

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *SINCE 1932*

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## The Prince George's County Memorial Library System Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 11, 2025)—In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15), the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will be hosting more than 50 programs for children, teens, adults, and families that celebrate the culture and traditions of Mexico, Central and South America, Spain, Portugal, and the wider Hispanic diaspora. The month-long celebration includes standout events such as a pair of fun bilingual plays for children presented by Teatro La Bolsa (“La gallina y la tortilla de maíz” and “Travel Buddies: Dancing Through Latin America!”), as well as a painting class

for adults with Olympic Artist Jesse Raudales where participants will get to explore the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos. Library visitors can also look forward to a variety of dance parties and performances in partnership with presenters from the Cultural Dance Center, the GET Dance Company, and Coaching Salud Holistica that will feature the music and dance traditions of Colombia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. “The library system’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate many aspects of the rich and multifaceted aspects of Hispanic history and culture,” says Dr. Mark Winston, Chief Executive Officer of the Prince



GRAPHIC COURTESY PGCMLS

George's County Memorial Library System. “As an organization, we are enthusiastic about the programs, events, and collections that honor so many aspects of Hispanic heritage. We invite all to join us.” The Library's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations will additionally include a number of engaging book discussions and film screenings, including a discussion of “Ordesa” by Manuel Vilas at the Bladensburg Branch Library on October 11. Kids will be able to join the festivities by participating in a variety of special “Crafternoon” programs tailored especially for them. They will be invited to learn about more than a dozen different Hispanic art traditions, including alebrijes (from Mexico), molas

(from Panama), and muñecas quitapenas (from Guatemala). Complete details for featured PGCMLS Hispanic Heritage Month events are below. For a full overview of Hispanic Heritage Month events at PGCMLS, please visit the Library's Hispanic Heritage Hub. Featured PGCMLS Events Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month **Babychata: Baila con tu Bebé: Ages 0–2** Presented by Coaching Salud Holistica Free | Saturday, September 20 at 11 a.m. | Ages 0–2 | Accokeek Branch Library *See HERITAGE Page A2*

## Prince George's County Invites Residents to Join ‘Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene’ Countywide Beautification Effort—Saturday, October 25

*All Are Invited to Roll Up Their Sleeves and Elevate Prince George's County*

By PRESS OFFICER  
DPW&T, Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 11, 2025)—Prince George's County and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) invite residents, businesses, schools, and community partners to roll up their sleeves and join County Executive Aisha Braveboy for the first major community beautification event under Project Elevate - Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene. This countywide cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, rain or shine. Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene is part of Elevate Prince George's, a bold strategic effort launched by County Executive Braveboy to strengthen community pride, enhance the County's aesthetics, and improve service delivery. “Cleaning up our County is a top priority of my administration, and that's what we've been doing. Now I want to invite every Prince Georgian to come out and help us ‘elevate the scene,’” said County Executive Aisha Braveboy. “We

**WHAT:**  
Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene  
**WHEN:**  
Saturday, October 25, 2025  
8 a.m.–12 noon  
**WHERE:**  
Prince George's County Communities  
**WHO:**  
Prince George's County Government  
Neighborhood Design Center  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)  
Residents  
Community Organizations  
Volunteers

deserve communities that are as beautiful as the people of Prince George's County. When we share responsibility for keeping our County clean and beautiful, we also share in the pride. It's going to be a lot of work but we're going to have a great time.” For registered participants and organizations, **DPW&T will provide plastic gloves, trash bags, safety vests, plants,**

**trees, litter grabbers, and a maximum of 6 bags of mulch.** Student participants will receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service can be obtained at the schools. Register here: <http://MyPGC.us/CleanAndGreen> to join this Countywide event. **Registration for Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene closes Friday, October 17.** “The County's bi-annual litter cleanup is one of DPW&T's premier events, and this year is especially meaningful as the first community cleanup under Project Elevate,” said DPW&T Director Michael Johnson. “Government cannot do it alone—we need residents and community partners to join us. When we come together, we don't just clean streets, we elevate neighborhoods and show what's possible when community pride meets action.” For additional information, please visit <https://mypgc.us/CleanandGreen>, contact the DPW&T Office of Highway Maintenance at (301) 499-8641, or e-mail [Tonya.Hairston@co.pg.md.us](mailto:Tonya.Hairston@co.pg.md.us).

## Purple Line Schedules Fall 2025 Community Advisory Team Meetings

*Virtual Meetings Will Share Progress on Light Rail Vehicle Dynamic Testing and Summer Construction*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Transportation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 12, 2025)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration today announced the upcoming schedule for the Purple Line Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings. The Purple Line project is now more than 80% complete and these meetings are designed to share construction updates from the summer construction period as well as upcoming construction activities. All meetings will be held virtually between September 29 and October 16 from 6–7:30 p.m. Local residents, businesses and community organizations are encouraged to attend. “From laying rail to dynamic testing of Light Rail Vehicles, each milestone brings us closer to delivering this critical light rail line,” said Senior Project Director Ray Biggs II. “These community advisory meetings give residents, businesses and other stakeholders the opportunity to understand how far the project has advanced.” The Purple Line CAT presenting team includes representa-

tives from the Maryland Transit Administration, project concessionaire Purple Line Transit Partners construction partner Maryland Transit Solutions and system operator Purple Line Transit Operators. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback during each meeting. Purple Line virtual CAT meetings are hosted through Microsoft Teams, offering captioning services in multiple languages. The full meeting schedule and instructions on enabling live captioning is posted to the project website public meetings and events page. Past CAT meeting presentations and recordings are also available [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com). All CAT meetings are scheduled from 6–7:30 p.m., with Microsoft Teams links posted at Purple Line MD | Public Meetings and Events. The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, September 29: Riverdale Park, New Carrollton, Glenridge
- Tuesday, September 30: College Park

*See MEETINGS Page A5*



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

From left to right: Bowie High School Principal Joe Kautzer, Captain Clemia Anderson, Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg and Command Master Chief Gomez

## Bowie High School NJROTC Hosted Distinguished Visitor—Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg

By C/PO3 OMOWUNMI OGUNBANWO  
Bowie High School NJROTC

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Bowie High School NJROTC Battalion hosted a distinguished visitor, Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg, Commander of the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), who was sworn in on April 3, 2025. Accompanying him was Command Master Chief Gomez. Rear Admiral Pottenburg graciously took time from his demanding schedule to address the Battalion's cadets. The event commenced with formal honors, initiated by the ringing of the bell by C/SCPO Jonathan Flores Hernandez, followed by piping and the presentation of Ribbons and Flourishes performed by C/PO1 Harry Adofo. The Battalion Commanding Officer, C/CDR Sab-

rina Adofo, delivered an address outlining the unit's mission, vision, and objectives. The Community Service Officer, C/PO2 Ava Marcelin, along with the Training Officer, C/PO3 Zion Westerhuis, articulated their respective goals and concerns related to community service and cadet training. Rear Admiral Pottenburg imparted lessons drawn from his naval experiences. Cadets were afforded the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session with Rear Admiral Pottenburg. This occasion represented a truly historic opportunity for the Battalion's cadets. *Editor's note: See page A3 for more news about Bowie High School NJROTC.*

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To Be Equal: Gun Violence Is Eroding Public Safety, Spiking Our Collective Anxiety, and Threatening Democracy

And without the proper leadership and legal measures in place to ensure that these crimes never happen again, our country is being torn apart by misplaced anger, unjustified blame, and extremist rhetoric. **Commentary, Page A4**

PGCC President Falecia D. Williams Named one of Maryland's 2025 Most Admired CEOs

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

**SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIAL FUND, INC.**  
Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund, Inc. has selected their 2025–2026 scholarship recipients. There are two outstanding students that will receive scholarships to support their respective college educations. They are Diego Chapman who will be attending Robert Morris University and Zebrea Ingram who will be attending Towson University. This scholarship program enables local youth to continue their education on the collegiate level. The organization has a long-standing history of service to local communities, and these funds help support those who exhibit the same commitment. Congratulations on your high achievements and thanks to all who supported the Scholarship fund. There was no award ceremony this year and all checks were mailed to each recipient. P A G Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Inc., 16905 Horsehead Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8302. 301-888-1475.

**MGM NATIONAL HARBOR**  
Find State-of-the-art lights and sounds when you visit MGM National Harbor in Maryland. Relax as you enjoy the breathtaking views of the harbor, or find a host of entertainment at The Theater, the premier concert center in the region. Experience some of your favorite artists and much more. Experience unforgettable performances and live music events that bring every night to life with energy and style. Enjoy premier comedy acts delivering sharp wit, standout sets, and evenings filled with laughter and entertainment.

The Theater at MGM National Harbor is the premier entertainment destination in the region. With 3,000 seats, state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, you will experience your favorite artists in an intimate setting unlike any other. Box Office Hours: On Show Days: 3 hours prior to ticketed event. Contact general information: 844-346-4664.

**TRIBUTE TO OUR FATHER**  
James Garnell Turner married Ruth Harper Turner. Garnell was inducted into the United States Army on November 25, 1942. During World War II, he served in Northern France from November 1943 to December 1945. His military awards included the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Theatre Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon. On December 15, 1945, Garnell received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

Because of his love for his family and his commitment to God, Dad joined John Wesley Church (later to be named Christ United Methodist Church in 1961). During his years of fellowship, he served faithfully as assistant chairman of the Trustee Board and a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. He retired from the United States Navy Oceanographic Office in December 1977 after 34 years of service. During his tenure in the federal government, he received numerous awards and citations for his many accomplishments. Shortly thereafter, Garnell and Ruth began vacationing annually in Florida, Bermuda, Nassau,

Bahamas, South Carolina, California, Boston, New Jersey, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Pennsylvania. During Dad’s many trips, he collected hats. He had a wide collection of hats and wore them well. This was our Daddy’s trademark.  
Dad was also a master “Craftsman”; God Blessed him with many skills. He could turn a simple design into a beautiful Masterpiece worthy for display. His creativity and artistry were evident in his home, the homes of his children, and at Christ United Methodist Church.  
Dad, we always loved and admired you for your strength and endurance. You will be remembered for the wonderful memories that you left, and the values that you instilled in us. You always advised us on every aspect of life. The positive lessons you taught us will be passed on for generations to come. We miss you, but like the scripture says, the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delighted in his ways. Let your death teach submission to Thy perfect and blessed will and lead to the understanding of the precious truth that through faith to Jesus Christ we have assurance of an endless and joyous reunion with our departed loved ones. We love you and always will. Dad, you were a man who loved the Lord, and family. You were a man of integrity and that went a long way toward building family relationships that we will treasure for a lifetime. Dad, thank you for your beautiful legacy. We love you and you are truly missed. Audrey Johnson, Patricia Mitchell, Joyce Sampson, Cleo Mitchel.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Congratulations to my sister Cleo Mitchel who is the daughter of the late James Garnell and Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland. Cleo is an artist and received her “60 Master’s trophy and certificate. “I would like to thank Art Tour International for your continued support.” Cleo Mitchel.

**TICKLE ME TUESDAYS COMEDY**  
Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge presents Mike Brooks and Friends TICKLE ME TUESDAYS COMEDY every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Special Guest Comedian. Free Admission. Doors Open 6–11 p.m. Showtime 8 p.m. No more boring Tuesdays in the DMV. Join us for Tickle Me Tuesdays, a night full of laughs with Mike Brooks and friends. Enjoy a hilarious comedy line-up, great vibes, delicious food and refreshing cocktails—the perfect date night or a fun outing with friends. We have TACOS! Indulge in tasty tacos and other mouthwatering dishes. Seating is first come, first served, so arrive early. Want a guaranteed VIP table? Reserve one in advance for the best experience. DON’T MISS IT! Tell a friend, grab a drink, and get ready for a night of non-stop laughter! The address is 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. More information: (240) 816-2211.

## Pyramid’s Women Artists of the DMV Opened September 13

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Pyramid Atlantic Art Center**

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Sept. 9, 2025)—Pyramid will be featuring over 40 DMV women artists as part of a regional multi-venue exhibition. Artwork at Pyramid includes installations, paintings, prints, and sculpture. The larger “Women Artists of the DMV” initiative showcases 400 artists across 15 galleries.

WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE DMV opened September 13, 2025. The exhibition runs through November 2, 2025 in Pyramid’s Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thu, 10–8 p.m. and Fri–Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. For more information, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

Artists, their work, and venue assignments were selected by Curator F. Lennox Campello. This show differs from many of Pyramid’s exhibitions in that the exhibited works are not as closely tied to the organization’s core artforms of printmaking, papermaking and book arts. While printmaking is represented, “it’s always fun to have a show with artforms we don’t usually see in our gallery,” cites Executive Director Kate Taylor Davis. “We also welcome the opportunity to meet new artists in the area.” The exhibition comes as Pyramid is celebrating a gallery expansion. While still a work in progress, the gallery is now roughly 2,000 square feet larger than it was in May. Over the course of a year, we are exploring ways in which Pyramid can ex-



COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER  
**Image credit: Armor Eaters by Jennifer Hayes. Unglazed ceramic and cast bronze.**

tend its programming. Large group shows like Women Artists of the DMV is one example of how Pyramid can take advantage of the additional space.  
Artists Exhibiting at Pyramid: Evie Altman, Courtney Applequist, Lucy J. Blankenstein, Margaret Boozer, Jackie L. Braitman, Amity Chan, Kathy Cornwell, Andi Cullins, Kristine DeNinno, Hannah Longbottom Estrada, Rosemary Fallon, Jenny Freestone, Marie B. Gauthiez, Jennifer Hayes, Pattee Hipschen, Pauline Jakobsberg, Trish Kent, Joan Konkel, Leah L-Rubin, Lauren Lay, Naomi Le, Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann, Sarah Noble, Carol Reed,

Lisa Rosenstein, Lori Niland Rounds, Catherine Satterlee, Ann Schaefer, Janathel Shaw, Gloria Ann Shows, Pauline Siple, Gloria Solomon, Terry Svat, Patricia Underwood, CC Vess, Gale Wallar, Anastasia Walsh, Lori Walsh-Van Wey, Ellen Verdon Winkler, Hana Yang, Joyce Zipperer.  
Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center. Our mission is to sustain and elevate a welcoming arts hub in Hyattsville, MD that champions contemporary printmaking, papermaking, and book arts. We equip, educate, and exhibit while prioritizing artistic integrity, creative growth, and inclusivity. Our vision is to anchor an arts community that recognizes and uplifts the importance of artists, the intrinsic values of working with your hands, and the economy of artist-made work. <https://pyramidatlanticartcenter.org>

**More About the Multi-Venue Exhibition**  
Curator: Florencio Lennox Campello (“Lenny”) | [lenny@lennycampello.com](mailto:lenny@lennycampello.com)  
Florencio Lennox Campello surveyed over 500 female artists actively working around the DMV. Campello claims this is the largest ever-curated fine arts multi-venue show in the U.S. with 18 art venues around the Greater Washington, DC capital region. Exhibition dates vary between venues, some opening as early as August or as late as November 2025. Campello set out to survey the key, established female artists of the capital region, mid-career artists, and identify the emerging female artists who can benefit from this large-scale exposure.

## Sacred Spaces Artist Talk With Jabari Jefferson & Rush Baker IV

Calling all creatives and curious minds: this is your invitation to step inside the process and mind of Jabari Jefferson.  
Exhibiting artist Jabari Jefferson joins cultural curator Rushern Baker IV for an inspiring conversation on the intersections of art, identity, and history. Join the conversation on how Sacred Spaces challenges how we see race, memory, and resilience.  
Jefferson and Baker will share the inspirations and techniques driving his work, and explore the role of art as a catalyst for social change, and reflect on what that means in today’s cultural

landscape.  
Stay for an audience Q&A and bring your voice into the conversation. This is your chance to ask questions, exchange ideas, and connect directly with the artist behind the work.  
**Saturday, October 11, 2025 • 1–3 p.m.**  
Location: Banner-Douglass-Tubman Museum  
84 Franklin St, Annapolis, MD 21401  
**Register:** <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/f6uraws>

## Step It Up on Walk Maryland Day —Prince George’s County

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025 • 4–6 p.m.**  
Location:  
Tucker Road Athletic Complex (located near basketball courts)  
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744  
Step into fun and fitness at Step It Up on Walk Maryland Day! Join us for a free, community-wide event at Tucker Road Athletic Complex featuring a live DJ, a guided walk along the scenic Loop Trail, and prizes. Whether you come solo, with friends, or as a family, every step counts toward your health and wellness. Virtual walkers can participate by sharing photos from their walk for a chance to win prizes! Don’t miss this exciting opportunity for music, movement, and community connection.  
To learn more about the walk and **register**, visit the Step It Up webpage: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-of-fices/health/health-and-wellness/step-it>.

## Marietta House Museum Presents Mindfulness Walk: Connecting History and Nature

By STACEY HAWKINS  
**Marietta House Museum**  
Please join us on **Saturday, October 11**, 2–3:30 p.m. for a Mindfulness Walk: Connecting History and Nature. Enjoy a meditative walk in nature imbued with history led by Susan West Montgomery on Marietta House Museum grounds.  
This is a family friendly program that allows visitors to enjoy the spaces in a quiet and reflective way. Please wear comfortable shoes. Mats for sitting on the ground will be provided.  
Recommended for Ages 5 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/ person. Children under 12/Free. Registration recommended but not required. Walk-ins are welcome. Register with ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20251011.  
For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.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.

**Heritage from A1**  
Celebrate Welcoming Week with the Library and Coaching Salud Holistica by moving and have fun! “Babychata: Baila con tu Bebé” combines dance and health education for pregnant individuals and caregivers of babies under 2 years old. Coaching Salud Holistica’s R.A.I.Z initiative (Resources, Access, Information & Zones of Support) will be providing information on health related to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum to parents at this program.  
**Colombia: Land of Bambucos Dance Performance**  
Presented by the Cultural Dance Center  
Free | Saturday, September 20 at 1 p.m. | All Ages | Spauldings Branch Library  
Colombia is known for many rich cultural traditions—from the vibrant rhythms of cumbia to the colorful Barranquilla Carnival. But there’s even more to experience! Join us for a live dance performance celebrating bambuco, a traditional Colombian dance from the country’s interior regions.  
**Get Active: Latin American Dance**  
Presented by GET Dance Company  
Free | Wednesday, September 24 at 6 p.m. | Kids to Adults | Accokeek Branch Library  
Enjoy Latin American culture through dance, music, and movement! You’ll explore the vibrant traditions of Colombia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil through engaging storytelling, captivating dance performances, and guided instruction of basic steps from each unique dance style.  
**¡Puro Ritmo! The Musical Journey of Salsa**  
Presented by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino  
Free | Wednesday, September 24 at 6 p.m. | Adults | Laurel Branch Library  
Free | Wednesday, October 8 at 6 p.m. | Adults | Beltsville Branch Library  
Let’s explore “¡Puro Ritmo! The Musical Journey of Salsa,” the upcoming music exhibition from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino. Opening in Spring 2026, this bilingual exhibition explores how Afro-Cuban music evolved into a signature sound in the United States and traces the roots and rise of salsa music through nearly 300 objects. Highlighting artists from Tito Puente and Celia Cruz to local legends and under-the-radar pioneers, “¡Puro Ritmo!” celebrates salsa as one of America’s great musical traditions.

**Travel Buddies: Dancing Through Latin America!**  
Presented by Teatro La Bolsa  
Free | Wednesday, October 1 at 6 p.m. | Ages 0–12 | Upper Marlboro Branch Library  
Step into the captivating world of this bilingual play as Alre and Quines, accompanied by their magical bag, breathe life into enchanting tales. Join the Harlequins and their diverse group of friends on thrilling adventures across different countries, immersing themselves in vibrant cultures, music, and dances. Discover the power of friendship and the beauty of global connections in this extraordinary theatrical journey. Presented in both Spanish and English.  
.....  
*The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is a beacon within its diverse and dynamic community. The Library serves Prince George’s County, Maryland’s 966,000+ residents through 19 public branches, a law library in the County Correctional Center; various pop-up services and events, and 24/7 access to free online resources. As a trusted and responsive community leader, PGCMLS democratizes knowledge and opportunity by providing safe, accessible spaces where customers of all backgrounds can freely engage with the resources needed to build knowledge, literacy, skills, and creativity at every phase of life. Learn more at [pgcmls.info/about-us](https://pgcmls.info/about-us).*

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# COMMUNITY

## New Collaborative Book “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door” Unites Courageous Voices in the Fight for Hope

*Two-Time Breast Cancer Survivor Karen M. Hargrove of Upper Marlboro Shares Her Story*

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 11, 2025)—A powerful new anthology, “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door”, brings together deeply personal stories of strength, survival, and healing from a diverse group of contributors who have faced cancer head-on. Among them is Karen M. Hargrove, a two-time breast cancer survivor and first-time author whose story stands as a testament to perseverance, faith, and purpose in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Published by The VTF Collective, “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door” offers readers real, raw, and uplifting accounts of how cancer reshapes lives. From diagnosis to recovery, and everything in between, this book reminds us that healing is not just physical—it’s emotional, spiritual, and deeply human.

“Sharing my journey was both painful and powerful,” says Hargrove. “I hope my story helps others feel less alone, and reminds them that even in the darkest moments, there is still light.”

Karen’s chapter, “When the Highway of Happiness Forces You to Take an Unexpected Detour,” is rooted in her personal experience with breast cancer—twice. Through her story, she offers readers comfort, courage, and the wisdom of someone who has walked the path and come out stronger.

### About the Book:

Title: “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door”

By: Karen M. Hargrove and contributing authors

ISBN: 979-8-218-50779-4

Genre: Inspirational / Health & Wellness / Memoir

Available at: TheVTFCollective.com for autographed copy and Amazon

Published by: The VTF Collective

Format: Paperback / Hardback / eBook

Price: \$25 (Paperback) | \$30 (Hardback) | \$9.99 (eBook)

### About the Author:

Karen M. Hargrove is a two-time breast cancer survivor, speaker, and first-time author based in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Known for her quiet strength, compassion, and resilience, Karen uses her voice to uplift others who are navigating cancer, loss, and life’s unexpected trials. “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door” marks the beginning of her journey as a published author—and her commitment to helping others heal through hope and storytelling.

### Speaking Engagements or Book Signings

To invite Karen M. Hargrove to speak at your event, please contact: Email: khargrove10@comcast.net, Phone: (240) 393-5218, Instagram: @karenmhargrove



COURTESY PHOTO

**Above: Upper Marlboro Author Karen M. Hargrove**  
**Below, front cover of “When Cancer Knocks at Your Door”**



## Former Local Author Wins Gold Scroll Award

*The book, which shares the author’s journey through caregiving, grief, and resilience, is currently available at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden bookstore in Upper Marlboro*

DULUTH, Ga. Aug. 28, 2025)—Tampa, Florida and former Maryland resident author Dr. Evelyn Johnson-Taylor recently attended the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association (AWSA) Conference, held August 8–10, 2025, in Duluth, Georgia.

At the conference, Dr. Johnson-Taylor’s book, “In and Out of Season: Thriving in Life’s Transitions” (Elk Lake Publishing), was honored with an award in the Christian Living category at the prestigious Golden Scroll Awards Luncheon.

The AWSA Conference is a national gathering of leading Christian communicators, drawing writers and speakers from across the globe for training, inspiration, and recognition of outstanding work in publishing and ministry.

Dr. Johnson-Taylor, who has written six books and has over three decades of experience in women’s ministry, said:

“It was such an honor to be recognized among so many powerful voices in Christian writing and speaking. “In and Out of Season” is more than just a book—it’s a testimony of God’s faithfulness and a guide to help others navigate life’s difficult transitions.”

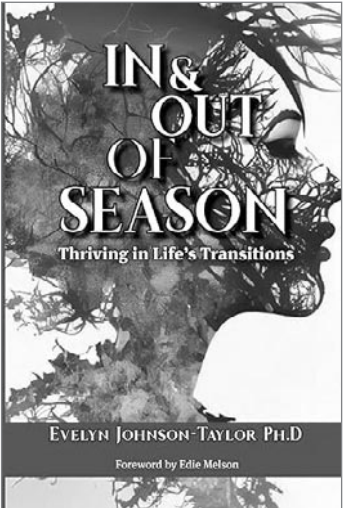
“In and Out of Season” shares lessons Dr. Johnson-Taylor learned while caring for her husband and walking through her own seasons of transition after his death. The book provides encouragement and practical wisdom for anyone facing change, loss, or uncertainty.

Dr. Johnson-Taylor continues to write, teach, and speak nationally, equipping women to embrace their God-given purpose and thrive in every season of life.

Dr. Evelyn Johnson-Taylor is a Tampa, Florida-based author, speaker, professor, and ministry leader with over 30 years of experience empowering women through teaching, coaching, and writing. She is the author of six books, including “In and Out of Season: Thriving in Life’s Transitions”.

The book can be ordered online as well as in-house.

<https://www.fbcgbookstore.org/product/in-and-out-of-season-thriving-in-lifes-transitions/>



## Bowie High School NJROTC Cadet Canter Receives Meritorious Achievement Award

By C/PO3 OMOWUNMI OGUNBANWO  
Bowie High School NJROTC

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, Bowie High School’s NJROTC conducted an awards ceremony to honor C/SA Zachary Canter. He received the prestigious Meritorious Achievement Award, the highest accolade bestowed upon an NJROTC cadet. The award was officially presented by Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg, Commander of the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), along with Lieutenant Teresa Hicks, Area Three Manager.

The Meritorious Achievement Award is conferred upon an NJROTC individual who demonstrates exemplary meritorious achievement or performs a commendable act. On July 8, 2025, at approximately 5:45 p.m., Cadet Canter and his mother observed a vehicle being struck by a falling tree. Upon witnessing the incident, they approached the vehicle, disregarding their own safety. Inside the vehicle were an adult female and three



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

**From left to right: Lieutenant Teresa Hicks, Mercedes Ghaemi, Yedi Ghaemi, C/SA Zachary Canter, Sarah Ghaemi, Corporal Dollard and Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg**

minor children. Cadet Canter retrieved his first aid kit, approached the vehicle, and assisted in rescuing the occupants, ensuring their safety. Cadet Canter is the first cadet from Bowie High School’s NJROTC Battalion to receive this award

within the past two years. His achievement was celebrated with his mother, Ms. Sarah Ghaemi, grandparents Yedi and Mercedes Ghaemi, and family friend Corporal Dollard.

## Bowie High School NJROTC Pinning of The Battalion Guidon

By C/PO3 OMOWUNMI OGUNBANWO  
Bowie High School NJROTC

On Thursday, August 28, 2025, the Bowie High School NJROTC Battalion conducted its Guidon pinning ceremony. The Battalion was honored with the Distinguished Unit With Honors and Most Improved Unit awards in recognition of its outstanding achievements during the 2024/2025 academic year. These awards were presented by Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg, Commander of the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), and Lieutenant Teresa Hicks, Area Three Manager. The banners were bestowed upon Battalion Commander C/CDR Sabrina Adofo by the distinguished guests. Serving in the role of Battalion Guide was C/SA Aiden Marcelin.

Attending the celebration with the Battalion were Bowie High School’s Principal, Mr. Joseph Kautzer; the Director of Career and Technical Education



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

**From left to right, Captain Clemia Anderson, Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburg, Principal Joseph Kautzer, C/CDR Sabrina Adofo, Gunney Sergeant George Hinton, and C/SA Aiden Marcelin**

(CTE), Mr. John McDaniel; and Mr. JROTC at Prince George’s County Public Schools. Robert Clement, Program Manager for

## Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Open House Connected to Past, Present and Future

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Sept. 12, 2025)—A celebration of past, present and future brought together volunteers, donors, elected officials and community members for Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Community Open House on Sept. 9. The event was held on the nonprofit’s John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena. It included tours of the four buildings and the many gardens on the 7-acre campus and an opportunity to both reminisce and share new ideas.

President and CEO Becky Miller reflected on the vision that guided the organization’s move to 90 Ritchie Highway in 2013. The plans included administrative offices, a patient and community call center, a professional education center, a grief support center, a supportive care clinic and an inpatient care center offering hospital-level care in a home-like setting. Gesturing toward each building, Miller shared how each of these goals have been realized.

Former CEO Michael McHale, who led the organization from 2010 to 2015 and helped shape the Belcher Campus, spoke about its growth. “I am heartened to see the campus live up to the dreams we had so many years ago,” McHale said. “In my conversations over the past couple of days, I’m encouraged by your focus on the future.”

The open house also introduced guests to the Center for Hope and Healing and the Phone of the Wind, a comforting space in the Michael Stanley Children’s Garden. The rotary phone, though without a dial tone, offers a safe place for anyone to “speak” with loved ones they grieve.

A highlight of the morning was the presentation of a plaque in honor of McHale. Miller said it was in recognition of his bold vision, extraordinary contributions and enduring legacy. “We will be placing a plaque in your honor in our lobby. This plaque will stand as a lasting tribute to your leadership and vision.”

For more photos of the event, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/2025/09/open-house-a-connection-to-our-past-present-and-future/>.

*At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we support individuals and families facing progressive, serious illness to reimagine hope—living each day with intention and peace—while ensuring our nonprofit organization remains a vital resource for future generations. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms and focus on what matters most for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties.*



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

**A highlight of the Sept. 9 Community Open House was the presentation of a plaque honoring former CEO Michael McHale, a visionary force behind the creation of the John & Cathy Belcher Campus. It will be mounted at the lobby of the main administrative building. McHale is pictured on the right with President and CEO Becky Miller, center, and his husband Curt McFarlin on the left.**



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

**Katherine Mann stands in the newly installed Phone of the Wind, which in part is donated in memory of her husband, Leon Mann. It can be found in the Michael Stanley Children’s Garden on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus.**



# COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

## Gun Violence Is Eroding Public Safety, Spiking Our Collective Anxiety, and Threatening Democracy

I want to start this week’s column by validating your anxiety about the state of our country. The violence we see in the morning, noon, and night is not normal.

To date, America has seen 357 mass shootings in 2025 alone; a rate that exceeds one per day.

In the last two weeks alone, we witnessed a mass shooting at a Catholic school in Minneapolis that claimed the lives of two children and injured

21 others, and the violent murder of an influencer. Both incidents have spread like wildfire on social media platforms that have repeatedly failed to curb hate speech and violent rhetoric.

Some users have called for organizing and bringing retribution to their perceived enemies. This content has generated millions of views and likes within days. And rather than quelling anger and anxiety and uniting our nation, political leaders

have taken misinformation and divisive ideals, at times racist, xenophobic, misogynistic, and homophobic, mainstream.

These have resulted in threats of gun violence, bombings, and hate speech that forced historically Black colleges across the country to close their doors for the safety of their students and staff.

One of the most significant risks of allowing this targeted hatred is the dismantling of our Constitution and Democracy.

In the wake of the mass shooting in Minneapolis, outrage quickly shifted from the act of violence itself to the identity of the shooter. This has led to dangerous recommendations to limit Second Amendment rights to one group of Americans, opening the door to legalized discrimination at the federal level.

That combined with the defunding of gun safety programs, background checks, and federal mental health programs, including shudderings of national suicide hotlines, will no doubt lead to more gun violence and public fears.

Let’s call these attacks what they are: domestic terrorism.

Students should be able to walk their hallways without being gunned down at any moment. Parents should be able to drop off their children at

school, malls, and movie theaters without wondering if it is the last time that they’ll see them. Church parishioners should be able to attend houses of worship without the threat of a mass shooter bursting through the doors and taking their lives. People should be able to shop for groceries and leave with food for their dinner table and for their lives.

Gun violence and terror are ripping our communities apart. It’s tearing families apart, separating parents from their children. And without the proper leadership and legal measures in place to ensure that these crimes never happen again, our country is being torn apart by misplaced anger, unjustified blame, and extremist rhetoric.

No one should lose their life in a senseless act of violence, and our country should not lose its soul to the damage done in their wake.

Solving this issue is not a game of football where one side wins and the other loses. If we don’t get this right, if we don’t invest the tools to get to the root of the mentality that causes this violence, and put in the safeguards to ensure this never happens again, we all lose.

Now is the time to demand that our leaders replace platitudes with policy and sow unity, not division.

—September 13, 2025

## The Blake Bozeman Foundation Hosts Inaugural “Twenty2 Basketball Coaches Clinic & Networking Brunch” to Honor Blake Bozeman’s Legacy

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON  
The Blake Bozeman Foundation

FORESTVILLE, Md. (Sept. 15, 2025)—The Blake Bozeman Foundation successfully hosted its first-ever “Twenty2 Basketball Coaches Clinic & Networking Brunch” on Sept. 14, 2025, at Bishop McNamara High School, bringing together coaches, community leaders, and basketball professionals for a powerful day of learning, networking, and inspiration.

“This event was a true reflection of who Blake was, a connector at heart, always bringing people together across basketball, business, and community,” said Todd Bozeman, Blake’s father and founder of the Blake Bozeman Foundation. “We are carrying forward his legacy by creating opportunities for others and ensuring his impact continues to grow.”

Named in honor of Blake Bozeman’s jersey number, the event featured workshops on player development, analytics, leadership, career pathways, and networking brunch. Participants ranged from high school and AAU coaches to young professionals seeking to grow their careers in basketball coaching and leadership.

“We’re speaking about basketball, but a lot of this is about life and influencing and helping to grow someone as a person,” said David Vanterpool, Washington Wizards Lead Assistant Coach. “I want the attendees to remember that leadership is not about being in charge, it’s about taking care of those in your charge.”

“I have coached on all levels and I want to continue to study the game and execute my craft,” said Breanna Gross, St. Andrews High School Girls Basketball Head Coach and event attendee. “I like to integrate the things I learn from men’s basketball and add it to women’s basketball because we can do exactly what they do. I hope more female

coaches take advantage of these kinds of opportunities.”

The “Twenty2” Clinic is the first in a series of programs hosted by the Foundation, which also includes the upcoming Blake Bozeman Classic (Dec. 5–7) and the MEAC/CIAA HBCU Tip-Off Experience in Washington, D.C. (Nov. 26). Proceeds from the clinic will directly support the Foundation’s programmatic work addressing gun violence through education and awareness, promoting mental health, advancing financial literacy, and encouraging healthy lifestyles through sports and character development.

The Blake Bozeman Foundation provides community-focused support, addressing gun violence through education and awareness, promoting mental health, advancing financial literacy, and encouraging healthy lifestyles via sports and character development. All while empowering those who need it most, honoring Blake Bozeman’s legacy through action, compassion, & opportunity. To learn more or donate, visit [TheBlakeBozemanFoundation.org](http://TheBlakeBozemanFoundation.org)



PHOTO COURTESY THE BLAKE BOZEMAN FOUNDATION  
Villanova Assistant Coach David Cox discusses Building a Defensive Culture with attendees.



PHOTO COURTESY THE BLAKE BOZEMAN FOUNDATION  
Washington Wizards Assistant Coach David Vanterpool conducts a demonstration for attendees.

## Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Hosts Annual Pink Ribbon Rally to Celebrate Survivors, Maternal Health, and 50 Years of Service

By PRESS OFFICER  
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (Sept. 11, 2025)—Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) will host its annual Pink Ribbon Rally on **Saturday, October 4**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to kick-off Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year’s celebration carries added significance as the hospital marks its 50th anniversary of serving Prince George’s County with a deep commitment to women’s and maternal health.

The Pink Ribbon Rally is designed to raise awareness about breast cancer and highlight the lifesaving power of early detection through mammograms. To make the event more accessible for families, neighbors, and survivors, LHDCMC now holds the rally on Saturdays.

The day will feature walk-up mammograms along with vital information about the signs, symptoms, and early detection of breast cancer. Since about one-third of the cancers Luminis Health treats are breast cancers, attendees can learn about treatment options and meet our experienced team of specialists. The event is also a celebration, with pink attire and decorations to raise awareness about breast cancer, along with uplifting sur-

**Event Details:**  
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2025  
Time: 11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Location: 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham  
Admission: Free and open to the public

vivor stories, community resources, food, and games.

“Breast cancer continues to profoundly affect the lives of women in Prince George’s County,” said Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC. “This year, as we celebrate 50 years of service to the community, we’re also reaffirming our commitment to advancing women’s health, from breast cancer prevention to maternal care. We invite women and families to join us for the Pink Ribbon Rally, be inspired and take important steps to protect their health.”

Prince George’s County has one of the highest breast cancer mortality rates in Maryland. To address this urgent need, Luminis Health is in the third year of a \$1.3 million state grant to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings. With this support, more than 3,400 county residents have already received timely, life-saving care they may not have otherwise had been able to access.

“Mammograms save lives. When breast cancer is caught early, survival rates are extremely favorable. That’s why it’s crucial for women to begin screenings at age 40, or sooner, if they have a family history,” said Dr. Allison Bruff, breast cancer surgeon at LHDCMC. “Breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Prince George’s County, particularly among Black and Latino women. I look forward to wearing pink, celebrating survivors, and empowering more women to take action. Together, we can continue to fight against this devastating disease.”

Luminis Health is a non-profit regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. Comprised of Anne Arundel Medical Center; Doctors Community Medical Center (DCMC), J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center; Pathways, DCMC Rehab, and Luminis Health Clinical Enterprise, the system serves a population of 1.5 million people. As one of the area’s largest charitable organizations—with 880 licensed beds, 100+ sites of care, and 8,700 team members—Luminis Health contributes more than \$120 million in community benefit annually. Learn more at [LuminisHealth.org](http://LuminisHealth.org) and connect with us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Meetings from A1

- Tuesday, October 7: Long Branch
- Wednesday, October 8: Bethesda/Chevy Chase
- Thursday, October 9: University Boulevard
- Tuesday, October 14: Lyttonsville/Woodside
- Thursday, October 16: Silver Spring

Questions on the upcoming CAT meetings can be directed to the Purple Line Outreach Team via email at outreach@purplelinemd.com or by phone to the outreach line at 443-451-3706 (in English) or 443-451-3705 (in Spanish).

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. The Purple Line is a 16-mile, 21-station light rail line that will extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George’s County. It will directly connect to the Metrorail’s Red, Green and Orange Lines at Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton. The Purple Line will also connect to MARC, Amtrak, and local bus services. To learn more, visit purplelinemd.com, and follow Purple Line on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, X/Twitter and YouTube.

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## I’d like to retire early, but don’t want my Social Security reduced

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 will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66). I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don’t see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1343 on my full retirement age (FRA). If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor, or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2978. It’s very confusing. **Signed: Confused and Wondering**

**Dear Confused:** Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13%—in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1343, at 65 you would get about \$1164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a “spousal boost” from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a “spousal boost,” but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. (Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim).

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won’t count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow’s benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow’s benefit at or after your FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death (instead of your own smaller amount). It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](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).

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## PGCC President Falecia D. Williams Named one of Maryland’s 2025 Most Admired CEOs

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Prince George’s Community College**

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 12, 2025)—Prince George’s Community College President Falecia D. Williams, Ed.D., has been named one of The Daily Record’s 2025 Most Admired CEOs. The honor recognizes top executives in Maryland whose leadership, integrity, and vision are highly respected by colleagues and the community.

Each year, The Daily Record selects business, nonprofit, and education honorees based on professional accomplishments, community service, and references submitted by co-workers, board members, and community leaders.

“Dr. Williams exemplifies bold, student-centered leadership at Prince George’s Community College,” Tomeka Bumby, chair of the PGCC Board of Trustees, said. “We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition of her dedication, excellence, and vision.”

“The 2025 Most Admired CEOs are extraordinary leaders. They have impres-

sive résumés, work to lead their organizations to success, and are truly admired by their peers, teams, and the community,” Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, managing director of BridgeTower Media/The Daily Record, said. “They help grow the next generation of leaders in Maryland by empowering those who work for them, serve with them on community boards, and through mentoring.”

This year’s honorees will be celebrated at an event on Monday, Nov. 3, at the Hilton BWI. For more information, visit [TheDailyRecord.com](http://TheDailyRecord.com).

*Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2022–2027), Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George’s County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens*

*looking to enhance their skill sets, PGCC comprises students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 25,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George’s County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enable PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit the College’s website at [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu). Prince George’s Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (267-284-5000); [www.msche.org/](http://www.msche.org/). The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council on Higher Education. Prince George’s Community College’s Non-Discrimination Statement affirms the College’s commitment to comply with all applicable state and federal anti-discrimination laws.*

## New Carrollton Appoints New City Manager & Public Works Director

By PRESS OFFICER  
**City of New Carrollton**

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (Sept. 10, 2025)—The City of New Carrollton has announced the appointment of Maisha Williams as City Manager and William Barclay as Public Works Director, effective immediately, filling two vital leadership roles in service to the community. These appointments reflect the City’s ongoing commitment to strong leadership, operational excellence, and delivering high-quality municipal services.

As City Manager, Maisha Williams will provide executive leadership and oversight across all City departments, ensuring alignment with the City’s strategic goals while promoting accountability and operational efficiency. Since her return in 2023, she has successfully overseen operations in alignment with policy directives and fostered transparent, inclusive governance. She has held multiple positions within New Carrollton, most recently serving as City Administrative Officer and Assistant City Administrative Officer. Williams first joined the City in 2015 as Director of Finance and Accounting. Her progression within the City demonstrates her deep expertise and commitment to improving municipal services. Williams earned the Certified Public Manager® credential in July 2025 after successfully completing the program

through the University of Baltimore.

William Barclay, appointed as Public Works Director, began his career in New Carrollton as Assistant City Administrator before serving as Interim Public Works Director. Barclay brings over 20 years of municipal experience with a strong focus on Public Works. He has held various leadership roles across Public Works in Salisbury and Cambridge, Maryland, with expertise in operations management, infrastructure maintenance, and team development. As Superintendent of Operations in Cambridge, he oversaw sanitation, streets, parks, and facilities, serving as the department’s primary liaison with the public and government agencies.

New Carrollton Mayor Phelicia E. Nembhard stated, “New Carrollton is fortunate to have leaders like Maisha Williams and William Barclay, whose vision and dedication will advance our municipality. Maisha’s steady leadership and William’s focus on public works and infrastructure will strengthen our services and support the community’s growth. Their leadership, focus on infrastructure, and teamwork embody the innovation, dedication, and integrity our residents deserve.”

City Manager Maisha Williams said, “It is an honor to serve New Carrollton in this capacity. I am committed to working closely with Mayor Nembhard, the City Council, our staff, and residents to deliver

results that enhance quality of life, strengthen municipal services, and build a future rooted in accountability, equity, and partnership.”

Public Works Director William Barclay added, “I am excited to continue supporting the residents of New Carrollton. Public Works plays a central role in everyday life, and I look forward to advancing projects that ensure safe, reliable, and modern infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community.”

The appointments of Williams and Barclay mark an important step forward for New Carrollton as the City continues to expand engagement with residents, modernize infrastructure, and uphold its commitment to innovation, accountability, and equity in local services.

The City of New Carrollton celebrates 73 years of service to the community. Known for its rich history, diverse community and thriving economy, New Carrollton is an award-winning sustainable City situated outside of Washington, DC, offering residents and visitors alike a blend of urban convenience and suburban charm. To learn more about New Carrollton, visit [www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov](http://www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov).

Stay updated with the latest news, events, and updates by following us on our social media platforms: Facebook: @NewCarrolltonCity; Twitter: @NewCarrolltonMD and Instagram: @CityNewCarrollton.

## Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra Welcomes Dana Shieh as Preparatory Strings Director

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 10, 2025)—The Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) proudly announces the appointment of Mrs. Dana Shieh as the new Director and Conductor of the Preparatory Strings Orchestra. This position is a cornerstone of the CYSO program, where young musicians first develop the essential fundamentals of reading music and learning their instruments.

Mrs. Shieh brings over 30 years of teaching and performing experience to CYSO. She currently serves as Director of Fine Arts at Bishop McNamara High School, and previously led the orchestra program at Thomas G. Pullen Arts Academy in Prince George’s County. Her career has included maintaining a large private violin and viola studio, as well as performing throughout the Washington, D.C. area with ensembles such as the National Philharmonic, Annapolis Symphony, and Maryland Symphony.

She holds a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from Columbus State University, where she studied under Manuel Diaz and Patricio Cobos, and a Master of Music Education from Florida State University. In addition to her teaching and



PHOTO COURTESY CHESAPEAKE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Mrs. Dana Shieh

performance background, Mrs. Shieh has adjudicated All-State and Solo & Ensemble Festivals, evaluated regional orchestra events, and guest conducted several county honor orchestras.

“We are elated to welcome Mrs. Shieh to the CYSO team,” said Dane Krich, Executive Director of CYSO. “Her remarkable experience as both an educator and performer, combined with her proven dedication to nurturing young musicians,

makes her the perfect leader for our Preparatory Strings program. This is where the foundation of our students’ musical journey begins, and Mrs. Shieh’s leadership will ensure they receive the strongest possible start.”

Mrs. Shieh resides in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, with her husband, Chris, and their two sons, Ryan and David.

With her extensive background and passion for teaching, Mrs. Shieh will provide a welcoming and inspiring environment for CYSO’s youngest musicians as they take their first steps in orchestral music.

*For over three decades, the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) has fostered a passion for music among the youth of Annapolis and surrounding communities—creating the next generation of performers and music lovers. With distinguished conductors and pedagogues, a musically diverse offering of ensembles, and some of the best young instrumentalists that Anne Arundel County and surrounding areas have to offer, CYSO not only empowers its students to become lifelong lovers and performers of music, but also provides them with opportunities and memories that will last a lifetime.*



