

# The Prince George’s Post



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PHOTO COURTESY PGCEDC

The MOU was signed by (R) Ebony Stocks, Interim President & CEO of PGCEDC and representatives from the Nuevo León delegation.

## Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation Signs Historic MOU With Nuevo León, Mexico to Strengthen International Economic Collaboration

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (July 29, 2025)—Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Nuevo León, Mexico, marking a significant milestone in international partnership and global economic cooperation.

On Friday, July 25, 2025, a high-level delegation from Nuevo León visited the offices of PGCEDC to formalize the agreement aimed at promoting mutual investment, trade opportunities, and shared innovation in advanced manufacturing, logistics, data infrastructure, and sustainable development.

The MOU was signed by Ebony Stocks, Interim President & CEO of PGCEDC, Martin Ezemma, Director of International Business at PGCEDC, and representatives from the Nuevo León delegation. Jose Burnes, PGCEDC Business Development Manager for Manufacturing, Warehousing & Data Centers, also participated in the his-

toric signing and strategic dialogue.

“This agreement opens a powerful new channel for cross-border collaboration, positioning Prince George’s County as a welcoming and competitive hub for global business,” said Ebony Stocks. “We are excited to work alongside Nuevo León to foster joint ventures, innovation exchanges, and new trade routes that will benefit both regions.”

The signing ceremony symbolized the growing alignment between Prince George’s County and international regions focused on economic transformation, workforce development, and the pursuit of advanced technologies in the 21st-century economy.

We believe that building strong international alliances is key to the future of economic development in Prince George’s County,” said Martin Ezemma. “Nuevo León’s dynamic industrial sector, combined with our strategic location and infrastructure, creates an ideal environment for collaboration and growth.”

Nuevo León, often referred to as the industrial capital of Mexico, is home to a

robust manufacturing ecosystem, including automotive, aerospace, electronics, and energy sectors. Prince George’s County, meanwhile, continues to attract global interest due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., access to international trade routes, and forward-thinking economic strategies.

The MOU represents the shared intent of both regions to pursue joint business opportunities, exchange best practices, and explore co-investment initiatives in areas such as clean energy, smart logistics, and digital innovation.

For more information about PGCEDC’s international business development efforts, visit [www.pgcdec.com](http://www.pgcdec.com).

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. The organization is dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. Visit [www.pgcdec.com](http://www.pgcdec.com) for more information on business development and investment opportunities in the county.*

## Tickets Now Available for 2025 Washington International Horse Show

*Evening Tickets Start at \$20, Saturday Kids’ Day and Daytime Sessions Are Free*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Washington International Horse Show (WIHS)

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 30, 2025)—Tickets for 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 are now available for purchase at [www.WIHS.org/tickets](http://www.WIHS.org/tickets) and through Ticketmaster.

With Olympic-level athletes, captivating exhibitions, exceptional shopping, and family-friendly pricing, tickets to WIHS cater to every equestrian enthusiast. Buy your ticket now to reserve a seat on Thursday’s Military Night, Friday’s MARS Barn Night, or Saturday’s World Cup night, but remember that all daytime sessions Monday through Sunday, including Kids’ Day presented by Delta on Saturday, are free for anyone to attend.

All tickets are reserved seating at one set price, making it easy to choose where you want to watch the show. Interested in seeing the

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PHOTO BY ALDEN CORRIGAN MEDIA

Kids’ Day presented by Delta is a free introduction to the world of horses at WIHS on Saturday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## County Preserves 288 Affordable Housing Units Along the Purple Line Corridor

*Department of Housing and Community Development Uses Right of First Refusal Program to Keep Housing Affordable*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Housing & Redevelopment, Prince George’s County

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 1, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) exercised its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) on Plaza Towers Apartments, a 288-unit multi-family apartment building, located at 6700 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland to keep the units in this complex affordable. According to County Resolution CR-51-2015, the County can exercise its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) where the owner of a multi-family rental facility of 20 or more units intends to sell the building. DHCD has the authority to purchase the property or assign its rights to purchase the property to a third-party, in an effort to stabilize, preserve, and expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households and to increase the availability of quality affordable rental housing in designated areas of the County. Property Owners and prospective buyers may request that DHCD approve an exception to the County’s ROFR in accordance with Section 13-1114 of the Code.

“We believe this is a bold step and the right step to expand affordable housing opportunities in Prince George’s County,” said County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy. “Our strategic use of the Right of First Refusal at Plaza Towers Apartments is a clear demonstration of our unwavering commitment to equitable and inclusive economic growth. The ROFR is a tool that allows us to preserve and protect existing affordable housing while ensuring that residents have access to high-quality, safe, and stable homes like Plaza Towers—particularly in

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## Moore-Miller Administration Convenes Public Safety Partners to Promote Successful Reentry for Formerly Incarcerated Marylanders

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 31, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today joined elected leaders in Baltimore City to participate in a simulation illustrating the reentry challenges that Marylanders face following incarceration. The simulation—organized by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services—both illustrates and informs the Moore-Miller Administration’s all-of-the-above approach to promoting public safety by reducing recidivism rates through reduced barriers to work, wages, and wealth for returning citizens.

“We need to end the myth that every sentence is a life sentence,” said Gov. Moore. “Today, leaders from across the state had the opportunity to better understand the many challenges our returning citizens face. And our experiences will

help inform the work we do to provide real second chances to Marylanders under the care of DPSCS.”

Simulation participants experienced one month in the life of a returning citizen by visiting a series of stations. Each station illustrated real challenges that returning citizens face, including probation compliance and barriers to obtaining employment and housing. The session aimed to promote greater understanding to inspire collective action on the critical role that support services play in successful reentry—especially during the first six months following release, when recidivism occurs at the highest rate.

“Today’s event is a testament to the work being done to change the trajectory of returning citizens’ lives. It also highlights the challenges and barriers they face in pursuit of a second chance—and the responsibility we all share to help break

those barriers down and open doors of opportunity,” said Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Carolyn J. Scruggs. “When they leave our system, if we continue to see them only as criminals, it diminishes their ability to move forward. We must uplift them, believe in their potential, and give them the chance to succeed.”

Among individuals who return to state prison within their first year of being released, 36% of cases are for technical supervision violations, which involve non-criminal noncompliance with probation orders. For returning citizens under post-release supervision, obstacles to successful reentry can include a lack of access to support services, transportation, housing, and economic opportunity. Approximately

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To Be Equal:  
Jasmine Crockett Is the Voice of a New Generation, and She Is Ready for the Moment

She reminds us that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires participation, vigilance, and voices like hers; clear, courageous, and committed.

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Choose Fresh Cherries for Healthy and Sweet Back-to-School Snacking

Simple Summer Snacks

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

### Dolores Steinhilber, first President of the Skyline Citizens Assn., dies at 93

Dolores Marie Ables Steinhilber, of Waldorf, who held several important jobs in St. Philip’s Parish, died June 27. She was schoolteacher, vice principal, Director of Religious Education, assistant to the Pastor, and founder of SPRED, the parish’s Special Religious Education Program.

She was active in my community and the first President of the Skyline Citizens Association. She was 93.

Dolores grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and received undergraduate and master’s degrees from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. It’s where she met her future husband, August William Steinhilber, Jr., whom we all knew as Gus.

I came to know Dolores when our husbands, Jack and Gus, were coaching a Morningside softball team. Dolores was often in danger of being thrown out of the game because of her loud support of the home team.

A lifelong Catholic, she was parish-ioner and teacher at St. Joseph and St. Philip the Apostle parishes and held important roles in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Known affectionately as “Nana Buck,” her signature inclusion of a \$2 bill with each card on special occasions was her way of marking love with a smile. She was a prayer warrior, a steadfast supporter of her family, and a pillar of faith to caregivers and countless community members.

We’ll remember Dolores as a devoted mother, grandmother and teacher who

deeply treasured her family and numerous students. She opened her heart to caregivers for whom her family is extremely grateful. Throughout her life, everyone who had the honor of knowing “Nana Buck,” loved her.

She was predeceased by her husband, August, and her sister Shirley Yelavich. Survivors include her children, August William (Teresa) Steinhilber III, Lisa Leadbeater-Brame (Jerome Brame), and Paula Beran; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip the Apostle Church, followed by burial at Resurrection Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, the Pat Summitt Foundation Guiding Eyes for the Blind, or St. Jude Children’s Research.

And now they’re both gone—St. Philip’s School and its most celebrated teacher. A sad time for my parish.

### Neighbors

Maria Derisavi, of Great Mills, has been elected Miss Maryland at the Maryland Theater in Hagerstown.

I’ve just received word of the death of Bill Teletchea, nephew of Msgr. Teletchea, St. Philip’s founding pastor. Hope to tell you about him in next week’s column.

### Tours

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Society is open for Historical House Tours every Wednesday & Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Tours for the Dr. Mudd House commence hourly, on the hour. The gates close after the

last tour each day. Info: (301) 645-6870. Website: <https://drmudd.org>.

### Open House

You are invited to “a fun-filled evening at the University of Maryland Extension Open House” on September 4, 5:30–7 p.m., at 6707 Groveton Drive in Clinton. Discover free community programs, enjoy complimentary ice cream, take home a free plant, and explore our exciting “Community Showcase.” Free entry. Prince George’s County Extension.

### Sodality hosting trip to “Noah”

The Sodality of Mount Calvary Church is hosting a trip to Sight & Sound, in Lancaster, Pa. They’ll be attending an afternoon performance of Noah, with dinner at the Hershey Park Resort. Info: email Babbita Briscoe at [briscoebabbita@ymail.com](mailto:briscoebabbita@ymail.com).

### Changing landscape

A home at 4715 John St., in Skyline, has sold for \$455,000. Another home, on Suitland Road, went for \$275,000.

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Floyd Shields; Connie Robbins, Patricia Rosetta and July 27; Matthew Gryskewicz, Kenny Hunt and Jason Nichols, July 28; Gary Barnes, July 29; Helen Rawlett and Helen Cordero, July 30; John Short, Paula Boxley and Howard C. Booth, July 31. Carolyn Dade, Aug. 1; Chris Webb, Cornel Gotshall and Samantha Wade, Aug. 3.

Happy Anniversary to William and Orva Heissenbuttel on Aug. 3.

celebrates artists through dynamic and live performances. Its Class Is In Session platform features curated mixes and performances filmed in a creative classroom setting.

### NOTTINGHAM MYERS HOMECOMING

Mark your calendars for Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Annual Homecoming Celebration August 17, 2025. Rev. Brian T. Walker from Kingdom Builders Fellowship will be the guest speaker. Let us spread the word and invite family, friends, and neighbors to join in welcoming everyone home to Nottingham Myers. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

### SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

Scholarships 2025 proved to be an exciting year for Pomonkey High School Alumni Association, Inc Program. They had three outstanding applications that created some firsts for them. They were all heavily involved in community outreach and providing assistance to those in need. Their academic records were impressive and showed a high level of dedication to achieving solid backgrounds to solidify their future success in their chosen fields.

Meet Miss Reese Hart: Reese was a 2025 graduate of Henry E. Lackey High School in Indian Head, Maryland. Reese plans to attend Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her past involvements include cheerleading, Girl Scouts, Jack and Jill, Homeless Shelter program, honor student, and editor. Reese has been active at Lackey and in her community. Reese is the granddaughter of Randolph J. Hart, Jr.

Miss Keiana Gray is presently attending Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Keiana was on the 2022 Fall Dean’s List at the College of Southern Maryland. Also 2024 Spring Dean’s List. She has maintained her excellence at Morgan on the 2024 Fall Dean’s List and received the 2025 Residential Scholar Award. Her major is Architecture and Environmental Design. Keiana is the granddaughter of Paul Bowman.

Miss Misa Milstead: Misa graduated from LaPlata High School in 2019. She obtained her BA in Liberal Studies from Delaware State University in 2023. Also, in October of 2023, she became a Licensed Esthetician. In August of 2024, Misa was awarded a Certified Nursing Assistant from Compassionate Academy and is recognized by the Maryland Board of Nursing. Misa will be attending the University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore Campus to earn her master’s degree this fall. Misa is the granddaughter of Veronica Elnora Milstead.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY (1865)

Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship. Save the date Homecoming 25 is from October 27–November 2, 2025 (1865-4Life). Stay connected to the Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship for updates and the full schedule of Homecoming events.



PHOTO BY HANNAH JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

**Groups can purchase tickets together and go “Wild for WIHS” on Friday’s MARS Barn Night.**

### Tickets from A1

riders up close and personal as they prepare to enter the ring? Secure your seat by the in-gate! Need an overview of the entire course of jumps? A seat on the long side of The Show Place Arena will cover every angle.

On Saturday evening, in addition to reserved ticket seating, you also have the choice to watch and dine. This ticket package includes a hot buffet-style dinner you can enjoy at your seat, unlimited refills of non-alcoholic beverages, and two complimentary drinks of beer or wine for guests aged 21+.

### What Can You Expect?

**Thursday, October 23—Military Night, “Power and Speed”**

- Reserved Seat Tickets\*: Adult \$20, Child \$15
- First class starts at 7 p.m.
- \$63,000 Welcome Stake
- \$63,000 Stars and Stripes Speed Stake
- \*50% off any ticket, adult or child, supported by ROKK Solutions and PlusPR. Available only at The Show Place Arena Box Office and select Military Ticket offices, with Military ID, VA Beneficiary ID, and first responders IDs. U.S. Military and First Responder tickets are open to active, retired, reserve, and disabled veterans, members of law enforcement, paramedics, EMS, EMTs, and firefighters.

**Friday, October 24—MARS Barn Night, “Wild for WIHS”**

- Reserved Seat Tickets: Adult \$25, Child \$20
- Discounted Group Ticket Sales Available
- First class starts at 7:20 p.m.
- \$63,000 Accumulator Costume Class
- WIHS Shetland Pony Steeplechase Championship Race
- Sylvia Zerbin Liberty Horse Exhibition
- Barn Night Contest Winners
- International Jumpers Autograph Signing

**Saturday, October 25—World Cup Night, “Big Jumps, Bigger Stars”**

- Reserved Seat Tickets: Adult \$40, Child \$35
- Ticket & Dinner: Adult \$115, Child \$100
- WIHS Equitation Finals Top 10 Work-Off—starts at 6:30 p.m.
- \$340,000 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. Visit [wihs.org](http://wihs.org).
- Don’t miss Kids’ Day presented by Delta 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, face painting, and more. Plus, you can watch kids and ponies compete in the arena during the daytime session for free. Sylvia Zerbin 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.

Get ready to experience the exciting and unforgettable nights of an iconic indoor equestrian event, only at Washington International Horse Show.

For more information, visit [www.wihs.org](http://www.wihs.org).

*About Washington International Horse Show, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization: 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. Visit [wihs.org](http://wihs.org).*

### Preserves from A1

thriving, transit-oriented communities like the Purple Line Corridor—like Plaza Towers which is within a mile of a Metro Rail station and future Purple Line stations. As we continue to invest in areas that are ripe for economic development, we remain focused on elevating our County for all families.”

“This acquisition is a major win for Prince George’s County residents,” said Jonathan R. Butler, Director for Department of Housing and Community Development for Prince George’s County. “Our agency fully leveraged the Right of First Refusal Exception tool and worked closely with mission-driven partners, thereby safeguarding housing affordability and neighborhood stability for decades to come.”

Prince George’s County granted an exception to Horning, the developer of Plaza Towers, and invested a \$3 million ROFR Preservation Fund Loan and a 30-year term County tax deferral in the form of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). Horning will designate 100% of the 288 units as affordable and stabilize rent growth for at least 30 years. Planned improvements at Plaza Towers will total approximately \$2.82 million (approximately \$9,800 per unit) phased in over several years. The scope of the work will be determined based on the final Capital Needs Assessment, and is anticipated to include HVAC, plumbing, and structural improvements as well as accessibility improvements to the parking lot and walkways.

This ROFR agreement furthers the mission of DHCD to preserve or create affordable homes, prevent displacement, advance racial and housing equity, and open greater opportunity for individuals, families, and communities.

Since 2021, the ROFR program has preserved 2,548 units of affordable housing, particularly in high growth and transit-oriented areas.

## Back-to-School Supply Collection

WHEN: August 4–14, 2025

WHERE: MWBC Shop Local, Bowie Town Center, 15402B Emerald Way, Bowie, MD 20716

### We’re Collecting:

Notebooks, Pens & Pencils, Glue Sticks, Crayons & Markers, Rulers, Folders & Binders, Tape, Highlighters & Scissors, Backpacks & Lunchboxes

In Partnership with the Prince George’s Annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive.

*The Prince George’s Post—Proudly Serving Prince George’s County Since 1932*

# COMMUNITY



GRAPHIC COURTESY UCAP

## Housing Resource Fair

By PRESS OFFICER  
UCAP

United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) will be hosting a housing resource fair on **Wednesday, August 20** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. UCAP is Prince George County’s leading anti-poverty agency. This event is a day dedicated to empowering residents with the tools and information they need to navigate the changing housing landscape. Whether you’re buying, selling, renting or facing foreclo-

sure, you can receive expert advice and resources. Meet with certified housing counselors, employment resources, estate planning, energy assistance and many more. Participate in sessions on topics such as mortgage readiness, credit repair and affordable housing. UCAP is located at 1400 Doewood Lane in Capitol Heights, Maryland. This event is free and open to all.

For more information contact 301-322-5700 ext 172 or email [jglover@ucappgc.org](mailto:jglover@ucappgc.org).

## Social Security Matters

**Ask Rusty:**

### Why Hasn’t My SS Benefit Changed Because I Am Still Working?

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 currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time. There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings. That held true for the first two years but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case? **Signed: Waiting Anxiously**

**Dear Waiting:** If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS, and they typically do that review by the end of the 3rd quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation (which is a normal part of Social Security’s process when calculating your benefit amount). Your earnings for each year in your lifetime (up to age 60) were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS, and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years (adjusted for inflation) over your lifetime to calculate your benefit, and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year, or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1.800.772.1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won’t need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

*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).*

## Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center Joins NBC4’s Clear the Shelters Pet Adoption & Donation Campaign This August

*The Nationwide initiative has led to nearly 1.2 million adoptions & raised more than \$5 million.*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (July 31, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) has partnered with NBCUniversal, NBC4’s annual Clear the Shelters pet adoption and donation campaign, which runs from **August 1 through August 31**, along with an extended fundraising effort until September 15.

As part of the nationwide initiative, NBC and Telemundo stations partner with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to promote pet adoption and raise funds that support animal welfare. Since its start in 2015, Clear the Shelters has helped nearly 1.2 million pets find

new homes and has raised over \$5 million for participating shelters and rescues.

“We are excited to once again partner in the Clear the Shelters initiative this August. It allows us to showcase our amazing shelter pets to a larger audience, helping them find loving, forever homes,” said David Fisher, Chief and Administrator of the Animal Services Division.

Greater Good Charities, a global non-profit and longtime campaign partner, will once again oversee the Clear the Shelters fundraising effort. Donations to the general fund are accepted now through September 15, while contributions to individual shelters can be made from August 1 to 31 at ClearTheShel-

tersFund.org.

Virtual pet adoptions continue for the seventh consecutive year through WeRescue, which enables website and app users to browse adoptable pets by breed, gender, size, and other factors, submit applications, and ask shelters questions. Hill’s Pet Nutrition, a global leader in science-based pet nutrition, remains the campaign’s national sponsor for the eighth straight year. For more details about Clear the Shelters, including participating animal shelters and rescues and information on local events, visit [ClearTheShelters.com](http://ClearTheShelters.com) and the Spanish-language site [DesocuparlosAlbergues.com](http://DesocuparlosAlbergues.com).

To learn more about ASFAC, visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).

## Governor Moore Announces Five Judicial Appointments for Prince George’s and Harford Counties

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 1, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the appointment of the Honorable Stacey Maria Cobb Smith and the Honorable Donnaka Varner Lewis to the Prince George’s County Circuit Court; Sherrie Waldrup and Melissa Alesia Pryce to the Prince George’s County District Court; and Donald Foster Walter, Jr. to the Harford County District Court.

Governor Moore’s five appointees include:

### The Honorable Stacey Maria Cobb Smith

The Honorable Stacey Cobb Smith was appointed to the Prince George’s County District Court in 2020. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Cobb Smith was a prosecutor with the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office for her entire 12-year legal career, serving for four years as chief of the major crimes unit.

Judge Cobb Smith received her law degree from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

### The Honorable Donnaka Varner Lewis

The Honorable Donnaka Varner Lewis has served as an associate judge for the Prince George’s County District Court since 2016. Prior to her appointment to the district court, Judge Lewis served 12 years as an assistant state’s attorney for Prince George’s County. As an assistant state’s attorney, Judge Lewis was also chief of the office’s district court

division, where she supervised 14 attorneys who prosecuted misdemeanor cases in district court.

Judge Lewis received her law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She is also a graduate of American University, where she received her master’s degree in psychology, and Hampton University, where she received her undergraduate degree.

### Sherrie Waldrup

Sherrie Waldrup is currently the chief of both the homicide unit and the strategic investigations unit in the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office, where she has spent the majority of her career. She began as an assistant state’s attorney in the district court division in 2008 and has been a homicide prosecutor for the past nine years. Immediately after graduating from law school, Waldrup worked for the civil division of the U.S. Department of Justice. She has also served as an associate county attorney with the litigation division of the Prince George’s County Office of Law.

Waldrup is a graduate of Duke University and the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri.

### Melissa Alesia Pryce

Melissa Pryce has been a public defender for most of her 18-year legal career. In October 2021, Pryce became the first Black district public defender for Prince George’s County after serving as the deputy district public defender for two years. Prior to serving as deputy district public defender, Pryce was a supervising attorney in the felony trial unit

and was designated as one of six homicide attorneys. Before joining the public defender’s office, Pryce spent three years as an associate with Largo-based law firm Henry & Associates.

Pryce earned her law degree from the Howard University School of Law and earned her undergraduate degrees from the University of Florida.

### Donald Foster Walter, Jr.

Donald Walter, Jr. has served as counsel to the National Security Agency for the past two years. As an attorney in the National Security Agency General Counsel’s Office, he handled criminal and civil litigation. Prior to joining the National Security Agency, Walter spent his career as a prosecutor working in both Baltimore City and Harford County, spending six years as chief of the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office Juvenile Division. As a prosecutor, Walter served in Harford County for seven years in both the district and circuit court divisions, and in Baltimore City for two years.

Walter has also served in the Maryland Army National Guard for more than 14 years, including assignments as a Platoon Leader in the 1-175th Infantry, platoon trainer in the Maryland Officer Candidate School Program, company commander of the 253rd Engineer Company (Sapper), and air and missile defense chief of the 291st Theater Liaison Detachment.

Walter received his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He also earned a Master of Science in cyber security policy and management from the University of Maryland and holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Hampden-Sydney College.

## Governor Moore Launches Longevity Ready Maryland, a Landmark State Plan to Support a Thriving Aging Population

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 30, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today launched Longevity Ready Maryland, the state’s first comprehensive, 10-year multisector plan to coordinate services and policies that support Maryland’s growing population of older adults. The landmark initiative comes at a pivotal moment when cuts to essential federal programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP jeopardize the security of older Marylanders.

“While some in Washington threaten to pull the rug out from under our residents, placing greater strain on state resources, Maryland is stepping forward with urgency and a clear plan to put the well-being of older Marylanders front and center,” said Gov. Moore. “By coordinating action across state agencies, community organizations, and the private sector, Longevity Ready Maryland takes a resilient approach to aging and makes efficient use of every resource as federal

support becomes less certain.”

Longevity Ready Maryland is a collaborative, long-term plan that aims to support the work of service providers by consolidating resources; coordinating efforts across government, businesses, and communities; and transforming systems of care to more sustainably accommodate a greater number of older Marylanders. To advance the objectives of the plan, the Maryland Department of Aging will work to encourage collaboration between state agencies, support local initiatives, and improve access to home- and community-based services.

“With Maryland’s older population growing faster than the national average, we are meeting this moment with a bold and innovative plan,” said Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques. “Born from a two-year, ground-up effort, this plan reflects the voices of older adults, caregivers, and community leaders from every corner of our state. Longevity Ready Maryland is our commitment to action—a roadmap to ensure all Marylanders can live healthy, finan-

cially secure, socially connected, and purposeful lives.”

Maryland is home to 1.4 million residents over age 60—a number projected to surpass a quarter of the state’s population in less than five years. More than 127,000 older Marylanders rely on SNAP benefits to meet basic nutritional needs, with 32% of SNAP recipients made up of families with older adults or people with disabilities. In addition, 109,000 older Marylanders depend on Medicaid for essential health services, as Medicaid is the number one payer of long-term services and supports, including nursing homes. Additionally, approximately 4,000 Marylanders receive Medicaid home- and community-based services.

Deep cuts to essential federal programs, such as the low-income home energy assistance program, and various housing initiatives administered by the Maryland Department of Human Services and Department of Housing and

# COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

## Jasmine Crockett Is the Voice of a New Generation, and She Is Ready for the Moment

“When you have people that are this extreme, they will do anything and everything to maintain power. The only thing that will stop them is us.”  
—Rep. Jasmine Crockett

We are living through a moment that demands clarity, resolve, and truth. Across this country, communities are calling for leadership that understands the stakes, challenges the status quo, and delivers for those most often left behind.

In Texas, that leadership has a name: Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. Since stepping onto the national stage, Rep. Crockett has made it clear that she is not in Washington to warm a seat. She is there to fight for justice, for access, and for the voices too often silenced in our democracy. She speaks not for spectacle, but for substance. She represents a new generation of Black leaders who combine deep community roots with legislative rigor and moral clarity.

In the tradition of mayors like Brandon Scott in Baltimore and Justin Bibb in Cleveland, Rep. Crockett reflects a growing movement of bold and accountable public servants who are shifting the center of gravity in American politics. They understand that justice is not an abstract idea. It is measured in policies, in budgets, and in how power is distributed and shared. Rep. Crockett’s background as a civil rights attorney, her experience in the Texas House of Representatives, and now her sharp, principled voice in Congress all point to one truth. She is ready. And she is meeting the moment. In recent months, as political theater has taken center stage in congressional hearings, Rep. Crockett has brought facts, law, and moral urgency. Her lines go viral, yes, but her purpose is deeper. She challenges misinformation with precision. She demands answers on behalf of those who do not get a seat at the table. And she reminds the nation that Black women are not only the backbone of our democracy; they are its future. But her work is not only about rhetoric. It is about results. She is a consistent advocate for protecting voting rights, advancing economic equity, and defending public education from coordinated attacks.

She is raising the alarm about housing, healthcare, and the wealth gap, all while staying rooted in the needs of her district. She listens. She shows up. She leads with authenticity. At the National Urban League, we believe in building pipelines of transformative leadership. We invest in civic engagement, economic opportunity, and the power of Black communities to drive change from the ground up. Rep. Crockett embodies those same values in Congress, a fierce advocate who knows the law, knows the people, and knows how to move policy forward. As we continue to confront challenges to civil rights, reproductive freedom, and democratic norms, we must also lift up the leaders who are lighting the path forward. Jasmine Crockett is one of them. She reminds us that democracy is not a spectator sport. It requires participation, vigilance, and voices like hers; clear, courageous, and committed. To be equal, we must not only defend the progress we have made. We must expand it and invest in leaders who carry the struggle forward with vision and action.

—August 1, 2025

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

## Early Childhood The Best of What Education Can Be

I recently wrote about the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program’s annual National Day of Social Action, which this year engaged thousands of students enrolled in CDF Freedom Schools summer programs across the country around the message “Public Education is a Public Good.” Scholars from the CDF Freedom Schools site at The Mark in Montclair, a program of Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church in Montclair, New Jersey, put it this way in a letter to the editor at the Montclair Local: “Public schools are more than just buildings. They are the places where we learn, grow, and build our futures. Public education helps ‘level the playing field.’ It brings to-

gether people from different backgrounds and teaches us how to respect others and work together. That makes our community stronger . . . We all agree: access to a high-quality education should be a right, not a privilege. Everyone deserves the chance to learn, no matter where they live or how much money they have. One of our peers said, ‘Without education, you’ll die on the streets, not being able to get a job.’ It may sound harsh—but that’s the reality too many kids face. To the adults making decisions: See us. Hear us. Invest in us. If public education is a public good, then we, the public, deserve the best of what it can be.” In the same letter, they also shared a few ideas

they think public schools can take from the CDF Freedom Schools movement, explaining that in their own summer program “we don’t just read books and play games—we build community, ask big questions, and learn how to stand up for what’s right.” They wrote: “At Freedom School, we do things differently. We start with Harambee, a joyful time where we sing, cheer, and get inspired. We read books with characters who look like us, talk like us, and face real-life challenges. We’re encouraged to ask questions, work in groups, and express our ideas through writing, art, and performance. Public schools could borrow from these practices—adding more joy, culture, and creativity to everyday learning.” The CDF Freedom Schools model is indeed designed to light a spark and be an example of the best of what education can be. CDF Freedom Schools sites provide summer and after-school enrichment through a research-based and multicultural program model that supports students, or “scholars,” in grades K–12 and their families. They focus on high-quality academic and character-building enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational servant leadership development, and nutrition, health, and mental health, and they incorporate the totality of CDF’s mission by foster-

ing environments that support young people to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves and in their families, schools, communities, country, and world with hope, education, and action. Scholars enrolled at CDF Freedom Schools sites receive culturally relevant pedagogy and are immersed in reading excellent books to deepen their understanding of themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society—the books the scholars above mentioned in their letter that feature characters who look and talk like them and who face some of the same real-life challenges. The program helps foster a love for reading that counters summer learning loss, and for many scholars, this full experience becomes a transformational foundation with impacts that last far beyond the summer—as CDF puts it, nurturing lifelong learners and advocates for progress. More than 12,000 scholars enrolled in CDF Freedom Schools programs this summer have learned, and learned to share with confidence, a lesson every child and young person should know: they all deserve the best of what education can be. Adults must step up who share their conviction and their determination not to settle for less.

—August 1, 2025

## Keep Burglars at Bay While You’re Away

AAA Offers Advice to Safeguard Your Home for Vacation

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA Club Alliance Inc

WASHINGTON (Aug. 1, 2025)—With August upon us, many families will be taking vacations before kids head back to school. AAA is offering travelers peace of mind with tips to keep your home safe while you’re away, whether your vacation takes you near or far. According to the FBI, a break-in occurs every 26 seconds in the United States and home burglaries increase in the summer months, since burglars see vacations as an opportunity to target empty homes. While burglaries are seeing a downward trend, there are still an average of over one million burglaries annually in the United States, according to the United States Department of Justice. “Vacations require preparation and planning, just as you ensure all your items are packed for a relaxing time away, it’s also important to protect your home and keep your possessions safe,” said Dan Scroggins, AAA’s Vice President, Personal Lines Insurance. “Often, in the rush to get ready for vacation, home security is forgotten.” Before you head out for vacation, take a few moments to safeguard your home and keep your valuables safe.

Tips to protect your home while you are away:

- **Make it time-consuming to break into your home.** Research suggests that if burglars think it will take more than four or five minutes to break into a home, they will move on. Check outside doors and frames to ensure they are strong and made of metal or thick hardwood. Use deadbolts on windows and doors, which

- can slow burglars down or deter them entirely.
- **Invest in an effective burglar alarm** that, when triggered, alerts the police, fire department and other emergency services. Check with your insurance agent about possible alarm system discounts.
- **Disconnect computers and other electronic devices** from the internet to prevent hackers from gaining access to your information. Make sure personal information on your computer is difficult to access.
- **Keep valuables locked up and out of sight.** Expensive jewelry, electronic devices and other high value items should be hidden from plain view and placed in lock boxes.
- **Make your home look inhabited.** Use timers to turn lights on and off, temporarily stop newspaper deliveries, and arrange to have your mail picked up or held by the post office. An unkempt lawn is also an indicator to burglars that you are away. Hire a lawn service to maintain your yard if you will be gone for an extended period of time.
- **Ask a dependable neighbor, friend or family member** to keep an eye on your home while you’re away.
- Although vacations are exciting, **try not to post about them on social media**; someone may see your posts and target your home while you’re away. Avoid discussing your vacation plans in public places such as at the grocery store or at your local café.
- **Create a home inventory.** In the event that you do need to file a claim, preparing a home inventory of your possessions beforehand will make the process easier.
- **Check your insurance policy to ensure that you have the cov-**

expanded mentorship opportunities for incarcerated youth, partnering with the Prince George’s State’s Attorney’s Office to create wrap-around services and career guidance support for emerging adults ages 18–26 who are navigating reentry. Participants undergo six months of weekly virtual group sessions that support age-appropriate critical thinking and skills-understanding; peer support; mentoring; and other opportunities for change. Upon completion of the program, participants receive personalized reentry planning. The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services also expanded reentry resource fairs, which invite community partners—including more than 20 different state agencies—to interact with

individuals who are within 18 months of being released. By creating opportunities to build relationships with community support networks, the fairs allow returning citizens to invest more fully in their future prior to release. “Many people don’t understand how emotional it can be for someone coming back to mainstream society from prison or from jail. And many of us don’t understand how our systems also add layers of burden,” said Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Director of Community Investment Tholyn Twyman. “Going through the simulation makes it personal for everyone, becoming an educational tool that hopefully will spark lasting change to make things simpler and more effective.”

**erage** you need in case you experience theft or damage to your property. To find out more about renters or homeowners’ insurance, call your AAA insurance agent to see what discounts you may be eligible for and what type of coverage you might need.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to more than 65.2 million members nationwide, over 80,000 members in Washington, D.C. and more than 1 million members in Maryland. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, not-for-profit membership corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can map a route, find local gas prices and electric vehicle charging stations, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information on joining or renewing a Membership, visit www.AAA.com.

### The Prince George’s Post

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### Partners from A1

10% of individuals return within 3 years for committing a new crime. Under the Moore-Miller Administration, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has changed its reentry approach to more actively engage formerly incarcerated individuals to help address access and economic barriers, especially by cancelling debt for outstanding mandatory, parole, and administrative release supervision fees and drug testing fees for individuals who are currently under the supervision of the agency’s Division of Parole and Probation. The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has also

# HEALTHY SNACKS

## : Choose **Fresh Cherries** for Healthy and Sweet **Back-to-School** Snacking :

FAMILY FEATURES

This year provided a long sweet cherry season, which means fresh sweet cherries will be available in produce aisles during the back-to-school season. Cherries, which are a superfruit packed with nutrients and antioxidants, are perfect for lunchboxes, after-school snacking and grab-and-go munching in the car on the way to and from activities.

Sweet cherries’ high antioxidant content, beneficial effects on inflammation and natural ability to improve sleep quality make them a must-add to your grocery list. Even picky eaters can enjoy this nutritious snack. It’s a sweet treat that won’t spike sugar levels, providing steady nutrition as cherries boast a lower glycemic index than almost any other fruit.

Sweet cherries are also loaded with vitamin C to help boost immune systems and keep skin glowing. Studies have found sweet cherries are packed with serotonin, which is an important neurotransmitter that plays a role in managing stress and stabilizing mood. Cherries are also a great source of fiber, adding to their benefits during the back-to-school season.

Cherries are not only a healthy snack; they are also convenient. For younger kids, cherries can be easily pitted for easy and safe snacking. If you don’t have a cherry pitter, cherries can be pitted with a knife or kids can try removing the stem and gently pushing a straw or chopstick through the middle of the cherry until the pit pops out. For older kids, cherries only need to be rinsed before adding them to a lunchbox. Cherries also easily keep for hours without being refrigerated.

In addition to school lunches and snacking, cherries can also be added to many breakfast foods like pancakes, granola, yogurt, smoothies or these Cherry Overnight Oats. Give your family a jumpstart on the day with a healthy cherry breakfast featuring sweet cherries to deliver nutritional benefits, a natural sweetness and bright color that is sure to delight.

The benefits of this wholesome fruit can be accessed any time by drying, canning and freezing cherries at their peak ripeness to preserve their goodness for year-round enjoyment.

More recipes, from breakfasts and entrees to desserts and drinks, can be found at [nwcherries.com/recipe](http://nwcherries.com/recipe).



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

### Cherry Overnight Oats

Recipe courtesy of Northwest Cherry Growers

- 2 cups rolled oats
- 4 tablespoons chia seeds
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 teaspoons pure almond extract
- 4 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 1/2 cup Northwest Cherries, roughly chopped, plus additional for serving (optional)
- Greek yogurt (optional)
- sliced almonds (optional)

In mixing bowl, stir oats and chia seeds to combine.

Add milk, almond extract and maple syrup. Stir to combine until uniformly mixed.

Using 1/4 cup measuring cup, divide oats mixture among four small jars, adding layer of cherries between scoops. Top with remaining cherries.

Seal jars and transfer to refrigerator overnight, or at least 6 hours, before serving.

Serve on their own or top with Greek yogurt, additional dried cherries and sliced almonds, if desired.

# Simple Summer SNACKS

*Sweet, easy recipes to solve warm-weather hunger*

FAMILY FEATURES

From lazy days by the pool to weekend road trips and everything in between, summer is packed with adventures. To keep your energy high for all those warm-weather activities, you’ll need to keep sweet, delicious snacks on the family menu.

Make sure versatile, flavorful watermelon is always on your grocery list so you can enjoy it for breakfast, lunch, snacks, desserts, drinks and beyond. It easily fits your existing routines for morning smoothies and snacking on the go, or in make-ahead dishes you can serve when hunger strikes.

It’s easy to cool off quickly on hot summer days with Watermelon Ice Pops, a simple, kid-friendly favorite made with watermelon and chunks of fresh fruit. Bursting with flavor, these frozen treats make snack time a cinch while tackling cravings, boosting hydration and supporting wellness in place of added-sugar treats.

For a light afternoon bite before the dinner bell rings, try this Watermelon Salad with Feta and Mint that offers sweet summer flavor without the hassle. Pairing long-time favorites in feta cheese and mint, it’s a classic for a reason with delicious watermelon adding nutritional content.

Of course, as a kitchen staple to keep on hand throughout the year, watermelon is also perfect for

enjoying all on its own at home or on the go. Whether it’s diced, sliced, balled or blended, you can toss it in a jar for a healthy, hydrating snack.

Cutting watermelon into convenient chunks is fast and easy so you can eat at home or toss in a to-go container to take to the office, beach or soccer practice. Just cut a grid pattern on the fruit and cubes will tumble out, ready to eat. Don’t forget to wash and dry the rind on the watermelon before cutting.

1. Cut the whole watermelon lengthwise into quarters. Lay each quarter on its rind with the interior facing up.
2. Place the knife about 3/4 inch down from the peak of the wedge. Holding the knife parallel to the far side of the fruit and starting at the edge of the rind, cut a horizontal line across the fruit all the way down to the rind.
3. Place the knife blade about 3/4 inch lower and make the same cut. Repeat. Turn the fruit to the other side and make the same horizontal cuts.
4. Starting at the end of the rind, make vertical cuts straight down the rind, 3/4 inch apart all the way across.
5. Remove the cubes and serve or store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

To find more ways to serve watermelon this summer and all year long, visit [Watermelon.org](http://Watermelon.org).



### Watermelon Salad with Feta and Mint

Recipe courtesy of National Watermelon Promotion Board

- 1/4 cup lemon vinaigrette
- 4 cups cubed watermelon
- 1/2 English cucumber, cut into 1/4-inch half moons
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 tablespoons fresh mint, roughly chopped

Drizzle vinaigrette in bottom of large canning jar. Layer with watermelon, cucumber, red onion, feta and mint.

Cover tightly with lid and shake to combine. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

**Substitution:** Use Greek dressing in place of lemon vinaigrette.



### Watermelon Ice Pops

Recipe courtesy of National Watermelon Promotion Board

- 1 watermelon chunks of fresh fruit (such as grapes, strawberries or kiwi)

Puree watermelon and pour into ice pop molds.

Drop in chunks of fresh fruit, insert caps and place in freezer.

Serve when frozen.

