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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES

The Robert Crain Highway Monument was erected in the Town of Upper Marlboro in September 1922. The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee will hold a re-creation of the above photograph on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.

Town of Upper Marlboro Looks to Re-Create Historic 1922 Crain Highway Monument Photo

"We are excited and proud to bring people together to re-create the photo that was taken 100 years ago"

By PRESS OFFICER
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 29, 2022)—This year marks the Centennial Anniversary of the Robert Crain Highway Monument. The monument was erected in the Town of Upper Marlboro in September 1922 to celebrate the start of the long journey to create a new regional road that would link Southern Maryland to Baltimore. The original celebration included officials from Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, Charles County, Prince George's County, St. Mary's County and Baltimore City.

The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee will hold a centennial celebration and a re-creation of an original photograph (above) from the September 1922 celebration. The photo re-enactment will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the monument, located at Main Street and Old Crain Highway in the Town of Upper Marlboro. Dignitaries from Baltimore City and the five original counties are expected to par-

ticipate, along with Town of Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin and her four fellow Commissioners.

"We are excited and proud to bring people together to re-create the photo that was taken 100 years ago," said Upper Marlboro Town Clerk John Hoatson, who is organizing the Oct. 1 festivities. "We hope everyone who attends will feel a tremendous sense of pride in the role that Upper Marlboro played as a catalyst for transportation and trade in the Southern Maryland region of our state. This will be a truly monumental event!"

The 1922 celebration and parade would forever change the Town of Upper Marlboro and its future. The Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore had decided that Southern Maryland was an important location for bringing produce and other agricultural items into Baltimore. The association and political figures in Southern Maryland created a route which would connect Baltimore to Southern Maryland counties.

The original program from the Sept. 1922 cer-

emony tells of the events leading up to that celebration. A train brought members of the association, the Mayor of Baltimore, and hundreds of Baltimoreans onto Upper Marlboro's Main Street for the celebration. Leading figures in the day's ceremony were Albert C. Ritchie, then-governor of MD; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crain, for whom Crain Highway was named; John N. Mackall, of the Maryland State Roads Commission; and the Honorable W. F. Broening, then Mayor of Baltimore.

As part of that regional observance, five young women representing each of the five counties participated in a flag ceremony along with the City of Baltimore. Governor Ritchie assured everyone that the flags would be preserved in the city hall as a constant reminder of the meaning of the ceremony. The U.S. Naval Academy Band played "Maryland, My Maryland." The celebration was a tribute to the retail merchants from Baltimore and Southern Maryland and the future of building up the trade to help all parties grow in business.

Robert Crain Highway was originally a narrow, twisted dirt path passable only by horse-drawn vehicles. This vital link between the two cities was improved with a total of \$1.25 million from the Maryland legislature (which would be \$21-\$22 million in today's dollars) to complete a better road. On Oct. 22, 1927, Robert Crain Highway opened for the first time, thus greatly improving trade between Baltimore and the southern Maryland counties.

"People have driven or walked past this unique historic monument every day for the past 100 years and probably didn't know its true significance to our town, to the region, and to the state," noted Mayor Franklin. "The Oct. 1 event will serve as an important reminder of how important the Town of Upper Marlboro has been to Maryland's economy for over a century. We want people to attend this centennial celebration and be an important part of our town's rich history."

For more information, visit the town's website (www.uppermarlboromd.gov) or call the town offices at 301-627-6905.

The Prince George's Film Office Announces Chad L. Coleman as Film Festival Ambassador

Inaugural Events Will Be Held in Prince George's County, Maryland September 22-25, 2022

By KISHA MASON
Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 26, 2022)—Critically acclaimed television, film and stage actor Chad L. Coleman has been tapped as the Prince George's Film Festival (PGFF) ambassador. In addition to his ambassador activities, Coleman will welcome attendees at the festival's opening night reception with an intimate conversation and short film screening on September 22 at the MGM National Harbor.

"I'm honored to serve as the first ambassador of the Prince George's Film Festival, which I know will become one of the County's most exciting and anticipated cultural attractions," said Coleman, announcing his participation. "I couldn't be more excited to engage with independent filmmakers and highlight Prince George's County as a burgeoning filmmaking destination. I'm certainly no stranger to this area. I'm from Richmond Virginia, my mother lived in Washington, DC with my great grandmother and baby sisters. I used to spend the summers with my

aunt and uncle who lived in Baltimore. I was stationed at the Pentagon and Fort Meade when I was in the military. I studied acting with Howard University's renowned Professor Emeritus Vera Katz. I performed at both the Shakespeare Theater and Arena Stage in Washington, DC. And then, of course, filming *The Wire* was a crowning achievement in my career. To be very clear, I am the DMV, and that includes Prince George's County."

Chad L. Coleman is best known for his role as fan-favorite 'Tyreese' in one of the most popular cable series of all time, the Golden Globe® nominated series *The Walking Dead* and as the reformed criminal "Dennis 'Cutty' Wise" in Emmy® award nominated HBO drama series *The Wire*. Coleman currently stars in Seth MacFarlane's hour-long comedy-drama series *The Orville* playing the role of 'Klyden,' a Moclancivilian living aboard the USS Orville with his mate Second Officer Bortus (Peter Macon) and their son Topa.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chad as the 2022 PGFF Festival Ambassador," said Donna Foster, general manager of the Prince George's Film Office

and director of PGFF. "He is an extraordinary talent with an extensive background in the film industry. As one of Hollywood's most sought-after actors, his ascension and notoriety in this industry will continue to rise to new heights. We were drawn to his passion for film and his heart for emerging talent in this field. We have no doubt that he will bring media awareness to our mission, elevate festival conversations, and inspire attendees. We enthusiastically welcome Chad into the PGFF family."

The 2022 PGFF experience will be a four-day celebration of cinematic arts and include virtual screenings, workshops, panel discussions, networking events, keynote speakers, an outdoor digital art exhibition, and special onsite film screenings featuring filmmakers, artists, industry powerhouses and film lovers from all over the country. To register for the Prince George's Film Festival, visit <https://pgff2022.eventive.org/>.

For festival information visit and follow @PGAHC on Instagram and Facebook. Join in on the conversation by using #PGFF.

Prince George's County Encourages Students to Be Seen, Be Alert and Be Safe Returning to School

By PAULETTE L. JONES
Prince George's County Dept of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 24, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) established the "Be Seen, Be Alert, Be Safe" Campaign to educate and inform children, teens, and adults about the importance of being visible to drivers while walking, biking and rolling on the road. We encourage students to be alert and safe by looking left, right and left again before crossing the street, obeying traffic signs, signals, and road markings, and wearing a helmet while biking. The "Be Seen, Be Alert, Be Safe" Campaign is a multigenerational initiative under the Vision Zero Prince George's strategy to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on County roadways by 2040.

Through the Be Seen, Be Alert, Be Safe Campaign, DPW&T introduced the PGC Bee Safe Team. The team serves as the mascots for bicycle and pedestrian safety which Anderson Longus, a talented young artist and Prince George's County resident, helped design.

Earlier this year, DPW&T's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and Vision Zero Prince George's led a virtual discussion on bicycle and pedestrian safety with drama class students at Charles H. Flowers High School. As a class project, Ms. Shanelle Ingram, the drama class teacher, assigned students to create a bicycle and pedestrian safety video. The students incorporated the safety information and tools they learned to write and record a public safety song and video with powerful safety messaging.

DPW&T is Prince George's Proud to share the safety video and song with residents to increase awareness about the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety. Information on Vision Zero Prince George's at www.VisionZeroPrinceGeorges.com.

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COMMUNITY

MPT Presents Third Annual HBCU Week September 5–11

Special program lineup places spotlight on historically Black colleges and universities

By PRESS OFFICER
MPT

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (Aug. 23, 2022)—Maryland Public Television (MPT) will again celebrate historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in September during its third annual HBCU Week, a slate of programs sharing informative and inspirational stories about HBCUs and the people who attend, graduate, administrate, and advocate for these important institutions of higher learning.

During the week of September 5–11, MPT will deliver more than 22 hours of content exploring the past, present, and future of HBCUs in the statewide public TV network's viewing area and throughout the United States.

HBCU Week offers stories of sacrifice, courage, innovation, and hope found in the archives of these important American institutions. This year, MPT will expand its coverage beyond history and education to present films covering HBCU contributions to the arts, music, and sports. Highlights include special one-hour episodes of Direct Connection and State Circle, a profile of former Morgan State University student Calvin Tyler, an evening of music-related programs, and a day of sports culminating with "The Battle for Greater Baltimore" football game between Morgan State University and Towson University.

Viewers can find more information about HBCU Week offerings and view trailers for upcoming programs at mpt.org/hbcu. Throughout the

week, audiences are encouraged to contribute to the conversation on social media using the hashtag #HBCUWeekMD.

HBCU Week is part of the statewide network's Standing Against Racism: Fostering Unity Through Dialogue initiative. MPT began this long-term initiative in 2020 to stimulate thoughtful discussion and increase understanding of race-related issues in communities across Maryland. More information and resources are available at mpt.org/racism.

In Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress defined an HBCU as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964 and whose principal mission is the education of African Americans. Today, more than 100 HBCUs educate nearly 300,000 enrolled students. The six HBCUs in MPT's viewing area are Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Howard University, Morgan State University, University of the District of Columbia, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

HBCU Week is sponsored by Bowie State University, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®) 2023 Basketball Tournament, and STEM City USA.

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. Visit mpt.org.

we are and will be dust, Work by Danny Varillas, to Open at The Pallet Rack

Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, 5–7 p.m.

Closing Community Party with Hands-on Natural Dyeing and Screenprinting: Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022

Exhibition on View: Saturday, Sept. 3–Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022

By PRESS OFFICER
Material Things

NORTH BRENTWOOD, Md. (Aug. 25, 2022)—Material Things presents *we are and will be dust*, an exhibition of new, handwoven works by Maryland-based artist Danny Varillas.

we are and will be dust will be on view in The Pallet Rack, an experimental gallery space at Material Things, from September 3 through October 1, 2022. An opening reception, free and open to the public, will be held on Saturday, September 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. A closing community party, featuring communal natural dyeing and screenprinting with the artist, will be held on Saturday, October 1, time forthcoming.

In *we are and will be dust*, Varillas focuses on the idea that all plants, animals, and humans are linked in a complex pattern of energy exchange. All living things eventually die into each others' lives, and then live into each others' deaths. The soil that living things return to is one that is full of death, but also fully alive. Fungi, bacteria, and microorganisms restore decayed matter for the next organism to be born into—they lay to rest and also rise. This natural model is a complex but perfect regenerative system. Referencing microscopic qualities of living soil, Varillas' work dwells on this magnificent system where all things are poetically connected in an indefinite cycle of exchange.

Materially, work in *we are and will be dust* combines fibers naturally dyed by the artist with traditional floor loom weaving and digital TC2 Jacquard weaving—a process involving a computer-controlled loom that is manually-operated. Varillas often manipulates the natural dyed fibers in his work using unconventional materials like bleach and spray paint, as a way of examining tensions between the natural and unnatural, the pure and impure, and the residual consequences of human interference in nature. One such point of contention that Varillas has started to study is the impacts, byproducts, and coping strategies associated with pest species.

About Danny Varillas

Danny Varillas (he/him) is a multidisciplinary artist and designer from Rockville, MD. He experiments across media in printmaking, textiles, and graphic design to explore ideas around culture, language, and the agrarian and craft roots of his own family history. Most recently, Varillas has used hand-weaving, natural dyeing, and sewing to create intricate works that reference the recognizable and microscopic qualities of natural processes. His background in digital design has led to an interest in connections between traditional weaving and modern computer technology, and a respect for interplay between the handmade and the automated.

In his design profession, Varillas focuses on brand identity for the art and cultural sec-

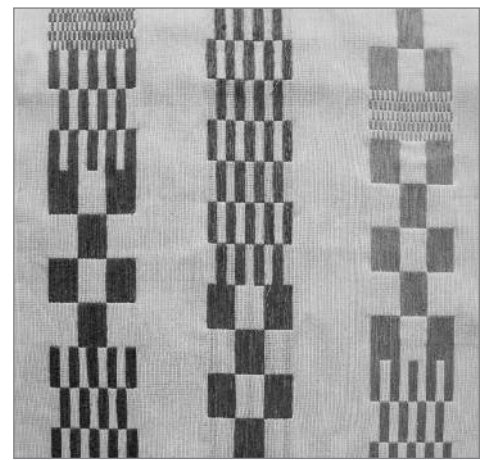


PHOTO COURTESY MATERIAL THINGS

ANAPHASE, 2022, handwoven linen and silk, hand-dyed with madder root, indigo, and marigold, 13 x 25 in.

tors. He currently works with the internationally-recognized design studio, Pentagram. Varillas received his B.F.A. in graphic design from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2019.

Material Things is the creative workspace of Francisco Rosario and Katie Aldworth, plus many others who make this creative community possible. Material Things is located at 4531 Rhode Island Ave, North Brentwood, MD 20722. Visit materialthingsstudio.com and @materialthingsstudio. The Pallet Rack is a 24 sq.-ft. exhibition space inside Material Things. Exhibit can be viewed Fri. 5–8 p.m., Sun. 12–3 p.m., or by appointment.

Pryor Named to Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (Aug. 25, 2022)—Bowie State University redshirt senior defensive lineman Joshua Pryor was named on Wednesday to the 2023 Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List.

The 74th annual game is scheduled to take place February 4, 2023 at Hancock Whitney Stadium at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala. Game time is slated

for 2:30 p.m. ET on the NFL Network.

The Reese's Senior Bowl is the nation's most prestigious college all-star game, as it annually serves as the first step of the NFL Draft process. The Reese's Senior Bowl showcased 40 percent of the entire 2022 NFL draft class, including 45 of the top 100 players.

Pryor, who has already earned numerous preseason accolades, returns to anchor the Bowie State Bulldogs defense that ranked

nationally a season ago.

In 2021, Pryor finished with 73 total tackles (42 solo), a team-high 12 quarterback pressures, six sacks (sixth in CIAA), and a conference third-best tackle-for-loss total (20.5). The preseason All-CIAA honoree garnered attention from NFL scouts throughout the 2021 season and has had a few scouts come out during this season's fall camp.

No. 8 Bowie State opens the 2022 season on Saturday, Sept. 3 against No. 16 New Haven. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. from Bulldog Stadium and fans can stream the game live on the Bulldog Sports Network.

Visit www.bsbulldogs.com.

Kaiser Permanente Opens New, Next Generation Medical Center in Prince George's County

West Hyattsville Medical Center to serve more than 26,000 Kaiser Permanente members, expanding access to high-quality health care in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Kaiser Permanente

ROCKVILLE, Md. (Aug. 22, 2022)—Kaiser Permanente, the region's largest integrated, nonprofit, health system, today opens the new 48,000-square-foot West Hyattsville Medical Center. This state-of-the-art facility expands access to award-winning health care in Prince George's County, offering on-site primary care services including adult and family medicine, a newborn care center, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics. The new medical center will also offer an unparalleled array of primary medical care services, including pharmacy and laboratory. The facility will serve more than 26,000 members each year.

"We are pleased to add another new facility to serve the members of Prince George's County with the opening of the West Hyattsville Medical Center," said Ruth Williams-Brinkley, regional president, Kaiser Permanente. "This modern facility combines the top-quality care in the nation with design and technology that improve convenience and experience for patients. This new facility and the care our members will receive inside is another example of Kaiser Permanente's ongoing commitment to invest in the health of all Prince George's County residents."

The new West Hyattsville Medical Center, which is located at 5620 Ager Road, replaces the current Prince George's Medical Center and is one of 35 Kaiser Permanente medical centers in the Mid-Atlantic. The West Hyattsville Medical Center is one of six new next-generation medical centers opening in the Mid-Atlantic region between 2021 and 2022 and the fourth new Kaiser Permanente medical center in Maryland. In 2021, Kaiser Permanente's opened the Bowie Fairwood Medical Center, also in Prince George's County, as well as Friendship Heights, in Montgomery County. The new Lutherville-Timonium Medical Center in Baltimore County opened in January 2022. Two additional new facilities are scheduled to open later this year in Caton Hill (Woodbridge) and Springfield, Virginia.

"We are proud to provide our patients with the highest quality care in the nation," said Richard Mc-

Carthy, MD, executive medical director for Kaiser Permanente. "Our physicians focus on providing care that is convenient and comprehensive for every patient. As a result, research shows our patients live six years longer than other patients. The West Hyattsville Medical Center allows us to expand our exceptional care to more patients in Prince George's County. Our new state-of-the-art facility is designed to support our collaborative, integrated care model."

West Hyattsville offers convenient features and innovative technology for both patients and the care team. Patients at West Hyattsville and other new Kaiser Permanente facilities are welcomed with living room and café-style seating. The facility's patient exam rooms include exam tables that measure weight, and large screens in the rooms to allow for virtual appointments and education. Kaiser Permanente patients at West Hyattsville and other locations can connect with their physicians and care teams in many convenient ways, including through telephone, video appointments and secure messaging. More than 85 staff and physicians will care for patients at the West Hyattsville Medical Center. The facility is expected to have 40,000 visits per year.

The new West Hyattsville Medical Center offers patients convenient access to parking in a 3-story parking garage with electric car charging stations and reserved parking for expectant mothers. West Hyattsville Medical Center is also located near bus transit and the West Hyattsville Metro station.

Continuing Kaiser Permanente's longstanding commitment to sustainability, the West Hyattsville Medical Center earned LEED® Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED rating system is the foremost program for buildings, homes, and communities that improve environmental and human health performance. The building achieved LEED certification for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions to achieve high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The award-winning care provided at the new West Hyattsville Medical Center and the 35 other Kaiser Permanente facilities across Maryland, Wash-



PHOTO COURTESY KAISER PERMANENTE

The new West Hyattsville Medical Center, which is located at 5620 Ager Road.

ington, D.C., and Virginia helps the more than 800,000 Kaiser Permanente members in the Mid-Atlantic live longer, healthier lives. The integrated care provided by the Kaiser Permanente care team leads to earlier detection and better treatment of heart disease, stroke, and breast cancer, resulting in lives saved among its members each year. In fact, recent data shows that Kaiser Permanente members live six years longer than other patients.

Kaiser Permanente's Mid-Atlantic region is the only health plan in the nation to receive a 5 out of 5 rating for both its Medicare and commercial plans in the National Committee for Quality Assurance's (NCQA) Health Insurance Plan Ratings for 2021–2022. In addition, 2021 marked the 10th year in a row that the health system's Mid-Atlantic region received 5 out of 5 stars from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for its 2021 health plan. The West Hyattsville Physician Site Lead, pediatrician Dr. Rennie Thomas, has been named a top doctor by Washingtonian magazine.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve almost 12.5 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health. For more information, go to about.kp.org

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



To Be Equal:

President Biden's Student Debt Relief Plan Is a Welcome First Step in Addressing the Higher Education Affordability Crisis

"By forgiving up to \$20,000 in burdensome student loan debt, President Biden is giving working and middle class families the financial breathing room the desperately need. Buying a home, founding a business, starting a family, and so much more will now be a financial possibility for millions more Americans. But we cannot stop there. The Congressional Black Caucus remains committed to achieving additional reforms to ensure current, and future borrowers are not subjected to this cycle of burdensome debt."

—Congressional Black Caucus Chair Rep. Joyce Beatty

In the 1970s, the maximum federal Pell Grant covered nearly 80 percent of the cost of a four-year public college degree. Today, it covers only a third.

In the 1970s, a student could earn an entire year's tuition at a public university by working just five hours a week at a minimum wage job. Today, a student would have to work 28 hours a week.

From 1978 to 2012, college tuition rose four times faster than inflation and has risen three times faster in the last decade.

Since 1970, the average student loan debt at graduation has increased 317% when adjusted for inflation.

In other words, this is not your grandfather's student debt.

This week President Biden offered much-needed relief to millions of federal student loan borrowers. With the stroke of a pen, he is forgiving \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those making under \$125,000 a year. One in four Black borrowers would see their debt cleared entirely under the President's plan. Pell grant recipients, who are twice as likely to be Black, are eligible for an additional \$10,000 in relief.

The extra relief for Pell grants recipients is responsive to the National Urban League's call for an approach that recognizes these borrowers

often owe more and for longer periods.

According to a Brookings Institution report, Black college graduates owe an average \$7,400 more than their white peers upon graduation. Four years after graduation, they owe an average \$52,726, compared with \$28,006 for the average white college graduate, according to the report, which included nonborrowers in the average. About two-thirds of Black borrowers owe more than they originally borrowed 12 years after starting college.

President Biden's plan also extends the moratorium on federal loan repayment until the end of the year and takes other long-term steps to ameliorate the college debt crisis for all.

Student debt stands in the way of entrepreneurship, homeownership, and even the day-to-day purchase of necessities. But it's not just bad news for the borrowers. It's bad news for all Americans. A surprising one out of every five recipients of food stamps (SNAP) holds a post-secondary degree. An even higher percentage of Medicare enrollees —nearly one in four—hold postsecondary degrees.

While only a first step, the President's actions will put borrowers one step closer to the financial freedom needed to purchase a home, save for retirement, and build wealth for themselves and their families. But we can do better.

Canceling \$50,000 in student debt for households with income below \$100,000 would increase Black borrowers' wealth to from 5% of white borrowers wealth to 33%, while increasing forgiveness to \$75,000 in forgiveness would raise it to 42%.

Congress must work on a long-term strategy for student loan debt relief for existing borrowers and reducing the cost of college for current and future students.

The National Urban League stands ready to work with Congress and the White House to make college more accessible and affordable for all.

—August 26, 2022

ChildWatch:

Finishing Summer the CDF Freedom Schools® Way

Thousands of students who attended Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® summer enrichment programs this year are now headed back to school armed with the confidence that for every new challenge this school year brings, as the CDF Freedom Schools motivational song says, "There's something inside so strong!" Every year the college-aged Servant Leader Interns who teach in CDF Freedom Schools programs and the adults who serve in all kinds of leadership roles marvel at the children's growth and achievements over the course of the summer. The nonprofit Freedom School Partners coordinates programs for children in grades K-8 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and they recently shared stories from a few of the adults who were part of their community's Freedom Summer.

Shaonda Melton is the parent of two CDF Freedom Schools alumni, and her five-year-old grandson Kaiden just finished his first year as a student, or "scholar," at one of the Charlotte sites. For the last twelve years she's also served as the Freedom School Partners' Transportation Coordinator, overseeing bus schedules for the regular day routes and field trips. It's small wonder that she says the CDF Freedom Schools program has been a "a huge part of my family for so long." Employees from the bus company closed their office one day this summer so their drivers and even the company's owner could attend one of the special CDF Freedom Schools programs and see the scholars in action, and afterwards those colleagues were asking how they could enroll their own children next summer too.

Melton's family has adapted CDF Freedom Schools traditions into their routines at home, including using a mini version of "Harambee," the morning meeting and greeting, as they wake Kaiden up each day. This summer she got to watch the CDF Freedom Schools program ignite Kaiden's interest in reading—"He has a new spark to learn. He's ready to go over sight words now because he wants to be able to read fun books"—just as she's seen it spark the same love of learning in other scholars over the years: "I have seen the transformation of scholars having a true foundation of learning through fun exploration and activities . . . Sometimes learning is intentional, sometimes it's not. It's just doing and not even noticing that it is happening."

Just like Shaonda Melton, Freedom Schools Partners Senior Program Director Tiffany Williams has been part of the CDF Freedom Schools family for a long time. During college she spent four summers serving a Servant Leader Intern, and then worked in a CDF Freedom Schools afterschool program before being hired as a Program Assistant. Now, after a long progression of teaching and leadership roles, she oversees the Charlotte programs. Her experience gives her confidence in how much the CDF Freedom Schools program is making a difference right now and high hopes for the future:

"To me, Freedom School represents how teaching and education should be. I think the 'Freedom' in Freedom School is so important because our scholars are free to be themselves. At Freedom School, we value everyone for what they bring to the larger group. I also often say that Freedom School is magic because of the transformations we see in our scholars and staff each summer . . . I hope to see Freedom School making an impact in our schools, especially the ones we focus on. Can you imagine 50, 60, or 70 students coming back to school in August more excited about reading and learning, and more prepared overall for the school year? These students would come with increased self-confidence and conflict-resolution skills. We also have teachers and future teachers who work with us that now can infuse the Freedom School way into their classrooms, influencing the overall culture of schools."

Imagine this impact multiplied in schools and communities across our country! This summer CDF Freedom Schools programs operated in 90 cities and 25 states, serving more than 10,000 students and giving each one a literary-rich experience that nourished their minds, bodies, and souls. In addition to nurturing a love of reading and avoiding summer learning loss, scholars have self-reported that their CDF Freedom Schools experience helped them regulate their emotions and behaviors, empathize with others, communicate and listen, negotiate conflict well, and make good choices. These students are headed back into their year-round classrooms ready to soar, and that's a summer every child deserves.

—August 26, 2022

Maryland Delegation Announces Nearly \$42 Million for Eco-Friendly Upgrades to Regional Bus Systems in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery Counties

WASHINGTON (Aug. 22, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), John Sarbanes (MD-03), Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), Jamie Raskin (MD-08) and David Trone (MD-06) today in announcing \$41,765,975 in federal funds to improve and rehabilitate bus systems in Maryland to support the adoption of fuel-efficient technologies, such as low- and zero-emission vehicles.

These awards are administered through the Department of Transportation's Buses and Facilities Program and the Low or No Emissions Program. This funding comes from the \$1.47

billion made available to these programs through the fiscal year 2022 funding law, which the lawmakers worked to pass earlier this year, and is authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

"Upgrading our public transportation to be more fuel-efficient will improve Marylanders' daily commutes, save taxpayer dollars, and reduce air pollution in our communities. That's why we're pleased to announce this substantial federal funding to transition Maryland bus systems away from heavily polluting equipment. Our public transportation plays a vital role in keeping our communities connected and our economies strong and upgrading our stations and

fleets to accommodate fuel-efficient technologies is the next step in improving our transit infrastructure as we work to combat climate change," the lawmakers said. "Investing in projects like these that will keep our communities safe while combatting climate change is exactly why we fought to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We will continue working to secure federal funding for initiatives like this one."

Prior to receiving this funding, the Delegation wrote to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and Federal Transit Administrator Fernandez in support of these Maryland applications. The grant awardees include:

- \$25,000,000 to Prince George's County Government to buy approximately 20 zero-emission, battery electric buses and upgrade the electrical system at their transit depot, add additional electric chargers at multiple transit hubs and install a microgrid, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1,227 metric tons per year.
- \$14,875,975 to Montgomery County Department of Transportation to buy 13 zero-emission buses powered by hydrogen fuel cell technology. MCDOT, which operates close to 400 buses in Maryland's most populous county, has committed to transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2035.

- \$1,890,000 to Maryland Transit Administration, Anne Arundel County to purchase Anne Arundel County approximately four diesel-electric hybrid buses as part of their five-year plan to transition to a zero-emission fleet.
- The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program makes federal resources available to states and directs recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and

to construct bus-related facilities, including by making technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants. The goal of the Low and No Emission Vehicle Program is to assist transit agencies in their shift to cleaner technologies, supporting the administration's goal of reducing emissions by 50% by the end of the decade.

Top Black Leaders in Maryland Emphasize Equity in Choice of Prince George's County for New Consolidated FBI HQ

President Biden has made a strong commitment to ensuring that federal resources are more equitably distributed to communities of color

WASHINGTON (Aug. 29, 2022)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), Congressman Kweisi Mfume (MD-07), Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Maryland House of Delegates Speaker Adrienne A. Jones urged the Biden Administration to choose a Prince George's County site for the new consolidated FBI headquarters as part of the federal government's broader equity and empowerment initiatives.

Two of the three sites in the final-selection round are in Prince George's County, the largest majority Black jurisdiction in the

region, which has not seen an equitable share of federal office space.

"Prince George's County remains the best positioned to serve as the home of the FBI's new consolidated headquarters," the leaders wrote. "The county offers a talented and educated workforce ready to support such an investment while taking the best advantage of its economic impact to grow local communities that have historically been left behind in allocations of federal office space."

The leaders continued, "We hope you will take all of these factors into strong consid-

eration when making a final decision on site selection. Choosing a site in Prince George's County would not only be good for the FBI, national security, and the environment; it would also further the Biden-Harris Administration's important equity goals."

While Prince George's County has 48% of federal warehouse space and 20% of the region's federal workforce, it hosts only 4% of the region's federal office space. Median incomes are 48% lower in Prince George's County than in Fairfax County, Virginia and Prince Georgians' median incomes trail the region as a whole by 18%.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

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Location: Virtual • Cost: Free

Contact: Catherine Raley at craley@salisbury.edu

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The #IamRemarkable is a Google initiative empowering women and other underrepresented groups to celebrate their achievements in the workplace and beyond. It will help business owners, especially women, to be more confident when offering their services/products. Visit <https://iamremarkable.withgoogle.com/> for more information.

Virginia Dinzey-Taveras, MBA. Founder & CEO of Adaptive Business Solutions, in the Greater Washington DC area, provides accounting and bookkeeping services, growth strategy coaching, business consulting, and financial literacy education to her clients and community. ¡Hablamos Español! Virginia is distinguished as a business growth strategist.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Military Wife Turning 65 Seeks Information About Medicare

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the **Association of Mature American Citizens**

Dear Rusty: My husband is 63 and I will be 65 in a few months. He's retired from the Air Force, so we currently have Tricare Select. As I understand it, I only need to sign up for Medicare Part B, which I think I can do now. Can I do this online, or do I need to go somewhere to enroll? And how do I find the cost? We also currently are enrolled in and pay for FEDVIP for our dental and vision. Is vision handled under Medicare? All our adult life we've just used Air Force bases and now we have to pay attention and we don't know where to start. Any guidance is appreciated. **Signed: Retired Military Wife**

Dear Military Wife: First, please extend my gratitude to your husband for his military service. I'm happy to assist you with your questions.

With few exceptions (mainly those on active duty and military reservists) TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare Part B as soon as you are eligible (age 65) to retain your Tricare coverage. If you're already collecting Social Security, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B at age 65 and won't need to do a separate enrollment. If not, enrolling can be easily done online by going to this link: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/. Here you'll see an explanation of how Medicare works, and you can scroll down to the "Apply for Medicare Only" tab to start your application. You will need to first have your personal "my Social Security" online account set up to apply online for Medicare, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You should enroll in Medicare during your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) which starts 3 months before the month you turn 65 and ends three months after the month you turn 65. So, if you are within 3 months of age 65 you can enroll in Medicare now and your coverage will start in the month you turn 65. Your Medicare coverage will start on the first of the month you turn 65, even if your birthday isn't until later in the month. If you have any trouble enrolling in Medicare online, you can call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to enroll in Medicare.

It's important to understand Medicare's various "parts." Medicare Part A is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and is free for anyone who is also eligible for Social Security (you don't need to be collecting SS, only eligible to). Medicare Part B is coverage for outpatient medical services (e.g., doctors, tests, etc.) and there is a monthly premium associated with Part B. The 2022 Part B premium is \$170.10 per month and, unless you're on Social Security, you'll make arrangements when you enroll in Medicare to pay those premiums separately, usually quarterly. If you're already collecting Social Security, the Medicare Part B premium will be deducted from your monthly SS payment. When your Medicare coverage starts, Medicare will become the primary payor of your healthcare expenses and TriCare will become secondary payor.

Medicare Part C is an "Advantage" plan obtained through a private insurer and used instead of Part A and Part B. Medicare also has a Part D which is for prescription drug coverage, and which you probably won't need because TriCare likely covers any prescription drug needs you may have.

Medicare Part B does not provide routine dental services, and only provides very limited vision services (screenings for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and screening for and treatment of macular degeneration), but routine eye screenings, contacts, eyeglasses, and frames, etc., are not covered. TriCare's vision coverage is also very limited, so if your current FEDVIP is not adequate for your needs, you may wish to explore your options for private dental and vision coverage.

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

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Governor Hogan Announces Maryland's State Small Business Credit Initiative Programs Now Open

Three Agencies Partnering to Expand and Enhance State's Business Lending and Investment Programs

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 23, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced Maryland programs funded by the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) are open. Up to \$198 million in federal small business relief is being administered by three state agencies: the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the Maryland Department of Commerce, and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). These agencies will use funds to expand and enhance nine existing state business lending and investment programs.

"The State of Maryland's small business programs are proven and effective, providing critical relief during the pandemic and supporting strong economic growth during our ongoing recovery," said Governor Hogan. "This additional funding will ensure Maryland continues to remain open for business by supercharging these programs to increase capacity and better serve entrepreneurs and small businesses, especially those creating jobs and other opportunities that fuel the revitalization of disinvested communities."

Created by Congress in 2010, SSBCI received a \$10 billion allocation as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Maryland was the first state in the nation to submit its SSBCI deployment plan to the United States Treasury Department and was one of the first five states to be approved. The nine programs funded by SSBCI will support businesses with limited opportunities for growth whether due to the pandemic or historic disinvestment. Maryland's statewide SSBCI initiatives will target communities and areas with a high concentration of small, micro, and Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual (SEDI) businesses to support ongoing state investments in underserved communities.

Neighborhood BusinessWorks. DHCD will deploy up to \$103 million and disburse the funds through three Neighborhood BusinessWorks program initiatives. The program provides financing to new and expanding small businesses impacting and operating within Maryland's designated Opportunity Zones, Priority Funding Areas, and Sustainable Communities and Community Development Financing Institution (CDFI) Investment Areas. The Neighborhood BusinessWorks Loan to Lender initiative directly supports CDFI revitalization and investment efforts, providing funds for them to re-lend to local small businesses. The Neighborhood BusinessWorks Loan Participation Program assists eligible businesses with working capital and real estate acquisition. The Neighborhood BusinessWorks Venture Loans initiative supports strategic businesses with high potential job growth.

"Neighborhood BusinessWorks has provided more than \$70 million in capital to small businesses under Governor Hogan's leadership," said DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "These additional resources and new program initiatives will leverage the program's

successful partnerships and processes to assist new and expanding businesses in cities, towns, and communities throughout Maryland."

Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority. The Maryland Department of Commerce will deploy up to \$45 million through two Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority (MSBDF) programs. Created in 1978 to promote the viability and expansion of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual-led businesses, MSBDF is now available to small businesses that are unable to obtain adequate business financing on reasonable terms. In particular, the program has become a well-established resource to support the growth of minority and women-owned businesses through a network of government agencies, local economic development organizations, banks, and private equity companies, as well as numerous business associations, chambers of commerce, and local professionals.

"The MSBDF program is an important finance tool in helping underserved small businesses owners and their communities throughout our state," said Maryland Commerce Secretary Mike Gill. "This federal funding has the potential to help numerous entrepreneurs in Maryland and provide the much-needed business assistance they have been seeking. We are grateful for this additional financing and look forward to helping our business community continue its economic recovery."

TEDCO Programs. TEDCO will deploy up to \$50 million and will allocate the funds into four existing programs targeting technology-based Maryland businesses and entrepreneurs. Three programs—the Venture Equity Fund, Venture Capital Limited Partnership Equity program, and Seeds Funds Equity program—are primarily focused on venture capital and startup funding. The fourth, the Social Impact Fund, provides investment and support to entrepreneurs who demonstrate economic or social disadvantage. Through these four programs, TEDCO will continue to leverage its relationships with top-tier technology companies, entrepreneurs, and investors in the state while collaborating with universities, regional business accelerators and incubators, and other organizations.

"I want to first thank DHCD for their leadership in ensuring Maryland was one of the first states to receive approval," said TEDCO CEO, Troy LeMaile-Stovall. "These SSBCI funds will help TEDCO accelerate our mission of empowering early-stage technology innovation and entrepreneurship. Our \$50M will be used to fund four programs—Venture Equity Fund, Venture Capital Limited Partnership Equity program, Seed Funds Equity program and the Social Impact Funds—all of which help innovators and entrepreneurs achieve their dreams and scale."

For more information about the nine Maryland business assistance programs supported by SSBCI and how to apply, visit <http://open.maryland.gov/ssbci>.

Governor Hogan Announces Maryland Manufacturing 4.0 Grant Program

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL

Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 22, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the launch of the Maryland Manufacturing 4.0 grant program, a new Maryland Department of Commerce initiative that provides grants to small and mid-sized Maryland manufacturers to invest in Industry 4.0 technologies to modernize their operations. This pilot program is funded by \$1 million in the fiscal year 2023 budget, which focuses on continuing the state's strong economic recovery.

"Manufacturing and innovation have played a critical role in our incredible economic turnaround," said Governor Hogan. "We are excited to launch the new Maryland Manufacturing 4.0 program as an

other tool to help our manufacturers stay competitive in a rapidly changing environment and to revolutionize how they do business."

Similar to smart manufacturing, Industry 4.0 represents the fourth industrial revolution. It focuses on the digitization and automation of manufacturing facilities to help companies remain competitive and drive business growth.

Examples of qualified projects and investments include the adoption of additive manufacturing; installing new robotic or automated equipment to modernize production; implementing IoT technologies, such as shop floor data sensors, smart warehouse systems, or new quality control systems; investing in big data and analytic systems to study operations; and employee training costs associated with the imple-

mentation of new technologies. Awarded grants will cover 50% of project costs, with a minimum grant of \$15,000 and a maximum grant of \$50,000.

"With thousands of manufacturers in Maryland, we are continuously looking for new and innovative ways to support our businesses across the state," said Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Mike Gill. "This program has the potential to help dozens of companies modernize operations and further grow their presence in the state's advanced manufacturing sector."

Anticipated outcomes from investing in Industry 4.0 technologies could include increased productivity and sales, cost savings, retention of employees, and more. To learn more and apply for the program, visit commerce.maryland.gov/m4grant.

Maryland Receives Nearly \$1M Grant Created by Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act to Protect Small Businesses From Cyberattacks

By SUE WALITSKY/TIM ZINK

Cardin Communications

WASHINGTON (Aug. 23, 2022)—U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Chair Ben Cardin and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) lauded the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announcement today that the Maryland Department of Commerce has been awarded \$930,155 to implement a pilot program to protect the state's small businesses from cyberthreats.

The SBA awarded the funds through the Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program, which was created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that Congress enacted last year. The grant will allow the Maryland Department of Commerce to provide training, counseling, re-

mediation, and other tailored cybersecurity services to small businesses across the state.

"As ransomware and other cyberattacks become more prevalent, Senate Democrats and the Biden Administration are taking action to expand access to cybersecurity resources for small businesses," Senator Cardin said. "This grant was created by the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and it will give the State of Maryland the resources necessary to help small businesses identify their vulnerabilities and fortify their defenses against cyberthreats."

"Maryland's small business community is a core driver of our state's economy, and we need to do everything we can to help them succeed. That's why the historic infrastructure modernization law we passed includes this measure to bolster

their cybersecurity systems in the face of increasingly complex online threats. This investment is going to help protect Maryland small businesses' most important assets: their employees and customers," said Senator Van Hollen.

Cyberattacks are a growing threat to small businesses. Nearly 9-in-10 small business owners surveyed by the SBA reported that their business was vulnerable to a cyberattack.

Small businesses are attractive targets because they have information that cybercriminals want, but they lack the resources to protect themselves from cyberthreats. These cybercrimes are costly. The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that in 2021, cybercrimes cost small businesses \$2.4 billion.

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Around the Region from A2

The free introductory period to access the workshops only lasts for a limited time, after which, the course registration is \$15. Learn more and register at <https://umeagfs.teachable.com/p/maryland-food-ventures-cottage-onfarm>. For more food safety resources from farm-to-table visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/food-safety-farm-table-resources-marylanders>.

Save the Date for the 8th Annual Green Summit!

We are excited to announce that your Department of the Environment will return to Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Road, Landover, MD 20785, to host this year's Green Summit! Join us **Saturday, October 22** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for fun, green vendors and workshops focusing on our environmental impacts, such as litter, composting, clean air & energy, flooding, recycling and more!

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required at doesummit2022.eventbrite.com.

Partners interested in tabling or hosting a workshop must fill out this Exhibitor Application and submit no later than Friday, September 16, 2022.

For questions or more information about the 8th annual Green Summit, please contact Brittani Garner at BGarner@co.pg.md.us.
—The DoE Sprout, Aug. 18, 2022,

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Exact dates, times, and fares are available by visiting borail.events/pex. Ticket prices range from \$47 to \$90, depending on the date and time of the ride and train class for seating.

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