

# The Prince George's Post



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## Professional New York City Dancer Returns Home to Washington, DC Area To Open Dance Studio Dedicated to Serving Underprivileged Youth

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Foreman Arts School

BOWIE, Md. (June 20, 2021)—The Foreman Arts School (FAS) will be opening its doors in Prince George's County, Maryland on June 24, 2021. Serving children and adults, FAS will offer classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, Creative Movement, Hip-Hop, Hand Dancing, and Mommy/Daddy & Me. The arts school is on a mission to diversify the industry and provide opportunities for children of color, and low-income families who wouldn't normally be able to enroll their child in an arts program. The school will award scholarships to 5 children to take dance classes for free as part of its summer program. The scholarship will also provide uniforms for each child.

"I'm on a mission to colorize the arts," says Zuri Foreman, Founder of FAS. "I'm on a mission to serve the underserved and create opportunities in the arts for less fortunate children. I'm tired of being one of few black people on stage. It's time for a change, and it starts with our children. Creating opportunities for them to study the arts is the first step. Many children of color just don't have the opportunity," added Foreman.

Foreman will be bringing her unique New York City experience and training to each class in her program. She is a professional dancer, singer, and actress by day, and a dedicated teacher by night. She obtained her degree in Dance Theatre from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in 2016, and has performed in numerous regional theatres, music videos, tv shows, and movies, including her most recent work a feature film titled, "Passing", which was recently picked up by Netflix.

FAS will also feature other Washington D.C Area native artists such as, Courtney "Bobbie" Michelle Harris. Bobbie will provide dance instruction and serve as a mentor to aspiring performing artists. Foreman and Harris are graduates of Forestville's Bishop McNamara High School, where they performed on the dance team together.

FAS was founded by Zuri L. Foreman. The FAS mission is to colorize the arts by providing professional arts training and mentorship to the community. To learn more about classes, email [theforemanarts@gmail.com](mailto:theforemanarts@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook [@theforemanartsschool](https://www.facebook.com/theforemanartsschool), or Instagram [@theforemanartsschool](https://www.instagram.com/theforemanartsschool).



PHOTO COURTESY FOREMAN ARTS SCHOOL

Zuri Foreman, Professional Dancer & Founder of the Foreman Arts School

## Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division Invites Public Comment In Accreditation Process

By ANGEL WALDRON  
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (June 18, 2021)—The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division is part of a select group of law enforcement agencies who have demonstrated professional excellence by participating in the voluntary accreditation process.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will be conducting an assessment June 28–29, 2021, to examine all aspects of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services as part of the police department's continued efforts to maintain accreditation. This will be the seventh accreditation assessment since first being accredited in 2002.

Due to restrictions in place because of COVID-19, the Town Hall meeting will be conducted remotely. As such, agency employees and members of the community are invited to provide comments to the CALEA Assessment Team on Tuesday, June 29 between 3 and 4 p.m. If you would like to speak live during the session, please send an email to [Lakeisha.Robinson@pgparks.com](mailto:Lakeisha.Robinson@pgparks.com) with the following information:

- First and Last Name

- Email address
- If applicable, the community group, business, law enforcement agency, or other organization you are representing

Once the above information is received, you will receive an email containing the necessary login information to access the virtual session.

Anyone who cannot speak at the virtual public information session but would like to provide comments to the assessment team may do so by phone by calling 202-379-8269 on Tuesday, June 29 from 1–3 p.m. Anyone wishing to provide comments to the assessors in writing may send an email to M-NCPP Accreditation Manager [Lakeisha.Robinson@pgparks.com](mailto:Lakeisha.Robinson@pgparks.com). Comments may also be mailed to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc., 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320 Gainesville, VA 20155 or emailed to [calea@calea.org](mailto:calea@calea.org).

Telephone comments and appearances at the virtual information session are limited to 10 minutes per person and must address the Agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards manual is available at the Maryland-National Capital Park Po-

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## Beth Timmons Writes the Software That Makes Spacecraft Zing (and Run)

By ELIZABETH M. JARRELL  
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt

Name: Elizabeth "Beth" Timmons

Title: Associate Branch Head, Flight Software Systems Branch

Formal Job Classification: Computer engineer  
Organization: Code 582, Flight Software Systems Branch, Engineering Technology Directorate

What do you do and what is most interesting about your role here at Goddard? How do you help support Goddard's mission?



PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS: NASA

Elizabeth "Beth" Timmons

I write some of the software that runs on our spacecraft, and I help manage the branch that does software for Goddard missions. I also help lead Goddard's Core Flight System (cFS), an open-source, reusable software framework that we use on many missions.

What drew you to computers?

I always liked math and science. I was a late bloomer in computer engineering – I didn't start programming until I took my first computer science class in high school. Both of my parents are computer engineers and encouraged my interest.

What is your educational background?

I earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a minor in math.

How did you come to Goddard?

I came to Goddard as a summer intern at Wallops Flight Facility during college and then converted into the Pathways program with the Science Data Processing Branch at the Greenbelt campus. Goddard hired me after college graduation.

What were your first thoughts when you began working at Goddard?

I was blown away by all the exciting things Goddard does. I was very excited to be working on a real mission right out of college.

I started in the science data processing branch. My first project was working on an International Space Station (ISS) payload. I was so excited to be working on something going into space. During my years in this branch, I worked on three different ISS payloads. It was really interesting and educational to be able to see those projects through from start-to-finish so early in my career.

After working at Goddard for over ten years, what are your thoughts about working here now?

My thoughts are exactly the same. The more I learn about what Goddard does, the more impressed I get by Goddard. I feel tremendously lucky to be working here.

Did you go on any field campaigns?

In 2015, I supported a science field campaign that was really

neat. I was working on the Slope Imaging Multi-polarization Photon-counting Lidar (SIMPL) instrument. We spent the summer preparing at Langley. The campaign itself was based at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. The campaign was three weeks in August and I was there for two weeks.

I operated an instrument in an aircraft which flew all over the Arctic and the Greenland Ice Sheet. It was absolutely beautiful! I took a lot of pictures. It was an unbelievable opportunity. The project needed two software engineers and only had one, so I jumped on the chance to go with them. The trip was too good to pass up.

Always take advantage of your opportunities!

Why did you become a manager?

I joined the Flight Software Systems Branch in 2018 as an Associate Branch Head. After trying several different types of software in the science data processing branch, I found that I really love flight software and wanted to focus on that, so I switched branches. As far as becoming a manager, I think management is a very important job. Joining the management team seemed like a way to "give back" and pay forward the great support that has been given to me.

Our branch has about 40 people. I directly supervise about 10.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS: NASA

A picture of the local area (in Maryland) taken from the first experiment Timmons ever worked on. She wrote the software that captured and downlinked this image.

As one of Goddard's youngest managers, what are your goals as a manager?

In general, I want to help the employees in my branch find their next opportunities and get to where they want to go. I want to help employees get excited about our work.

I also enjoy mentoring. I try to encourage employees, especially newer ones, to be open-minded about opportunities and to take opportunities when they are available. I am now working on a type of software that I never knew existed in college and I love it.

Please tell us about the core flight system project.

My current project is the core flight system, a reusable software package that provides a

starting point for flight software. It is not everything a mission needs, but it has a lot of infrastructure that is used across multiple missions. It is like a foundation. I did not develop it, but I am one of the team members maintaining it.

It is really cool for several reasons. Working on this system forces me to think about what multiple missions need, which is an interesting software engineering challenge. I went from being focused on a particular mission to getting the big picture across the entire agency. Also, it is open source. Anyone can use it, including industry and university people. It's really rewarding to

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### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Pride Month Event: In the Life—An LGBTQ+ Celebration

"The Department continues its commitment to support inclusivity of all people, and looks forward to celebrating pride month for years to come," said the Department's Assistant Director for Prince George's Plaza Community Center, Tristan Colding.

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### ChildWatch: Cries From the Other America

We must keep going. To achieve a just future for our children and our nation we must confront and dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate racism.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

**La Reine alumnae and teachers celebrate a beloved high school, before it's gone forever**

About 1300 La Reine alumnae were back in Suitland June 12 to celebrate their high school days and say goodbye to that beautiful building which will be demolished, beginning June 21.

La Reine was founded in 1960 by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters as an all-girls school and dedicated May 30, 1961 to the Blessed Mother, Queen of all Queens. It closed in 1992 after Bishop McNamara High School became co-ed. The Prince George's Board of Education acquired the building in 1994 and later named it Drew-Freeman Middle School.

La Reine alumnae came from across the country, pinned on nametags with year of graduation, hugged classmates, greeted nuns who once taught them English and chemistry and algebra. They roamed the hallways, visiting their classrooms, searching for their locker.

**How Last Chance happened**

We have Tina Anderson ('86) and her husband to thank for the celebration. Back in January they were driving from their home in Waynesboro, Pa., to Virginia to visit her father who was recovering from Covid, when they drove past La Reine. They knew the school was doomed and stopped to take one last photo. Tina was sad. "Let's buy it!" she said. Her husband said, why not just rent it for a party? Tina liked that idea.

She went to work, seeking ideas and workers. On March 5 a Zoom meeting was held with those who became the Big Ten: Mary King Evers, Becki Peterson Wessinger, Allison Pals Artis, Tiffanie Newman and Sharon Coleman Harrell (all, Class of '86); Kathy Slagle ('87), Michelle Larson Stevens ('87), Ann Loney King ('83) and Patricia Waidman Moskaitis ('79). They all took on tasks—Tina says they were amazing.

The event was titled Last Chance Dance and scheduled for June 12. Facebook, and word-of-mouth spread the news. Reservations poured in. Forty original faculty and staff (including 15 nuns), and well more than a thousand alumnae signed up.

The day opened with Mass at nearby St. Bernardine's, with remembrance of deceased faculty and alumnae. Eucharist ministers, readings and music were all alumnae, including Kimberly Carroll Chumley ('92), organ,

and Jennifer Rupp ('86), piano. Celebrants were Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, of St. Matthew's Cathedral, and Fr. José Raul De Leon, Pastor of St. Bernardine's.

At 10 a.m., La Reine Experiences began with all the classrooms rooms open. Memorabilia and yearbooks in the Gym. Blessing of class rings, an auction, photos in the Rotunda, Bernardine Sisters gave tours of the Convent on the 2nd floor. A million pictures were taken. Maybe a million hugs given. No masks worn. Box lunches were served in the Cafeteria. Some tailgate parties on the parking lot.

**How it ended**

The day closed with everyone moving to the front yard. An all-alumnae photo was taken on the steps. Sisters Kateri and Pieta introduced ten nuns and Eddie, longtime custodian, who may have gotten the biggest applause.

The day closed with the alma mater, sung by all, "Hail, La Reine High, Hail to thee.... Most cherished and loved La Reine High, With Thee our hearts ever will remain...."

**Town of Morningside**

Mark your calendar for the Morningside Independence Day Parade on July 4 and the best area fireworks at dusk.

The Town Hall meeting room is available for rent. It has been limited in capacity but now is operating at full capacity. Call the Town at 301-736-2300.

**Neighbors & other good people**

Fr. Everett Pearson, pastor of Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in District Heights, hosted a 30th anniversary party for his Archdiocese of Washington Ordination Class with his fellow priests at the rectory. Five priests were ordained in 1991: in attendance were Fr. Everett Pearson, Fr. Mike Salah, Fr. Bob Buchmeier and Fr. Phil Parent. Fr. Derek Georg attended in Heaven.

I attended the Last Chance Dance at La Reine with three of my daughters: Kathleen ('69) who came from Ohio, Elaine ('77) of Crownsville, and Sheila ('70) of Laurel. I loved that one person asked me what my class was.

**Academia**

Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. is the school now attended by Morningside and Skyline teens. Trina Arellano is the 2021 Valedictorian;

Raven Wheaton, Salutatorian.

Crossland HS: Valedictorian, Vanessa Sot Guerrero; Salutatorian, Syndnei Amaya.

Oxon Hill HS: Valedictorian, Aaliyah Beckles; Salutatorian, Jaymee Shane De Leon.

Suitland HS: Valedictorian, Ariel Wright; Salutatorian, Zeisha Bennett.

**Changing landscape**

Sheehy Ford of Marlow Heights changed ownership as of April 13, 2021. Banister Ford is the name of the new dealership.

Congress has overwhelmingly voted to name June 19th Juneteenth Day as a Federal holiday.

**Zoological report**

Timber rattlesnakes are extremely rare in our region, according to the Virginia Herpetological Society, however one was caught in Old Town Alexandria and taken to a wildlife facility.

A coyote was spotted in the backyard of a home on District Heights Parkway near Rochell Avenue.

I'm seeing lots of dead cicadas in my yard and on my car. Only, occasionally, a live one anywhere. Don't worry; they'll be back in 17 years.

**Mary's Covid report:**

**6 more Marylanders died**

Maryland had 748 more reported cases last week, through June 16, at 5 p.m. And six more died.

More than 72% of adults living in Maryland have received at least one dose of vaccine. They've done so well that Maryland removes its state of emergency July 1.

**Milestones**

Happy Birthday to Angela Booth and Mable Hemmes, June 26; Charles "Chuckie" Henry, Rose Hoffman, Veda Curcio, Shawn Kumra and Cathryn (Cordero) Pracht, June 27; Mike Dudding, Juanita Eppard, Erica R. Webb, EvaMarie Anthony, and my granddaughter Leah Katherine Mudd, June 28; Faith "Dycki" Brown, Alexis Schuler and my great-grandson Wesley McHale, June 29; Linda Carson and Karen (Beardmore) Ellis, June 30; Ruth LaBelle, and Jordan Foster, July 1; Sharon Simms, Matthew Clark and Megan Frostbutter, July 2.

Happy 35th Anniversary to Jack and Kimberly Hay, June 28; and to Carl and Sue (Stine) Mason, their 36th on June 29.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE (1961-62)**

The Prince George's Community College, established in the fall of 1958 by the Board of Education, offers extended and increased educational opportunities within the County to high school students.

By September 1960, the Community College had approximately doubled its original size, with a faculty of twenty-four and a student enrollment of 356. Added to the extracurricular activities were a choral group, a chess club, the cheerleaders, and inter-collegiate Forensic Society. At the end of the academic year in June 1961, fifteen students received the Associate in Arts degree. In September 1961, the student enrollment had increased to 498 students with a faculty of thirty-six. On June 8, 1962, twenty-six students received the Associate Arts degree. The estimated enrollment in September 1962 was approximately 675 students. During the academic year 1961-62, the College had on its teaching staff eleven instructors holding the Doctor's degree, nineteen holding the master's degree and seven holding the bachelor's degree.

The College operates on the semester system. Two semesters, approximately eighteen weeks each, constitute the academic year. Several sites were under construction for the permanent location of a campus for the Prince George's Community College. The current school building program includes a proposal to establish a second community college in Laurel. Information compiled and distributed in 1987 by the Prince George's Retired Teachers Association.

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**

"We are honored to have this tremendous grant recognizing the inspiration of Ozzie Newsome's life of leadership and purpose. Bowie State University thanks the Stephan and Renee Bisciotti Foundation for strengthening the educational pipeline and the foundation of our community." President Aminta H. Breau.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO: FOR YOUR HEALTH**

Take heat warnings seriously. Adults living in northern states and at higher altitudes, as well as older adults in general, underestimate the real risk of extreme heat, a 2019 Utah State University study found. Pay close attention to the heat index, which factors in relative humidity.

Heed the air quality and ozone warnings in weather reports. You can also find air quality information for your zip code at [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov). Or try the American Lung Association's State of the Air site, at [lung.org/research/sota/key-findings](http://lung.org/research/sota/key-findings). Remember that air that appears "Clean" can be polluted even miles away from highways and factories.

Be aware of new hay fever symptoms. Respiratory allergies are on the rise among adults, and pollen surges can turn minor hay fever into more severe allergies, the World Allergy Organization warns. If you are suffering your first season of watery eyes and a stuffed-up nose, it is best to visit a doctor for a diagnosis rather

than just buying pills off the shelf. Information from June 2021 [AARP.ORG/BULLETIN](http://AARP.ORG/BULLETIN).

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY GOLF CLASSIC**

Once again, it is on for our 10th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic. Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for a special day of golf at Oak Crest Golf Club Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Staggered Tee Times start at 8:00 a.m. Per Foursome: \$650 and per Golfer: \$175, Golf Clinic \$100.

Fees include 18 holes, Golf cart, breakfast and lunch during tournament, complimentary beverages, gift bags, prizes and much more. Per the COVID-19 rules and regulations at Oak Creek Golf Club and for the health and safety of our golfers, only a limited number of foursomes will be allowed to play at the Bulldog Golf Classic this year.

Register today (Sponsorship opportunities). Support student-athletes and win. With the disruption of the athletics season due to the pandemic, our student-athletes need you now more than ever. As an auxiliary to the university, the BSU Department of Athletics is responsible for all program fundraising. Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf classic will support the Department's goal of establishing ongoing student scholarship program. Visit the website: [www.bowiestate.edu/BulldogClassic](http://www.bowiestate.edu/BulldogClassic) for more information. If you are unable to participate or sponsor the tournament this year, you can still donate to support student athletes at Bowie State University.

**THE NEW CONCEPT OF TEAM TEACHING**

The Allenwood Elementary School in Camp Springs opened for occupancy in October 1967. The school is situated on land which was part of the Farm owned by the family of Miss Rowanetta S. Allen.

The building was designed for the new concept of team teaching with four wings of classrooms. There were operable partitions which allowed for the flexibility of having one large room or dividing it into one, two, three, or four rooms in each unit.

The center part of the building contained the lobby, administrative suite, health room, library, reading classroom, multipurpose room, kitchen, and a small instructional room. Two atriums were located within the center section. These were maintained and planted by a student garden club. Furniture and equipment were selected to be functional to meet the building design and the educational program.

Differentiated staffing was necessary for the team-teaching approach. An on-going in-service program was conducted for several years. A large group of parent volunteers gave invaluable assistance to the staff and the students. Submitted by Claire Conway who retired in 1978 after 32 years of service. Information compiled and distributed in 1987 by the Prince George's County Maryland Retired Teachers Association.

## Around the County

**Marietta House Museum's Virtual Presentation: "Interpreting Difficult History at Historic Sites, Part 2"**

Join Dr. Julie Rose, on **Thursday, July 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** for a continuation of her online workshop to investigate sensitive ways to engage visitors in learning difficult histories. Recollections of enslavement and oppression can be upsetting to hear on house-museum tours. Dr. Rose will share learning strategies to help visitors work through their discomfort, resistances, denials, and indifference to hard histories.

This public workshop is part of a set of public programs of the Giving Voice Initiative. The Giving Voice Initiative is a public history approach to convene community partners to interpret and inspire social justice.

\$5/person. Ages 16 & up. To register, please go to [MNCPPC.org](http://MNCPPC.org) with online Parks Direct registration or use this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/y28yze7>

The workshop will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. For assistance or for more information please contact Stacey Hawkins, [Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com) or (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

**Keith Bell Elected New WSSC Water Commission Chair**

*Howard Denis Elected Vice Chair*

LAUREL, Md. (June 16, 2021)—Keith Bell was elected the new WSSC Water Commission Chair at today's monthly commission meeting. Bell, who has represented Prince George's County since November 2019, was elected unanimously to the position.

Bell succeeds Howard Denis, representing Montgomery County, who was unanimously elected Vice Chair at today's meeting. Both commissioners will serve in their respective roles until June 2022.

A career public servant, Bell began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, followed by a long career as a civil litigator/prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Solicitor, Mine Safety and Health Division. In 1998, Bell was appointed to serve as a Special Assistant United States Attorney during a six-month detail in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Alexandria, Virginia. In 2011, he was appointed to the ranks of federal administrative law judges and began his tenure on the bench at the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Columbia, Missouri. In January 2012, he was appointed to serve as an administrative law judge at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission based in downtown Washington, D.C., where he adjudicates cases.

"WSSC Water's mission to protect public health has never been more apparent as we emerge from this global health and financial crisis," said Chair Bell. "I am honored to serve as chair during such a critical time and will continue to support WSSC Water's dedicated employees working on the front lines to deliver safe, clean and affordable water to our 1.8 million customers."

Denis, appointed commissioner in January 2016, has more than four decades in public service. He served as a Maryland State Senator for 18 years (1977-1995) and six years on the Montgomery County Council (2000-2006).

Six commissioners govern WSSC Water, which has an annual \$1.5 billion operating and capital budget. Three commissioners are residents of Montgomery County and three are residents of Prince George's County. Commissioners are appointed by their respective county executives to four-year terms and confirmed by their county councils.

*WSSC Water is the proud provider of safe, seamless and satisfying water services, making the essential possible every day for our neighbors in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. We work to deliver our best because it's what our customers expect and deserve.*

—Chuck Brown, WSSC

**Spring 2021 Kettering College Dean's List**

KETTERING, Ohio (June 17, 2021)—Kettering College congratulates the following students on being designated for the Spring Semester 2021 Academic Dean's List.

Students that are distinguished on Kettering College Dean's List, completed at least 12 total credit hours during a semester, and maintained a grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 or greater, with no grade below a B-.

Beltsville, MD:

**Nolan Dietrich**, Health Sciences - Management

**Nadine Roberts**, Nursing, BS (prelicensure)

—Lauren Brooks, MA, Kettering College

**Local Students Receive Degrees From Quinnipiac University**

HAMDEN, Conn. (June 17, 2021)—The following students received degrees from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May:

Bowie, MD: **Sabrina Robinson-Antoine**, Doctor of Nurse Practice in Care of Populations

Ft Washington, MD: **Bradley Jacks**, Master of Business Administration

Glenn Dale, MD: **Lydia Jones**, Bachelor of Science in Health Science Studies

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Oladimeji Oluaderounmu**, Doctor of Medicine

—John W. Morgan, Quinnipiac University

# COMMUNITY

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Pride Month Event: In the Life—An LGBTQ+ Celebration

By ANGEL WALDRON  
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 17, 2021)—To commemorate Pride Month, The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the M-NCPPC, is proud to present its inaugural event—In the Life: An LGBTQ+ Celebration. In the Life will be a day to celebrate the Prince George's County LGBTQ+ community and its allies.

The Department's Assistant Director for Prince George's Plaza Community Center, Tristan Colding, is spearheading the event. He stated, "During Pride Month, we recognize the willpower and resilience of those in our community who are fighting to live genuinely and freely." He continued, "The Department continues its commitment to support inclusivity of all people, and looks forward to celebrating pride month for years to come."

In the Life activities include:  
**Saturday, June 26, 12–5:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Showcase:** featuring local LGBTQ+ talent, an informative discussion panel, live stream of drive-through event, cooking demonstration by Chef Keith Holland, interview with vocalist Lolita Leopard, and performance by Model Inc. The showcase will be streamed on [www.facebook.com/pgparks](http://www.facebook.com/pgparks).

**Saturday, June 26, 1–3:30 p.m.**

**Drive-through event:** T-shirts and a pre-packaged lunch will be given away to the first 100 registered patrons. Items will be available for pick-up at the Berwyn Heights Community Center parking lot (6200 Pontiac St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740). Advance registration is required by June 21, 2021. Visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com) and click the In the Life banner.

This celebration is free of charge and open to all ages. Register today or join us online on June 26.

*The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. Visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, Photo-Shelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.*

## Free Independence Day LYFT Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County To Prevent Drunk Driving

*More than a third of U.S. highway deaths during Independence Day involve drunk drivers*

By ALEXANDRA LUCCHESI  
WRAP

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (June 16, 2021)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA), over one-third (38%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers\*, free July 4 Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout Prince George's County, Maryland beginning Sunday, July 4, 2021.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2021 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 4 (Independence Day) and operate until 4 a.m. on Monday, July 5, 2021 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this eight-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 7 p.m. on Sunday July 4 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President. "Worse and during the 2019 Independence Day holiday, over

two-thirds (69%) of those killed in drunk driving crashes were in crashes involving at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .15 or higher."

During the 2019 Independence Day holiday (COVID-19 prevented last year's campaign), over 800 (817) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

"Lyft is proud of the role ridesharing has played in reducing impaired driving across the nation. Here in the DC area, partnering with the Washington Regional Alcohol Program allows us to take our commitment to providing reliable, convenient, and responsible transportation a step further," said Geoff Berman, Lyft's National Regional Manager, East.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2021 Independence Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft,

Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. In addition, WRAP's 2021 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 80,318 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

*Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).*

\*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

[https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/sites/tsm.gov/files/2021-05/15110-July4\\_DSOGPO\\_Fact%20Sheet\\_041921-v3-tag.docx](https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/sites/tsm.gov/files/2021-05/15110-July4_DSOGPO_Fact%20Sheet_041921-v3-tag.docx)



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# COMMENTARY

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Cries From the Other America

President Biden has just signed the bill making Juneteenth National Independence Day a federal holiday. Juneteenth, which is observed on June 19, marks the date in 1865 when the last Black slaves in Texas finally learned they were free from federal troops arriving in Galveston after the end of the Civil War, more than two and a half years after President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in the Confederate states. Black families have celebrated this holiday for generations, but in a renewed era of national racial reckoning Juneteenth has taken on even more significance. We honor this date because, in my beloved friend and role model Fannie Lou Hamer's eternal words, nobody's free until everybody's free.

As cries for equity and justice first began spilling onto streets across the country after George Floyd's

murder last year, many people recalled Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s repeated warning to us that a riot is the language of the unheard. It's always useful to remember just what Dr. King taught. In one of his speeches on this message, given at Stanford University in April 1967, he explained his real topic was "The Other America." Dr. King said: "I use this subject because there are literally two Americas. One America...is overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the honey of opportunity. This America is the habitat of millions of people who have food and material necessities for their bodies; and culture and education for their minds; and freedom and human dignity for their spirits. In this America, millions of people experience every day the opportunity of having life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in all of their dimensions. And in this America millions of young

people grow up in the sunlight of opportunity."

He continued: "But tragically and unfortunately, there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that constantly transforms the ebullience of hope into the fatigue of despair. In this America millions of work-starved men walk the streets daily in search for jobs that do not exist...In this America people are poor by the millions. They find themselves perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity."

Dr. King explained that riots were the cries of this other America: "[I]n the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last few years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of White society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity. And so in a real sense our nation's summers of riots are caused by our nation's winters of delay. And as long as America postpones justice, we stand in the position of having these recurrences of violence and riots over and over again. Social justice and progress are the absolute guarantors of riot prevention."

Even while some leaders claim to be much more concerned about "law and order" and the status quo than justice, equality, and humanity, large segments of white society and all society have come to see and

understand what is at stake when Black Americans say over and over we can't breathe. There is a new clarity about how many deaths have been caused by winters of delay in accountability for police brutality and racialized violence, and the result has been a transforming universal movement for change. Those of us who lived through the Civil Rights Movement and marched with Dr. King can sense the tides of history turning again.

We must keep going. To achieve a just future for our children and our nation we must confront and dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate racism. This means not only reforming policing and the criminal justice system, but also confronting our unjust economic and political systems that create deep disparities in income, housing, education, health, and well-being and harm our children and families of color. The COVID-19 crisis and George Floyd's death were both stark reminders that many Black Americans still live in another America with different risks and different rules. As Dr. King also said: "In a sense, the greatest tragedy of this other America is what it does to little children. Little children in this other America are forced to grow up with clouds of inferiority forming every day in their little mental skies. As we look at this other America, we see it as an arena of blasted hopes and shattered dreams." Our mission is to keep fighting the daily ugliness of this America until every child grows up in the sunlight of opportunity and all of our children can fully breathe. —June 18, 2021

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## With Construction of Empowerment Center Under Way, National Urban League Celebrates Harlem, "The Beating Heart of Black Culture in America"

"With soil exhaustion and the boll weevil pushing Southern blacks away from the land, Harlem became a destination of almost mythical proportions, where manufacturing jobs, a united community, and an escape from poll taxes and Jim Crow laws awaited. It was exotic, colorful, sensuous; a place that parted late into the night."

—James Roman, Chronicles of Old New York

With construction of its new headquarters underway in Harlem, the National Urban League this week took a step toward revitalizing its historic role as a hub for Black culture and activism, and a catalyst for enterprise, creativity, and advocacy.

As construction crews worked to lay the foundation in the lot next door, our staff, trustees, and supporters gathered at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building Plaza with community groups, city and state elected officials, and economic development partners to celebrate the community that gave birth to the National Urban League.

As an early champion and supporter of Harlem's emerging artists and intellectuals, the National Urban League, in turn, helped give birth to the Harlem Renaissance.

The \$242 million, 414,000-square-foot Urban League Empowerment Center, slated to open by January 2025, is one of the most significant economic development projects in Harlem's recent history. Located on West 125th Street near legendary cultural institutions like the Apollo Theater and the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Empowerment Center will include the National Urban League's headquarters, the Urban Civil Rights Museum Experience, and the National Urban League Institute for Race, Equity and Justice, along with 170 units of affordable housing, below-market office space for non-profits and community groups including One Hundred Black Men of New York, United Negro College Fund New York, and the Harlem-based Jazzmobile, and retail space featuring Target and Trader Joe's.

As the beating heart of Black culture in America, Harlem is our rightful and natural home. It was where George Edmund Haynes, then a PhD candidate at Columbia's School of Social Work, began a study of the hardships faced by Black Americans newly arrived from the rural South. His dissertation, *The Negro at Work in New York City*, reached a startling conclusion: "the Negro is coming to the city to stay."

This flew in the face of the commonly-held belief that the African American migration from the South to northern cities was temporary, and they would eventually return to the south.

In 1910, when Haynes completed his dissertation and founded the National Urban League with Ruth Standish Baldwin, the population of Harlem was 10 percent Black. Within 20 years, it would be 70 percent Black, and the undisputed center of Black culture, art, and intellectual discourse.

The National Urban League played a major role in cultivating the Harlem Renaissance when it began publishing a monthly magazine, *Opportunity: Journal Of Negro Life*, in 1923.

Its first publisher, Charles S. Johnson, was the League's research director. He would go on to become the first Black president of Fisk University. To encourage young writers to submit their work to *Opportunity*, Johnson sponsored three literary contests. In 1925 the winners included Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, and Countee Cullen.

The event also marked the public launch of the National Urban League's Campaign for Equity, an initiative to support the Empowerment Center and its institutions.

This week's event is the latest milestone on a journey that began as far back as 1896. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation set in motion the Great Migrations of Southern Blacks to Northern cities.

In July of 1905, W.E.B. Du Bois and other civil rights leaders convened the inaugural meeting of the Niagara Movement to oppose racial segregation and disenfranchisement. The following year, Niagara activists organized The Committee for Improving the Industrial Condition of Negroes in New York (CIICNNY)—one of the organizations that would later merge into the National Urban League. Around the same time, National Urban League co-founder Ruth Standish Baldwin helped establish another of the League's parent organizations, the National League for the Protection of Colored Women (NLPCW).

On September 29, 1910, Baldwin and Haynes convened the first meeting of The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, later to be known as the National Urban League. CIICNNY and NLPCW merged with the League the following year. The new unified objectives of the League were:

- "To bring about co-ordination and co-operation among existing agencies and organizations for improving the industrial, economic, social, and spiritual condition of Negroes and to develop other agencies and organizations, where necessary.
- "To secure and train Negro social workers.
- "To make studies of the industrial, economic, social and spiritual conditions among Negroes.
- "To promote, encourage, assist and engage in any and all kinds of work for improving the industrial, economic, social and spiritual conditions among Negroes."

The National Urban League no longer recruits and trains social workers, but otherwise, our core mission remains true to these original objectives. With the establishment of the Urban League Empowerment Center, we can fulfill that mission on a scale that is exponentially greater and more comprehensive.

Thank you, Harlem, for your warm welcome. Our future together looks bright.

## Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



## Hoyer Statement on the Supreme Court Upholding The Affordable Care Act

WASHINGTON (June 17, 2021)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after the Supreme Court rejected the Republican lawsuit aiming to dismantle the Affordable Care Act:

"This morning's 7-2 ruling by the Supreme Court protects the 31 million Americans who would have lost their health coverage if Republicans succeeded in their effort to overturn the Affordable Care Act. It is unconscionable that Republicans in Congress, in several state governments, and in the former administration would actively seek to take health care access away from so many people in middle of the worst public health crisis in our lifetimes. That effort was a clear signal that Republican politicians believe it is more important to dismantle the Obama-Biden Administration's positive legacy of helping families

afford coverage than it is to protect Americans' health.

"This case was just the latest in a long effort by Republicans to repeal, undermine, or overturn the Affordable Care Act, but today's ruling affirms yet again that it is the law of the land. Even while Republicans have continued to fight it, the law has only grown in popularity—and that's because it is working. We cannot go back to a time when Americans were dropped from their health coverage if they became ill or when families had to choose between putting food on the table or signing up for coverage that was increasingly unaffordable. We must never return to a situation in which tens of millions who wanted insurance couldn't afford it, or when lifetime and annual limits on coverage left many bankrupted because of mounting medical bills. Moreover, Democ-

rats will not permit a return to a time when the 135 million Americans with pre-existing conditions—like asthma, diabetes, and cancer—were made uninsurable by discriminatory policies. The Affordable Care Act addressed all of these needs and must continue to be in place to protect Americans' access to high-quality, affordable health care.

"This is now the third time that the Supreme Court has upheld the Affordable Care Act. It is time for Republicans to abandon this quixotic effort and instead work with Democrats to strengthen and protect the law and make it benefit even more Americans. I urge them to stop trying to use Americans' health for partisan ends. Let us move forward together in a common effort to protect affordable health coverage for all."

## Statement From Executive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, on Supreme Court Ruling on Affordable Care Act

BALTIMORE (June 17, 2021)—Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, issues the following statement:

As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the creation of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable.

## The Prince George's Post

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Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011, administers Maryland Health Connection.

Maryland Health Connection (MHC) is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Comment from A1

lice and may be reviewed by contacting Lt. Lakeisha Robinson at 301-429-9837 or Lakeisha.robinson@pgparks.com.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division consists of 133 authorized sworn personnel, 33 civilian employees, and approximately 40 volunteers. Title 17, Subtitle 3, Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides the authority to enforce Maryland laws and local ordinances, as well as the rules and regulations specific to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Learn more at <https://www.mncppc.org/1647/Park-Police>.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

## Spacecraft from A1

be working on something that makes flight software accessible to so many people.

*What do you enjoy outside of work? Is there something surprising about you that people do not generally know?*

Outside of work I enjoy reading, knitting, and board games. I also travel whenever I get the chance.

*What book are you currently reading?*

I am in a book club organized by Women Engineers in Space and Technology (WEST) at Goddard. I am reading our current book club book, "Make Your Own Sunshine: Inspiring Stories of People Who Find Light in Dark Times."

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