

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 94, No. 22 May 28 — June 3, 2026

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Members of the Bowie State men's basketball program recently volunteered at the Bowie Interfaith Pantry.

Bowie State Men's Basketball Volunteers at Bowie Interfaith Pantry Food Drive

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (May 21, 2026)—The Bowie State men's basketball program recently volunteered its time at the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund, Inc., as part of the organization's Post Office Food Drive, supporting efforts to combat food insecurity in the local community.

The Bulldogs assisted with sorting, organizing, and distributing donated food items during one of the pantry's largest annual community service events.

The Bowie Interfaith Pantry expressed appreciation for the team's involvement, noting the group's positive impact during the drive.

"Thank you for your donation of time to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund, Inc. We

truly appreciate your support and generosity," the organization said. "The Post Office Drive is a massive event, and we could not have done it without your help. The team was extremely helpful, kind, and respectful. Donating your time to volunteer is appreciated, and your efforts help us fight food insecurity in our community."

Assistant coach Anthony Carpenter said the experience was meaningful for both him and the program.

"Volunteering to help Julie and the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry made me feel like a better person," Carpenter said. "Seeing the amount of canned foods they receive from the community to serve those who are in need is nothing short of amazing. I love what she is doing for the Bowie/Prince George's Community, and I would love to help out again if needed. I appreciate her for allowing some of my

players and me to participate in this kind of community service."

Junior guard Jailin Landis echoed those sentiments, emphasizing the importance of giving back.

"Doing community service at the food pantry was a great experience because I enjoy helping people," Landis said. "Coming from Suitland, my community always had my back, so giving back means a lot to me wherever I am. It also showed the Bowie State University community that we are more than just basketball players."

The volunteer effort reflects the program's continued emphasis on service and engagement beyond basketball, as the Bulldogs continue to represent the university both on and off the court.

For the latest news and updates on Bowie State Athletics and its varsity sport programs, visit bsubulldogs.com.

Commissioner Dr. Billy Okoye, GRI Named Vice Chair of the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board

Darryl Barnes Resigns from M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (May 18, 2026)—On May 14, 2026, the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) elected Member Billy Okoye as Vice Chair with a 3-2 vote. Vice Chair Okoye succeeds Planning Board Member Manuel Gerardo in this position who served as Vice Chair since November 2025. Gerardo will remain on the Board with Members Brittany Jenkins and Lori Matthews. In the Chair's absence, Vice Chair Okoye assumes duties of the Chair in overseeing Planning Board meetings and completing other Board business.

"I look forward to the continued collaboration with my Planning Board colleagues on development review, planning and policy recommendations, and supporting the Commission's mission in long-range planning, preservation, and encouraging healthy lifestyles," said Okoye. "We will continue our work to elevate Prince George's County through equitable approaches that address housing, neighborhood revitalization, sustainability, transportation, and economic vitality."

Effective May 16, 2026, Darryl Barnes resigned as Chair of the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board. In Prince George's County, members of the Planning Board are ap-

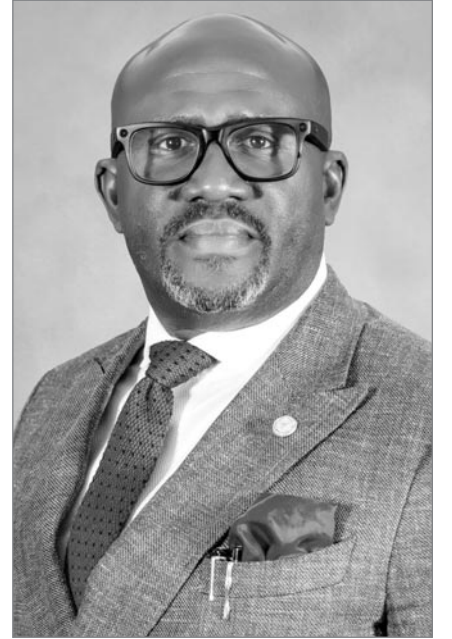


PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Dr. Billy Okoye

pointed by the County Executive, subject to approval of the County Council. The County Executive will appoint the next Planning Board Chair to fill the vacant position, with a four-year term set to expire in June 2029.

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets weekly to review subdivisions, site plans, and other development applications and develop and make recommendations to the County Council

See COMMISSIONER Page A3

Council Members Attend ICSC Conference to Recruit Retailers, Bring Economic Development to Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Council Media

Prince George's County Council Chair Krystal Oriadha (District 7) and Council Members Shayla Adams-Stafford (District 5) and Edward Burroughs III (District 8) recently attended ICSC Las Vegas, the world's primary commercial marketplace and real estate conference. From May 18-20, alongside more than 25,000 elected officials, business leaders, and workforce development professionals from across the country, the Council Members worked to advocate for new retail businesses and secure economic development opportunities for Prince George's County.

The Council Members were joined at the dealmaking and networking event by County Executive Aisha Braveboy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development Tracy Benjamin, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Ingrid S. Watson, and other Economic Development Corporation representatives, as well as elected of-

ficials and business leaders from across the state and region.

"Prince George's County Council Members have been advocating on behalf of the community at ICSC Las Vegas for well over a decade," said Chair Oriadha. "Targeted advocacy at networking and recruiting conferences like this has played a key role in bringing major developments to the county, including Sphere at National Harbor and Sprouts Farmers Market in Westphalia. I'm excited to see the investment in our community that will come as a result of this event."

At this year's conference, Council Members were focused on securing commercial investments for the Blue Line Corridor, Kevin Durant's mixed-use development at the former Six Flags site in Bowie, the Westphalia Town Center, and more. Additionally, Council Members met with Sphere owners to discuss workforce development opportunities for Prince Georgians at the new Sphere at National Harbor, as well as regional and national brokers and retailers to create an economic development roadmap that responds to residents' concerns.

"We've had some amazing meetings where I've been able to advocate

to property owners and retailers for the types of stores and businesses we want to see in our shopping centers and mixed-use developments," said Council Member Adams-Stafford. "I'm feeling confident about the types of deals our Economic Development Corporation will be able to negotiate to bring new development to District 5 and the entire county."

ICSC Las Vegas also includes an educational component, helping Council Members and other county representatives stay on the cutting-edge of retail development. This includes regional and national conversations about asset mapping and generating local investment despite current economic pressures.

"The nature of retail and shopping is changing across the country. Big box stores and malls are on the decline and community spaces and marketplaces are on the rise," said Council Member Burroughs. "We have to adapt our zoning code and county policies to stay ahead of that change. This conference has been incredibly helpful in sharing fresh perspectives and generating new ideas. I'm eager to get home and begin the legislative work required to put those policies into action."

Andrews Federal Credit Union Announces Successful Merger With HUD Federal Credit Union

The combined institution will provide enhanced digital resources and expanded global access for more than 155,000 members.

By PRESS OFFICER
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (May 12, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce the successful completion of its merger with HUD Federal Credit Union, effective April 30, 2026. This strategic partnership brings together two institutions with a shared commitment to member-first service and community empowerment.

The merger integration, led by a comprehensive framework, ensures a seamless transition for HUD Federal members, who in the near future, will have access to Andrews Federal's extensive global network, including branches across Maryland, D.C., Virginia, New Jersey, and overseas locations in Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands.

"We are honored to welcome HUD Federal members and employees into our organization," said Kenneth Orgeron, President and CEO of Andrews Federal Credit Union. "This merger is about more than just growth; it's about providing our new members with the tools, technology, and financial stability they need to thrive in today's economy while maintaining the familiar, personalized service they expect."

Key Highlights for Members:

- Continuity of Service: Members will continue to be served by the same dedicated staff at existing locations.
- Expanded Resources: Immediate access to an enhanced ITM/ATM network and upcoming integration with Andrews Federal's award-winning digital banking suite.
- Community Impact: Continued investment in local financial literacy programs and community development initiatives.

"Our priority throughout this transition is a smooth, transparent experience for every member and employee," added Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer of Andrews Federal. "We have built a dedicated integration team to support our new colleagues and ensure that 'Day One' is the start of a rewarding new chapter for everyone involved."

For more information regarding the merger and upcoming member benefits, please visit www.andrewsfcu.org.

Andrews Federal Credit Union is a world-class financial institution serving more than 155,000 members globally. Founded in 1948, the credit union is dedicated to helping members improve their financial lives while strengthening the global communities it serves.

INSIDE

Brandywine-Aquasco

Summer Months Usher in Deadliest Period for Teen Drivers

Calendar of Events

Towns and Neighbors Page A2

Splash Into Summer Fun!

Bowie State Athletics Honors 22 Graduating Student-Athletes

Capitol Tech Participates in Ethics in Engineering Case Competition Community, Page A3

Part 1—A Region Reshaped: Federal Layoffs in Maryland a Year Later
A Year After Layoffs, Former Federal Workers Are Still Piecing Their Lives Back Together

Business and Finance, Page A4

PGC Secures More Than \$1.4 Million in Awards to Advance Energy Equity

Melwood Enterprises Employee Derek Point Receives National Recognition

DoSEM Expands Economic Mobility Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH—BADEN

St. Philip's Church Annual Dinner will be held Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 12 p.m. until sold out. Dinners: Fried Chicken (Dark Meat \$20, White Meat \$22). Fried Fish \$22, BBQ Ribs. All dinners come with potato salad, baked beans, sweet potatoes, green beans, and bread. Ribs, Chicken & Fish PRE-ORDER & PAY BY JULY 12. Sandwiches: Fried Chicken (Dark Meat \$12, White Meat \$14). Fried Fish \$14, BBQ Ribs \$14, Hot Dogs \$3. Come and enjoy Bake Sale, celebrate local vendors, art, crafts, and resale, fun & games.

Dinner Pre-Orders: Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Trena Hall 703-201-3863, Michele Chase 240-882-3369, Doretha Savoy 301-233-3136. Vendor Tables: Trena Hall 703-201-3863. Pre-orders must be paid for no later than July 12. Church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

E-WASTE/HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

This event will occur Saturday, June 13, 2026 at the Friendly High School at 10000 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or Shine. All vehicles must be in line by 1 p.m. to be serviced. Special accommodations can be provided upon request. Another event will be July 25, 2026, High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705 from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Rain or Shine.

You can drop off any accepted electronics and household hazardous waste items. Open to county residents ONLY (ID may be required). Commercial vehicles and commercially generated items are not permitted. Multiple trips are not allowed for individuals or vehicles. For more information, visit mypgc.us/clearthecurb. View the list of accepted items at mypgc.us/clearthecurb.

ANIMAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Animal Volunteer Orientation will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 10 a.m. Location: Animal Services, 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. We're always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers to support our daily operations from walking dogs and feeding animals to helping with laundry, cleaning, office tasks, and off-site events. Attend an orientation to explore our volunteer opportunities. Students ages 14–18 can complete required community service hours in non-animal handling roles. Adults 18 and older can work directly with animals. For more information and to download an application, visit our volunteer page. <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/environment/animal-services/animal-services-volunteer>. Tags: animal services, animal shelter.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mental Health Awareness Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Clinton Library, 9400 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION CELEBRATING HBCU IMPACT

The Bowie State University community is invited to experience a national celebration of HBCU history and culture. "At

the Vanguard: Making and Saving History at HBCUs" is on view at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Exhibition ends July 19. Reserve Tickets.

The exhibition features photos, videos and artifacts highlighting the powerful stories, experiences and achievements of HBCUs across the country. Admission is free with a reserved timed-entry pass. The exhibition is part of the HBCU History and Culture Access Consortium Initiative and will tour nationally this summer with stops in Atlanta, Houston, Tallahassee and more. Visit <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/vanguard>.

Get to know Bowie State 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-Bowie, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465. A University System of Maryland Member Institution.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Makayla Eugene, a Brandywine resident who graduated from North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina May 9, 2026, with honors. Good luck Makayla in all your future endeavors. Makayla is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene of Brandywine, Maryland. Granddaughter of Gwen Deville and the late Francis Deville of Brandywine, Maryland.

WALDORF SENIOR & RECREATIONAL CENTER

Fellow paper crafter, Rose Lenfro, will be onsite to offer ideas to get you started in paper crafting. All paper crafting supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Fridays, 1 p.m. Fee: FREE. 90 Post Office Rd, Waldorf, MD 20602

DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP

Dinner Theatre Bus Trip: The Donna Summer Musical at Toby's Dinner Theatre, Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Donna Summer songs BROKE EVERY RECORD. Her story BROKE EVERY BARRIER. Donna Summer: A girl from Boston with a voice from heaven, who shot to stardom from gospel choir to dance floor diva. Donna Summer risked it to break through barriers, becoming the icon of an era and the inspiration for every music diva who followed. With a score featuring more than 20 of Summer's classic hits including: "Love to Love You Baby", "Bad Girls", "Hot Stuff", and "Last Dance", this electric experience is a moving tribute to the voice of a generation. Departure from the Richard R. Clark Senior Center, 1210 Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland at 9 a.m. Estimated return time approximately 4:30 p.m. Cost per person is \$140. Telephone: 301-934-5423.

SAVE THE DATE

Jaycees Talent Show will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Join us for a fun-filled talent show featuring performances from our senior community. Lunch will be provided. Event is held at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center, 3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland.

Summer Months Usher in Deadliest Period for Teen Drivers

Greater Washington Nonprofit Urgers Parental Involvement to Prevent Underage Drinking

By PRESS OFFICER WRAP

TYSONS, Md. (May 19, 2026)—Citing the fact that the summer months usher in the contiguous period (June-September) when the greatest number of U.S. teen traffic deaths occur [i], a Washington-area alcohol education group is urging parental involvement to combat both underage drinking and drunk driving this summer.

The Tysons-based nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is providing area parents of teens with Ten tips for Parents to Prevent Underage Drinking (which are available as a downloadable and or printable pdf). WRAP's ten annual summer tips, designed to inform Greater Washington parents on how best to deter underage drinking during the dangerous summer months, include:

- **Understand the Dangers...** Drinking underage not only increased the chances of dependency later on in life but also leads to short and long-term consequences as well as leading to other risky behaviors.
- **Know the Law...** The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia all have zero-tolerance laws making it illegal to consume, possess or purchase alcohol underage the ages of 21.
- **Be a Role Model...** Parents should be role models to their teens and make sure their own behaviors are appropriate. Use alcohol moderately, serve as responsible hosts and never drink and drive.
- **Know your Liability...** In most cases, it is unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home. Parents or adult may face criminal charges later on if these same "friends" are involved in a crash. "In 2024, more than dozen teenagers

died in U.S. motor vehicle crashes every single day during the summer months (14.4/day, June–September)," said WRAP President Kurt Erickson." For too many parents, unfortunately, summer's unstructured time may also be a deadly time for their teenage children and their friends."

In 2023, 30-percent of young drivers (ages 15–20 year old) killed in U.S. crashes had been drinking (with a blood alcohol concentration [BAC] level of 0.01 grams/deciliter or higher) according to the National Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). That same year, a quarter (26%) of young drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes had a BAC of 0.08 g/dL or higher. [ii]

NHTSA data further shows that while young drivers comprise just five-percent of all licensed drivers in the U.S., they account for 8.9-percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes. [ii]

While the 2026 Monitoring the Future survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse shows that alcohol use among U.S. 10th and 8th graders continued to decline, alcohol use among 12th graders slightly increased compared with 2024 data. [iii]

"Make no mistake about it, parents play an integral role in when and if their children

drink alcohol," said Erickson. "These tips are simply meant to reinforce their efforts to foster a healthy and safe summer for them and their teenage children."

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with helping to keep the annual percentage of metro-Washington traffic deaths involving alcohol-impaired driving historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide. Visit WRAP's website at www.wrap.org.

[i] National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) / Fatality Injury Reporting System Tool (2017–2024, below)

[ii] NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts: Young Drivers (July 2025, 2023 Data) <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813736>

[iii] 2026 Monitoring the Future survey <https://monitoringthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/mtfvoll2026.pdf>

Crash Date (Year)	Crash Date (Month)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
2017	254	249	320	332	395	421	405	359	364	400	347	340	4,256
2018	285	241	357	320	367	374	365	332	374	367	354	294	4,032
2019	244	224	299	298	374	396	343	343	329	352	332	309	3,863
2020	282	249	274	261	382	434	497	453	412	423	426	347	4,430
2021	331	305	367	413	440	455	433	477	441	464	420	411	4,970
2022	315	299	371	375	429	404	447	414	497	447	360	394	4,719
2023	354	342	344	434	424	488	420	434	433	473	401	410	4,987
2024	303	284	381	358	419	453	411	444	438	437	394	344	4,703
Total	2,432	2,297	2,705	2,790	3,230	3,427	3,281	3,213	3,222	3,393	3,032	2,870	35,830

Calendar of Events

Tai Chi

Date and time: Mondays, June 1–August 31, 2026, 9–10 a.m.
Description: Yoga in the Parks classes take place from Memorial Day through Labor Day at M-NCPPC sites throughout Prince George's County. We're excited to host Tai Chi on the Montpelier grounds this summer! Classes are scheduled for one hour and are designed for all fitness levels. No classes on federal holidays (6/19 and 7/4). Classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather or wet grounds. Call (301) 927-0822 for weather-related cancellations.
Cost: FREE. Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/montpelier-taichi> (activity code: 17680-479A)
Location: Montpelier Arts Center + Historic Site & Museum, 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Free Summer Soccer Kickoff Watch Party June 11 & June 27

Date and time: Thursday, June 11, 2026, 2–9 p.m. Mexico vs. South Africa: 3–5 p.m. Youth Tournament: 5:30–8:30 p.m.
Description: Every four years, the world comes together for the biggest event in soccer—and this June, the excitement is coming to Prince George's County. Celebrate with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission at our free Summer Soccer Kickoff Watch Parties, featuring international match watch parties, youth activities, and family-friendly fun. We'll provide the big screen, food trucks, and the kids clinics and mini tournament. You should bring friends, family, blankets, and chairs. The youth tournament will begin right after the Mexico vs. South Africa game, 5:30–8:30 p.m. There will be short group-stage games, then we will move into single-elimination games to crown a champion for each age group.
Cost: FREE. Registration not required, but helps us anticipate attendance: www.pgplanning.org/projects/watch-party
Location: Fletcher's Field, 5200 Kenilworth Ave, Riverdale, MD 20737
Contact: Questions: samuel.mccrory@ppd.mncppc.org.

FREE Community Eye Clinic

Date and time: Saturday, June 13, 2026, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Description: Clear your vision and take care of your eye health at a FREE Community Eye Clinic hosted by Clinton Baptist Church in partnership with the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. This clinic is designed especially for adults who may not have the resources for an eye exam or prescription glasses. No insurance is needed. Attendees can receive free eye screenings, a consultation with a physician, and free prescription eyeglasses. Space is limited to approximately 100 participants, so arrive early and spread the word to anyone who could benefit from this important community resource.
Cost: FREE
Ages: Adults. *Space is limited to 100 participants*
Location: Clinton Baptist Church, 8701 Woodyard Rd., Clinton, MD 20735

5th Annual Trolley Trail Day

Date and time: Saturday, June 13, 2026, 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Description: Join the communities of College Park, Riverdale Park, Hyattsville, North Brentwood, Brentwood, and Mount Rainier for Trolley Trail Day, a regional celebration of the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail and its connection across the DMV trail network. Experience the Route 1 Corridor through a full day of activities including fun runs, bike rides, trail skates, mural tours, live music, art, family programming, and more at multiple activity hubs stretching from College Park to Mount Rainier. The celebration will conclude with the Trolley Trail Day Night at the Museum Wrap Party at the College Park Aviation Museum from 5–8 p.m. Rain or shine.
Location: Various
Contact: <https://www.trolleytrailday.org/home>

The Temple of Our Survival: Alisha B. Wormsley Installation, Performance & Conversation

Date and time: Saturday, June 13, 2026, 1–4 p.m.
Description: As the nation marks 250 years since its founding, we are called to ask: whose survival made this nation possible? Experience a powerful, multidisciplinary event featuring artist Alisha B. Wormsley. Presented in collaboration with artist Tsedaye Makonnen and harpist Megan-Joie Coleman, this immersive program blends installation, performance, and dialogue to explore themes of memory, resilience, and collective care. The event will conclude with a panel conversation on the project and the ongoing practices of Black femme survival, moderated by curator Martina Dodd, exploring what it means to commemorate 250 years through the lens of those who were never meant to survive it—and did.
Cost: FREE. Register: <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/>
Location: Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Free Summer Soccer Kickoff Watch Party

Date and time: Saturday, June 27, 2026, 1–9:30 p.m. England vs. Panama: Game time 5 p.m. Colombia vs. Portugal: Game time 7:30 p.m. Youth Tournament, 1–4 p.m. Before the youth tournament begins, there will be a short clinic to work on passing, dribbling, and shooting. Then, children will be split into age groups and play quick elimination games to crown a champion.
Location: Heurich Park, 2800 Nicholson Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

The Prince George's County Green Festival is BACK!

Date and time: Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: Join us for the 12th Annual Green Festival—a FREE event for all ages celebrating sustainability, community, and fun!
• Environmental exhibitors & vendors • PAWCHELLA Pet Pavilion with FREE adoptions, licensing & microchipping • Food trucks, music & local treats • Kids' activities, games & giveaways • Donation opportunities & community resources • Whether you're coming for the pets, the activities, or to learn something new, there's something for everyone!
Cost: FREE
Location: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781
Contact: mypgc.us/greenfestival

COMMUNITY

Splash Into Summer Fun! M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Opening of 2026 Outdoor Aquatic Season

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 18, 2026)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County will officially open outdoor aquatic facilities for the 2026 summer season, beginning Saturday, May 23. Facilities will operate on weekends only through June 19, 2026, offering residents and visitors the perfect way to kick off Memorial Day weekend with summer fun at eight outdoor pools and splash parks across the county.

The Department's family-friendly aquatic facilities provide a safe, affordable, and refreshing way to enjoy the summer. General admission for Prince George's and Montgomery County residents is \$6 for adults and \$5 for youth and seniors. In addition to outdoor swimming, the Department also offers state-of-the-art indoor aquatic facilities that provide swimming instruction, water safety education, fitness classes, open swim, and recreational play opportunities year-round.

"Our pools are more than just a place to safely swim, they're where our community comes together, whether you're swimming laps, relaxing by the water, or watching your children laugh and play," said Adrienne Harris Moore, Division Chief for the Aquatics and Athletic Facilities Division. "We're excited to welcome everyone back for another summer of fun."

Newest M-NCPPC Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

Cross Creek pool in Calverton officially opens its doors to the public this Memorial Day weekend. As the newest addition to the Department's aquatic offerings, the facility provides drop-in swimming, swim lessons, and rentals for families to enjoy all summer long.

Outdoor Aquatic Facilities:

- Cross Creek Pool: 12806 Bay Hills Drive, Calverton, MD (Newest M-NCPPC Pool)
- Allentown Splash Park: 7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
- Ellen Linson Splash Park: 5211 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740
- Glenn Dale Splash Park: 1901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
- Hamilton Splash Park: 3901 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781
- J. Franklyn Bourne Pool: 6500 Calmos Street, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743
- Lane Manor Splash Park: 7601 West Park Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783
- North Barnaby Splash Park: 5000 Wheeler Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Summer outdoor pool operating hours:

- Mondays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–8 p.m.
- Thursdays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- Fridays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–8 p.m.
- Saturdays: 12–3 p.m. | 3:30–6:30 p.m.

*Outdoor Pools will begin daily operations on Friday, June 19, 2026, with special holiday hours of 12 noon–4 p.m. in observance of Juneteenth. Memorial Day and Labor Day Mondays, outdoor pools will offer two sessions, 12–3 p.m. and 3:30–6:30 pm. Special holiday hours of 12 noon–4 p.m. in observance of July 4.

Outdoor pools are very popular and often reach capacity early during the weekend sessions. To secure a spot, guests are encouraged to make an online reservation at pgparks.com. Reservations can be made up to 10 days in advance and include a discounted admission fee.

For complete pool schedules, admission details, and safety guidelines, please visit pgparks.com.

Commissioner from A1

on land use policies to guide the growth and development of the County. In addition, the Planning Board provides managerial oversight of the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Together, with fellow colleagues from the Montgomery County Planning Board, they guide M-NCPPC's bi-county mission to manage physical growth and plan communities; protect and steward natural, cultural, and historic resources; and provide leisure and recreational experiences.

About Vice Chair Billy Okoye

Dr. Billy Okoye, GRI was appointed to the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board in November 2025 by County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy.

Dr. Okoye possesses more than 20 years of experience in business, community advocacy, real estate, and technology. As founder and principal broker of Sold 100 Real Estate, Inc., he led a team of more than 50 agents and oversaw more than \$250 million in closed real estate transactions. Additionally, he serves as group managing director of BMO General Contractors and founder of Autograph Solar where he has advanced innovation in both the construction and clean energy sectors. Dr. Okoye has received numerous awards as a committed community activist and volunteer.

Dr. Okoye earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from Abia State University and a certificate in information technologies from the International Computer Institute. He received a professional doctorate in business administration from the Chartered Institute of Business Managers.

The Prince George's County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission—a bi-county agency set up under State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. In Prince George's County, the agency also administers the public recreation program. The Planning Board's responsibilities include supervising preparation of land use plans and comprehensive zoning maps, advising the County Council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, and reviewing and approving site plans. The Board also oversees the Commission's work in the County, as carried out by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. Visit www.pgplanningboard.org.

Bowie State Athletics Honors 22 Graduating Student-Athletes at Spring Commencement

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (May 22, 2026)—The Bowie State University Department of Athletics celebrated the graduation of 22 student-athletes during the university's spring commencement ceremony on Friday, May 22, inside A.C. Jordan Arena.

The group of student-athletes was among nearly 900 graduates earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

The resilient Class of 2026 overcame challenges while achieving success both academically and athletically during their time at Bowie State University. Collectively, BSU student-athletes competed in Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) tournaments, captured CIAA divisional titles and earned numerous athletic and academic honors throughout their careers.

The ceremony also included a special moment honoring the late Clyde Doughty, Jr., former Bowie State Vice

President of Athletics & Recreation, who was posthumously awarded his doctoral degree by the university. The degree was accepted on his behalf by his wife and two of his children during Friday's commencement ceremony.

Below is a list of Bowie State's graduating student-athletes from Friday's ceremony:

Track & Field

- Shakila Campbell
- Catherine Enwereji
- Nathan Jacobs
- Destiny Lewis
- Jazmyne McGirt
- Dasani Robinson
- Caleb Rose
- Kyera Spriggs

Women's Bowling

- Jessica Watts

Women's Basketball

- Mia Smith

- Destiny Ryles
- Ayasha Thomas

Men's Basketball

- Justin Morrisey
- Tyler Buckhanon
- Guy Fauntleroy

Football

- Jared Achuff
- Davon Telp, Jr.
- Chris Gbakinro
- Deontae Roscoe

Volleyball

- Nadira Avery
- Nicole Taylor

Softball

- Lindsey George
- Brooklyn Owens

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 14 varsity sports teams, please visit BowieStateAthletics.com.

Capitol Tech Participates in the Lockheed Martin Ethics in Engineering Case Competition

By PRESS OFFICER
Capitol Technology University

Capitol Technology University Astronautical Engineering students participated in the Lockheed Martin Ethics in Engineering Case Competition. Hosted annually by Lockheed Martin, the competition challenges undergraduate teams to analyze complex, realistic engineering scenarios that involve technical constraints, business pressures, and ethical decision-making. Teams must develop and defend solutions that balance innovation with integrity, using skills that are increasingly critical in today's technology-driven industries.

For our students, this competition provided an opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders in a professional conference setting, as well as explore the real-world dilemmas challenging the aerospace, cybersecurity, and defense fields. Teams were required to think critically under pressure, collaborate effectively, and present clear, well-reasoned arguments to industry professionals serving as judges. These experiences mirror real-world engineering environments where decisions often carry significant safety,

security, and organizational consequences.

"This was the first time I was able to use my debate skills in an engineering field," said Juliette Suter, Capitol Tech undergraduate student. "I really enjoyed doing the research and just being able to talk to other people about different ideas, I absolutely love that sharing process."

By participating in a nationally recognized ethics competition, students gain exposure to the importance of ethical frameworks in engineering design and system development. They also develop communication and leadership skills that are essential for translating technical expertise into responsible decision-making in professional settings.

The competition also reinforces a broader message: technical excellence alone is not enough. Engineers and technologists must be prepared to evaluate the societal impact of their work, especially as technologies like artificial intelligence, aerospace and astronautical engineering, systems engineering, autonomous systems, and cybersecurity become more deeply integrated into critical infrastructure. Programs like this help students internalize these responsibilities early in their careers.

Capitol Tech's faculty are facilitators as well as educators, seeking opportunities for our students to participate in these types of experience-building events. Capitol Tech is committed to industry-focused learning and partnerships with leaders in the tech field. Ultimately, these experiences prepare our students to enter the workforce as professionals who can innovate responsibly while upholding the highest standards of integrity.

"The Lockheed Martin Ethics in Engineering Case Competition compels students to think deeply about how engineering meets ethics," said AE adjunct professor Rishabh Maharaja. "Engineering has impacts and it's imperative that we think through ethical considerations and public safety aspects. This annual competition provides hands-on opportunities to navigate complex field dilemmas and prepares future innovators for a changing technological landscape. Capitol Tech was honored to participate in this event."

To learn more about our Astronautical Engineering program, visit <https://www.captechu.edu/fields-of-study/aviation-and-astronautical-engineering>

Season 18 of AfroPoP Opens With "Listen To Me"

Kanika Harris and Stephanie Etienne's urgent call-to-action on the Black maternal health crisis premieres on Black Public Media's Peabody Award-winning series on June 15

By PRESS OFFICER
Black Public Media

NEW YORK (May 21, 2026)—Black Public Media's Peabody Award-winning series AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange returns for its 18th season on June 15 with Listen to Me, an intimate and urgent documentary following three Black women as they navigate the risks, realities and inequities of pregnancy, birth and care in America. The film, which brings striking racial disparities in maternal health into sharp focus, will be available on the PBS App and PBS.org. Check local listings for broadcast times.

Premiering ahead of Father's Day and the national Juneteenth celebration, Listen to Me follows three Black women through pregnancy, birth and early motherhood, revealing how systemic inequities shape their care and endanger their lives. Directed by Kanika Harris and Stephanie Etienne, the film pairs deeply personal storytelling with a probing examination of the Black maternal health crisis, offering a powerful call for accountability, healing and change.

Listen to Me will also air later in the month on WORLD, which feeds at the same time to all time zones. Broadcast times are listed in Eastern Time; viewers in other U.S. time zones should tune in at the corresponding local time. The film airs Wednesday, June 24, at 7 p.m. ET; Thursday, June 25, at 12 a.m. ET, which

is 9 p.m. PT on Wednesday, June 24; Thursday, June 25, at 8 a.m. ET and Saturday, June 27, at 1 p.m. ET.

The film is being released at a time when maternal mortality rates in the United States are declining for all groups except Black women. Black women are more than three times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as White women and Black infants are more than twice as likely to die as White babies.

Harris, a Washington, D.C.-based behavioral health scientist, near-miss survivor, doula and birth justice advocate, focuses on health equity, maternal health and women's health. She holds a doctorate and a master's in public health and serves as executive director of the National Association to Advance Black Birth. Etienne is a Baltimore-based certified nurse-midwife and herbalist who holds a master's in public health and serves on the boards of several organizations dedicated to promoting midwifery care and reducing maternal and infant mortality in the African diaspora. Listen to Me is the duo's debut film.

BPM was an early funder of the film, which won its PitchBLACK Forum in 2021. PitchBLACK is the nation's largest pitching competition for Black film and immersive stories.

Season 18 of AfroPoP continues July 2 with This World Is Not My Own, an award-winning, genre-blending feature documentary by Opendox (Petter Ringbom and Marquise Stillwell). It traces

the life and legacy of Nellie Mae Rowe, a self-taught 20th century Black artist whose bold, deeply personal work carried her from the rural South to late-life recognition on the national and global art scene. The film features Emmy® Award winner Uzo Aduba as Rowe and Broadway veteran Amy Warren as gallery owner/arts patron Judith Alexander. It is the first feature-length documentary to premiere exclusively on BPM's YouTube channel.

A third film, planned for November, will be announced later this year.

"Listen to Me is exactly the kind of story AfroPoP was created to share—powerful, unflinching and rooted in the lived experiences of Black people across the diaspora," said BPM Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz, who executive produces the series. "It is vital that these stories remain in the public sphere because they deepen our understanding of one another, challenge inequities and reflect the complexities of Black life."

Presented by Black Public Media and PBS Plus, AfroPoP is the only U.S.-based public media program solely devoted to independent documentaries and narrative films about contemporary life, art and culture across the African diaspora. BPM saved the series from the brink after a 2025 Congressional vote rescinded \$1.8 million that had been allocated to it and

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

PART 1—A REGION RESHAPED: FEDERAL LAYOFFS IN MARYLAND A YEAR LATER

A Year After Layoffs, Former Federal Workers Are Still Piecing Their Lives Back Together

By MEHEDI MAROF
Capital News Service

When David Harbourt signed onto a recent video call, he was alone in a motel room in central Kansas. But in any given week, he could be somewhere else.

A year after losing his federal job, Harbourt now spends about half of every month on the road, moving from contract to contract while his wife and two children remain home in New Market, Maryland, east of Frederick.

"This is the only way I can generate income to provide for my family now," said Harbourt, 43.

For Harbourt and thousands of other displaced federal workers in Maryland and the greater capital region, the layoffs that followed Donald Trump's return to office in January 2025 did not end with a termination notice. The cuts set off months of financial strain, career upheaval and emotional fallout that are still rippling through a state unusually dependent on federal employment.

In Maryland alone, about 29,700 federal jobs disappeared between January 2025 and March 2026 amid a sweeping federal workforce downsizing driven by the Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire Elon Musk. Nationwide, federal civilian employment fell by about 335,000 jobs during that period, including about 81,500 across Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The losses hit especially hard in Maryland, where federal jobs have long done more than provide paychecks. They have helped anchor household finances, sustain local businesses and support state revenue in a region where public-sector work is deeply woven into everyday economic life.

Benjamin Orr, president and CEO of the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, said the damage has extended beyond workers who lost their jobs.

"The federal government is a much less reliable source of economic engine for our state than it used to be because of the chaos introduced by the Trump administration," Orr said.

'Gratifying and fulfilling'

A year ago, Harbourt's life looked very different.

His days were anchored at the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine in Laurel, where he served as the sole safety and occupational health manager for a 27-acre federal campus with laboratories and pastureland.

He said his job was to ensure the site's safety through routine hazards and emergencies: wild animal intrusions, flooding, snow removal and even storm damage when a tornado tore through the pastureland.

It was the kind of work that, to Harbourt, did not feel optional. "Maybe it was my inherent naive mindset," he said, "because I just never thought that they would lay off safety personnel because so many aspects of our job are essential to the operation of any facility."

He said he liked the work. He thought it offered stability, not just for him, but for his family. He was home for dinner every night. "Never missed it," he said.

Harbourt, who holds a doctorate in toxicology, had spent nearly two decades in federal service: nine years with the Army, three at the National Institutes of Health and four at the FDA. Public service, he said, had been "gratifying and fulfilling."

Then, at about 5:20 a.m. on April 1, 2025, his wife shook him awake and told him to check his email.

The message said his position had been eliminated. In the reduction-in-force paperwork was a line he said he still cannot forget: His job was deemed "duplicative and unnecessary."

"Those are the exact words I'll never forget," Harbourt said. "In 17 years working in this field... even my harshest detractors had never said [that]."

Later that morning, he said, the entire branch, 107 employees, was laid off at once.

A region reshaped

Before the 2025 layoffs, the federal government directed about \$150 billion a year into Maryland through contracts, grants, salaries and direct payments to individuals and businesses, according to a report by the Maryland comptroller's office and the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Roughly 230,000 Maryland residents worked for the federal government and earned a combined \$26.9 billion annually. Federal em-

ployment made up about 6% of all jobs in the state but about 10% of total wages.

"That gap ... shows that federal jobs in Maryland are relatively high-paying and high-skill, so their economic impact is larger than their share of employment," said Liu Yang, an associate professor of finance who led the Smith School analysis in collaboration with the comptroller's office.

"Because these jobs pay more, each loss carries a larger economic impact," Yang said. "It reduces household income, local spending, and tax revenue more than a typical job loss."

Orr said the cuts also reduce take-home pay, shrink consumer spending at local businesses and leave the state with less revenue for services such as education, health care and transportation.

In 2025, Maryland lost roughly 15% of its federal workforce, Yang said, an unusually large decline by historical standards.

In October alone, the state lost about 9,700 federal jobs, the steepest monthly drop in decades. Maryland's unemployment rate rose from 3.6% in February 2025 to 4.3% in February 2026.

Max Stier, president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, said the October drop was tied in part to the end of the Office of Personnel Management's "Fork in the Road" deferred resignation program, which urged federal workers to resign voluntarily in exchange for paid leave through Sept. 30.

Workers who accepted were still counted through September, he said, before officially rolling off payroll in October.

"The [layoff] numbers are incredibly concerning for a number of reasons," Comptroller Brooke Lierman said in a statement. "One, because they represent not a thoughtful approach to making government more efficient, but a whack-a-mole attack on important federal services."

Daraius Irani, chief economist at Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute, said Maryland private sector has not been growing fast enough in some areas to easily absorb displaced federal workers into jobs that match their skills.

"Those job cuts probably hit us harder than, say, job cuts in Nevada or in California or Indiana, where there wasn't that much of a dependency on the federal government," he added.

'Terrifying'

Harbourt's family felt the pain of the layoff quickly.

"Every second of every day after that, I thought about almost nothing else," he said. "I can't tell you how terrifying it is as a parent with two kids... faced with the thought that you can't provide for your family."

His wife's job as a pharmacist at a Maryland pharmaceutical company gave the family some stability, he said. Even so, the uncertainty changed how they lived.

"There was a long stretch of many months... I didn't want to spend one more penny than I absolutely had to," he said.

Harbourt, an avid Virginia Tech fan who attended college there and grew up in southwest Virginia, said he missed football games last fall for the first time since he was 5. His family canceled an annual trip to see his mom's family and other relatives in Rhode Island—a routine he said went back decades.

To get by, Harbourt now juggles between contract jobs in several states, doing work similar to what he once did at the FDA. But the nature of the work, and of his life, has changed. Instead of overseeing a full safety program, he is usually brought in for narrower assignments.

Although he now makes more on an hourly basis than he did before, the work is far less stable.

"There is always the concern when the next paycheck might come," he said.

Shuffling cards

Joe Murphy of Dumfries, Virginia, was also laid off in the same wave of cuts. He is now preparing for a career he never expected to pursue.

"I felt that my next job would be retiree," Murphy said.

Instead, at 57, he is learning how to shuffle cards.

Murphy is retraining to become a casino poker dealer because he no longer expects to find work "as fulfilling as the one that I had," he said, "rewards me in terms of satisfaction, not just financial."

He spent nearly a decade at the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education as a management and program analyst, helping oversee grants for students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.



PHOTO EMELY MIRANDA-AGUILAR/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

David Harbourt stands in front of an art sculpture at the New Market Community Park Pavilion in Frederick County, Maryland, on May 6, 2026.

Murphy was laid off March 11, 2025, during a reduction-in-force that cut the Education Department's workforce from 4,133 employees to 2,183, according to agency figures. Additional rounds of layoffs followed later in the year.

He said he was in a routine staff meeting when an email came in announcing that the building would be closed the next day.

"It made no sense whatsoever," he said.

Employees were told to hand off their work, but Murphy said they received no clear direction from senior leadership about where those responsibilities should go.

For Murphy, the loss was not only professional.

"It absolutely put me through mental and emotional trauma," he said. "It's been a really awful year to deal with what they put us through."

Financially, he said, the consequences unfolded gradually. His salary stopped when administrative leave ended, and he has not yet found another job.

"I don't ask people to feel sorry for me," he said.

'Woke up every hour'

Denise M. Joseph of Waldorf, Maryland, experienced the same unraveling more slowly.

Joseph, 55, had worked at the Education Department since 2015, most recently in the Office of Postsecondary Education, where she supported training, onboarding, workforce planning and other internal operations.

She said she was first placed on administrative leave on Jan. 29, 2025, after an evening email informed her that she could no longer work.

Then came the March 11 mass layoffs.

"My whole team... supervisor, everyone, gone," she said.

Joseph said she believed deeply in the department's mission. She supported grant competitions and other initiatives and took pride in helping resources reach schools and programs that needed them.

"It is really fulfilling to know that I had a part to do with that," she said.

What made the loss harder to absorb, she said, was the sense that years of expertise had been tossed aside without explanation.

"We have all the expertise, and we're passionate about the work that we do," Joseph said. "So why would somebody do this?"

She said the stress left her unable to sleep. "I woke up every hour... just tossing and turning."

Months of legal and administrative limbo followed before she was ultimately let go on Aug. 1.

Since then, she has started teaching once a week in an after-school program and taken on contract peer-review work tied to education grants. Her family has stayed afloat because her husband still works and they had savings.

"I worked really hard... to save my money," she said.

Joseph said she is one of 142 former career federal employees from six agencies who joined a lawsuit filed in February in federal court in Maryland. Backed by Lawyers for Good Government and other legal groups, the suit alleges the layoffs were politically motivated and carried out without the due process normally required in a reduction-in-force.

She said she hopes to get back her old job via the lawsuit.

"I would go back because I love what I do," she said.

See FEDERAL Page A5

Maryland State Police Accepting Applications for 2026 Leadership and Career Development Seminar

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police Media

SYKESVILLE, Md. (May 20, 2026)—The Maryland State Police announces that applications are now being accepted for the annual Leadership and Career Development Seminar, which will take place from July 17-19, 2026. The goal of the free event is to develop interest and introduce high school rising juniors and seniors, and incoming college freshmen to career opportunities with the Department.

The three-day, action-packed seminar will be held at the Maryland State Police Training Academy in Sykesville. Those interested in starting a career in law enforcement—either sworn or civilian—are invited to learn about the Maryland State Police from troopers and civilian employees who

specialize in a wide range of expertise. The seminar is a way to identify young talent and build a relationship with the community. The goal is to provide participants with hands-on experiences and an introduction to the Department's mission-critical career opportunities.

Attendees will learn about emergency communications, fitness and defensive tactics, facets of a law enforcement career, aviation/flight paramedics, leadership, digital forensics/cybersecurity, and details into our diverse civilian occupations. Troopers and civilian employees from various specialized units will be on hand to share their experiences about life as a state trooper or as a civilian employee in a law enforcement career. This will include representatives from Criminal Investigations, Forensic Sciences, Police Communications, Information Tech-

nology, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Along with this exciting opportunity, food and lodging will be provided on the campus of the Maryland State Police Academy. Each barrack commander will select one applicant to represent their respective county, including Baltimore City.

To qualify for enrollment, applicants must submit either a two-minute self-taped video or a written essay to explain why they are interested in a career in law enforcement. The deadline for applications remains open. For more application guidelines, please visit this link: <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/community-services/leadership-and-career-development-seminar>.

Questions about the seminar and the application process can be emailed to msp.youthprograms@maryland.gov.

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
Contents © 2026, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing Julie Volosin
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George's County Secures More Than \$1.4 Million in Awards to Advance Energy Equity

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (May 21, 2026)—Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) has been awarded nearly \$1.4 million through the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Residential Energy Equity Grant Program to support home energy efficiency improvements and expand access to solar energy for income-qualifying residents.

The County was awarded a total of \$1,399,722, including:

- \$750,000 for Residential Whole Home/Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- \$649,722 for the installation of cost-effective solar technologies in single-family and certain multi-family homes for income-qualifying Prince Georgians

The funding will help residents lower utility costs, improve home energy performance, and increase access to clean, renewable energy technologies.

Dr. Samuel B. Moki, Director

of the DoE, emphasized the direct impact the funding will have on residents:

"This investment allows us to expand programs that directly support residents by improving energy efficiency, lowering utility costs, and increasing access to solar technologies. By prioritizing income-qualifying households, we are helping ensure that the transition to a clean energy future is both inclusive and impactful."

The Residential Energy Equity funding is designed to address longstanding disparities in access to energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy technologies, particularly among low- to moderate-income households.

Additional details on program implementation and resident participation opportunities will be announced in the coming months.

For more information about county environmental programs, visit environment.mypgc.us.

Melwood Enterprises Employee Derek Point Receives National Recognition for Outstanding Achievements

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood Inc.

GRAPEVINE, Texas (May 21, 2026)—Derek Point, a valued Melwood Enterprises employee and AbilityOne program participant, was honored with the distinguished William M. Usdane Award during SourceAmerica's Achievement Awards Ceremony in Grapevine, Texas. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that exemplify how disability employment drives innovation, strengthens the economy, and enhances the nation's workforce readiness.

As a 23-year member of the Melwood Enterprises team, Derek, who is deaf, has devoted his career to ensuring the safety, maintenance, and upkeep of the USDA's George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland. He has continuously expanded his skillset by seeking out new training opportunities and mastering a suite of technical disciplines.

As a general maintenance worker, Derek is instrumental in supporting advanced maintenance operations and critical facility needs. Alongside a team of highly skilled Melwood Enterprises employees, Derek helps maintain a federal complex that spans 45 acres and over 350,000 square feet of space. Most recently, he

earned his forklift certification and now helps manage large-scale deliveries in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Derek has an unstoppable willingness to take on increasingly complex work that advances his career and strengthens his team. His spirit of never settling is proof of what is possible when talent is recognized and opportunity is accessible," said Larysa Kautz, president and CEO of Melwood. "We are so proud of Derek and honored that he brings determination, curiosity, and pride to his work every day."

Melwood Enterprises, which relies on an integrated workforce that includes people with significant disabilities, prioritizes training and career advancement for its employees. By establishing high-quality training programs, while collaborating with both unions and industry organizations, Melwood Enterprises creates pathways to growth for employees through registered apprenticeships, certification trainings, leadership opportunities, and more.

"At Melwood Enterprises, we pride ourselves on delivering world-class service to our customers while fostering employee excellence and growth," said Brice Alexander, Executive Director of Melwood Enterprises. "Derek exemplifies the

professionalism, dedication, and commitment to service that defines our organization. He is deeply respected by his colleagues, valued by our customers, and incredibly deserving of this recognition."

Melwood Enterprises delivers top-tier business solutions to public and private sector clients across more than 70 locations in the D.C. region and across the mid-Atlantic, while expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Boasting a team of seasoned performers, industry-respected certifications, unparalleled retention rates, and excellence in long-standing contracts, Melwood Enterprises delivers satisfaction, stability, and exceptional return on investment. For more information about Melwood Enterprises, a part of the Melwood family of companies, visit www.MelwoodEnterprises.org.

SourceAmerica is a national nonprofit that helps administer the AbilityOne Program—a program that creates employment opportunities for people with disabilities through federal product and service contracts. We are a bridge between our network contractors and federal customers, providing the resources and support they need to successfully navigate the AbilityOne Program. To learn more, visit SourceAmerica.org.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Help! SSA Says I'm Not Eligible for Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: Help!! The Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes. What can I do?" **Signed: Self-employed American**

Dear Self-employed: For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone (including the self-employed) must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings, including your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year. As a self-employed business owner, only your net earnings are counted (e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken). The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years. If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and determine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits. For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year, or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create your online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security, and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security. If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf

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 ssadviser@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.

DoSEM Expands Economic Mobility Through Ready, Set, GROW! in the National Capital Region—Connecting Maryland's Small and Minority Businesses With State Contracting Information

Statewide event supports Maryland's effort to build an inclusive economic ecosystem by connecting small, minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses to state procurement opportunities

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility

OXON HILL, Md. (May 20, 2026)—The Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM), the nation's first cabinet-level agency dedicated to advancing social and economic mobility, will host its next Ready, Set, GROW! Procurement Connections Workshop on **Thursday, June 18, 2026**, at MGM National Harbor in Oxon Hill. The free, in-person workshop is designed to help small, minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses from across Maryland access government contracting opportunities through networking with agencies and procurement officers responsible for billions of dollars in annual state contracting activity. This workshop is part of DoSEM's broader mission to build an inclusive economic mobility ecosystem that expands access to opportunity, removes barriers to growth, and helps entrepreneurs and small businesses achieve long-term economic stability.

Hosted in the Central Maryland region, the June workshop is expected to draw entrepreneurs and business leaders from Prince George's, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Howard counties, with participation welcome across the state. Participants will meet directly with state procurement officers, learn how Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Small Business Reserve (SBR), and Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) programs position businesses for growth. They will also gain practical strategies for identifying upcoming opportunities through public data sources.

Federal from A4

Beyond the layoffs

Harbour has pushed back in other ways. He attended several protest rallies, he said, including a former federal employees rally against Labor Department cuts in Washington, where he also spoke out against the administration's reduction-in-force policies.

He also pointed to an executive order President Trump signed last March that stripped collective-bargaining rights from roughly a million federal employees on "national security" grounds.

In practice, the order lets agencies end bargaining obligations with unions across

large parts of the federal government.

The AFGE, the largest federal union with nearly a million members, blasted the move as "disgraceful" and "retaliatory," and said it would "relentlessly" fight in court to "protect our rights, our members, and all working Americans from these unprecedented attacks."

They and other unions sued the Trump administration a year ago arguing the order was "unlawful and unconstitutional."

A federal judge later temporarily blocked the order, but in late February, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted that injunction, finding the order was legitimately grounded in national security concerns.

nority and women-owned businesses over the last decade. These partnerships are not just good business, they are a reflection of who we are and the standard of excellence our guests deserve every time they walk through our doors," said Melonie Johnson (President and Chief Operating Officer) for MGM National Harbor.

The Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility was established under House Bill 1253 (Chapter 605, Acts of 2025) as the first cabinet-level agency in the country dedicated to social and economic mobility. DoSEM consolidates the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, the Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs, and the Office of Social Equity into a single department charged with expanding access to opportunity for historically underserved Maryland communities. The department administers the State's MBE, SBR, and VSBE programs, certifies federal and state socioeconomic procurement programs, and serves as a hub for resources, technical assistance, and advocacy for the businesses that drive Maryland's economy.

AFGE President Everett Kelley said in a statement that the decision was not the final word and the union could seek further review.

"Our union is not defined by a single ruling," he said. "The fight is far from over."

For Harbour, what lingers most, though, is not a legal argument. It is the life he lost.

Before the layoffs, he said, his work gave him stability, purpose and time at home with his family. Now, he said, everything feels more uncertain.

"If you take away certainty in people's income, they're going to pull back," Harbour said. "And that's just a reality now."

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2026

Location: MGM National Harbor, 101 MGM National Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Schedule: Check-in and refreshments at 9:30 a.m. | Program at 10 a.m. | Open networking at 11:15 a.m. | Closing at 1 p.m.
Cost: Free. Advance registration required.

Registration: Public registration open now via gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov
Accommodations: Special accommodation requests should be made at least 14 days in advance to eduardo.hayden@maryland.gov.

Note: MGM National Harbor is a casino property. Attendees must be 21 or older to enter the casino floor. Attendees under 21 should enter through the hotel and main entrance.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Can My House Be a Net Zero Home?

By Nitya Dani | May 14, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:

What is a “net-zero” home? Does it have to be new construction or can I retrofit an older home to be “net-zero”?
—Peter B., Boulder, CO

As the impact of climate change becomes more severe, homeowners are adopting sustainable practices in order to reduce their carbon footprint. One method getting much attention is the “net-zero” home. A net-zero home is designed or upgraded to generate as much energy as it consumes over the year. With time, net-zero homes are becoming more readily available in the US, Canada and Europe. “The zero-energy trend is irreversible,” say the Zero Energy Project, accounting for 28,000 net-zero homes in North America. Key benefits include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lowered energy bills, and much more.

Primary features of a net-zero home include insulation to prevent heat loss, energy-efficient models of domestic appliances, airtight construction and renewable energy systems such as solar panels. A common misconception is that net-zero energy can only be achieved by new construction, but many homes can be retrofitted to reach or approach net-zero. Transforming existing homes to net-zero can be achieved through a framework of steps, typically beginning with assessing current energy efficiency. From there, homeowners can incrementally invest in improving insulation, upgrading to energy-

efficient equipment, optimizing ventilation systems, and lastly, switching to renewable energy sources. This approach ensures that the energy demand is lowered before using clean energy, making the process efficient and effective.

Retrofitting has many advantages besides being eco-friendly. There are economic benefits, including increased home value. However, retrofitting can pose its own drawbacks: Older homes may be subject to design limitations that hinder full energy optimization, and most important, it can be quite costly. However, government support through tax credits, rebates and low-interest loans can help cover the upfront costs of net-zero upgrades. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, “You can benefit from energy-efficient financing whether you’re buying, selling, refinancing or remodeling a home.”

On the other hand, new construction offers a blank slate. Builders have complete control over design, materials and technology. New net-zero homes are also built in compliance with current regulations. As a result of these benefits, they often meet true net-zero goals. However, the high upfront costs and a smaller pool of new homeowners make this option less feasible. In comparison to new construction, retrofitting is a more sustainable, time and cost-friendly approach. Ultimately, the goal is not perfection, but rather progress towards a clean and healthy environment. Hence, even if achieving full net-zero is not possible, making considerable strides towards greater energy efficiency is a step in the right direction.



PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

New homes can be designed and built from the ground up to be net zero—but you can also retrofit an existing home to make it net zero.

CONTACTS: Zero Energy Homes of the Future Available Today, zeroenergyproject.com/sell/zero-energy-homes-future-available-today/; Zero Energy Retrofits for Builders, zeroenergyproject.com/renovate/zero-energy-retrofits-builders/

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@earth-talk.org

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. CALL TODAY at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW!

FOR SALE

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services. Expand your brand's reach in our Bulk Advertising Network—CALL TODAY! With one call, one placement, one bill, you'll reach over 1,000,000 readers in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 or email kberrier@mddcpress.com.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!

Call today for a quote.
301-627-0900

BUSINESS SERVICES

Increase the digital presence of your business! Contact MDDC Ad Services to receive a FREE Digital Footprint Consultation for your business from a TOP PERFORMING advertising agency! Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4, www.mddcadservices.com.

REAL ESTATE

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-541-7929

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW.

FOR SALE

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-977-5719

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance—NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-337-5228 www.dental50plus.com/MDDC#6258

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-407-6870

Save loads of money with your advertising budgets! CONNECT with

Audien Hearing
The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls. Atom X
No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.
Call 888-410-0534 to get your 45-day risk free trial.

DENTAL Insurance
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.
1-855-337-5228
Dental50Plus.com/MDDC

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP
WE CANCEL TIMESHARES
Many people think they're stuck with their timeshare forever—but that's often not the case. Wesley Financial Group has helped more than 50,000 families break free from unwanted timeshares, and we may be able to help you, too. If you were misled, pressured, or deceived during your purchase, you could qualify for cancellation.
How Does the Cancellation Process Work?
Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:
Call 1.888.984.2917

Retire with confidence.
Stop wondering if your savings will last. Get a personalized retirement plan designed to help provide consistent income and ongoing guidance from a fiduciary advisor.
Whether you've saved \$50,000 or \$500,000, we'll help you build a strategy to make the most of it.
Plan, Invest, Spend, Personal Advisor
Ready to stop worrying about money?
Call for a free, no-obligation consultation (888) 295-9055
Retirable

Tested and proven gutter protection. LeafFilter
LeafFilter accepts 200% more water than competitors.
America's #1 gutter protection
25% off LeafFilter Gutter Protection

Season from A3

the series is expected to reach its 100th film presentation this season. Since it premiered in 2008, AfroPoP has presented films by an array of award-winning and noted filmmakers, including George Amponsah, Joel Zito Araujo, Violeta Ayala, Blitz Bazawule, Yaba Blay, Barron Claiborne, Rebecca Richman Cohen, Daniel Fallshaw, Luchina Fisher, Bobbito Garcia, Alain Gomis, Thomas Allen Harris, Eric Kabera, Terence Nance, Raul Peck, Sam Pollard, Michèle Stephenson, Anisia Zzeyman, Marco Williams and Saul Williams.

Denise A. Greene is the series producer/director of AfroPoP. The series is presented with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. To find out more about AfroPoP, visit <https://blackpublicmedia.org/afropop/>.

Black Public Media (BPM) supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience to inspire a more equitable and inclusive future. For 45+ years, BPM has addressed the needs of unserved and underserved audiences. BPM-supported programs have won five Emmys®, 10 Peabodys, five Anthem Awards, 14 Emmy® nominations and an Oscar® nomination. BPM continues to address historical, contemporary and systemic challenges that traditionally impede the development and distribution of Black stories.

PBS Plus is a syndicated programming service for public television stations, supplementing the primetime, daily news, and children's content in the National Program Service, providing series and specials intended for various dayparts. All PBS member stations, reaching all available national TV households, have access to PBS Plus content. Annually, stations are provided with approximately 500 hours of programming via PBS Plus. PBS Plus series and specials range from “how-to” programs such as This Old House and food series such as Family Ingredients to topical news and information programs and arts and cultural shows such as Austin City Limits and The Caverns Sessions.

GENERAC
#1 standby generator worldwide.
Get whole-home power, automatically.
Call 855-993-0969 to schedule your free quote today!

Consumer Cellular
BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE, WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.
Plans start at just \$20/month. Switch & Save Today.
866-337-1676

The Prince George's Post
Your Newspaper of Legal Record
Call (301) 627-0900
Serving Prince George's County Since 1932