

# The Prince George's Post



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## Washington International Horse Show Returns in 2025 With Enhanced Schedule, New Footing, Same Legendary Excitement

By PRESS OFFICER  
WIHS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 14, 2025)—The magic, the memories, and the absolute best of indoor show jumping return with the 2025 Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) presented by MARS Equestrian™ in The Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center on October 20–26. With nearly \$1 million in prize money, a star-studded lineup of Olympic-caliber athletes, family-friendly fun, and an elevated experience for all, this year's WIHS is set to be best-in-class on every level.

WIHS is turning up the energy, raising the bar, and meeting the expectations of riders and fans alike with major updates to its event schedule and footing—all designed to enhance competition, audience excitement, and the indoor quality that only WIHS can deliver.

### A Revamped Schedule Will Have Everyone Cheering

Military Night is now on Thursday, October 23, featuring the \$63,000 Welcome Stake for international jumpers and the new \$63,000 Stars and Stripes Speed Stake, where speed, precision, and patriotic spirit shine, and competitors ride for the Eisenhower Cup Trophy. Who will be the fastest rider of the night?

By popular demand, MARS Barn Night moves to Friday, October 24, and it's bringing a full evening of fun! Get ready for the wildly entertaining \$63,000 Accumulator Costume Class, where elite



PHOTO BY HANNAH JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**MARS Barn Night moves to Friday and includes some of the world's best show jumpers in Halloween costumes racing to win the Accumulator class.**

riders and their horses compete in full Halloween regalia. Plus, fans can meet their idols during an autograph signing, cheer for their favorite barns, participate in a variety of contests for fantastic prizes, and enjoy the fan-favorite WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Race. This year's MARS Barn Night theme is "Wild for WIHS," so start planning your safari-themed outfits!

In her debut appearance at WIHS, internationally acclaimed equestrian performer Sylvia Zerbini will captivate the audience on Friday night with her own magical troupe of 12 Arabian horses at liberty. Zerbini is a ninth-generation circus artist, and the former Cavalia and Ringling

Circus star and trainer has amazed and enchanted more than 10 million fans worldwide.

Mark on your calendar in bold for Saturday night, October 25, when the \$340,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5\*-W takes center stage, welcoming the world's top show jumping athletes. Earlier in the evening, the WIHS Equitation Final Work-Off will showcase the top 10 junior riders trading mounts in one of the most prestigious junior finals in the country.

Don't miss Kids' Day presented by

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## M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Welcomes New Chairman Darryl Barnes

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (July 14, 2025) — The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) welcomes The Honorable Darryl Barnes as Chairman of the five-member Planning Board. Appointed by Prince George's County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy and confirmed by the Prince George's County Council following a public hearing, Barnes was sworn in on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Barnes will serve a four-year term expiring on June 14, 2029.

"I am extremely humbled by this opportunity and excited to have broader conversations on Land use planning and zoning, park acquisition and development, recreation programs, stewardship of natural, cultural, and historical assets," said Chairman Barnes. "When you look at the two operating departments for planning and parks and recreation, there is nothing but opportunity for upward growth."

Barnes joins Prince George's County Planning Board members: Vice Chair Dorothy F. Bailey and Commissioners Manuel Geraldo and A. Shuanise Washington. He presided over his first Planning



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

**The Honorable Darryl Barnes**

Board meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2025. In addition to serving on the Prince George's County Planning Board, the Planning Board members work with their colleagues on the Montgomery County Planning Board and meet monthly as the M-NCPPC's full Commission. Barnes succeeds former Prince George's County Planning Board Chair, Peter A. Shapiro, whose term ended on June 14, 2025.

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## LOCAL WARMING: CLIMATE CHANGE IN MARYLAND—PART 2 OF 4

## Maryland Struggles to Meet Ambitious Climate Goals

By RACHEL MCCREA  
Capital News Service

As the planet logs some of its warmest years on record, Maryland is trying to make good on some of the most ambitious climate goals in the country. But the state is struggling to keep up with deadlines it set for itself.

Maryland is halfway to its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions—the primary driver of climate change—by 60% by 2031, though progress has been at a standstill since 2020. It has another, more ambitious goal on the horizon: net zero emissions by 2045.

The state is also trying to transition to renewable energy, aiming for half of its electricity to come from renewables by 2030. That includes a significant chunk from solar energy, though experts say reaching these goals is proving difficult.

Federal opposition to state climate action poses a problem, too. In an April executive order, President Donald Trump directed his administration to halt the enforcement of state climate laws, calling them a threat to national security, the economy and "American energy dominance."

Adding it all up, environmentalists see Maryland's climate ambitions as laudable — but threatened.

"Maryland is not on track right now for either its renewable energy goals or for its climate goals," said Josh Tulkinn, director of the Maryland Sierra Club. "That doesn't mean that it can't be on track, though, because there's a lot of positive programs that will help improve people's lives and reduce pollution and help with the climate."

### Reducing emissions

Maryland's plans for emissions reductions

are among the nation's most ambitious—but the state is struggling to keep up with its ambitions.

A 2022 state law says by 2031, Maryland must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 60% compared to 2006. By 2045, it must produce net zero emissions of the gases that cause global warming.

Getting to a 60% reduction by 2031 would require programs to cut emissions of carbon dioxide—the main driver of climate change across Maryland's economy—and cost \$1 billion a year, according to the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

Maryland reduced its emissions 30% by 2020, halfway to the 2031 goal, according to the state Department of the Environment's greenhouse gas inventory.

But the state hasn't made progress since then. Though emissions vary across eco-



KATELYNN WINEBRENNER/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**An energy-producing windmill at Dan's Mountain Wind, a wind farm in Allegany County, photographed on July 8, 2025. The state needs more such facilities to meet its climate goals.**

nomic sectors, state officials are expecting to see a slight increase in statewide emissions from 2020 to 2023. This is because transportation emissions—the largest category—have increased 6% since the end of the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown as emissions from electricity have dropped 10%, according to preliminary state data.

Meanwhile, the state hasn't found a source for the \$1 billion annual investment needed to reach its emissions goals.

"We don't have cash coming in the door," said Kim Coble, executive director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. "So that will slow down the implementation and meeting those reduction goals, no doubt about it."

On top of that, the state just passed legislation to speed up permitting for new natural gas power plants amid concerns about high energy prices. That could worsen greenhouse gas emissions, though natural gas-fired power plants are cleaner than coal or oil plants.

Coble said she believes the state remains committed to its goals, but she's pessimistic about meeting them on time because of money issues—including the Trump administration's impact on climate funding.

The federal administration has made cuts to state climate grants and dismissed climate researchers. It's also started rolling back environmental regulations as it tries to reinvigorate the country's fossil fuel industries.

"Under the [Joe] Biden administration they had billions of dollars going toward it, and I would have been far more optimistic," Coble said. "But that money is in jeopardy,

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS

**State policies encourage the development of projects such as the Annapolis Solar Park.**

## Questions—and answers—about Maryland's climate efforts

By RACHEL MCCREA  
Capital News Service

Maryland touts its climate goals as some of the most ambitious in the country. The state is required by state law to cut its greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2031 and hit net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

Legislation passed in 2022 and a pollution reduction plan published in late 2023 lay out a road map to reaching these goals.

But what does this plan involve, and what does it mean for Marylanders? Here's a closer look.

### The Electricity Sector: Transitioning to Renewables

#### What are the policies?

- Maryland's current climate plan includes two longstanding energy policies. One, called the Renewable Portfolio Standard, sets a goal to have just over half of the state's electricity come from renewables by 2030. Maryland is also a member of a multistate carbon trading program, called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, that limits power plant emissions and requires plants to pay for each ton of carbon dioxide they emit. Money from auctioning off these emissions "allowances" is reinvested

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**To Be Equal: The State of Black America: The Call, the Crisis, the Charge**

This week at our national conference... we convened affiliate leaders, community advocates, and thought leaders from across the country with one mission and a unified message: we are not backing down.

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

**George Desmarais dies at 100**

George A. Desmarais, who owned and operated several service stations in District Heights and Camp Springs for almost 40 years, died June 14.

He was the son of Eva and Alphonse Desmarais and brother of the late Sister Beatrice Desmarais, R.S.M.

He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII as a glider mechanic in the European Theater.

He met his future wife Genevieve (Gene) at a USO dance in Washington. They married in 1948 and were happily married for 73 years.

After the war, George and his family settled in Camp Springs. They were founding members of St Philip’s Parish where he was a Eucharistic minister. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and a volunteer with Joseph House, Coastal Hospice and the Cemetery of the Innocents Memorial.

He enjoyed time spent with family at their Ocean City home, especially watching sunsets on Assawoman Bay.

He is survived by six children, 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was on June 27 at St. Philip’s. Burial will be later at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Naomi helps out in Saxapahaw flood**

When Tropical Storm Chantal hit North Carolina last week, it flooded roads and caused a fair amount of damage in the Research Triangle area (Chapel Hill-Durham-Raleigh), where my granddaughter Naomi lives. Some areas had over 11 inches in just a few hours.

As a result, one of her favorite places, Saxapahaw Island Park, was badly flooded, the pedestrian bridge washed out, and then the receding water left behind a lot of debris.

So, Naomi volunteered to help with the clean-up, filling 2 huge bags, one so heavy she could barely lift it.

She sent me a picture of a snakeskin and a huge spider she found. (Too bad she can’t show them to us!) Hopefully, the park will reopen soon.

**Changing Landscape**

Salad House, a fast-casual health-focused franchise known for its fresh-chopped salads, sandwiches and wraps, is opening three restaurants in Southern Maryland, in and around Glenarden, Bowie, Brandywine, Waldorf and Fort Washington. Sounds healthy!

A home at 6912 Pickett Drive, in Morningside, has been sold for \$138,525.

**Can’t wait to buy Goodnight Moon stamps**

The Summer 2025 USA Philatelic catalog is out and I’m enjoying my copy. It features the new stamps—including SpongeBob SquarePants, the Luna Moth, former first lady Barbara Bush, former TV personality Betty White, the upcoming Boston 2026 Stamp Show, baseball legend Hank Aaron, the Appalachian Trail and—I love it!—Goodnight Moon.

I love the Philatelic catalog.

By the way—Happy 250th to the Postal Service on its 250 Years of Delivering.

I note they have a 250 Years of Delivering Jigsaw Puzzle. I’ll order it when I order new stamps. Maybe I’ll write a few letters.

**Milestones**

Happy Birthday to Victoria Levanduski, Laura Cook and Sallee Bixler, Aug. 4; Miss Bailey Sparks, GeGe Feeney and my granddaughter Rose Seidman, Markeyce Herring and Connie Kimbles, Aug. 6; Mary Dean, Aug. 7; Maxmilian “Max” Howard, Ruth Sanford and William Billy Stewart, Aug. 8.

Happy Anniversary to Denis & Donna Wood on Aug. 7.

## Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

**2025 MISSION NUTRITION**

Free Fresh Seasonal Produce Monthly Distribution at Gwynn Park Senior High School, 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine. Maryland 20613, Dyson Road parking lot inside the cafeteria. 2025 Distribution Schedule: August 19, September 16, October 1, November 18, and December 16. Time is 4–6p.m.

**CRAB FEAST**

There will be a CRAB FEAST Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2–5 p.m. All you can eat, all you can love at St. Philip’s Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613. All tickets in advance, \$60.00 Adults, \$25.00 12 & under. Land Lovers Food and Drinks included. Tickets: Vivian 804-301-9530, Shirley 302-690-4260, Michele 240-882-3369. Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund. “Proceeds go to future Scholarships.”

**EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FCU**

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union values are empowering, excellence, trustworthy, caring, and collaborative. Vision: To make financial wellness and stability accessible for all the communities we serve. Mission: To empower individuals and communities through accessible financial solutions. We are committed to fostering financial well-being by providing competitive solutions, personalized services, and educational resources. By building strong partnerships, supporting community growth, and promoting financial literacy, we strive to create a brighter future for our members, Ambassadors, and the communities we serve. esfcu.org 301-779-8500.

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Bowie State University had a BOLD Fiscal Year (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025)! With your support, BSU enrolled 6,353 students, claimed to 11 out of 103 HBCUs, and celebrated the graduation of 800 students in May. THANK YOU FOR IMPACTING BSU! As we continue the celebration of Bowie State University’s 160th Anniversary, we applaud your dedication to the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of BSU.

**CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY**

Carla Henry Hopkins, Director Phone: 301-860-3939. Twitter/X-@bsualumnioffice, Facebook-@BowieStateUniversity Office of Alumni Engagement, Instagram-bowiealum, Email-@alumni@bowiestate.edu.

**CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Clinton United Methodist Church located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Rev. Malaina Trice, Pastor. Office: 301-868-1281-Fax: 301-868-2464. E-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net. Live Stream on Facebook and Telephonic www.facebook.com/CUMCMD, Telephonic-978-990-5000 Pin 180552#. You are cordially invited to our Art as Therapy (Mental Health) Beauty for Ashes Retreat Friday, September 19, 2025, via Zoom at 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Prayer Garden and Multipurpose Room) cost: \$25 per person (lunch included in registration fee).

tration fee). Liberation Theology & Movies- September 6–September 27 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Week 1-Just Mercy & 13th, Week 2-Rustin & Origin, Week 3-American Fiction & Sinners, Week 4-Killers of the Flower Moon & The Woman King.

**JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Happy Birthday to Rosalind Pinkney, Kevin Bland, Sean Montgomery, Alicia Johnson, Wendell Lee, and Domico Eades who are Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Members celebrating Birthdays in July. Hope that you will have many more Birthday Celebrations.

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS**

COME BACK, GIVE BACK CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE FOUNDING of their Chapter. Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 7–11 p.m. at Waldorf Jaycees Community Center, 3900 Crain Highway Waldorf, Maryland 20601. For tickets EMAIL: msusmac@gmail.com, MESSAGE CENTER: 720-716-6117 or Victor Watson 202-215-3656.

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Bowie State proudly welcomes Dr. Yvonne Harris as VP for Research & Innovation. She will lead the new Division of Research & Innovation and help Bowie State advance toward Carnegie R2 research status. Dr. Harris is eager to drive impact through collaboration and innovation.

**BOLD GIVING**

Take advantage of the MARYLAND HBCU TAX CREDIT! State of Maryland’s HBCU Tax Credit Legislation rewards donors who make contributions to qualified permanent endowment funds held at eligible Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Bowie State University. To obtain a tax credit, the donor must apply for a tax credit certificate through the Comptroller of Maryland. Applications are available on the Comptroller’s website. Applications must be submitted by email to HBCUtaxinfo@marylandtaxes.gov and will be accepted starting July 1 of the tax year in which the donation was made. Donate to a qualified permanent endowment at BSU.

Please note that Maryland’s HBCU tax credit was extended for another five years and will now terminate on December 31, 2028. Thank you to the donors who made a gift in Academic Year 2024–2025. Your impact empowers more than 6,300 BSU students to pursue their dreams and achieve excellence. #BSU4LIFE.

**MOVIES ON THE POTOMAC**

Pack your chairs, grab food to go from one of the delicious dining establishments, and meet at the Plaza’s big screen for free fun! Snow White (2025), August 3, 2025 from 6–8 p.m., Instant Family, August 14, 2025, from 7–9 p.m., Cinderella (2021), August 31, 2025, from 6–8 p.m. The address is 101 MGM National Avenue, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

## WINE & JAZZ at MARIETTA

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, August 2**, at 2 p.m. for our 12th Annual Wine & Jazz at Marietta event, (rain date is Aug. 9). We are happy to introduce a new jazz group to our audience; The Hyattsville Jazz Collective will perform from 2–4 p.m. This ensemble has a different sound with trombone, horn, and other brass. We look forward to hearing their syncopated rhythms! Starting at 4:30 p.m. until closing, a longtime Wine and Jazz at Marietta favorite, AJQ Plus 1, will perform their classic jazz and other fan favorites.

Bring your chairs and blankets and enjoy the day. Please, no tents or large umbrellas. Food trucks, vendors, authors, and tastings from four Maryland wineries!

Ages 21 & up. \$10/person. Cash only at the door. To register in advance, please use www.pgparksdirect.com and use the ticket code MHM-SPEC-GA-20250802. For information call 301-464-5291 or email: mariettahouse@pg-parks.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.



**WINE & JAZZ at Marietta**

**Sat., Aug. 2**  
**2PM - 7PM**

Visit [www.pgparksdirect.com](http://www.pgparksdirect.com) or  
Call **301-464-5291** for information.

5626 Bell Station Rd, Glenn Dale

**\$10/PERSON AGES 21 & UP**

## Around the County

**Prince George’s County Rain Check Rebate Program Returns for 2026**

*The program offers incentives to improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve the health of local waterways*

LARGO, Md. (July 15, 2025)—The Department of the Environment is pleased to announce that the Rain Check Rebate Program has been reinstated for Fiscal Year 2026. This program allows property owners to receive rebates for installing eight Rain Check-approved stormwater management practices, including rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, permeable pavement, green roofs, and a new conservation landscaping rebate.

Prince George’s County property owners, businesses, and non-profit organizations (including housing cooperatives and faith-based groups) can recover some costs associated with installing these practices. The City of Bowie manages its stormwater program independently from the County; therefore, County properties in Bowie are not eligible to participate.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) collaborates with the County to support the administrative and operational tasks of the Rain Check Rebate Program. CBT staff help with addressing inquiries from property owners about the Program, review and process applications, and conduct both pre- and post-inspections of the properties.

To learn more about the program, including guidance, application instructions, eligibility requirements, and rebate amounts, visit [mypgc.us/raincheckrebates](http://mypgc.us/raincheckrebates) or CBT’s website: <https://cbtrust.org>.

**SUN Bucks for Summer**

*SNAP-Ed Teaches Families and Farmers How to Get the Most From Benefit Programs Through the Summer and All Year Long*

ECO City Farms has a unique mission—to put nutritious local foods on the plates of their neighbors—and making that fresh food more accessible to their community is a top priority. With food assistance programs under threat and the elimination of nutritional education programs across the country due to the recent passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, that mission is now more important than ever.

Intentionally located in Prince George’s County due to the food security issues and health disparities affecting that region, which has more than 100,000 people receiving food assistance, ECO City Farms received authorization to accept SNAP benefits in its first years of establishment, and is now also poised to accept the newest benefit program—Maryland SUN Bucks.



SUN Bucks is a form of SNAP, which seeks to assist families during summer months when there is an additional strain on food budgets that rely on free and reduced meals throughout the school year. The program provides \$40 per child under 18 years that qualifies each month throughout the summer for a total of \$120, which expires at the end of the season. ECO City Farms has been working with the University of Maryland Extension SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) program to connect with the local schools and families that will be able to take advantage of the new program.

The SUN Bucks program will help keep food accessible during the summer when kids are not getting the nutrition they would normally receive through free and reduced school meals, says Jocelyn Tidwell, SNAP-Ed Healthy Food Access Coordinator. “In its first year [summer of 2024], SUN Bucks provided over \$70 million in benefits to over 600,000 children across the state to eat healthy during that summer gap.”

And that money, Tidwell says, can also benefit local farmers and farm markets that become authorized to accept SNAP benefits which includes authorization to SUN Bucks. “SUN Bucks is going to every county in the state, to every school where children receive free or reduced lunch, and even the smallest county had over 1600 kids in the program,” said Tidwell.

SNAP-Ed works with farmers and markets to help them navigate the complexities of accepting food assistance benefits.

But being able to accept the benefits is only part of the process; farmers must also be able to reach the customers with the message that SNAP benefits can be used at their marketplace.

SNAP-Ed provides practical assistance through marketing materials like signage and stickers, but also helps develop business strategies and models for reaching those consumers through local partnerships.

Already, 145 farmers and farmers markets in Maryland are authorized to sell fresh local foods to SNAP customers, with 24 sites within the DMV region signed up in the last year alone, gaining them access to a customer base that receives approximately \$80 million per month in federal and state benefits.

Farmers who are already authorized to accept SNAP are poised to take advantage of the SUN Bucks program, which was designed to help families choose to eat healthy and buy local, says Tidwell. “Farmers appreciate the potential to support their businesses, but also to enact their values,” Tidwell said. “No one wants to see a kid go hungry.”

To find out if your family qualifies for the SUN Bucks program, apply for the program, or verify your status, go to <https://mymd-think.maryland.gov/home/#/sunbucks>.

Check out the SNAP Retailer Locator at <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=15e1c457b56c4a729861d015cd626a23> to find local farmers and markets that accept SNAP.

Learn more about the UME SNAP-Ed program and how it helps the state at <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/family-consumer-sciences/snap-ed/>.



# COMMUNITY

## UCAP Hosts Governor Wes Moore for Official Launch of Maryland Benefits One App

By PRESS OFFICER  
UCAP

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (July 16, 2025)—United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP), Prince George’s County’s leading anti-poverty agency and Maryland’s designated community action organization, proudly welcomed Governor Wes Moore for the official launch of the Maryland Benefits One App, a transformative digital platform designed to

simplify and unify access to essential government benefits across the state. The app, formerly known as MD THINK, modernizes the delivery of state services by consolidating applications for Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and energy assistance into one streamlined system. “UCAP is honored to serve as the host site for this important announcement and to champion a statewide initiative that clearly aligns with our mission,” said Rasheeda Jamison, President of UCAP. “This is what happens when place-based initiatives become tangible and real and when a vision becomes a reality. This One App has the power to break generational barriers to access by connecting families to the vital services they need, from healthcare to food assistance to equitable income support.” In just two weeks since its soft launch, the Maryland Benefits One App

has already enrolled 22,000 residents, demonstrating a strong demand for improved access to benefits and services. “This new One application ensures that all Marylanders in Capitol Heights and beyond can access the support that they are legitimately entitled to,” said Governor Wes Moore during his press conference. “This is not charity, these are supports that they are entitled to and supports that will not only lift up their families, but will lift up the entire community in the process.” This event underscores Maryland’s broader commitment to using technology as a bridge to equity and opportunity. UCAP remains steadfast in its role

as a connector between innovative state policies and the communities that need them most. Marylanders can access the One App, visit [Marylandbenefits.gov](https://marylandbenefits.gov).

United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP) *is one of Prince George’s County’s leading nonprofit organizations focused on combating poverty, promoting self-sufficiency, and creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities. Through housing, economic empowerment, education, and advocacy, UCAP provides resources that uplift and transform lives.*

## ‘Motivational Interviewing for Medical Decision Making’ Topic of Schindler Lecture

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (July 17, 2025)—Chesapeake Life Center invites the community to the 20th annual Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture, “Motivational Interviewing for Medical Decision Making,” presented by Christopher Wirt, LCSW-C. The lecture will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in the Fellowship Hall at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, 611 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, Maryland. When someone is seriously ill or nearing the end of life, they and their loved ones often face tough medical decisions that can bring up a lot of emotions and uncertainty. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a practical, evidence-based approach for helping people resolve ambivalence and clarify their values in a way that guides them toward positive change and growth. This interactive session will introduce the basics of MI—what it is, how it works and how to use it. Wirt will demonstrate how MI can be especially helpful in hospice, palliative care, and hospital

settings, and offer opportunities to participants for skill development. By learning how to listen deeply, ask the right questions and build trust, professionals can discover how MI can make challenging conversations more meaningful and supportive for patients and caregivers. The annual lecture was created in 2005 through a gift to the Schindler family from the Saint Agnes Cancer Center. Emily Schindler was an 18-year-old freshman at Frostburg State University and a member of the SPY swim team in Severna Park, Maryland, when she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2004. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and a light breakfast will be provided. Maryland Board social workers can earn three Category 1 continuing education credits. The cost is \$30. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at <https://education.hospicechesapeake.org/item/2025-schindler>. For details, call 888-501-7077 or email [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org).

**About the presenter:**  
Christopher Wirt, LCSW-C, is the Executive



PHOTO COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE  
**Christopher Wirt, LCSW-C**

Branch Director with Bethany Christian Services where he oversees efforts to serve children and families in Maryland and Virginia, including programs working with children who are unaccompanied refugee migrants, as well as infant and foster care adoption services. Since 2018, he has been a member of the Moti-

vational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), an international organization committed to promoting excellence in training of Motivational Interviewing (MI). Wirt has offered MI training to a wide variety of professionals across the country and has presented on MI at national conferences. Wirt’s direct practice experience includes 16 years of working with children and families involved in the child welfare system, primarily in foster care and adoption services. He was a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Social Work for 12 years and currently teaches a graduate-level MI course at the University of Buffalo. He earned his bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and his master’s degree in social work from the University of Maryland. *Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Visit [www.chesapeakelifecenter.org](https://www.chesapeakelifecenter.org). Chesapeake Life Center is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education learning activities and maintains full responsibility for this program. This training qualifies for Category 1 continuing education units.*

### Goals from A1

and those of us working in this field ... don’t even know if it’s going to get deployed and how, what that looks like.”

#### Renewable energy

Maryland has been moving toward renewable energy for decades, but as of right now, it’s not on track to hit the goals set by the General Assembly six years ago. Half of Maryland’s electricity consumption is supposed to come from renewable sources by 2030, according to a 2019 law. Within that half, 14.5% of consumption must come from solar power. But the state is falling behind. “At this rate, we won’t meet the 14.5% [solar] carveout by 2030,” Paul Pinsky, director of the Maryland Energy Administration, said at a briefing earlier this year. He was introducing a report published by the Maryland Energy Administration, which concluded renewables in Maryland and the surrounding region aren’t growing fast enough to keep up with state goals. Experts also point to issues with the state’s system of incentivizing renewable energy. Electricity suppliers can either provide renewable energy by buying “credits,” or pay a fine that goes to a state fund for clean energy grants. But in 2023, the latest year for which the state has data, renewable energy credits met less than half of the state’s goal and fines made up the rest. That’s a big drop from previous years, and the state said it happened because it was less expensive in 2023 for electric utilities to pay the fine than to pay for renewables. A 2024 executive order from Gov. Wes Moore set another goal: 100% clean, in-state energy by 2035. The order told the Maryland Energy Administration to create a plan to get there. Reaching that goal by 2035 is “extremely, extremely unlikely,” Pinsky said at the briefing. Adding it all up, advocates

Maryland is struggling to build renewable energy within state borders for a number of reasons. It can be expensive and difficult to build large-scale facilities like solar farms in Maryland, said Evan Vaughan, executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition’s advocacy arm, MAREC Action. Land constraints, high land prices and a crowded transmission grid complicate such efforts, he said. A backup in project approvals on the regional electricity grid has also caused difficulties. “While the state certainly does have a strong and growing renewable energy supply today, it does have some unique challenges,” Vaughan said. “You find ... common trends across a lot of the smaller, land-constrained states on the East Coast in particular.” Another law sets a goal of 8.5 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2031, equal to over half of Maryland’s total energy sales in 2023. However, that buildout is in peril. The Trump administration paused leasing and permitting for new offshore projects earlier this year. On top of that, Rep. Andy Harris, State Sen. Mary Beth Carozza and Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan have asked the secretary of the interior to halt a federally approved project off Maryland’s Atlantic coast. And on July 7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sent a letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment, citing a project permitting error. According to the letter, Maryland has to reissue the permit in question or risk having it invalidated. Without new leases for offshore wind, the state won’t be able to achieve its goal, according to the Maryland Public Service Commission. The Trump administration’s “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” passed in July, will end tax breaks for renewable energy projects such as wind and solar.

and experts agree Maryland is not where it needs to be. “You keep on hearing people say, ‘Maryland is a leader in clean energy,’” said Adam Dubitsky, consulting state director of the Maryland Land & Liberty Coalition, a conservative clean energy advocacy group. “And it is simply not true.” **In the General Assembly** While some advocates wanted more of a focus on climate or clean energy during this year’s state legislative session, they celebrated the wins that came their way. Though advocates are still wary about the push to expedite natural gas, they supported other provisions of the final package such as battery storage procurement—which would store energy generated by wind, solar and fossil fuels—and rate reform. The package would also stop trash incineration from receiving renewable energy subsidies and includes new solar siting standards. Moving forward, “we just have to figure out how we can responsibly deploy as many renewables and as much [energy] storage as possible,” said State Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo, a Democrat from Montgomery County. Supporters praised the new solar standards as a way to streamline projects and overcome restrictive county rules, but the standards drew backlash from Eastern Shore Republicans. They asked Moore to veto the bill, saying it could upend agriculture in their districts, but the governor signed it into law. The package also moved Maryland toward new nuclear energy, which doesn’t produce carbon emissions. Environmental advocates are split on whether nuclear is a boon or a danger, but many lawmakers hailed new nuclear tech as a viable long-term option for clean, reliable energy. Nuclear power already makes up 40% of the electricity generated in Maryland. “There appears to be an acknowledgment by the majority

party and the leadership that we need to incorporate nuclear and natural gas in order to achieve the energy demands that we have in our state, which is a big deal,” said State Del. Jesse Pippy, a Republican from Frederick County who serves as minority whip. Moore vetoed one of the three bills in the package, which would have set up a new energy planning office. Moore cited costs and overlap with other state agencies as reasons for the veto. The office would have focused on reliability and affordability alongside clean energy goals, and the bill drew praise from both sides of the aisle. “It’s something that I believe we should have done from the very beginning, before we moved forward with all of our climate change legislation a few years back,” said Carozza, a Republican who represents Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. The governor also vetoed one study of the costs of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland and one on data center impacts, frustrating environmental advocates. Carozza said she believes the state should have known more about the cost of different energy sources, including wind, before enacting its climate goals. “There now is a recognition at the state level that you cannot just depend on renewable energy to meet Maryland’s energy needs or Maryland’s climate change goals,” Carozza said. **Incremental progress** So, in light of the state’s progress and aggressive goals, can Maryland meet its climate and energy goals on time? “I am not sure,” said State Sen. Malcolm Augustine, a Democrat from Prince George’s County who serves as president pro tem of the Senate and chair of an energy subcommittee. “But what I do know is that we’re going to work hard to try to achieve that.”

### Q & A from A1

- in state energy programs and incentives.
- Legislation passed since the 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act has expanded goals for offshore wind and energy storage, and made a community solar program permanent.
  - The POWER Act sets a goal of 8,500 megawatts of offshore wind by 2031. That would be equal to over half of Maryland’s electricity sales in 2023.
  - A 2023 bill established the Maryland Energy Storage Program and set a goal of 3,000 megawatts of energy storage in Maryland by 2034. The state legislature passed a bill this year that includes a process for procuring batteries that would store energy for later use, including possible energy from renewable sources.
  - A community solar pilot program became permanent in 2023. The legislation requires that 40% of a community solar system’s energy goes to low- to moderate-income Marylanders.
  - Gov. Wes Moore signed an executive order in 2024 that requires climate plans from every state agency, calls for a plan to reach 100% clean electricity in Maryland by 2035 and pushes for a new regional limit on power plant emissions through the multi-state carbon trading program.
- Who’s paying for it?**  
It depends on the program.
- To reach the state’s goal of 50% of electricity coming from renewables, electricity suppliers have to buy renewable energy credits from producers. The cost of renewable energy credits is passed on to Marylanders through their utility bills. Companies can pay a fee instead of buying a renewable energy credit, and that money flows to the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, where it’s funneled into funding for electric vehicle chargers, renewables, community solar and other clean energy projects.
  - A regional carbon trading program funds energy projects and grants. When power plants buy CO2 allowances at auctions, that money goes to the Strategic Energy Investment Fund.
  - The battery storage legislation passed this spring is twofold: utility companies would construct some storage and other developers would build the rest.
  - The POWER Act has the Department of General Services handle offshore wind purchasing. That makes sure the cost isn’t reflected in Marylanders’s utility bills.
- What progress has been made so far?**
- The state achieved less than half of its renewable energy goal in 2023, with suppliers paying fines to close the gap.
  - The Moore administration has been distributing between \$100 million and \$150 million annually to clean energy projects. Grants from the administration in 2023 went to a host of programs focused on clean energy, decarbonization, and energy efficiency. Funding comes from the carbon trading and renewable energy credit programs.
  - The regional carbon trading program is in the middle of being reviewed, and states are working on a stricter emissions limit. Since the program began in the mid-2000s, Maryland power plants covered by the regional carbon trading program have cut their emissions by 62% and the state has received over \$1 billion.
  - Maryland ranks low among states on the regional grid for wind



# COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

## The State of Black America: The Call, the Crisis, the Charge

“Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.”  
—Coretta Scott King

A war has been declared in this country. And the fight isn’t just for diversity, equity, and inclusion or for fair economic and criminal justice practices. It’s for the soul of America. It’s to determine which of us will have an opportunity not to prosper, but merely survive in a future clouded with uncertainty at every turn.

It’s for the fundamental right of Americans to protect themselves against predatory corporate practices, destructive environmental policies, and state-sanctioned violence by vigilantes and uniformed officers alike. And it’s for the right etched

in the very fabric of what it means to be an American, which is the right to vote in a fair and free democracy where every vote is counted and every vote matters.

That is the war that has been brought to the feet of every American and the doorstep of the civil rights community at the top of this year. It’s the war being waged in courtrooms across this land, from local jurisdictions to the Supreme Court.

It is no secret that we are in a state of emergency. The hard-fought victories of the Civil Rights movement, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Equal Employment Opportunity laws, and the establishment of the Department of Education, are being systematically dismantled.

But as we’ve stated in our D3 framework, we doubled down on our advocacy on Capitol Hill and at the White House, and moralized in the 49th edition of the State of Black America Report, State of Emergency: Democracy, Civil Rights, and Progress Under Attack, the National Urban League movement is not backing down.

We are defeating poverty through every program offered through our affiliates. We’re defeating poverty through the work of our Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives division to correct a discriminatory and punitive system that keeps our people economically and civically disadvantaged and causes our communities irreparable trauma.

We are defending our Democracy through every action taken by our Washington Bureau to hold elected officials accountable for their actions and inactions in this moment. We are demanding diversity through the collaborative work of our Demand Diversity Roundtable and by suing this administration for an outright racist executive order that is undermining our Democracy, eroding trust in our systems, and dismantling our government.

For the Urban League movement, this state of emergency and scourge on our nation and community is a call to action.

This week at our national conference in Cleveland, we convened affiliate leaders, community advocates, and thought leaders from across the

country with one mission and a unified message: we are not backing down.

We shared economic strategies to equip our communities and partners with the tools needed to help navigate an employment landscape that has become increasingly hostile towards people of color, especially Black women. Provided support and training for entrepreneurs and small business owners to thrive in the face of changing economic headwinds.

Invested in our young people at our annual youth summit as a reminder that even in a state of emergency, their dreams and ambitions are worth investing in and fighting for.

Developed civic engagement action plans to prepare our communities for the midterms in 2026 and support grassroots and civic engagement groups with the resources they need to fight back against rapidly expanding discriminatory voting laws.

We are taking the time to recognize every single person in this fight, thanking them for their contributions and reminding them why we do this work.

The Urban League movement is banding together to weather the storms to come, fight for our freedoms and Democracy in the face of tyranny, and equip our leaders every day to build a nation that reflects its values and its citizens.

—July 18, 2025

### Excitement from A1

Delta Air Lines on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It’s a free, rain-or-shine family event full of pony rides, crafts, a pony kissing booth, plus daytime access to the horse show at no charge. Sylvia Zerbinì and her Grande Liberté horses will perform again on Saturday afternoon. Kids’ Day is an unforgettable introduction to the magic of horses and the world of WIHS.

### New Footing, Elevated Performance

WIHS aims for excellence every year. In 2025, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is joining WIHS as a Platinum-level sponsor investing in brand-new footing that meets the highest standards of safety, comfort, and performance. This new competition surface provides optimal traction, cushioning, and stability—delivering a dust-free, forgiving arena for peak equine performance all week long.

Provided by Footing First and installed by JTWG, Inc., the footing will be exclusive to WIHS.

To ensure this world-class experience for spectators and competitors continues, WIHS has reached an agreement with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to secure its home at Prince George’s Equestrian Center through 2028, reinforcing its commitment to growth, consistency, and the enduring evolution of one of America’s most iconic indoor shows.“

WIHS has evolved over 67 years and five different locations,” said WIHS President Vicki Lowell. “We have found a welcoming and supportive home through 2028 at Prince George’s Equestrian Center and with the Town of Upper Marlboro, Prince George’s County, and the State of Maryland. We have embraced this venue and know that we can continue to find ways to set new standards for the sport there. The facility is incredibly horse friendly, and we consider athlete, spectator, and all stakeholders’ feedback every year to make WIHS a superior experience. We can’t wait to welcome everyone to WIHS in 2025 and beyond.”

**Don’t Miss the Magic of Washington**  
With an upgraded schedule, enhanced competition surface, and

unforgettable entertainment, the 2025 Washington International Horse Show is set to deliver an experience like no other. Join us as we celebrate the return of magic, meet the moment with excellence, and raise the bar once again for indoor equestrian sport.

The horse show prize list and tickets on Ticketmaster will be available soon—so stay tuned, and get ready to experience the thrill, tradition, and excitement of WIHS like never before. For more information, visit [www.wihs.org](http://www.wihs.org).

*Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America’s most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for international, professional, amateur, junior and child riders. Highlights include the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5\*-W for the President’s Cup, the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children’s and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, top national hunters and jumpers, plus popular community and charity events. WIHS is an official USEF Heritage Competition. For more information, visit [wihs.org](http://wihs.org).*

### Q & A from A3

power generation, with most of its in-state wind energy provided by wind farms in Western Maryland.

- One offshore wind project in Maryland has federal approval, and would be built off the coast of Ocean City—but the Trump administration’s opposition to offshore wind has thrown a wrench in new project development.
- The Maryland Energy Storage Program was in the research stage as of the end of 2024.
- The community solar pilot program became permanent in 2023.

**The Transportation Sector: Promoting EVs**  
*What are the policies?*

- Maryland is building its network of electric vehicle chargers.
- The state is aiming to dramatically increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads to 1.1 million by 2031. Legislation sets the goal for all new car sales to be electric or hybrid by 2035. It has a similar law for medium and heavy-duty trucks, but an executive order from Moore this spring allowed enforcement of both programs to be pushed back past model year 2028.
- The state is also required to transition the state fleet and school buses to EVs.
- A popular state excise tax credit for EVs lasted only a month before it was sold out, according to state officials.
- The Maryland Department of Transportation is aiming to cut back on “vehicle miles traveled” by 20% per capita by 2050. It’s promoting development near transit stops to encourage public transit use. Meanwhile, Baltimore’s Red Line project and the Purple Line in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties will expand mass transit.

*Who’s paying for it?*

- The state’s EV charging buildout is set to receive \$63 million from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, but the Federal Highway Administration paused access to funding earlier this year. Maryland has already been approved for \$49.5 million, but had only obligated \$14.7 million before the pause. It’s one of several

states suing the Trump administration over the pause in funding access.

- In early 2024, Moore put \$23 million in grants toward charging infrastructure. The state EV charging rebate and the EV excise tax credit receive millions of dollars from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund.
- The state has a grant program for electric school buses.

*What progress has been made so far?*

- The first round of federally funded public EV chargers are expected to be up and running by next spring. Tesla and other private companies are also installing chargers in the state.
- There were about 1,500 public charging stations available across Maryland as of the end of April, with almost 4,400 total charging ports. Maryland’s current build-out through the federal EV charging program will add 22 new stations by spring of next year, with a goal of 51 in total.
- There were just over 135,000 registered EVs in Maryland as of April, up from under 15,000 in 2020. The state tax credit for EVs is out of funding for this fiscal year but will restart this summer.
- As of last fall, EVs made up 12% of new sales and 2.3% of all vehicles in Maryland. Electric vehicles are supposed to make up 43% of car sales in 2027 under Advanced Clean Cars II, but enforcement of that rule has been temporarily relaxed.
- The Moore administration’s executive order on EV legislation established a working group tasked with figuring out the best way to implement Maryland’s clean car goals.
- This is the second year Maryland has required that new school buses be electric. But state officials expect all of the state’s school districts to get waivers to that new rule, as they did last year. Maryland had 242 electric school buses last summer, and state officials said Maryland is ahead of many other states with school bus electrification. However, the costs and challenges of transitioning to electric buses have led districts in Montgomery County and Baltimore to put their EV bus programs on pause.
- The state’s six-year Consolidated Transportation Program includes funding for electrification, public transportation, pedestrian safety, bike trails and development near public transit.

**The Construction Sector: Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency**  
*What are the policies?*

- The Climate Solutions Now Act called for large buildings to reduce emissions by 20% by 2030, and reach net zero by 2040. Since then, Maryland’s new Building Energy Performance Standards have faced push-back from building groups. The state legislature modified them this session, exempting hospitals, factories and emergency power to buildings like data centers. It also set up a study to help the legislature decide where to take the standards in future years and added an annual fee to cover costs associated with the program. Building owners in Montgomery County, which has its own building standards, do not have to comply with the state framework.
- New homes have to either have an EV charger or be ready to have EV chargers installed.
- Utility companies are required to provide energy efficiency programs and incentives to their customers under the EmPOWER Maryland Program. Companies have to meet energy savings goals, and recent updates also called for emissions reduction goals.
- New rules suggested by the 2023 climate plan would seek to reduce emissions that come from heating buildings, in part by requiring new building heating systems to be zero emissions.

*Who’s paying for it?*

- EmPOWER Maryland is funded by a charge on Marylanders’ electricity and gas bills. Marylanders paid a surcharge between about \$7 and \$11 for EmPOWER in 2024.
- Building owners and developers would have to pay for changes required under the state’s new Building Energy Performance Standards.

*What progress has been made so far?*

- The Building Energy Performance Standards were adopted in December 2024 and updated in the spring of 2025. Right now, the regulations cover emissions from the buildings themselves (“net direct” emissions), with final energy use standards expected to come around 2027.

See Q & A Page A6

### Goals from A3

The energy package the General Assembly passed this year moves the state in the right direction, he said. It doesn’t mean the state is backing off its goals but finding a “more achievable route.”

The goals remain state law and Maryland still takes climate change seriously, said State Sen. Brian Feldman, a Democrat from Montgomery County and chair of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. He was a lead sponsor of this year’s solar siting bill and sponsored the 2019 law that boosted Maryland’s renewable energy goal to 50% by 2030.

But some advocates felt there wasn’t enough of an emphasis on climate action during the spring legislative session.

“Climate didn’t stay in the conversation the way it should have,” said Tulkin, the Maryland Sierra Club director.

The future is still cloudy for

state climate action, though, thanks to the Trump administration’s slew of changes to federal climate and energy policy. Among a host of other actions from the administration, a Trump executive order directs the U.S. attorney general to identify and stop state laws addressing climate change, emissions or environmental justice issues.

Pinsky wrote in response that the move was “worse than irresponsible” and disruptive, accusing the administration of interfering with state matters during a global crisis.

Even so, other climate advocates note Maryland is moving in the right direction despite the challenges it faces.

“What we need to do is just keep taking steps forward,” Coble said. “We just keep chipping away at it, and if we continue to take two to three steps forward every year, it is a whole lot better than doing nothing, that’s for sure.”

## The Prince George’s Post

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P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
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<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Lisa Duan
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Administrative Assistant/ Billing</b> Julie Volosin
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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### What is the Formula for Deciding When to Claim?

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 am curious about the “formula” to decide when to take Social Security while still working. I am past the Full Retirement Age. How do you best address such? Should we schedule a call? **Signed: Wondering When**

**Dear Wondering:** Well, you can always contact us by phone on 1.888.750.2622 to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, or you can send your questions to us via email at [SSadvisor@amac-foundation.org](mailto:SSadvisor@amac-foundation.org). You don’t need to pre-schedule a meeting, as we have multiple advisors answering the phone on most normal business days. If they all happen to be busy when you call, simply leave a voicemail and an Advisor will return your call promptly.

For starters, since you have reached your full retirement age, know that your work earnings will no longer negatively affect your Social Security benefits. You can earn as much as possible, and your monthly SS amount will be the same, based on your average lifetime monthly earnings (for your highest 35 years), and based on your age when you claim. Since you have not yet claimed SS, you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which increase your monthly SS amount by .667% for each month you continue to delay. That’s 8% for each full year you delay past your full retirement age (FRA). You should not, however, wait longer than age 70 to claim because that is when you will get your maximum SS benefit amount. For you, that means that your age 70 amount will be 28% more than the amount you would have received at your FRA of 66 years and 6 months (in Oct. 2023), and about 15% more than if you were to claim now.

Note too, that if your more recent income is among the highest of your lifetime, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly SS retirement amount to account for that event. They will check your work earnings each year to see if you are entitled to a larger SS amount because of your recent earnings.

Since (according to your AMAC member record) you are married, you may also wish to consider whether your wife will get a spousal benefit from you when you claim. If your wife’s personal SS retirement amount at her FRA is less than the amount you were entitled to at your FRA, then she will get a spousal boost when you claim. With her spousal boost (if claimed at her FRA), her total SS benefit should be about 50% of your FRA benefit amount (not half of the higher amount you will get because you waited longer to claim). But your wife cannot get a spousal boost until you are collecting your SS.

And here is something else to think about: received SS benefits will become part of your overall income taxed by the IRS when you submit your income tax return. If you file your income tax as “married/jointly” and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000 then some of your SS benefits will become taxable income. If your combined income is between \$32,001 and \$44,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. Or, if your combined income from all sources exceeds \$44,000, then about 85% of your received SS benefits will become part of your income taxed by the IRS. Just something to keep in mind, especially since you are still working.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

## Holy Cross Health Names Maryland Market Leader

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Holy Cross Health**

SILVER SPRING, Md. (July 14, 2025 — Al Campbell, MBA, FACHE, RN, has been named president and market leader of Holy Cross Health Maryland. His appointment is effective July 28, 2025.

Campbell joins Holy Cross Health from Beth Israel Lahey Health – Winchester Hospital in Massachusetts. There, he served as president and led 18 sites across the broader Winchester regional portfolio.

While at Beth Israel Lahey Health, Campbell oversaw specialty care expansion, contributed to workforce stabilization and advanced philanthropic support for clinical care delivery.

He brings to Holy Cross Health more than two decades of health care leadership experience across operations, strategic growth, regional integration and clinical excellence.

“I am very excited to have Al join my regional leadership team and lead Holy Cross Health,” said Andre (Dre) Boyd, Sr., FACHE, regional president and CEO. “Al is very compassionate and caring executive that is committed to improving care for all. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will be very advantage to driving growth, service, and quality for Holy Cross Health.”

Campbell’s previous experience includes vice president and chief operating officer for BJC Christian Hospital and Northwest HealthCare in North St. Louis County, Missouri. He also held senior leadership roles



PHOTO COURTESY HOLY CROSS HEALTH

**Al Campbell, MBA, FACHE, RN**

at The Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg, South Carolina (now MUSC – Orangeburg), and Nexus Health/Fort Washington Medical Center (now part of Adventist Health) in Maryland.

“I look forward to working with Dre Boyd and the entire team across Holy Cross Health Maryland to meet community needs, achieve our goals and advance the Trinity Health mission,” Campbell said.

Campbell is past president of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE)-Washington Metro Area Chapter and was National Conference Co-Chair and National Philanthropic and Sponsorship Chair for NAHSE.

He has served on the Advisory Boards

for the University of Maryland School of Healthcare Administration, the University of Maryland School of Nursing “Nurse Leadership Institute,” and Imagine Hope Community charter schools. He is a member of the Board of Overseers at Endicott College and a member of the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board.

Originally from Guyana, South America, Campbell earned a bachelor’s degree from Norfolk State University in Virginia and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He began his health care career as an EMT in New Jersey, and his nursing tenure included medical-surgical, cardiac and emergency room care. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

In his spare time, Campbell participates in a steelpan music orchestra and does missionary work in underserved Caribbean countries.

Campbell succeeds Reginald Eadie, MD, who served as interim president through March 2025.

*Holy Cross Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit, people-centered health system that serves the two most populous counties in Maryland, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The Holy Cross Health Network operates primary care practices and affordable health centers and offers a wide range of innovative, community-based health and wellness programs. Specialty care, home care, and hospice services round out Holy Cross Health’s high quality and coordinated continuum of care that aims to improve health and move life ahead for individuals and populations in the communities served.*

## Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Enhances Waldorf Branch with Modern Redesign

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Educational Systems FCU**

WALDORF, Md. (July 9, 2025)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce the completion of renovations at its Waldorf Branch, located at 169A Smallwood Village Center, Waldorf, MD. The renovations provide members with a refreshed, modern and member-focused experience.

The Waldorf Branch remodel features an expanded lobby area, providing visitors with a brighter and more comfortable space. Traditional teller lines have been replaced with three state-of-the-art Teller Cash Recyclers (TCRs), streamlining transactions, significantly reducing wait times and enabling Ambassadors to deliver more personalized service.

The Credit Union celebrated this milestone with a Waldorf Branch Remodel Celebration & Appreciation Day at the Waldorf Branch. The event hosted Credit Union members and the local community to showcase the updated facility and connect with Ambassadors.

“We’re thrilled to unveil our updated Waldorf Branch,” said Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU.



PHOTO COURTESY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**Girado Smith, CPA, President/CEO, Laura Eacho, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer & Tom Hill, Assistant Vice President, Facilities**

“These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to providing convenient, accessible and modern financial solutions to support our members’ evolving needs.”

For branch hours, please visit [esfcu.org/locations](http://esfcu.org/locations).

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has proudly served the education community since 1955. With \$1.2 billion

in assets and 13 branches, the Credit Union serves over 95,000 members of the education community including school employees, students, parents and individuals working for education-related organizations. For more information, visit [esfcu.org](http://esfcu.org).

## Chairman from A1

“I warmly welcome Darryl Barnes to the Commission and look forward to continuing to collaborate on regional issues as we work to advance the shared goals of the Commission and our counties,” said M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Board Chair Artie Harris.

### About Darryl Barnes

The Honorable Darryl Barnes brings a deep understanding of the region from his eight years of service in the State of Maryland legislature and more than 20 years of entrepreneurship experience. As president of Barnes International, Ltd., he led strategic consulting and coordinated grassroots campaigns for clients in government, healthcare, education, and private sectors. Barnes launched and served as president and CEO of the Bi-County Business Roundtable where he promoted small business growth and wealth creation for a vibrant climate in the State of Maryland.

From 2015 to 2023, Barnes served in the Maryland General Assembly as a State Delegate, representing Legislative District 25. During his tenure, he served among the highest-ranking members of the House of Delegates as Chief Deputy Majority Whip. He also was the Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus—elected for three consecutive terms to the largest black caucus in the

United States. Barnes was a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Maryland Veterans Caucus as well as the Chairman of the Revenues and Local Revenues subcommittee.

A true community advocate, Barnes was the founder and president of Men Aiming Higher, a nonprofit organization that mobilizes at-risk young men through educational tutoring, leadership training, mentoring programs, and community service projects. He served as a member of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, Bowie State Foundation, Maryland Veterans Caucus, Prince George’s County School Construction Master Plan Workgroup, and the Board of Governors for The Tower Club.

Barnes earned his bachelor’s degree in computer information systems from Long Beach State College in California. He pursued leadership studies at The George Washington University and obtained a Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification. Barnes has resided in Prince George’s County for nearly five decades, attended and graduated from Prince George’s County Public Schools, and served our country in both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army respectfully.

*The Prince George’s County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission—a bi-county*

*agency established by State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. In Prince George’s County, the agency also administers the public recreation program. The Planning Board’s responsibilities include supervising preparation of land use plans and comprehensive zoning maps, advising the County Council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, and reviewing and approving site plans and subdivisions. The Board also oversees the Commission’s work in the County, as carried out by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. In Prince George’s County, the Planning Board’s full-time Chair and four part-time members are appointed by the Prince George’s County Executive and confirmed by the Prince George’s County Council, serving overlapping four-year terms. Visit [www.pg-planningboard.org](http://www.pg-planningboard.org) for more information.*

*Founded in 1927, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is a nationally recognized leader in land use planning, parks, and recreation achieving countless awards for innovation, stewardship and exemplary vision for enhancing the lives of current and future generations. The agency, which is chartered by the State of Maryland, has geographic authority in the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County region, which are the two Maryland counties surrounding*

*Washington, DC. The Commission is comprised of seven distinct departments, each led by their respective Department Head. The Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, and the Prince George’s County Planning Department carry out services for the Prince George’s County region. Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning carry out services for Montgomery County. Bi-county corporate management is carried out by the Department of Human Resources and Management, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the General Counsel. Other Bi-county functions include the Office of Inspector General, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and Merit System Board. The Commission’s governing body is comprised of ten Commissioners, five appointed to the Montgomery Planning Board and five appointed to the Prince George’s County Planning Board, which have oversight of decisions for the Montgomery and Prince George’s region.*

### Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email [PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org), or complete the online form.



