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Maryland's Push to Become the World's Quantum Capital Depends Partly on This UMD Physicist

By W. WADE DEVINNEY II
Capital News Service

Quantum physicist Ronald Walsworth is a busy guy.

Over the years he has founded a number of startup technology companies, including several in the biomedical field. His name is on a number of patents and more recently one company he co-founded rolled out one of the first ever super-resolution microscopes for advanced technology.

His biggest challenge these days, however, is helping the state of Maryland become a leader in the burgeoning field of quantum computing.

In January, Gov. Wes Moore unveiled a plan to make Maryland the “quantum capital of the world,” earmarking \$27.5 million in the 2026 state budget specifically for quantum technology investments and to support academic, technical and workforce development in the industry.

As director of the Quantum Technology Center, based at the University of Maryland, Walsworth is charged with



PHOTO COURTESY OF RONALD WALSWORTH, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Quantum physicist Ronald Walsworth is one of the key scientists racing to turn Gov. Wes Moore's vision of making Maryland the world's quantum capital into a reality. Here he is working on a quantum sensing apparatus in a lab at the Quantum Technology Center, which is housed at the University of Maryland's E.A. Fernandez IDEA Factory.

building an ecosystem of startup companies and research labs that can share knowledge and collaborate across disciplines to quicken development of quantum products.

“There's many elements to,” turning Maryland into the quantum capital, Walsworth said. “But one key element is taking the University of Maryland, which is already strong in quantum, and making it even stronger through things like building more laboratory space, hiring more faculty who will be experts in various aspects of quantum.”

For him personally, “it's a chance to lead something and lead something intentional, to really craft it the way I want to do it, to help the technology translate and educate people in this interface discipline,” Walsworth said.

Walsworth was recruited to head the Quantum Technology Center in 2019. Prior to relocating to Maryland, Walsworth was a researcher at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

“Harvard's wonderful, great students and faculty and all that,”

but the opportunity to build something in his vision, he said, was an opportunity he couldn't refuse.

Whether Maryland can achieve Moore's goal is unclear. While Maryland companies have been working in the quantum space for over a decade, several have relocated to other technology-focused cities, including Boston.

Kelly Schulz, chief executive of the Maryland Tech Council, believes that Maryland's financial commitment could change that and make Moore's aspirations realistic.

“It's going to show to other investors and other people that are interested in the sector, that Maryland is a place that wants to invest in growth in its tech industries,” Schulz said.

Quantum computers use the power of quantum physics to quickly solve problems and perform tasks faster than a conventional computer. Generally speaking, the speed at which a computer operates depends on how fast it can read 1's and 0's, known as binary code. And while modern computers read

these commands with lightning speed, quantum computers operate exponentially faster by reading binary digits that are both a 1 and a 0.

As an example, Google unveiled a quantum computer in 2019 that could determine in 200 seconds whether a string of numbers was truly random or if there was a pattern involved.

Google claimed that a supercomputer without quantum capabilities would need thousands of years to perform the same calculations. In December, Google announced the development of a quantum computing chip that has been touted as a major advancement.

The problem, however, is that quantum computers aren't yet commercially viable. Quantum computers are sensitive and make errors, which degrades the quality of some computations. They also cannot maintain a quantum state for very long. Because a quantum state is inherently unstable, even the best quantum computers can only op-

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A Game-Changer for Business in Prince George's County: Finance & Technology Forum Ignites Innovation, Capital Access, and Economic Empowerment

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Norman F. Holmes Foundation (NFHF)

MITCHELLVILLE, Md. (May 29, 2025)—On Thursday, May 22, 2025, the *Prince George's Finance & Technology Forum* delivered an unforgettable experience—boldly uniting thought leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs for a day of insight, connection, and economic momentum. Presented by the **Norman F. Holmes Foundation (NFHF)** in partnership with **Nudawn Marketing Group**, the Forum follows the powerful launch of a series, kicked off with the *Prince George's Business & Economic Imperative* in March and has quickly become a signature platform for shaping the County's business future.

With business owners, corporate ex-

ecutives, and public-sector influencers in attendance, the event buzzed with purpose-driven energy. The “**Financial Power Moves**” panel, moderated by Maria Randall of Lladnar Services, set the tone with a high-level conversation on capital access, resilience-building, and strategic finance. The panel featured some of the region's most trusted banking and funding experts, including Andrew Carlson (Capital One), Nicole Cawley (United Bank), Dawn Medley (FSC First), Doyle Mitchell (Industrial Bank), Cassius Priestley (Truist), and Dr. Malcolm Tyson (TEDCO). Together, they provided small business owners with real, applicable strategies to navigate economic uncertainty and unlock growth including building a relationship with your bank before asking for money; keeping company money in

the company, to always be innovating, and developing relationships to help you grow and scale your business.

The “**Digital Edge: Leveraging Tech to Lead the Future**” panel built on that momentum. With moderator James John of Fortinet at the helm, industry leaders Walter Burks (Management Solutions Consulting), John P. Sawyer (Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance), Amanda Stein (Quantum Catalyst), Tracye Turner (Optimal Solutions & Revelo Software), and Vennard Wright (Per Vista AI) tackled the transformative role of AI, cybersecurity, quantum, and other tech trends shaping the County's innovation landscape.

The forum also featured a powerful

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PHOTO CREDIT PHELAN MARC

Panelists and hosts gather following the “**Digital Edge: Leveraging Tech to Lead the Future**” discussion at the **Prince George's Finance & Technology Forum**. From left to right: Moderator James John (Fortinet), Walter Burks (Management Solutions Consulting), Amanda Stein (Quantum Catalyst), event co-host Greg Holmes (Norman F. Holmes Foundation), Tracye Turner (Optimal Solutions & Revelo Software), John P. Sawyer (Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance), co-host Dawn P. Jackson (Nudawn Marketing Group), and Vennard Wright (PerVista AI). The panel explored the transformative role of AI, cybersecurity, quantum, and other emerging technologies shaping the County's innovation and economic future.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Presents Procurement 360: Targeting Opportunities

PGCEDC is continuing to encourage business owners in the procurement community to ALIGN. ENGAGE. WIN.

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (May 29, 2025)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly presents Procurement 360: Targeting Opportunities—a high-impact, bi-monthly event series connecting local businesses directly with public sector procurement opportunities.

Launching on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025** within a soon-to-be-revealed location in Prince George's County, this program is a mobile, miniaturized version of the successful Procurement 360 Conference, strategically designed to unlock pathways to government procurement success by aligning business owners with one organization or agency per session—and, more importantly, with the decision-makers behind the contracts.

“Procurement 360: Targeting Opportunities was created with one goal in mind—breaking down barriers to access,” said Ebony Stocks,

Interim President & CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. “We want our small businesses, minority-owned firms, and local entrepreneurs to walk into the room with confidence, ready to win. By bringing decision-makers into the community, we're turning opportunity into outcomes.”

“This series is about precision and impact. We're tailoring each session around one agency or organization so attendees can get focused, real-time information and direct access to procurement leads,” Kimberlee Andrews, Director, Government Sector, PGCEDC. “It's how we help our businesses not only show up—but show up prepared to compete.”

Location and featured organization Information will be announced at www.pgcedc.com/procurement360

What You Will Receive:

Access to Contracts—Real-time, sector-specific opportunities.

Direct Connections—Meet face-to-face with procurement officers and contracting leads.

Targeted Learning—Understand the specific needs, timelines, and qualifications of the presenting agency.

Localized Access—Held twice a month on Tuesday mornings at various locations across Prince George's County.

Each session is designed to help attendees ALIGN with agency needs, ENGAGE decision-makers, and WIN contracts.

Whether you're entering the world of government contracting or scaling your existing pipeline, Procurement 360: Targeting Opportunities offers the direct access, insight, and strategy needed to succeed.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC)'s mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy supporting entrepreneurs' and businesses' growth and prosperity. It is dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's services to local companies, visit www.pgcedc.com.

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Prince George's County Council Adopts \$5.8 Billion FY 2026 Budget

“I am incredibly proud of this final budget, and all that we were able to squeeze into it, despite challenging circumstances—many of which were out of our control....” said Chair Burroughs.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Samantha Wade swears her father in as Mayor

Morningside Mayor Bradley Wade and Council-members were sworn in at the Town meeting, Tuesday, May 20. Mayor Wade’s daughter Samantha swore him in while his wife, Amy Wade, held the Bible.

His daughter Samantha Wade was specially deputized by the clerk of the court so that she could swear him in.

Also sworn in were Council-members Todd Mullins, who was re-elected, and Dave Chambers, who has previously served on the Council and is returning after a hiatus.

At the Morningside meeting on Tuesday, Mayor Wade handed out new assignments:

Sharon Fowler—vice mayor & rec committee liaison

John Anthony—building manager

Todd Mullins—streets & roads (side-walk repairs, potholes, etc.)

Dave Chambers—beautification & garden club.

The garden club is a new organization, designed to help get people, particularly kids, interested in growing healthful food and pretty flowers. It will be funded with the county Park & Planning grant.

Cake and refreshments were served afterwards, in a reception held outside because of the yoga class in the meeting room.

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, such as Rain Date, call 301-736-2301.

Faizan Zaki wins Bee

Éclaircissement—can you spell it?

Well, Faizan, a 13-year-old from Texas, can. And he did. At the National Spelling Bee finals at National Harbor

on May 29.

Éclaircissement is “the clearing up of something obscure: enlightenment.”

Faizan not only won this year, but he was a runner-up last year.

The National Spelling Bee is celebrating its centennial year in June 2025.

I like the food trucks!

Morningside dining options have expanded with the arrival of two food trucks.

One truck to receive permission to operate in Morningside offers Mexican food in the parking lot of the old gas station at Suitland Road and McKeldin Drive. The second truck, Delicias Las Hermanas, is in the parking lot of My Morningside Beer & Wine, across the street from the Morningside Fire Department.

They specialize in Salvadoran and Mexican food, and are open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

My grandson Conor and I have sampled the carne asada (grilled beef), and cheese enchiladas stuffed with grilled onions and peppers, which came with black beans, rice, salad, and little cups of red and green salsas.

We also tried three different varieties of pupusas (stuffed cornmeal griddle cakes), which were filled with ground pork, plain cheese, and cheese and “loros” (an edible flower bud popular in El Salvador). The pupusas come with the traditional Salvadoran side of spicy cabbage slaw and a tomato sauce.

Details about the other food truck will come once we’ve had the opportunity to check them out. And we will.

Juneteenth celebration

Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Emancipation Day, is a holiday that commemorates the day

slaves in Texas, and later the rest of the United States, learned of their freedom.

Head to National Harbor for a Juneteenth celebration on June 19 that bolsters black-owned businesses with a marketplace in the Capital Canopy and brings joy through cultural performances on the Plaza Stage.

Changing landscape

At 96, I don’t do much deep investigation these days, so I may be wrong again. But a recent shopper informs me that our 7-Eleven, across from the Morningside Fire Department, is indeed closing.

I understand that six homes will be built at Randolph and Suitland roads. I think they will have feature driveways that serve two homes each. We’ll see.

A home at 6708 Suitland Road has sold for \$390,000.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Kathleen Stahl, June 1; Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2; Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; Trisha Reamy, June 7; Ryan Fowle and John Nichols, June 8; Robin Murphy and Rev. Frank Ways, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Fannie Dimes. Meghan Trexler Decker and Jennifer Jenkins McClelland, June 11; Keenus Clark and Shirley Proffhit, June 12; Aimee Crawford, Joel McCune and Cameron Nichols, June 13; and Rep. Steny Hoyer, June 14.

Happy anniversary to Tyonda Simms-Taylor and Michael Taylor, their 30th on June 1; Carol (Kline) and Tom DeGraba, their 31st on June 4; and Bucky and Debbie Tretler, their 49th on June 5.

Email birthdays and anniversaries to muddmm@gmail.com.

Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Community Health Fair 2025

By PRESS OFFICER

Judah Temple AME Zion Church

The Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Shalom Wellness Ministry, is excited to announce the “Community Health Fair 2025” on **Saturday, June 21, 2025**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme for this year’s Health Fair is “Building a Healthy Community.” Join us at our church located at 14500 Mt. Oak Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721.

To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/jtamezhealthfair2025>. Pre-registration is not mandatory.

The Community Health Fair 2025 will feature representatives from a variety of organizations, including those from Prince George’s County and beyond. Our mission is to enhance community well-being by offering educational resources, providing health screenings, and connecting

individuals with healthcare services. In addition, we will offer interactive and engaging opportunities to explore health, promote early detection of potential issues, and inspire individuals to embrace healthier lifestyles.

Here’s what you can look forward to: Luminis Health Blood Donation Van; free early detection PSA blood screening test for prostate cancer, provided by Howard University; blood pressure and glucose screenings to monitor your health; engaging educational health presentations led by medical professionals; and fitness demonstrations along with a variety of health-related activities and information for both children and adults. Light refreshments will be available. Help us make a positive impact in the community!



IMAGE COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Licensed clinical professional counselor Marie Burgess shares how Chesapeake Life Center programming helped her and her family to find healing after the death of her son Harvey in a video produced by Hospice Foundation of America for its “Improving Dying” continuing education series.

Chesapeake Life Center Featured in New Video on Innovative Grief Programming

By PRESS OFFICER

Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (May 28, 2025)—Grief doesn’t come with a map—but no one should have to navigate it alone. In a new video about the Chesapeake Life Center, one can hear the voices of those who’ve walked through loss and found comfort, connection, and hope through Hospice of the Chesapeake’s grief support programs.

The story of how Chesapeake Life Center uses creative programming and wellness to help the community heal through connection is told in the video produced by Hospice Foundation of America (HFA). It features griever sharing how they learned to cope with loss with Chesapeake Life Center, which offers bereavement services through Hospice of the Chesapeake. Also in the video are team members discussing their role in grief counseling.

Marie Burgess was greatly impacted by the care she and her family received after her 6-year-old son Harvey died. A licensed clinical professional counselor, she shared in the video that her experience led her to volunteer as a camp counselor at the center’s children’s grief camp.

Terri Hussman shared how Chesapeake Life Center gave her the tools to help her children after her husband died suddenly. “This organization knows how to create community, how to sustain community and how to wrap people up in community who maybe haven’t been a part of it,” Hussman said.

The video is part of the HFA’s continuing education series, Improving Dying, which showcases exceptional care programs that are

enhancing care for patients, families and even entire communities. These special programs go the extra mile to provide excellent patient care, ease caregiving and grief, and raise public awareness of the humanity and dignity that can be part of end-of-life care.

Chesapeake Life Center was one of six hospice programs featured in the series. “End-of-life care providers are doing amazing work that rarely gets the attention it deserves,” said Amy Tucci, HFA’s president and CEO. “With Improving Dying, HFA’s goal is to recognize their efforts and provide models that can be replicated to enhance care for dying and the bereaved.”

“It brings me so much joy to be in a position to hold space and hear people’s stories and their journey and to see people happy again,” Chesapeake Life Center grief counselor Jennifer Ward said in the video. “To see that joy brings me joy.”

To see the video, visit <https://vimeo.com/1080179661/bd52bdfdcbl?share=copy>.

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.

Hospice Foundation of America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides programs and resources for professional development, public education, research funding, and information on hospice, palliative care, caregiving, and grief. For details, visit www.hospicefoundation.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CUMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

You are invited to join Clinton United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Our theme this year is Road Trip: On the Go with God July 14–July 18, 2025, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Each day our K–5th graders will discover God is with us everywhere we go. Join us for Church service on Sunday, July 20, 2025, for the children’s Church Vacation Bible School summary presentation at 10:30 a.m.

Please register your child for VBS Registration 2025 on our website <http://cumcmd.org/> or if you need a registration form, please contact our office at 301-868-1281. Interested in volunteering time or materials? Please contact Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384 or ajohnson12906@yahoo.com.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER CHAPTER

VOICES of HOPE. What does VOICES stand for? Victory over injustice cleanses everyone’s spirit. Members are volunteers with a lived experience of domestic and/or sexual violence who join together to celebrate strength and survival. Members use their voices to celebrate strength and survival.

Members use their voices to help others through advocacy, education, and empowerment. Applicants should be safe from ongoing violence, not currently in court proceedings regarding their prior victimization and have actively participated in healing from their experience.

Membership: Members complete a membership application and interview with the VOICES Chair and/or the Prince George’s County Family Justice Center (PGCF) Coordinator. Members agree to attend at least four meetings a year and support the work of the VOICES Committee throughout the year.

Mission: Our mission of the Prince George’s County VOICES Chapter is to educate and raise awareness about domestic violence within our community. These brave survivors share their stories of survival, hope, and empowerment as a way to bring a voice for those who do not have one.

Collaboration with the Prince George’s County Family Justice Center. Through a separate and independent, volunteer led ring group, the VOICES Committee supports the work of the PGCFJC by ensuring survivor input and perspective on the services at the FJC, identifying systematic gaps, and ensuring survivor safety and wellbeing is prioritized. Members actively engage the community by sharing personal stories and experiences to bring about awareness and effectuate change.

Contact Us: Phone 301-780-8008, Email: pgcfjcvoices@co.pg.md.us, Website: www.pgcfamilyjustice-center.org/voices. Address: 14757 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

ALUMNI DAY 2025

Plans are underway for Pomonkey High School Alumni Day 2025 to be held at Penny’s Estate in Marbury, Maryland on Saturday, August 9, 2025. Come for an afternoon filled with conversation, entertainment, food, games, and fun. Check Facebook for the latest details. More information to follow. Save the date. Hope to see you there.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Stephnie Samuel, Jasmine Taylor, Sandra Miley, Ruth Wilson, Rendell Crawford, Rita Pinkney, June

Fauber, Louise Gordon, Sally Fauber Lucas, Atara Serene Scott Bourne, Avis Balkcom-Williams, Tawana Lindsay, Naasir Greenhill Oghogho, Carol Bell, Barbara Marsh, Beverly Baker, Madison Falby, Raymond Porchea, Alston Knight, Kimberly Fields, Kendra Neal, Christopher Quarm, Rodney Tyree, Shiloh Bell, Barbara Harris, Rahsaan Silas Thomas who are members of Clinton United Methodist Church.

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations and Happy Wedding Anniversaries to Henry and Idena Thomas, Vincent and Ethel Cooke, William, III and Quiviana Stroman, Robert and Sandra Miley, Daniel and Carolyn Glee, Joseph and Nadia Prah who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in June.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is one of the federal holidays in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States. Wikipedia.

UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS

UniverSoul Circus National Harbor opens June 26, 2025. Venue: National Harbor, 268 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Maryland. Groups: If you are bringing a group of 20 or more people for the same performance, great. Email info@univer-soulcircus.com for more information. Paid parking.

ANNUAL JAYCEES SENIOR PICNIC

The Annual Jaycees Senior Picnic will be held Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. This is a free event sponsored by The Greater Waldorf Jaycees and the Department of Community Services. Enjoy music, word games, line dancing, door prizes, and a delicious luncheon provided by the Waldorf Jaycees. Event is held at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. VanGo transportation will be available to those with specialized services on file. There are a limited number of tickets available for this FREE event.

You may pick up a maximum of 2 tickets. Every ticket older must meet all eligibility requirements. To be eligible for a ticket you must be 60 years of age, or older (or married to someone 60+), reside in Charles County, be a current registered senior with Charles County Senior Centers. Tickets became available at all four senior centers on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, first come, first served when doors open. Address: 3090 Crain Highway Waldorf, Maryland 20601. Telephone: 301-645-4546.

FATHER’S DAY

Father’s Day is a holiday honoring one’s father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The holiday complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Mother’s Day and, in some countries, Siblings Day, and Grandparents’ Day. Wikipedia.

“HAPPY FATHER’S DAY TO ALL FATHERS”

COMMUNITY

Kyla Hebert Recognized as LVC Student-Athlete

By PRESS OFFICER
Lebanon Valley College

ANNVILLE, Pa. (May 28/2025)—Kyla Hebert of Upper Marlboro, Md., is one of more than 200 student-athletes who competed for the Flying Dutchmen during the Spring 2025 season. Hebert, a graduate of Northern High School, is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing in nursing.

Hebert was a member of the women’s lacrosse team. The

Lebanon Valley College Women’s Lacrosse team posted a strong 2025 season with a 13–6 overall record and a 6–1 mark in Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom play. The Flying Dutchmen won their first six conference games and reached the MAC Freedom Final, following a 21–12 victory over DeSales University in the MAC Freedom Semi-final on April 30.

More information about LVC Athletics is available at godutchmen.com.

Marietta House Museum Presents: Panel Discussion of Pride Writers: Writers With The Write Women Book Fest

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, June 21**, from 1–4 p.m. for a “Panel Discussion of Pride Writers: Writers with The Write Women Book Fest”. This workshop will be led by authors Cardyn Brooks, Heather Brooks, and Dayna Reidenouer of Your Publishing BFF.

If you are an LGBTQ author or writing about LGBTQ characters, sign up for this afternoon panel discussion followed by a network—mingle. LGBTQ authors, editors, cover designers, and publishing professionals who want to create a space of connectedness and mutual support within the LGBTQ writing community are all welcome.

This panel discussion and Q&A is for writers who are not yet published and want more information on the publishing process from independent self-publishing and to how to query submissions to publishers. Followed by a Network-Mingle. Please bring your business cards to share and make meaningful connections. Light refreshments will be served.

Recommended for ages 18 & up. \$10/person. Please register at www.pgparcs.com and use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20250621. For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparcs.com.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

BHS NJROTC Class of 2025 Seniors Awards Night

By ASSISTANT PAO C/SA JORDYN LAMONTAGNE
Bowie High School NJROTC

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the Bowie High School NJROTC unit participated in Senior Awards Night, which was held at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA). This event recognized the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2025 and celebrated their dedication, academic success, and leadership. The Bowie High School NJROTC color guard team presented its colors during this event. The Color Guard team consisted of cadets Lisa Benites, Ava Marcelin, Omowunmi Ogunbanwo, and Skye Soriaga, and was commanded by Cadet Sea-

men Ava Marcelin. A total of ten NJROTC seniors were awarded scholarship checks during the ceremony in recognition of their commitment, hard work, and contributions to the program throughout their high school years. This event was a big moment for cadets, instructors, and families, as it marked the years of effort and growth of these cadets. As these seniors prepare to start the next chapter of their lives, the NJROTC program celebrates their achievements and looks forward to continuing its road of excellence in the years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC
The Bowie High School NJROTC Color Guard team presented its colors during the Senior Awards Night event.

BHS NJROTC Community Day

By PAO C/SEAMAN BLASDO TCHAA
Bowie High School NJROTC

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, Bowie High School NJROTC participated in Community Day, an event hosted at Bowie High School in Bowie, Maryland. Community Day featured live music, international foods, vendors, games, and opportunities to learn about the amazing programs offered at Bowie High School. During this event, the Bowie High School NJROTC Drill team performed 3 of their drill cards. These Drill cards were Unarmed Standard, commanded by C/PO3 Zion Westerhuis; Armed Standard, commanded by C/PO3 Omowunmi Ogunbanwo, and Color guard commanded by C/Sman Ava Marcelin. In addition to the drill performances, Bowie High School NJROTC also hosted a pie-in-the-face fundraiser, where attendees had the opportunity to pie participating cadets, Captain Clemia Anderson, or Gunnery Sergeant George Hinton by contributing specific amounts of money.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC
Color guard commanded by C/Sman Ava Marcelin.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces Summer Arts in the Parks

Free Outdoor Performances Across Prince George’s County All Summer Long

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 28, 2025)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County is excited to announce the return of Summer Arts in the Parks, a series of FREE outdoor performances taking place at parks and Department facilities throughout Prince George’s County. From live music and theatrical performances to family movie nights, this summer-long celebration offers

something for everyone to enjoy under the stars.

Upcoming Performances:
Voices of Fairwood

June 8, June 29, July 20, August 17, September 28 | Fairwood Community Park
FREE | All Ages

Fairwood Park comes alive this summer with FREE outdoor concerts. Established in 2013 as the Fairwood Arts Festival, this summer tradition had grown into one of the most anticipated performing arts events in Prince

George’s County. This year’s performances have expanded to embrace the multicultural nature of the county, with each concert themed to celebrate the cultural impact of African American music in the county.

Shakespeare in the Parks

June 15–July 6, 2025 | Various Locations
FREE | All Ages

Set in the festive world of an Italian Carnival, this energetic production brims with masquerades, mistaken identities, and de-

lightful farce. Pack a picnic, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy the magic of the Bard.

Summer Concerts at Cosca

June 18, July 17, July 31, & August 14 | Cosca Regional Park
FREE | All Ages

Groove to live R&B, soul, funk, GoGo, and more! This year’s concert series shines a spotlight on local artists and brings the community together. Bring your lawn chair, blanket, and picnic, and enjoy a night out in the park.

Summer Concert Series at Riversdale

June 11 & June 25 | Riversdale House Museum
FREE | All Ages

Enjoy live music at the historic Riversdale House Museum. Perfect for a family outing, these concerts invite guests to bring a lawn chair and picnic dinner for a relaxing summer evening.

Runway Rhythms

Saturday, June 28, July 26 & August 30 | College Park Aviation Museum

FREE | All Ages

Tap your toes and dance to the rhythm during the Runway Rhythms summer concert series, held in the courtyard of the College Park Aviation Museum.

For a full schedule of dates, times, and locations visit pg-parcs.com. Performances are subject to cancellation due to weather emergencies. Be prepared for storms and other emergencies this summer. Stay updated and prepared through PG Parks Alert, M-NCPPC’s free weather and emergency notification services.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PART FOURTEEN

Students Aim to Prevent School Violence With Help From Sandy Hook Promise

By EMELY MIRANDA-AGUILAR
Capital News Service

IJAMSVILLE, Md. (May 26, 2025)—One day before prom, in an advanced placement government classroom at Oakdale High School southeast of Frederick, Maryland, a group of students gathered to film the school’s morning announcement.

“Students Against Violence Everywhere, also known as SAVE, has decided to highlight our trusted adults, and we want you to vote to showcase our positive school climate and show appreciation for our teachers,” said Evie Graham, president of SAVE at Oakdale.

And while it might not be obvious, that announcement was part of a student-led effort to prevent the worst from happening at Oakdale High School.

During her freshman year at Oakdale, Graham became a “promise leader” with the Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit founded by several family members of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut, which claimed 26 lives in December 2012.

Through Sandy Hook Promise, Graham learned how young people can engage and teach others about preventing gun violence. Soon, she founded a SAVE club at her school.

“The second I saw that [there was a club], I kind of knew that I wanted to start one here,” said Graham, now a senior at Oakdale. “I like putting action behind my words. I, like, vividly remember when I was a sophomore [or] freshman, and I would see, every single day, a new headline come across my phone [about gun violence]. I would get so frustrated.”

The Sandy Hook Promise mission is to “educate and empower youth and adults to prevent violence in schools, homes and communities,” according to its website. Founded in 2013, it’s an organization that draws praise from those who have studied its work—even though researchers find it difficult to prove that any one effort could curb school violence.

“It’s, I think, important that schools, as they’re adapting programs like this, where you’re trying to get to create connections, that people are comfortable speaking up—that you can demonstrate to students that their concerns are going to be heard, that they’re going to be validated,” said Justin Heinze, an associate professor of health behavior and health equity at the University of Michigan who has studied Sandy Hook Promise and its effectiveness.

Addressing a need

Sandy Hook Promise aims to address a dire problem. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that from 2013 to 2022, the gun death rate among children ages 1–17 increased by 106%, with firearms becoming the leading cause of death for youths.

In response to the growing concern over school violence, David Riedman, an assistant professor at the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services at Idaho State University, created the K–12 School Shooting Database. According to the database, there were 2,983 incidents of school shootings from 1966 to 2024, with the number of incidents increasing dramatically over the past six years, peaking at 349 in 2023.

To counter those trends, Sandy Hook Promise created an anonymous reporting system and three prevention programs: Start with



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
A SAVE Club meeting at Oakdale High School.

Hello, Say Something and the SAVE Promise Club, which has over 5,000 registered clubs across the United States, including the one at Oakdale High School.

Start With Hello is a training program for K–12 students that helps reduce social isolation, build empathy and create a more inclusive school community. Say Something, also for K–12 students, teaches them to recognize warning signs that someone may be in crisis and to seek help from a trusted adult.

Officials at Sandy Hook Promise declined several interview requests, but on the group’s website, its co-founder and co-CEO, Mark Barden, outlined its mission.

HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Alzheimer’s Association Encourages Americans to Take Charge of Their Brain Health

—June is Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month—

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer’s Association®

ARLINGTON, Va. (May 30, 2025)—This June during Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, the Alzheimer’s Association® is encouraging all Americans to take charge of their brain health.

Today, there are more than 7 million people in the United States living with Alzheimer’s disease, including more than 127,000 in Maryland. Two-thirds of Americans have at least one major potential risk factor for dementia. The brain changes that cause Alzheimer’s are thought to begin 20 years or more before symptoms start, which suggests that there may be a substantial window of time in which we can intervene in the progression of the disease.

Experts believe there isn’t a single cause of Alzheimer’s. It’s likely the disease develops as a result of multiple factors. While not a direct cause of Alzheimer’s, the greatest known risk factor is advancing age. Although some risk factors like age can’t be changed, as many as 45% of dementia cases may be attributable to modifiable risk factors, such as high blood pressure and lack of physical activity.

Research shows that adopting healthy behaviors—like getting exercise and good quality sleep—can improve your brain health and reduce the risk of cognitive decline. The Alzheimer’s Association encourages individuals to incorporate these 10 Healthy Habits to help protect brain health. Whatever your age or stage of life, now is the time to take charge of your brain health.

Be Proactive in Addressing Brain Changes

Many people equate Alzheimer’s to memory loss, and while that is one of the most common signs, there are others that can signal cognitive decline, including altered judgment, challenges in decision-making, and planning and carrying out projects. Only half of those with Alzheimer’s ever receive a diagnosis, delaying needed care and potentially putting them at risk.

Early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s is more important than ever. If you notice any of the warning signs of Alzheimer’s in yourself or someone you know, schedule an appointment with your doctor. Early detection offers significant benefits for the person diagnosed and their loved ones,

including the ability to plan for the future and greater access to treatments that can slow disease progression for people in the early stage of the disease.

Join the Fight to End Alzheimer’s

During Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, the Alzheimer’s Association invites everyone to join us in the fight to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia. In addition to adopting healthy habits and recognizing warning signs, here are additional things you can do:

Go purple: Throughout the month of June, go purple—the color of the Alzheimer’s movement—to raise awareness of the disease. Dress in purple and share your story on social media using the hashtag #ENDALZ.

Get information and support: The Alzheimer’s Association offers free resources for people living with Alzheimer’s, caregivers, family and friends, and others, including a 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900), in-person and virtual education programs and support groups, and online interactive tools for care planning, finding community resources and connecting with others. Visit alz.org/help-support.

Advocate: Join our network of ad-

vocates across the country who are helping to persuade federal and state policymakers to make Alzheimer’s and dementia a priority. Start now by sending a message to Congress asking them to take action today. Visit alz.org/congress-connects.

Volunteer with us: As an Alzheimer’s Association volunteer, you can help those in your community take steps to reduce their dementia risk and recognize the signs of Alzheimer’s. Our education and support programs are flexible and easy to learn, giving you the opportunity to become a leader in the effort to end Alzheimer’s. Visit alz.org/volunteer.

Accelerate research: It takes everyone to advance Alzheimer’s and dementia research. Alzheimer’s Association TrialMatch® is a free, easy-to-use service that connects individuals living with cognitive impairment, Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia, caregivers and healthy participants with current research studies. Learn more at alz.org/trialmatch.

Join the fight: Advance the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer’s Association by participating in our fundraising events. Create your own unique fundraiser for The Longest Day® or join us this fall for Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Sign up at alz.org/fundraisingevents.

About Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month

Established by the Alzheimer’s Association in 2014, Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month is dedicated to encouraging a global conversation about the brain and Alzheimer’s and other dementia. To learn more about the Alzheimer’s Association, available resources and how you can get involved to support the cause, visit alz.org/abam.

Fight the Darkness of Alzheimer’s by Supporting The Longest Day

The Longest Day® is the day with the most light—the summer solstice. The Longest Day participants fight the darkness of Alzheimer’s and all other dementia through a fundraising activity of their choice on a day that works for them. With sports tournaments, card games, parties, baking and more, participants raise funds to advance the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer’s Association. For more information and to register, visit alz.org/thelongestday.

About the Alzheimer’s Association

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer’s and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

Luminis Health Unveils TeamBirth Program to Improve Maternal Health and Reduce Infant Mortality

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 29, 2025)—At a celebratory ceremony attended by community leaders, clinicians, and advocates, Luminis Health unveiled its new TeamBirth program today at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. The event marked an advancement in perinatal care, aimed at improving birth outcomes and reducing infant mortality across Maryland. With this launch, Luminis Health becomes the first health system in the state to implement this proven model of care.

TeamBirth is an evidence-based initiative that promotes transparency and teamwork in perinatal care. At its core is a

simple yet powerful tool: a planning board in each birthing room that allows patients, nurses, midwives, and physicians to align on care plans, share updates, and make decisions together. While aspects of this communication already occur, TeamBirth introduces greater consistency, clarity, and accountability. It enhances existing care practices by standardizing communication and fostering a shared approach, empowering teams to deliver safer, more respectful, and continuously improving care tailored to each patient’s needs.

“TeamBirth is about making sure every patient has a voice during one of the most critical and joyous moments of their life,” said Dr. Monica Jones, system chair of Luminis Health

Women’s and Children’s Service Line. “By fostering open communication and shared decision-making, we are adding another layer of safety and empowerment to the childbirth experience. Our teams are committed to delivering exceptional quality patient-centered care, while advancing birth equity for everyone who seeks our services.”

Despite advances in modern medicine, the U.S. continues to face alarming rates of maternal and infant mortality overall. Luminis Health has taken significant steps in recent years to address the maternal health crisis and reduce disparities in care, including:

- Requiring implicit bias education and training for all maternal care staff

- Implementing strategies to reduce C-Section rates
- Encouraging the use of doulas and nurse midwives to provide continuous, culturally responsive support during labor
- Launched CenteringPregnancy® programs in both Anne Arundel and Prince George’s Counties to improve prenatal care through group-based education and support
- “At Luminis Health, we believe that by using evidence-based programs and listening to the people and communities we serve, we can end the maternal health crisis,” said Tori Bayless, CEO of Luminis Health. “Eliminating maternal and infant mortality is one of the bold goals outlined in our Vision 2030 strategic plan, and our teams re-

main dedicated to expanding access at every level of care.”

Today’s event featured remarks from Luminis Health executive and clinical leaders and patient advocates, a demonstration of the TeamBirth toolkit, and opportunities for attendees to engage with members of the labor and delivery team. The announcement took place in the Rebecca M. Clatanoff Pavilion, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Since 1995, the Thomas J. Frank Family Birth Center has been a trusted space for families, where more than 145,000 babies have been born, making it one of the busiest birth centers in Maryland and a special part of the community.

The TeamBirth program is fully funded through the generosity of long-time supporters of the hospital. “We are deeply grateful to our generous donors whose support makes innovative programs like TeamBirth possi-

ble,” said Sherry Perkins, president of Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. “Their gifts directly enhances the quality of care we provide and help us better serve the families in our community—a community we’ve proudly served as a trusted place of care for more than 120 years.”

Luminis Health also plans to implement the TeamBirth model at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center in Lanham when it adds inpatient obstetric services. Scheduled to open in 2028, the new women’s health center is expected to deliver approximately 2,000 babies a year once fully operational.

Implemented by Unravel Healthcare, TeamBirth was developed by Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, MA.

Maryland Department of Health Expands Behavioral Health and Community-Based Services for Children and Youth

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (May 29, 2025)—The Maryland Department of Health today announced that it received approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expand access to behavioral health and home and community-based services for children and youth. The federal approval is for an amendment to Maryland’s 1915(i) state plan, which gives the state the authority to provide home and community-based services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances.

The approval strengthens Maryland’s behavioral health system by broadening eligibility and streamlining services for families across the state. The Department will work with stakeholders to implement the changes over the next year in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, providers, and stakeholders.

“These changes strengthen Maryland’s behavioral health safety net and make it easier for children and families to access the services they need to thrive,” said Maryland Health Secretary Dr. Meena Sesamani. “Expanding these benefits is a key step toward delivering more equitable, community-based care for children with complex

needs and reducing reliance on institutional services.”

Maryland’s 1915(i) home and community-based services serve children with serious behavioral health needs in the community, thereby reducing the need for higher levels of care, such as institutionalization. The program offers individualized care planning, family and peer support, intensive in-home services, respite, and expressive and experiential therapeutic services for Medicaid participants who meet needs-based criteria.

The amendment enhances the state’s home and community-based services benefit by expanding eligibility, reducing administrative burdens, and improving access to family and peer support services.

Key updates include:

- New Medicaid coverage of youth peer support services allows young people who have lived experience with similar behavioral health challenges to provide support to other youth.
- Changes that make it easier for children and youth to be assessed by providers for behavioral health services and treatment.
- Reduction of red tape for child and youth behavioral health services that lead to increased provider capacity to serve more youth. Updates include reducing the frequency for Plan of Care reviews

“[This club] gives voice at the local level to a national issue, it gives an outlet for students,” said Elisabeth Smith, the club’s advisor and a social studies teacher at Oakdale High School. “A lot of students don’t know how to affect change at a national level, much less a local level. So, this is just kind of an opportunity of grassroots-level organizing in order to change the way schools exist.”

Liliana Meertens, a senior at Oakdale High School, said she joined the club because she knew Graham and shared a similar commitment to preventing gun violence and promoting mental health awareness.

“This [club] is going to be something

where I feel like we can get something done,” Meertens said.

By Aug. 30, 2023, the school’s SAVE Promise Club was established and registered with Sandy Hook Promise. Since its creation, the students have run multiple advocacy campaigns in their school, including putting up boards around the school and recording morning announcements.

Last year, Emily Lockard managed the club’s Instagram account and, along with fellow members, promoted Sandy Hook Promise’s “14 Days of Action” initiative and

and Child and Family Team meetings from every 30 days to every 60 days.

“These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to making services more responsive to the needs of children and families,” said Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health Alyssa Lord. “We hear our families’ voices that the care system has become too complicated. By simplifying the system and expanding access, we’re building a more thoughtful, inclusive and accessible behavioral health program.”

For more information, visit our website.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I’m a Retired Veteran; Why Must I Pay for Medicare?

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

Dear Rusty: I’m a retired Navy veteran who is going to be turning 65 years old this year. My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I’m 67!

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I’m 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I’ll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years! Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty? **Signed: Retired Navy Vet**

Dear Retired Navy Vet: First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans, and you may find the “For Veterans” section of our Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org).

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible (normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don’t enroll in Medicare when you are eligible (TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible). And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare (they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare). Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two “parts” to Medicare—Part A (which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025). Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn’t go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling, and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It’s important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security’s annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away (if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age).

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

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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.Amac-Foundation.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.

The Prince George’s Post

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Prince George’s County Council Adopts \$5.8 Billion FY 2026 Budget

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George’s County Council Media

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, the Prince George’s County Council adopted a balanced \$5.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2026, which begins on July 1, 2025. This final product comes after months of hard work during an especially challenging budget cycle, which was complicated by funding reductions at the state and federal levels. Regardless, the Council was able to approve a balanced spending plan without raising taxes and placing an increased burden on residents. Over the last two-and-a-half months, Council Members deeply reflected on all the input they received from their constituents throughout the budget process, incorporating as much as they could into their final proposal.

“This year, more than ever, the budget required us to dig deep, not just into spreadsheets and forecasts, but into the lived experiences of the people we represent,” said Chair Edward Burroughs III (District 8). “I am a firm believer that leadership starts with listening, and we have heard loud and clear from our community about what matters to them.”

The result is a myriad of enhancements to the budget proposal put forth by Acting County Executive Tara Jackson on March 13.

The approved budget ensures nearly \$6 million for the Council’s non-departmental grants and \$1.5 million for County Executive grants. These grants play an essential role in supporting Prince Georgians, providing services like food and mortgage assistance, youth mentoring, and help for seniors. It also ensures \$1 million for a small business microgrant program.

Additionally, the Council restored \$800,000 for a litter cleanup program, plus full funding for the labor trafficking unit,

which investigates and holds those who exploit workers accountable. The Council also restored funding to the Provider Council, which helps disabled community members pay for caregivers, while also providing \$250,000 to maintain a program that delivers meals to elderly residents.

The Council allocated \$250,000 to the Black Maternal Health Fund, championed by Vice Chair Krystal Oriadha (District 7) through CR-90-2023, meaning the county will, for the first time, have dedicated resources to tackle issues surrounding Black maternal health.

“This is an incredible moment for all women of color in Prince George’s County,” said Vice Chair Oriadha. “This is an issue I am very passionate about, as a Black mother who experienced birth complications. I am so grateful that Chair Burroughs and my fellow Council Members have joined in making Black maternal health a priority, and I know that we will have happier, healthier families here in Prince George’s County as a result of this monumental funding.”

The Council’s final budget prevents a budget cut to the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE), restoring close to \$1 million. It also establishes new regional liaisons at DPIE who will work directly with Council Members, community leaders, and HOAs to resolve issues. Additionally, the spending plan provides \$120,000 for Council Member Wala Blegay’s (District 6) CB-31-2024, launching funding for her legislation that will help people resolve HOA disputes.

The Council provided \$150,000 to expand HIV prevention services in the southern part of the county, which has the highest infection rates, and allocated \$1 million in increased funding to the Health Assures program, providing medical and preven-

Physicist from A1

erate for short bursts of time. That means the quantum computer age is still years away.

But as Walsworth points out, quantum technology is not limited to quantum computers.

He believes quantum technology can be applied to a wide variety of uses and help develop new products in everything from mining to biotechnology. He has said in the past that work in the center’s labs will be used to “undertake key research to enable translation into technologies for real-world sensing, networking, and computing applications.”

The advancement of quantum technology is also of geopolitical importance.

The military, for example, wants to use quantum to create a device that can decrypt any encrypted file. The United States wants to achieve this goal ahead of foreign adversaries.

To that end, the Quantum Technology Center is working closely with the U.S. Army Research Lab, located in Adelphi, and the Joint Center for Quantum Information and Computer Science, also based at the University of Maryland, to research both quantum methods of encryption and developing quantum-resistant encryption.

Throughout his career, Walsworth has focused primarily on near-vacancy diamonds (or NVs for short) and their applications in technology.

He is one of the founders of Quantum Catalyzer LLC, a company that conducts quantum research for the government and the private sector and also operates as a for-profit business accelerator, which helps other quantum-related businesses get started.

Forum from A1

address from Dr. Falecia Williams, President of Prince George’s Community College, who highlighted PGCC’s investment in the future workforce, including courses in artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

“Presence is no longer enough, we must move beyond simply showing up to ensuring post-completion success that fuels economic mobility and community vibrancy. That’s the real return on investment,” said Dr. Williams.

A highlight of the morning was the Fireside Chat moderated by Orlan Johnson, Chairman of the Prince George’s

Walsworth also has a hand in some of the companies that Quantum Catalyzer sponsors.

One such company is EuQlid, an early-stage startup company that builds diamond-based magnetic field sensors and the company responsible for the microscope spun out just last year.

This is no ordinary microscope: it allows the user to see immaterial things such as magnetic waves, allowing researchers to make observations with their eyes rather than with specialized equipment. EuQlid, based in College Park, was co-founded by Walsworth, along with EuQlid Chief Executive Sanjive Agarwala, Chief Technology Officer David Glenn and Quantum Catalyzer Chief Technology Officer Connor Hart.

Meanwhile, at the Quantum Technology Center, about a dozen people, many of whom Walsworth brought with him from Harvard, work to develop quantum solutions to scientific problems.

For example, UMD quantum technology professor John Blanchard is working with graduate students to build a machine that uses quantum technology to cool hydrogen atoms, allowing chemists to initiate reactions with the element much faster.

There are also several companies in Maryland seeking to turn this technological frontier into marketable products.

Quantum Xchange in Bethesda, for example, helps companies enhance encryption and ensure that critical data remains secure.

“These things like 20, 30 years ago, were just sort of academic papers,” Walsworth said. “They were just people like proposing, maybe one day we could do this. But in the last decade or two, technology has progressed to the point that

tative care to the uninsured and underinsured.

The Council eliminated a 30-day hiring delay for first responders, allowing new police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and firefighters to get on the job as quickly as possible, while also providing \$184,000 for a psychologist position at the Sheriff’s Office to provide mental health support for staff.

Council Members backed a new website that provides re-entry resources for citizens returning from incarceration, provided half a million dollars to provide seating at county bus shelters, and funded \$250,000 for a Raincheck Rebate program that helps people making home improvements to prevent stormwater runoff.

Lastly, the Council found a way forward to preserve funding for Prince George’s County Community Television, a budgetary priority that was highlighted through hours of testimony by concerned citizens and employees.

“I am incredibly proud of this final budget, and all that we were able to squeeze into it, despite challenging circumstances—many of which were out of our control. I am also thrilled about how many of the community’s priorities we were able to fund,” said Chair Burroughs. “While we couldn’t say yes to everything, and we had to make difficult compromises that balance short-term needs with long-term sustainability, we worked to protect core services and public safety, support working families, and continue investing in the future. This budget is a reflection of our values and priorities as we shape the future of Prince George’s County, one that is more just and more equitable for all Prince Georgians, in every corner of our county.”

For more information on the budget, visit the Council’s Budget Portal.

these things are actually happening in labs. And it's the point that it starts to make sense to kind of take them out of the lab into the real world.”

The largest quantum technology company in Maryland is IonQ Inc., headquartered in College Park and started by two former University of Maryland professors with the goal of creating quantum computers for commercial use.

The company is closely watched on Wall Street, mainly because it’s one of the few public companies that solely focuses on quantum. Last week, IonQ stock surged nearly 40% after CEO Niccolo de Masi said he was highly optimistic about the company’s growth prospects.

“IonQ is one of the companies that they are talking about worldwide,” Schulz said.

But Maryland isn’t the only state hoping to get an edge in the quantum race.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has made a number of announcements in the past year promoting investments in quantum-related projects, including the creation of the Quantum and Microelectronics Park in Chicago.

Massachusetts is also a destination for the world’s top quantum technology experts, including at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Center for Quantum Engineering.

International Business Machines Corp. has been expanding the IBM Quantum Data Center in Poughkeepsie, New York.

And, of course, Google is working on quantum in Santa Barbara, California.

Nevertheless, Walsworth believes that Moore’s dream of Maryland quantum dominance is feasible. “There are only a handful of leading places in the world,” Walsworth said. “But Maryland is already one of those places.”

different kind of leadership and spotlighting the dynamic IT businesses driving our future. Having Cisco Systems and Fortinet—two of the most strategic leaders and influencers of next-generation IT—here and excited to invest in Prince George’s, is a game-changer for our tech ecosystem.”

From financial readiness to digital transformation, attendees left with actionable insight and connections to move their businesses forward. This Forum was more than just a convening, it was a call to action and a continuation of a larger movement to elevate Prince George’s County as a national model of inclusive innovation.

Prevent from A4

its overall mission—to spread positivity and prevent violence in school.

During the club’s first meeting in 2023, 38 students wrote letters to trusted adults in their lives.

These letters, dedicated to teachers, coaches, community leaders, church leaders and family members, showed them that students felt comfortable with them and appreciated the positive, welcoming environment they created.

One event Graham is most proud of is “Get To Know Your SRO,” where Graham and fellow members of SAVE interviewed their school resource officers. They then posted a series of videos on Instagram to allow students to “peel back the layers” and understand that these in-school officers are not just authority figures.

The SAVE club’s work resonates with students such as Ariana Juarez, a freshman at Oakdale.

“It honestly just gave me more reassurance that there was a club like this because that was something that I was concerned about, and I’m just glad that there’s an ability to, you know, advocate for it and just bring more peace into our schools,” she said.

Emerging from a nightmare

Despite the club’s work on campus, the students understand that creating real, lasting change goes beyond school walls. Their efforts are part of a much larger conversation about how to prevent gun violence at its roots.

Advocates push for measures addressing both the availability of firearms and a lack of investment in prevention efforts amid a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals.

“There’s been multiple strategies that have emerged from the nightmare in Sandy Hook,” said Woodie Kessel, a professor of the practice in family science at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. “But it goes back again to the availability of weapons and just not investing in the primary and secondary prevention of this effort. We still seem to worship gun ownership in this country, despite the fact that it’s the root cause of so much sadness and trauma.”

Prevent Gun Violence: Research, Empowerment, Strategies & Solutions—also known as PROGRESS—is an initiative at the University of Maryland that focuses on gun violence prevention through research and community engagement. Kessel and Joseph Richardson Jr., a professor of African-American studies at the uni-

versity, co-direct the initiative.

And while they support the Sandy Hook Promise mission, Kessel and Richardson are not entirely sold on its effectiveness.

“The programs are still being evaluated, so there aren’t any conclusive findings yet in terms of the outcomes and whether the outcomes are actually effective in terms of the design models that they’ve created,” Richardson said. “They haven’t produced any findings yet.”

Heinze said it is difficult to say how programs implemented by the Sandy Hook Promise are actually preventing or reducing active shooter incidents because it’s impossible to measure what hasn’t happened. But he supports the group’s mission.

“It’s actually a positive thing. I mean, it’s because so many of these programs are, you know, designed, or at least intended to think about those really horrific events of school shootings,” Heinze said. “Thankfully, even though they do happen and they happen way too much, they are still fairly rare events.”

In the Los Angeles Unified School District and Miami Dade School District, Heinze conducted evaluations that tested the efficacy of Sandy Hook Promise programs, specifically Start With Hello and Say Something. The

study involved conducting surveys before and after implementing these school programs and monitoring the outcomes.

The Sandy Hook Promise’s Say Something anonymous reporting system has been successful, Heinze said. He observed that students were using the anonymous reporting system not just to flag potential threats of gun violence, but more often to report concerns related to bullying, mental health or issues in personal relationships.

“The systems are getting utilized in a lot of ways that the original design didn’t necessarily intend, which means good things in one sense, and that where students are feeling comfortable enough to express these concerns, but it also means that the systems, as well as the schools themselves, need to be prepared to respond to a variety of different concerns,” Heinze said.

At Oakdale High School, the SAVE Club established an anonymous tip line for their school.

“We made that. There was like a brief period during our school where there were some fights that broke out, which is like very, very abnormal at our school,” said Meertens, the Oakdale senior. “But then these problems are actually being reported to the admin and people that can handle these

problems ... and I think it really helped students feel more secure and overall more safe.”

Looking ahead

In his third year as principal at Oakdale High School, Caulfield said he feels he has grown closer to the students and is glad they feel comfortable coming to him when they have concerns. And the SAVE club helped make that happen, he said.

“I think groups like this allow for students to have a voice and a say in their school,” Caulfield said. “So, enhancing that student voice is really important here, and I think it takes groups like this to allow for that to happen.”

As her senior year comes to a close, Graham was, at first, concerned about the club’s future. But her worries were put at ease after they wrapped up filming the morning announcement when Juarez said she would be interested in keeping the club going.

“One of the things that I hope remains true for SAVE is just to leave a positive impact on, like, the greater Oakdale community,” Graham said. “I think what our school was really lacking before SAVE, the inception of SAVE, was a student organization that was solely dependent upon the mobilization of the student body.”

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