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Kevin Durant's 35V Creates Joint Venture and Enters Into Purchase Agreement to Acquire and Reimagine 515-Acre Former Six Flags Site in Prince George's County, Md.

By PRESS OFFICER
35V

BOWIE, Md. (April 8, 2026)—A joint venture between 35V, the investment firm co-founded by Prince George's County native and basketball superstar Kevin Durant and Rich Kleiman, and Atlanta-based TPA Group, has been selected by Six Flags Entertainment Corporation (NYSE: FUN) as the buyer and future steward of a 515-acre site in Prince George's County.

This milestone marks a pivotal step forward for the property and the broader Prince George's County community. The selection follows a comprehensive process to identify a development team with the experience, long-term vision, and com-

mitment to community partnership necessary to guide the site's next chapter.

The Joint Venture brings a shared focus on responsible, community-centered investment, and a proven track record of executing complex, large-scale projects. Together, they are committed to unlocking the massive potential of the site, while working collaboratively with local and state leaders, residents, and other community stakeholders to ensure the future of the site reflects the priorities and aspirations of Prince George's County.

Durant Family Foundation President Wanda Durant, a Prince George's County native, will serve as an advocate for community interests in the project, helping to ensure that community voices remain central as plans for the site come together.

Executive Commentary

Rich Kleiman, Co-Founder, 35V

"We have been invested in the Prince George's County community for many years, and to be able to build something that combines scale with real impact was an opportunity we couldn't pass up. We're looking forward to working with our partners at TPA and the entire community to create positive economic opportunity for the region."

Wanda Durant, President, Durant Family Foundation

"This land represents decades of memories for families across the region. As we look ahead, it's essential that what comes next honors that legacy by creating new opportunities for residents—es-

pecially young people—and strengthens the community for years to come. We are excited to be part of the next chapter of Prince George's County."

John Reilly, President & Chief Executive Officer, Six Flags

"After a thorough selection process, we are pleased to name 35V and TPA Group as the future stewards of this significant property. Their combined vision for the site is compelling, and we are confident that their expertise will create lasting value for the region. This agreement reflects Six

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House Speaker Peña-Melnyk Says She's Aiming to "Meet the Moment"

Joseline Peña-Melnyk, who was elected House speaker late last year, making history in Maryland as the first Afro-Latina and second woman in that role, said there's still more to accomplish this session.

By RHIANNON EVANS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 8, 2026)—The bells in the State House rang for a third time one recent morning, signaling it was time for the House floor session to start. Joseline Peña-Melnyk strode out of her office and onto the chamber floor.

At the lectern, Peña-Melnyk struck the gavel, calling for delegates to quiet down. She was about to lead the session.

It was the new norm for 59-year-old Peña-Melnyk, who was elected House speaker late last year, making history in Maryland as the first Afro-Latina and second woman in that role. The Democrat representing parts of Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties said she's looking to "meet the moment."

With only days left in the session, Peña-Melnyk said she has a lot still to accomplish. Her agenda has focused on increasing government accountability and addressing affordability concerns.

"We're trying to make sure that when we leave here and adjourn, the people are in a better place," she said in a recent interview with Capital News Service. "And I believe we will do that."

Early in the session, Peña-Melnyk helped push Democratic priorities, including fighting against increased federal immigration enforcement.

She championed a bill that bans local law enforcement officials from having agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The emergency bill was signed into law by Gov. Wes Moore on Feb. 17.

The speaker also co-sponsored a bill that would prohibit law enforcement officials from wearing masks and face coverings in Maryland. The bill is pending in the House. The Senate approved a companion bill.

"We have to fight to make sure that we have protection for all people, make sure that we fight for civil rights," Peña-Melnyk said.

Pressing for health care bills

When redistricting, another priority for the speaker, stalled, Peña-Melnyk persisted.

"I'm on plan A," she said at a recent press conference. "We passed the bill. The House made it a priority. It is in the Senate, and there's still time for the bill to pass."

Despite her push, Senate President Bill Ferguson, also a Democrat, wouldn't budge, arguing a new map could be challenged in court.

Peña-Melnyk, former chair of the House Health Committee, also pressed for health care-related bills, one of her signature issues. She recently testified in support of a bill to better inform patients about mammogram results and another bill that would require more training and education on menopause. Both bills are awaiting action in the Senate.

She had pledged early in the session to work across the aisle.

"It's not just your mouth or your words, it's your actions."

—Joseline Peña-Melnyk



RHIANNON EVANS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Democratic House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk speaks at a press conference with the bipartisan Rural Caucus in Annapolis March 31, 2026 in Annapolis.

One of her first acts was establishing the Rural Caucus, a bipartisan group of delegates working to ensure rural Marylanders' concerns are addressed.

"Regardless of personal ideologies or views on various issues, she really looks for consensus," said Jeanette Ortiz, director of government affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and a longtime friend of the speaker.

Some House Republicans, however, have complained that GOP-backed proposals haven't been supported under Democratic leadership.

Del. Lauren Arikian, R-Harford, said she was frustrated after her amendment, which would restore some funds to the Developmental Disability Administration, failed last week.

"It seemed to me like the Democratic leadership actually instructed their members not to do that," she said on a podcast hosted by Del. Mark Fisher, R-Calvert, a member of the Maryland Freedom Caucus. "As you know, they often do."

Calling for action

Peña-Melnyk said the transition to speaker has been a "transformative journey."

She started as a lawyer and served on nonprofit boards while raising three children. She was elected to the College Park City Council from 2003 to 2006 before becoming a delegate.

"When Joseline was elected, I knew immediately that she was dynamic and was going to be a great partner to advance things in our community," said Prince George's County Council member Eric Olson, District 3, who served with Peña-Melnyk.

Olson recalled how Peña-Melnyk had called on the state to address safety concerns along U.S. Route 1.

"We tried the nice approach with the state," said Olson, adding that when that didn't work Peña-Melnyk staged a march down Route 1 to raise visibility.

Peña-Melnyk said something had to be done after 15 pedestrian deaths on the roadway. The march, she said, led to more funding for a safety project.

"Sometimes you have to be creative and leave it all out there to be heard," she said. "It's not just your mouth or your words, it's your actions."

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Council Member Ivey Partners With The Arc, Other Providers to Launch Autism Coalition

The alliance is actively recruiting service providers, advocates, and educators to strengthen support for residents with autism

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Council Media

Council Member Jolene Ivey (At-Large) teamed up with The Arc of Prince George's County, the Autism Society of Maryland, Spectrum of Hope, and other autism care providers to launch the Prince George's County Autism Coalition (PGCAC) last month. Ahead of its first meeting, which will be held virtually on April 30, PGCAC is actively welcoming new members, including direct service providers, government agency representatives, educators, advocates, and non-profits. PGCAC's diverse coalition of organizations aims to simplify how community members with autism access services, resources, and support

throughout the region.

PGCAC's meeting on April 30 will feature a presentation from the Maryland Equity Coalition for People with Disabilities on creating a more equitable disability services system. Registration is available here: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2ee26401-4e83-45a8-b963-f4d084dfe77@4146bdda-ddc1-4d2a-a1b2-1a64cc3c837b?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

The coalition's core mission is threefold: to build a robust network and infrastructure that families can navigate with confidence, to streamline communication across the stake-

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Bowie State University Selected for National Career Preparation Program

By ZAMONE PEREZ
Maryland News Connection, Public News Service

A Maryland college has been selected for a national initiative to promote career readiness among college students. One staff member explains how focusing on career readiness will help student success.

Bowie State University was selected to take part in Lumina Foundation's From Campus to Career initiative. The university will receive \$100,000 over two years to devote to what higher education professionals call "high-impact practices"—student activities such as internships, research grants and capstone projects that provide hands-on workforce preparation. Jared Moffett, the university's

executive director for experiential learning and career readiness, said the initiative will prepare students to land that first job after graduation.

"This particular initiative through the Lumina Foundation," he said, "is really helping to support and help colleges integrate real-world, career-focused experiences like internships and community-based projects and e-portfolios into academic programs so students are better prepared for the workforce."

The 16 selected campuses

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This is not just an environmental issue. It is a matter of equity, public health, and economic justice.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VBS

Join Clinton United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School July 13–July 17, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. Our Theme this year is Snowball Mountain Challenge: FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD. Pre-K–5th Graders, 6th Graders will be helpers in the classrooms. Please register your child for VBS Registration on our website. If you need a form or more information, please contact Audrey Johnson, VBS Director on 301-922-5384 or ajohnson12906@yahoo.com. Church office 301-868-1281, email: cumcmd@verizon.net, Web: <http://cumcmd.org/> Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Pastor, Rev. Melaina Trice.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Alvin Pinkett, Maudie Goodrum, Glenna Graves, Cosmus Samuel, Barron Neal, Elisa Magdalene Prah, Samuel Bell, Lindsey Joiner, Zilpha Pinkney, Claudette Oghogho, Nadia Long, Audrey Johnson, Eric Knight, Charmaine Grant, Amina Hinton, Harris Tay, Sarita Georges, William Stroman, III, Zahara Hakim Hinton, Jerre Kauffman, Aiden Josiah Adeyemo, Zora Oghogho, Liyah Carpenter, Mmachi Helen Mbakwe, William Stroman, IV, Mallory Tay who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in April.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Ron and Beth Davis, Lloyd and Shirley Brown, Trevor and Dense Bourne, Norman and Jean Noel, Clarence and Dorothy Glasgow Reid, George and Karen Taylor, Cosmus and Stephanie Samuel who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in April.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH BSU

HEY ALUMNI, is your information up to date? Calling all BSU alumni: if you moved or changed your email or mailing address, please let us know. By keeping your information current, you will continue to receive BSU news and updates. Please update your contact information. For questions and support, send an email to the Advancement Services office. Follow us on all social media platforms. Facebook: @BSUOAE Instagram: @BowieAlum, LinkedIn: Alumni Bowie State, Bowie State University YouTube.

MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION

Celebrate creativity, color, and community at National Harbor Spring into Art, a vibrant spring art show set along the waterfront at National Harbor. Explore a wide variety of handmade art, crafts, jewelry, home décor, gifts, and creative works from talented local artisans and small businesses. It's the perfect opportunity to find unique Mother's Day gifts while enjoying a lively outdoor atmosphere filled with inspiration and spring vibes.

What to Expect: Handmade art and artisan creations, unique gifts and Mother's Day finds, support local artists and small businesses, a colorful springtime shopping experience. The celebration is Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 12 Noon–6 p.m. American Way, National Harbor, National Harbor, Maryland. Free admission, pet friendly, rain or shine event. Bring your friends, family, and furry companions for a fun and inspiring day celebrating art and creativity by the water, just in time for Mother's Day.

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

Six Flags sale "creates new opportunities" for youth

Last November, Six Flags closed its Bowie amusement park after half a century, leaving Prince Georgians anxious about the future of the 515-acre property.

On April 8, County Executive Aisha Braveboy announced that Six Flags Entertainment Corporation has chosen to sell the site to a partnership between 35V and TPA Group. 35V is an investment firm led by pro-basketball player Kevin Durant.

While Durant now plays for the Houston Rockets, he was born in D.C. and grew up in Seat Pleasant, Md., starting his high school basketball career with two years at National Christian Academy in Fort Washington. Durant has supported numerous philanthropic causes in the area and around the country, establishing the Durant Family Foundation to further his charitable work.

Foundation president, Kevin's mother, Wanda Durant, released a statement about the purchase of the Six Flags site that spoke of the redevelopment "creating new opportunities for residents—especially young people—and strengthens the community for years to come."

Although plans are still in early stages, Braveboy anticipates a "destination development" with "mixed commercial uses," potentially including entertainment, retail, and restaurants. There also is some discussion of whether the plans will include any residential development. The process will include community meetings where residents can weigh in on the plans.

I'm just relieved that the none of the announcements say anything about data centers.

VFW election

Congratulations to Karen Rooker, who has been voted back in as the District 1 president of the Maryland VFW Auxil-

iary. Also, she reports that VFW Post 9619 in Morningside will be electing new officers on April 14.

Who won the Bunny Egg Hunt?

Congratulations to the winners of the Lunch with the Bunny Egg Hunt in Morningside!

In the ages 1–2 category, Myla Willhite found the Gold Egg and also found the most eggs (15), while Sevyne Dozier found the Silver Egg.

For the 3–5-year-olds, Gold went to Mya Purce, Silver went to Jazmin Foster, and Joey Foster found the most eggs (29).

Kayden McCallister got the Gold Egg and the most found (21) for the ages 6–8 category, with Aleiah Foster finding the Silver Egg. And Fayth Purce found the 9–12 years Gold Egg, while Jace Elliot found the Silver Egg and also found the most eggs of the whole day, with a staggering 56!

Mother's Day event

Time is running out to sign up for the Morningside Flowers with Mom event, which will be held May 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A brunch of Danish, fruit, juice, and coffee will be served, and then participants will get to do an arts-and-crafts project. There is no charge, but seating is limited, so registration is required. Call 301-736-2300 to reserve your (and your mother's) spot.

Morningside P.D.

The Morningside Police Department is in the process of establishing a new K–9 unit. Chief Franklin recently took a trip up to Connecticut to scope out candidates for the job. They hope to find two dogs.

Knights of Columbus 4076 has fun events coming up

Richard Landon sent me a few upcoming

VACCINATIONS

Are your child's vaccinations up to date? Beat the rush! Vaccines protect your child from serious illnesses and help keep our schools and community healthy. Required for school enrollment. Safe, tested and recommended by Medical Experts. Protects your family and those around you. Prevent measles, mumps, whooping cough and more.

No child should go without protection. If your child is eligible, we've got you covered. They may qualify for free vaccines through the vaccines for children (VFC) Program if: Has Medicaid, is uninsured, is American Indian or Alaska Native, is underinsured (has health insurance that doesn't cover vaccines). Charles County Department of Health, 4545 Highway, White Plains, Maryland 301-609-6900, Ext. 6018, charlescountyhealth.org.

COMEDY NIGHT

Comedy Night with Miss Gayle and friends Friday, April 24, 2026, from 8–10 p.m. Ticket Price: \$30 / \$25 Senior/Student. Event Category: All ages, arts, performances. The location is Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com 301-203-6070.

ANNUAL MONTPELIER FESTIVAL

Annual Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea, and the Arts will be held Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Ticket price is free. Age: All Ages. Event Category: 250th Anniversary, all ages, arts, festivals, free, history, nature and outdoor performance, performances, special event. Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, Maryland, montpelierarts@pgparks.com Montpelier Historic Site & Museum 301-377-7817 montpeliermansion@pgparks.com, 9650 Muirkirk Road Laurel, Maryland.

THE HBCU EXPERIENCE

The Ultimate HBCU Experience, a day designated to inspire, connect, and prepare young scholars for their future. Hosted by Parks & Recreation M-NCPPC live more, play more. This free event will take place Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. with an After Party from 7–10 p.m. in District 9 at the Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex in Brandywine, 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613. Youth ages 13 & up will enjoy interactive workshops, college representatives, special guest appearances, prizes, giveaways, and lunch provided. Register today. See you at Orientation. Registration is required, go to pgparksdirect.com using activity codes 20673-275A (The Ultimate Experience) 23313-275A (Bounce, Beats, and Bites After Party). This is a great opportunity to explore the HBCU experience right here in the community. Connect with us! Facebook @pgcparks, @pgparksandrecrea The Department of Parks and recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification. Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance. Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing and have a disability call Maryland Relay 7-1-1. For more information, please email us at info.hbcu@parks.com. Prince George's County Public Schools are not sponsoring, endorsing or recommending the activities announced in this material/flyer.

Cheltenham Investigation Bill Moves Forward With Little Opposition

By MIRA BEINART
Capital News Service

The state-led investigation into the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center is continuing to push through the Maryland Legislature, with a revised bill advancing through the House of Delegates.

The Senate bill, introduced by Sen. William C. Smith Jr. (D-Montgomery County), received little pushback Thursday during a hearing by the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee.

"[We are] making an attempt to reunify families with that tragic history, to understand exactly what happened, to hold this history up as an example of what happens when we lose touch with our values," Smith said.

The bill "is a very important step to understand our history and to understand who we are and how we can do better," Smith said.

Smith's bill, which passed the Senate 45-0 in March, is similar to a measure sponsored by Del. Jeffrie E. Long Jr., D-Calvert and Prince George's, which passed the House 129-1. Passing the bills is a priority for the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Both bills are making their way through committee hearings in the opposite chambers.

Last year, a Capital News Service investigation found that over 200 boys died in state custody at the Cheltenham institution in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the boys were buried in unmarked graves in a wooded area near the facility.

The bills would create a com-



MIRA BEINART/
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Rows of cinderblocks mark where an unknown number of boys are buried near the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center, formally known as the House of Reformation for Colored Boys, where an estimated 300 boys died.

mission, chaired by the Maryland Attorney General's Office, to lead an independent investigation to "put together a narrative to understand what happened," Smith said. The commission will work with experts from a variety of fields to conduct genealogical, historical, legal and records research.

The Office of the Attorney General said it has started laying the groundwork to stand up the commission. "If enacted as expected, we anticipate the Commission will be fully constituted and holding its organizational meeting this fall, with substantive work underway before the end of 2026," a spokesperson for the agency said in a statement.

—Alex Taylor contributed to this article

Six Flags from A1

Flags' disciplined approach to portfolio optimization and allows us to continue focusing on our core portfolio while ensuring this land remains a cornerstone of economic opportunity for the community."

Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County Executive

"We are thrilled to welcome 35V and TPA Group as partners in shaping the future of this site. Their emphasis on collaboration and community impact aligns with our goals for sustainable economic growth and community enrichment. We look forward to working together to ensure this redevelopment delivers meaningful benefits to our residents for generations to come."

35V is the family office co-founded by Kevin Durant and Rich Kleiman in 2016. The business encompasses a range of interests including investments, philanthropy, sports, and media.

TPA Group is an Atlanta-based private real estate investment and development firm. With a focus on delivering high-quality commercial projects, TPA has a proven track record of managing complex and large-scale developments across the United States.

Moment from A1

'I don't take it for granted'

Peña-Melnyk said her upbringing has shaped her legislative priorities. She said she grew up in a tiny home in the Dominican Republic with a cement floor and a metal roof that would leak into pots and pans when it rained.

"There's just no way that I can separate myself, divorce myself from that upbringing, which keeps you grounded and keeps you humble," she said. "You know what it's like not to have it, so every policy that I fight for, every bill I introduce, I ask, 'What is the bill trying to fix here?'"

Heidi Gonzalez Ramirez, a first-generation student at the University of Maryland, called it "very impactful" to see Peña-Melnyk leading the House.

"We're just really thankful to hear people speaking up there in Spanish and how it really affects us," said Gonzalez Ramirez, who attended the legislature's opening day in January. "It hits home, seeing somebody that was able to overcome so many obstacles, being a woman, being Latina."

The Legislative Black Caucus saluted Peña-Melnyk Thursday, noting her historic role as the second woman to serve as speaker. The first was her predecessor, Adrienne Jones, D-Baltimore County.

"In every decision I make, I have you in mind and our people to make sure that we leave doors open for people that look like us because we are very capable," Peña-Melnyk, who received flowers and an award, told the caucus. "We have to work twice as hard and the expectations are much higher. But I want you to know that I don't take it for granted."

Capital News Service reporters Alexander Taylor, Nolan Rogalski and Sam Gauntt contributed to this story.

COMMUNITY

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated *(Zeta Mu Chapter/Upper Marlboro, MD)*— **Old Bay & Emeralds Crab Feast**

By LATRICE BROGSDALE-DAVIS
Zeta Mu Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

The Zeta Mu Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., cordially invites you to join us at our “Old Bay & Emeralds” Crab Feast on **Friday, May 15, 2026**, at Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD (7 p.m.–11 p.m.)—\$125/pp / Cash Bar/ Live DJ / 50-50 Raffle

Menu includes:
Steamed Crabs, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Chicken, Fried Fish, Soup, Sides & Salad Bar, Fruit, Desserts & More. Secure your tickets NOW:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/old-bay-and-emeralds-crab-feast>

Join us for an unforgettable

evening of delicious food, music, dancing, raffles, and community all while supporting a powerful cause. Proceeds benefit the Zeta Mu Elite Pathways to Success Foundation, Inc., helping generate vital funding for scholarships, entrepreneurship programming, leadership development, and life-changing support for youth and families in our community.”

Don’t wait—tickets are selling quickly and won’t last! Grab your seat, invite your friends, and come ready to enjoy a night of flavor, fun, and fellowship.

An unforgettable evening awaits and we look forward to seeing you there!

Autism from A1

holder landscape, and to amplify the reach of existing resources and community events.

“My commitment to advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities spans nearly two decades, dating back to my time as a delegate in Annapolis,” said Council Member Ivey. “Real accessibility happens when communities and experts connect, and that is exactly what we are working to make possible.”

“Too many families are left to navigate a fragmented system on their own,” said Rob Malone, Executive Director of The Arc of Prince George’s County. “This coalition was built to change that, to create one connected community where no one falls through the cracks, and every resource is within reach.”

You can learn more about PGCAC at beacons.ai/PGCAutismCoalition.

A Partnership for Health: Kaiser Permanente Invests \$95,000 in Community Benefits Access

Grant Expands Lifeline to Benefits for Local Families

By PRESS OFFICER
The Arc of Prince George’s County

LARGO, Md. (April 8, 2026)—Assistance is on the way for families in Prince George’s County who are juggling work, caregiving, and rising costs, and the stress of losing access to health insurance coverage. For many families, the challenge with health insurance isn’t eligibility—it’s navigating a complicated system without support.

A new \$95,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States will help to ease this burden for many families.

The funding will strengthen The Arc Prince George’s County’s Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) by expanding hands-on assistance for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, underserved populations, and seniors to ensure they receive the public benefits for which they are eligible. Each year, the BEC helps secure between \$1.5 and \$2 million in benefits for Prince George’s County families—resources that might otherwise go unclaimed.

Through one-on-one guidance, educa-

tion, and advocacy, the BEC ensures participants not only enroll in benefits but understand and maintain them. The grant from Kaiser Permanente will allow The Arc to broaden outreach, increase staffing capacity, and continue delivering culturally responsive support throughout the county.

“This support is truly transformational for the people we serve,” said Melonee Clark, Division Director of Education and Community Engagement at The Arc Prince George’s County. “Behind every enrollment is a real person—a parent trying to keep their child covered, a caregiver seeking stability, or an individual advocating for their own independence. Kaiser Permanente’s partnership allows us to show up for our community with compassion, expertise, and the time it takes to make sure no one is navigating these systems alone.”

By addressing barriers to benefits access, The Arc’s Benefits Enrollment Center helps improve health outcomes, reduce financial stress, and advance equity for people who too often fall through the cracks.

“At Kaiser Permanente, part of our mission is to improve the health of the

communities we serve. For many the inability to access health insurance coverage and other essential benefits can be real barriers to good health and wellbeing. To help address this, we are proud to award grants that expand access to health resources and other supportive benefits in the greater Maryland community,” said Ondrea McIntyre-Hall, Senior Director of Community Health at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States. “Supporting programs like The Arc’s Benefit Enrollment Center ensures that more families in our community can access the benefits and care they deserve.”

In 2027, The Arc of Prince George’s County marks 75 years of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families honoring the people, progress, and persistence that have shaped our work since 1951. The Arc Prince George’s County legacy and commitment is showing what equity and inclusion looks like in real life by celebrating where we’ve been, recognizing the community that made it possible, and reaffirming our belief that everyone deserves dignity, opportunity, and belonging.

Program from A1

represent a large swath of higher-education institutions, from regional public universities to historically Black colleges and universities such as Bowie [State].

Moffett said students face a more daunting job market than in years past. That includes students who are more often reporting a skills gap between what

they learned in school and what an employer demands for a job. He also pointed to experience gaps as more employers seek out prior work experience for entry-level positions. Moffett said those challenges are also shaped by larger shifts in the world, such as the rise of artificial intelligence.”

“Students are facing a complex, rapidly evolving job market,” he said. “his

is shaped by economic and political shifts that are happening, technological changes, including AI and also rising employer expectations.”

According to the Federal Reserve, recent college graduates have an unemployment rate of nearly 6%. That marks a major, multi-year increase, signaling one of the toughest job markets for college graduates in a decade.



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COMMENTARY

Antoine M. Thompson

CEO & Executive Director, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition



This Earth Day, Environmental Justice Must Mean Action for Prince George's County

This Earth Day, many of us will plant trees, clean up neighborhoods, and recommit ourselves to protecting our planet. But in Prince George's County, environmental justice cannot just be symbolic, it must be urgent, tangible, and rooted in the reality that too many families are struggling to breathe.

According to the American Lung Association, Prince George's County has received an F grade for air quality. That is not just a statistic, it is a

public health crisis. Poor air quality is directly linked to higher rates of asthma, heart disease, and emergency room visits. It means more children missing school, more seniors fighting preventable illnesses, and more families burdened by rising healthcare costs.

Environmental injustice does not happen by accident. For decades, communities like ours have been disproportionately exposed to pollution, from highways cutting through neighborhoods to in-

dustrial facilities placed near homes and schools. The result is clear: predominantly Black and Brown communities, like many in Prince George's County, bear the heaviest burden of environmental harm.

This is not just an environmental issue. It is a matter of equity, public health, and economic justice.

I believe we must move beyond acknowledging these disparities and start fixing them. That begins with stronger oversight of polluters and real accountability for those who violate environmental standards. We need to invest in clean energy solutions that reduce emissions while creating good-paying jobs and cultivate cutting edge industries right here in our community. And we must ensure that every family, regardless of zip code, has access to clean air, clean water, and green spaces.

This Earth Day, we should also recognize that environmental justice is about the future we are building for our children. When air quality is poor, it limits opportunity. Children with asthma are more likely to miss school and fall behind. Families facing chronic health issues have fewer economic opportunities. Clean air is not a luxury; it is foundational to a thriving community.

Prince George's County is full of resilient, vibrant neighborhoods. But resilience should not mean enduring preventable harm. It should mean having the resources, protection, and investments needed to thrive. Indeed, with the right plan and execution, Prince George's County can become the green innovative capital of the Greater Washington Region.

We have a choice. We can continue to accept environmental inequities as the status quo, or we can take bold action to correct them. This Earth Day must be a turning point, a moment when we commit not just to protecting the environment, but to protecting the people who call this community home.

Because environmental justice is not just about the earth. It's about us.

Antoine M. Thompson is the CEO & Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, a leading clean energy and transportation and environmental organization, serving DC, Maryland and Virginia. He is nationally recognized for his work on the environment and housing policy. He is a former NYS Senator, and the first African American to Chair the NYS Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

If Either of us Die, Will the Other Get a Social Security Survivor Benefit?

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

Dear Rusty: I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before, and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong. *Signed: Curious Spouse*

Dear Curious Spouse: A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (or at the local SS field office) to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either the ex-spouse, or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse—either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits (including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children). Read the article titled "Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits" at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1.888.750.2622, or email us at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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.

Piscataway WRRF Bioenergy Facility Wins Build America Award

By PRESS OFFICER
PC Construction

ACCOKEEK, Md. (April 9, 2026)—PC Construction is pleased to announce the company has been recognized with a Baldwin Group Build America Award in recognition of its efforts on WSSC Water's \$269 million Piscataway WRRF Bioenergy Facility in Accokeek, Maryland. The award, in the Utility Infrastructure Renovation category, recognizes both the complexity of the project and the project team's innovation and delivery.

The Piscataway WRRF Bioenergy Facility is the largest and most technically advanced undertaking in WSSC Water's history. Tasked with transforming a traditional wastewater facility into a cutting-edge bioenergy powerhouse, the design-build team of PC Construction, Stantec, and Hazen and Sawyer successfully delivered the project on time and under budget, a monumental feat for an expansive facility involving some of the most complex systems in the industry. The facility is one of only seven in the country to incorporate an advanced Thermal Hydrolysis Process (THP) to efficiently transform biosolids into green energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving customers money.

This project was WSSC Water's first foray into progressive design-build delivery. The collaborative model allowed the team to manage high-risk technical challenges, supply chain hurdles, and complex commissioning requirements with transparency, innovation, and a commitment to quality.

PC Construction President / CEO Matt Cooke stated, "Winning the Build America Award is a proud moment for our entire team. It proves that with the right combination of creativity, collaboration, and planning, we can incorporate innovative infrastructure that addresses substantial industry challenges. I am so grateful for the exceptional team that came together to deliver this outstanding project."

The facility, which was fully operational in late 2025, is pro-



COURTESY PHOTO

The WSSC Bioenergy Facility in Accokeek

jected to generate approximately \$4 million per year in revenue, save WSSC Water customers approximately \$3.4 million per year in operating costs, and further reduce WSSC Water's greenhouse gas emissions.

PC Construction is an industry-leading construction manager, design-builder, and general contractor serving private and public clients across the country. The company manages projects along the east coast from its headquarters in Vermont and offices in Florida, Georgia, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic. From specialized buildings to complex water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, PC Construction is ranked annually as one of the top contractors in the country. Founded in 1958, PC Construction is guided to success by its team of talented employee-owners. Connect with us at pconstruction.com.

Maryland General Assembly Approves Commonsense Legislation to Stop DIY Machine Guns

By MICHAEL MARENO
Office of Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.
Prince George's County - District 22

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 8, 2026)—Today, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Stop DIY Machine Guns Act (SB 334/HB 577) legislation introduced by Public Safety Subcommittee Chairwoman, Delegate Nicole Williams.

"Today, my colleagues and I took another step forward that will help keep Maryland families safe from gun violence," said Delegate Nicole Williams. "By ensuring that pistols sold in our state cannot be easily converted into machine guns that fire up to 20 rounds per second, we are taking active steps to reduce crime, reduce bloodshed and keep families safe."

The legislation requires that all pistols sold in the state of Maryland are designed to prevent quick and easy modifications that allow certain firearms to be converted into an illegal, fully automatic machine gun. At present, so-called "Glock switches" are tiny pieces of metal or plastic that can be added to certain pistols. Such devices, despite being illegal under federal and Maryland laws, can be purchased for as little as \$25 or printed at home using a 3D printer. In 2025, these modifications were found at at least four crime scenes in Maryland as well as the Morgan State University mass shooting in 2023.

The legislation was supported by community and gun violence prevention organizations.

The Prince George's Post

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ENVIRONMENT

As Monarch Butterflies Repopulate, Expert Calls for More Habitat in MD

By ZAMONE PEREZ
Maryland News Connection, Public News Service

Monarch butterfly populations saw a large uptick in population in 2025, a second year of growth since a near-record low and experts are calling on people to support the species by planting more habitat.

Each year, scientists in Mexico measure the number of acres monarch butterflies occupy. Last year, monarchs lived through the winter season on more than seven acres of land, up from just 4.4 acres the year before.

Kristen Baum, director of the nonprofit Monarch Watch, urged caution, though. Few monarch eggs actually mature to adulthood, so populations can fluctuate greatly depending on if the monarchs happen to have a good survival rate.

"If you have a year where just a few more make it, then you can see drastic increases in the population," Baum explained. "If you have the reverse, a few less make it, then you can see big declines. So you have big fluctuations."

This is the second year of population growth for the monarch after registering its second-lowest population numbers in 2023. Since the 1980s, monarch butterfly populations have declined by more than 80%. Monarch butterflies weigh less than a paper clip and can travel more than 3,000 miles during their migration.

Baum emphasized the need for more waystations to feed and shelter monarchs, even on balconies of small apartments. It is important waystations have native plants to nourish them, and as their only food source, milkweed plants are essential to supporting monarch caterpillars.

"Getting habitat out there on the ground is a big one," Baum stressed. "Every little bit helps, even if you just live in an apartment and have a pot of some nice fall flowering Asters, on your patio. You might get some visitation as well."

There are more than 1,400 registered waystations in Maryland alone.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Polar Bears Still Under Water in the Thawing Arctic

By Saanvi Doshi | April 1, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:

Are polar bears still in decline due to global warming?

—Patty Finch, Bowie, MD

Polar bears are a big part of the Arctic ecosystem. However, they are grappling with huge changes to their homes due to the effects of climate change. The bears are now listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This puts them at a high risk of being endangered, which means they are at significant risk of extinction. The global polar bear population is estimated to be around 26,000. Some subpopulations are stable, while others are declining as a result of habitat fragmentation.

Greenhouse gas emissions have driven worldwide temperatures to an all-time high, causing Arctic Sea ice to melt. This is a crisis as polar bears rely on ice for all parts of their routine. Thus, polar bears are losing their habitats. Melting ice also affects the bears' ability to hunt, since ice serves as a hunting platform. This affects not only adult bears and their survival, but also the cubs. According to Dr. Steven Amstrup, Chief Scientist Emeritus at Polar Bears International, "the longer the sea ice is gone from the productive zone, the tougher it is on the bears."

Different polar bear populations have been affected in different ways. To wit, the populations in the Western Hudson Bay and Southern Beaufort Sea have faced the greatest decline. However, populations in the Barents Sea and Gulf of Boothia are likely to be stable at the moment. It's important to note that many other regions are data deficient, causing a gap in statistics and information availability. In the late Dr. Ian Sterling's book, "Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species", he asserts that "it is vital that all humans and their respective governments...help reduce greenhouse gas emissions...to ensure that both sea ice and polar bears persist for our children..."

Challenges in addressing these issues persist. International policy responses are slow, and industrial development continues to encroach on polar bears' habitat and territory. Also, since the polar bear population is dispersed across 19 subregions, it's hard to effectively coordinate actions between regions.

That being said, progress has still been made. The 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears brought together the five nations with the highest polar bear populations (Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia and the U.S.), all who recognize that polar bears need effective protection. Furthermore, organizations like Polar Bears International and the World Wildlife Fund promote conservation, research, and advocacy. Individuals can support polar bear populations by supporting organizations, educating themselves, and being involved in advocacy. By saving these animals, we commit to taking action on climate change, both for humanity and the world.

CONTACTS: Polar Bears International, polarbearsinternational.org; World Wildlife Fund, protect.worldwildlife.org; International Union for the Conservation of Nature, iucn.org/.

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LOCAL WARMING: CLIMATE CHANGE IN MARYLAND

Bringing Solar Power—and Savings—to Baltimore City Residents

By CASEY GLICKMAN
Capital News Service

When Janete Gonzalez went to the Druid Hill Park farmers market in the fall of 2022, she was a new Baltimore City resident, having just moved after a house fire destroyed everything she owned. That day, she expected to leave the northern Baltimore market with food and maybe some health care products.

Instead, she left with solar panels.

"I originally assumed that solar panels were for people who had bigger land or lived in a better neighborhood," Gonzalez said. "I just didn't think it was for us."

But Civic Works, a nonprofit working to improve energy accessibility in Maryland, is changing that.

After visiting the organization's booth at the farmers market, Gonzalez joined its solar accessibility program. Now, she is one of more than four dozen Baltimore City residents who have received free solar panel installations as part of the Baltimore Shines program.

The program emerged as a partnership between the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development and Civic Works as an affordable solution for low-income residents to lower their electricity bills and make a positive impact on the environment.

Baltimore Shines started this round of solar installs in 2024 and as of December had completed 50 solar installations for income-qualifying homeowners. By the end of 2026, the program hopes to bring that number to 170 installations.

"Our goal is to really make it as easy and worry-free a process as possible for the resident," said Eli Allen, the senior program director at Civic Works.

Cost savings

After Gonzalez's first introduction to Baltimore Shines, she went through an almost yearlong process of information sessions, online applications, a roof assessment and several house visits. Her solar panels were installed in June 2023, and by December, they were generating power.

Now Gonzalez saves about 50% on her Baltimore Gas and Electric Company bill. Bills that came in around \$400 now average \$176–\$230 a month, she said.

"It gives that safeguard to really embrace the house that you have and lets you focus on family life," Gonzalez said.

Those savings are nothing unusual. According to 2024 fiscal year data from the Maryland Energy Administration, Baltimore Shines has cut residents' electricity bills by an average of \$1,500 annually.

"That's quite a significant amount," said Angel Saules, Maryland Energy Administration program manager. "That's over \$100 a month that people are able to save by having these systems installed."

On average, however, these savings are not consistent throughout the year due to seasonal changes in solar production.

Solar panels convert sunlight into electrical energy through photovoltaic panels. During the winter months, with fewer hours of sunlight, solar systems produce less energy. Coupled with an increase in heating needs, hot water usage and electricity for lighting, that means residents typically don't save as much in their energy bills during the colder months.

"It's great for the summer, not too much for the winter," said Baltimore Shines participant Tyresa German.

In the winter, German said she saves about \$50 per month; BGE bills that used to come in around \$250 now average \$200 per month. But once summer rolls around, German's bills drop to \$10–\$30 a month.

"My friends hate me," German joked. "Prior to getting the solar panels, I was doing a lot of overtime just so I could not feel drowned in the BGE bill."



SAM GAUNTT/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Solar panels provided under the Baltimore Shines program on a home in the city.

How it works

Baltimore Shines also ensures city residents aren't drowned by the cost of solar panels.

In Baltimore City, the average row home can safely handle an 11-kilowatt solar system, which costs residents between \$15,000 and \$18,000, said Victor Walters, associate director of outreach and intake at Civic Works.

That price tag makes solar energy a luxury that is out of reach for some.

With Baltimore Shines, residents pay zero out-of-pocket costs—but only low-income homeowners qualify for the program. Income limits range from \$26,338 for a single-person household to \$54,600 for a family of four to \$92,260 for a family of eight.

Under the program, Civic Works owns and operates the solar panels it installs on homes for a 20-year lease term, covering any maintenance issues or replacements residents may need.

To finance the program, Civic Works receives grants from a variety of sources, which previously included funding from a program called Solar for All.

However, after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency terminated \$7 billion in grants for Solar for All programs in August 2025, Baltimore Shines was forced to restructure to adjust for the lack of funding.

"We have had to cap the size of the solar system we are installing to be able to offer solar to more community residents," Walters said.

Now residents' solar systems are limited to 5.7 kilowatts—roughly half the size of previous systems installed under the program. If residents want to expand their system size, those costs come out of pocket, Walters said.

The Maryland Energy Administration Residential Energy Equity Program now serves as one of the program's main funding sources—and it expects demand for the program to grow.

"The way we expect to see that unfold is that we'll have more applicants for solar than we have in the past because there isn't going to be access in other ways," Saules said.

Why it matters

The chance to switch to solar matters for Baltimore City residents as BGE utility rates continue to climb. Since January 2025, BGE customers have seen multiple increases in their energy bills, with residents expecting to pay an average of \$26.06 more per month for combined gas and electric bills, according to 2025 energy bill information for BGE customers.

Low-income residents bear the brunt of the energy burden. In Baltimore, the median energy burden of low-income households was four times higher than non-low-income households, according to a 2020 report by the American Council

for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

The median household in Baltimore spent 3% of its income on its energy bill, yet median low-income Baltimore households spent 10.5%, according to the report.

Addressing the energy bills of low-income households simultaneously addresses climate change, Saules said.

"Our goals as a state are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a certain amount by a certain time," Saules said. "A good way to achieve that goal is to address the highest energy burden, which is typically in lower-income households."

Energy efficiency education is a crucial part of this conversation, she added. Being energy efficient can be as simple

as knowing how your everyday behaviors affect your energy usage, like turning off the water while brushing your teeth and not constantly adjusting your thermostat.

At Baltimore Shines, solar panels are the first step in making a home more energy efficient. Then comes homeowner support and education to help residents understand how usage affects their electricity bills each month.

"When we install a new efficiency model in someone's home, people sometimes think they can overuse any system," Walters said. "People start to use more energy because they are assuming that this newer product is going to save them so much."

Walters said staffers help residents feel confident in their decision to go solar. However, given the program's limited staffing size, this support is not always as timely as residents want it to be, he said.

"The biggest feedback that we have gotten from program participants is not knowing step by step what's going on," he said.

In some cases, after residents have gotten their solar panels installed, they think their system will be turned on immediately. However, solar panels can sit on the roof of someone's home for two to three months, awaiting city inspection and for BGE to connect the system.

To get ahead of such issues, Civic Works is working on new ways to improve communication with residents, Walters said.

But Gonzalez said the support she's gotten from Civic Works has been a key part of her Baltimore Shines experience. The program goes beyond just covering finances; it's about having access to resources to better understand the energy options available and how different systems will affect your finances and carbon footprint.

"I had access to learn about these things as a new homeowner—understanding the importance of energy savings and going green and all of these things we can do differently to contribute to the environment," Gonzalez said.

'Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene' Countywide Beautification Effort—Saturday, April 25

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 Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene – Spring! This countywide cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, rain or shine.

Registration for Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene closes Monday, April 20, 2026. Register: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/form/growing-green-with-pride-spring>

EarthTalk® Q&A Native Plants: Adapt or Perish as Climate Changes

By Bala Tella | April 1, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:

How can we help native plant species survive in a warmer world where their terrain is heating up as a result of climate change?

—Robert Billings, Seattle, WA

Native plants are very vulnerable to climate change. High temperatures mean they have to adjust to increased droughts and higher CO2 levels. Three options for native plants are available when presented with temperatures outside of their natural range of temperatures: they can adapt, migrate, or go extinct.

"We know that, because of climate, native species need to move," says Thomas Nuhlfer, a researcher in organic and evolutionary biology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Migration works slowly which means they won't be able to keep up with the rapid nature of climate change. Therefore, it's necessary for human assistance in moving plants into suitable environments. Climate change also encourages the growth of invasive species, which is happening right now and causing the population to increase exponentially. An increase in invasive species can lead to a rapid decrease in native plants, reducing biodiversity and making environments more prone to natural disasters.

Managed relocation is the process of helping plants move into new areas with better climate conditions. Although the extent to

which humans should intervene is debated, assisted migration is increasingly accepted as a necessary conservation strategy. Choosing which plants to relocate and where to move them involves several factors. Scientists have found there is an overlap between invasive traits and restoration. Therefore, choosing plants that have traits associated with invasive species is necessary as they often provide the tools necessary to create a plan for survival in a foreign environment. Apart from those, it's important to focus on traits that are helpful, such as high metabolic rate and large size.

Today, there are many types of ongoing conservation efforts. Seed banking includes gathering seeds from multiple plants to ensure the possibility of future reintroduction. Habitat protection involves preserving natural environments from destruction, helping to maintain biodiversity and providing a safe refuge for native species. Planting native species for enhances the durability of the ecosystem from natural disasters. Research and monitoring give us feedback about plants' response to climate change as well as new conservation efforts to use, which is important for policy feedback.

Every backyard can be a powerful tool for environmental change. Planting native species in yards supports pollinators and wildlife. Avoiding pesticides helps keep beneficial insects and soil organisms safe. Supporting reforestation contributes to habitat recovery. Encouraging nurseries to grow native plants creates sustainable options. These small actions can create a big impact.

CONTACTS: Xerces Society, www.xerces.org; UMass Amherst



PHOTO CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

Native plants are having a tough time adapting as the climate warms around the world, but some plants are better than others at it.

Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System, www.umass-caps.org.

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

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Morningside from A2

the final count is 165!

Now what they'll do for my 100th birthday, in 3 years? While I appreciated all the cards, I particularly enjoyed getting to hear from the folks who have moved away from the Morningside/Skyline area, but who haven't forgotten us.

It was such a pleasure to get updates from Dee, Veda, and Bill Curcio; Terry, Kathy, and Sharon Poe; Katie Diffell; Sharon, Larry, and Johnny Thompson; Teddy Burke; Jean and John Ihrig; Judy and Terry Zdobysz; Jim Reilly; Jill Gilmartin; Debbie Glagola; Peggy, Dee, and Mary Catherine Eskew; Diane Cummings; Patty Parco; Sarah Hayes; Barbara Mitchell; Nancy Stacey; Kathy Elborne; and Freda McDonald.

It was lovely to hear from all of you. And to anybody I may have left out, I'm sorry. I promise you I enjoyed your card!

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17; Cameron Trexler, April 19; Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill Gilmartin Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; Cindy Pitts, Jim Reilly, David Titus, Barbara Sparks, and Margaret White, April 23.

Happy Anniversary to Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers, April 18; Jim and Pat Conlon, April 20; John and Ruth Anthony, and Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, April 22; Janet and Brian Spivey, April 23.

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