

# The Prince George's Post



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## Chesapeake Supportive Care Nurse Practitioner Honored for Community Activism

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
*Communications Specialist for  
Hospice of the Chesapeake*

Last summer, Rachel Sherman was tired. The nurse practitioner was working 10- to 12-hour days at Prince George's Hospital Center amid the COVID-19 pandemic. She also was pursuing her doctoral degree in nursing at Frontier Nursing University. But we are not talking about that kind of tired.

When a Black man was kicked out of the Fish Market restaurant in Clinton, Maryland, because he would not remove his "I can't breathe" T-shirt, she was tired of the treatment of the Black community in Prince George's County. So, she added another important activity to her daily life: She stood in protest at the restaurant. Every day. For more than three months.

"We see these injustices happen, we see standard service in Prince George's County and as a county resident I just spoke out about it. This is not what we deserve," Sherman said.

Her courage and dedication to the community she loves was honored by District 9 Prince George's County Councilman Sydney Harrison who chose her for the Rosa Parks Award for Excellence in Community Activism at the District 9 Day of Service Awards. She received the award during a virtual ceremony on Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

She was joined in her months-long protest

by people who supported "We, the People of Prince George's County," a grassroots organization she and friend Joseph Tolbert III co-founded. Soon other organizations, including the LGBT-Q Dignity Project and PG Changemakers, were onboard. The protest was covered by the Washington Post, Washington Times and Washington Informer. It also connected Sherman with Councilman Harrison, which opened doors for her.

"Now that I have relationships with politicians and leaders in the community, I get to sit at the table with people who can do something about our concerns," Sherman said. One of those concerns for the county is the lack of decent healthcare. The new hospital, in its final stages of construction, is a step in the right direction. But there are plenty of other concerns, including a poor patient to provider ratio, lack of access to healthy food options and safe walking trails for all of the county's population and other issues. As one who grew up, works and lived in the county, she says she can speak from experience about the inequity in healthcare. She also is buoyed by the growth and progress of minority activists in the county. "We are becoming a little more progressive in PG County," Sherman said. "They are willing to take on the fight."

Since those 100 or so days standing up against racism in a restaurant's parking lot, much has changed in Sherman's life. She can now be called Dr. Rachel Sherman, having earned her doctorate

in nursing. Her doctoral research project was about community-based advance care planning, which works hand-in-hand with her new career as nurse practitioner at Chesapeake Supportive Care with Hospice of the Chesapeake. She looks forward to working with the organization's community education program where she can put her research and activism to use reaching out to underserved residents. She acknowledges there are two parts to this task—not only do medical providers need to find a way for underserved populations to have greater access to better healthcare, but they also must find a way for the historically mistreated minority community to be willing to accept it.

Hospice of the Chesapeake's Chief Medical Officer Eric Bush, MD, was proud of Sherman's Rosa Parks Award but was not at all surprised. Her resume and research were already an indication of how committed she is to improving access to healthcare for minority populations. "Having a care team that not only cares for the individual but also for those who are most in need of our care in the community is an important goal for our organization," Bush said. "Rachel is an inspiring leader in working towards that goal."

For Sherman, an act of protest made way to connections and a network determined to make changes in their community. "I'm excited to see Prince George's County grow in a better way," she said.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RACHEL SHERMAN

Nurse Practitioner Rachel Sherman protesting against racism at Fish Market restaurant in Clinton, MD.

## Governor Hogan Visits COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic At Giant Pharmacy in Prince George's County

Maryland's Vaccination Provider Network Continues to Expand State Now Averaging More Than 20,000 Shots Per Day

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
*Office of the Governor*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 27, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today visited the Giant Pharmacy in District Heights, Maryland, where COVID-19 vaccinations are now underway for eligible Marylanders. He was joined by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

"COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective, and will be our best tool to finally put an end to this deadly pandemic," said Governor Hogan. "We are working hard to promote vaccine confidence and ensure equitable access while we await more doses from the federal government, including by expanding our statewide provider network and standing up regional mass vaccination sites."

Yesterday, Governor Hogan announced that there will be more than 50 retail pharmacies providing vaccinations statewide as of next week, and that number will increase as the state receives more supply. Vaccinations are now underway in Walmart, Giant, and Martin's stores, and the state will expand its pharmacy network of vaccinators next week to include select Safeway and Rite Aid locations.

Maryland providers reported administering just under 23,000 vaccine doses on Tuesday, and are now administering an average of more than 20,000 doses per day. While the speed of vaccinations continues to increase, supply remains extremely



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks visited the Giant Pharmacy in District Heights on Jan. 27, 2021.

limited: while federal guidelines have increased eligibility to include 2 million Marylanders, the state only receives about 10,000 first doses per day from the federal government.

There are more than 100 vaccination providers in Maryland, including hospitals, pharmacies, and local health departments. To find information about providers in your area, go to covid-vax.maryland.gov. With limited supply, Marylanders are urged to remain patient.

Such stress can negatively affect academic performance—as well as mental health.

Therefore, the legislation, HB0461, aims to also improve classroom success, as a better environment will facilitate better test scores, Washington said.

Washington also compared the one day off to the paid sick leave teachers get.

He believes that allowing students to have the same privileges would level the playing field and benefit both parties.

While teachers are yet to weigh in on the bill, Washington said he hopes he will have their support given that he chairs the education subcommittee in the House.

This is far from a new concept in

See MENTAL HEALTH Page A5

## Maryland Bill Would Give Students Mental Health Days Off

By TOM HINDLE  
*Capital News Service*

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Jan. 29, 2021)—A bill in the Maryland state Legislature would grant school students excused absences for mental health reasons.

Under the proposed law, students would be allowed to skip school once every quarter—without needing a doctor's note.

Sponsored by Del. Alonzo Washington D-Prince George's, the legislation aims to alleviate mental health problems exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Right now, we know mental health

and mental illness is running rampant, especially among students," Washington told Capital News Service.

Washington voiced concerns regarding the general mental health of students across Maryland.

He noted that 70 percent of teens admit to experiencing anxiety and depression, that 1 in 6 say they have considered suicide.

A lot of these issues, Washington said, can be traced back to difficult pedagogical environments.

"We know the stress of school is a lot for high school students," Washington said.

### INSIDE

• Preserving the Historically Rich Culture Which Created Our Ever-Expanding Community Is in Need of Stimulation

• Golf Industry Coalition Launches GenZ Council  
Around the County, Page A2

New Season of Free Virtual Events  
A Question of Freedom, a Virtual Presentation

Harriet Tubman to Replace Andrew Jackson on \$20 Bill  
Community, Page A3

To Be Equal:  
National Urban League and NFL Working Together to Inspire Change and Transform Lives  
... the NFL has funded five Urban League affiliates to help families impacted by COVID-19 ...  
Commentary, Page A4

## Maryland to Open State-Run Vaccination Centers

By CALLAN TANSILL-SUDDATH  
*Capital News Service*

SILVER SPRING, Md. (Jan. 26, 2020)—Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday announced the opening of six state-run mass vaccination sites and new partnerships with retail pharmacies to provide vaccines.

"By the end of the week, hundreds of Maryland National Guard members who have been in Washington protecting our nation's capital will be immediately reassigned to help plan, build and launch these mass vaccination sites," Hogan, R, said.

Six Flags America in Prince George's County and the Baltimore Convention Center will begin providing vaccinations by Feb. 5, Hogan said.

M&T Bank Stadium will follow suit when the state secures more doses.

Maryland entered phase 1C of vaccination distribution Monday, expanding eligibility to residents 65 and older as well as to some other essential workers—despite persistent widespread issues with dosage distribution and appointment access.

As of 10 a.m. Tuesday, 396,661 vaccines have been administered, roughly 59.4% of the total number of doses—667,275, according to the health department—distributed to providers.

During the inaugural meeting of a state Senate Vaccine Oversight Workgroup on Monday, Sen. Clarence Lam, D-Baltimore County, said he is concerned about the number of constituents—namely teachers—who have yet to receive vaccines despite being part of group 1B.

"It opens up a huge number of people who are competing all together to try to get these very limited vaccines," Lam said.

"By opening up 1C and adding another 700,000 people to the mix, it is only making it harder for these teachers who are in 1B to get through this process."

Hogan last week announced he was encouraging all school districts in the state to reopen by March 1.

On Tuesday, Hogan said he had left it to each jurisdiction to determine how to use its vaccinations.

He and the state health secretary said federal officials pressured state leaders to open vaccinations to more people, despite a slim number of vaccines provided to states.

"My preference, and I think everybody's preference, would have been to keep to 1B for a little while; the federal government forced our hand last week," Maryland's Acting Secretary of Health Dennis Schrader told lawmakers Monday.

Hogan said the health department is trying to strike a balance between supply and demand. "For the first three, four weeks, everybody was complaining that we had too many and not enough people were taking it."

"The CDC and the federal government—both the Trump administration and Biden administration—said you need to open it up to more groups; they both specifically said to open it up to phase 1B and 1C."

Schrader on Monday said the Department of Health is currently "very carefully building the infrastructure so that as we get more doses, and we're hoping by the spring and summer, we'll see a very large increase" in the surplus of vaccines.

Schrader also said it will take "a number of weeks to catch up with the eligible population we have now."

Hogan said he thinks different forthcoming vaccines will have a tremendous effect on Maryland's vaccination efforts.

A vaccine in the approval pipeline from Johnson & Johnson, specifically, could be a "game-changer," said Dr. David Marozzi, the COVID-19 incident commander with the University of Maryland Medical System.

This "vaccine is a single dose shot with less cold ... storage requirements," Marozzi said Tuesday, and could see regulatory approval in a few weeks.

"Once the FDA approves this or other vaccines, it will improve vaccine availability and greatly assist our vaccination efforts," Marozzi said.

Hogan also said 825 Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps members have been deployed to 11 jurisdictions to help facilitate the delivery of vaccines.

On Tuesday morning [Jan. 26], there were 344,620 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maryland; an increase of 1,482 over a 24-hour period. There is a 6.64% positive test rate statewide, according to the Department of Health, and at least 6,788 people have died.

# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Remembering the teacher who died when the Challenger exploded

Benjamin D. Foulois teacher Sharon Christa McAuliffe was selected to be the first "person on the street" to travel a space mission that ended in tragedy 35 years ago this week.

Christa, as she was known, was born in Boston, the oldest of the five children of Edward and Grace Corrigan. As a student at Marian High School, the Apollo space program inspired her. She wrote, "I watched the Space Age being born and I would like to participate." She earned a degree at Framingham State and a master's in education at Bowie State College.

In 1970 she married her longtime boyfriend Steven McAuliffe whom she had known since high school. He was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and they moved to Washington so he could attend Georgetown Law School. By then they had two children, Scott and Caroline.

Christa's first position was American History teacher at Benjamin D. Foulois Junior High School in Morningside. She later taught at Thomas Johnson Middle School in Lanham. Meanwhile, Steve was law clerk for then State Senator Steny Hoyer. In 1978 they moved to Concord, N.H., where Steve became an assistant to the New Hampshire Attorney General and Christa taught at Concord High School.

In 1985, Christa was selected from among more than 11,000 applicants to participate in the NASA Teacher in Space Project and was scheduled to become the first teacher in space.

During its 10th launch, on Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, killing Christa and six other crewmembers, changing NASA's space program forever. Throughout the country, teachers and students had watched, among them Steve, Scott and Caroline who were at Cape Canaveral to witness takeoff.

Christa is buried at Blossom Hill Cemetery in Concord. Steve McAuliffe remarried some years later. Scott, who was 8 when his mother died, has become a marine biologist. Caroline, who was 6, is a teacher like her mom.

Christa has had many scholarships offered in her name and honors of all kinds continue to be announced. In 2004 she was among 13 astronauts, who died in space disasters to be posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush.

In 2019 Congress passed the Christa McAuliffe Commemorative Coin Act. It

allows the Department of the Treasury to issue "not more than 350,000 \$1 coins" in commemoration of Christa McAuliffe. The coins are due to be minted this year.

### Town of Morningside

Easter is coming up April 4 and Morningside is considering activities for both seniors and for the Town.

Election for mayor and two council members is coming up May 3.

Monthly Work Session for the Council will be Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. and the Town Hall Meeting will be Feb. 16, 7 p.m. Meetings are by Maestro Telephone Conference. For information, call 301-736-2300.

The office will be closed on Presidents Day, Feb. 15.

And, drive carefully—the Town has two new police officers.

### Neighbors & other good people

Fr. William F. Good, who served as senior priest at St. John's in Clinton 2006–2007 and who marked his 60 years as a priest in 2020, died Nov. 20. He was 86.

In last week's column I wished Joanne Clark Bunch a happy birthday on Jan. 30. But Sue Stine Mason emailed that Joanne died several years ago.

I very much appreciate those who find mistakes (and there are a lot!) in my column and let me know. One of the best at this is Sue. She graduated from Suitland High in 1964 and has a Deceased Classmates site she administers for Suitland High schoolmates, classes of 1952 to 1972. She says, "Seems like every week I get another name." Sadly, that list is now very long.

### Changing landscape

The DPW&T has been awarded the 2020 Maryland Quality Asphalt Pavement Awards for the Tucker Road and Palmer Road projects. The reason: "The completed projects addressed some of the pressing infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns in Ft. Washington." In case you don't know, DPW&T is the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The vintage Cadillac Motel was recently demolished. The location, listed on an old postcard was: "On the Tobacco Trail (U.S. 301), 2 miles north of Waldorf, 13 miles S.E. of Washington."

### I'm celebrating Catholic Schools Week

For a week at the end of January, Catholic Schools are celebrated throughout the U.S. At St. Philip's, in Camp Springs, for example, they held an Open

House on Sunday, celebrated the community, their teachers, the students, and for country, a dress-in-red-white-and-blue day. The week often ends with second quarter report cards. And then begins the second semester.

I celebrate Catholic Schools Week because I am a product of Catholic Schools which I attended my whole life: St. Agnes in Cincinnati, St. Andrew's and St. Mary's Cathedral School in Saginaw, Mich., Our Lady of the Lake High School in San Antonio, St. Mary's Notre Dame in South Bend, and Catholic University. My late husband Jack, who grew up in Houston, traveled a similar path, ending with Notre Dame where he met me.

This year Catholic Schools Week was celebrated Jan. 31 through Feb. 6. I celebrate my education and all those nuns, priests, and lay teachers who shared their knowledge with me. And I celebrate my parents who made it all possible.

### John Windsor, Knight of St. John

John Milton Windsor Jr., 86, of Forestville, Army vet and WSSC retiree, died Jan. 9 in Winter Haven, Fla. He grew up in Upper Marlboro, and served in the Army. After honorable discharge in 1957, he worked as a laborer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, earned a degree in Civil Engineering and retired as Area Construction Coordinator after 30 years.

He was a high-ranking member of the Knights of St. John International, a Catholic organization dedicated to serve Church, community and brotherhood. He was a volunteer at Doctor's Hospital in Greenbelt, an election judge, and a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Spirit Church in Forestville.

His wife Mary died in 1993. He was the father of four, grandfather of 18, great-grandfather of 30, and great-great granddad of 4. He also leaves sister Ethel Nelson and brother Bernard Windsor. His Funeral Mass was at Mount Calvary with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

John enjoyed the seniors' swimming classes at Prince George's Community College.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter and my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Connie Waby and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9; Alma Richardson, Feb. 10; Ginny Call, Dawn Witherow and David Chambers, Feb. 11.

## by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

and a host of volunteers also participated in the distribution of food and grocery boxes to 500 families and 100 boxes to seniors and individuals with disabilities in all nine Councilmanic Districts. Day of service partners included the First Baptist Church of Highland Park; Pepco Holdings; G.S. Proctor Associates, Inc.; and Christmas in April. "This was truly a Countywide initiative as we had support from my Prince George's County Council Colleagues and the Office of Community Relations to make deliveries to constituents within all nine Councilmanic districts". "Prince George's County Council Media".

### PANDEMIC RELIEF

Students adjusted to many changes with the move to virtual learning and limited in-person classes during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the extraordinary COVID-19 PANDEMIC, The Bulldog Nation and friends bridged the gap to help Bowie State University students persist to graduation and successful tomorrows. The overwhelming and generous support of alumni, corporate partners and university supporters was remarkable. In a few weeks, more than \$45,000 was raised to help students succeed with the Student Emergency Fund, the BSU Nutrition Lounge and the Bowie Fund, our area of greatest need.

New laptops and other tangible donations also helped ensure the continued success of BSU students. For example, Rick and Dawn Collins, parents of LT Richard Collins III, who was tragically killed in 2017 just days before graduating from BSU, donated new top-of-the-line laptops through the Lieutenant Richard W. Collins III Foundation in memory of their son.

"We wanted to help students complete their studies for the semester without having to worry about needing a computer," said Rick Collins. He added, "Despite the circumstances, please don't give up on your education. There are still people out there that care about you and want to see you succeed in life."

Djambra Dolo, a math major who had difficulty accessing his classes online, received one of the foundation's laptops as a loaner. Not only did he thrive in his remote classes during the spring semester, he was later able to serve as a tutor in the virtual lab.

"I am infinitely thankful to the Collins for receiving this laptop," said Dolo. "It is imperative to have a computer during this pandemic and I couldn't afford to purchase one. This donation has made a major impact on my educational and career journey." BSU Communications.

## Around the County

### Preserving the Historically Rich Culture Which Created Our Ever-Expanding Community Is in Need of Stimulation

We are slowly losing our community leaders—those who, with pride, strong character and integrity helped establish the progressive, valued and respected standing our communities have achieved and forged their way to prominence. Let us not forget those leaders who paved the way for us, served us as mentors and tutored many while serving their constituents with honor. These leaders were the products of their community; taking those nurturing attributes to the larger communities. Knowing the needed components of their communities; represented appropriately to acquire resources for a well-rounded, healthy atmosphere in raising our families with in the enriched atmosphere.

Our three historically Black jurisdictions (North Brentwood, Fairmount Heights and Glenarden) paved the way of acquiring the services for its residents; electricity, running water, sewage, paved streets with lights, curbs, sidewalks, bus transportation, our post office, etc. We had received the schools with the help of the Freedman's Bureau and the Rosenwald Fund, but expanded later with community effort (Fairmount Heights Junior-Senior High School). Our community organizations partitioned the Maryland state legislature to incorporate and we acquired those services.

We had an outstanding leader in Glenarden Mayor James R. Cousins, Jr.; he was affectionately referred to as "the Dean of Mayors by the Maryland Mayors Association because of his progressive vision for his people." He served as mayor for 39 years tutoring many town councilmembers who became Prince George's County's first County Council Chair, succeeding councilmembers, Maryland State Delegates, Maryland State Senators, our US Congressman was a Glenarden resident and many other to regional agencies during that reign and beyond. The image he presented and his lead-by-example tutoring style made way for and catapulted others including our first Black judges, our first Black County Executive. Mayor James R. Cousins, Jr.'s legacy of "commitment to the community" has expanded beyond the Glenarden borders and is recognized throughout our ever-expanding community. In his wake, Glenarden produced Mayor Rubin Reid, who has made a name for himself throughout the region as outspoken and frank. Mayor John Anderson was an advocate for the community and served its residents in many capacities. These two we lost within two months of each other in the first quarter of 2020. They will be sorely missed.

Prince George's County has been referred to as the most affluent predominantly Black community in the United States. We created this inviting community and we are proud of it. Our cultural significance is an important element of our success. We need to keep moving forward with lesson-learned and recommitment, molded with persistence along our journey that has been entrusted in our seeds for fruitful deliverance.

—*Laurence Winston, founder and president of the Glenarden Historical Society*

### Golf Industry Coalition Launches GenZ Council

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (Jan. 27, 2021)—A coalition of golf organizations announces today they have joined forces to create a GenZ Council made up of junior golfers to share experiences and perspectives on the current state of golf, what they hope the future of the game looks like and to offer solutions for the current social and economic issues currently surrounding the game. Representatives from the GenZ Council host[ed] their first Town Hall for a candid conversation around the issues golf faces with diversity and inclusion on January 29.

The Council, made up of 20 young leaders across the country, helps solve a critical missing piece in discussions surrounding golf's approach to creating a more diverse, inclusive and equitable space in the industry by incorporating the voices of our youth within the conversation. Alongside the core group, an additional 70 members will collectively create a proposal that addresses the golf industry's approach to creating a more inclusive space for people of all backgrounds.

2021 GenZ Council Roster includes

**Sophia Becraft**, 11th grade, Hyattsville, Md., Eleanor Roosevelt High School

The coalition of golf associations includes the First Tee, LPGA Foundation, National High School Golf Association, PGA Junior League and Youth on Course. They will foster a community of diverse young leaders from across junior golf aimed at giving them the opportunity to connect, build relationships and participate in youth activism. More specifics about the GenZ council will be available in the coming weeks.

—*Julie McKay, Buffalo Agency for Gen Z Council*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

Ruth Turner entered rest on January 8, 2019, married to the late James Garnell Turner of Brandywine, Maryland. In 1964 she received a Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Prince George's Community Hospital School of Nursing in Cheverly, Maryland. She served in the surgical wing as the post operating Charge Nurse. Because of her leadership and academic achievement, she was awarded the 1964 Honor Bar for attaining the highest-grade point average in Theory and Practice for Obstetrical Nursing.

Ruth worked in the Prince George's County Public School System as a nurse at Bethune and Gwynn Park Middle Schools until her retirement in 1988. She was President of the Washington East District Auxiliary and Volunteer Service of the N.M. Carroll Home in Baltimore, Maryland. Served on the Board of Trustees, Certified Lay Speaker, Church Usher Board President for 20 years, Chairperson on the Communications Ministry, Member of the Health and Welfare Ministry who offered blood pressure screenings, taught CPR, member of United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland. She received numerous awards for her church and community work. She was awarded the State of Maryland Governor's Volunteer Service Certificate from Governor Paris Glendening in 1999. Ruth was a columnist for the Prince George's County Post, covering the Brandywine-Aquasco area for many years.

Her love for life touched the lives of many in positive ways. She left a great impact on everyone lives that she touched in her family and the community. She will always be remembered for the wonderful memories that she left, and the values that she instilled in us. She always advised us on every aspect of life. The positive lessons that she taught us will be passed on for generations to come. She was a pillar in her community with good moral high standards and integrity. She loved us unconditionally and was a woman of strong principles. Our Mother will always be admired for her strength, endurance, and beautiful legacy. Love Audrey, Patricia, Joyce, Cleo.

### A DAY OF SERVICE

On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service was certainly a "Day On, not a Day Off," for Council Member At Large Calvin S. Hawkins, II, and members of the Council who joined him for a Countywide Day of Service. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the County Office of Community Relations,

### Free Entrepreneur Training for Spouses of Veterans, Active Duty, and Guard/Reserve Personnel

*Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you?*

*Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start?*

*Do you have a business and want to take it to the next level?*

**Orientation Session will be held on**

**Thursday March 4, 2021, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Attendance at Orientation Session limited to ten (10) participants to ensure social distancing requirements.

**Classes will be held on Thursday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

**Starting on March 18, 2021 and ending with a**

**Graduation Ceremony on May 13, 2021**

To register for the Orientation Session please complete form found at <https://www.project-opportunity.com/spouse-entrepreneurship-course/> Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 8-week cohort program that meets every Thursday evening from 6–9 p.m. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch.

#### Training Includes:

- Assessing Your Business Idea
- Marketing Analysis
- Financing and Financial Management
- Business Structure and Taxes
- Development of a Business Plan

The Spring 2020 Annapolis Project Opportunity course for Spouses of Veterans is sponsored by Philip E and Carol R Ratcliffe Foundation. The Ratcliffe Foundation is based in Annapolis, Maryland and operates as a charitable organization designed to encourage and reward entrepreneurship, create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

# COMMUNITY

## Council Vice Chair Deni Taveras Named to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Leadership Post

*Taveras to Serve as Chair of Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee*

By ANGELA J. ROUSON  
Prince George's County Council  
Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 25, 2021)—Prince George's County Council Vice Chair Deni Taveras (D – District 2), has been appointed to serve as chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee.

COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP) is principal policy adviser to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government on issues such as climate change, energy, waste and recycling, air quality, and other environmental issues. CEEP also implements the National Capital Region Climate Change Report, which includes developing a comprehensive strategy to meet the Council of Government's regional greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Vice Chair Taveras looks forward to her new leadership role and the work ahead.

"I am eager to guide my fellow committee members in developing bold strategies to combat the many environmental challenges faced by both the region and our County, especially climate change and environmental justice for our most vulnerable communities."

Vice Chair Taveras is also a member of COG's Transportation Planning Board and a former member of the Air Quality Committee. During her tenure on the Council, she has served as an advocate for environmental reforms to include establishment of the Environmental Crimes Unit and the ban on Styrofoam use. Prior to her time of service on the Council, in her role with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Vice Chair Taveras provided oversight to Superfund Site Clean-Up and enforced the Toxic Release Inventory Program.

### Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

## Delayed Claiming; Am I Now Getting the Right Amount?

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

**Dear Rusty:** I am having problems getting answers from the national Social Security office or the local agent who I first spoke with to apply for my benefits. I am 70 in January 2021 and applied for benefits at the end of August 2020. I asked to have benefits start in October 2020 with my first payment received in November. I was told that the benefit for applying at age 69 & 9 months would not be received until January of 2021. Until then I would receive the 69 years and 0 months payment, which I received in November and December of 2020. In January 2021 however, I received the same 2020 payment plus the COLA increase. I've asked what's up at the local office and have been waiting for a return phone call. My first question: is the amount I received in November and December last year correct, i.e., it is only the age 69 amount, not the 69 and 9 months benefit for the age I was at the time? And second, if that's true, when in 2021 should I get my full amount? **Signed: Confused**

**Dear Confused:** I'll try to clear this up for you. Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of 0.667% are earned monthly for each full month you delay claiming after your full retirement age (which for you is 66). But although you earn delayed retirement credits monthly, Social Security only applies them in January of each year. You don't lose them; they just don't do the benefit adjustment until January of each year. That's why you got only the age 69 benefit when you started your benefits in October and why your payment in November and December didn't include those DRCs.

The SS payment you received in January was actually for your December benefits, and included the 2021 COLA increase (which is computed using your December benefit). And just as an FYI, they do apply DRCs immediately for anyone who claims at age 70, regardless of the month they claim. What happened to you was because you claimed before you were 70.

The additional 6% DRCs you earned between January and September last year should be applied in January of this year and should be included in your next benefit check, which you will receive in February (SS pays benefits in the monthly following they are earned). When they do that computation, they'll automatically adjust your COLA using your new benefit amount. So, what you were told by the Social Security agent is essentially correct—your benefit payment won't reflect those additional DRCs for 2020 until your January 2021 payment, which you will receive in February.

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).

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

## Prince George's Community College Center for Performing Arts Ushers in New Season of Free Virtual Events

*Students, faculty, and local artists celebrate diversity in arts and explore political and social issues*

By SONJI JOYNER  
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 27, 2020)—After its inaugural fall season of virtual events, Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts (CPA) continues to provide reimaged arts programs with free online performances beginning Monday, Feb. 22. The CPA and academic departments collaborated with intentionality and creativity to present student and local-based artist events in various genres, including Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, children's programs featuring the Story of Anne Frank, student art exhibitions, the Defamation Experience, legendary local violinist Chelsey Green and the Green Project and A Political Forum. For more information and to register for events, visit [pgcc.edu/arts](http://pgcc.edu/arts).

"I'm excited about our student performances, including our theatre series, which connects students with playwright and director Janice L. Goldberg, and a video game musical concert among other events," Humanities Department Chair Ennis Allen said. "We hope to entertain audiences near and far while engaging our community. Additionally, these experiences allow our students to showcase the arts to those considering studying the visual and performing arts here at Prince George's Community College," she added.

The Center for Performing Arts has not been open to the public since March 2020. Like many organizations, the College remains under COVID-19 restrictions to maintain safety per county and state guidelines. The CPA continues to bring high quality virtual programming to the internal and external community.

"A little downtime might do everyone some good—students, professionals, and educators. While we are all forced to slow down, take this opportunity as a community to reflect on what is good. The arts help people to cope in dark times," said Center for Performing Arts Director LaNiece Tyree. "Even in these dark times, we're still trying to make magic happen at the CPA and serve as a place of healing and uplifting our community through the arts," she added.

## Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society Present: A Question of Freedom, A Virtual Presentation

On Monday, February 15, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society present, Dr. William G. Thomas III, who will discuss his new book, "A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nations' Founding to the Civil War".

In his book, Dr. Thomas includes the story of the Butler family, who were held in bondage at Marietta in Prince George's County, by Judge Gabriel Du-

vall. Prior to being at Marietta, the Butlers were sold to Judge Duvall in his office in his home in Northwest, D.C. on G Street, between 17th & 18th streets. This location proves to be a turning point for the Butler family in their pursuit of freedom with the courts.

Please join us for the continued story! Register through Parks Direct: [www.pgparksdirect.com](http://www.pgparksdirect.com): <https://tinyurl.com/MariettaFeb152021> \$5/person, ages 12 and older. 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 301-262-0532.

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

## Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist, to Replace Andrew Jackson On \$20 Bill in 2025

By LOUIS C. WARD

WALDORF, Md. (Jan. 27, 2021)—Harriet Tubman, a Black woman who escaped slavery and helped free more than 300 slaves through her Underground Railroad, will be the first Black woman to grace American paper currency.

President Joe Biden revived the initiative to put Harriet Tubman's face on the \$20 bill. She will replace U.S. President Andrew Jackson, a slave owner on the new \$20 note in 2025.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki at a press briefing on Monday, January 25, 2021 told reporters, "The Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 notes. It's important that our notes ... reflect the history and diversity of our country, and Harriet Tubman's image gracing the new \$20 note would certainly reflect that. So, we're exploring ways to speed up that effort."

President Obama's administration wanted Harriet Tubman to be on American currency as early 2016 as recognition of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Former President Donald Trump and his Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin put the initiative on hold until 2028.

The redesign of the \$20 bill featuring abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery and led hundreds of other people to freedom, will no longer be unveiled in 2020, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in 2019.

"The primary reason we have looked at redesigning the currency is for counterfeiting issues," Mnuchin said during a hearing before the House Financial Services Committee. "Based upon this, the \$20 bill will now not come out until 2028. The \$10 bill and the \$50 bill will come out with new features beforehand." According to a Retropolis Article May 22, 2019.

President Trump described the decision to include Tubman on the note as "pure political correctness" and suggested she instead appear on the largely ceremonial \$2 bill.

Mnuchin in 2019 pushed back the release of the new \$20 bill six years and said it might not include Tubman at all, even though a design of the note and a metal casting for printing was developed in 2018, according to a New York Times report.

Representative Joyce Beatty (Democrat – Ohio), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus reintroduced legislation—

The 2021 Center for Performing Arts spring schedule is:

Performance	Date
Theatre Audition Webinar Series: Improvisation	Feb. 22
Maxfield Wollam-Fisher and Heyni Solera Concert	Feb. 26
Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad	Feb. 27
Albert Hunt's Clarinet Trio	March 5
Irish Tin Whistle Workshop and Performance	March 11
Clarinet and Flute Trio w/Lori Fowser & Denis Karp	March 12
We Can Do It: American Women in History!	March 27
Theatre Audition Webinar Series: Cold Readings	March 29
The Defamation Experience	March 30
Topher Ruggiero and Carolyn Agan Concert	April 3
Master Class in Acting with Special Guest	
Janice L. Goldberg	April 7
Spring 2021 Student Virtual Art Exhibition	April 16–30
The Manic Monologues	April 16
Ballet Theatre of Maryland,	
Contemporary	April 17
Spring 2021 Mass Communication Event:	
A Political Forum	April 23
Piano Trio	April 24
Prepared Auditions	April 26
Faculty Jazz Recital	April 30
Richard Anatone Video Game Music Concert	May 1
Spring 2021 Student Dance Recital	May 7
The Story of Anne Frank	May 8
Prince George's Philharmonic with Chelsey	
Green and the Green Project	May 22

During these unprecedented times, Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts strives to keep creativity and arts alive, which helps strengthen communities. A special message from the Prince George's Community College Foundation invites you to make a gift to help support robust educational programming, musical, and theatrical productions that celebrate the cultural vibrancy of our community as a Friends of the Arts at Prince George's Community College. For more information on giving, visit <http://www.pgccfoundation.org/giving/cpa>.

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## National Urban League and NFL Working Together to Inspire Change And Transform Lives

*“Confronting recent systemic racism with tangible and productive steps is absolutely essential. We will not relent in our work. We will redouble our efforts to be catalysts for the urgent and sustainable change that our society and communities so desperately need. I’m so proud of everyone across our league and others who have taken a stand using their voices and platforms to continue to shine the spotlight on things that must change. By listening and working and understanding with our players, we built the foundation for tangible change through our Inspire Change initiative.”*

—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell

A Philadelphia woman whose careful journey

to homeownership was almost derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A Chicago man emerging from 18 years in prison with almost no hope of finding employment.

These are just two Americans whose lives were transformed as a result of a unique partnership between the National Urban League and the National Football League.

The partnership is part Inspire Change, the NFL’s social justice initiative, which is investing \$250 million over the next ten years in projects and organizations like the National Urban League to combat systemic racism and support the battle against injustices faced by African Americans.

The NFL’s support allows for the expansion of

counseling services to assist homeowners and renters find and maintain affordable, accessible housing, and our urban reentry efforts that help the thousands leaving the criminal justice system find employment and successfully re-establish themselves in society.

The National Urban League’s Comprehensive Housing Counseling provides a range of services that makes housing options more accessible and sustainable for African American and other minority renters, homeowners, and the homeless.

Stephanie Edgecombe, a senior citizen and frontline worker, enrolled in the Philadelphia Urban League’s pre-purchase counseling program in June of 2019. Her hope was to become a homeowner within a year. With the help of her housing counselor, she was able to address several credit issues, increase her savings and properly manage her household budget.

The path seemed cleared until the pandemic hit.

The Philadelphia Urban League was able to connect her with programs offering financial assistance for first-time homebuyers, including the City of Philadelphia’s Philly First Home Grant, as well as a \$5,000 NFL-backed grant toward her down payment. She was able to close on her new home at the end of September.

For many Americans, re-entering the workforce after a period of incarceration can be challenging. This hits communities of color, who are disproportionately represented in the prison system, par-

ticularly hard. The National Urban League, which has served formerly incarcerated adults for more than 50 years, created the Urban Reentry Jobs Program to address this inequity.

For Sedgwick Johnson, life after being incarcerated for 18 years was like entering a new world. Getting back on his feet meant finding work and stability.

The Chicago Urban League was committed to helping him get a fresh start. A Workforce Development team member enrolled Sedgwick in the NFL Social Justice Initiative project that provides soft skills coaching, digital and financial literacy, vocational training, supportive services, and job search assistance.

Now certified in forklift safety and operation certification, he was able to secure a stable, full-time job with Amazon.

Since the launch of this partnership last fall, the NFL has funded five Urban League affiliates to help families impacted by COVID-19 get back on their feet. The partnership has already created 10 new homeowners with the help of down payment assistance, and we look forward to changing many more lives.

The NFL and the NUL are committed to empowering communities struggling to overcome the economic challenge of the COVID-19 crisis, and the history of systemic disenfranchisement to individuals who need and deserve opportunities to move toward equality.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## The Next Chapter

*“This is a time of testing. We face an attack on democracy and on truth. A raging virus. Growing inequity. The sting of systemic racism. A climate in crisis. America’s role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this nation with the gravest of responsibilities. Now we must step up. All of us. It is a time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And, this is certain: We will be judged, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion? Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world for our children? I believe we must and I believe we will. And when we do, we will write the next chapter in the American story.”*

—President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Inaugural Address, January 20, 2021

This Inauguration Day was full of powerful symbolism for all Americans and especially for our nation’s children. Once again they could see on full display the reality and promise of a multiracial, multicultural society where everyone is welcome. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited simultaneously out loud and in American Sign Language. Girls and boys watched the first Latina Supreme Court Justice swearing in the first woman, first African American, and first Asian American Vice President, and remembered our new Vice President Kamala Harris’s promise that even when she is the first to do something, she won’t be the last. The Clintons, Bushes, and Obamas modeled gracious, dignified leadership, setting the tone for a recommitment to the rituals of a peaceful transfer of power against the backdrop of a restored Capitol. Universal values most parents teach their children, including humility, com-

passion, and cooperation, were back in view. And children and adults alike marveled at the beautiful brilliance of 22-year-old Amanda Gorman, our nation’s Youth Poet Laureate and the youngest inaugural poet ever. Some people watching from home described feeling as if a heavy weight were being lifted from their shoulders. Others recognized another feeling: hope.

Now, for the hopeful, the hard work begins again: to help make sure, in words President Biden often quotes from the Irish poet Seamus Heaney,

*The longed-for tidal wave  
Of justice can rise up  
And hope and history rhyme.*

Before he was sworn in President Biden began taking steps to make real his inaugural promise of a better world for children. On January 14 he released a \$1.9 trillion COVID relief proposal as a major down payment on ending child poverty. It would significantly expand the Child Tax Credit by making it fully refundable and increasing it for one year, a change that would improve the lives of millions of poor children, especially Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous children, who are currently left out. It also would dramatically fight child poverty by extending Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit increases through the end of the year, providing a one-time direct payment of \$1,400 for eligible adults and children, and extending unemployment insurance benefits with an additional \$400 each week. Together, these

changes could lift five million children out of poverty in 2021. President Biden’s proposal would also include significant funding for child care, resources to help schools reopen safely, and an extension of the eviction moratorium and more help so families can pay their rent and avoid homelessness. This is the kind of leadership our children and families need from their president.

Let’s make sure children and families’ urgent needs are met followed by beginning the larger work of honoring America’s overdue promise of hope and opportunity for every child. The horrific images children saw of our nation’s capital being stormed and defaced by insurrectionists in Nazi, white supremacist, and Trump insignia seeking to violently overthrow our nation’s government must never be repeated. As Amanda Gorman wrote in her wonderful inaugural poem, in the face of “a force that would shatter our nation/rather than share it,” it’s up to us to say:

*We will not march back to what was  
but move to what shall be  
A country that is bruised but whole,  
benevolent but bold,  
fierce and free*

And as she concluded:

*The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
if only we’re brave enough to see it  
If only we’re brave enough to be it.*

## Md. Senate Adds \$520 Million in Pandemic Relief Spending

By DARRYL KINSEY JR. and  
CALLAN TANSILL-SUDDATH  
Capital News Service

SILVER SPRING, Md. (Jan. 27, 2020)— State lawmakers on Wednesday introduced a \$520 million amendment to the governor’s \$700 million omnibus pandemic relief bill that would provide immediate support to Maryland’s small businesses and struggling residents.

Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore, said the framework of Gov. Larry Hogan’s, R, Relief Act of 2021 is a good start, but the Senate’s amendment will serve as a more targeted package to complement Hogan’s broader bill.

“We know that this crisis has not been felt equally; an equitable recovery is essential,” Ferguson said Wednesday.

The Senate Recovery Now Amendment directs \$45 million toward health services and assistance, including mobile and 24/7 mental health services.

“With COVID-19, we have watched as Black Marylanders represent 41 percent of COVID deaths while only representing 30 percent of Maryland’s population,” said Sen. Antonio Hayes, D-Baltimore.

The amendment would provide \$14 million to 25,000 people living in health enterprise zones—health department-designated areas that receive particular attention from the state to reduce disparities, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs associated with hospitalizations.

The amendment also designates \$20 million to fund mental health initiatives, including substance use disorder treatment to 40,000 Marylanders over the course of six months; \$10 million provides grants to every county to assist with vaccine dis-

tribution and administration; \$1.5 million of this would fund mobile health clinics, to expand access to vaccines.

The Public Health Job Corps would also receive \$1 million to fund the recruitment and training of people to administer vaccines.

Public services and welfare are allocated \$59 million, which will replace lost fundraising revenue for firefighters, fund food banks and developmental disabilities administration grants, and erase utility debt for 10,800 households.

An allotment of \$22 million would restore temporary disability assistance benefits to roughly 7,500 people, provide higher grants for 15,000 recipients of disability benefits, and will increase grant funding by \$100 per month.

Businesses struggling due to the pandemic will receive \$125 million in assistance.

The funds will help small and minority-owned businesses, which have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, according to Sen. Melony Griffith, D-Prince George’s and a member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

“It’s been really hard to watch business owners make really hard decisions like whether or not to layoff employees or close temporarily or permanently,” Griffith said.

Assistance for some 2,200 Maryland businesses totaling \$26 million has been made available for those that can demonstrate need and have not received aid in the past.

The extra relief would help fill the gaps to make sure businesses such as those that do not collect sales tax would still be eligible for some type of aid, according to Ferguson.

To aid businesses not eligible for the governor’s plan, which would allow some businesses to hold onto sales tax dollars, \$40 million in grants have

been made available.

As with restaurant relief, businesses must demonstrate need and have not received past monetary assistance to qualify.

Roughly 22 percent of the amendment’s funds are to be directed toward education assistance.

Programs providing eight weeks of summer school or tutoring for 25,000 students and assistance to local governments in the quest to return to in-person school will each receive \$50 million.

Hogan announced last week he is encouraging all school districts in the state to reopen by March 1.

Community college job training programs will also receive \$15 million in response to COVID’s effect on the job market.

Sen. Guy Guzzone, D-Howard, chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, said that several streams of funding were available to pay for the amendment.

The amendment would draw on \$320 million from the state’s rainy day fund, as well as \$100 million from the local income tax reserve fund.

Extra funds committed to the Maryland retirement fund totaling \$75 million would be redirected to the program for 2021 and 2022.

Guzzone stressed that the

money taken would not have negative effects on pensions, describing the allotment as extra cash to boost the system.

“We don’t have to do that, especially in this point and time when the most critical needs are right now,” Guzzone said.

Hogan spokesman Mike Ricci told Capital News Service that many of the proposals in the Senate amendment “consists of things we’ve already done or are doing through \$700 million in economic assistance programs.”

## The Prince George’s Post

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**Mental Health from A1**

Maryland; the Montgomery County School Board flirted with the idea of giving students mental health days in September—but never verified the measure.

Making the legislation, Washington drew inspiration and language from initiatives passed in other states.

In 2018, Utah became the first state to treat mental and physical health equally for school absences—legitimizing mental health as a valid reason for not attending school.

A year later, Oregon passed a law stipulating that students could have up to five excused absences over a three month period, with mental health among the reasons.

HB461 is narrower, though, zooming in on mental health as a specific issue.

Some believe that the bill could take valuable steps in addressing mental health among schoolchildren.

Dr. Sharon Hoover, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and co-director of the National Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said she thinks it will help destigmatize depression among students.

While there are many ways to do that, statewide-supported change could be a solution, Hoover said.

"It doesn't hurt at all to get states involved," Hoover said. Hoover would like to see further steps, though.

Namely, she feels that expanding mental health literacy to school curriculum would further augment mental health awareness and advocacy.

"We shouldn't wait for students to truly need mental services before we offer them," Hoover said.

Washington sees it as a win-win for teachers and children alike. "If it takes one day per quarter for students to work on their mental health, I think that's OK," Washington said.

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