

The Prince George's Post



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Prince George's Far Outstrips Other Maryland Jurisdictions in Highway Deaths

By RANDY CHOW
Capital News Service

A 31-year-old Hyattsville woman was killed in March when the car she was riding in collided with another vehicle at the Adelphi Road and Riggs Road intersection, fewer than two miles from the University of Maryland.

But the road death of Berta Lisethe Marroquín Colindres was nothing unusual for Prince George's County.

Prince George's has the highest number of road fatalities of any Maryland county so far this year and in recent years.

As of Thursday, there had been 34 traffic fatalities this year

in Prince George's County. Baltimore County, which has the next highest total, reported 12. And Montgomery County, which has a population a tenth larger than Prince George's, reported only 10 crash fatalities this year.

The number of fatal crashes in Prince George's County rose nearly every year between 2019 to 2023, the Maryland Department of Transportation crash summary reported.

"It's difficult to pinpoint the exact reason why our county sees these numbers," the Prince George's County Police Department said in a statement. "In part we believe the reason is a dense population and a lot of major thoroughfares."

Most fatal crashes involve excessive speeding, impaired driving or unfastened seat belts, the police spokesperson said.

John Seng, chair of SafeRoadsMD, a nonprofit which focuses on advocating for safer roads for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, said the county has long been an outlier in terms of traffic safety.

"This is not a new phenomenon in Prince George's County," he said. "It's always been the poster child of this ignominious leadership in road crashes for the past 10 years."

Prince George's County had

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Prince George's County leads Maryland counties for most crash fatalities

Prince George's County has 34 deaths from car crashes this year. Baltimore County has the second-most with 12.



Data current as of May 15, 2025

Map: Randy Chow • Source: Maryland Department of State Police • Created with Datawrapper

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter Launches 'Move for Men's Health' Campaign With Annual Fun Run/Walk and Community Health Fair

By PRESS OFFICER
TLODPGCC

When: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Where: Prince George's Community College, Center for Performing Arts, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774

What: Two health-focused events in one day:

- **Let's Move Prince George's County Fun Run/Walk:** 9–10 a.m.
- **Annual Free Community Health Fair:** 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join us as we kick off June Men's Health Month with a Fun Run/Walk. We are seeking 100 men and boys in Prince George's County to participate. Following the walk/run, the community is invited to attend our 16th annual free community health fair, featuring health screenings, community resources, grocery distribution, and interactive workshops for all ages. This event is hosted in partnership with The Storehouse food pantry and will include a blood drive, a walk ambassador is DJ Dirty Rico from Majic 102.3, and more.

- Who:** Open to the public.
- To register for the Fun Run/Walk, visit: tinyurl.com/LetsMovePGCRaceReg
 - To sign up for the free health fair, visit: tinyurl.com/TLODPGCCGroceryDistro

Special Guests to Attend:

- Chapter President Lady Dawna Dilworth
 - Community Partnerships Chair Lady Maria James
 - DJ Dirty Rico from Majic 102.3 (Fun Run/Walk Ambassador)
- For more information, visit: tlodpgcc.org

100 Events of Summer Kickoff

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Community Relations

Enjoy live entertainment from the PGPD R&B Band, face painting, line dancing with an instructor, a live DJ, advanced reality gaming truck, food trucks, and more! This free event marks the start of a summer filled with community outreach, engagement, and celebration across the County.

Community Block Party

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2025
Time: 12 p.m.–3 p.m.
Location: 11414 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
100 Events of Summer initiative is our effort to engage and connect with the community. The initiative kicks off each year on June 1. The Office of Community Relations team attends at least 100 community activities and events across the County.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PART THIRTEEN

College Students Move Across State Lines—and Lose Access to Therapy as a Result

By CAROLINE PECORA
Capital News Service

Eli Greene, a senior animal science major at the University of Maryland, built a strong relationship with a therapist from the school's counseling center, but when she went home to Florida for the summer, she had to find a new therapist on her own.

Carrie Connell, 20, didn't know that leaving her home state of Florida for college in North Carolina meant she had to say goodbye to her therapist at home.

Meanwhile, 20-year-old Mo Cincera had to leave a therapist in Pennsylvania upon registering for school at American University in Washington, D.C.

"This is really dumb," Cincera said.

These stories are not unique. Young people all over the United States lose access to their therapists when they move across state lines, simply because therapists aren't licensed to practice everywhere. States license health service providers—and even in an age of virtual medical appointments, they can only offer care to patients in a state where they're licensed.

And while there's a compact that makes driver's licenses valid from state to state, there's no such automatic reciprocity when it comes to medical licensing.

Chetan Joshi, director of the University of Maryland's Counseling Center, said this poses issues for young people who need therapy.

"There are a number of things that make therapy effective. One of those things that makes therapy in any given context effective is the relationship that you have with your provider," Joshi said. "So obviously disrupting treatment because of the lack of this interjurisdictional ability to practice is problematic."

A push for reciprocity

To maintain the relationships between medical professionals and patients, providers are pushing to pass compacts in every state.

In 2011, the Association of Provincial Psychology Boards recognized a need among patients and providers for standards of virtual care. The association established a task force to draft guidelines for telehealth service use across jurisdictions.



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Eli Greene, a senior animal science major at the University of Maryland

The eventual compact, PSYPACT, was enacted in the first state in 2016. Maryland's General Assembly approved the compact in 2021.

However, every state needs to approve the compact to be effective nationwide—and nearly a decade later, PSYPACT is in effect in only 42 of 55 U.S. states and territories. Under this agreement, doctoral level psychologists living and licensed in a compact jurisdiction can offer telehealth services to patients in any other compact jurisdiction.

Licensed mental health counselors have a compact, too—but it's not yet operational. Thirty-seven states, including Maryland, have approved that compact, which, after a delay, is scheduled to be up and running later this year.

Under the Counseling Compact, licensed mental health counselors who live and are licensed in a member state will be able to apply for a license directly to another member state. The Counseling Compact

still requires counselors to hold licenses in each state they practice, so the compact will simply speed up the licensure application process.

Meanwhile, psychiatrists can work across state lines under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which is operational in 39 states, including Maryland. However, California and New York are among the states that have not approved that compact, and it often costs physicians more than \$1,000 to apply to provide services in just one additional state.

The National Association of Social Workers is working on a compact, too. Karen Goodenough, executive director of the Minnesota chapter, said they're about one to two years away from social workers being able to practice across state lines.

"It takes years for these compacts to be developed, passed in states, and then their compact commissions to get established, to write the rules and to develop their data systems so that practitioners can actually access a compact license," Goodenough said.

'It shouldn't matter'

From the patient's perspective, the state where a license was issued doesn't usually matter. Simply having a license is enough for most people.

Graduate student Aidan Hughes said his care should remain the same no matter where he is. Hughes, who needs specialized mental health care, lives in Washington, D.C., studies at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism and often visits family in Virginia. His mobile life makes it difficult to find a provider he can call when necessary.

"As long as my therapist is licensed and has gone through the training that they need to go through in order to care for me, it shouldn't matter that I've crossed a state border," he said.

Connell had no idea that she'd be in the market for a new therapist until shortly before she left for college, when the therapist she'd been working with told her: "Hey, by the way, I'm only going to be able to see you when you come home for a break."

"That initially made me freak out, just because I feel like, especially if you've struggled with mental health in high school and from a young age, having the daunting thought of finding someone new that you can trust is just like, it's, it's extreme," Connell said.

The problem isn't just limited to counseling. American Univer-

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ChildWatch:

Education

Advice for Young Graduates

Don't be afraid of failing. It's the way you learn to do things right. It doesn't matter how many times you fall down. All that matters is how many times you get up.

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Fort Washington National Guard Airman Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

Maryland Transit Administration Launches Next Phase of Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Fort Washington Park

Our family decided to celebrate Mother’s Day with a visit to Fort Washington Park. The weather was beautiful—and what a great day it proved to be!

We took along lunch we could enjoy on picnic-sized grass next to our parked car. (We weren’t the only ones.) Then most of the group headed through the drawbridge for whatever was on the other side. I’ve been there before. I visited park store, but otherwise just did the sidewalks, enjoying the beautiful day.

I did get a report that daughter Elaine climbed a cannon and was ordered down. I believe the guard shouted, “All feet on the ground!”

Just in case you’ve never visited, I’m giving you a brief history: “Seeing the need to protect the approach to the new capital city, President George Washington recommended fortification at Digges Point in the 1790s. Fort Warburton, completed in 1809, was much smaller than the present fort. Its own garrison destroyed it during the War of 1812 in the face of a British naval attack. Construction on Fort Washington started just two weeks later and was finally completed in 1824.” You can read more when you visit the fort and pick up a self-guided tour.

For additional information, write, call, or visit at: Fort Washington Park, 13551 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744. (301) 763-4600.

Oxon Hill Elementary celebrates Arbor Day

Prince George’s County Beautification Committee (PGCBC), along with County officials and volunteers, joined the students and faculty members of Oxon Hill Elementary School on Friday, April 25, to plant 14 native trees in honor of Arbor Day.

“We’re delighted to join Oxon Hill Elementary students in planting 14 native trees on Arbor Day,” said Master Gardener, Judge, and Vice-Chair of the Beautification Committee, Dave Kneipp.

“This event ensures young students learn the importance of trees to our environment, community, and neighborhoods, while also

teaching them to be good environmental stewards.”

Prince George’s County has been recognized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service with the Tree City USA® award.

Prince George’s County is the only County in the state to receive this award for 41 consecutive years.

Pope Leo XIV

I must confess to spending multiple hours listening to what was happening in Rome. I’ve been there, in Rome. And would have loved to be there again.

I was surprised that the conclave chose an American. From Chicago! I tried to call my college roommate, Marge Quinn. She has lived most of her life in Chicago. But I got an announcement that the phone is not there. I fear Marge is not either.

Changing Landscape

A deal has been struck for a stadium to be built at the “derelict” RFK site. I’m glad and I bet Robert Kennedy is too. It also means that Landover will be, once again, empty. I wonder what will happen to it.

There’s going to be a new addition to Skyline, thanks to RE/MAX executives! The sign at the corner of Suitland and Randolph Road, announces: “FOR SALE, Single Family Homes!,” 301-326-9658. From \$599. 4 bedrooms, 2-½ baths, on .41 acres, 2,204 sq. ft., 3-car garage, air conditioning, full basement.”

A house at 4716 John St. in Skyline has sold for \$414,000.

Memorial Day celebrated with Cemetery Mass

Every Memorial Day throughout the Washington Archdiocese, Mass is said at Catholic cemeteries. Usually, a large tent goes up at the cemetery, with plenty of folding chairs. As I go to press, it’s too late to invite. But you are invited every year to remember at Mass those who gave their lives for our freedom, and to pray for the souls of family & friends buried at the cemetery. Memorial Day this year was Monday, May 26.

Locally, it was celebrated at Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Road in Clinton where my husband Jack is buried. Rev. Dan Leary, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Clinton, was to be celebrant.

Memorial Day Mass was also be celebrated at Gate of Heaven, Silver Spring; Mount Olivet, 1300 Bladensburg Road in Washington; All Souls Cemetery, Germantown; and St. Mary’s Queen of Peace Cemetery, Mechanicsville.

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) Albaugh and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16, Morningside Mayor Benn Cann and Patti Parco Grey; Kaylin Barbour, Otis Jones and Ellen Ashby, May 19; Jim Behr, May 20; Crystal Foster, Juanita Hood and Linda Holsonbake, May 22; Ricci Lee Jr., Betty Call, L. Dorothy Jones, Nancy Sawyer, Dory Babecki and Chester Lanehart IV, May 23; Edna Lucas and Harry Messer, May 24; Dennis Cook, Norma Edwards and my son John McHale, May 25; Christopher Nichols, May 26; Gary Lewis, Sr. and Steven Busky, May 27.

Happy Birthday to my former next-door neighbor Teddy Burke and Kevin Nichols, May 30; Ruth Garner, Aiyana Poe, my granddaughter, Sarah McHale and John Tierney, May 31; Kathleen Stahl, June 1; Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2; Darius Nalley-Stoddard, June 3; Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; and Trisha Reamy, June 7.

Happy Anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14; Aidan and Mary Kilbride, their 62nd on May 18; Dennis & Leigh D’Avanzo, their 36th on May 20; Ronnie and Karen Ellis, their 59th on May 20; and John and Nichole Barbour on May 25.

Happy Anniversary to Tyonda Simms-Taylor and Michael Taylor, on their 30th anniversary, June 1.

Send birthdays and anniversaries to me at muddmm@gmail.com.



Meeting You Where You Are With Summer Grief Support Groups and Workshops

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (May 21, 2025)—From free, come-as-you-are drop-in grief support groups to workshops that explore grief through artistic expression, Chesapeake Life Center offers a variety of grief support groups and workshops for adults this summer.

- **Creating Hope: Therapeutic Art Exercises in Grief-work**—Creating can help us express things we have no words for, discover more about ourselves and glean beauty through our sorrow. In each session, people will participate in a therapeutic art project to help with personal grief work and connect with one another. This workshop is open to teens, as well as adults. Supplies are provided. No art skills are required. It will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19 and Aug. 23, at the Burnett Center for Hope and Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The cost is \$10 per session.
- **Monday Morning Mindfulness**—Start your week with intention and clarity with this morning session. Whether you’re new to mindfulness or have an established practice, this session offers guided meditation, gentle breathwork and reflective prompts to help you center yourself for the week ahead. It will take place at 8:30 a.m. on July 14, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. This is a free program.
- **Drop-In Grief Support Groups** are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet in Calvert County as follows:
 - North Beach Senior Center, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 and Sept. 3.
 - Southern Pines Senior Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, Maryland, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9.
 - Calvert Pines Senior Center, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19 and Sept. 16.
- **SoulCollage Studio**—Join us in person or virtually for a time to create unique collages reflecting and expressing loss and the journey through life. It will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday, July 14, at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. The supply fee is \$10.
- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Evening Group** is a group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is \$10.
- **Loss of Parent or Parental Figure Support Group** provides space for those grieving the loss of a parent or parental figure to come together to feel supported in their grief. The group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14 and Sept. 11, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is free.
- **Child Loss Support Group** is for parents grieving the death of a child, regardless of age or circumstance. It will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, June 30, Aug. 4 and Sept. 22, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is \$10. Childcare is not provided and children are not permitted in any of these groups.

The following groups will meet *virtually* via Zoom for Healthcare:

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Virtual Group** is a free group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12 and Sept. 9, via Zoom.
 - **SoulCollage Virtual Support Group for Loss and Transition** is a free group with participants creating collages to commemorate lost loved ones and visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, via Zoom.
- Except for drop-in groups, registration is required and can be completed by calling 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, 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. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HARMONY HALL REGIONAL CENTER

Harmony Hall Regional Center is located at 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-203-6070. Email: Harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com. Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sunday closed.

The Prince George’s Community Room is a classroom located inside the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland. Main location 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland, 20744. Telephone 301-203-6040, 301-203-6070.

DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Educate, Support, and Encouragement Embody Diabetes Prevention Program. The Diabetes Prevention Program at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center is a lifestyle change program that teaches patients to make healthy modifications that become lifelong habits. Lifestyle coaches counsel individuals about healthier food options and the benefits of daily exercise as well as teach participants how to read and understand a food label to empower them to make better choices. Education is the cornerstone of the program, which also includes one-on-one and group support to encourage participants throughout their diabetes journey. Learn more about the Diabetes Prevention Program by calling 202-235-6493 or emailing jessica.a.gamero@medstar.net. Information from MedStar Health MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Spring 2025.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

“The Prince George’s County Alumni Chapter of Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. continues to understand, firsthand, the tremendous value of providing scholarships to deserving young people at our beloved Bowie State University. This is why our Annual Scholarship event continues to be our signature event.”

“Our Alumni Social Affair will be at Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets: \$80 per person; \$800 per table. Ads for our souvenir booklet are: Full page \$100; Half page \$50; Back-page \$150; Patron \$25 each. Email to: Marketingmanager@pgcac.org.

“If you are unable to come, and would like to make a donation, any amount is appreciated. Payments for tickets, donations, ads or patrons, please make checks payable to (PGCAC) and mail to: Prince George’s County Chapter, 6710 Laurel Bowie Road, PO Box 1122, Bowie, Maryland 20718. Note: Payments can also be paid by CASHAPP: \$prince-georgecac or Zelle: treasurer@pgcac.org.” Submitted by Anita D. Ford, PGCAC President.

PROFESSOR LATONYA WRENN FACULTY RECITAL

Professor Latonya Wrenn’s faculty Recital blends soul, spirit and surprise. Professor Latonya Wrenn delivered a powerful and emotionally charged faculty recital at Bowie State University’s Fine and Performing Arts Center, featuring an electric mix of classical, gospel, R&B and soul, brought to life by a live band and vocal soloists from the university’s gospel choir, which she directs. MEDIA CONTACT: media@bowiestate.edu.

Known for her deep musicality, Wrenn seamlessly transitioned through a diverse setlist that included Chopin’s “Polonaise in A Major,” Anita Baker’s “Sweet Love,” John Legend’s “Ordinary People,” and a

soul-stirring gospel medley. The program opened with “The Lord’s Prayer” and concluded triumphantly with her original composition, “Grace.”

One of the evening’s most memorial highlights came from an unexpected source: Desiree DuBose, arts and events coordinator for the Fine and Performing Arts Center, surprised the audience with an impromptu vocal performance. Though unplanned, the moment felt organic and brought the audience to its feet.

Several standout moments came from student soloists who infused the concert with vibrant energy, blending youthful spirit with impressively polished performances. Each singer brought their own interpretation, reinvigorating familiar songs like “Ribbons in the Sky” and “Never Too Much.”

JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL 2025

Join us and celebrate the oldest nationally observed commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth marks the day the last enslaved people in the United States learned of their freedom. Today we commemorate this event nationwide as people come together to enjoy food, music, and the arts while learning about the history of the African American people, their culture, and achievements.

Bring your family and friends for an afternoon celebration. Featuring live entertainment, arts activities, food and shopping exhibitors, and more Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 12–5 p.m. AGE: All ages. Harmony Halls Art Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. Telephone: (301) 203-6070. Event Category: Arts Festivals Heritage Celebrations Black History Outdoor Performances. Event Programs & Series: Arts Juneteenth Watkins Regional Park 301 Watkins Park Drive upper Marlboro, Maryland. Telephone 301-218-6700. Contact: Black History Program blackhistory@pgparks.com.

SAARC

Explore the Arts at SAARC Wednesday, June 4, 2025, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Ticket Price varies. Age: All ages. Event Category Arts Performances Outdoor Performances Senior Youth. Event Programs & Series Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAARC) in Brandywine, Maryland. Address is 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland. Contact: Rhapsody.Snyder@pgparks.com.

WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to attend Nottingham Myers and Christ United Methodist Churches Cooperative Parish Women’s Day Celebration (Romans 15:13). Women, Hope and Power June 8, 2025, at their 10 a.m. service. Ladies are asked to dress in their most fashionable red attire. Hosted by Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Purchase an authentic commemorative brick from the original Martin Luther King, Jr. building, hand-selected and preserved prior to its demolition. Quantities are limited and deliveries will begin this summer. Actual brick from MLK Building in an Acrylic Display case shipped directly to your house. \$160.00.

COMMUNITY

Local University of Tennessee Student Recognized at Honors Day



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. (May 15, 2025)—Samir Smith (right), a University of Tennessee at Martin student from Clinton, Maryland, accepts the Intercollegiate Athletics Student-Athlete Award for Men’s Track and Field from UTM Chancellor Yancy Freeman during the university’s Honors Day, held April 13 in Watkins Auditorium on the campus of UT Martin. Also shown at left is Dr. Janet Wilbert, professor of health and human performance, who presented the awards.

The Intercollegiate Athletics Student-Athlete Award for Men’s Track and Field is presented to the most outstanding student-athlete on the men’s track and field team who has demonstrated leadership in and out of the athletics venue and demonstrated academic excellence as determined by the coaches and staff of the UTM Office of Intercollegiate Athletics.

For more information about UT Martin, visit www.utm.edu or call 1-800-829-UTM1 (-8861).

Children’s Grief Camp Is an Amazing Experience for Both Campers and Volunteers

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (May 21, 2025)—For children grieving the death of a loved one, summer can be especially difficult—but Camp Nabi offers a space where healing and hope take root. Hosted by Chesapeake Life Center, this beloved weekend grief camp returns Aug. 8 to 10 at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland, offering comfort, connection, and classic summer fun to both campers and volunteers.

Registration is open for children ages 6 to 18 who have experienced the death of a loved one. With a full team of counselors and trained volunteers, campers will participate in activities focused on memorializing their loved ones, learning coping skills in small groups, and using integrative arts to help kids express their grief. Of course, this also will include fun camp activities, like swimming, field games, ropes course and more.

To make this experience possible for grieving children living within its entire service area, free transportation will be available from one location in each of the counties it

serves: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s.

The cost is \$100 per camper. Thanks to community donations, there are a limited number of scholarships for families in need.

There is also a need for volunteers to help make this a successful and safe summer adventure. It can be a healing experience for many, as it is for longtime Camp Nabi volunteer Jay Beeler. His mother died in a car accident when he was 12. When he read about the camp, he thought about how that would have helped him then. Now he’s hooked.

“You see these kids from different lifestyles, different backgrounds, different experiences, yet they connect so well because it’s such a great feeling to know that you’re not alone,” Beeler said. Learn more about Jay’s experience in this brief v i d e o :

<https://vimeo.com/936367684>. To register for camp or to become a volunteer, call 1-888-501-7077, email griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org or visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/family-support/about-chesapeake-life-center/>.



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

(Aug. 3, 2023)—Volunteer camp counselor Jay Beeler, left, guides teen campers in a teamwork activity at Chesapeake Life Center’s Camp Nabi held at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland.



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

(Aug. 3, 2023) Middle school campers take part in field activities at Chesapeake Life Center’s Camp Nabi held at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland.

Highway from A1

its fewest traffic fatalities in recent years with 91 in 2024, but it still led Maryland counties. Baltimore County was the next highest county with 74 fatal crashes.

And if the current pace continues, Prince George’s will report about 92 traffic fatalities this year.

There are many single-parent households in Prince George’s County, Seng said, which may impact how much time is spent advising children on proper road safety. He added police staffing is down in Maryland and Prince George’s County, meaning fewer police officers are on the road enforcing safe driving.

Prince George’s County Police identified busy roadways, such as Route 202, Route 214, Annapolis Road, Laurel Bowie Road, Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Barnabas Road and Indian Head Highway (Route 210), as the most common fatal crash sites in the county.

Natasha Pettigrew was riding her bicycle and training for a triathlon when she was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver on Route 202 in 2010. Her mother, Kenniss Henry, said elected representatives don’t take road safety seriously enough. She keeps pressing the county to install more bike lanes, to little avail.

“The issue keeps coming back to funding, ‘We can’t afford it. There’s no funding,’” she said.

But Herbert Jones, of the Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee, said elected officials have stepped up to try to improve traffic safety.

He noted the new speed cameras on Route 210 have superior detection capabilities than the

previous cameras.

“The county changed out their speed camera vendor at our suggestion,” Jones said. “So far, it’s worked very well. People are definitely changing their behavior.”

Henry said although Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley in 2011 strengthened the punishment for criminally negligent homicide, raising the punishment to three years in jail, elected officials have been slow to pass meaningful legislation to deter dangerous driving.

“When my daughter was killed, I went to Annapolis, not knowing that others had been going back and forth,” Henry said. “I think they had been lobbying for a change in the vehicle manslaughter laws for five years across the state. That just shows you the level of non-commitment to highway fatalities.”

Christy Littleford, the driver who was convicted of leaving the scene of Pettigrew’s fatal hit-and-run, was sentenced to a year in prison.

Montgomery County Councilmember-at-Large Evan Glass pressed for the passage of the county’s Safe Streets Act of 2023, which prohibits right turns on red lights in downtown areas, allows increased time for pedestrians to cross at crosswalks and more. He said managing roads between county and state authorities is complex.

“I passed this law in 2023, and there are aspects of it that are still being enacted,” Glass said. “Here in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County, some roads are managed by the county and some roads are managed by the state of Maryland, so it makes it complicated.”

For Seng, implementing tougher punishments

for vehicular manslaughter would be a big help in boosting traffic safety.

“If someone’s texting and driving and kills someone, why is that a less serious crime than [non-premeditated] homicide?” Seng asked. “That is not outside the category of violent crime.”

Ron Weiss, of the Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee, said the county’s handling of fatal crashes doesn’t mitigate further accidents and reckless driving.

“People in Prince George’s County and maybe even Maryland, in general, are treated a lot less severe [than in other states],” Weiss said.

Seng said the inadequate punishment for negligent driving “comes to a head” in Prince George’s County, leading to fatal crashes.

“In Prince George’s County, people woke up in the morning ... who didn’t see the end of the day,” Seng said. “Somebody with extremely poor driving hygiene had other plans.”

Colindres, who was the passenger who died in the fatal March crash, was studying to be a nurse, according to a GoFundMe post. The crowdfunding post is raising money to fly Colindres’ body back to her family home in Guatemala.

“Berta was a caring and compassionate soul who dedicated her life to helping others,” the GoFundMe post says. “She was only 31 years old and had a beautiful dream of becoming a nurse. In fact, Berta was supposed to graduate this month, a milestone she worked so hard to achieve.”

There have been 14 fatal crashes in Prince George’s County since Colindres’ death.

PRESS ON Exhibition Explores Possibilities of Letterpress Printing

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS
Pyramid Atlantic

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (May 23, 2025)—Artists from all over the US, with additional participants from Canada, France, and Japan, are featured in this exhibition that celebrates letterpress as a powerful medium for artistic expression. In addition to traditional letterpress printing, varied techniques include inkless pressure printing and linocut blocks reconfigured to be used on a letterpress machine. The resulting show has nearly 100 works and is a testament to the creative possibilities of letterpress.

PRESS ON opens **Friday, May 30** with a reception from 6–8 p.m. The exhibition runs through July 13 in Pyramid’s Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thu, 10–8 p.m. and Fri–Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. For more information and an RSVP link, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

The show features a wide range of formats, including artist books, work on fabric, vinyl, and paper. The content ranges from political to inspirational; narrative to conceptual; and type both representing and exploring language, including English, French, Hebrew, Japanese, and Korean.

Access from A1

sity’s Student Health Center was prescribing 20-year-old Isaiah Kenny his medication, but when he went home to Colorado, the university health center couldn’t continue his prescription.

“There was a point in the summer where I was like, kind of rationing my medication, which really sucked,” he said.

Other complications

Providers and experts recognize the burden patients experience when they have to terminate or transfer care. While interstate compacts can alleviate some problems, there are still complications that can’t be as easily fixed.

Denise Takakjy, a licensed professional counselor and co-chair of the American Mental Health Counselors Association’s Public Policy and Legislative Committee, said national licenses are unlikely to ever happen.

Licensure requirements are different in every state and territory, Takakjy said. For licenses to be issued by the federal

government, states would have to give up their right to determine which requirements are best for their residents.

“It’s like trying to get 100,000 people to agree on the same thing,” she said.

On top of this, there’s a shortage of mental health professionals. For every 340 individuals in the U.S., there is one mental health provider, according to Mental Health America’s 2024 State of Mental Health in America report. The report also said over 122 million people lived in a mental health workforce shortage area as of March 2024.

“There are other states that are clamoring for [compacts] for workforce purposes,” Takakjy said.

While compacts have the power to bring mental health care to areas where providers are in short supply, they don’t directly alleviate the national provider shortage. Mental Health America’s report said the shortage is expected to grow over the next 15 years.

“Part of the problem we have, like the workforce gaps ... have to do with the fact that we don’t value this work enough to pay it what it’s worth,” Good-

enough said

In addition, licensing is expensive. Takakjy said providers have to pay for license renewals and various continuing education requirements, among other things. Given the costs, it would be impossible for any counselor to have a license in each state, she said.

Compacts may reduce some but not all of this financial burden, but not entirely. Depending on the compact, providers may have to pay for one “passport” license, like with PSYPACT. The Counseling Compact requires providers to pay for each state they request to practice, as does the compact that covers psychiatrists.

Insurance plans also hinder the effectiveness of compacts. Every plan has varying rules—some cover care in different states, but others might not. For example, Medicaid patients can’t automatically transfer coverage from one state to another since each state has different eligibility requirements.

Laura Shaughnessy, a senior at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, was initially al-

lowed to stay with her Pennsylvania therapist when she enrolled in college in 2021. Her insurance and provider said as long as she stayed within Maryland, Pennsylvania or Delaware, she could receive care. But in 2024, her insurance policy changed, and she couldn’t receive care unless she was in Pennsylvania.

“It forced me to implement the tools she gave me over the years, and not just, like, call her when anything was wrong,” Shaughnessy said. “But also, I think consistently going to therapy is so essential to having that growth that people, especially college age, need.”

Not just students

Given that the world is more interconnected than ever, college students aren’t the only people impacted by this issue. “Digital nomadism”—where people combine remote work with long-term stays far from home—has been rapidly increasing since 2020.

Advocates say that makes compacts more important than ever, which is why PSYPACT is pushing for passage of the

psychologist compact in states that still have not approved it.

Janet Orwig, executive director of PSYPACT, said grassroots activism could help make a significant difference. She encourages people to reach out to their legislators and testify about their experiences.

“I think the more we can get independent people to help us, the better it’s going to be,” she said. “I’m the executive director ... they’re not going to listen to me as much as they’re going to listen to somebody saying, ‘I need this.’ And it makes a big difference.”

Meanwhile, though, college students continue to struggle to get the consistent care they need.

Greene, the Florida resident attending the University of Maryland, said her transition between providers was emotionally taxing, given her strong relationship with her original provider.

“This was somebody who I really connected with and shared my struggles with,” she said. “And after just like a couple of weeks, you can’t see them anymore.”

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

*Founder and President Emerita,
Children’s Defense Fund*



**ChildWatch:
Education**

Advice for Young Graduates

Once again, this is the joyous time of year when families, friends, and teachers are cheering on graduates of all ages who have worked so hard and made them all so proud. I hope many of today’s high school and university graduates will wander off the beaten career path and help redefine success in our culture, asking not “How much can I get?” but “How much can I do without and share?” Asking not “How can I find myself?” but “How can I lose myself in service to others and leave our nation and world better than I found it?”

During this season I like to share some of the lessons for life I offered my own children and many of the extraordinary young graduates I’ve had the privilege of meeting over the years. The pace of change in the world young people are inheriting continues to accelerate exponentially, but I still believe there are some enduring values and

advice older people can share, and agree with Archibald MacLeish that “there is only one thing more powerful than learning from experience and that is not learning from experience.” I feel strongly that it is the responsibility of every adult—parent, teacher, preacher, and professional—to make sure that young people hear what we have learned from the lessons of life that helped us survive and succeed, for them to hear from us what we think matters, and for them to know that they are never alone as they go to meet the future.

Here are a few of those lessons:

There is no free lunch. Don’t feel entitled to anything you don’t sweat and struggle for. Take the initiative in creating your own opportunity, and don’t wait around for other people to discover you or do you a favor. Don’t assume a door is closed; push on it. Don’t assume if it was closed

yesterday, it’s closed today. And don’t ever stop learning and improving your mind.

Set thoughtful goals and work quietly and systematically toward them. Resist quick fixes, simplistic answers, and easy gains. They often disappear just as quickly as they come.

Assign yourself. My daddy used to ask us whether the teacher gave us any homework. If we said no, he’d say, “Well, assign yourself.” Don’t wait around for your boss or your friends or spouse to direct you to do what you are able to figure out and do for yourself. Don’t do just as little as you can to get by. If you see a need, don’t ask, “Why doesn’t somebody do something?” Ask, “Why don’t I do something?” Hard work, initiative, and persistence are still the non-magic carpets to success for most of us. And a critical reminder: Don’t be a political bystander and grumbler. Vote. Democracy is not a spectator sport.

Never work just for money. Money alone won’t save your soul or build a decent family or help you sleep at night. Don’t confuse wealth or fame with character. Don’t tolerate or condone moral corruption, whether it’s found in high or low places, whatever its color or class. And don’t confuse morality with legality. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once noted that everything Hitler did in Nazi Germany was legal. Don’t give anyone the proxy for your conscience.

Don’t be afraid of taking risks or of being criticized. If you don’t want to be criticized, don’t say anything, do anything, or be anything. Don’t

be afraid of failing. It’s the way you learn to do things right. It doesn’t matter how many times you fall down. All that matters is how many times you get up.

Always listen for the genuine within yourself. “Small,” Einstein said, “is the number of them that see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts.” Try to be one of them. “There is,” the great Black theologian Howard Thurman said, “something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls.” There are so many noises and competing demands in our lives that many of us never find out who we are. Learn to be quiet enough to hear the sound of the genuine within yourself so that you can hear it in other people.

And a final lesson: Never think life is not worth living or that you cannot make a difference. Never give up—no matter how hard it gets, and it will get very hard sometimes. An old proverb says that when you get to your wit’s end, that’s where God lives. Harriet Beecher Stowe said when you get into a “tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and the time that the tide will turn.” The tide will turn—if you dream it, if you believe in it, if you have faith in it, struggle for it, and never give up.

—May 23, 2025

Ben Jealous

*Executive Director,
Sierra Club*



Trump’s Anti-Immigrant Cruelty Is a National Scourge—and Would Be Made Worse by the MAGA Budget Bill

“Our neighbors are living in fear. And that’s what the administration wants. They want people to be scared. So, we’re combatting that by bringing the neighborhood together and saying, ‘you’re not going to frighten us into complicity; you’re not going to frighten us into hiding; we’re one neighborhood, regardless of anyone’s immigration status, and we’re going to stay one neighborhood.’”

That is how Gabe Gonzalez, an organizer in Chicago’s Rogers Park, described how his neighborhood has responded to Trump’s immigration crackdown—both during his first administration and throughout the first months of his current one.

On Martin Luther King Day this year, I gave the keynote at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition’s annual MLK Day breakfast. It was Inauguration Day. The contrast between the hope in that room and the fear outside—especially among Chicago’s immigrant communities—was sharp. Reports had already confirmed that Donald Trump’s new administration would make Chicago “ground zero” for

an intense national sweep by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Raids were imminent.

The mass Day One sweep did not materialize quite as advertised by Trump’s border czar Tom Homan. But thousands of people were still swept up across the country that first week of the current Trump administration. The fear these actions are still creating is very real. And for good reason.

Since then, the Trump administration’s deportation campaign has spread. What started in Chicago has become a national scourge. Families are being separated from Denver to Worcester. Parents arrested in front of their children. Kids coming home from school to find their homes ransacked and caregivers gone.

When armed agents grab someone without a warrant, haul them away from their family, and disappear without explanation—that is not just cruel. It is lawless. That is why community groups like Gabe Gonzalez’s have set up rapid response teams, legal observers, and know-your-rights train-

ings. In some cases, their efforts have stopped ICE in its tracks.

The cruelty of these raids is matched only by their chaos. ICE has arrested green card holders. Detained US citizens. Deported people who know the US as their only real home to countries they barely remember—or had fled for safety. All of this is meant to send a message: no one is safe.

The message is loud. And so is the silence that often follows it.

People are afraid to report wage theft or unsafe working conditions. Parents fear school pickups, or taking their kids to church on Sunday. Victims of domestic violence stay silent, worried that asking for help will get them deported. And even documented immigrants live in fear.

This is not security. It is terror. And it is why so-called “sanctuary cities” like Chicago—and “sanctuary states” like Illinois have put policies in place making it illegal for local law enforcement to participate in immigration crackdowns. Police already face enough trust barriers with many of the communities they work in. That makes their job harder. Being part of Trump’s anti-immigrant terror campaign would in some cases make it virtually impossible.

It also could be about to get even more dangerous. The Republican budget bill moving through Congress would supercharge ICE with \$80 billion in new funding. More agents. Fewer guardrails. And a leadership culture that seems more interested in punishment than justice.

And the strategy is broader than immigration. This is a movement that spreads fear, then exploits that fear to divide us—Black from Brown, citizen from immigrant, neighbor from neighbor. But as Gonzales and other organizers in Chicago have shown, solidarity still wins.

This fight is about more than policy. It is about who we are. It is about remembering that every person—no matter where they were born—deserves dignity. Deserves due process. Deserves safety.

The poem engraved on the base of the Statue of Liberty reads, “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” It makes no mention of any race, religion, or country of origin. It speaks to immigration making our country what it is. Making us stronger. Making us what Frederick Douglass called the most “perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen.”

That is the American Way.

Back in January, at Rainbow PUSH, I said that when a nation is divided, we stop seeing our own reflections in our neighbors. But our neighbors are still there. They are helping care for our kids, growing our food, rebuilding our towns after floods and fires. They are us.

So, all of us must respond as if it were happening to us—because one day, it could be.

That means fighting the cruelty with clarity. Standing shoulder to shoulder with immigrant communities—and sometimes, in front of them. Supporting Congress to pass good bills and reject bad ones that undermine due process.

Organizing non-violently. Voting. Showing up for our neighbors and the rule of law.

And it means calling this what it is—immoral, unjust, and defiantly at odds with the real American Way.

—May 20, 2025

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

MPT’s Chesapeake Collectibles Returns for 12th Season in June

Popular weekly series set to deliver a season of surprises from collectors across the Chesapeake region

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Public Television

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (May 20, 2025)—Maryland Public Television’s popular original series Chesapeake Collectibles returns for its 12th season with a treasure trove of captivating finds beginning on Monday, June 2.

Chesapeake Collectibles’ 13 weekly episodes will be broadcast on MPT-HD and available on the MPT livestream on Mondays at 7:30 p.m., immediately preceding the acclaimed PBS series Antiques Roadshow. Viewers can also find full episodes of the series anytime on MPT’s online video player and the free PBS app.

Encore broadcasts of episodes air on Wednesdays at 8: p.m. on MPT2 and the MPT2 livestream.

One of MPT’s most successful flagship series, Chesapeake Collectibles, showcases items from around the world brought to the show by individuals from across the Chesapeake region. During each episode, passionate collectors have their unique, antique, and col-

lectible possessions evaluated by expert appraisers, who reveal fascinating facts about each item’s history, provenance, and value.

Among the new season’s highlights are a rare first-edition set of The Lord of the Rings, a hand-annotated Lawrence of Arabia movie script, a sketch of the Baltimore skyline by legendary singer Tony Bennett, and a pair of exquisitely crafted silver seahorses by renowned Baltimore jeweler Carl Schon. Additional highlights include a letter from Fort McHenry’s commander requesting the very flag that would inspire The Star-Spangled Banner, a bronze statue with a risqué surprise, and a pair of bloomers worn and signed by Baltimore icon Divine.

Nearly 1,000 guests attended the Chesapeake Collectibles season 12 taping event, which took place in October 2024 at The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio on MPT’s Owings Mills campus. The series’ expert appraisers evaluated thousands of items, selecting the most fascinating for inclusion in the upcoming season.

Chesapeake Collectibles — June Episode Summaries

Episode 1 (June 2): A guest shares mementos and memories from an unforgettable dinner with John Lennon. A sketch of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor reveals another side of legendary crooner Tony Bennett. An eclectic “crazy quilt” captures the eye of several appraisers. Hollywood history is found under a stack of books in a home in Baltimore. And, nostalgia for TV westerns fuels a collector’s quest to hunt down childhood toys.

Episode 2 (June 9): A rare promotional print for Gone with the Wind sheds light on a shameful chapter of Hollywood history. A two-faced ceramic jug reveals the two sides of a politician’s personality. An appraiser solves a question that has puzzled the owner of an intricately designed table. A macabre memento proves that love transcends death. And, a ceremonial machete uncovers a remarkable story of service during World War II.

Episode 3 (June 16): A hand-

annotated copy of a speech by President John F. Kennedy is the star of a collection of JFK memorabilia. An unusual collection of political artifacts reveals a love for the democratic process. A pair of jeweled seahorses pays tribute to the shimmering treasures of the Chesapeake. A work of art made as compensation for a leaky pipe reveals fascinating techniques. And, an antique blasting machine ends the episode with a bang.

Episode 4 (June 23): An elegant bronze statue reveals a risqué surprise. A pair of religious reliefs once owned by America’s first Black millionaire opens a window into a remarkable legacy. A set of 18th-century medical texts sparks fresh appreciation for modern medicine. An awe-inspiring collection of World War II artifacts from the Pacific Theater tells a story of service and survival. And one appraiser quite literally steps into his role, donning traditional garb to examine textiles from the East.

Episode 5 (June 30): A veteran reveals the purchase made with his enlistment bonus: a first edition set of The Lord of the Rings. A young collector shares the pieces that launched his journey as a treasure hunter. A stunning trove of elegantly illustrated vintage songbooks is saved from the dumpster. A fashionable find

from the Baltimore Orioles’ clothing line turns heads. And, a majestic monstrosity, rescued from a deconsecrated church, shines for the cameras.

For more information about the series, including how to register for the show’s Season 13 taping weekend on October 4–5, visit

chesapeakecollectibles.com. The website also features the series’ Talkin’ Collectibles blog, found at mpt.org/blogs/chesapeake-collectibles/.

Major funding for season 12 of Chesapeake Collectibles is provided by Alex Cooper Auctioneers and Second Story Books.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Fort Washington National Guard Airman Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

By PRESS OFFICER
New York National Guard

LATHAM, N.Y. (May 19, 2025)—Air Force Major General Michael Bank, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Emi Bermonty-Vazquez from Fort Washington, Md., and assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, received a promotion April 1, 2025 to the rank of master sergeant.

Air National Guard promotions are based on a Airman's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

“The New York Air National Guard is built on a foundation of talented and motivated Airmen,

and this month’s promotions are a shining example of that excellence,” Bank said. “I am honored to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our Airmen, and I look forward to seeing their continued growth and contributions to our organization.”

These promotions recognize the best qualified Airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard.

Air National Guard Citizen Airmen who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Air National Guard or contact a recruiter, visit <https://dmna.ny.gov/ang/>.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How do I Apply for Social Security?

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

Dear Rusty: I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.
Signed: Seeking Assistance

Dear Seeking: It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1.800.772.1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal “my Social Security” account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security full retirement age, or “FRA.” Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced (to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that—if you are still working—you will be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET). The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe).

So, you can apply for your Social Security benefits, as indicated above, either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security’s earnings limit (the earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty).

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don’t need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>.

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it’s easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1.888.750.2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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.

Maryland Transit Administration Launches Next Phase of Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project

Public Meetings Will Explore Transit Solutions Along the MD 5 (Branch Avenue)/US 301 (Crain Highway) Corridor in Prince George’s and Charles Counties

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Transit Administration

BALTIMORE (May 15, 2025)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration invites residents, business owners and stakeholders to attend the upcoming open house meetings for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) Study. These meetings offer an opportunity to learn about potential mode and route alignment options, key project considerations, technical updates and to provide community input. A regional planning priority for Southern Maryland, this PEL Study will assess how a new transit service could enhance access and economic development in the region. To learn more about the project and PEL study, visit smrtmaryland.com.

“Expanding transit options across Maryland and moving people more efficiently and safely is one of my top priorities,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. “A rapid transit option in the ever-growing Southern Maryland region aligns closely with these goals. Thanks to Governor Moore’s budget, and the support of the General Assembly, MDOT is making historical investments in transit to increase safety, reliability and spur economic growth.”

The MD 5 (Branch Avenue)/US 301 (Crain Highway) corridor in Charles and Prince George’s counties represent some of the most congested roads in the Southern Maryland area. The proposed Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project will improve regional mobility, reduce congestion, foster economic development and

support sustainable growth. The PEL Study will evaluate previously identified and new potential transit solutions for the corridor based on current and planned development and growth in the area, comparing the potential benefits and impacts.

“The rapidly growing Southern Maryland community deserves reliable transit options,” said Maryland Transit Administrator Holly Arnold. “By directly engaging with residents and analyzing travel patterns, we’re working to develop transit solutions that meet the needs of this thriving region.”

The agency will hold two in-person and one virtual meeting. The first meeting will be held in Charles County on June 5 and the second in Prince George’s County on June 10. A virtual meeting will also be held on June 11. The public comment period will remain open through July 11, 2025. Meeting details follow:

Charles County
Thursday, June 5, 6–8 p.m.

The Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Ctr
3090 Crain Highway
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

Prince George’s County
Tuesday, June 10, 6–8 p.m.

Francis T. Evans Elementary School
6720 Old Alexandria Ferry Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

A *virtual* meeting also will be held on June 11 at 6 p.m. Details for that are available on the project website <https://smrtmaryland.com/>. Please contact the project team via email at SMRT@mdot.maryland.gov if you have

additional questions about the study, meetings or require assistance.

The Governor’s investments in transportation funding supported by the Maryland General Assembly enables the agency to advance both the current Planning and Environmental Linkages study and the completion of the project review under the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA). The FY2025-FY2030 Consolidated Transportation Program invests nearly \$35 million for the SMRT program, including \$10 million in Federal funds obtained through two Congressionally Directed Spending awards.

This study will consider a wide array of rapid transit modes including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT) and other transit alternatives such as those that include dedicated transit-only right-of-way and mixed-traffic operations, aimed at providing an alternative to congestion along the corridor. Public open house meeting attendees will learn about the potential transit solutions and will be encouraged to share their feedback with the project team.

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States, and operates local and commuter buses, Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train service and a comprehensive Mobility paratransit system. The goal of the Maryland Transit Administration is to provide safe, efficient and reliable transit across Maryland with world-class customer service. To learn more, visit mta.maryland.gov, check us out on Facebook or YouTube and follow us on Twitter/X and BlueSky.

Emerge Maryland Graduates Newest Cohort of Women Ready to Run, Win, and Lead

By PRESS OFFICER
Emerge Maryland

BALTIMORE (May 20, 2025)—Emerge Maryland proudly announces the graduation of 14 dynamic women from its premier Signature Training Program. Representing diverse communities across the state, these trailblazers have completed the intensive 70-hour, six-month program designed to equip Democratic women with the tools, training, and network to run for public office—and win.

The newest graduates of EmERGE Maryland’s Class of 2025 include:

- Erica Puentes – Baltimore City
- Crystal Parker – Baltimore City
- Ashley Esposito – Baltimore City, School Board Commissioner
- Joanna Bartholomew – Baltimore City

- Marsha Briley – Baltimore County
- Yvonne Harper – Baltimore County
- Jacqueline Scott – Howard County
- Christa Tichy – Montgomery County
- Josie Callabero – Montgomery County
- Delegate Teresa Woorman – State Delegate Montgomery County
- **Sakinda Skinner – Prince George’s County**
- **Molly McKee-Seabrook – Prince George’s County**
- Megan Outten – Wicomico County
- Jamie Shopland – Frederick County

Over the course of the program, participants received hands-on training in campaign strategy, fundraising, public speaking, field operations, and communications, while gaining confidence and community in a powerful statewide network of women leaders.

“These women have demonstrated the commitment, resilience, and leadership needed to make a difference in their communities,” said Diana Emerson, Executive Director of EmERGE Maryland.

EmERGE Maryland continues its mission of transforming politics and advancing representation by building a pipeline of Democratic women leaders across the state.

Applications for the 2026 cohort will open in June 2025. For more information, visit www.emergemaryland.org.

EmERGE Maryland is the state’s premier organization that recruits and trains Democratic women to run for public office. As part of the national EmERGE America network, EmERGE Maryland has trained hundreds of women who now serve in elected and appointed offices at every level of government.

Governor Moore Signs Legislation to Protect and Strengthen the Chesapeake Bay Economy

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 13, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today presided over the fourth bill signing ceremony of 2025, which included the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act—a key component of the Moore-Miller Administration’s legislative and economic agenda. The bill builds upon the administration’s historic efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay, providing new economic pathways for farmers and strengthening the Chesapeake Bay economy.

“We have a responsibility to hand over the state to the next generation better than we found it. That’s not just a moral priority—that’s an economic imperative,” said Gov. Moore. “The Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act will uplift every sector of our Bay economy, from agriculture to aquaculture. Together, we will protect and preserve our natural heirlooms and drive economic growth. Those missions aren’t in conflict, they’re in concert.”

The governor also signed legislation to expand access to reproductive health care and ensure equal access to public services for individuals with disabilities or limited

English proficiency.

Included among the bills Governor Moore signed today are:

The Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act, modernizes Maryland’s water quality and monitoring program; enhances Maryland’s farmland and ecosystems by promoting regenerative agriculture practices; streamlines the aquaculture leasing process; updates Maryland’s fisheries management program; and develops a collaborative permitting process to expedite watershed projects. The bill would also establish the Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming Pilot Program, allowing the Maryland Department of Agriculture to recognize and further incentivize sustainable land management practices.

Environment - Packaging and Paper Products - Producer Responsibility Plans, establishes a comprehensive framework for the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Program, which requires producers of certain materials to submit a plan to the Department of the Environment for managing their product at the end of its useful life. This bill also institutes a process for an alternative collection program through reuse, recycling, or composting, and requires a

producer responsibility organization to pay a fee, and prepare an ongoing statewide recycling needs assessment.

Public Health Abortion Grant Program - Establishment, establishes the Public Health Abortion Grant Program and Fund in the Maryland Department of Health to provide grants to improve access to abortion care clinical services.

Equal Access to Public Services for Individuals With Limited English Proficiency and Individuals With Disabilities, expands existing requirements for state agencies to provide equal access to government services for individuals with limited English proficiency or disabilities. The bill requires the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Department of Disabilities to convene the Maryland Language Advisory Group to advise and make recommendations on oversight, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement of certain provisions of law relating to equal access to public services for individuals who need language assistance.

To view the complete list of bills signed into law today, visit: governor.maryland.gov/news/Pages/bill-signings.aspx.

EarthTalk® Workforce Diversity Still a Challenge for Q&A Green Jobs

By Rachel Berliner | May 21, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
What’s being done to get more minorities into green jobs?
—Sam W., via email

Green jobs—those that directly contribute to a sustainable environment—have been growing in need as the world has become more eco-focused. According to the Solar Energies Industries Association (SEIA), between 2014 and 2019 employment in the solar energy sector increased five times faster than job growth in the general U.S. economy.

Despite this, there is still more to be done to improve workforce diversity. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory reported that 69 percent of the wind energy work force is white, and SEIA found that its workforce is 73 percent white. There is a clear lack of diversity in the green jobs workforce, often due to an underrepresentation of minorities trained in leadership roles, wage gaps unequal hiring practices. Lucky, there are a few ways green companies can address this problem.

The first solution to this problem is advancing access to training and degrees required for green jobs. Engineering jobs require bachelor’s degrees, but in 2022 only a quarter of engineering bachelor’s degrees were earned by women, and in 2018 only 4.6 percent were earned by Black people. “Despite the efforts of many ... within the formal educational system, education for a just and sustainable world is not a high priority,” explains Anthony

D. Cortese in his report The Critical Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable Future. In order to create a more diverse workforce, companies should offer financial aid for higher education and create real-life, research experiences designated for women and people of color.

Jobs that do not require degrees, such as repair, maintenance and construction, are covered by unions, though while unions generally protect workers’ rights and improve working conditions, they have a history of being exclusionary. “I understand that in the United States the same corporations that have been destroying the planet have collaborated to make it so that most American workers no longer have good, unionized jobs,” says Jane McAlevey, author and senior policy fellow at the University of California Berkeley’s Labor Center. Unions can implement new programs and policies, such as mentorship programs, to increase minority representation and improve worker skills. Another strategy is to create programs specifically for women and people of color that provide career development and financial support for transportation, uniforms or food.

Interested in taking action? Support companies that have inclusive hiring practices and educate your community about the need for diversity in the green job workforce.

CONTACTS: Unequal Opportunities: Examining Quality and Diversity in Green Jobs, jff.org/idea/climate-resilient-employees-sus-



PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

Workforce diversity remains a big issue in the fast-expanding green jobs sector.

tainable-tomorrow-crest/unequal-opportunities-examining-quality-and-diversity-in-green-jobs/

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