Moral Majority, which first injected the issue of reproductive rights into right-wing politics, grew out of the fight to keep racially segregated private schools tax-exempt. As its spiritual descendant, AMF remains linked to a white, male supremacist worldview.

—March 28, 2024

# HEALTH and WELLNESS

## New Alzheimer’s Association Report Reveals Top Stressors for Caregivers and Lack of Care Navigation Support and Resources

— Report also provides latest statistics and information on Alzheimer’s prevalence, incidence, mortality and cost of care in Maryland and nationally —

By PRESS OFFICER  
Alzheimer’s Association

ARLINGTON, Va. (March 20, 2024)—The Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report reveals that both dementia caregivers and health care workers report difficulties in navigating dementia care within the U.S. health care system. The report provides an in-depth look at the latest national and state-level statistics on Alzheimer’s disease prevalence, mortality, caregiving, dementia care workforce, and costs of care. The new report estimates that 6.9 million people age 65 and older in the U.S. are living with Alzheimer’s dementia, including 127,200 in Maryland.

This year the cost of caring for people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias is projected to reach \$360 billion—a \$15 billion increase from a year ago. This does not include unpaid care provided by family caregivers and friends. Last year in Maryland there were 247,000 dementia family caregivers, providing 405 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$8.144 billion.

Maryland caregivers and those across the country face significant emotional, physical and health-related challenges as result of caregiving as well, according to the report:

- **Dementia caregivers** report higher rates of chronic conditions, including stroke, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer compared to caregivers of people without dementia or non-caregivers. In Maryland, 55.7% of caregivers reported

at least one chronic condition.

- **The prevalence of depression** is higher among dementia caregivers when compared to caregivers for other conditions. In Maryland, 24.8% caregivers reported depression.
- Seventy-four percent of dementia caregivers report they are “somewhat concerned” to “very concerned” about **maintaining their own health** since becoming a caregiver. In Maryland, 8.4% report frequent poor physical health.
- Across the country, 59% of dementia caregivers report **high to very high emotional stress** due to caregiving and 38% report high to very high physical stress due to caregiving.

“The new Facts and Figures report sheds light on the continuing pressures, challenges and burdens that many Maryland families are going through as a result of Alzheimer’s and other dementias,” said Cindy Schelhorn, director of communications, Alzheimer’s Association National Capital Area Chapter. “As the number of individuals living with Alzheimer’s continues to grow, ensuring patients, their caregivers and families have a clear understanding of how to navigate dementia care resources is critical to improving health outcomes.”

An accompanying special report, “Mapping a Better Future for Dementia Care Navigation”, provides a comprehensive look into dementia care navigation by surveying dementia caregivers and health care workers on their experiences, challenges, awareness and perceptions of care navigation

in dementia care. Dementia care navigation provides clinical and nonclinical support to people living with dementia and their caregivers to overcome barriers that compromise care and health outcomes.

### Key findings:

- In 2023, 11.5 million family and other caregivers of people living with Alzheimer’s or other dementias provided an **estimated 18.4 billion hours of unpaid help**. On average, this represents nearly 31 hours of care per caregiver per week or 1,612 hours per caregiver per year.
- A majority of caregivers (70%) report that coordination of care is stressful.
  - More than half of the caregivers surveyed (53%) said that **navigating health care was difficult**.
  - 2 in 3 caregivers (66%) also have difficulty **finding resources and support for their needs**.
- The top five stressors for caregivers are:
  - **Cost** (reported by 42% of caregivers).
  - **Coordinating with multiple doctors** (36%).
  - **Securing appointments** (35%).
  - **Getting help taking a break** (35%).
  - **Finding appropriate doctors** (32%).
- Care navigation facilitates medical and social support to alleviate patient and caregiver stress. Despite coordinating care and scheduling being top stressors for caregivers, only half of the caregivers surveyed (51%) have ever talked with a

**health care professional about challenges** finding their way through the health care system or asked for help with dementia care.

- **Black and Hispanic caregivers** report managing care on a daily basis (43% and 45%, respectively) compared to White caregivers (31%).
- The vast majority of dementia caregivers (97%) say that they would find **navigation services** helpful. Services cited most often by caregivers include:
  - **A 24/7 helpline** (36%).
  - Help with **coordinating care and communication** between different specialists (34%).
  - Getting help in **understanding their care recipient’s condition** (34%).
  - 60% of health care workers surveyed believe that the **U.S. health care system is not effectively helping patients and their families navigate dementia care**. Nearly half (46%) say that their organizations do not have a clearly defined process for care coordination and clinical pathways for patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia.

“The big takeaway from this year’s special report is that dementia caregivers want and need help navigating the complex health care system and accessing community-based services,” said Schelhorn. “Given the added complexities of dementia care, we hope our report will encourage health systems and practices to think more intentionally about

the challenges facing dementia caregivers and formalize dementia care navigation programs to help them.

Get additional statistics from the report for Alzheimer’s disease prevalence, mortality, cost of care, caregiving and dementia care workforce. Full text of the 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report, including the accompanying special report, Mapping a Better Future for Dementia Care Navigation, can be viewed at [alz.org/facts](http://alz.org/facts). The report will also appear in the May 2024 issue of Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association.

### About 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures

The Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report is a comprehensive compilation of national statistics and information on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. The report conveys the impact of Alzheimer’s on individuals, families, government and the nation’s health care sys-

tem. Since its 2007 inaugural release, the report has become the preeminent source covering the broad spectrum of Alzheimer’s issues. The Facts and Figures report is an official publication of the Alzheimer’s Association.

### About the Surveys

A full breakdown of survey methodology used to inform the 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report and accompanying special report, Mapping a Better Future for Dementia Care Navigation, can be found on p. 98 of the report.

*The Alzheimer’s Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia®. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.*

## The Prince George’s Post

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### Growing Green With Pride

Help beautify our County by joining neighbors in your community for a day of cleaning, weed removal, and mulching.

Save the Date—**Saturday, April 27, 2024** Rain or shine

**Registration deadline is April 19**

Students may earn service learning hours. Registration is required for participation.

To register, visit [mypgc.us/growinggreen](http://mypgc.us/growinggreen) or for more information, contact

[GrowingGreenWithPride@co.pg.md.us](mailto:GrowingGreenWithPride@co.pg.md.us).

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### When Should We Claim 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 am almost 63 and my husband will be 61 soon, and we are looking to see when our best time would be to start our Social Security benefits. We would like to know if one of us qualifies for benefits from a previous marriage from 1984 to 1995. And we are wondering if I can start drawing at age 65, in two years, or if it is better that I wait until 67 because my spouse is 2 years younger than me. Also, if I were to continue working limited hours after 65, what would my earning limit be? **Signed: Almost Ready**

**Dear Almost Ready:** The first thing to understand is that full retirement age (FRA) for both of you is 67. If either of you claim before that, your monthly benefit amount will be permanently reduced and, because you are working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

If you claim your benefit at age 65 your monthly payment will be about 87% of what you would get if you claimed at age 67. If your husband claims at age 62, his benefit will be about 70% of his FRA amount. The only way to get 100% of the benefit you've each earned from a lifetime of working is to claim at your FRA. You can choose to claim at age 65 as long as you're comfortable with the benefit reduction which will occur, and as long as your annual work earnings do not significantly exceed the earnings limit for that year. In any case, when each of you claims will not affect the other's retirement benefit amount.

Social Security's "earnings test" for those claiming before FRA sets a limit for how much can be earned before some (or all) benefits are taken away. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320, but it changes yearly. If you claim early benefits and your work earnings exceed that year's limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits long enough to recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your FRA (the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA). I cannot predict what the earnings limit will be two years from now, but it will be more than the 2024 limit and published at that time. FYI, in the year you turn 67 your pre-FRA earnings limit will be much higher, and when you reach your FRA the earnings test no longer applies.

Regarding your previous marriage, you cannot receive spousal benefits from an ex-spouse while you are currently married. But when to claim may also be influenced by whether either you or your current spouse will get a spousal benefit from the other. If the FRA (age 67) benefit amount for one of you is more than twice the other's FRA entitlement, the one with the lower FRA amount will get a "spousal boost" to their own amount when both of you are collecting.

Spouse benefits reach maximum at one's FRA, but each person's personal SS retirement amount will continue to grow if not claimed at FRA. Waiting past FRA to claim allows the SS retirement benefit to grow by 8% per year, up to age 70. So, with an FRA of 67, claiming at age 70 will yield a payment 24% higher than the FRA amount, 76% more than the age 62 amount, and about 37% more than the age 65 amount. But waiting beyond FRA is only smart if financially feasible and life expectancy is at least average (about 84 and 87 respectively for a man and woman your current ages). And, as a general rule, if one's spousal benefit at FRA (50% of their partner's FRA entitlement) is highest, then that spouse should claim at FRA to get their maximum benefit.

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

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## Maryland Small Business Development Center

SEO Basics: Google's Role in the Visibility of Your Business Online

April 9, 2024 • 1–2 p.m. • No Fee

Registration Deadline: 4/8/2024 4 p.m.

Registration: <https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/17792>

Discover how Google's ever-evolving algorithms work and how to align your website with its guidelines to gain a competitive edge. From keyword research and on-page optimization to building high-quality backlinks, WSI Digital Marketing will share invaluable insights to help you improve your website's visibility and attract organic traffic. Explore the power of local SEO and learn how to leverage Google My Business to drive foot traffic to your physical store. Gain practical tips on optimizing your website's technical aspects, content structure, and user experience to ensure maximum discoverability by search engines. Whether you're a small business owner or a digital marketing enthusiast, this session is your gateway to leveraging Google's influence to propel your online presence. Join us for this insightful presentation and gain the tools you need to dominate the search engine results page. Presenter, K. A. Womack Principal Consultant WSI World-Maryland Branch

## Numerous Prince George's County Businesses and Residents Recognized By Washington Business Journal's "The List"

Prince George's County businesses and residents fill many categories of "The List"

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (March 27, 2024)—The Washington Business Journal listed a variety of Prince George's County businesses and influential residents in the March 22–28 edition of "The List." In the Companies Owned By People Of Color category, three Prince George's County businesses made the list: ERP International, LLC (#9), Systems Application & Technologies, Inc. (#11), and The Bizzell Group dba Bizzell US (#15).

In the Corporate Diversity categories, County companies made the list in two subsectors. The companies that made the two lists were ranked by the percentage of total employees who are people of color. In the Mid-Size Companies subsector (100–999 employees), two Prince George's County companies made the list: Crystal Enterprises, Inc., in Glenn Dale, MD, and Susan Gage Caterers in Landover, MD.

Four county companies made the Small Companies subsector (under 100 employees): Apex Petroleum Corp. in Largo, MD; Fleet Transportation, LLC in Temple Hills, MD; Premier Enterprise Solutions, LLC in Upper Marlboro, MD; and Green Owl Design in Hyattsville, MD.

Four Prince George's County residents also received awards in the Diversity In Business Awards category. Eunmee Shim, a resident of National Harbor, is President of Adventist Healthcare Fort Washington Medical Center. Kathryn Clay, a resident of Laurel, is the Market Manager of Community Development Banking at PNC Financial Services Group. Kimberly Harris, Director of Community Health and Social Impact at Carefirst Bluecross Blueshield, and Melissa Stallings, Director of DMV Ini-



tiatives at Capital Impact Partners, are residents of Bowie.

PGCEDC congratulates all the awardees in the Washington Business Journal's Diversity In Business Awards special section.

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

## New NAREB Initiatives Urge 2 Million Mortgage-Ready African American Families to Become Homeowners

April 13 National Building Black Wealth Day Highlights Group's Wealth-building Strategy

By PRESS OFFICER  
NAREB

WASHINGTON (March 25, 2024)—The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) aggressively seeks to bolster Black homeownership with initiatives that can connect with the more than 2 million African American mortgage-ready renters who are not yet homeowners and other families and individuals in communities across the country.

NAREB President Dr. Courtney Johnson Rose believes the NAREB Building Black Wealth Tour and other initiatives help overcome historical challenges to Black homeownership, such as discriminatory lending practices and unequal access to wealth-building opportunities. The tour, with stops in more than 100 cities, directly brings valuable information about homeownership and wealth building into communities.

"Our mission is to alert families and individuals, and especially those who can qualify for a mortgage, how important it is to buy a home and be put on a path towards generational wealth," Dr. Rose said. "Discriminatory housing policies have kept our families for generations from opportunities to build wealth. We want everyone to know the important steps and information that can lead to wealth-building and homeownership."

Potential Black home buyers need accurate information: 45% of Black consumers do not know how much down payment is required, and with lower average credit scores and available funds, general unfamiliarity with mortgage requirements may disproportionately impact Black consumers, according to Fannie Mae's 2023 Black Housing Journey. In addition, when Blacks are surveyed, they erroneously blame credit scores for their mortgage denials, but HMDA data clearly show the leading reason for their denials is the debt-to-income ratio.

Freddie Mac tracks the number of "mortgage-ready" renters nationwide, meaning they can meet certain income and credit requirements to qualify for a mortgage. Their researchers determined that as of January 2021, 2 million Blacks ages 45 or younger are near mortgage-ready, while another 3.4 million are potentially mortgage-ready.

Moreover, a Fannie Mae survey found that 89% of all Black renters intend to own a home in the future, and half of all Black consumers are renters.

Zillow researchers determined that the incomes of Black rental families increased

faster during the pandemic than those of Whites, but the wage gap is still substantial between Blacks and Whites, and there remains a vast disparity in homeownership rates. In 2022, White households had a 73% homeownership rate, compared to 44% for Black households, and the gap exceeded 30% in more than half of the 50 largest metropolitan areas.

Another issue that NAREB's Black Wealth Tour hopes to address is the lagging of Black millennials in home buying.

NAREB's 2022 State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) report found that Black millennials today purchase homes at lower rates than previous generations of Black millennials and millennials from other racial and ethnic groups. Their study found that as Blacks near age 40, they have a homeownership rate about 10 percentage points lower than that of Black Gen Xers and baby boomers at the same age, and the rate is trending sharply downward. This trend, if it continues, could result in at least 900,000 fewer Black homeowners by 2040 than if younger Black renters achieved homeownership at the same rate as Black baby boomers.

In fact, James H. Carr, the lead co-author of the NAREB SHIBA reports, said their research found the homeownership rate for Black millennials to be half of the rate for White millennials. Furthermore, he said five years ago, their study showed that the Black homeownership rate had fallen so low relative to the past generations that the homeownership rate for Blacks might be lower by 2050 than today unless the trends change significantly.

"NAREB's multipronged efforts, which include identifying and eliminating institutional barriers to mortgage credit while also informing and educating potential Black households about their homeownership opportunities, is key to comprehensively and effectively achieving success in increasing Black homeownership," Carr said.

NAREB activated the Building Black Wealth Tour initiative to encourage more families and individuals to purchase homes. Working with the African American Mayors Association and the National Bar Association, the events in more than 100 cities nationwide empower Black communities with steps towards homeownership, property investment, starting a business, and other wealth-building opportunities. Each event includes classes, workshops, and one-on-one counseling. Other partners include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

The tour has held events in Houston, Birmingham, and Charlotte and has upcoming events in Mt. Vernon (4/13/24), Little Rock (6/8/24), New Orleans (8/3/24), and Atlanta (11/9/24), Miramar (3/25), Beverly Hills, MO (6/25) and Los Angeles (8/25).

On April 13, NAREB collaborates with the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. (COGIC) and other partners for National Building Black Wealth Day. In 100 cities, in-person seminars, one-on-one sessions, and panel discussions on homeownership, property investment, starting a business, and other wealth-building opportunities will be held. **An internet feed will make virtual sessions and online conversations accessible to a national audience.** Register for the internet, and learn more about the local events at <https://nareblackwealthtour.com/>.

These educational activities can help address the hurdles Blacks face on their path to homeownership.

"Systemic issues make the dream of homeownership more difficult to achieve and also contribute to the ongoing wealth gap between African American communities and their counterparts," Dr. Rose said. To address these disparities, a concerted effort from various sectors of society is crucial. This includes our Building Black Wealth Tour and advocating for policies that aim to dismantle discriminatory practices in the housing market and invest in communities historically underserved by financial institutions.

"Further, Dr. Rose said, "Only through a holistic approach can the dream of homeownership become an attainable reality for all African American mortgage-ready renters, thereby paving the way for economic empowerment and long-lasting change."

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) was formed in 1947 to secure equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed, or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. Simultaneously, NAREB advocates for and promotes access to business opportunities for Black real estate professionals in each real estate discipline. From the past to the present, NAREB remains an association that is proud of its history, dedicated to its chosen struggle, and unrelenting in its pursuit of the REALTIST®'s mission/vision embedded goal, "Democracy in Housing."

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Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road  
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**301-474-3995**  
[www.fbc-cp.org](http://www.fbc-cp.org)

Sunday School 9:30a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11a.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-7389**

Sunday School (Children/Adults) -8:30 a.m.  
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**Reverend Twanda E. King, Pastor**  
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## Prince George's County's Household Hazardous Waste Site and Associated Lots to Temporarily Close on April 15

Closure is due to ongoing construction at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill

By LINDA LOWE  
Prince George's County Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (March 15, 2024)—Effective April 15, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Site located in Lot 4 at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill, 11611 White House Road in Upper Marlboro, will temporarily close to the public until further notice due to ongoing construction at the landfill. Construction is expected to continue until late summer.

In addition to the HHW site, scrap metal drop-off, white goods/appliances drop-off, electronic waste drop-off, and cooking oil disposal will also be suspended at the Associated Landfill Lots. These items can be temporarily taken to the Brown Station Road Convenience Center for proper disposal.

The HHW site is free to County residents and accepts household hazardous waste that should not be put into regular trash. Some of these items include, but are not limited to:

- Acid Car Batteries
- Automotive Fluids and Fuels
- Cleaning Agents
- Cooking Oil
- Cell Phones
- Smoke Detectors
- Gas Grill Propane Tanks
- Helium Balloon Tanks
- Household Batteries
- Keyboards/Laptop Computers
- Insecticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers
- Solvents, Varnishes, and Stains

During the closure, residents can dispose of these items at two mobile HHW and Electronics Recycling event

**Bowie Baysox Stadium**  
4101 Crain Hwy.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
Saturday, April 27  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Surrattsville High School**  
6101 Garden Drive  
Clinton, MD 20735  
Saturday, May 4  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To view a list of acceptable electronics and HHW items, visit [bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities](http://bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities) or contact PGC311.

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