

The Prince George's Post



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Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® Installs 2026 President, Officers, and Directors and Recognizes REALTOR® of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®

REALTORS®, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to celebrate the Installation Ceremony of PGCAR's 2026 President, Carole Webb, of Samson Properties. Webb was installed by her sister, Adrienne Bossard. Carole will officially assume leadership of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) on October 1, 2025.

In a momentous event filled with excitement and anticipation, we proudly congratulate our newly elected President and the distinguished members of the 2026 Board of Directors. This significant occasion marks the beginning of our new year for PGCAR, as we embrace a future of growth, innovation, and community-building.

Under President Webb's leadership, the focus will remain on professionalism, customer service, community engagement and member support, further emphasizing to consumers that REALTORS® are indispensable partners in real estate transactions, whether buying or selling.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®
Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®'s 2026 President, Carole Webb, of Samson Properties

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Fort Washington Park Commemorates 250 Years of the U.S. Army With Living History Event

By PRESS OFFICER
National Park Service

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Sept. 24, 2025)—The National Park Service invites the public to commemorate 250 years of the United States Army with a day of historical reenactments, immersive tours, and special presentations highlighting the fort's rich history. Visitors will gain insight into the lives of soldiers who lived and worked at Fort Washington through historical music, reenactors, cannon demonstrations, and more. Celebrate this significant milestone with a variety of activities and history-focused programs that

Military Through the Ages
October 4, 2025
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Admission: FREE and Open to the Public!

bring the past to life. To highlight the fort's military legacy, the event will feature volunteer living history groups portraying soldiers from five major conflicts: the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. These groups will present interactive displays of

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Harmony Hall Arts Center Presents "To the Core" Dual Exhibition Featuring Artists Veronica Szalus and Lillian Jacobson

By AMANDA BOHN
Harmony Hall Arts Center

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Sept. 24, 2025)—Harmony Hall Arts Center is proud to announce "To the Core", a two-person exhibition featuring former Artomatic President and installation artist Veronica Szalus and Bogotá-born figurative painter and MICA graduate Lillian Jacobson. The exhibition will be on view from September 22 through November 1, 2025. The event is free and open to all ages.

"To the Core" examines what it means to broach the essence of identity, belief, and human connection. Through storytelling, self-reflection, and community dialogue, the exhibition explores both the literal and metaphorical aspects of identity, consumption, transformation, and introspection.

Lillian Jacobson's figurative works reflect on her experience growing up in Bal-

Exhibition Dates:
September 22–November 1, 2025
Free & open to all ages
Location:
Harmony Hall Arts Center
10701 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744

timore, Maryland within a culture and community where her ethnicity set her apart. This Columbian born artist's paintings invite audiences to look past surface-level impressions and consider the deeper narratives of both people and place.

Veronica Szalus, known often for her large-scale, site-specific installations, uses repurposed and salvaged materials to raise questions and awareness about sustainability, waste, and the environment. Her abstract works explore transitions—both physical and metaphysical—while engaging viewers in conversations about our shared responsibility and contribution to the planet.



PHOTO COURTESY HARMONY HALL ARTS CENTER
"Kingdom" by Lillian Jacobson



PHOTO COURTESY HARMONY HALL ARTS CENTER
"Profile: Tornado" by Veronica Szalus

National Harbor Lights Up the Holidays With Two Million Lights and Pounds of Colored Ice and More!

Celebrations begin on November 7 with the weekly tree lighting and fireworks and continues with ice sculptures, Santa, performers, movies, holiday market, and stunning festive décor

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Sept. 25, 2025)—National Harbor is the Capital Region's top holiday waterfront destination. This year, the 350-acre mix-used property kicks off the holiday season with Cirque Italia, running November 7–17. The show is an entertaining travel back to the 1950s with magic, acrobats, aerialists and comedy all in a unique water stage, and held under a stunning white and blue tent at 204 Waterfront St.

The popular National Harbor Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Show Series returns on Saturdays and Sundays from November 29 to December 21 from noon to 6 p.m. Each week, new crafters and artisans will have their works for sale. Some of the goods being sold include clothing made for children, upscale jewelry, dog accessories, candles, maple products, home décor, bath and body, pillows and table runners, dinnerware, cashmere and silk scarves, rugs and carpets, glasswork, alpaca blankets and shawls, crystals, metal art, aprons, towels, resin art, woodwork, stationery, leather products, photography, kids' crafts and a wide array of artworks.

The dazzling 60-foot RGB tree in the Waterfront District comes to life nightly with a breathtaking light show that illuminates to a holiday medley recorded by the U.S. Air Force Band. The show runs every half hour from sunset to 9 p.m. and begins on Saturday, November 8, followed by fireworks every Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m., through December 27.

Gaylord National launches its holiday spectacular of ICE! and so much more on November 14 through January 4. The larger-than-life sculptures are accompanied by frozen slides and awe-inspiring tunnels. The carvers, from Harbin, China, work with more than two million pounds of colorful ice, taking more than 12,000-man hours to create the nearly 20,000 square foot, frozen attraction. Christmas at Gaylord includes amazing ice sculptures, vibrant light shows, treasure hunts, Snow Flow Mountain ice slide, Snowball Build and Blast, Cirque: Spirit of Christmas, Gingerbread decorating and more.

Santa will be at The Capital Wheel for photos on Fridays and Saturdays starting Nov. 29 through Dec. 21 from noon to 2 p.m. Children may share their holiday wish list and get a photo taken with Santa before taking a ride on the 180-foot wheel with its climate-controlled gondolas. And, furry friends can come out and meet Santa and have their photo taken, take a spin on The Capital Wheel (with their owner) and then gather on the Flight Deck for Yappy Hour. Family holiday movies run through November 30 on Sundays at 2 p.m. on the waterfront screen.

National Harbor is magical during the holidays and all dressed up with more than two million holiday lights and decorations throughout. With its eight hotels, more than 40 restaurants and The Capital Wheel, it's the perfect location to make holiday memories. From family activities to a romantic getaway for couples, National Harbor has it all.

MGM National Harbor celebrates the holiday season at National Harbor with spectacular decorations throughout, including the prop-

erty's popular Conservatory where the holidays come alive with a breathtaking display. The Theater at MGM National Harbor is offering a variety of holiday shows including Christmas Together on November 30 and multiple shows of Cirque Dreams Holidaze on December 19 and 20.

National Harbor is also the perfect location for holiday shopping with more than 140 shops including Tanger National Harbor's 85 designer brands such as Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Hugo Boss, Movado, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Nike, Coach and H&M.

There is additional shopping in the Waterfront District where there are walkable streets with unique shops and boutiques such as MahoganyBooks, ZAAF, It' Sugar, Corinto Gallery and more. These join nationally recognized brands including Carhartt and others. MGM National Harbor provides additional boutique shopping opportunities.

The holidays are the perfect time to gather with friends or plan a fun outing with out-of-town guests. At National Harbor, you'll find plenty of unique experiences to enjoy together—from developing your own photos at Sip & Develop, to creating a custom-scented candle at Wigenton Candle Co., to testing your teamwork at Escapology.

For more information about all of National Harbor's holiday fun and hotel packages, visit www.NationalHarbor.com/hohoho. For more information on National Harbor, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

History of Morgan State University Alumni Association Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter. During the summer of 2004, Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord and other Southern Maryland Morgan State University (MSU) graduates convened several meetings to gauge the interest in forming a local alumni chapter. An initial organizing meeting, which attracted 15 MSU alumni, was held on October 16, 2004, at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Indian Head, Maryland. At a subsequent meeting on November 20, 2004, the following individuals were elected to office. President-Rev. Dr. George DeFord, Vice President-R. Wayne Barnes, Treasurer-Charles Simpson, Secretary-Vera Walton-Merritt, Financial Secretary-Joan Chapman, Corresponding Secretary-Victor D. Watson, Historians-Thomas Datcher and Aaron Mathis, Chaplain-Rev. Ed Williamson.

With 17 members in attendance, the Chapter was officially chartered on May 14, 2005, during the annual business meeting of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association. Through the awarding of scholarships to prospective Morgan State students from Southern Maryland, health-related outreach and awareness activities in the community, Adopt-A-Road, partnering with other MSU entities such as Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL), the Chapter has successfully lived up to its mantra: Come Back, Give Back. It is our sincere desire to continue to provide support to our Alma Mater and to the communities in which we reside and work.

REFLECTIONS FROM FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

ROCHELLE SAVOY 2022–2023 “Being elected Chapter President was truly a full-circle moment, and I am deeply grateful for the trust the chapter placed in me after serving in various roles. While my term began with an unexpected challenge, missing my first dinner dance due to COVID, I am incredibly proud of our chapter’s resilience. We quickly pivoted to lead significant social justice initiatives, including a crucial webinar and a successful virtual voter registration drive. It was an honor to serve alongside such a dedicated team.”

DENISE BARNES 2012–2021 “I previously had the unexpected honor of leading as President for 10 years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we innovatively held our meetings via Zoom for the first time, a practice that continues to be part of our meetings today. Throughout my term as President, I was proud to lead our chapter to new heights, culminating in our recognition as chapter of the Year in 2016.”

THOMAS M. DATCHER, JR. 2010–2011 ”During my term as President, one of the challenges I faced was finding suitable meeting places for our Chapter meetings. A key objective was to actively engage memberships in the Southern Maryland area, which remains a priority today. Reflecting on my journey, I feel honored to have held various roles, including Life Member,

Historian, Treasurer, and one of the founding members of MSUSMAC. It was a tremendous privilege to be recognized as Alumnus of the Year in 2013”.

WILLIAM YOUNG 2008–2009 “It was an honor serving as the third President of MSUSMAC, following in the tradition of those who preceded me. One of the highlights during my tenure as President occurred at the 3rd Annual BODD, when I had the privilege of presenting the honoree plaque to Mr. Leroy Battle, an original member of the Tuskegee Airmen. ‘Come Back, Give Back!’ was voted as chapter of the year.”

WAYNE BARNES 2006–2007 “I was one of the charter members of the Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter (MSUSMAC). When I assumed the role as the second president of the MSUSMAC, having been engaged in the initial planning for the chapter was a great asset in fulfilling my leadership responsibilities.”

REV. DR. GEORGE DEFORD 2004–2005 “As the Founding President and currently serving as the Scholarship Chair for the George DeFord Scholarship, I am proud of the journey we began in October 2004 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Indian Head, Maryland. With its charter established in May 2005, our organization continues to uphold the vision of supporting and empowering students through educational opportunities”.

67TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

The 67th Annual Washington International Horse Show in the Washington, D.C. area October 20–26, 2025 with the magic, the memories, and the absolute best of indoor show jumping. With nearly \$1 million in prize money, a star-studded lineup of Olympic-caliber athletes, family-friendly fun, and an elevated experience for all, this year’s WIHS is set to be best-in-class on every level. Join WIHS at The Show Place Arena at Prince George’s Equestrian Center. Buy tickets at <https://wihs.org/>

BADEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT-VFD

Baden VFD is at the southern edge of Prince George’s County, Maryland. The address is 16608 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. They have a very nice banquet hall available for rent. They are in need of Firefighter EMS, EMS, and administrative members. Telephone: 301-888-1888. info@badenvfd.com.

ST. PHILIP’S CRAB FEAST

We will have a Crab Feast on Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2–5 p.m. ALL YOU CAN EAT: ALL YOU CAN LOVE! At St. Philip’s Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. 20613. All tickets in advance are \$60 Adults, \$25-12 & under. Land Lovers Food and Drinks included. Tickets: Vivian 804-301-9530, Shirley 302-690-4260, Michele 240-882-3369. Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund “Proceeds Go to Future Scholarships.”

seven children—Mary Kathleen—was born.

Then on to ‘Frisco and DC

His next FBI assignment was to San Francisco. We bought a house across the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin County, and it was there our next four children were born.

In 1958 Jack was transferred to Washington, and we bought the house in Skyline where I still live.

Jack never told me much of what he did, working for the FBI, but it included several tours of duty in Europe. He also lectured on organized crime at local colleges and at military and law-enforcement institutions. He had retired when he turned about 50 but Prince George’s County Executive Lawrence Hogan Sr. appointed him Prince George’s Chief of Police, a job he loved.

However, several years later he was unemployed again, and he took to coaching Morningside boys and teenage girls in softball. He played tennis at our neighborhood courts. And he was active in St. Philip’s Parish where he taught catechism classes.

Jack died August 2, 2004. This September 11 was the 100th anniversary of his birthday.

Renaissance Festival continues Through October 19

If you’re looking for an opportunity to escape the stress of modern life, you might consider visiting the distant past at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, which opened for its 48th season in August.

The festival boasts 140 artisans and merchants selling handcrafted clothing, jewelry, toys and art. Their 10 stages host shows throughout the day from a roster of 200 musicians and dancers, comedians, acrobats and jugglers, magicians, and

other performers. There also are combat and archery demonstrations, jousting performances, and games.

Stands throughout the festival offer Medieval-inspired food and drinks. In addition, you can find Maryland staples, and a wide variety of different cuisines.

Costumes are not required, but many visitors do come dressed for the occasion. Many weekends have suggested costume themes. If you are looking for inspiration, or if your suit of armor has shrunk, there is a booth where you can rent a theme-appropriate costume for the day.

The festival is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through October 19. Tickets are not sold at the door. They must be bought online ahead of time from their website, <https://rennfest.com/>. The cost, including tax, is \$32 for adults over 15, \$18 for children 7–15, and \$28 for seniors. Children under 7 are free. Many dates are sold out, but cancellations are released for sale every Monday.

The festival grounds are at 1821 Crownsville Road in Annapolis. For more information, you can check out their website or call 800-296-7304.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; Mike Dawes, Sept. 9; Charlie Deegan, Robert Andrew Woods, John Dexter Woods and Nan Brown, Sept. 10; Carol Lee, Sept. 11; Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; Kenny Clark, Sept. 14; Elnora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16; Kimberly Brewer, Everett Mason, Jr, and Joan Stakem, Sept. 17; Shirley Smith, Sept. 18; and Lee Burkhart, Sept. 20.

Happy Anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick, Sept. 13; and Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, Sept. 14.

Around the County

Thirteen PGCPs Schools Named Among America’s Healthiest

Springhill Lake Elementary shines as Maryland’s only 2025 ‘All-Star’ school

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 23, 2025)—Thirteen Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) have been recognized as 2025 America’s Healthiest Schools by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, an initiative founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation.

This year, 1,160 schools nationwide earned the prestigious designation for their commitment to fostering healthy environments that support the well-being of students, staff, and their communities.

“We are proud to receive this national recognition, which underscores our commitment to creating healthier, more supportive learning environments,” said Dr. Elizabeth Faison, PGCPS Associate Superintendent of Student Services. “Through improved nutrition, expanded physical and health education, and strong wellness policies, we are building schools where every student can thrive.”

Among the honorees, Springhill Lake Elementary School stood out as the only Maryland school to receive the 2025 All-Star Award—one of just 168 schools nationwide to earn this top distinction. All-Star schools meet rigorous criteria across all nine categories of the America’s Healthiest Schools framework, including Nutrition & Food Access, Physical Education & Activity, School Health Services, Staff Well-Being, and Family & Community Engagement.

The following PGCPS schools were named 2025 America’s Healthiest Schools:

- Bond Mill Elementary School
- Carmody Hills Elementary School
- Clinton Grove Elementary School
- Fort Washington Forest Elementary School
- Francis T. Evans Elementary School
- G. James Gholson Middle School
- Greenbelt Middle School
- Melwood Elementary School
- Mt. Rainier Elementary School
- Robert R. Gray Elementary School
- Springhill Lake Elementary School (All-Star Awardee)
- Tulip Grove Elementary School
- Valley View Elementary School

To mark the achievement, each school will receive a commemorative banner from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to proudly display on campus.

Don’t Miss PG Brave’s Next Home Game!

Date: **Saturday, October 4, 2025**
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: New Fairmont Heights High School, Landover, MD
Special Night Theme: Faith on the Field
General Admission: Only \$10 Get tickets at pgbraves.ticketbud.com

- Youth 13 & Under: FREE! (Bring your ministry youth groups!)
Enjoy:
- Delicious Food Vendors
 - Team Merchandise
 - Exciting 50/50 Cash Raffle (winner will win half of the money collected from the purchase of raffle tickets!)
 - Fun, Faith & Football!

Churches and ministries are especially encouraged to bring their youth for this special night of community, fellowship, and football.

Come out and support PG Brave Football as we make this night unforgettable!

Local Student Makes a Difference Through Emmanuel Day of Service

BOSTON, Mass. (Sept. 25, 2025)—**Eden Hudson** of Ft Washington joined with more than 360 first-year students at Emmanuel College to make an immediate impact in the community through the New Student Day of Service.

Rising early on the last day of summer vacation, the students volunteered at food shelves, homeless shelters, and other organizations that meet vital community needs through the day of service.

In addition to encouraging new students to embrace Emmanuel’s rich history of serving the common good, the day of service helped them connect with Boston and each other.

“By engaging with the city from day one, our new Saints began their Emmanuel journey grounded in service, connection, and purpose,” said Emmanuel VP of Mission & Ministry Fr. Federico Cinocca. “It sets the tone not only for their year, but for their entire Emmanuel experience.”



PHOTO COURTESY EMMANUEL COLLEGE

More than 360 first-year students at Emmanuel College made an immediate impact in the community through the New Student Day of Service.

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

Remembering Police Chief John McHale

John Edward “Jack” McHale, Jr., was born in Houston, Texas, on September 11, 1925, the oldest of the two sons of John and Robbie McHale.

On this September 11, the McHales gathered at Texas Ribs, in Clinton, to celebrate his 100th birthday. It was a loud and fun gathering—I wish Jack had been there in person. He loved a good party. And he loved Texas Ribs.

War was Waging

Jack graduated from St. Thomas High School, in Houston, where he lettered in ice hockey. The day after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, expecting to be sent into action in the Pacific. Instead, he was assigned to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Kingsville, Texas, where he edited the base newspaper and became the official base photographer. Sadly, most of his official photos were of crashed airplanes.

After the War

World War II ended in 1945. Jack used the G.I. Bill to enroll at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana where he majored in journalism and played hall football.

Notre Dame was right across the street from St. Mary’s College where I was a freshman. One Sunday afternoon, at a St. Mary’s Tea Dance, he asked me to dance. We danced, we dated, three years later we graduated—he from Notre Dame and me from St. Mary’s. We married January 3, 1946, at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Saginaw, Mich., my hometown.

After a brief honeymoon, we headed for Houston, Texas, where Jack worked as a reporter for The Houston Press, until he learned the FBI was hiring. He applied; they accepted him. We moved to Washington for FBI training, and then to Los Angeles. It was there the first of our

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY CARRIE’S TOUCH

Carrie’s TOUCH Produces “Dinner With the Youngers” —A Celebration of “A Raisin in the Sun” With a Spin for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By PRESS OFFICER
Carrie’s TOUCH

Carrie’s TOUCH is set to produce “Dinner with the Youngers,” an innovative and emotionally charged theatrical experience reimagining pivotal scenes from Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun.” This special production—written by Tammie Denyse, Helen R. Terry, and Courtney Renee Cochran—blends the brilliance of Hansberry’s original work with a fresh perspective that ignites dialogue on family, legacy, and healing.

The New York City performances will run October 23–26, 2025, offering audiences the chance to experience a familiar story told with boldness, brilliance, and heart. Following a sold-out production in Oakland, California on July 12, the creative team is now bringing its new storytelling coast to coast.

Carrie’s TOUCH, a nonprofit dedicated to providing culturally relevant support to African American women facing breast cancer, continues to use theater as a platform for empowerment, education, and community connection. “Dinner with the Youngers” invites actors and audiences alike to take a seat at the table and experience theater that matters.

Performance Dates & Location

October 23–26, 2025
Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater
10 W 64th St
New York, NY 10023
To learn more about Carrie’s TOUCH, visit carriestouch.org.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County Announces Events for October

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 25, 2025)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County invites the community to participate in a series of events during the month of October, from family-friendly festivals to spooky Halloween fun, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Upcoming events include:

Fiesta de la Familia
Sunday, October 12, 1–4 p.m.
Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road
Landover, MD 20785
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by bringing family together. Enjoy live performances, children’s activities, live music from La Furia Band, community resources, and craft vendors for everyone to enjoy. Transportation is available; please register for the event to select your shuttle location.

American Indian Festival
Saturday, October 18, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. | FREE
Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
The American Indian Festival is a vibrant celebration of Native American cul-

ture, heritage, and traditions, offering diverse native communities a space to honor and share their rich cultural legacy. This free festival is open to everyone and invites attendees to experience live music, traditional and contemporary dances of Native America, interactive storytelling, artisan market, Native American horsemanship, professional family portraits, and more.

Trek or Treat
Friday, October 24, 6–9 p.m.
Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD
Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and “Trek” through our haunted trail packed with spooky games, mazes, roving characters, creepy scenes, and more! Don’t miss our 50-foot “Trick-or-Tree”, lit up with spooktacular Halloween designs! Collect candy and other treats along the way and search for the perfect pumpkin on the Trek or Treat Trail. This event is kid-friendly and suitable for ages 12 & under. Advanced registration is required and limited.

Waterfront Arts Festival
Saturday, October 25, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. | FREE
Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710
Enjoy a day filled with creativity and inspiration at the Waterfront Art Festival!

Discover a wide array of artwork from talented local artists, including paintings, jewelry, photography, sculpture, and more. Stroll through the vibrant art market, enjoy live music, and take in the beautiful views of the Anacostia River. This family-friendly event offers something for all ages to enjoy.

Magical Night of Wizardry
Friday, October 31, 7–10 p.m.
Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Calling all witches and wizards! The doors to the magical world are now open! Enjoy an evening with magical beverages, snacks, and artistic creations, a screening of your favorite wizard movie, and much more! Wizards 13 and older will have an opportunity to walk through the forbidden forest trail!

Spooky Good Time
Friday, October 31, 6–9 p.m.
Tucker Road Athletic Complex
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Celebrate Halloween with fun games, haunted hayrides and activities, a pumpkin patch, good vendors, and more! Remember to come dressed in your best costume!
For more information about upcoming M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events, visit pgparks.com.

Living History from A1

period clothing, tools, weapons, and other artifacts, offering visitors a hands-on look at how military life and technology have evolved over the past 200 years. In addition to the living history displays, expert lecturers will offer presentations on pivotal topics such as the 1814 Raid on Alexandria and the strategic significance of the Endicott Batteries. Historic Civil War-era music will be performed live by the duo Hardtack and

Seabiscuits, adding an authentic soundtrack to the day’s events. This is a free, family-friendly event that will include engaging children’s activities. The event will take place from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information and a list of scheduled events, visit <https://www.nps.gov/fowa/planyourvisit/fort-washington-through-the-ages.htm>.
National Capital Parks - East (NACE) connects neighborhoods across Washing-

ton, D.C. and Maryland with more than 8,000 acres of trails, historic homes, forts, farms, and green spaces.
More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for more than 430 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube.

Chesapeake Life Center Offers Fall Grief Support Groups and Workshops

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Sept. 23, 2025)—Chesapeake Life Center offers a range of grief support groups and workshops this fall designed to help adults, teens and families cope with loss through creative expression, nature, mindfulness, and peer support in both in-person and virtual formats.

WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- **Nature’s Healing Power: A Grief Support Group Series** is a free, nature-informed program that will include immersive walks in nature, time spent focusing on the cycle of the seasons and working with natural objects to contain and express the grief experience. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 25, and Oct. 2, 9 and 16, at Governor Bridge Natural Area, 7600 Governor Bridge Road, Bowie, Maryland.
- **Monday Morning Mindfulness**—Enjoy a peaceful and supportive experience designed to reduce stress, enhance focus, and bring more awareness into your daily life. Start your Monday with mindfulness and set the tone for a balanced, intentional week. Open to the community, staff and clients. It will take place at 8:30 to 9 a.m. Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1 in the Michael Stanley Children’s Garden, weather permitting, or the Center for Hope & Healing. Both are located on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. This is a free program.
- **Creating Hope: Therapeutic Art Exercises in Griefwork**—Creating can help us express things we have no words for, discover more about ourselves and glean beauty through our sorrow. In each session, people will participate in a therapeutic art project to help with personal grief work and connect with one another. This workshop is open to teens, as well as adults. Supplies are provided. No art skills are required. It will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 and Dec. 13 at the Burnett Center for Hope and Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The cost is \$10 per session, which pays for supplies.
- **SoulCollage for Teens**—SoulCollage is a collage-making activity that allows you to express



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Pasadena, MD (March 19, 2022)—A Smash and Mend participant slams a bag filled with ceramics against a wall. The workshop this fall will be held Monday, Dec. 15 in Largo.

- yourself in whatever way feels OK to you. Sometimes we just can’t use spoken word express yourself about losing a special person. As the old saying goes, “a picture is worth a thousand words.” This workshop is for teens ages 13 to 18 and will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14 on the John and Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena. The cost is \$10 for supplies.
- **Handling the Holidays** is a workshop to help people facing the holiday season after a loss. It offers support, opportunities to honor memories and time to explore coping strategies. There will be time for discussion and a creative project. Everyone will go home with a resource packet and a remembrance item. Adults and teens and children ages 6 and older are welcome. The session will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Burnett Center for Hope and Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick. The cost is \$10 per person or \$20 per household. Please register by Oct. 31.
 - **Living with Loss through the Holidays** is a workshop that offers support, honors memories and explores coping strategies through the holiday season. Participants will create a keepsake to honor the memory of their loved one. Teens

- and adults ages 15 and older are welcome. It will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo. The cost is \$10 for supplies.
- **Smash and Mend**—In this expressive arts workshop, participants will engage in the cathartic process of smashing ceramics and using the broken pieces to create something new in the form of a mosaic project. It will take place from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo. The cost is \$15 for supplies.

MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS:

- **Drop-In Grief Support Groups** are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet in Calvert County as follows:
 - *North Beach Senior Center*, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.
 - *Southern Pines Senior Center*, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, Maryland, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 14 and Dec. 9. The Nov. 11 session is canceled due to Veterans Day holiday.
 - *Calvert Pines Senior Center*, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16.
- **SoulCollage Studio**—Join us in person or virtually for a time to create unique collages reflecting and expressing loss and the journey through life. It will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Oct. 6 and Dec. 1 at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. The supply fee is \$10.
- **Loss of Parent or Parental Figure Support Group** provides space for those grieving the loss of a parent or parental figure to come together to feel supported in their grief. The group will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is free.
- **Now what? Navigating Grief: A Support Group for Those Coping with Loss.** This monthly support group is for anyone grieving

- the death of a loved one. The group will explore the many layers of grief, from understanding the grieving process to learning how to care for ourselves, find moments of joy, and stay connected to our loved ones even after their passing. This is a safe and welcoming space for sharing, support, and healing. Whether your loss is recent or years old, all are welcome. It meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 14, Nov. 18 and Dec. 9 in the Center for Hope & Healing on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is free.
- **Child Loss Support Group** is for parents grieving the death of a child, regardless of age or circumstance. It will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15, in the Center for Hope & Healing on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is free.

VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Virtual Group** is a free group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9, via Zoom.
- **SoulCollage Virtual Support Group for Loss and Transition** is a free group with participants creating collages to commemorate lost loved ones and visually journal the grief process. It is a time to virtually share and process unique collages reflecting and expressing the journey through life. The group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3, via Zoom.
Except for drop-in groups, registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

COMMUNITY

Prince George’s County Native Debuts at New York Fashion Week

By PRESS OFFICER
Sonny & Chelle

Eboné Thornton, a Prince George’s County native, debuting under the name Sonny & Chelle, has recently provided their first major collection for New York Fashion Week. Sonny & Chelle debuted Monday, September 15 at the Penthouse 45 roof top runway show. Their collection represents the connection between Black culture and marginalized groups and their direct influence in punk culture.

Eboné was raised in Prince George’s County, growing up in Greenbelt, MD. She graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and started her career in community health at the Greenbelt and Spring Hill Lake Community Centers. She has been designing for the past five years and through the new journey of motherhood, she persevered to bring her Sonny & Chelle collection to the main stage.

Sonny & Chelle’s collection is all about representation. Punk is



PHOTO CREDIT SONNY & CHELLE

Sonny and Chelle’s collection was presented at the Pop Culture NYFW runway show organized by Plus Ultra Entertainment (a Washington, D.C. community group).

known as a form of rock music that was popularized back in the ’70s and ’80s, but a lot of people don’t realize the extremely important message that punk brings to light.

A creation that is associated with energy and aggression that is usually sending a message of positivity and acceptance. Marginalized people have always been the frontrunners of what it means to be punk.

Although Black and other modernized people have been the reason why punk even existed, the alternative spaces that punk resides in are the least accepting of Black and brown faces in that space.

Marginalized communities are some of the strong and unwavering ones because of their differences and what it brings to the melting pot of America. While it’s nothing new, this highlight in community has allowed us to focus on togetherness, being loud about what is right, and creating a safe space for rebellion among one another.

Support Education Foundation Receives Grant From The Wawa Foundation to Support Middle School Students

By PRESS OFFICER
The Support Education Foundation

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 15, 2025)—The Support Education Foundation, a nonprofit established by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, is proud to announce that it has been awarded a generous \$1,000 grant from The Wawa Foundation. This contribution will help fund the Foundation’s Backpacks for Middle School Students program, which provides essential school supplies to help students succeed academically.

Established in 2017, the Support Education Foundation is dedicated to supporting educational excellence by supporting student programs, scholarships and professional development awards within the education community. Through the Backpacks for Middle School Students program, the Foundation provides over 7,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to middle school students annually. The backpacks are distributed at back-to-school fairs as well as individual schools, so students are ready for their first day of school.

“Thanks to the generosity of The Wawa Foundation, we’re able to put essential tools directly into the hands of Maryland’s middle school students,” said Kristy Mathey, Support Education Foundation Board Chair. “This support goes beyond backpacks—it’s an investment in equity, confidence, and academic success for students who need it most.”

The Wawa Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization founded by Wawa, Inc. in 2014. It aims to build stronger communities through grants and support in three key areas: health, hunger, and everyday heroes. Since its founding, it has donated more than \$190 million to help people in need, support local hunger-relief efforts, and recognize those who make a difference every day.

Educational Systems FCU is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative, founded in 1955 to serve the education community. The Support Education Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) established by Educational Systems FCU in 2017, supports students and school employees through charitable giving programs. Learn more at esfcu.org and SupportEducation.org.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Chapters Donate Healthcare Supplies to Prince George’s County Schools

By DARLENE REED
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Two Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® local chapters collaborated to donate medical supplies to eight schools in Prince George’s County. The Iota Gamma Omega (IGO) and Psi Epsilon Omega (PEO) Uplift Our Local Community™ committees joined forces to support school nurses within Prince George’s County Public Schools. Their objective is to increase available resources, enabling nurses to continue delivering high-quality care to students during the academic year.

A need was identified through discussions with Prince George’s County Public Schools, Office of Community Schools, regarding areas where the sorority could assist in supporting local schools and students. School officials

informed PEO and IGO that supplies sometimes run out before the end of the school year. In response, the chapters organized their members to purchase the requested supplies. A total of 1,176 medical supplies were donated for this worthy cause.

Collectively, members from each chapter met at the Ivy Youth and Family Center to sort and package the supplies for delivery to the schools. The initial delivery of healthcare supplies was made to Oaklands Elementary School in Laurel, Maryland on September 26. The remaining schools include Northview Elementary and Bowie High School in Bowie, Greenbelt Middle School in Greenbelt, Andrew Jackson Academy in District Heights, Princeton Elementary and Allenwood Elementary in Camp Springs, and Rosa L. Parks Elementary in Hyattsville. All deliveries will be completed by October 3.



PHOTO CREDIT CHRISTINA ROYSTER

Iota Gamma Omega and Psi Epsilon Omega members worked together to sort and package medical supplies for donation to school nurses at eight Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Fire Prevention Week, October 5–11, 2025, to Address Lithium-Ion Battery Risks and Ways to Minimize Them

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 100 years, NFPA announces “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” as this year’s theme

By PRESS OFFICER
NFPA®

(Sept. 29, 2025)—Most of the electronics in our homes—smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few—are powered by lithium-ion batteries. However, if not used correctly or damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat and start a fire or explode. In response to these potential risks, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 100 years—has announced “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 5–11, 2025.

Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they’re just about everywhere,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “Making sure the public knows how to use them safely is critical to minimizing the potential risks they pose.”

According to NFPA, devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are largely used without incident.

“Making sure the public knows how to use them safely is critical to minimizing the potential risks they pose.”
—Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA

However, reports of fires and explosions involving lithium-ion batteries have been on the rise in recent years, reinforcing the importance of better educating the public about how to use, handle, and recycle them safely.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” provides the information, guidance, and resources needed to buy, charge, and dispose of/recycle lithium-ion batteries safely, with a focus on the following messages:

BUY only listed products

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets established safety standards.
- Many products sold online

and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

CHARGE devices safely

- Always use the cables that come with the product to charge it. Also, charge the device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don’t charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don’t overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it’s fully charged.

DISPOSE OF/RECYCLE batteries responsibly

- Don’t throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.
- Fire Prevention Week is cel-

ebrated throughout North America every October and is the oldest U.S. public health observance on record. For more than 100 years, Fire Prevention Week has worked to educate people about the risk of home fires and ways to minimize them. Local fire departments, schools, and community organizations play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” visit fpw.org. Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at <https://sparky.org> and <https://sparkyschoolhouse.org>.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration’s Library Informa-

tion Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation declaring a national observance during that week every year since 1925. Visit www.firepreventionweek.org for more safety information.

Founded in 1896, National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to

eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at nfpa.org/freeaccess.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should my Spouse be getting half of my Social Security amount?

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 was referred to you to ask a question about Social Security benefits. I receive about \$1,700 a month from Social Security while my husband receives only approximately \$750 monthly. Is he entitled to file for half of my Social Security as a monthly benefit without touching my amount? **Signed: Curious Wife**

Dear Curious Wife: For information, spousal benefits are one of the most misunderstood areas of Social Security. A spouse does not always get half of their partner’s Social Security benefit—how much the spouse gets is determined by their age when the spouse benefit is claimed, and it is always based upon both partner’s full retirement age (FRA) benefit, regardless of when they actually claimed Social Security. The partner with the lower SS benefit can only get half of the other spouse’s FRA amount if that partner takes the spouse benefit at (or after) their personal SS full retirement age (FRA). And each spouse’s FRA may be different depending on the year they were born (FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on the person’s year of birth).

Here are two basic rules for a lower earning marital partner to get spouse benefits:

- The lower earning spouse’s FRA entitlement must be less than 50% of the higher earning spouse’s FRA entitlement. FRA amounts are used, even if SS benefits were claimed earlier than, or later than, full retirement age, and FRA amounts are frequently different than the monthly amounts actually being received.
- If one spouse’s FRA amount is less than 50% of the other spouse’s FRA amount, the difference between those two amounts can be added to the lower earning spouse’s SS retirement amount, to become their spousal benefit. That may, or may not, equal half of the higher earning spouse’s FRA amount.

So, if you claimed your Social Security exactly at your own full retirement age, and your husband also claimed his Social Security exactly at his own full retirement age, then—based on the numbers you provided—your husband is likely entitled to about \$850 per month, instead of his current \$750. And that would not affect your own SS benefit in any way.

Your FRA entitlement would need to be more than twice your husband’s FRA entitlement for him to receive a spousal boost from you. But if either of you claimed Social Security before (or after) your respective full retirement ages, your husband would not get 50% of your benefit.

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

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

PGCFCU’s Steven R. Carpenter Appointed to FSC First Board of Directors

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. (Sept. 23, 2025)—Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union (PGCFCU) proudly announces that Steven R. Carpenter, Business Development Manager, has been appointed to the FSC First Board of Directors, the county’s leading small business financing organization.

With more than 20 years of experience in banking and finance, Carpenter has spearheaded programs in business lending and financial planning that expand access to capital and help local businesses thrive. His career reflects a strong commitment to empowering entrepreneurs and fostering long-term economic growth across Prince George’s County.

“Steve’s passion for business development and community partnerships shines through in everything he does,” said Jeff Miles, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of PGCFCU. “His leadership has helped businesses expand and achieve financial stability, and we are proud to see him bring that same energy and expertise to FSC First. His impact will be felt by entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout the county.”

“I am honored to join the FSC First Board of Directors,” said Carpenter. “This role is an exciting opportunity to continue serving Prince George’s County by building stronger financial pathways for entrepreneurs and small businesses. I look forward to working with the Board to create lasting economic impact in our community.”

At PGCFCU, Carpenter has led initiatives designed to help businesses expand, thrive, and achieve long-term financial stability. His appointment underscores both his dedication to advancing opportunities for local business leaders and PGCFCU’s commitment to strengthening partnerships that drive economic vitality across the region.



GRAPHIC COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE’S COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Established in 1967, the Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union was created to offer financial services to Prince George’s County employees. Over the years, the organization has expanded its reach to serve more than 19,500 members across the county. With assets exceeding \$300 million, our community-based credit union welcomes individuals who live, work, volunteer, worship, attend school or operate businesses in Prince George’s County to open an account. For more information about the organization or to become a member, please visit www.PrinceGeorgesCFCU.org or call 301.627.2666.

President from A1

Additionally, at this prestigious event, Armita Greene, the 2025 REALTOR® of the Year, was honored for her outstanding business achievements, commitment to the Code of Ethics, leadership, and civic and community involvement, as well as her contributions to local, state, and National Association activities.

Other newly elected and installed Officers and Directors include:



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PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Armita Greene, the 2025 REALTOR® of the Year



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Newly elected and installed Officers and Directors

Maryland’s Housing Order Aims to Boost Affordable Housing, Cut Barriers

By SANDRA SMITH
Capital News Service

Gov. Wes Moore signed an executive order on Sept. 3 aimed at tackling Maryland’s escalating housing affordability crisis. The Housing Starts Here initiative seeks to expedite housing development, reduce production delays and make home ownership more accessible across the state.

According to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), the state faces a deficit of around 96,000 housing units—a gap that has been widening over recent years.

The 2025 Maryland Housing Needs Assessment, an analysis of Maryland’s housing gap conducted by DHCD and The National Center for Smart Growth, reveals significant disparities in housing availability across the state. Counties like Montgomery and Howard have median home prices exceeding \$600,000, making homeownership unattainable for low- and middle-income residents.

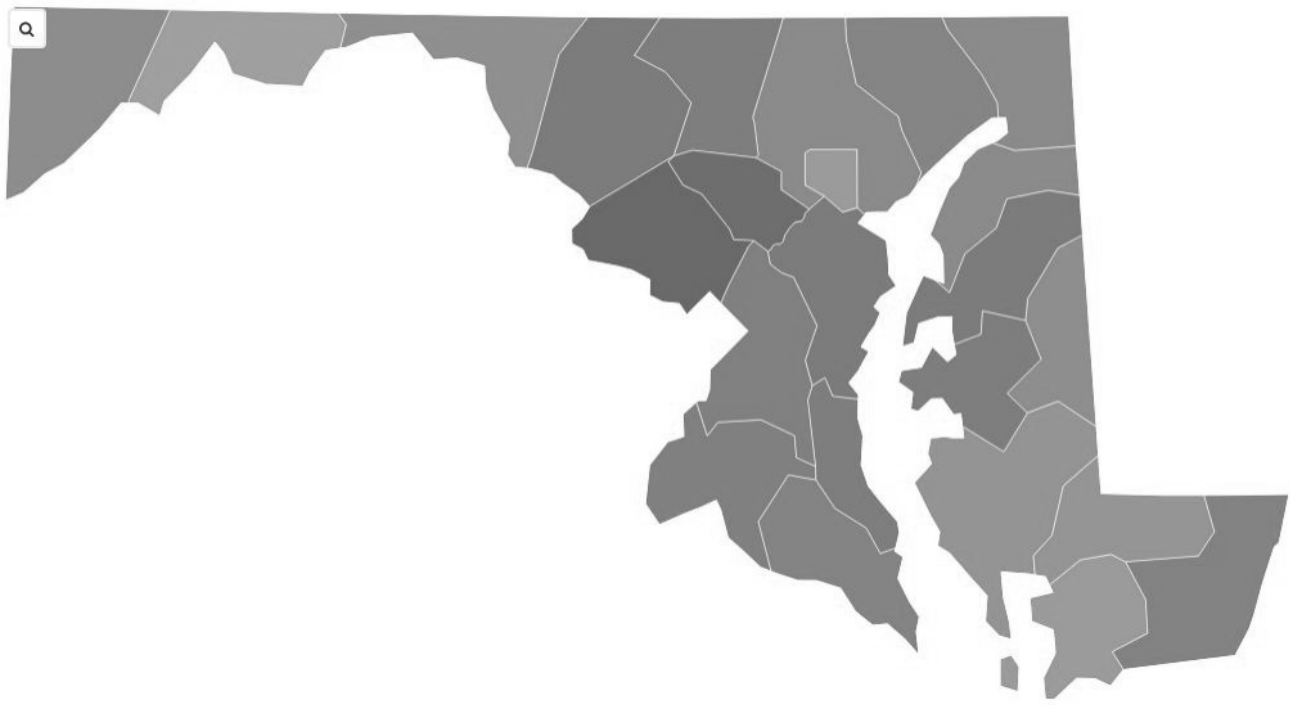
Conversely, areas such as Allegany and Wicomico counties report median home prices below \$200,000, which indicates regional inconsistencies in the Maryland housing market.

The executive order will broadly target each county in Maryland in order to create more housing development throughout the state.

Earning enough to buy a home? See the divide across Maryland counties

This map shows how much a household would need to earn in each county to afford the median home price in 2022. Darker colors indicate higher home prices.

Median Home Price 139,118 633,325



Source: [Housing Needs Assessment](#) • Chart by Sandra Smith

“[The executive order] says that everybody has a piece of the housing crisis, and everybody deserves for their local and state governments to be working in concert to solve that crisis,” DHCD Secretary Jake Day said.

In more than half of Maryland counties, renters are spending more than one-third of their annual income on housing costs, which is considered unaffordable by federal standards.

While Maryland’s median income is

28% higher than the national median, the state’s median home price is 35% higher, highlighting the disproportionate cost of housing.

“How we got here is really the post-2008 financial crisis. It was real-estate

driven... that had to do with risks that the financial industry took at the time,” Secretary Day said. “It led to a collapse in the economy, in residential home values and more. The over-correction of the market meant we stopped building houses at a pace that matched population growth.”

The Housing Starts Here Executive Order directs state agencies to identify underutilized state-owned properties suitable for transit-oriented development, aiming to increase housing density in areas with existing infrastructure.

Transit-oriented development is a strategy that promotes dense, mixed-use communities around transit to help increase ridership and the use of public transportation.

“There are a lot of benefits to it... we want to develop state-owned land for transit-oriented development, since state-owned land is not currently taxable. There’s no revenue generation for the states or local jurisdictions. It also provides an opportunity for Marylanders to live closer to transit and use it more,” Maryland Department of Transportation’s Chief of Real Estate and Transit-Oriented Development, David Zaidain, said.

According to Zaidain, transportation

EarthTalk®
Q&A

3D Printed Houses: The New Frontier in Sustainable Building?

By Shashwat Mishra | September 18, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
How do 3D-printed houses stack up against conventional ones with regard to sustainability, both during construction and then in use?

—J. Homes, via email

3D printed homes are fast gaining traction as a sustainable alternative to traditional building. Proponents say they use less material, create less waste, and hold promise for efficient long term performance. The question is whether all this adds up in real life when compared to conventionally built houses.

3D printing offers several clear advantages. The additive process builds walls layer-by- layer using only what’s needed, drastically reducing waste. According to Bay Management Group, 3D methods can cut process waste and over engineering significantly, creating a shorter supply chain and a more eco friendly outcome. Unlike conventional framing which discards off cuts and excess materials, printed homes use nearly all the feedstock. Realistically that can reduce overall material consumption by up to 90 percent.

And there’s speed. A community of 100 3D printed homes built in Wolf Ranch, Texas was completed in just four to six weeks per home: a fraction of the six to eight months typical for wood frame builds. That means fewer machine hours, fewer diesel trucks hauling materials, and less energy burned on site. In Melbourne, Australia, company Luyten recently built a 3D printed house in just three weeks total.

Sustainability claims also hinge on materials used. Some 3D homes use advanced concrete mixes like Lavacrete, which provide strength and reduce carbon emissions. Others experiment with bio based feeds like wood waste with corn resin. Habib Dagher of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center described one model called BioHome3D as “100 percent renewable, because it is really bio based.” The pellets used in printing can be recycled and reused multiple times while retaining material properties. Also, many 3D printed homes deliver superior thermal mass thanks to concrete walls, which improve insulation and reduce heating and cooling needs. Companies like Mighty Buildings now integrate ultra low GWP (global warming potential) insulation to further reduce carbon footprint during operation.



PHOTO CREDIT: WOLF RANCH

3D-printed homes, like these at Wolf Ranch in Texas, use less material and create less waste and are fast gaining traction as a sustainable alternative to traditional building.

There are challenges. Printing still relies heavily on concrete, which has high embodied carbon unless offset or replaced with greener materials. Many finished homes still need traditional tradespeople to install plumbing, wiring, windows and interior finishes. Zoning codes and building rules also limit adoption in many markets. But once integrated with renewable energy and better materials, these homes could match or exceed conventional sustainability standards in both construction and ongoing use.

CONTACTS:
What are the Differences Between 3D Printed Houses and Traditional Houses? <https://cobod.com/what-are-the-differences-between-3d-printed-houses-and-traditional-houses/>; Revolutionizing Construction: 10 Ways 3D Printing is Changing Homes, <https://www.sq4d.com/10-benefits-of-3d-printed-homes-over-traditional-construction/>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Housing from A5

is the second biggest household budget item behind housing. It costs roughly \$600 a month for Marylanders to own a car, which is pushing the state towards more transit usage.

Zaidain also noted the climate change benefits that come with transit-oriented development.

The executive order directs the state to speed up timelines for housing permits and establish a state housing ombudsman, or overseer, to help projects move forward.

The legislation comes on the heels of a 2024 legislative package that made housing more affordable and accessible for Marylanders struggling with construction barriers, along with creating the Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs.

The Housing Starts Here order also directs agencies to track housing production progress annually, coordinate with local governments to address regional shortages and ensure accountability across jurisdictions.

By centralizing oversight and removing barriers, the administration aims to close the housing deficit and expand affordable options for Marylanders in the years ahead.

“When regulatory processes add cost, that cost has to be recouped—either with higher rents or a higher sales price. So, the more regulatory burden we place, the more likely it is that we’re just producing expensive [places] for people to live,” Secretary Day said. “By cutting time and money out of the process, by streamlining it, we can make it easier to get to the finish line.”

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