

# The Prince George's Post



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## Happy Thanksgiving from The Prince George's Post

PHOTO CREDIT MORGUEFILE, PIPPALOU

## Governor Hogan Honors Valor Roofing, Local Veteran-Owned Company

*"Raise a Roof for a Veteran" Program Has Provided 10 Roofs to Local Heroes*

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 20, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan today honored local veterans and presented a citation to Valor Roofing in recognition of their "Raise a Roof for a Veteran" program. The governor was joined by Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George Owings, Valor Roofing President and Vietnam veteran Al Kincaid, and his son Adam Kincaid, as they celebrated the donation of a new roof to Vietnam veteran George Welch.

"Far too often, our veterans did not receive the thanks, re-

spect, appreciation, or recognition that they wholeheartedly deserved," said Governor Hogan. "Thanks to the incredible work of veteran-owned companies like Valor Roofing, our heroes are getting the help and support they need."

Valor Roofing, based in Lanham, selects four combat wounded or service-disabled veterans each year who are in need of a new roof. Since 2017, they have replaced the roofs of 10 veterans in need.

In addition to replacing veterans' roofs, the Valor Roofing team volunteers their time and resources to assist veterans in finding employment.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE



## Grant From Department of Justice to Help in Solving Violent Cold Cases in Prince George's County

By DENISE DOUGLAS  
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (November 19, 2020)—Today, State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy announced that her office has received a \$470,000 grant from the Department of Justice that will allow the State's Attorney's Office (SAO), the Prince George's County Police Department and other municipal police departments move forward in solving cold cases. Her office is one of only 10 prosecutors' offices in the country to receive this important funding.

Through the grant the police department's DNA lab will provide samples of DNA evidence to companies that utilize forensic genetic genealogy processes to develop leads in identifying possible suspects. "This is a process that holds great promise for achieving justice and bringing closure for victims of cold case crimes and their loved ones," said State's Attorney Braveboy. "It's important for the community to know we never stop working to solve these cases and to hold the perpetrators accountable."

Currently, there are approximately 600 serious violent crimes in Prince George's County with unmatched suspect DNA. Of those cases 120 are murders and 360 are sexual assaults. (The remainder are other serious violent crimes such as robberies, first degree assaults, attempted murders and carjackings.

The grant only applies to cold case murders and sex offenses.) The DNA from the cases in question has already been entered into a national database with no matches reported.

A number of cases have been identified that could be reopened and processed using the grant funding including the following:

- In July of 1991 Regina Williams was found dead in her apartment after her family was unable to contact her. It was later determined at her autopsy that she suffered from a stab wound to her upper body. Evidence collected from a sexual assault kit was sent to a national database, but no match was found.

- Another case we have identified is from January of 2007 a body was found in the woods in the park near Birchleaf Avenue and Seat Pleasant Drive, Seat Pleasant, MD. Investigators made arrests and obtained convictions in this homicide, but they were never able to identify the victim. All conventional methods to identify the victim have failed.

The DNA samples must be significant enough to stand a chance of successfully yielding a suspect. The SAO's cold case unit is working to identify cases. The money from the grant will be provided to the SAO over the next 3 years.

## Homelessness in Maryland Worsens During COVID-19 Pandemic

By KAITLYN FRANCIS  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (November 18, 2020)—The coronavirus pandemic has increased the strain on groups that work to prevent homelessness in Maryland, with experts saying single mothers and people of color are being hurt the most.

Multiple advocacy groups have expanded their programs to try to handle the surge in cases, as one agency said requests for help have nearly tripled from March to early October.

"It was already concerning last year because we had 239 clients total, all of 2019, and (as of Oct. 14), I have 600," said Carol Ott, tenant advocacy director at the Fair Housing Action Center. "And the overwhelming majority of these people are Black, single women with children."

Of all 2020 tenants through early October who needed financial assistance at the Fair Housing Action Center, 67% are women and 57% are Black.

"Sadly, those two numbers rarely change much. We always see a majority of Black women, most with children," Ott said.

But the high numbers recently have been triggering a lot of alarm bells, she said.

In April, people rushed to file for unemployment once being laid off, but as of October, some were still waiting for their benefits to come through, Ott said.

Ott said some tenants who were evicted in January and February before the spike in cases are not covered under some COVID assistance programs. As the courts closed in March once the pandemic hit, it was more difficult to get their case in court and handled.

On top of the courts closing, their jobs would be lost from the layoffs due to the pandemic and they would have no means of making up the money to help themselves until their postponed court date.

With the lack of court access once the pandemic hit, the Fair Housing Action center reported increased incidences of tenant harassment and illegal evictions. Ott said she wishes that the Maryland Legislature had convened an emergency session to assess assistance.

The Maryland Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness—including members from both the state House of Delegates and the Senate—last month heard advocacy groups discuss what they needed in order to help those who are homeless and help their groups continue to support others.

Increased state funding for home-

lessness prevention, and direct financial assistance for people who lost their jobs because of the pandemic and had to wait several months for their unemployment payments were among the suggestions.

The Community Legal Services in Prince George's County said that because the courts were pretty much closed from March to around August, their office had to be closed, but they continued to work remotely. They assisted clients with brief advice through email.

Taylor Williams at Community Legal Services said the bulk of their clients are Hispanic, Latino, African American, and single mothers.

Single mothers with school-age children are facing new struggles with classes in session this fall.

"It's really difficult to tell a woman you have to go find a job during a pandemic with two small children who are out of school," said Ott. "Child care is a huge issue with a lot of our tenants. Most of them are people who are used to working ... and they want to go back to work, but what are they supposed to do with their children?"

Executive Director Beth Benner at the Women's Housing Coalition in Baltimore said having children makes it

more complicated to get back on your feet. On top of the economic issues and mental health or physical issues, they also need to juggle keeping their kids in school while making them feel stabilized and loved.

While most of their clients are women and single mothers, 85–95% of their clients at any time are people of color, Benner said.

Benner said 39% of Marylanders are at or below that threshold of basically living paycheck to paycheck as of September, according to the United Way of Central Maryland.

Gov. Larry Hogan, R, issued an eviction prevention moratorium at the beginning of the pandemic that runs until Dec. 31.

This has meant an increase in illegal evictions and smaller landlords going around this moratorium by not renewing leases in which tenants have less protection in these cases in court, according to the Fair Housing Action Center.

The Women's Housing Coalition reported that a second wave of the virus would bring more unemployment, with the cold weather curtailing businesses that moved outdoors, and will cause a dramatic increase in homelessness.

Gov. Larry Hogan, R, this week an-

nounced increased restrictions in the state for some businesses as the virus has spiked in recent days.

In 2019, the National Alliance to End Homelessness reported that 6,561 people were homeless on any given night across Maryland. Seventeen out of 10,000 people were homeless in one night in January of 2019 in the United States, according to the Aspen Institute.

The Aspen Institute estimated in August that 30 million to 40 million people could be at risk for eviction in the next few months.

It was estimated that at the beginning of the pandemic, 400,000 units would need to be created in the United States in order to safely socially distance, isolate, and protect the homeless against the virus in place of the crowded shelters that typically are used, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

For those who need stable housing, the Women's Housing Coalition reported that there are only three available units for every 10 families in Maryland who need them.

The Housing Coalition said there is a need for a low barrier to entry for all affordable housing through a more effective and efficient process for paperwork and inspections.

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#### The Community's Library: PGCMLS Launches Strategic Framework 2021–2024

Community input and feedback will be essential to setting implementation goals for the Strategic Framework over the next year.

The Library will host two virtual community conversations to introduce Strategic Framework 2021-2024 and answer any questions.

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#### To Be Equal: National Urban League Is Working With a Landmark Coalition of Black Medical Professionals to Ensure a COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safe and Equitably Distributed

On December 10, we will present a town hall on the development and potential distribution of a vaccine.

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#### County Council Convenes Final Session of Legislative Year 2020

Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D) – District 4, commended the Council's work over the past year to pass legislation addressing the needs and concerns of residents, especially during the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Business and Finance, Page A5



# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Mystery donation of hats and gloves now headed to Mexico

In the spring of this year, a large grocery bag showed up on my front porch. It was filled with winter hats and gloves, and all of it brand new. No note, nothing I could use to track the donor.

Ten pairs of black gloves. Ten black hats, some with pompoms, some pullovers, and some with team names—New England, Dallas, Boston.

Daughter Therese, who is visiting from Brownsville, Texas, mentioned that refugees waiting at the foot of the Gateway International Bridge in Matamoros, Mexico, could use them. She said it gets cold in the winter, sometimes in the 30s with a sharp north wind that cuts right through their Central American clothes and donated tents.

She suggested the perfect person to see to the distribution of these gloves and hats: Sister Norma Pimentel.

In naming Sister Norma one of the 100 Most Influential People, Time wrote in the Oct. 5–12, 2020 issue, “Sister Pimentel has been on the front lines of mercy for three decades, supporting those seeking refuge in the U.S. along Texas’ border with Mexico. As executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, she directs efforts to provide shelter, food, sanctuary and comfort to people often treated as less than human...”

So I boxed up the hats, the gloves and a letter of explanation and sent them off to Texas this week.

In closing, I can’t help wondering who and why that bag of winter duds was left at my door. If you know, please contact me.

Meanwhile, I can’t help but be amused thinking about some guy from Honduras sporting a nice warm beanie labeled NEW ENGLAND.

### Winter Festival of Lights

Bring a twinkle to your holidays when you drive through Watkins Regional Park, which is featuring more than 2.5 million lights. The Festival begins Friday, Nov. 27, and continues daily through New Year’s Day, Jan. 1, 2021.

Fee for car or van: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the gate. Also available are multi-visit passes. You are advised to purchase tickets in advance at ParksDirect. Admission is free on Nov. 30 and Christmas Day.

Face covering is required when interacting with park personnel. And remember to bring canned goods for donation to local food banks.

### Changing landscape

According to the National Park Service, no live audience is invited this year to watch the Dec. 3 lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse, citing coronavirus concerns. However, the service will be available virtually at thenationaltree.org.

The National Museum of the United States Army officially opened its doors on Veterans Day 2020. It’s at 1775 Liberty Drive in Fort Belvoir, Va. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free but timed tickets are required (thenmusa.org).

Andrews Discount Tobacco has opened at 4813 Suitland Road. Hours listed: 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Sat: 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun.: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Rainbow Shop, featuring women’s clothing, has opened in Woodyard Crossing Shopping Center in Clinton.

Coronavirus has done it again. The Smithsonian has closed the National Zoo and seven of its museums, though January.

### We’ve been waiting

An announcement was expected on Nov. 23 about a name for the Zoo’s 3-month-old giant panda. The nominees (and their meanings) were: Fu Zai (prosperous boy), Xiao Qi ji (little miracle), Xing Fu (happy and prosperous) and Zai Zai (traditional Chinese nickname for a boy). Which name won?

### Virus update

Thousands in Maryland are flocking to coronavirus testing sites, hoping for negative results before visiting family for Thanksgiving. The virus is spiking and Governor Hogan is issuing more closings.

As of Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 5 p.m., Maryland had a total of 171,823 cases with 2,018 added the day before. Deaths continue to rise: 16 were added with a total of 4,351 deaths.

Meanwhile, I’m still here. Daughter Therese Gallegos arrived Sunday from Brownsville, Texas, to cook and encourage for the next few weeks. I love her for it. But she nags me a lot. I probably need it.

### Morningside Memories: Sportsmen’s Club 1980

Lee Collins was president of the Sportsmen in 1980. Other officers were Ernest Bayne, vice president; Joe Carlucci, corresponding secretary; Clinton Stamp, recording secretary; Gary Jurney, treasurer; Dave Williams, sergeant at arms. The Board of Directors included Bob Walker, Frank Jurney Jr., Fred Readon and Bob Pitts.

That year, 1980, at the annual Installation of Officers & Awards Banquet, I was surprised and honored to be awarded the Laddie Beardmore Award presented annually for “civic achievements in the spirit and standards as set by Mr. Beardmore.” Predecessors were Gerald Glaubitz, Roscoe and Irene Smith, Lee Ditmars, Matthew Rosch, R. Dice West Sr. and Grover Estep.

### I remember Carol Glaubitz

In last week’s 100th birthday tribute to the late Morningside Mayor Jerry Glaubitz, I mentioned his daughter Carol. I was not aware she had died two years ago.

Carol Ann Lee, 72, who grew up in Morningside, the daughter of Mayor Gerald and Jean Glaubitz, died Valentine’s Day Feb. 14, 2018, at her home in Stevenson, Ala.

She was a teacher at Stevenson Elementary School and a member of Stevenson Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

She was predeceased by her parents and her husband of 50 years, Robert Christopher Lee, Jr. Survivors include

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY MITCHELL

Congratulations to Jeremy Mitchell, son of Larry and Patricia Mitchell and grandson of the late James and Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland, who has been promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Jeremy graduated from both Officer Candidate School (Intelligence/Chemical) May 22, 2020, Fort Benning Georgia, and Basic Officers Leaders’ Course (Chemical), November 6, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He finished in the top 10% of his classes at both of his schools. A real tribute to Jeremy as he travels with his wife Shanelle and his son Jeremiah to his next assignment in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii for 3 years.

### ABOUT THE HONORABLE JAMES E. PROCTOR

Maryland Delegate Proctor was committed to the state’s historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), especially with his alma mater, Bowie State University. With his support, Bowie State University received approximately \$200 million in state funding over the course of his tenure in Maryland legislature. Family and friends of Delegate Proctor established an endowed scholarship in his Bowie State University.

James E. Proctor Jr. Forum on Education, Leadership and Innovation honors the life and legacy of the late Delegate Proctor, one of Bowie State University’s most distinguished alumni. The event during American Education Week celebrates outstanding educators, strengthens the pipeline of students interested in the profession and showcases education as a lifelong career. Each year, the forum offers meaningful opportunities for students and educators alike to find inspiration and solutions for 21st century challenges in education. The forum also highlights student and alumni voices.

The Proctor Forum 2020 was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 3–4 p.m. The forum featured an impactful conversation about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education, featuring Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux and Montgomery College President DeRionne P. Pollard. Media Contact: Damita Chambers, dchambers@bowiestate.edu.

### ONLINE NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM (NDPP)

Are you thinking about making healthy changes to prevent Type 2 diabetes? A CDC-recognized diabetes prevention and lifestyle change program can help you build healthy new habits that last a lifetime.

When you join a lifestyle change program, you will learn, laugh, share stories, try new things, and build new habits, all while lowering your risk of Type 2 diabetes and improving your health. Online classes started October 26, 2020. Space is limited. Participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To discuss eligibility requirements and to register for UM Capital’s upcoming Diabetes Prevention class, please

call 301-254-6763 or email us [umcapitalcommunityhealth@umm.edu](mailto:umcapitalcommunityhealth@umm.edu). To obtain more information regarding the National Diabetes Prevention Program, please visit [cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention](http://cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention). Information received from University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

### 153RD CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, November 15, 2020 Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Constance C. Smith, Pastor, celebrated their 153rd Church Anniversary. The Theme was “Be Steadfast” Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Guest Speaker was Reverend Thomas Gorman, pastor of New Union Church, New Rochelle, New York with Guest Performances. Congratulations Nottingham Myers on your 153rd Church Anniversary.

### COVID-19 RESTAURANT RESILIENCY FUND

Prince George’s County has announced an appropriation of \$6 million to assist restaurants and food service establishments that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The Restaurant Resiliency Fund will provide grants up to \$25,000 to Prince George’s County based restaurants and food establishments to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency of business operating at reduced capacity.

Applications will be accepted between November 13, 2020 and December 18, 2020. For more information visit: [www.pgcedc.com/restaurantfund](http://www.pgcedc.com/restaurantfund). Information received from At large Council Member “Mel Franklin” Prince George’s Council Media.

### VIRTUAL WINTER COMMENCEMENT

You are invited to join us for our Bowie State University 2020 Virtual Winter Commencement Celebration, Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10 a.m. at [bowiestate.edu/commencement](http://bowiestate.edu/commencement). Nationally celebrated author and incoming director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Kevin Young will address about 400 Bowie State University graduates, including about 100 graduate students, at the Commencement. He currently serves as the director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, recently named a National Historic Landmark, and poetry editor of the New Yorker, where he hosts the poetry podcast. He is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was named a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2020. Young has published 13 books of poetry and prose, most recently “Brown” as featured on the Daily Show with Trevor Noah. In addition to Young, graduates will hear from a host of celebrities, prominent business leaders and elected officials in video shout-outs during the live ceremony. Damita Chambers, [dchambers@bowiestate.edu](mailto:dchambers@bowiestate.edu).

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE

## Around the County

### ANNOUNCEMENT: Marietta House Museum’s Virtual Winter Candlelight Tour

Please join, Dr. Julie Rose, the new Director of Marietta House Museum, as she welcomes you to our Virtual Winter Candlelight Tour of Marietta House on Saturday, December 5 from 6–7 p.m.

Dr. Rose was previously Director of Homewood Museum in Baltimore. We look forward to her vision of more interactive programming and examining the history of the enslaved families at Marietta House Museum.

This early December, the virtual tour of Marietta will include the beautifully decorated historical rooms and other winter customs shared throughout the holiday. Enjoy a selection of special recipes that date from the second half of the 1800s, gift wrapping tips, an ornament-making craft, and listen to music performed by the Prince George’s Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

A packet for the event includes recipes and craft supplies for the craft making segment. Packets can be picked up at Marietta House through weekdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. through Dec. 3.

\$5/person. All ages. Please register on Parks Direct for this event. You must register to receive the link for this event and must have access to Microsoft Teams. Questions about registration? Please email [stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com) or call 301-464-5291.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

—Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum



PHOTO COURTESY MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

**Dr. Julie Rose, the new Director of Marietta House Museum**

### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County Announces Giving Tuesday Campaign to Benefit Peace Cross Restoration

RIVERDALE, Md. (November 17, 2020)—Today the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County announced its 2020 Giving Tuesday campaign. All donations received through Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020, will be designated for restoration of the Bladensburg Peace Cross Memorial.

On June 19, 2019, in a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7–2 to allow a Veteran’s memorial cross to continue to stand on public land in Maryland. The 40-foot-tall monument, commonly referred to as the Peace Cross, was dedicated in 1925 in the town of Bladensburg by Gold Star Mothers and The American Legion. It is dedicated in memory of the service and sacrifice of the 49 county residents who died in World War I. Standing for 95 years, the Cross is now in need of extensive restoration and refurbishment.

Resource Development Officer, Tracy Wright, stated “Funds are needed to begin this vital endeavor. To address the need, the Department of Parks and Recreation will use all funds from Giving Tuesday towards repairing the Peace Cross.” She continued, “We encourage the community to join us and help support restoration of this historical monument.”

Join the global celebration of giving and help refurbish the Peace Cross Memorial with your donation through December 1. Your generosity makes a difference. To participate in the campaign, visit [www.pgpc.com/4890/Friends-of-the-Parks](http://www.pgpc.com/4890/Friends-of-the-Parks) and click the Peace Cross button.

—Angel Waldron, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

### County Council Announces Recipients of FY 2021 Domestic Violence Grant Awards \$500,000 Total Grants Awarded to 9 Nonprofits Targeting Domestic Violence

The Prince George’s County Council, in an initiative combatting domestic violence and related abuse in the County, has announced a list of nine (9) nonprofit recipients of the Council’s FY 2021 Domestic Violence Grants on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

The Council appropriated \$500,000 in FY 2021, for its fifth consecutive round of grant funding to support prevention activities and programs serving Housing, Workforce Development, Counseling/Mental Health Services, or Advocacy/Legal Services needs of County residents who are victims of domestic violence and other forms of related abuse. To date, the Council has awarded \$2.5 million in Domestic Violence Grants.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D) - District 4, says this funding offers a vital resource for health and human service nonprofits providing critical services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Domestic violence is a serious threat to the health and safety of our residents and communities, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this already pervasive issue. With this new round of grant funding, the Council reaffirms its commitment to stem the tide of domestic violence in Prince George’s County. These resources continue the Council’s ongoing Focused Collaboration Grant initiative designed to strengthen communities, support survivors and their families, and build capacity for organizations assisting residents and families to live free from the threat of violence. “

### Domestic Violence Grant Program Allocations

Dimensions Health Corporation d/b/a	
UM Capital Region Health	\$ 30,000.00
Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI)	\$ 101,000.00
Prince George’s Community College (PGCC)	\$ 79,000.00
The Training Source	\$ 50,000.00
District Heights Youth Development Foundation	\$ 60,000.00
Greater Baden Medical Services	\$ 50,000.00
House of Ruth	\$ 40,000.00
Community Advocate for Family & Youth (CAFY)	\$ 50,000.00
Court Appointed Service Advocates (CASA)	\$ 40,000.00
Total	\$ 500,000.00

—Angela Rouson, Prince George’s County Council Media



# COMMUNITY

## Sheehy Auto Stores Collects More Than 2,400 Pounds of Food During Annual Fall Food Drive

By PRESS OFFICER  
Sheehy Auto Stores, Inc.

FAIRFAX, Va. (November 18, 2020)—Sheehy Auto Stores collectively donated more than 2,400 pounds of food (enough to provide meals to 2,000 people) through their annual Fall Food Drive.

"The circumstances this year have resulted in a considerable need for assistance and basics such as food for many families," said Vince Sheehy, President of Sheehy Auto Stores. "We are proud of our employees, partners and communities who helped make this substantial difference as we head into the holiday season."

The 29 dealerships donated the items to food banks and non-profit organizations in their communities to include Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES), Chesterfield Food Bank, Christ House, Ec-

umenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), Emmaus Center, Fauquier FISH Food Bank, Food for Others, Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank, The Lamb Center, Lighthouse Shelter, Manna Food Center, Oxon Hill Food Pantry, Perry Hall United Methodist Church, Southern Maryland Food Bank, St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, The St. Lucy Food Project, Stafford Serve, WFCM Food Bank.

Sheehy Auto Stores is the 37th largest dealer group in the country and serves customers throughout the Mid-Atlantic. A family-owned business which began as one Ford store in 1966 in Marlow Heights, Md., the company has grown to more than \$1.6 billion in sales with more than 45,000 new and used vehicles sold each year. For more information, visit [www.sheehy.com](http://www.sheehy.com).

## The Community's Library: PGCMLS Launches Strategic Framework 2021–2024

By NICHOLAS A. BROWN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (November 16, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is honored to serve all Prince George's County residents by providing access to services, educational resources, and engaging programs that support community needs and a high quality of life. PGCMLS is proud to announce the launch of its Strategic Framework 2021–2024, which will guide the work of the Library over the next three years with a new mission, vision, values, and strategic focus areas. The framework provides a foundation for ongoing collaborations between PGCMLS staff, the Board of Library Trustees, and community members to strengthen the Library's role as a responsive and trusted community-driven organization.

The Library's new mission, vision, and values reflect the community's heritage and a bold and aspirational approach to the fu-

ture.

- **Mission:** We build relationships that support discovery by providing equal access to opportunities and experiences.
- **Vision:** We provide a collaborative foundation within the community for all Prince Georgians to create the world they want to see.
- **Values:** We are Prince George's Proud and put community first by being welcoming, curious, accessible, kind, collaborative, and resilient.

Strategic Framework 2021–2024 is the result of an 18-month strategic planning process led by the PGCMLS staff strategic planning team, the PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees, Margaret Sullivan Studio, and Ashana Crichton of Arc Growth. "Our strategic planning process was highly collaborative and focused on gathering and analyzing community feedback to shape the future of the Library," said Roberta Phillips, the Library's chief executive officer. "I am grateful to and proud of all who participated

in shaping the future of PGCMLS."

Community input and feedback will be essential to setting implementation goals for the Strategic Framework over the next year. Special initiatives will focus on five strategic focus areas: inclusion, literacy and learning, personal achievement, creativity, and healthy living. These focus areas align with the Prince George's County government's "Proud Priorities" and Forward Task Force Report, which respond to the immediate and long-term goals for developing a stronger Prince George's County.

"For many community members, the Library is the most frequent and visible point of contact with the County's government, providing access not just to library resources, but also to many services supplied by other public and private sector organizations. This makes collaboration and innovation key to the Library's efforts to unlock and expand our community's potential," said Brett Crawford, President of the

Board of Library Trustees.

Community members may explore the Library's new Strategic Framework Microsite to learn more about the Library's path into the future. Feedback and suggestions are welcome and may be submitted to [pr@pgcmls.info](mailto:pr@pgcmls.info). A downloadable version of Strategic Framework 2021–2024, featuring artwork by Prince George's County-based artist Jay Durrah, is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eRhHhGcbMcFW-iff7K5miexaTXoSurb/view>.

The Library will host two virtual community conversations to introduce Strategic Framework 2021–2024 and answer any questions. Both events are open to the public. Visit [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events) for more information.

- **Thursday, December 3 at 4 p.m.:** Community Conversation with Roberta Phillips (registration not required)
- **Monday, January 25 at 7 p.m.:** Strategic Framework Virtual Town Hall (registration required)

## Strong Attitudes Supporting Sistahs, Inc. Joins Women Offering Wealth to Host a December to Remember Christmas Giveaway for Families

Through partnership(s), sponsorship(s) and community member(s) we can successfully spread hope and joy this holiday season.

By JERRE' SMITH

Strong Attitudes Supporting Sistahs, Inc.

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. (November 17, 2020)—Strong Attitudes Supporting Sistahs, Inc. is getting in the holiday spirit by partnering with Women Offering Wealth, Hope Toys & Laughter and Port Towns Church to host an amazing virtual Christmas event on December 19, 2020 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is our hope this year to gift the families in Prince George's County, MD and the surrounding areas with Christmas Surprises including a personal message from Santa and Gifts for registered families from major Sponsors including Prince George's County (MD) Chapter, The Links Incorporated Donna C. Graves, President.

Families can register for A December to Remember Christmas Giveaway via [christmasgiveaway.com](http://christmasgiveaway.com).

eventbrite.com. This year due to the pandemic we wanted to continue to spread holiday hope and joy for this upcoming holiday season while continuing to promote social distance. To reach our goal, we are asking our friends, partners, and businesses in the community to contribute to our efforts in the following ways:

- Adopting a Family (On registered list)
- Donation of Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations (Donation direct link will be provided on Flier)
- Virtual Volunteer (Please email: [volunteer@womenofferingwealth.org](mailto:volunteer@womenofferingwealth.org))
- Businesses (with products and or services) offering coupons, free products, and services are appreciated

To learn more about our Christmas event, including how to become a sponsor or volunteer please contact 202-601-0333 or email [womenofferingwealth@gmail.com](mailto:womenofferingwealth@gmail.com)

## Prince George's Community College African American Studies Institute Receives Grant for Black Culture Matters Virtual Series

By SONJI JOYNER  
PGCC

LARGO, Md. (November 19, 2020)—Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) African American Studies Institute (AASI) received a \$1,000 grant from the Maryland Humanities Council to support its groundbreaking virtual community series: Black Culture Matters conceived by newly appointed AASI Director Dr. Iyelli Ichile.

The four-part series examined ways in which people of African descent have understood and expressed their own humanity and affirmed cultural traditions, memories, and meaning-making with which they have resisted being thingified. Discussions offered historical insight followed by live question and answer sessions, which allowed the community to think about the ways in which expanded knowledge might inform the racially-

charged present moment.

Since August 28, the Black Culture Matters lectures featured a diverse lineup of speakers and topics, which included "Celebrating White Black: From Juneteenth to Black August" featuring Dr. Karanji Keita Carroll; "Black Hairitage, History and Healing" featuring Dr. Afiya Mangum-Mbillshaka; "Writing Freedom: Black Literature and Social Justice" featuring Dr. Tony Medina; and "Media, Music, and Memory" featuring Dr. Jared Bell.

"My vision for Black Culture Matters and for AASI was to provide meaningful educational experiences concerning people of African descent while upholding the imperatives of Africana Studies as both an academic discipline and a force for social transformation," said Dr. Iyelli Ichile, director of AASI

See GRANT Page A6

## Hogan Details Further Efforts to Fight Pandemic Surge

By PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 17, 2020)—"This virus is spiking out of control," Gov. Larry Hogan, R, said during announcements Tuesday restricting visitations to hospitals and nursing homes and ordering 10 p.m. closing times for restaurants and bars, all in an effort to tackle an ongoing COVID-19 surge.

"We are very concerned that hospitals in western Maryland are already at capacity," Hogan added, citing rising rates of positivity and hospitalizations, most significantly in rural areas.

In response, Hogan issued a new emergency order, effective Friday at 5 p.m., closing bars and restaurants at 10 p.m., limiting capacity for retail and religious spaces to 50%, prohibiting fans at race tracks and stadiums, and implementing new hospital surge management rules.

New surge rules include restricting hospital visitations to end-of-life care, obstetrics, guardians of minors, and support for people with disabilities, patient transfer from hospitals at or near capacity, guidance to avoid elective procedures that may require ventilation, ICU or nursing facility care.

Nursing home visits were also limited to compassionate care with visitors being required to have

proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to their visit. This is in addition to mandatory twice-weekly testing for nursing home staff and mandatory weekly testing for residents.

These restrictions are in addition to previous indoor dining reductions from 75% to 50%, mandatory telework implementation for state employees and out-of-state travel advisories, all announced on Nov. 11.

Dr. Thomas Scalea, the physician-in-chief of the Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center, spoke further on the plan for hospitals near or at capacity to more easily transfer patients to available hospitals when necessary.

"Now a single phone call will give (providers) access to the appropriate level of critical care services," Scalea said.

As of Tuesday [Nov. 17], the Maryland Department of Health reported nearly 170,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases, over 1,000 hospitalizations and over 4,000 deaths.

Scalea and Hogan noted lessons learned during the first surge beginning in March that are now saving lives.

"I can't remember learning this much, this fast about a disease. That doesn't mean everybody lives though," Scalea cautioned. "They're not universally successful. We'd be really happy to (use these lessons) less often."

Hogan also was cautiously optimistic about the state seeing fewer deaths from the disease than during the early stages of the pandemic.

However, he stated that while the first wave affected mostly suburban areas, this current surge is hitting western Maryland particularly hard, especially Allegany and Garrett counties.

"Certain people there had a false sense of security," Hogan said, referring to the western counties



SCREENSHOT BY PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN / CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Larry Hogan and Dr. Thomas Scalea, the physician-in-chief of shock trauma at the University of Maryland Medical Center, explain a plan to move critically ill patients more easily from crowded to available hospitals on Nov. 17, 2020, in Annapolis, Maryland.

where cases are spiking. "Maybe they weren't being as careful and not wearing masks. Now they're calling us, begging for help, and we're sending strike teams and moving patients out of their crowded hospitals."

He stated another problem is with contact tracing compliance. Many refuse to give information to tracers regarding possible COVID-19 exposure.

"A little more than half, if we contact them, they don't want to participate," Hogan said. "We have to get the word out for people to participate."

But one area of critical success has been with the state's electronic exposure notification system.

MD COVID Alert is a mobile phone app designed to assist contact tracing efforts and help limit the community spread of the disease by alerting users to possible virus exposure.

The app was launched Nov. 10, and Hogan stated almost a million Marylanders have already signed up for the system.

"The battle's not getting any easier," he said. "But we have more weapons and more soldiers on the field, and we're in a better position to fight back."

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# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## National Urban League Is Working With a Landmark Coalition of Black Medical Professionals to Ensure a COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safe and Equitably Distributed

*"Because of the racial inequities we have built into our essential systems, they have become combustion engines of misery. The virus flows freely in high-risk areas like holding cells, police encounters, low-wage workplaces, and public transit. The pistons of residential segregation, generational poverty, and targeted disinvestment along racial lines apply pressure ... We can only defeat this pandemic by accepting those essential truths, and making the choices to shut down the engines of misery for good."*

—Phillip Atiba Goff, Amelia M. Haviland, Tracey Lloyd, Mikaela Meyer, and Rachel Warren; authors of the Center for Policing Equity's COVID-19 Modeling Project

This week, just as the nation reached the tragic milestone of more than a quarter-million deaths from COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control revealed that Black, Latino, and Native American people are being hospitalized at nearly four times the rate of whites.

Just a day after the CDC's findings were reported, Stanford University researchers published a study that found more than half of hospital deaths from COVID-19 were Black or Hispanic patients.

Bringing the pandemic under control in the United States starts with controlling it in the worst-hit communities. And that starts with the guidance and expertise of Black health professionals.

For the last several months, a task force formed

by the nation's oldest Black physicians group has been monitoring the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The National Medical Association's task force of infectious disease and immunization experts has been reviewing data to confirm the strength of scientific evidence and that diversity is represented in clinical trials.

"We're really doing this to be a source of trusted information for our physicians and our community ... in order for us to speak to the safety and allocation within the African American community," NMA President Dr. Leon McDougle told CBS News.

This week, the National Urban League joined forces in that effort, initiating a first-of-its-kind conversation between Black journalists and a coalition of Black health professionals including NMA, the Black Coalition Against COVID-19 have partnered with Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, the National Black Nurses Association and BlackDoctor.org.

On December 10, we will present a town hall on the development and potential distribution of a vaccine.

The National Urban League has repeatedly demanded that any vaccine distribution plan avoid the mistakes that were made with test distribution in the spring. Rather than rely largely on private physicians and chain pharmacies—largely absent from poor Black neighborhoods—distribution must incorporate community-based providers like churches and other faith-based organizations, community centers, and Urban League affiliates.

The equitable framework for vaccine allocation

developed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends that "special efforts are made to deliver vaccine to residents of high-vulnerability areas."

The first of the framework's four phases include people with underlying conditions such as cancer, serious heart conditions, or sickle cell disease, that put them at significantly higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease or death. African Americans are disproportionately represented among this group. As the National Academies noted:

Black, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with higher rates of transmission, morbidity, and mortality. This reflects the impact of systemic racism leading to higher rates of comorbidities that increase the severity of COVID-19 infection and the socio-economic factors that increase likelihood of acquiring the infection, such as having front-line jobs, crowded living conditions, lack of access to personal protective equipment, and inability to work from home.

While we are making every effort to plan for an equitable vaccine distribution plan, it's important to remember that there is no vaccine right now. FDA approval may be imminent, but it hasn't happened yet. Until a vaccine is available our best chance of survival is to mask up, and avoid large gatherings.

Avoiding large gatherings is a bitter pill to swallow during this holiday time, when we're missing our friends and family, especially after more than eight weeks of social restrictions. But there is a light at the end of this tunnel, and we're working to make sure it shines equally on Black America.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Words to Live By

I recently received a note from my dear and evergreen friend Maria Nhambu with wise counsel that has circulated for many years under titles like "The Balance Sheet of Life" and "Things We Should All Know." In a world where so much is uncertain and confusing this message is timeless and includes tenets of all the great faiths that help bind us together as human beings:

The most destructive habit: Worry.  
The greatest joy: Giving.  
The greatest loss: Loss of self-respect.  
The most satisfying work:

Helping others.

The ugliest personality trait: Selfishness.

The greatest "shot in the arm": Encouragement.

The greatest problem to overcome: Fear.

The most effective sleeping pill: Peace of mind.

The most crippling disease: Excuses.

The most powerful force in life: Love.

The most dangerous act: Gossip.

The world's most incredible computer: The brain.

The worst thing to be without: Hope.

The deadliest weapon: The tongue.

The two most power-filled words: I can.

The greatest asset: Faith.

The most worthless emotion: Self-pity.

The most beautiful attire: A smile.

The most prized possession: Integrity.

The most powerful channel of communication: Prayer.

The most contagious spirit: Enthusiasm.

## Congratulations Council Member Rodney Streeter—2020 Recipient Phyllis Campbell Newsome Award

District 7 Council Member Rodney C. Streeter is the honored recipient of the 2020 Phyllis Campbell Newsome Public Policy Leadership Award, which highlights the work of elected and non-elected officials who have gone above and beyond in partnership with the nonprofit sector to ensure more vibrant communities. Upon accepting the award, presented virtually on Thursday, November 19, by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement during its 41st Annual Celebration honoring nonprofits, Council Member Streeter noted, "The

work of your organization and the nonprofit community is paramount to the viability of all communities. Let us continue to progress and thank you for your firm partnership and able advocacy." Each year, the Center honors four public officials with this award. One official is recognized from each of the jurisdictions the Center supports including, Prince George's and Montgomery counties, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.

—*Council Connections*, November 20, 2020

## FSC First Selected by Citi Foundation to Receive a \$500,000 Grant

By PRESS OFFICER  
FSC First

LARGO, Md. (November 20, 2020)—County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Board of Directors of FSC First are pleased to announce that FSC First has been selected by Citi Foundation as one of 30 Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) nationwide to collectively receive \$15 Million in grants.

Citi Foundation announced the grants are funded to support CDFIs efforts to provide small businesses with the vital resources needed to sustain their operations and support economically vulnerable households impacted by COVID-19. The CDFIs, which will each receive \$500,000 in unrestricted funding, were selected through an open Request for Proposals application process based on their strong track record of serving small businesses owned by people of color and underserved individuals and communities.

Kenneth L. White, Chairman of the Board, said, "the FSC First Board of Directors thanks Citi Foundation for this new partnership to further our mission to increase our funding capacity and provide creative and innovative business financing solutions to small businesses in the State of Maryland."

"We are so pleased to be selected for this generous award", stated Shelly M. Gross-Wade, President & CEO of FSC First. "This endorsement of the great work we do at FSC First encourages us to continue pivoting to provide increased access to capital for our local businesses greatest impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The grant proceeds will be used to fund Loan Loss Reserves and support FSC First efforts to deliver enhanced technical assistance and increased awareness of its direct loans and grant opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses, while also supporting the automation and integration of its loan processing systems.

## Cardin: Republicans Must Insist the Transition to President-elect Biden Move Forward Immediately

*We are a democracy and not an autocracy. We cannot allow President Trump undermine legitimate election results.*

BALTIMORE (November 20, 2020)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, released the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's attempts to delay and overturn the presidential election results. Senator Cardin has previously urged the General Services Administrator (GSA) to officially trigger the transition process.

"The American people voted in a free and fair election with a majority voting for former Vice President Joe Biden over President Trump. This was not the closest election in our nation's history—by far. President-Elect Biden won the election by more than 5 million votes and won 306 electoral votes compared to 232 electoral votes for President Trump, by the current count. Election security officials—Democrats, Republican, and independents—have all certified that we held a free and fair election. Last week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

stated that 'the November 3rd election was 'the most secure in American history' and that 'there is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised.'

"President Trump responded by firing the head of the DHS agency overseeing election security, pursuing baseless and groundless lawsuits, and promoting wild conspiracy theories about a rigged election. These lawsuits have been dismissed as frivolous by both state and federal judges that were appointed by both Republican and Democratic chief executives. All state and local officials must now follow the law, certify the results, and convene the Electoral College in December to cast their votes according to the popular vote winners in their respective states.

"American presidents are supposed to uphold the rule of law in our nation. I call upon President Trump to uphold his oath to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed.' He must stop trying to meddle in the legal certification process of the states and immediately direct the U.S. General Services

Administration to begin the transition process for President-Elect Biden, who will take the oath of office on January 20, 2021. President Trump should follow the examples of Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George H.W. Bush and others in terms of a peaceful and orderly transition of power. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, lives increasingly are put at risk the more we delay this inevitable transition for petty political purposes.

"We are a democracy and not an autocracy. We cannot allow President Trump to do the bidding of President Putin and other dictators by trying to undermine valid election results. If a foreign leader was acting in such a blatant way to overturn legitimate election results, the full United States Congress would forcefully condemn such autocratic and undemocratic moves. My Republican Congressional colleagues need to stop coddling President Trump's ego and put our national security first. They must insist that President Trump allow the transition process for President-Elect Biden to move forward immediately."

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Claim Now and Invest it, Or Wait to Claim?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,  
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** I'm 66 now and will be 67 in December and my question is this: Should I take Social Security now or wait? I'm still working full time and plan to work for a few more years, at least until I'm 70 but maybe longer. I was told by a friend that I should take my Social Security now and put the money into savings, invest it or use it. And, since I'm still working, I'm still contributing to Social Security, so that when I reach 70 I should get the full amount. I'm not sure if this is accurate so would like to hear your advice.  
**Signed: Uncertain Lady**

**Dear Uncertain Lady:** By taking your Social Security benefit now you will be locking into a benefit amount that is smaller than it would otherwise be if you wait longer to claim. You've already reached your Social Security full retirement age (FRA) of 66 and, since then, have been earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month of delay past your FRA. You will continue to earn those DRCs—an 8% higher benefit for each year you delay—until age 70 when your benefit will be 32% more than it would have been at 66 and 24% more than at age 67. Can you do better than that by taking a smaller benefit now and investing it? That depends upon what type of investing you intend to do. I cannot answer that for you, but a guaranteed 8% increase in your benefit amount for each year you delay, resulting in a much higher benefit for the rest of your life, is pretty hard to beat.

It is true that continuing to work now may help increase your Social Security benefit, but that's true regardless of when you claim. Your benefit will be based upon the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) at the time you claim. If, after your benefits start, your current earnings are higher than any of those used to originally compute your benefit, you will get credit for those higher earnings and your benefit will increase. Even after you claim benefits, Social Security examines your new earnings every year to see if you're entitled to a higher benefit. And you will get credit for your current earnings even if you wait and continue to earn those DRCs for a much higher benefit later.

In the end, when to claim Social Security is a decision that should consider your current and future financial needs, and your health and estimated longevity. If you are working and don't need the extra money right now, and like the idea of a higher benefit later, after you are done working, then waiting to claim makes sense, especially if you're in good health and expect at least average longevity. Average life expectancy today for a woman your age is about 87, and if you attain at least the average, you'll collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting longer to claim. Conversely, if your longevity outlook is less than average and you need the money now, claiming earlier is a perfectly good strategy.

One last thing to consider: if you are married and your husband is collecting benefits, you are eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" which would let you collect a spouse benefit equal to half of your husband's FRA benefit amount, while allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until age 70. You can do this because you were born in 1953, before the cutoff date of January 2, 1954. The option was eliminated for anyone born after that date.

The 2.3 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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## County Council Convenes Final Session of Legislative Year 2020

Supports Continued Declaration of Emergency; Authorizes COVID19-Related Public Safety Hazard Pay; Adopts "Healthy Kids Meals" Legislation; Enacts Several Zoning Bills

By ANGELA ROUSON  
Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council convened virtually for its final session of Legislative Year 2020 on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. The Council will meet on December 1, 2020, for the Exchange of the Gavel, and schedule a December date to convene in response to COVID-19.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D) – District 4, commended the Council's work over the past year to pass legislation addressing the needs and concerns of residents, especially during the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

"This has been a challenging Legislative Year for the Council and the residents we are privileged to represent. I commend my Council colleagues, and the Legislative Branch staff, for a very successful year of work on behalf of Prince Georgians. In collaboration with County Executive Alsobrooks and her administration, we were able to enact legislation that improves quality of life for County residents, and the issues that concern us all, especially during this time of crisis."

The day-long session began with the introduction of Council Resolutions, followed by a review of Proposed Correspondence, 27 public hearings, and several measures eligible for a final Council vote, including CR-125-2020, legislation concerning the County's seventh continued Declaration of Emergency, and Council Bill CB-071-2020, more commonly known as the

"Healthy Kids Meal Bill." Several zoning bills and legislation related to hazard pay for public safety and other County officials were also approved.

Among the bills enacted on Tuesday, and subject to County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' signature:

### Prince George's County Continued Declaration of Emergency

Tuesday's Council action included the introduction and adoption of CR-125-2020, legislation continuing the County's Declaration of Emergency. Council Bill 125-2020, the County's seventh continued Declaration of Emergency addressing the impact of the current COVID-19 surge and the County's return to a hybrid Phase1/Modified Phase2 status, as recently announced by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

### Healthy Kids Meals

Council Members voted unanimously to approve CB-071-2020, far-reaching legislation to provide healthy food options for young people in the immediate community. Following the unanimous vote, Council Member Sydney Harrison commented, "As the bill's sponsor, Vice-Chair of the Council's Health, Human Services committee, and a member of this legislative body committed to 'Health in All Policies,' I want to thank my

See COUNTY COUNCIL Page A6

## REALTORS® Host Thanksgiving Meal Give-Away Drive-by Event in Partnership With Golden State Warrior's Damion Lee, The L.E.E. Way Foundation, and Giant Food

By ERICA KALEDA  
Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®

LANDOVER, Md. (November 18, 2020)—On Saturday, November 14, the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) hosted a Thanksgiving Meal Drive-By co-sponsored by Damion Lee and Michelle Riddick of The L.E.E. Way Foundation and Giant Food. Members of the Association's Community Service Committee and Young Professionals Network (YPN) joined volunteers from The L.E.E. Way Foundation on Friday (11/13/2020) to prepare and pack holiday food gift bags. The gift bags were delivered on Saturday morning (11/14/2020) to 75 families in need at a drive-by event held at PGCAR's offices in Landover, MD.

"2020 has been a challenging year! Our Thanksgiving Food Drive-By is a way for REALTORS® to support families who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in hopes of providing them with a sense of normalcy and bring joy this holiday season. It is important to support the communities where we live, work, and play," stated PGCAR President, Shameeka Price. YPN Chair, Carole Webb shared; "Through the assistance of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, 75 families were identified and invited to receive a dinner consisting of a whole turkey along with all of the fixings of a traditional holiday feast, including dessert!"

The L.E.E. Way Foundation's co-founder Michelle Riddick stated; "It's important for The L.E.E. Way Foundation to partner with PGCAR to give meals to families in need during this

season. We're in a pandemic and it's difficult for some people to have a traditional Thanksgiving holiday. We want to help provide that for them."

The L.E.E. Way Foundation was founded by NBA's Damion Lee of the Golden State Warriors and Michelle Riddick. The L.E.E. Way Foundation's goal is "to provide a sense of community and safe environment for the youth around the world. Focusing on self-esteem, team-work, relationship building, communication, and leadership skills they strive to give youth an opportunity to be heard and room to grow."

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area. PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

## New Gastroenterologist Joins MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

Alireza Meighani, MD, is now accepting new patients in Clinton

By CHERYL RICHARDSON  
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (November 18, 2020)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has added Alireza Meighani, MD, to their team of gastroenterologists. Dr. Meighani is board certified in gastroenterology and internal medicine and treats all types of gastrointestinal issues. He is particularly passionate about helping people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and autoimmune diseases, such as ulcerative colitis.

"I see a wide range of patients such as ones who are in pain from various GI disorders or patients who can't swallow food because they have a narrowing in their esophagus," said Dr. Meighani. "When I can do things like dilate the esophagus so they can eat normally again or remove a pre-cancerous polyp during a screening colonoscopy, that changes patients' lives, it motivates me."

Dr. Meighani believes the journey leading up to the procedure is just as important as the procedure itself. He focuses on discussing patients' goals and desired outcomes in a clear, compas-

sionate manner. These conversations allow him to consider each person's unique needs and circumstances when developing their treatment plan. "I am very intentional about how I relate to my patients from the very beginning," he said. "I always want my patients to get the best care possible, just as I would want for myself."

Dr. Meighani graduated from medical school at Gulf Medical University outside Dubai and completed his residency in internal medicine at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. He stayed at Henry Ford to complete his fellowship in gastroenterology, where he was selected as chief fellow. Now at MedStar Southern Maryland, he said, "I love the patient population here. I'm able to really put my skills to use and help people. It's very fulfilling."

Dr. Meighani's office is located at 7501 Surratts Road, Suite 206 Clinton, MD 20735. For an appointment, please call 301-877-4599.



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR HEALTH

Gastroenterologist  
Dr. Alireza Meighani

COVID-19

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