

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 94, No. 19 May 7 — May 13, 2026

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

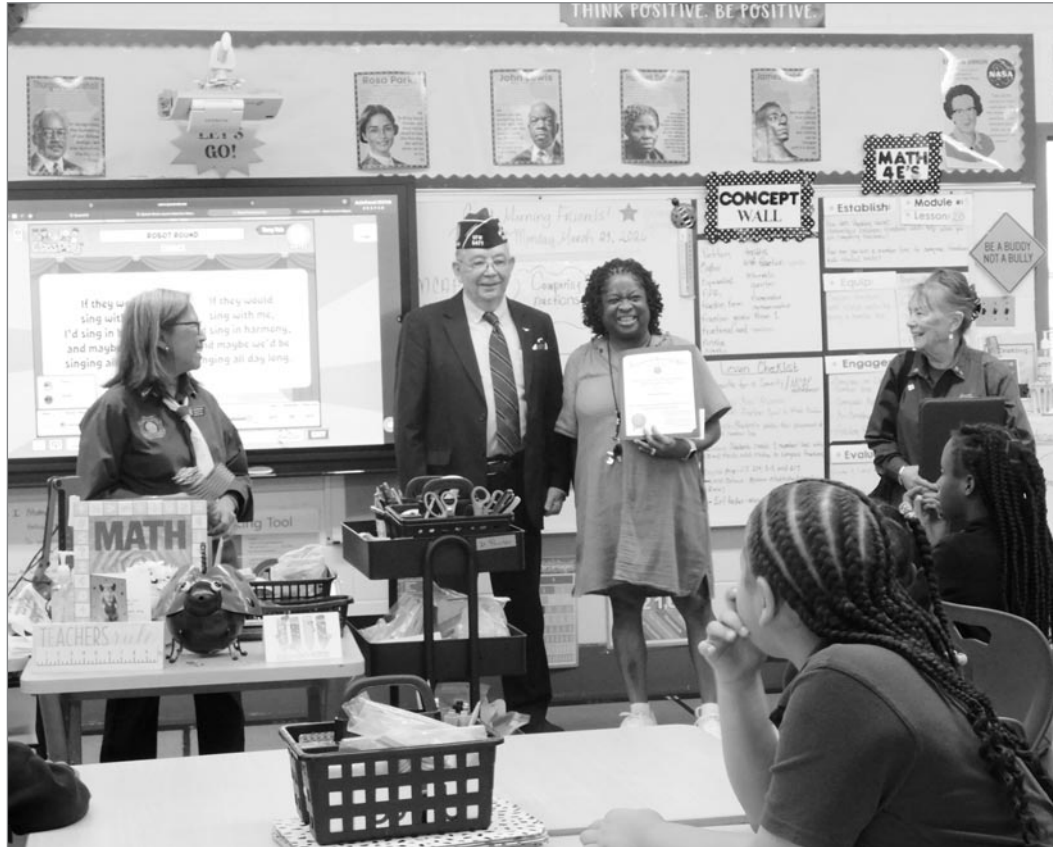
## The Veterans of Foreign Wars Celebrates Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region 2024–2025 Teacher of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
Imagine Schools  
Mid-Atlantic Region

LANHAM, Md. (April 27, 2026)—The Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region proudly recognized excellence in education during the 2024–2025 school year, highlighting educators who demonstrate innovation, leadership, and a deep commitment to scholar success. Among these honorees, Dr. Almena Pointer of Imagine Foundations at Morningside was named the region's National Teacher of the Year, reflecting her outstanding impact in the classroom and broader school community.

Dr. Pointer's teaching is marked by culturally responsive practices and project-based learning that connects scholars to real-world issues, helping them build critical thinking

See TEACHER Page A3



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Almena Pointer (center, holding award) received the recognition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to mark her excellence and dedication to education.

## Maryland Issues Notification of Potential Measles Exposures Associated with Person Who Traveled to Maryland Location While Infectious

By PRESS OFFICER  
Health & Human Services, Prince George's County

BALTIMORE (May 2, 2026)—The Maryland Department of Health was notified of a confirmed case of measles in a Washington, D.C. resident who visited a location in Maryland while infectious on April 24, 2026. Marylanders are urged to check exposure times, monitor for symptoms, and ensure their measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination status is up to date.

There is no known connection between this case and previous cases reported by the Maryland Department of Health in 2026.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is spread easily through the air when an infectious person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. The virus can remain in the air for up to two hours after the infected person leaves the area. The disease can also be spread by direct contact with infectious droplets and after touching infected surfaces.

In addition to the locations listed by DC Health, anyone who may have visited the following

Maryland location during the listed date and hours below may have been exposed:

• **New Hampshire Business Center, 6495 New Hampshire Ave., Hyattsville, from 12–6:30 p.m.**

Early symptoms of measles are a fever of more than 101 degrees Fahrenheit, a runny nose, a cough, and red, watery eyes. Usually, one to four days after the early symptoms, a red rash appears on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. Symptoms typically develop 10 to 14 days after exposure, but can develop as soon as seven days and as long as 21 days after exposure. A person with measles is contagious, beginning four days before the rash appears until four days after the rash begins.

The MMR vaccine is covered for those with health insurance and through the Vaccines for Children Program. Adults who are uninsured or underinsured can check with their local health department about a free MMR vaccine as part of the Maryland Vaccine Program.

## Prince George's County DHCD Receives Housing & Award for Regional Leadership in Affordable Housing

By PRESS OFFICER  
Department of Housing and Community Development

LARGO, Md. (April 30, 2026)—Housing &, the region's leading affordable housing association serving the Washington metropolitan area, Baltimore, and Richmond, has named the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as the recipient of its 2026 "Award," one of the organization's highest honors recognizing exceptional partnership and impact in advancing affordable housing.

Presented annually at the Housing & Annual Meeting & Housing Expo, the Housing Achievement Awards celebrate the most innovative, effective, and scalable housing developments, programs, and policies across the region. The "Award" is reserved for an individual or organization that exemplifies collaboration and leadership in strengthening housing opportunities and communities.

"This recognition underscores the County's sustained commitment to advancing equitable housing outcomes through intentional policy, strategic investment, and meaningful partnerships," said Jonathan R. Butler, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development. "This award reflects not only the progress we've made, but also the strength of our partnerships with developers, community or-

ganizations, and residents who are collectively shaping a more inclusive and resilient housing ecosystem in Prince George's County."

Housing &'s "Award" recognizes entities that embody the collaborative spirit necessary to expand, preserve, and protect affordable housing. DHCD's selection highlights its ability to deploy resources effectively while fostering cross-sector partnerships that deliver measurable results. The Housing Achievement Awards ceremony will take place on May 13, 2026.

Over the past five years, DHCD has invested approximately \$43.1 million in County resources, programs, and policies to support the creation and preservation of more than 7,200 affordable housing units across Prince George's County. These investments have strengthened neighborhood stability, expanded housing supply, and safeguarded long-term affordability for residents across a range of income levels.

Through its integrated approach—combining financing tools, policy innovation, and strategic partnerships, DHCD continues to advance the County's housing goals while contributing to broader regional efforts to ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable, and high-quality housing.



## County Library to Host 60+ Programs Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2026

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (April 29, 2026)—This May, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will observe Asian Pacific American Heritage (APAH) Month by hosting more than 60 special events and programs for all ages that celebrate the cultures, languages, music traditions, foods, histories, and literature of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Highlights of this year's system-wide APAH celebration include a mehndi workshop with a local professional henna artist; two programs on healthy Japanese cuisine presented by local food education organization Wa-Shokuiku; and a number of diverse dance, movement, and music programs featuring local partners chitra.MOVES, the Washington Toho Koto Society, and Mabuhay, Inc.

Special craft, culture, and language programs developed by PGCMLS branch staff will also be a highlight of the Library's 2026 APAH festivities. At these programs, kids will be invited to craft dragon puppets, nature mandalas, and Japanese tea bowls; teens will get to make their own manga and learn sashiko mending techniques; and adults will be encouraged to learn about the traditional Filipino tattoo art of Batok and pick up some beginner Chinese (Mandarin) language skills.

"I am excited to share Mandarin with the Prince George's County community," says PGCMLS Librarian Chang-yu Hsiao,

who will be leading the Greenbelt Branch Library's special "Beginner Chinese Conversation" program for seniors on May 13, in honor of both Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Older Americans Month.

"In a library setting, we can be more inclusive if we greet customers using their own language and offer programs with diverse cultural elements," Hsiao says. "Language is the key to understanding a country's culture—and moreover, learning a new language can help prevent aging and memory loss. Reaching out to people using their native language is the best way to build friendly relationships, facilitate mutual understanding, and develop a harmonious living environment."

PGCMLS also invites customers to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage by using their library card to explore free APAH-themed collections in the Library's many online resources, including streamable films and documentaries on Kanopy, a manga starter collection on ComicsPlus, and the language learning modules for Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and more on Mango and Transparent Languages.

Finally, community members are invited to visit PGCMLS' Asian Pacific American Heritage hub, which is available 24/7 and serves as a cultural resource that includes book recommendations, historical timelines, research databases, upcoming events, and more. The Asian Pacific American Heritage hub can be visited anytime at [pgcmls.info/asian-pacific-american-heritage](https://pgcmls.info/asian-pacific-american-heritage).

Select 2026 APAH Month programs are listed below. For the full calendar of 2026 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month events at PGCMLS branch libraries, please visit our website: <https://www.pgcmls.info/asian-pacific-american-heritage>.

### Featured PGCMLS Events Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Japanese Koto Recital

Presented by the Washington Toho Koto Society

Free | Saturday, May 30 at 1 p.m. | All Ages | New Carrollton Branch Library

Experience the serene beauty and harmonious melodies of traditional Japanese koto music at this local musical society's recital. The koto, a 13-string instrument made of paulownia wood, is the epitome of elegance and simplicity, mirroring the tranquility of Japanese nature. Enjoy a captivating performance showcasing the exquisite sounds of the koto, played with precision and grace.

### Get Active: Exploring Indian Classical Dance & Hip Hop—An Interactive Dance Class & Demonstration

Presented by chitra.MOVES

Free | Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. | Kids to Adults | Bowie Branch Library

Come experience an exciting cultural fusion while fostering connections with fellow program participants at this special in-

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

### AN ALUMNI SOCIAL AFFAIR

Bowie State University National Alumni Association Prince George's Alumni Chapter presents an Alumni Social Affair Brunch Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cash Bar, Music, Dancing. Tickets cost \$80 (\$20 Tax deductible contribution to support the PGCAC Scholarship Fund). [SPRINCEGEORGEACAC.TREASURER@CAC.ORG](mailto:SPRINCEGEORGEACAC.TREASURER@CAC.ORG). Rose Coleman or any Chapter member. Martins Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

### EMPOWER VAPE-FREE YOUTH

The Empower Vape-Free Youth campaign encourages middle and high school educators to speak with students about the risk of e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction. Learn what you can do to protect youth from the harms of vaping. Educators can make a real difference by engaging in meaningful conversations with their students about the dangers of vaping for young people and ways to quit. Campaign resources include a fact sheet, conversation card, and digital media. Visit CDC's Median Campaign Resource Center to request digital files of campaign materials.

### STUTTERSPEACE

A celebration of Stuttered Voices Saturday, May 16 from 4–9 p.m. at Hennessy Creek, 13201 Martin Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Adults: \$40 per person. Students & Kids: \$20 per person. Tickets include casual dinner, lawn games, s'mores, dancing, open mic, parking & more. Bar Service Available.

A celebration of Stuttered Voices, adults, teens and children who stutter are all welcome here. We care about "what you say," not "how you say it." Come meet other people who stutter as we laugh, dance, play games, enjoy good food, and stutter freely in a safe space. Your VOICE matters!

### APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETING

Happy Birthday to Sherri Shepherd "who is an American actress, comedian, writer and current host of her own daytime talk show, Sherri. She rose to prominence as a cohost on the daytime talk show The View, where her infectious humor and candid personality helped shape the show's dynamic. During her time on the panel, she and her cohosts received a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk Show Host." Wikipedia. Quote of the Day for Wednesday, April 22, 2026 "If you don't go toward the thing you fear, you won't be able to say you lived." Sherri Shepherd.

### NATIONAL RECOGNITION

"Healthgrades honored our teams at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center with two 2026 Specialty Clinical Quality Awards for strong outcomes in coronary intervention and gastrointestinal (GI) care." Our Coronary Intervention Excellence Award reflects strong results for procedures such as angioplasty with stent placement, which opens narrowed or blocked coronary arteries to help restore blood flow to the heart. Our Gastrointestinal Care Excellence Award recognizes high-quality outcomes across a range of digestive care, including common surgeries (like colorectal procedures and gallbladder removals) as well as treatment for urgent conditions such as bowel ob-

struction, GI bleeding, and pancreatitis."

"Healthgrades evaluates hospitals based on clinical outcomes for specific conditions and procedures, helping patients compare performance when choosing where to receive care. The 2026 Specialty Clinical Quality Awards highlight hospitals that consistently deliver high-quality results, including measures tied to outcomes, patient safety, and patient experience, reinforcing our team's commitment at MedStar Southern Maryland to bringing exceptional specialty care close to home." MedStar Health (MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Spring 2026).

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Marcus and Nadia Long who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in May.

### THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

"Dear Neighbors and Friends, as we wrap up the 2026 Legislative Session, I want to take a moment to thank you, sincerely for your engagement, advocacy, and trust. Every step forward we've taken this year reflects not only the work of our office and partners, but the voices of Marylanders like you who continue to speak up for stronger communities, safer families, and greater opportunity across our state." Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28-Charles County.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The 6th Annual Middle Grades Math Meet brought together more than 600 middle grade students and their families for four rounds of dynamic mathematical and STEM activities promoting problem-solving and collaboration! #GCPSProud. Congratulations to all the students.

### BIG SOUTHERN BLUES FESTIVAL

Big Southern Blues Festival will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 12–7 p.m. at Lamont's Entertainment Complex with Ms. Jody, Donna Rayel, Lacey/Lamar Brace, The Hardway Connection Band, The Rise Band and The Stone Pleasure Band. The event is 7 hours. Coolers, chairs and picnic baskets welcome. Tickets cost \$55.20 and can be bought on Eventbrite. Refunds up to seven days before event. The address is 4400 Livingston Road, Indian Head, Maryland 20640.

### DC: CITY CRUISES

DC: City Cruises Buffet Brunch, Lunch, or Dinner Cruise. Dine aboard the Spirit of Washington DC and enjoy an extensive buffet meal while cruising down the Potomac River. Dance to the onboard DJ or play exciting games like giant Jenga and shuffleboard. Duration 2–2.5 hours. Check availability to see starting times. From \$67 per person. Reserve now and pay later. Keep your travel plans flexible. Book your spot and pay nothing today. Free cancellation. Cancel up to 24 hours in advance for a full refund.

Highlights: Feast on an extensive attended buffet lunch or dinner. Admire 360-degree views from the observation decks as you cruise the Potomac River. View DC landmarks like the Washington Monument, National Harbor, and Old Town. Board your vessel and receive a personal greeting. Have your photo taken by the ship photographer to capture the memory before being seated at your private table.

## Calendar of Events

### National Movie Premiere Event at The Miracle Theater: The Gardener

Date and time: Friday, May 15, 2026, 7 p.m.

Description: After the loss of her husband and father, Sabena Weathers (Radha Mitchell) fights to preserve her family's cosmetics empire while facing a hostile takeover. Seeking refuge, she retreats to a remote mountaintop garden cottage, where a chance encounter with a simple gardener (William Miller) sparks a powerful journey of love, self-discovery, and transformation. Rooted in quiet mystery and emotional truth, THE GARDENER explores loss, healing, and the courage to realize one's true self. It will be an event, with giveaways, tables from local gardens, and garden club meet ups!

Cost: Tickets are available here:

<https://themiracletheatre.com/events/the-gardener/>

Location: Miracle Theatre, 535 8th St SE, Washington, DC 20003

### African Americans in the Revolutionary War

Date and time: Saturday, May 16, 2026, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Description: Step onto Pinkney Street and meet soldiers, camp followers, and musicians and experience the Revolutionary War through living history. Learn how African Americans served on both sides of the conflict and explore the military equipment they used. Discover the essential roles women played in military camps and hear fife and drum music that guided troops on the battlefield. *This is a drop-in style program.* Visitors may join at any time during program hours and explore at their own pace through informal interaction and demonstrations. **Advance registration recommended, but not required.** *Accessibility:* Accessing this program requires ascending a flight of stairs. There are no restrooms on site.

Cost: Free (\$5 suggested donation) Register:

<https://www.annapolis.org/>

Location: Hogshhead Trades Museum, 43 Pinkney St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-267-7619

### Drive-Up Pet Vaccination Clinic for Cats and Dogs

Date and time: Sunday, May 17, 2026, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Description: This event offers rabies vaccinations and microchipping services for Prince George's County residents at a fee of \$20 (cash only). Bring proof of residency. Limit of two pets per vehicle.

Cost: \$20 Cash Only Fee Includes Rabies Vaccinations and Microchipping. **Registration is Required.** Visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com)

Location: Prince George's County Animal Services and Adoption Facility, 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20770.



### Ready, Set, VOTE: A Candidate Meet and Greet

Date and time: Sunday, May 17, 2026, 1–5 p.m.

Description: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD), is holding a community event that will feature an opportunity for voters to speak with candidates running in a variety of races at the Congressional, State, and County levels. Since there will be so many candidates on the primary ballot, we want voters to be informed and ready to vote in June (and in November). Attendees will also have the opportunity to register to vote, learn about mutual aid groups, contribute to the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry, and enjoy crafts for adults and kids.

Cost: Free and open to the public

Location: Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: [ibbmd.org](http://ibbmd.org)

### Domestic Violence and Mental Health Awareness Event

Date and time: Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Description: The Prince George's County Police Department, in collaboration with the Prince George's County Family Justice Center, is hosting an important Domestic Violence and Mental Health Awareness event. This gathering will bring residents together with local law enforcement, service providers, and community partners to promote safety, healing, and access to critical resources. Representatives from Prince George's County Police Department's District IV in Oxon Hill, District V in Clinton, and District VII in Fort Washington will share information, answer questions, and connect attendees with support services. The event will offer guidance on recognizing warning signs, understanding available county programs, and learning how to support individuals and families affected by these issues. Community members are encouraged to attend, engage in meaningful conversations, and learn more about the services available to help those in need.

Location: Clinton Library, 9400 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD 20735

Contact: Dr. Rachel Jordan, DNP, FNP-BC, at (301) 452-0657 or [rachel.jordan86@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.jordan86@gmail.com).

### Local Dental Practice to Provide Free Care to Families in Need on Sharing Smiles Day

Date and time: Sunday, May 31, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Description: Pine Dentistry & Braces is proud to invite children in need of dental care to Sharing Smiles Day. This annual volunteer event, sponsored by Pine Dentistry & Braces and its parent company Benevis, will provide free dental care such as dental exams, limited emergency care, extractions and restorative care, with cleanings offered on a limited basis, to uninsured or underinsured children. Families are encouraged to register in advance at [www.SharingSmilesDay.com](http://www.SharingSmilesDay.com). Pine Dentistry & Braces is opening its doors to children up to age 18 who do not have Medicaid or other forms of dental insurance.

Cost: Free

Ages: Up to age 18

Location: Pine Dentistry & Braces, 6471 Marlboro Pike, District Heights, MD 20747

Contact: [www.pinedentistry.com](http://www.pinedentistry.com)

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

## Governor Moore Continues "Delivering for Maryland" Tour in Prince George's County, Highlighting Rental Assistance and Public Safety Initiatives

By PRESS OFFICER MDHCD

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 27, 2026)—Governor Wes Moore today made the second stop on his statewide "Delivering for Maryland" tour in Prince George's County, highlighting initiatives to support stable housing and public safety. The governor highlighted increased funding for the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program and the launch of the cross-agency Safer Stronger Together initiative into two new communities, underscoring the administration's commitment to investing in strong schools and safe communities across Maryland.

"The work of delivering for Maryland is about investing in the fundamentals," said Gov. Moore. "A quality education rests on stable housing, which is why we're ensuring families of students in our community schools have emergency support to keep a roof over their heads. We are also continuing to focus on public safety, and rejecting the false choice between supporting law enforcement and building stronger communities. By doing both, we are securing safer, stronger communities that leave no one behind."

The governor began the day at District Heights Elementary School, meeting with parents and educators to discuss the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP). The program provides emergency funding to families with children enrolled in designated Community Schools who face eviction, utility shut-offs, or homelessness. Currently, the program helps

families with rent arrears, security deposits, and up to three months of future rent, supporting up to 15 months of housing assistance. In Prince George's County, the initiative has already assisted more than 60 families with \$675,000 in support.

The administration's commitment to stable housing for students is supported by a \$10.1 billion investment in K–12 education, including \$572.7 million for Concentration of Poverty Grants. The Fiscal Year 2027 budget also expands the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program with \$11 million in funding—a \$6 million increase from the prior year—to help more families. In Prince George's County, the rental assistance is administered by the Housing Initiative Partnership.

"I thank the District Heights Elementary School for welcoming me and Governor Moore today to learn more about how CSRAP has made a real difference in the lives of students and their families," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "As a longtime advocate for early-childhood education, I know that instability at home can cause students to have a more difficult time focusing and participating in the classroom. CSRAP serves as a vital safety net to help parents overcome housing challenges and support their children to the fullest. I thank the Moore-Miller Administration for its work to invest in the well-being and safety of students and their families in Prince George's County and across our state."

"CSRAP demonstrates the impact of pairing state resources with strong community partnerships," said Housing Initiative Partnership Executive Director

Stephanie Proestel. "Through HIP's collaboration with Community Schools, we were able to reach families in crisis, stabilize their housing, and help ensure children could remain in their schools and communities."

Following his visit to District Heights Elementary School, Governor Moore hosted a roundtable discussion at Prince George's Community College in Largo to announce the expansion of the Safer Stronger Together initiative from its pilot sites in Hagerstown, Salisbury and Baltimore to include Capitol Heights and District Heights. The initiative is the State's first-ever formal interagency effort to invest in young people to strengthen families, empower communities, and address the root causes of crime.

Through the initiative, the Departments of Human Services, Public Safety and Correctional Services and Juvenile Services identify families that are being served by two agencies at once, and share data to find where those families are concentrated. To best serve impacted communities, Community Action Boards—which are made up of community members—identify local public safety needs, design user-friendly Requests for Proposals to meet those needs, and guide the initiatives' local investment decisions.

Statewide, Safer Stronger Together has invested \$2.26 million into 32 grassroots nonprofits and served more than 5,000 youth between the ages of 13 and 25. In

# COMMUNITY

## Prince George's County Poetry News

2026 County Poet Laureate, County Youth Poet Laureate & Lucille Clifton Literary Scholarship Winner Named

By J. JOY "SISTAH JOY" MATTHEWS ALFORD  
Prince George's County Poet Laureate Emerita

PGAHC; PGCMLS; Dialect of Prince George's; The National Museum of Language; Patron of the Arts, Cecile Tolliver; and Inaugural Prince George's County Poet Laureate, Sistah Joy Alford, partnered to present Voices of the County - Prince George's County Poet Laureate and Awards Naming Ceremony in the Sojourner Truth Lecture Hall at the Oxon Hill Branch Library on April 22.

Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez was named 2026 Prince George's County Poet Laureate during Voices of the County - Prince George's County Poet Laureate and Awards Naming Ceremony in the Sojourner Truth Lecture Hall at the Oxon Hill Branch Library.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez was named 2026 Prince George's County Poet Laureate. She will serve a 2-year term.

Osaze Murray of Bowie, Maryland was named the 2026 Youth Poet Laureate and will serve for 1 year.

COURTESY PHOTO



2023 Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate Precious Foreman, (at left) was announced as the winner of the 2026 Lucille Clifton Literary Scholarship. Sistah Joy is at right.

COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

Sistah Joy with Patron of the Arts, Cecile Tolliver, who significantly supported the 2026 Lucille Clifton Literary Scholarship.

## Virginia Union University Celebrates Taylor Potts as One of the Top 13 Graduates

By PRESS OFFICER  
Virginia Union University

RICHMOND, Va. (April 28, 2026)—Virginia Union University proudly recognizes Taylor Potts, a Music major from Prince George's County, Maryland, for academic perseverance, resilience, and meaningful campus engagement.

Potts describes VUU as a second chance to complete a degree initially begun in 2007, crediting faith and determination for a journey marked by personal growth and renewed purpose. While at VUU, Potts was an active member of the Marching Band, Jazz Band, and the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development, demonstrating a commitment to excellence across artistic and professional pursuits.

Looking ahead, Potts plans to continue at Virginia Union University by pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction while working in



COURTESY PHOTO

Taylor Potts

schools. Through dedication to education and service, Potts embodies the University's mission to develop scholar-leaders equipped to positively impact their communities.

Virginia Union University congratulates Taylor Potts on this achievement and celebrates the promise of continued success.

Founded in 1865, Virginia Union University is a premier private liberal arts HBCU dedicated to expanding access to education and preparing students for leadership, service, and success in a global society. Rooted in a legacy of empowering newly emancipated freedmen through ethical and faith-grounded learning, the University today offers undergraduate and graduate programs in high-demand fields that blend a rigorous liberal arts foundation with innovation in teaching, research, science, technology, civic engagement, and international experiences. Virginia Union University proudly celebrates the legacy and contributions of the African Diaspora while remaining open to students of all backgrounds, reflecting its enduring commitment to student success, academic excellence, and workforce readiness.

## National Harbor Celebrates Juneteenth With a Black-Owned Marketplace and Live Entertainment

Fifth Annual Juneteenth Celebration, "Celebrating Culture. Elevating Community"

By PRESS OFFICER  
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (April 28, 2026)—National Harbor will hold its Fifth Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on Friday, June 19 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, inviting the community to come together to reflect and connect, honoring the historic day with a cultural celebration. The event, "Celebrating Culture. Elevating Community," honors Juneteenth's legacy commemorating the ending of slavery when the emancipation proclamation was finally enforced in Texas on June 19, 1865.

The event at National Harbor will kick off at 11 a.m. with a Black-owned marketplace in the Capital Canopy (151 National Plaza). More than 30 vendors will showcase Black-owned businesses and provide a range of products from clothing to accessories to skin care and cultural cuisine. The market is open until 5 p.m.

The Rhythm & Roots Stage, presented by MGM National Harbor, will serve as a centerpiece of the celebration, featuring headlining performances by Too Much Talent Band and Black Alley. The event will be hosted by Aladdin from 93.9 WKYS, the stage will offer a full day of programming, including local community dance troupes and diverse cultural showcases. Beyond the music, attendees can engage with an educational display that chronicles the history of Juneteenth through a curated cultural timeline.

National Harbor is also home to 14 Black-owned businesses.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR

The Rhythm & Roots Stage Performance from a previous year's celebration.

They range from restaurant franchisees to independent retailers, to unique experiences.

"We are excited to host our fifth annual Juneteenth celebration," said Lauren Fells who is the marketing content manager and is coordinating the event at National Harbor. "This is a great event to showcase diversity and unity in our community. It's a day filled highlighting black owned businesses, arts, music, culture, and food."

For more information, visit [www.nationalharbor.com/events](http://www.nationalharbor.com/events) and search for "Juneteenth."

### Teacher from A1

skills and civic awareness. Her work exemplifies the organization's shared values of JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, and FUN, as she serves as a national ambassador for Imagine Schools, advocating for educational excellence.

In addition to internal recognition, educators within the Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic network are also celebrated

through community partnerships, such as honors from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Dr. Almena Pointer received this recognition to mark her excellence and dedication to education. The VFW's Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program recognizes teachers who promote civic responsibility, patriotism, and respect for veterans in their classrooms.

Through this dual recognition, both

within the Imagine network and by respected organizations like the VFW, team & family (teachers) in the Mid-Atlantic region are affirmed not only for academic excellence but also for shaping scholars into engaged, civic-minded citizens. These honors underscore the vital role educators play in preparing the next generation of leaders while strengthening connections between schools and the communities they serve.

### Heritage from A1

teractive dance program that blends Bharathanatyam, an Indian Classical dance form, with elements of Hip Hop. This class will feature social exchanges, movement exploration, and simple choreography.

### Let's Make and Eat Japanese Rice & Bento

Presented by Wa-Shokuiku  
Free | Saturday, May 9 at 1 p.m. | Teens and Adults | Accokeek Branch Library

Free | Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. | Ages 5-12 | Bladensburg Branch Library  
Free | Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. | Ages 5-12 | Hillcrest Heights Branch Library

Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. | Teens and Adults | Baden Branch Library

In this cooking class hosted by Wa-Shokuiku, a local program by Table for Two USA inspired and informed by the educational philosophy, flavors, and food of Japan, participants will learn about Japanese rice and will put together a bento—beautiful Japanese single-portion boxed meals that delight both the taste-buds and eyes! Bento consists of simple,

healthy recipes that anyone can enjoy. Attendees will also learn other key Japanese food concepts, such as color variety and portion control. All participants must have a signed waiver to take part in the cooking activity.

### Beginner Chinese Conversation for Seniors

Free | Wednesday, May 13 at 2 p.m. | Adults | Greenbelt Branch Library

Are you interested in learning and experiencing Chinese Mandarin? In this special one-time "Beginner Chinese Conversation" program in honor of both Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Older Americans Month, attendees will build confidence in their language skills with other beginner learners in a relaxed and supportive setting. Participants will learn new words and greetings, and will be able to practice a Chinese Mandarin practical conversation. This program is for adults of all ages, but seniors are especially encouraged to attend.

### Filipino Culture Through Arts & Crafts, Dance, and Stories

Presented by Mabuhay, Inc.  
Free | Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. |

### All Ages | Beltsville Branch Library

Community members are invited to step into the vibrant world of Filipino culture with this immersive event, presented by local arts and culture organization Mabuhay, Inc. While celebrating the colorful traditions of the Flores de Mayo festival with hands-on flower crown-making and woven paper flags crafts, attendees will get to experience the lively rhythms of Filipino folk dances like the elegant Cariñosa and the energetic Tinikling.

### Solidarity Stories: "Cinema Love" by Jiaming Tang

Free | Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. | Adults | miXt Food Hall

Join fellow community members at miXt Food Hall for a special Asian Pacific American Heritage Month edition of "Solidarity Stories: Community Led Book Discussion" featuring a thoughtful discussion of "Cinema Love" by Jiaming Tang. About the novel: "[A] staggering epic about men and women who find themselves in forbidden relationships, the weight of secrets, and the persistence

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### I Want to do Everything Right When I Claim Social Security

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

Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?  
**Signed: Claiming Soon**

**Dear Claiming Soon:** Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

- If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).
- The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.
- If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.
- If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer—up to age 70—to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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

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

## Tour from A2

Prince George's County, \$450,000 has been awarded to eight non-profits that serve nearly 650 young people. Programming for the new round of grantees ranges from mentorship to support fathers to tutoring and therapeutic interventions for high-risk youth.

Governor Moore noted that the data-backed strategy of the Safer Stronger Together initiative has contributed to significant progress in improving public safety by addressing the root causes of crime. Driven by an all-of-the-above approach to public safety, the Moore-Miller administration has overseen a historic drop in violent crime, including a 40 percent reduction in murders within Prince George's County in 2025.

"Governor Moore continues to be an active partner with Prince George's County—creating opportunities for economic wins, opening doors for education and healthcare, standing with our federal workers who have been under attack, and seeking new ways to lift up Maryland families who have felt left behind," said Prince George's County Executive Aisha Braveboy. "The Safer Stronger

## Flippo Construction Company, Inc Awarded the Excellence in Infrastructure Award by the Heavy Construction Contractors Association

By PRESS OFFICER  
Flippo Construction Company, Inc.

FORESTVILLE, Md. (April 28, 2026)—On Wednesday, April 15, 2026 the Heavy Construction Contractors Association (HCCA) awarded Flippo Construction Company, Inc with The Excellence in Infrastructure Award for their work on the Loyola Avenue Storm Sewer Upgrade project in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The project consisted of taking an existing "V" ditch between two homes in the neighborhood and turning into an underground, double pipe, storm sewer system. The Flippo crew performed the work while maintaining active storm water flow during the rainy months of May through July 2025. The project also included regrading and landscaping of the area and homeowner's yards.

The award was presented to Flippo Construction at the annual HCCA Infrastructure & Safety Awards Banquet held at the Chantilly National Golf Club in Centreville, Virginia. Flippo Construction CEO, John Morgan said, "As a diverse, employee-owned company, our employees take our company motto to heart where, 'Safe, Productive, Quality Jobs with Pride' is a priority. This award is a testament to our employees' hard work and attention to detail and I am thankful for all of their efforts.

Flippo Construction Company, Inc. is a leading, employee owned, utility and heavy construction contractor based in Forestville, Maryland. They



COURTESY PHOTO

The Excellence in Infrastructure Award was presented to Flippo Construction at the annual HCCA Infrastructure & Safety Awards Banquet held at the Chantilly National Golf Club in Centreville, Virginia on April 15, 2026.

have many ongoing utility, heavy civil and service projects throughout Washington DC, Northern Virginia, and Maryland. Flippo has served their government and commercial clients in the region for 55 years.

## Melwood's CorpFest Unites Local Businesses to Ready Camp Accomplish for Summer

By PRESS OFFICER  
Melwood Inc.

NANJEMOY, Md. (April 29, 2026)—Melwood brought together more than 100 volunteers from over 20 area businesses today to prepare its inclusive summer camp for the 2026 season. Together, volunteers donated their time and talents to prepare cabins, improve outdoor spaces, and complete critical maintenance projects across the grounds of Camp Accomplish.

The volunteers gathered for CorpFest, Melwood's annual corporate volunteer event to ensure the camp is ready to welcome hundreds of campers, counselors, medical providers, and staff this summer.

Leading this year's CorpFest efforts were nearly 40 employee volunteers from the Wills Group, parent company of Dash In and Splash In ECO Car Wash. As the Wills Group celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, the company remains deeply committed to investing in the Charles County community and supporting organizations that help people thrive.

In addition to volunteering at CorpFest, the Wills Group announced a \$100,000 donation to Melwood in support of Camp Accomplish and Melwood's mission to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

During the event, experts from Davis Construction upgraded electrical components

in the camp's industrial kitchen for improved food service; built a harness and helmet rack for the ropes course; added a shade cloth to the hammock village; and made landscaping and architectural changes to ensure the camp's flagpole area is fully accessible.

Volunteers from Advanced Architectural General Contracting LLC added a wall to the camp's modular building so the space can be divided into two distinct activity areas; created sensory sand boxes for enhanced camper experience; and installed a pipe to regulate water levels in the camp's pond that has been dammed by a beaver.

Additional participating organizations included DashIn, Morgan Stanley, Stellas Girls, Children's National Hospital, Charles Chamber, CLdot, Truist, Trust, Shore United Bank, Ribeiro Construction, Melwood, BradyPlus, Contrast & Co, Ready Go Promo, Philadelphia Insurance, The Shops at Waldorf, Minuteman Press, Copper Compass Craft Distilling Co., and Promise Landing Farm.

A summer experience offered by Melwood and Children's National Hospital, Camp Accomplish brings together campers with and without disabilities and chronic health conditions to learn and grow side by side. From arts and STEM programming to climbing walls, nature trails, and equine therapy, every camper, regardless of supports needed, can participate in activities that foster independence and build resilience.

"CorpFest is a powerful reminder of what's possible when community partners come together," said Larysa Kautz, president & CEO of Melwood. "Because of the generosity and hard work of these volunteers, Camp Accomplish will once again be a place where our campers feel safe, supported, and empowered to try new things."

Melwood is a family of companies with a shared vision of a world where people with disabilities are fully included. Melwood comprises three primary companies—Melwood Enterprises, Melwood Community Services, and Melwood Inc.—together serving as one of the nation's leading advocates, service providers, and employers of people with disabilities and their caregivers. We offer employment, job placement, job training, life skills for independence, support services, and youth and community recreational services to more than 3,000 people each year in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. For more information, visit [www.melwood.org](http://www.melwood.org).

Camp Accomplish is a summer experience offered by Melwood and Children's National Hospital at the Melwood Recreation Center. It is open to campers ages 5 and up with and without disabilities and chronic health conditions. From climbing walls to nature trails to therapeutic riding activities, every camper is welcome to explore, learn, and grow. Learn more at [www.campaccomplish.org](http://www.campaccomplish.org).

## Robert Wood of Laurel Competed in McDaniel College's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge

WESTMINSTER, Md. (April 30, 2026)—Robert Wood of Laurel (20707) competed in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge on April 28 at McDaniel College, 2 College Hill, Westminster, Maryland. Wood is a junior Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration major.

Wood was part of the student team that presented Silent Shield, a modular privacy case that gives users instant physical control over their smartphone's camera and microphone, eliminating the risk of remote surveillance and digital intrusion.

Six student teams from McDaniel College's Entrepreneurship course competed at the event by presenting their entrepreneurial ideas and innovative products to a panel of experts. In addition to the \$5,000 top prize, \$1,000 was awarded to the People's Choice winner.

Together and Community Schools Rental Assistance programs are going to change lives by supporting Prince George's County families where they are, with the resources they need. These initiatives are built on the recognition that solutions, like problems, come from more than one source and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for every family. Gov. Moore's 'Delivering for Maryland' is investing in Prince George's County and taking active steps to elevate our families for a brighter future."

"Safer Stronger Together brought me, along with other committed community members, to the table to help identify and support organizations dedicated to guiding our troubled youth toward a more positive path in life," said Prince George's County Community Action Board member Belinda Queen. "These organizations work collectively to meet young people where they are—whether through mentoring, mental health services, or family support. Our shared mission was to keep our youth engaged, provide meaningful choices, and equip them with the tools needed to make better life decisions. By working together, we not only supported individual growth, but also build a stronger, safer community for everyone."

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge is organized by McDaniel's Economics and Business Administration department and is part of McDaniel's Program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which combines courses, workshops, field trips, and other experiential opportunities to help students develop core entrepreneurial skills, so they can manage their own innovative enterprise. McDaniel students can also choose to minor in entrepreneurship or major or minor in marketing.

Visit [www.mcdaniel.edu/innovation-entrepreneurship](http://www.mcdaniel.edu/innovation-entrepreneurship).

## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
P.O. Box 1001, 15209 Marlboro Pike, Suite 209  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
Contents © 2026, The Prince George's Post

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Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15209 Marlboro Pike, Suite 209, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.  
Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2.  
Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.  
Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

# ENVIRONMENT



MARYLAND DNR PHOTO

Students at Northview Elementary School in Prince George's County plant a tree on April 20, 2026 with an assist from the Maryland Forest Service.

## Planting With a Purpose: Schoolyard Forests Program Grows Through Collaboration

State agencies connect outdoor learning with the Maryland 5 Million Trees initiative

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

For Earth Week, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) collaborated to increase participation in the Schoolyard Forests Program, part of the Maryland 5 Million Trees initiative.

The Schoolyard Forests Program, which is administered by the DNR Maryland Forest Service, helps schools create outdoor spaces that support student well-being and enrich learning through tree planting, tree care, and environmental education. The 5 Million Trees program has reached more than 1.5 million native trees planted, marking a major milestone toward the state's goal of planting 5 million trees by 2031. Earlier this week, the three agencies held a tree planting event at Northview Elementary School in Prince George's County Public Schools where students planted 30 redbud, flowering dogwood, and tulip poplar trees.

"As students take part in planting and caring for these trees, they are not only learning about the environment, but building a sense of pride and connection to their schools and communities," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "The Schoolyard Forest Program shows the power of hands-on learning to inspire our youth and protect our environment."

"By expanding the Schoolyard Forests Program, we are helping schools across Maryland create healthier, greener spaces where students can learn, play, and connect with nature," said Secretary Serena McIlwain, Maryland Department of the Environment. "These projects show how tree planting can bring communities together, improve air quality, and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders."

"Study after study has shown that children perform better academically, develop enhanced problem-solving skills, and have reduced stress levels when they have access to outdoor learning opportunities at their schools," said Secretary Josh Kurtz, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "By adding new trees and outdoor spaces to more schools in Maryland we're creating these improved learning opportunities and ensuring that more students have access to natural areas."

The Schoolyard Forest Program advances Maryland's climate, water quality, and education goals under the Climate Solutions Now Act, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The program helps support equitable access to green spaces and outdoor learning opportunities statewide, which is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order to empower Maryland's youth through the Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership.

Since 2024, the Schoolyard Forests Program has partnered with the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education and has completed more than 45 school planting projects.

## EarthTalk® Q&A

### Plastic Bag Bans: What Happened After COVID-19? (2026 Update)

By Saanvi Doshi | April 21, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:

Why were several new plastic bag bans reversed during COVID? Have they been reinstated (or expanded or forgotten) in the meantime?

—Missy G., New York, NY

Plastic bag bans are policies and laws that prohibit or limit the use of single-use plastic bags, part of an attempt to curb and reduce plastic waste and environmental degradation. Before COVID-19, many cities and states had implemented such bans to mitigate pollution, protect wildlife and address the plastic crisis. With the world wasting about 400 million tons of plastic yearly, plastic waste and pollution have become critical issues. These bans aimed to switch customers to reusable alternatives like cloth bags. Plastic bags are among the most common pollutants found in landfills and oceans, taking hundreds of years to fully decompose. Their widespread use aggravates the plastic pollution problem, harming marine life and adding to the global waste crisis.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, public health concerns overshadowed the bans. The fear that reusable bags, which involved

## LOCAL WARMING: CLIMATE CHANGE IN MARYLAND (LAST INSTALLMENT)

### Maryland Has More EV Chargers Than Ever—but They're not Everywhere

By RAZAK DIALLO  
Capital News Service

For Lynn Parsons, knocking on a stranger's door was once the difference between getting home or having her car hooked onto a flatbed truck and towed away.

In 2014, the advertised 84-mile range of her Nissan Leaf was barely enough to get her from Washington, D.C., to Hagerstown.

It had just run out of juice in Potomac. She pulled into a house with multiple cars packed in the driveway and knocked on the door. Luckily the stranger at the door was willing to help. Unluckily, the house was undergoing renovations and had no power, so Parsons had to use a generator on the stranger's front porch.

Public electric vehicle charging infrastructure was scant at the time, with fewer than 300 stations in the state and only six where Parsons lived in Bethesda, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Furthermore, Parsons lived in a condominium without off-street parking, which made overnight home charging impossible.

Today, Parsons lives in Kensington and drives the same 12-year-old Leaf, but the state of charging infrastructure is different. The median range of EVs has tripled since 2014, and there are nearly 1,700 charging stations in the state for over 150,000 registered EVs (including plug-in hybrid electric vehicles). Additionally, the state government has established widespread EV adoption as a core tenet of its climate goals.

"I'm impressed at how much [public charging] has grown and the more opportunities I have," Parsons said.

But those opportunities are not spread evenly across the state. A data analysis of federal figures shows that 45% of all Maryland zip codes do not have a public charging station and a quarter of zip codes with stations have fewer than four ports.

In other words, the lack of a truly widespread charging network still poses a challenge to the state's climate goals, which aim to have over 1.1 million registered EV drivers by 2030 and have all new passenger vehicles sold in the state to be zero-emission by 2035.

"[As EVs] become more affordable for people who may live in apartment buildings, or just anybody that doesn't have access to putting in their own charging station at home, they would be dependent on public charging," said Lanny Hartmann, an EV advocate and editor of PlugInSites.org.

#### Uneven growth

To hear Maryland officials tell it, the perceived lack of access to public charging is a major barrier to EV adoption.

"There is a more robust and available network of charging between home charging, workplace charging and public charging across the state than people may realize," said Deron Lovaas, the chief of environment and sustainable transportation at the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Lovaas pointed to Maryland's national ranking per capita as evidence of the network's success. Maryland is just behind New York, ranking 11th with around 88 ports per 100,000 residents.

Across all stations in Maryland, there are around 5,400 EV charging ports. The majority are Level 2 ports, which provide about 25 miles of range for each hour of charging, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The other type of public charging equipment is DC Fast, providing over 100 miles of range per charging hour.

While Level 2 equipment would typically be found at a grocery store or workplace—locations where drivers will spend a lot of time—DC Fast chargers are placed along highways for quick recharging. Along with providing faster charging, DC Fast chargers are more expensive to use.

But research indicates limits on charging may exist beyond the perceptions of Marylanders. A joint study by HERE Technologies and SBD Automotive sets the national target electric vehicle to public charging port ratio at around nine vehicles per public port, the sweet spot where drivers can reliably find an unoccupied charger.



SAM GAUNTT/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Lynn Parsons of Kensington charging her Nissan Leaf on April 15, 2026.

Per the study, Maryland has nearly 14 electric vehicles per port, including Level 1 ports (5 miles of range per charging hour), placing it 22nd in for the vehicles per port category but 12th in the study's overall ranking.

U.S. DOE port counts (without Level 1 chargers) and EV registration data provided by MDOT show the ratio is closer to 27 registered EVs for each port in the state. In broad and oversimplified terms, for each public port in the state, 27 EVs are lined up to use it.

The zip code 20871, covering Clarksburg in Montgomery County, has the worst ratio, with over 1,000 EVs for each of its two ports. The 21146 zip code, representing Severna Park in Anne Arundel County, has the most EVs without a public charger in the same zip code. Both of the zip codes are relatively affluent suburbs, which usually means better access to home charging.

There's a significant gap in charging access between counties near metropolitan centers and more rural counties. Montgomery County alone has more ports than all of the Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore counties combined.

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program is key to partially closing this gap. The program provides federal funds to states for the improvement of their EV infrastructure. Maryland is using funds from the program to add DC fast chargers to major roadways, with community charging being a secondary goal for the program. In the first two rounds, the state has granted \$19 million in federal funding to 31 projects that will install 166 DC fast chargers.

Earlier this year, the state announced the third round of funding, which will target major roads such as I-70, I-270, U.S. 301 and MD 4, among others.

#### Community charging

According to Lovaas, 80% of EV charging happens at home. It can be as simple as pulling into your garage and plugging your car into a standard home outlet for a few hours. Some homeowners even install Level 2 chargers.

"This is where the best kind of charging is, charging while you're sleeping," Parsons said.

In 2021, the National Laboratory of the Rockies, the DOE's primary lab for energy systems, projected that with increased EV adoption, consistent residential charging access becomes more uncertain, ranging from 35% to 75% if EVs were to make up 90% of the national fleet. The study also found residential charging access being lower among low-income households, renters and multifamily units.

Getting a Level 2 charger installed requires traversing a complicated world of homeowner's associations and local government.

"For multifamily, it's always a battle between the assigned parking or general parking," said Scott Wilson, the vice president of the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington D.C. "So, are we going to put the charger somewhere where somebody's assigned space and, OK, well, now it's there, is it their property, or the HOA's property?"

Around the time she first got her Leaf,

Parsons decided to advocate for a home charger in her condominium community's common space. The process was lengthy, mired in doubts from the homeowners association and bureaucratic red tape, but she eventually got approval to install a 110-volt outlet on a wooden post in the parking lot at the price of a few thousand dollars.

"So the bottom line is, it was a really long and arduous process to get these charging stations," she said. "I took the time that I probably would have devoted to family and other things and worked on getting the thing pushed through."

Since then, the state has passed legislation to make this process easier. In 2021, then-Gov. Larry Hogan signed the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act into law. The law officially treats EV charging installation like architectural modifications and prevents governing bodies, such as homeowners associations, from avoiding or delaying the process.

EV owners still must work with a licensed contractor to install the equipment, and front construction and maintenance costs.

#### Public chargers

One of these contractors based in Montgomery County is Robert Borkowski, owner of Plug IO. He recommends against purchasing an EV without home charging.

"Unless you are understanding that your lifestyle will change because you'll be forced to go and charge at the public charging stations and DC flash charges," Borkowski said.

In its 2030 National Charging Network projections, the DOE concluded "convenient and affordable charging at/near home is core to the ecosystem but must be complemented by reliable public fast charging."

Most multifamily units in Maryland do not have a station within a quarter-mile. Half of the units with a station nearby have fewer than five ports available to them.

For drivers who live in those units, charging can't be done passively and hours of the day have to be scheduled around making sure they have the range to get where they need to be.

Even if they opt to use the faster DC chargers, the combined cost and time investment would make a gas vehicle the better option for most. Those with the least time and money to spend are impacted worse: subsidized housing units are 25% less likely to have an EV charging station within a quarter-mile.

The state has a program that addresses this discrepancy. The Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program aims to increase access to affordable charging infrastructure and emphasizes overburdened communities, minority or low-income populations that are disproportionately impacted by environmental risks.

Although in previous years the grants specified areas in those communities, this year's program says any location in Maryland is eligible for a grant.

Erin Harty is in the minority of multifamily residents. Although her Baltimore

