

The Prince George's Post



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Town of Edmonston Turns 100!

By PRESS OFFICER
Town of Edmonston

EDMONSTON, Md. (April 30, 2024)—The Town of Edmonston proudly announces its upcoming Centennial Celebration, commemorating 100 years of community history and resilience. We cordially invite you to join us for this occasion on June 1, 2024!

The festivities will begin with a vibrant parade, weaving through the heart of our town and showcasing our esteemed elected officials, including the mayor and council members. Accompanied by live DJ performances and captivating entertainment acts, the parade will set the stage for an unforgettable day of celebration.

Following the parade, our festival will kick off with a myriad of activities designed to delight attendees of all ages. From indulging in delectable offerings at food trucks to enjoying live entertainment, games, encounters with native animals, and even a foam party, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Additionally, special recognition ceremonies will honor our graduates and local businesses, highlighting their contributions to our vibrant community.

As the day draws to a close, guests will be treated to a spectacular fireworks display, illuminating the night sky and serving as a grand finale to this extraordinary celebration.

Join us on June 1, 2024, as we come together to commemorate a century of community spirit, resilience, and joy



at the Town of Edmonston's Centennial Celebration!

Town of Edmonston:

The government of the Town of Edmonston is committed to providing all of the necessary services at the highest level to our residents, businesses, and visitors, ensuring a premium quality

of life is maintained. This will be achieved by exercising fiduciary prudence, maintaining open lines of communication, providing a safe and clean environment for all persons, and planning for the future with the support and cooperation of our community
www.edmonstonmd.gov

PGCPS Leads State in Certified Green Schools

Three out of four PGCPS schools are 'certified green,' outpacing all other Maryland districts

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 30, 2024)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state in Maryland Green School certification, with four schools earning first-time certification and 47 schools recertified, raising the total number of green schools to 150.

"It takes a concerted effort by students and staff to keep Prince George's County in the forefront of the Maryland Green School program," said Superintendent Milton House II. "This achievement supports the goals outlined in our nationally-recognized Climate Change Action Plan and highlights our work to reduce carbon footprint, improve energy efficiency and build a culture of environmental stewardship."

PGCPS schools earning Maryland Green School certification for the first time include Brandywine, Francis T. Evans and Mary Harris "Mother" Jones elementary schools and Imagine Andrews Public Charter School.

The William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center—which has played a key role in both growing PGCPS school certifications and helping schools maintain Green School status—earned Maryland Green Center

Sustainable Bronze status for maintaining certification for the past 18 years.

Schools earning recertification include:

- **High Schools (7)**—Academy of Health Sciences, Bowie High School, Crossland, Non-Traditional Program 9-12 North, Non-Traditional Program 9-12 South, Oxon Hill and Suitland
- **K-8/Middle Schools (8)**—Benjamin D. Foulois Creative & Performing Arts Academy, Benjamin Tasker Middle School, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ernest Everett Just, Hyattsville, Stephen Decatur, Thomas Johnson and William W. Hall Academy
- **Elementary Schools (22)**—Capitol Heights, Carmody Hills, Carrollton, Cherokee Lane, Doswell E. Brooks, Heather Hills, Hillcrest Heights, Hollywood, James Ryder Randall, Judge Sylvania Woods, Magnolia, Mattaponi, Mount Rainier, Panorama, Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion, Pointer Ridge, Port Towns, Rosa Parks, University Park, Vansville,

See CERTIFIED Page A3

Democratic Senate Candidate Alsobrooks Aims to Bring New Perspective to the Capitol

Editor's note: A profile on Democratic Senate candidate David Trone, also by Capital News Service, is on page 4.

By KATHARINE WILSON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (May 1, 2024)—Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks hopes to bring a new perspective to the U.S. Senate. Maryland voters will decide on May 14 if she's prepared to make the leap.

"The people who are closest to the pain are also closest to the solutions," Alsobrooks said in an April 4 Zoom interview with Capital News Service.

The candidate, who has served as a county state's attorney and currently as county executive, believes that her experience being close to her constituents could bring something new to the Senate, highlighting the importance of understanding how policies impact people.

Alsobrooks is running against Rep. David Trone and eight of less-prominent Democrats in the Maryland Democratic

Senate primary. Former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is the Republican frontrunner.

Alsobrooks was born in 1971 in Prince George's County, Maryland, to a working class family. What she remembers about her childhood is how her community stressed the importance of taking care of others.

"We had an obligation to care about the success of others," Alsobrooks said. "That has stuck with me to really not only work hard to make sure that we're improving the world."

She attended Duke University for her B.A. in public policy and the University of Maryland School of Law.

Alsobrooks started as an assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County in 1997, eventually becoming the county's first full-time domestic violence prosecutor.

During her time in the latter post, Al-

sobrooks said there was a moment when she realized that her daughter was growing up in a place less safe than the one Alsobrooks grew up in.

Alsobrooks said she decided that there was more she could do to address systemic issues in the county.

"There were so many in our courtrooms and courthouses who were seeking second chances, and I realized that many of them had never had the first chance of success," Alsobrooks said.

She was elected in 2010 as the Prince George's County state's attorney, the top law enforcement officer. Under her tenure, violent crime dropped by over 50% between 2011 and 2018, according to FBI crime data, when Alsobrooks was a part of a group of county leaders focused on crime reduction.

Alsobrooks then won her election for county executive in 2018.

She takes credit for helping to build



PHOTO CREDIT: KATHARINE WILSON/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

SILVER SPRING, Md. —Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks during a March 2 Senate candidates forum hosted by the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club.

10 new schools in the county, creating jobs and leading the county through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I've done policy, but I've also been on the implementation side," Alsobrooks said. "We need people right now in Washington who know how to get things done, not just talk."

Alsobrooks accepted 46 out of 50 police reform recommendations in 2021 that came out of the county's police reform work group. The tough-on-crime state's attorney said that good leadership and re-

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Library Invites the Community to Celebrate a Diversity of Cultures During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (April 29, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is hosting more than 40 events in May 2024 to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, with programs representing the culture and traditions of Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the wider Asian diaspora including Afghanistan, China, Hawaii, India, Japan, Nepal, and more for children, teens, and adults.

Among the highlights for the month-long celebration is "In Full Bloom: Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage," presented by Prince George's County Councilmember Wanika Fisher (District 2) and Council Chair Jolene Ivey (District 5) at the Hyattsville Branch Library on Tuesday, May 28 at 5:30 pm. Celebrating solidarity and diversity, the all-ages event will honor Asian Pacific Americans in Prince George's County and beyond through captivating performances, enlightening discussions, and delicious cultural cuisine.

"Prince George's County is home to tens of thousands of people who are part of the diverse Asian Pacific American community," said Shom Tiwari, a library associate at the Hyattsville Branch Library who leads the system's Asian Pacific American Heritage Team. This team has curated "a range of events and resources for everyone to celebrate the May heritage month. Our fun and educational programs will include arts and crafts, music and dance, socio-political topics, book discussions, STEM, storytimes, and more."

Featured programs for PGCMLS' 2024 Asian

Pacific American Heritage Month events include the following:

All Ages
Bharathanatyam Beats: Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Through Fusion Dance - Presented by chitra.MOVES
Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. | Bladensburg Branch Library

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M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Joins KABOOM! in National Initiative to End Playspace Inequity

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To Be Equal: We Can't Afford to Let Anyone Swiftboat Us on Bidenomics
Americans for Prosperity, the conservative think tank funded by the Koch Brothers, launched a very strategic and well-funded effort to "Swiftboat" Bidenomics and all the good news and positive outcomes
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Prince George's County Planning Board and Planning Department Announce May 2024 Events and Meetings

Drs. Sonja Richmond and Ever Ponciano Join Hospice of the Chesapeake

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Morningside installs new Speed Cameras on Suitland Rd.

Elayne McKenzie sent this warning: "Be careful while driving through Morningside. They have installed northbound and southbound speed cameras in front of the Exxon gas station and across the street.

"I received a \$40 ticket in the mail. (Plus, a \$3.50 service charge.) I've lived in the area for 32 years and never received one of those. I spoke with the Morningside Police Department, and they said this is all new. They just got approval to install speed cameras. There may be more coming in the future."

Thank you for the warning, Elayne! I'll slow down!

Town of Morningside: volunteers needed for July 4

A very Happy Birthday to Morningside's Mayor Benn Cann on May 18!

May meetings: Monthly Work Session May 14, 7 p.m. Monthly Town General Meeting, May 21. Both at 7 p.m.

After the election of two Council Members on May 6, there will be a Swearing-in Ceremony on Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m.

Morningside's annual Spring Clean-Up is coming up the weekend of May 18/19. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also, on Sunday, May 19, a Low-Cost Dog & Cat Shot Clinic.

Skate Van & Ice-Cream Social, June 22.

Volunteers are needed for the 4th of July Parade, Family Fun, and Fireworks. For information or to volunteer, call 301-736-2301.

Graduations

Meghan Elizabeth Nyers, daughter of Larry and Jody Bowman Nyers, received her psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) degree in April from Walden University. Meghan is also a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County as well as earning a master's degree in nursing from The Citadel. "Her desire to continue her education has taken her to achieving this milestone of becoming a nurse practitioner. We are very proud of all of her academic accomplishments."

Email your graduations to me at muddmm@gmail.com. Include name of graduate, school, plans for the future, and any further remarks you'd like to add.

Fur and feather report

I have a bowl of water on my back deck, so the birds have another place to get a drink. However, in recent days the only ones I've seen using it is a black cat who drops by regularly, a squirrel and a possum.

Cicadas are coming this spring and summer to "the American Midwest and South." I'm not sure if that means Maryland.

The Prince George's County Animal Services and Adoption Facility (ASFAC) has resumed accepting pets whose owners can no longer care for them. In addition, all adoption fees, including spay and neuter services, have returned to their original price schedule. (ASFAC had suspended the intake of owner-surrender dogs due to space constraints and the facility undergoing a deep cleaning protocol for diseases.)

A Low-cost Dog & Cat shot clinic will be held in the Town of Morningside on Sunday, May 19.

Changing landscape

Daughter Sheila and I enjoyed a Mexican drink and Enchiladas at 100 Plus Latino on Allentown Way in Camp Springs. It's not a new restaurant, but it was new to us, and it was good! Maybe Tacos or Burritos next time.

Pimlico, in Baltimore, will shut down for "rebuilding," after the Preakness, coming up May 17-18. It looks as though Preakness Stakes 2025 and 2026 will be at Laurel Park. Having the Preakness there will be a boon for local business and will introduce the racing world to Laurel Park. It remains to be seen what will happen to Laurel Park when the race returns to a new Pimlico.

A home at 4703 Old Soper Road, in Camp Springs, has sold for \$214,900.

Places to go & things to do

Movies on the Potomac returned to National Harbor on May 2. The movies are Thursdays at 7 for "date night" and Sundays at 6 for "family night." They will continue through September 29. Among the films: The Fall Guy, Tarot, Star Wars: Episode 1, Kung Fu Panda, Civil War, Godzilla-Kong: The New Empire, and more. The movies are outdoors, free, and on the big screen. Bring a blanket and carry-out food from one of the Harbor's many restaurants. May be cancelled due to weather.

James Williams, Oxon Hill Boys and Girls Club coach

James Lynnwood Williams, Jr., Morgan State '81 grad, died April 2. He was born in Washington to James and Barbara Williams.

He graduated from Mackin High School, Class of '74 and continued his education at Purdue and Morgan State where he won MEAC Championships. An amazing athlete, he played football, basketball, baseball, and track and field.

James married Charleen Griffin on June 27, 1983.

He worked for 35 years in the Federal Government, retiring in 2015 as a Supervisory Senior Auditor. Among the departments he worked for: Defense, Environmental Protection, and U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General.

He was a member of St. Columba Catholic Church, in Oxon Hill, and a football, basketball and tee-ball coach for the Oxon Hill Boys and Girls Club.

Survivors include his wife Charleen, daughter Donna, son Derrick, four granddaughters, his father James Williams Sr. and a host of other family. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip the Apostle Church, Fr. Ryan Pinda, Celebrant. Repast, at St. Philip's. Interment, Resurrection Cemetery.

His wife Charleen paid tribute in Loving Memory of my wonderful husband, "Of

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Around the County

Gateway Arts District 2024 Open Studio

Event Date/Time: May 11, 2024, 12 noon-5 p.m.

Join the Prince Georges' County Gateway Arts District (GAD) Artists, Businesses, Restaurants and Community Residents for the Annual 2024 Open Studio Tour.

The Gateway Arts District was established in 2002 in recognition of a robust, eclectic and renown population of civically active residents, businesses and arts organizations and art space facilities that include visual artists of various mediums mixed and multimedia visual artists investing in living and working in the adjacent towns and cities of Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood and Hyattsville, Maryland.

Artists of all artistic mediums/practices include galleries, collective and singular studios. Many of these artists' work have been commissioned and exhibited and collected locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

It was designated a Maryland State Arts District in 2002.

Travel along the Rhode Island Avenue and Route 1 Corridor presenting an eclectic collective of professional visual artists working in various mediums. Many of these renown artists have been exhibited and collected nationally and abroad.

Promotion and Support for the 2024 Gateway Arts District Tour was made possible through the generous support of the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council.

For more information contact: Tonya Jordan, tojoartsmgmt@gmail.com, 202-538-0554

Air Force Band Honors America's Heroes

Featuring *The War And Treaty*

WASHINGTON (May 1, 2024)—A collaboration of three of the United States Air Force Band's performing ensembles and guest artist duo The War and Treaty will give a musical salute to service members this Memorial Day weekend! This concert is free and open to the public though tickets are required. Ticket information for this concert is available at:

<https://usafband.ticketleap.com/a-salute-to-service/>

Sunday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m.

The Theater, MGM National Harbor Resort and Casino
101 MGM National Ave, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Founded in 2014 by the husband-and-wife duo Michael Trotter Jr. and Tanya Trotter, The War And Treaty has emerged as one of the most electrifying new acts in American music. Recently earning their first ever GRAMMY nominations for Best New Artist and Best American Roots Song for "Blank Page," they also received this year their first ever Duo of the Year nomination from the Country Music Association, Vocal Duo nomination from the Academy of Country Music, plus recognition by the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Grand Ole Opry, and the Americana Music Association including earning AMA Duo/Group of the Year for the second straight year.

Max Impact, The Air Force Strings, and The Airmen of Note are three of the six performing ensembles within The United States Air Force Band, the premier musical organization of the U.S. Air Force. Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., The United States Air Force Band honors those who have served, inspires American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and connects with the global community on behalf of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America.

Prince George's County Animal Services

and Adoption Center Resumes

Owner Surrenders

LARGO, Md. (May 1, 2024)—The Prince George's County Animal Services and Adoption Facility (ASFAC) will resume accepting pets whose owners can no longer care for them starting today, May 1. In addition, all adoption fees, including spay and neuter services, has returned to the original price schedule.

Earlier this month, the ASFAC suspended accepting owner surrenders to avoid operating above capacity, to undergo deep cleaning protocols at the facility, and to reduce the risk of needing to euthanize animals. Over the past year, like other open-admission shelters nationwide, ASFAC has operated at or near capacity, limiting space for adoptions and negatively affecting the health and safety of the dogs.

"Not allowing owner surrenders during this period has allowed us to address illnesses in the facility and bring our live release rate to nearly 80%," said Animal Services Associate Director David Fisher. "With the community's support in reducing the number of animals we intake and supporting adoptions, rescue, and fostering together, we can continue to be successful."

While the facility has resumed accepting owner surrenders, the ASFAC stresses that the public should only consider bringing their pets to the shelter as a last resort. Before surrendering a pet, owners are encouraged to:

- Contact one of our County-approved rescue organizations to see if they can accept your pet.
- Consider rehoming your pet with family and friends.
- The ASFAC will continue to educate pet owners on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets, promote responsible pet ownership, and provide pet resources as available.
- Other tips to help keep pets out of the shelter include:
 - Always microchip your pet and make sure it has a quality ID collar tag.
 - Don't walk your dog off-leash. County code requires all dogs to be walked with a leash.
 - Spay or neuter your pet to prevent overpopulation.
 - Ensure your pet's spaces, like walls, fences, and gates, are secure so they won't be able to wiggle out.
 - Take animals in your care to regular veterinary visits and keep them up to date on their vaccinations and pet licenses. Keeping your animal healthy keeps our community of animals healthy.

The ASFAC is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

To view the many animals available for adoption, visit princegeorgespets4us.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

FELLOWSHIP PAINT FUN

You do not want to miss our Fellowship Paint Fun May 19, from 4-8 p.m. Will see you there. Releve, 5010 Brown Station Road/Suite 145 Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Tickets are available today. Donation of \$50.00. Sponsored By: Health & Welfare Ministry Nottinghampmyers@outlook.com, www.nmc1867.Org. Come join the fellowship.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, April 22, 2024, our guest speaker at Clinton United Methodist Church was Rev. Dr. Rodney Thomas Smothers who is the lead coach and consultant for rTs Coaching Associates and The Smothers Group. For 41 years he served as a local church pastor, on Annual Conference teams; Executive Leadership Teams as Director of Leadership and Congregational Development. He currently serves as a coach for SBC-21.

Pastor Smothers has founded new congregations, served as the lead pastor of multicultural, urban, and suburban congregations, and served as an adjunct seminary professor in the areas of administration, evangelism, worship, and United Methodist History.

Dr. Smothers served as the Director of Evangelism at the General Board of Discipleship. As a congregational consultant, worship leader, and coach, he resources laity and pastors, local churches, and denominational leaders in the areas of congregational vitality, leadership effectiveness, strategic ministries, and the development of skilled servant workers.

He has pastored congregations in the North Georgia and Baltimore-Washington Annual Conferences, leading them through congregational revitalization, new construction, and remodeling programs. Additionally, he has implemented stewardship, discipleship, strategic visioning, and leader development systems.

As a community leader, he has developed ministries for Senior Citizens, Youth Enrichment, partnerships with schools, and served in prison ministries. He has also collaborated with other pastors in the development of affordable housing ministries. He is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta, Georgia, and Leadership Prince George's County Maryland.

He earned his Master of Divinity in 1982; and in 1993 his Doctor of Ministry, from Gammon Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2013, he completed the Howard University School of Business Executive Leadership for Minister's Program.

Dr. Smothers co-authored RESURGENCE: Navigating the Changing Ministry Landscape (with Candace M. Lewis), BLANK SLATE: Write your Own Rules for a 22nd-Century Church Movement (with Lia McIntosh and Jasmine Rose Smothers). Cry From the Pew (with Kay Kotan) and recently contributed to What's Next? Twenty-Two United Methodist Leaders Discuss the Future of The Church. He is married to Lynn Thomas Smothers, M.D., and the father of three young adults.

KUDOS TO BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Congratulations to Dr. Vernon J. Hurte (01) who was selected to

participate in the 2024-2025 AGB Institute for Leadership & Governance in Higher Education. The institute proudly supports higher education leaders on their professional journeys, with more than 20 past participants becoming presidents or chancellors of higher education institutions. Dr. Vernon J. Hurte is Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Life, Towson University.

BULLDOG 5K WALK/RUN

Join us May 19, 2024, for our Bulldog 5K Walk/Run from 2-5 p.m. at Bowie State University. The race will begin from Parking Lot J, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD, 20715 (parking available in Lots H & I). Check-in: 1-2:15 p.m. Race begins at 2 p.m. Cost Early Bird: \$40; Day of Race: \$50

Race cutoff time 3:30 p.m. Contact information Jenifer Coke, 301-860-4778, jcoker@bowiestate.edu. Make sure you register for this event: <https://bit.ly/Bulldog5KRace>

CONGRATULATIONS

Certificate of membership. This is to certify that Karon A. Johnson has been duly enrolled as a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society April 21, 2024.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC/FOOD PANTRIES

BADEN FOOD PANTRY: St. Paul Episcopal Church Hall, 13500 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Distribution on Fridays from 9:30-11 a.m. **MISSION NUTRITION:** Gwynn Park High School 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Distribution 3Rd Tuesday of the month from 4-6 p.m.

HAPPY 21ST ANNIVERSARY

Join us Sunday, May 19, 2024, Martha & the Sisters in Christ, Devine Spirituals, DC Stars, Gospel Singers, Burning Bush, Serenity Baltimore, New Vision, D'Andre Creekmore (Mime), Minister Earl Bynum & Co. Special Guest: It is A Surprise. Food will be sold. For more information, contact (202) 710-2420.

The Musical Selections will be performed at Meridian Baptist Church, 5354 Sheriff Road, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743. Doors open 3 p.m. Advance ticket \$20.00. Program starts at 4 p.m. Door Ticket cost \$25.00. MC: Patricia Copeland and MC: Earl Bynum.

AN ALUMNI SOCIAL AFFAIR

Prince George's County Chapter Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. Annual Benefit an Alumni Social Affair Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2024, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Centre Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Funds to support the PGCAC Scholarship Fund. Tickets cost \$70 (\$7.00 Tax Deductible Contribution). Cash Bar, Music, Dancing and Vendors. Contact Addie Martin 301-868-6081, Rose Coleman 301-518-4861, or any chapter member. Emailricbbowler@comcast.net.

COMMUNITY

Friendly High School #1 in National Navy JROTC Academic Exam

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 2, 2024)—Students in the Friendly High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) earned both first and third place out of more than 1,500 teams on the 2024 National Academic Exam, which is taken by all NJROTC units nationwide and recognizes academic achievement among units and individual cadets.

Friendly's first place academic team includes cadets Princess Tate, Madison Jones, Aissata Sylla, Carlos Galvan and Christopher Zelaya. Composed entirely of freshman, first-year cadets, the team that took third place nationally included: Taaren Daughtry, Quinnice Dooley, Edwin Gaitan, Joi Foster, and Zanadia Martin, demonstrated extraordinary talent and promise.

"Friendly High School's award-winning cadets exemplify the values of leadership, dedication, and academic excellence," said NJROTC Commander Bonita Autrey. "Their success is a testament to the support of parents, the Naval Science Instructor, NCC Shawn White, our dedicated school instructors, and the ongoing commitment to excellence within our program."

In addition to leading on the National Academic Exam, Friendly was honored as Area four's most improved unit for 2024, placing them in contention for the prestigious National Most Improved Unit award. The unit also received Unit Achievement honors for exemplary performance.

A Prince George's County Public Schools' Career and Technical Education program, JROTC is offered in 19 high schools and courses are taught by retired and non-commissioned officers.



PHOTOS COURTESY PGPCS
Top: Friendly High School's first place academic team, and Bottom: third place academic team.

Certified from A1

- Whitehall and Woodridge
 - Public Charter Schools (3)**—Chesapeake Math and IT North High School, Chesapeake Math and IT North Middle School and Imagine Foundations at Morningside
 - Early Childhood Centers (1)**—Chapel Forge
- Schools must recertify every four years to maintain Green School status. Bond Mill and Rockledge elementary schools achieved Sustainable status after 14 years of consecutive certification. Berwyn Heights Elementary, Dora Kennedy French Immersion, Patuxent Elementary and Robert Goddard Montessori achieved Sustainable Bronze status having maintained certification for 18 years.

In addition to having the most schools apply for certification, PGPCS tied with Montgomery County Public Schools for the highest number of new Maryland Green Schools.

Schools will be honored during the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's (MAEOE) Annual Youth Summit on Thursday, May 30 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will also receive a Maryland Green School flag, statewide and local recognition and special gifts.

Sponsored by MAEOE, the Maryland Green Schools program is among the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

Morningside from A2

all the special gifts in life, however great or small, to have you as my Husband for 40 years was the greatest gift of all."

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Kyle Dameron, May 12; Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; my next-door neighbor, John Smith, May 14; my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16; Kim Cannon, May 17; Morningside Mayor Benn Cann and Patti Parco Grey, May 18.

Happy Anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14.

Happy Mother's Day to Mothers and Grandmothers everywhere!

Chesapeake Life Center Support Programs

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

Chesapeake Life Center offers monthly LGBTQIA+ drop-in grief support group
PASADENA, Md. (May 2, 2024)—Chesapeake Life Center will host a monthly drop-in grief support group for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Beginning May 14, it will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

Grief is a hard and vulnerable time, and it is important to have safe spaces to process what we are going through. This group is intended for adult members of the LGBTQIA+ community who are grieving a past or approaching death. The group will be facilitated by a licensed queer therapist but will be loosely structured to offer an opportunity for participants to share their feelings and grieve with community.

There is no cost and no registration is required. For questions, call 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Chesapeake Life Center offers family grief program at Maryland Therapeutic Riding
PASADENA, Md. (May 2, 2024)—Grieving families can explore their loss with expertly trained horses during Family Day at the Farm. It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 24, at Maryland Therapeutic Riding, 1141 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, Maryland.

Horses are incredibly sensitive to human emotions and their emotional intelligence can be a helpful tool in one's journey through grief. The minimum age

for children is 6. No horse experience is needed and all activities are unmounted.

The cost to participate is \$20 per family. You can register by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE
Two teens paint a friendly therapeutic horse at a Chesapeake Life Center workshop held at Maryland Therapeutic Riding in 2022.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Joins KABOOM! in National Initiative to End Playspace Inequity

25 in 5 Initiative Aims to Ensure Every Child Has an Amazing Place to Play

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 6, 2024)—Today, KABOOM! announced The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, as a partner in the national non-profit's 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity, the five-year plan to achieve playspace equity in 25 priority places, accelerating progress towards achieving their mission across the country.

Through the 25 in 5 Initiative, KABOOM! and The Department will lead an ambitious plan to address gaps in access to quality places to play in communities that disproportionately lack recreational resources. There are more than 245 playgrounds across Prince George's County, with more than a third past their useful life and in need of immediate repair. Together, through 25 in 5, the partners will be able to replace the playgrounds at a

faster rate to ensure every child has a safe, high-quality, and fun place to play.

Today's announcement builds upon M-NCPPC's Formula 2040: The Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space that strives to achieve connectivity, health and wellness, and economic development in Prince George's County. The partnership with KABOOM! aligns well with Formula 2040, helping to support the well-being and health of kids and their communities as we work toward playspace equity in the County.

"This is an opportunity for our community to have a wonderful new playspace for our children to enjoy and experience, and I am thrilled to see Prince George's families get more of the facilities that they deserve right here in the County," said Delegate Jazz Lewis.

Prince George's County is the sixth location announced as an official partner in the 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity, joining Baltimore, MD; San Francisco, CA; Atlanta, GA; Uvalde, TX; and

Saint Paul, MN. The Department and KABOOM! have been working together since 2020 and will now accelerate progress through the 25 in 5 Initiative to support the urgent needs of kids in Prince George's County. Leveraging data from both National and County sources, the partners will ensure the playgrounds built are in the areas identified as having the most significant and immediate needs.

The partnership was announced at the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the new playspace at Oakcrest Community Center in Capitol Heights, MD, on Friday, May 3rd. Representatives in attendance included Josh Morgan, Washington Legend; Washington Commanders representatives; Mark Washington, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education; State Senator Joanne C. Benson; Delegate Jazz Lewis; Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison; Delegate Tiffany

See **PLAYSPACE** Page A6

Heritage from A1

Put on your dancing shoes, and learn a few steps of Bharathanatyam, an Indian classical dance form with elements of hip-hop culture. Instructor Chitra will offer social exchanges, movement exploration, and simple choreography in this interactive demonstration and dance open to all skill levels and ages.

Japanese Koto Recital—Presented by the Washington Toho Koto Society

Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. | Upper Marlboro Branch Library

The Washington Toho Koto Society performs harmonious melodies on the koto, a 13-string traditional Japanese instrument made of paulownia wood. Experience koto music live, played with precision and grace.

Young Children Ready 2 Read Storytimes

Thursday, May 9–Saturday, May 18 | Various Branches

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with your little ones at one of our storytimes taking place at

library locations across the county! Each event is meant for either ages 2–3 or ages 3–5, so be sure to check our full lineup for details about each event.

Kids and Teens Filipinos of Prince George's County—Presented by Mabuhay, Inc.

Tuesday, May 14 at 6 p.m. | Surratts-Clinton Branch Library

Hear about the experiences of Filipino migrants who have made new homes in Prince George's County, as well as their backgrounds, their search for the American Dream, and their contributions to their local communities.

Additional Resources

Visit PGCMLS' Asian Pacific American Heritage Hub for a full list of events during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, as well as music, videos, information, and other resources.

Kanopy

Library card holders can watch films starring and made by Asian and Pacific Islander filmmakers in Kanopy's Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month collection. Kanopy in-



cludes more than 26,000 movies, documentaries, indie and foreign films from producers including The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, Kino Lorber, and PBS.

Comics Plus

Read digital manga for free with your library card through Comics Plus, which provides unlimited digital access to thousands of graphic novels and comics. Search by genre, publisher, or title. Items can be checked out for seven days with unlimited renewals.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System

(PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve book lovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

We Can't Afford to Let Anyone Swiftboat Us on Bidenomics

"The truth is that the U.S. economy is a remarkable success story. Don't let anyone tell you that it isn't."

—Paul Krugman

Earlier this year, the National Urban League launched our D3 initiative to Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, and Defeat Poverty. The initiative to combat poverty emphasizes a comprehensive strategy centered on increasing access and equity across several critical areas, recognizing poverty as a significant national issue that jeopardizes the future prosperity of the United States.

The plan includes expanding access to quality education and financial services, making childcare and healthcare more affordable, and addressing

the high costs associated with higher education. It aims to improve social safety nets and create affordable housing while advocating for the decriminalization of poverty and fair pay through living wages. This initiative targets the root causes of poverty, particularly in communities of color, and views the eradication of poverty as crucial for the nation's moral and economic health.

We prioritize these issues, because we know that there are political forces whose agenda conflicts with our progress and our continued work to keep building on progress and fighting for equity wherever and whenever it is necessary.

As we reported in the 2024 State of Black America, which featured a Progress Report on the Biden-Harris Administration:

"When President Biden took office in January 2021, the Black unemployment rate was 9.2%. As of January 2024, that number is 5.2%. Through a series of bills investing in America's infrastructure, workforce, technological advantage, and climate, the administration has created opportunities for generations of Black Americans to prosper."

Simply put, by all economic metrics, Bidenomics is working. It is working for our communities, and it is working for all of America.

Progress works on a continuum and progress requires active participation, that is why our D3 initiative also calls upon every citizen to stand up and defend democracy. We know that efforts to suppress votes through intimidation, suppression, lack of access and other efforts to change the laws and make it harder are part of the strategy to keep our community from participating. In 2022 testimony to a Congressional Subcommittee studying "The Impact of Disinformation Targeted at Communities of Color" the head of the University of Texas Center for Media Engagement said:

"Specific content is drafted as well as tactical behavior employed to influence minority groups. These targeted messages undermine our democracy as they work to alienate and disengage minority groups."

We see this over and over, so it shouldn't be a shock that in March 2024 as the economy continued to grow stronger, we saw that Americans for Prosperity, the conservative think tank funded by the Koch Brothers, launched a very strategic and

well-funded effort to "Swiftboat" Bidenomics and all the good news and positive outcomes for Americans from bipartisan policies that have led to the strongest post-recession recovery in US History.

The sophisticated campaign led by AFP is both national and targeted in specific congressional districts, including a number of Black and Hispanic represented districts.

Millions of dollars are being spent on ads promoting a false narrative on the Biden Administration's successful economic policies and to algorithmically profile voters who click on these misleading ads.

As I said in my introduction to this year's state of Black America, "Our abiding commitment to freedom is undermined by discriminatory voter ID laws, gerrymandering, the shuttering of polling places in predominantly minority neighborhoods, limits on early voting, and reckless purging of voter rolls."

It is also undermined by divisive disinformation. We know that before any election gets here, anti-racial justice forces will push false narratives and disinformation designed to depress us and divide us in America. By every factor that matters, it is important to remember that Bidenomics Works. These "Swiftboat" tactics that target us on our phones and in our computers are a dangerous tactic we must remain vigilant about as we fight on for justice and equality.

—May 2, 2024

Democratic Senate Hopeful Trone Sees Himself as Progressive Conciliator

By KATHARINE WILSON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (May 1, 2024)—Rep. David Trone views himself as an outsider in Congress. On May 14, Maryland voters will decide if the three-term lawmaker, self-described progressive and wealthy businessman is the right Democrat to try to retain a Senate seat for the party.

Trone doesn't play golf or hold a membership to any country club, he said, but that doesn't stop his Democratic opponents in the primary from criticizing him for being out of touch with Marylanders, PACs from calling him a "billionaire bully," and some fellow politicians from seeing him as not a real progressive.

However, Trone sees this image as almost an advantage in his efforts to reach across the aisle to Republicans.

"You're stereotyped because you're a white businessman so therefore you can't be progressive, but I'm far and away the progressive in this race," Trone said in an interview with Capital News Service. "But I'm the progressive that gets stuff done... I reach across the aisle and figure out how to bring parties together."

Trone is running against Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and eight lesser-known Democrats in the primary. Trone and Alsobrooks by far dominate the field in spending, polls and ads.

Former Gov. Larry Hogan is the presumed Republican nominee for the Senate.

Trone has represented Maryland's 6th District, which includes Western Maryland and parts of Montgomery County, since 2019.

In an April 9 interview with CNS at the Democratic National Committee, Trone discussed his life, House career and what he hopes for the future.

As he spoke, he effortlessly rattled off various statistics and facts about his record before running off for House votes.

Born in Cheverly, Maryland in 1955, the congressman spent his teenage years working at his family farm near the Pennsylvania-Maryland border. After finishing his undergraduate degree at Furman University, Trone moved back to the farm, living with his father and brother.

Life wasn't easy for the family. His father was an abusive alcoholic, Trone said, and they lost the family farm when the future lawmaker was in his mid-twenties.

As Trone put himself through an M.B.A. program on a scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School, he opened his first business brokering eggs and later his first beer and soda store.

Trone eventually built an empire with Total Wine & More, his billion-dollar liquor chain that has grown to at least 266 locations across 28 states.

"I understand the value of work better than anybody in this race, it's not even close," Trone said.

Making his fortune off of Total Wine & More gave Trone the opportunity to run for office his own way, running with-

out relying on PAC and special interest funding.

Trone won his first election in the 6th District in 2018 after he lost his first House race two years earlier in a primary against Rep. Jamie Raskin in the 8th District.

Trone has spent \$41 million of his own money on his Senate campaign, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission reports. Outside of his own funding, Trone received \$105,000 from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The committee has not given him any funding since June 2023.

Trone is a long-term supporter of Israel and has advocated for a two-state solution and a ceasefire in Gaza, positions he reiterated in an April 19 Senate debate.

While Trone acknowledged that not everyone can self-fund a Senate campaign, he said that this allows him to be truly independent and fight against the pharmaceutical industry and other major corporations.

"I'm one of the few people that can do that," Trone said about self-funding. "I'm willing to put my resources that I earned from zero and rather than giving them to my kids, I'm putting it into a campaign to change America the much better way."

Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Maryland, works with Trone on the House Appropriations Committee and endorsed the candidate in November. Ruppersberger said he respects Trone for being a self-made person and being a hard worker on committees.



PHOTO CREDIT: KATHARINE WILSON/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Rep. David Trone speaks at an April 19 press conference in the United States Capitol. He hopes to replace Sen. Ben Cardin (left), D-Maryland, who is retiring. Reps. John Sarbanes, D-Maryland, and Andy Harris, R-Maryland, look on.

"He still cares about helping his country and he doesn't need to do this for money or anything else," Ruppersberger said in an interview outside of the House chamber. "He just cares about being a U.S. congressman."

Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown praised Trone in an ad for the campaign.

"He will level the playing field because he believes that everyone deserves an equal shot and he will always be there on the frontline of justice," Brown said.

Alsobrooks, his opponent, has made headlines for her endorsements from other Maryland Democratic politicians including Gov. Wes Moore, Sen. Chris Van Hollen and five of Trone's colleagues in the House.

Trone said part of the reason why he didn't receive those endorsements is be-

cause of congressional reforms he has proposed. They include instituting term limits, taking away special interest money in campaigns, eliminating stock trading by lawmakers and banning senators and House members from becoming lobbyists.

"The politicians, they're a part of the club...I'm an outsider," Trone said. "They're all politicians who pat each other on the back...I don't do any of this stuff."

Trone said he decided to enter the Senate race after Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, announced his retirement, presenting an opportunity to step up and be effective statewide.

Trone also said in a Feb. 29 speech at

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Perspective from A1

forms can help solve problems in the criminal justice system.

"I believe that our families deserve to live in places where they have both justice and freedom," Alsobrooks said.

Only three senators in U.S. history have been Black women. There are no women in Maryland's 10-member congressional delegation.

This lack of diversity is one reason why Rep. Steny Hoyer said he endorsed Alsobrooks, someone he's known for about 15 years.

"I think that she will make a real contribution to the multiplicity of perspectives and opinions that we've brought to the Senate, so I'm a very strong supporter of hers," Hoyer said in an interview.

Hoyer said that the experiences that Trone has had are well-represented in the Senate, unlike those of Alsobrooks's life. Alsobrooks has shown excellence and a passion for helping people at every stage of her career, Hoyer said.

One criticism Alsobrooks receives from opponents is her lack of federal political experience.

Maryland has only elected three senators since World War II without experience in the House. However, most current senators have

not served in the House, according to the Senate's website.

Alsobrooks stresses that she has experience working with her constituents and the federal delegation to get projects and federal funding for the county.

In the Senate, Alsobrooks said, she wants to be an advocate for abortion rights, economic growth for Maryland and reduced healthcare costs.

Alsobrooks has spent nearly \$4 million dollars on her Senate campaign, according to the most recent Federal Election Commission reports. Her major donors include ActBlue and Emily's List. She has publicly criticized the wealthy Trone of attempting to buy the election by spending \$41 million of his own money on his campaign.

"I do not believe that the people of Maryland are going to allow anyone to buy an election," Alsobrooks said. "I think when they hear my record and vision, they'll support me."

Trone has criticized Alsobrooks for her support while she was state's attorney for the death penalty in a murder case. Trone is opposed to the death penalty because he believes it is racist. Alsobrooks has since stated that she would not support a federal death penalty.

Prince George's County Councilmember Krystal Oriadha, who endorsed Trone, claimed

in a Zoom interview that Alsobrooks as county executive has not supported policies or funded initiatives Senate candidate Alsobrooks claims to support on healthcare and LGBTQ+ pride.

"I have to judge people off of their record," Oriadha said.

The reason why Alsobrooks believes she has gained the endorsements from many top Maryland Democratic politicians—including Gov. Wes Moore, Sen. Chris Van Hollen and five House members—is that she is a good listener.

Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Maryland, met Alsobrooks in the 1990s on Capitol Hill. Throughout the years, Mfume said in an interview, he has been able to understand her work ethic and her values as she moved through county politics.

"I've supported her and everything she's ever run for," Mfume said. "I know her soul, her mind and I certainly know her history."

Alsobrooks believes that she would bring something new to the Senate, both diversity and a different resumé than her competitors. Without the perspectives of mothers, women and all races, Alsobrooks said the delegation is incomplete.

"It is really important to have varied experiences there," Alsobrooks said about the Senate. "Until that happens, I think our policies are incomplete."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Widower's Retirement Stymied by Social Security's "WEP" and "GPO" Rules

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 wife passed away 4 years ago. I want to retire so called SSA and was told I can collect my own SS at 62, reduced by WEP. My wife's SS was greater than mine, but they said I do not qualify for hers at age 60 because of the GPO. This seems odd that I get zero for her, however I can collect mine at the two thirds reduction at 62. Is this true? This zero dollar amount places my retirement on hold for now. I was counting on her SS. **Signed: Discouraged Widower**

Dear Discouraged: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) are two of the most confusing (and unpopular) of Social Security's myriad rules. From the way you describe your conversation with the Social Security Administration, it doesn't appear to have concluded with you fully understanding how these provisions work, so allow me to elaborate.

WEP and GPO affect anyone who has a retirement pension from a federal, state, or local government agency which did not participate in Social Security, meaning neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security based on the employee's earnings. Obviously, you have such a pension, which means that WEP will reduce any Social Security retirement benefit you have earned from other employment where SS payroll taxes were withheld, and the GPO will affect any survivor benefit you are entitled to.

WEP affects only the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere; WEP does not affect any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to from your wife. Rather, it is the GPO which affects your survivor benefit, again because of your state retirement (called a "non-covered pension" - one earned without contributing to Social Security). The GPO will reduce any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to by 2/3rds of the amount of your "non-covered" state pension. Depending on the size of your state pension, that reduction may entirely eliminate your surviving spouse benefit from your wife.

Under normal SS rules, a surviving spouse does not become eligible for survivor benefits until they reach age 60 (age 50 if disabled). Normally, a surviving spouse benefit claimed at age 60 is reduced by 28.5% and it is the GPO (not WEP) that will affect your survivor benefit whenever you claim it. However, even without GPO, your age 60 survivor benefit amount would be only 71.5% of the amount your wife was receiving (or entitled to receive) at her death. If you are already collecting your non-covered state pension when you claim your SS survivor benefit from your wife, then that reduced age 60 survivor benefit would be offset by 2/3rds of the amount of your state pension. And that (according to what Social Security told you) is what eliminated your age 60 eligibility for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife. If you don't claim it at 60 your survivor benefit will continue to grow until you reach your full retirement age (FRA) of 67, but if 2/3rds of your state pension is more than 100% of your SS survivor benefit, you still won't get any surviving spouse benefit from your wife's record.

A further consequence of your non-covered state pension is that the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere will be reduced by WEP. WEP will reduce, but cannot eliminate, your Social Security retirement benefit. The WEP formula is complex but, generally, your WEP-based Social Security retirement benefit will likely be roughly half of what you would get if you did not have a state "non-covered pension." You could claim your WEP-reduced SS retirement benefit as early as age 62 or, if financially feasible, delay longer to get a somewhat higher (but still reduced) amount.

Just FYI, your state employer had an obligation to fully inform you of the consequences of not contributing to Social Security while earning your state pension. It appears as though they may not have fulfilled that obligation.

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

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.

Prince George's County Planning Board and Planning Department Announce May 2024 Events and Meetings

By CALISTA BLACK
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (May 1, 2024)—The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission announce their upcoming public events and meetings for May 2024. For more details, review the list of events and meetings below or visit www.pgplanningboard.org and www.pgplanning.org. Events and meetings are subject to change.

Prince George's County Planning Board Meetings

Thursday, May 16 | 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 23 | 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 30 | 10 a.m.

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets virtually on Thursdays to consider planning, zoning, subdivision, and other matters within its jurisdiction. The meetings may be viewed via live streaming video. Public participation is encouraged either through a phone bridge or by using GoTo Meeting. Everyone who wishes to speak at the Planning Board meeting must register online by Noon on the Tuesday, two days prior to the Planning Board meeting. Written comments, documents, and exhibits must be received via email, fax, or mail by Noon on the Tuesday before the Planning Board meeting to be included in the record. For more details, visit: www.pgplanningboard.org.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee Meeting

Friday, May 10 | 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 24 | 9:30 a.m.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee (SDRC) is a coordination and interagency meeting early in the development review process with the applicant and M-NCPPC staff, where the public can be invited to virtually view the meeting only. The meetings are held virtually and may be viewed via live streaming video. The agendas are posted online.

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 17 | 6:30-8:30 a.m.

The Prince George's County Planning Department will join organizations across the Washington Metropolitan area in observing Bike to Work Day. The annual initiative promotes cycling as quiet, clean, and a viable transportation mode as well as encourages bicycling as a fun and healthy commuter option. The Planning Department will host a pit stop near National Harbor at 100 Heritage Cove Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745, from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Planning Department staff will also join partnering agencies and organizations at the Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center at 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, from 7-10 a.m. For more information, to find a pit stop, and to register, visit: <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/>.

Lariscy *Spark*: Igniting Community in Colmar Manor

Saturday, May 18 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
4017 Bladensburg Road, Colmar Manor, MD 20722

The Prince George's County Planning Department will join the Town of Colmar Manor for a creative placemak-

ing demonstration on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lariscy Park. Residents and visitors will learn about the Town of Colmar Manor's vision for the park and area through collaborative workshops, community art projects, a farmers' market, and interactive performances. The M-NCPPC Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment team will also be on site carrying out a Port Towns community visioning workshop. For more information, visit <https://pgplan.org/porttowns>.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, May 21 | 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Prince George's County Planning Department, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of the month. For meeting details, visit pgplanning.org/496/Whats-New, call 301-952-3680, or email HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org.

2024 MAHDC Annual Symposium

Thursday, May 23 | 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department will join the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions for the 2024 MAHDC Annual Symposium: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Underrepresented Communities. The event featuring presentations by local, state, and national experts on climate change, preservation, and conservation will take place Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 8

See MEETINGS Page A6

Drs. Sonja Richmond and Ever Ponciano Join Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (April 30, 2024) — Hospice of the Chesapeake is excited to announce two new physicians have joined the not-for-profit's medical team this month. Dr. Sonja Richmond is Vice President of Medical Affairs and Hospice Medical Director and Dr. Ever Ponciano is a hospice physician.

Based out of the Charles County location in Waldorf, Maryland, Richmond will oversee the organization's hospice medical team in all four of the counties it serves including its two inpatient care centers. She joins the hospice after many years with Vitas Healthcare in Washington, D.C., as hospice medical director and is board certified in internal medicine as well as a hospice medical director. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Virginia and completed her medical degree and residency at George Washington University. Richmond has a passion for wellness and mindfulness and has also spent the last 15 years building up her expertise in the practice and teaching of yoga. She has an Ayurveda certification and is currently working toward her Yin Yoga certification.

Ponciano has worked as a contracted physician with Hospice of the Ches-

apeake for the last few years and now has joined the organization as a team member, providing care to patients in the Hussman Supportive Care Center and the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center. He previously served as the Associate Medical Director at Hospice of Washington County and continues to provide care to the community in private practice. He has two undergraduate degrees from the University of Maryland and completed his medical degree at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marny Fetzter said both physicians fit in well with the vision of the organization, which serves Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties. "As Maryland's largest independent not-for-profit hospice organization, we take our role of providing expert, compassionate care to all who need it very seriously. Dr. Richmond and Dr. Ponciano join us in our mission to break down barriers to bring hope and healing to those experiencing advanced, serious illness," Fetzter said.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.



PHOTO COURTESY
HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Dr. Sonja Richmond



PHOTO COURTESY
HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Dr. Ever Ponciano

Conciliator from A4

the University of Maryland that he wanted to switch to the Senate because senators got more done than the closely-divided House.

Trone's policy priorities are in mental health care, addiction, education, criminal justice reform and medical research.

Many of these issues are personal to Trone, who is a cancer survivor, a public school system graduate and the uncle of a victim of a fatal fentanyl overdose.

In the last Congress, Trone said, he helped to pass 26 bills on substance abuse and mental health.

He funded the American Civil Liberties Union's Trone Center for Criminal Justice in 2015. Trone became passionate about criminal justice reform after being wrongfully accused of various business violations by a Pennsylvania attorney general during his time in business school, according to the ACLU.

"Justice was unfair to me," Trone said. "I came out and ... was able to be hugely successful. Others that are Black and Brown don't get that shot and that makes me madder than a hornet."

Trone's campaign has not been without controversy.

He often touts his perfect record on voting for abortion protections and abiding by all Planned Parenthood requests to testify or write a

letter in support of abortion access. Trone was also a supporter of an abortion clinic that opened last year in Cumberland, Maryland, across from West Virginia, which has strict abortion laws.

However, Alsobrooks and other Trone opponents cite a Time magazine report last year that Trone's firm Retail Services and Systems donated to pro-life Republican candidates, including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

Trone stepped down from day-to-day operations of his businesses around 2015, he said, and funding GOP candidates was in an effort to protect his employees' jobs. For example, he was pushing for relaxing liquor laws in Colorado in 2022.

Trone said that in federal races, he has donated only to Democrats. "It was my job to protect the jobs of my folks' thousands of jobs in ... those states that don't share our values in many, many ways," Trone said.

During a House budget hearing in March, Trone mistakenly uttered a racial slur while talking about tax rates, drawing staunch criticism online. He apologized, saying that the word should never be "used any time, anywhere, in any conversation".

Trone also has been labeled as a "billionaire bully" by Fight Corporate Monopolies, a progressive PAC, that ran an ad this month criticizing Trone's actions as a businessman, including a disputed claim

about threatening a delivery worker in 2021 and emphasizing that the Federal Trade Commission sued Total Wine & More last year in a monopoly investigation.

Trone's campaign has denied the threat allegation, saying Trone "never made the statement this organization is alleging." The FTC settled with Total Wine & More in December.

Trone claimed that he is the only one in this race who could beat Hogan in the general election, a race which could help determine control of the Senate.

Trone has won in Republican areas of Western Maryland and he can therefore appeal to voters across the state, the congressman said.

Trone also cited various recent polls that show his strength against the former governor. In nearly every poll since Hogan launched his Senate bid, Trone is the most competitive candidate against the former governor, who nevertheless is favored against both Democratic candidates.

What sets him apart from Alsobrooks in this race, Trone said, are his connections in the Senate, his ability to prevail over adversity and his rejection of special interest funding in his campaign.

"I'm ready for the job day one," Trone said. "I've created a \$6 billion business from zero and started with nothing. Nothing has ever been given to me."

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA Christian Community Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"
9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Worship Service:
9 a.m.

(301) 735-9373
Fax: **(301) 735-1844**

Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD 20785 **(301) 773-6655**

Sunday Biblical Institute: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
Saturday Worship: 6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fhbp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

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

UNITED METHODIST

Union United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Twanda E. King, Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

S. G. Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD 20785 • 301-490-2625

Rev. Ranessa Mayo, Pastor

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"
Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD
(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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Meetings from A5

a.m.-5 p.m. at Newton White Mansion, 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721. Registration is required to attend. For more information and registration details, visit: <https://mahdc.org/>

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Reception
Thursday, May 23 | 6:30 p.m.
Organized by M-NCPPC, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, and other local heritage organizations, the annual Historic Preservation Reception will take place on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Newton White Mansion, 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721. This event is free of charge for all attendees. Registration is required to attend. For more information, visit: <https://pgplanning.org/496/Whats-New>

M-NCPPC Full Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 15 | 10 a.m.
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold its Full Commission meeting in a hybrid format from the M-NCPPC Wheaton Headquarters and via videoconference. Agenda packets will be available online.

Assistance
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its 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. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org, or complete the online form, <https://www.mncppc.org/FormCenter/Parks-Recreation-Department-5/Patron-Sign-Language-Services-Request-Fo-304>.

Playspace from A3

Alston; County Council Member Krystal Oriadha; and William Lash, Sr. CEO, Chirality Capital Consulting. Several more projects are planned for 2024, including another volunteer playground build in July at Palmer Park Community Center in Landover, MD. Ahead of each KABOOM! build, neighborhood youth are invited to join in the community planning process by drawing their dream playgrounds at a Design Day. Using these drawings as inspiration, playground designers create design options that are presented to the community for a final vote.

KABOOM! believes that vibrant playspaces are critical for kids to grow up happy and healthy, living in thriving communities. Yet, across the nation there is widespread playspace inequity, the reality that communities of color disproportionately lack access to—and a sense of belonging in - quality playspaces. KABOOM! is committed to addressing this inequity by ensuring every child has access to quality places to play. With partners like M-NCPPC, they will unite with communities to ensure that every child can experience the critical developmental benefits of having quality places to play.

Acknowledging strong partnerships are critical to solve playspace inequity at scale, KABOOM! is building a coalition of 25 municipal agencies (school districts, parks and recreation departments, housing systems, etc.) and networks of nonprofit partners who are committed to addressing the urgent needs of kids. Visit kaboom.org to learn more about the 25 in 5 Initiative. Potential municipal partners are invited to complete the Interest Survey (https://kaboom.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezZAXaFent2AXc) to start the process. Playspace inequity is an issue with deep roots, but it is solvable. Together, we can work to end playspace inequity for good.

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