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Prince George's County Celebrates Arrival of Quantum World Congress, Reinforces Position as the Engine of Maryland's "Capital of Quantum"

County economic development corporation launches new digital resource hub

By RHETT BUTLER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 3, 2026)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is celebrating the upcoming arrival of the Quantum World Congress, taking place September 23–25 in the Discovery District in College Park, Maryland. The international gathering will bring together leading researchers, investors,

and industry leaders shaping the future of quantum technology, and PGCEDC is using the moment to spotlight Prince George's County's role as the engine powering Maryland's status as the Capital of Quantum.

Anchored by the University of Maryland, the Discovery District has emerged as one of the nation's most significant hubs for quantum research and commercialization, home to institutions and companies advancing quan-

tum computing, sensing, and communications. The arrival of the Quantum World Congress underscores the region's growing influence on the global stage, and Prince George's County's central role in translating that research into economic opportunity, job creation, and industry growth.

"We are proud to welcome the

See QUANTUM Page A5



UMGC and Prince George's County Public Schools Announce Dual Enrollment Partnership

Eligible students can earn college credit and a no-cost certificate

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. (Sept. 3, 2026)—University of Maryland Global Campus and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) today announced a dual enrollment partnership, marking a new opportunity for eligible PGCPS high school juniors to earn college credit and pursue a UMGC undergraduate certificate before graduation.

Through the PGCPS to UMGC Dual Enrollment Program, eligible PGCPS

juniors may enroll at UMGC and pursue one of three undergraduate certificates: Artificial Intelligence Foundations, Leadership and Ethics, or Spanish for Business and the Professions. Approved students may pursue and, upon successful completion, earn their certificate at no cost through funding provided by PGCPS.

The partnership expands PGCPS' Dual Enrollment program with certificate pathways in areas increasingly important to today's workforce. Artificial Intelligence Foundations introduces

students to key concepts and applications in AI; Leadership and Ethics focuses on management, organizational leadership and ethical decision-making; and Spanish for Business and the Professions strengthens language and professional communication skills through coursework taught in Spanish that explores business cultures and economic conditions across the Spanish-speaking world.

See DUAL Page A3



IMAGE COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION

Prince George's County Commemorates 35 Years of Transit Service and Officially Launches GoPGC

Formerly "TheBus," GoPGC Establishes Framework for a New Era of Transit

By ANGELA ROUSON, MPA
Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 2, 2026)—Today, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) commemorated over 35 years of local transit service with the official launch of GoPGC, a systemwide rebrand of the County's transit network. County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy and Council Chair Krystal Oriadha joined DPW&T Acting Director Oluseyi Olugbenle, local officials, community leaders, and County employees to mark the historic milestone. The event also celebrated the history of County transit while highlighting the contributions of employees who have shaped and advanced the system for over three decades.

Formerly TheBus, GoPGC is the next phase of PGC Transit Transformation, bringing all County-operated transportation services under a unified, recognizable identity. The transition began in summer 2026, and will continue across transit fleets, routes, and programs, creating a distinct presence for Prince George's County transit in the region.

Beyond the new name and visual identity, the transition includes Sunday service on select routes, and continued investments in technology, passenger amenities, and cleaner transportation designed to improve convenience, reliability, and the overall rider experience.

"For more than 35 years our transit system has connected residents to work, education, services, and opportunity," said Prince George's County Executive Braveboy. "As we attract new development and strengthen our economic future, transit must evolve with us. Our residents deserve a modern, accessible, and reliable system that elevates their

quality of life and GoPGC brings us closer to that goal."

Under the new system, the County's transit services will include:

- **GoPGC**, formerly TheBus, the County's fare-free fixed-route bus service.
- **PGC Link**, an on-demand service using smaller vehicles and flexible routes based on real-time rider demand.
- **Plus**, formerly Call-A-Bus, the County's demand-response service for eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities who are unable to use traditional fixed-route transit.
- **Express**, an anticipated limited-stop service designed to provide faster connections between major destinations with fewer stops, transit priority, and other mobility enhancements.

The GoPGC launch is rooted in the Prince George's County Transit Vision Plan, which provides a long-term framework for improving mobility and creating a transit system that responds to the County's changing population, development patterns, and transportation needs.

"GoPGC reflects more than a new look for transit, it represents how we are preparing our system to serve Prince George's County for the next generation," said DPW&T Acting Director Oluseyi Olugbenle. "We are building on 35 years of service with a stronger focus on efficiency, accessibility, and the overall commuter experience."

The rebrand commemorates more than three decades of local transit service while establishing a new foundation for the future of mobility in Prince George's County.

MPT Celebrates HBCUs With Special Programming in September

Program lineup places spotlight on historically Black colleges and universities including several in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Public Television

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (Sept. 3, 2026) —Maryland Public Television will celebrate historically Black colleges and universities in September with its seventh annual HBCU Week, a slate of programs sharing informative and inspiring stories about HBCUs and the people who attend, graduate, administrate, and advocate for these important institutions of higher learning. A preview is available at mpt.org/hbcu.

During the week of September 21–27, MPT will offer evening program blocks exploring topics from the past, present, and future of HBCUs in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Additional HBCU-themed content will air on Saturdays throughout September.

Programs airing on MPT this month are among the more than 50 hours of on-demand content available to watch anytime on the HBCU Week NOW YouTube channel, Instagram page, and website.

HBCU Week NOW launched in 2023, expanding MPT's long-standing HBCU Week from an endeavor reaching its footprint in the mid-Atlantic to a project reaching nearly all households across the United States and beyond. Today, the HBCU Week NOW YouTube channel boasts more than 25,000 subscribers and 4 million total views.

Viewers can find more information about HBCU Week NOW at



hbcuweeknow.com. Audiences are encouraged to contribute to the conversation on social media using the hashtag #HBCUWeekNOW.

In Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress defined an HBCU as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964 and whose principal mission is the education of African Americans. The six HBCUs in MPT's viewing area are Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Howard University, Morgan State University, University of the District of Columbia, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

HBCU Week on MPT – 2026 Schedule
One On One: Dr. David Wilson, Morgan State University—Monday, September 21, 7–7:30 p.m.

MPT's Jeff Salkin, news anchor, visits Morgan State University for an in-depth interview with President David K. Wilson, Ed.D. Next, viewers learn about a one-year master's degree program designed to help teachers meet state certification requirements and provide an alternative career path for displaced federal workers. Then, audiences meet Donal Ware, a Morgan State alumnus and national sportscaster.

Welcome to HBCU Week at Morgan State University—Monday, September 21, 7:30–8 p.m.

A 2023 visit to Morgan State University and interviews with President Dr. David Wilson, students, and alumni of Bear Nation. Dr. Wilson shares his vision for Morgan to become an R-1 research institution while achieving historic enrollment.

One On One: Dr. Aminta Breaux, Bowie State University—Tuesday, September 22, 7–7:30 p.m.

MPT's Jeff Salkin, news anchor, visits Bowie State University for an in-depth interview with President Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D. The episode also features reporting on how students are blending the technical precision of computer science with the creative expression of visual arts through Bowie State's virtual reality and gaming bachelor's degree program.

See HBCUs Page A6

INSIDE

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month Events and Programs

From Construction to Testing: Purple Line Fall Community Advisory Team Meetings Announced
Around the County, Page A2

Calendar of Events

What Happens When the Artist Becomes his own Client?

Get Moving, Get Screened and Get Connected at Free PGC Health Fair
Community, Page A3

Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union Launches Membership Drive to Strengthen Community Connections

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller Chairs Safer Maryland Coalition Inaugural Meeting
Advancing Roadway Safety
Business and Finance, Page A4

Leadership Maryland Now Accepting Applications for the 2027 Class Year

University System of Maryland (USM) Agrees to pay out Raises to Staff After Pressure From Union and Governor

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Anniversary Banquet will be held at Indian Head Pavilion 100 Walter Thomas Road, Indian Head, Maryland 20640, Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 2–6 p.m. Anniversary Celebration will be held Sunday, October 11, 2026, 3 p.m. at Alexandria Chapel United Methodist Church 5605 Chicamuxen Road, Indian Head, Maryland 20640. Pastor: Nurbert A. Hughes. Guest Speaker Pastor William A. Coates.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS CHURCH HISTORY CONT'D

In 2006 much of the time was spent complying with the Prince George’s County pre-application process. In light of the long, pre-application permit process and to mark five years since the fire, a “Ceremonial” Groundbreaking Service was held on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006. After much frustration with the permit granting process and the completion of many tasks conveyed by the Fire Department Engineers of Prince George’s County, a building permit was granted on March 2, 2007. We broke ground in June 2007 and laid the cornerstone in November 2007 in a ceremony conducted by Beehive Lodge of the Prince Hall Masons. Rev. Austin formed a non-profit organization, the South County Outreach Ministries, Inc., to oversee the management and care of the new church hall. The sudden death of our beloved pastor, Rev. Thomas Austin, III (October 2008), took a great toll on the church and its building activities.

With the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Daryl Williams in 2009, we still had major groundwork to complete. During this period, one of our members, Oliver Myers, was made aware of a Maryland State grant opportunity that was provided to a neighboring church. Mr. Myers brought this grant concept to the attention of the Church Council, and a committee was formed, chaired by Thomas Contee, to pursue a grant to finance the completion of the unfinished work. We were successful, with the help of our local state Delegate, James Proctor, in obtaining a grant from the Maryland State Senate and the House of Representatives.

In April 2011 we became part of a Cooperative Parish along with Christ United Methodist Church of Aquasco, Maryland. The launch date of the Cooperative Parish was July 1, 2011; this shield ministry began ministering under the name of New Hope Fellowship. Under the leadership of Rev. Williams and blessings of our Creator, the “Family Life Center” was consecrated on Sunday, March 3, 2013.

150TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish, located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road celebrates its 150th Anniversary Homecoming on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 10 a.m. The celebration will be held at the church. The anniversary worship service will feature The Reverend Rachelle Sam of the Episcopal Diocese

of Washington as the guest speaker. The theme for the celebration is “The Spirit of the Lord Is Here,” recognizing God’s faithfulness throughout the church’s 150-year history and looking ahead with hope. Following the worship service, guests are invited to enjoy a light luncheon and fellowship. Each year, Homecoming at St. Philip’s is more than a reunion, it is a celebration of faith, family, and legacy. Members, former members, friends, and the surrounding community gather to reconnect with one another while honoring the vision, perseverance, and sacrifices of the church’s founders. Their steadfast faith established a foundation that continues to inspire generations to worship, share, and serve share God’s love. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend this historic milestone. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us as we celebrate 150 years of God’s grace and the rich heritage of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish.

A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

A Community Fundraiser. A Crab Feast all-you-can-eat sponsored by Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship October 11, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$75, children 12 and under \$35. Advance Purchased Tickets Only. No tickets will be sold at door. Menu: Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Corn on the Cob, String Beans, Tea, Lemonade. Ticket Contacts: Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260, Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Michele Chase 240-882-3369. Cash or Cash app: \$PAGScholarship. The event will be held at St. Philip’s Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Ayden Bell, Osayi Omoregbe, Chidinma Mbakwe, Mariama Davies, Ronald Jones, Pam Stahl, Donna Cain, Norman Noel, Alexis Proctor, Elijah P. Knight, Kirk Samuel, Beonie Pearson, Idena Thomas, Karen Taylor, Curt Falby, Annie Cokes, James Dorsett, IV, Kizzy Savoy, Umaru Davies, Rebecca Mosley, and Vincent Cooke who are members of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland celebrating birthdays in September. Enjoy your special day and I hope that you will have many more birthday celebrations.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Franklyn and Joyce Isaac, Jose and Daphne Rojas, Norville and Deserae Hughes, Ted and Rebecca Mosley, Shelton and Melaina (PASTOR) Trice, Owen and Audrey Johnson who are celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in September. I hope that everyone will have a beautiful wedding celebration.

SAVE THE DATE

“Clinton United Methodist Church Women in Faith, Sunday, November 15, 2026. Also, we are sponsoring the Two River District Annual Celebration on Sunday, October 10, 2026, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m.” President Doris Mackall

D.C. National Guard will also be on-site. Prince George’s County Office of Veterans Affairs will connect veterans and families with benefits, health care and educational resources.

The Capital Canopy will host the Kids Zone where the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Recreation will offer games, activities and recreational program information, while Park Rangers will showcase furs and skulls. WOW Wheelz will offer a free interactive driving academy, and Prince George’s County Fire/EMS hosts a fire safety table with recruiter meet-and-greets.

The day wraps up with a Commanders vs. Cowboys Watch Party at 4:25 p.m. on the jumbo screen at The Plaza (150 National Plaza). Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and grab food from one of National Harbor’s 40 restaurants.

For more information, visit www.NationalHarbor.com or the Community Day event page: <https://www.nationalharbor.com/events/annual-events/community-day/>.

Situated on the banks of the historic Potomac River and just minutes from the nation’s capital, National Harbor is a waterfront resort destination unlike any other. National Harbor is home to two of Maryland’s Four Diamond rated hotels—Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the East Coast’s largest non-gaming hotel and convention center and has almost 2,000 hotel rooms and 660,000 sq. ft. of meeting space and MGM National Harbor, an integrated luxury casino resort with renowned chef-driven restaurants, a 3,000-seat state-of-the art theater and one of the largest gaming floors outside of Las Vegas. The vibrant Waterfront District features boutique shops, restaurants and entertainment options along picturesque promenades. The iconic Capital Wheel, a 180-ft observation wheel, Tanger National Harbor’s 85 designer brands, and a robust calendar of events round out this destination that welcomes more than 15.2 million visitors a year.

Around the County

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month Events and Programs

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 2, 2026)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County announces the official lineup of events and programs in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month 2026. From September 13 through October 15, the Department will host a variety of family-friendly events celebrating the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans, including live music, traditional dance performances, art exhibitions, and more.

“The Department of Parks and Recreation is proud to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions that make Prince George’s County a vibrant community,” said Darius A. Stanton, Director of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County. “Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to honor the histories and achievements of Hispanic and Latino residents while bringing our community together through meaningful cultural experiences and celebrations rooted in paz y amor (peace and love).”

Hispanic and Latino residents play a vital role in the Prince George’s County community. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos make up 21.2% of the county’s population and represent one of its fastest-growing demographic groups. Hispanic Heritage Month offers an opportunity to recognize the community’s cultural, social, and economic impact on the county.

Upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month events

Hispanic Heritage Kick-off Celebración | Free

Sunday, September 13, 2–5 p.m.
Prince George’s Publick Playhouse
Join us for a free, family-friendly event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month! The “celebración” will include an art exhibition and public reception displaying the works of artist Catherine Rupan Mapp, the unveiling of the 2026 Hispanic Heritage Month poster by a local high school student artist, live music from Pablo Antonio y La Firma and DJ Chris Styles, dance demonstrations and lessons from Salsa with Sylvia, arts and crafts and face painting for children, and light refreshments.

Fiesta de la Familia | Free
Sunday, September 20, 1–4 p.m.

Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with arts and crafts, live entertainment, kids’ activities, community resources, craft and food vendors, giveaways, and more! Transportation is available. Please register for the event to select your shuttle location.

IZIS la Enfermera de la Salsa
Friday, September 25, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. and Saturday, September 26, 7:30–9 p.m.

Prince George’s Publick Playhouse
Known for her powerful vocals and dynamic stage presence, IZIS la Enfermera blends classic salsa with contemporary energy to create a joyful, dance-filled experience. Her unique background as a healthcare professional inspires her belief in music as healing and connection. This vibrant performance honors culture, resilience, and community, inviting audiences of all ages to move, celebrate, and feel the rhythm of Latin pride.

Latinas in Aviation Global Festival | Free

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

College Park Aviation Museum
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant celebration honoring Latina pioneers in aviation and the rich cultures of our Latino community. Whether you’re coming for the music, the stories, or the chance to connect with your community, this FREE festival is one you won’t want to miss.

For a complete list of Hispanic Heritage Month events hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit pgparks.com.

From Construction to Testing: Purple Line Fall Community Advisory Team Meetings Announced

Virtual Meetings Highlight Progress as Live Wire Testing Expands Across Both Counties

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 3, 2026)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration Purple Line today announced the Fall 2026 Community Advisory Team (CAT) meeting schedule, highlighting the significant progress the Purple Line project has made since the last set of meetings held in the spring. Construction is now 92% complete and light rail vehicle testing is underway across more than half of the 16-mile alignment, including sections in both Prince George’s and Montgomery counties.

The seven meetings will be held virtually October 13–28 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Local businesses, residents and community organizations are highly encouraged to attend to stay informed and involved.

“After celebrating the last piece of rail installed on the alignment in May, we now anticipate significant completion of Purple Line construction this year and expansion of live wire light rail vehicle testing across all 16 miles of the east-to-west alignment,” said Senior Project Director Ray Biggs II. “The team always looks forward to sharing progress during CAT meetings and showing the public ongoing milestones, leading up to the start of service.”

Purple Line CAT meetings will feature leaders and experts from the system and maintenance operator Purple Line Transit Operators along with the Maryland Transit Administration, concessionaire Purple Line Transit Partners and design builder Maryland Transit Solutions.

These meetings include a preview of upcoming milestones, information about the expansion of testing in 2027 and provide time for attendees to ask questions and offer feedback. All meetings are hosted on Microsoft Teams and offer captioning in multiple languages.

All CAT meetings are scheduled from 6–7:30 p.m. and instructions on enabling live captioning are posted at <https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events>. Past CAT meeting presentations and recordings are also available at www.purplelinemd.com.

The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, October 13
Lytonsville/Woodside
- **Thursday, October 15 College Park**
- Tuesday, October 20
University Boulevard
- Wednesday, October 21
Long Branch
- Thursday, October 22
Silver Spring
- **Tuesday, October 27 Riverdale Park/New Carrollton**
- Wednesday, October 28
Bethesda/Chevy Chase

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

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

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COMMUNITY

Calendar of Events

Bowie International Festival

Date and time: Saturday, September 12, 2026, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Description: Celebrate the rich diversity of the Bowie community at the International Festival! This free, family-friendly event showcases cultures from around the world through music, dance, food, art, and hands-on activities. Enjoy: Vibrant cultural performances throughout the day, Delicious international cuisine, from Japan, Nepal, Greece, Africa, Mexico, Caribbean and Mediterranean, just to name a few, Artisan crafts and unique handmade goods from around the world, Children’s activities, including crafts, stories, games, and a “passport” adventure featuring cultures from across the globe
Cost: FREE. Parking available at Allen Pond Park & nearby streets.
Location: Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Drive, Bowie, MD 20716

Celebrate Africa Festival

Date and time: Saturday, September 19, 2026, 1–6 p.m.
Description: M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County is pleased to announce its ninth annual Celebrate Africa Festival on September 19, 2026—recognized in Prince George’s County, Maryland, as African Heritage Month. The festival acknowledges the contributions and impact of the African immigrant community on Prince George’s County and the greater DMV area, and celebrates the beauty, vibrancy, and cultural relevance of the work of African artisans, crafts persons, musicians and performing artists. The festival aims to promote cultural awareness and understanding between African immigrant and other communities. This year’s activities showcase the rich cultures of the African continent and will feature performances from Amadou Kouyate, Osagyefo Dance Company, Mlanjeni Magical Theater, and Armand Ntep and Memphis Gold. Explore the flavors of the African Continent from local food trucks representing the best of African cuisine across the DMV.
Cost: FREE, All ages
Location: Fairwood Park, 12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD 20720

Join Our Upcoming Job Fair!

Date and time: Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Description: The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWR-CCC), in partnership with Abandon the Reckless, invites you to our upcoming Job Fair! Whether you are looking to launch a new career, transition into clean transportation and sustainability, or explore training programs, this event connects you directly with employers and training providers ready to hire. Many local employers and training providers on-site!
Register: Visit gwrccc.org
Location: GWRCCC Headquarters, 899 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20013
Contact: 202-671-1580 | info@gwrccc.org

BRAILLED IT Movie Viewing and Discussion

Date and time: October 7–13, 2026; Discussion: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 7 p.m.
Description: The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP) invites the public to view BRAILLED IT, an award-winning documentary highlighting the skill and achievements of young Braille readers and writers. Through community partnerships with the Friends of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Artifact Studios, Hadley, the Braille Institute, and the Library of Congress’ National Library Services for the Blind and the Print Disabled (NLS), this event brings together readers, educators, network library staff, families, and advocates nationwide to explore the importance of Braille literacy. BRAILLED IT follows leading blind and low-vision Braille readers and writers under 18 as they compete in the Braille Challenge. The Braille Challenge, hosted by the Braille Institute, is the only international academic competition for students who are blind or visually impaired. To ensure nationwide participation, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and Artifact Studios will offer **free, on-demand public screenings of BRAILLED IT from October 7, 2026 through the discussion on October 13, 2026. Registration is required for film access. After watching the film, everyone is invited to join the live national discussion to reflect on the film, celebrate Braille literacy, and discuss the ongoing impact of accessible reading. Both the on-demand screenings and the October 13 discussion are free, but advance registration is required.**
Cost: FREE. Register: <https://bit.ly/BrailledIt>.

Prince George’s County Green Festival 12th Annual Green Festival

Date and time: Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, in partnership with the City of Hyattsville, invites you to the 12th Annual Green Festival (formerly the Green Summit). Celebrate sustainability with exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, and fun activities for the whole family! Food trucks, PAWCHELLA: Pet Pavilion, entertainment and more!
Cost: FREE, family-friendly, pet friendly
Location: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: mypgc.us/greensummit

Riversdale—Harvest Fest

Date and time: Saturday, October 17, 2026, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Enjoy a fun-filled community day. Learn about seed saving with our Historic Site Gardener, enjoy storytime, and celebrate the harvest with a family scavenger hunt and small prizes for participants.
Cost: \$5/person. Registration required through ParksDirect
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale Historic Site & Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene

Date and time: Saturday, October 24, 2026, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
Description: Registration is opening soon for Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene, Prince George’s County’s signature community beautification event. DPW&T invites residents, businesses, schools and community partners to join County Executive Aisha Braveboy on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 8 a.m.–12 p.m. for the countywide cleanup! Participants will have the opportunity to come together and make a visible impact in neighborhoods and communities across Prince George’s County. **Registration details coming soon!**

What Happens When the Artist Becomes his own Client?

RAZA RY opens THE 1ST ROOM, turning nearly two decades of reconstruction into a public experiment
Six Films. Two Movements. One Ongoing Rebuild.

By PRESS OFFICER
RAZA RY

MOUNT RAINIER, Md. (Aug. 26, 2026)—What happens when an artist turns the lens around, makes himself the client and invites an audience into the unfinished work?

On September 20, RAZA RY intends to find out.

Brick by Brick: THE 1ST ROOM brings nearly two decades of personal and creative reconstruction into Station 3510 through six short films, artifacts and audience participation. Instead of presenting a polished portrait of arrival, RAZA exposes the architecture underneath it: the choices, fractures, revisions and discoveries that make becoming possible.

This is not a retrospective. The audience is not being asked simply to look back at who RAZA has been. They are being invited into the room while becoming is still happening.

ing is still happening.

Across two movements, film leaves the screen and enters the room. Artifacts carry memory into physical space. Audience participation changes the temperature of the work. What begins as one artist’s reconstruction becomes a question shared by everyone present: What are we building, dismantling or becoming in our own lives?

At the center of the experiment is an unusual reversal. RAZA, whose work spans photography, film and writing, has spent years observing and interpreting other people. With Brick by Brick, he turns that attention inward and makes himself the client, collapsing the distance between artist, subject and work.

The result is neither screening nor exhibition in the conventional sense. THE 1ST ROOM is a threshold: part cinema, part installation, part social experiment. Its subject is not a finished identity, but

EVENT DETAILS

RAZA RY Presents Brick by Brick: THE 1ST ROOM

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Station 3510

3510 Rhode Island Avenue,

Suite 100

Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Doors: 6 p.m. | Presentation:

approximately 8 p.m.

Admission: Free

Details + RSVP: [https://september-](https://september-20-event.vibepreview.com/intro)

20-event.vibepreview.com/intro

the courage and uncertainty of constructing one in public.

With Brick by Brick, RAZA turns the work of becoming visible into both a social experiment and a shared journey with his fans, supporters and collectors.

RAZA RY is a multidisciplinary artist working across photography, film, writing and experience-making. His practice explores identity, visibility, reconstruction and the tension between who we have been and who we are still becoming. Brick by Brick makes that inquiry visible, inviting others not merely to witness the rebuild, but to enter it.

Get Moving, Get Screened and Get Connected at Free Prince George’s County Health Fair

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Prince George’s County Chapter to host Sept. 26 event featuring health screenings, interactive wellness activities and fun for all ages

By LADY MARIA JAMES
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Prince George’s County Chapter

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (Aug. 17, 2026)—Get ready to move, learn and take charge of your health! From children ready for a challenge to older adults looking for fun ways to stay active, there will be something for every generation at the Let’s Move Prince George’s County Community Health Fair.

The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Prince George’s County Chapter, in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, will host the free event Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oakcrest Community Center in Capitol Heights.

Under the theme “Wellness for All: Mind, Body, and Community,” this won’t be your typical health fair. In addition to valuable health information, attendees will be invited to get up, participate and try something new through interactive activities for all ages.

Children can take on a Kids Challenge, while teens and adults can get moving through fitness activities or learn practical



ALL PHOTOS CREDIT SLK PRODUCTIONS

Teens and adults can get moving through fitness activities. Above, a Double Dutch activity from last year’s event. Below, mental health and community wellness resources will also be available.

techniques during a self-defense demonstration. Adults and older residents can try chair yoga, and attendees can pick up healthy eating ideas through a nutrition workshop and cooking demonstration.

Men’s health will also take center stage, with a special panel designed to engage men in conversations about their health and wellness.

Visitors can learn important information about their health through screenings and services, including blood pressure and A1C checks, vision and hearing screenings, and sickle cell trait testing and education. Mental health and other community wellness resources will also be available.

The fair will bring together organizations including the Prince George’s County Health Department, AARP Maryland, Howard University Sickle Cell Center, NAMI, the Colorectal Cancer Alliance and other health and community partners.

Whether you come to get screened, join an activity, learn about men’s health, discover a new healthy habit or enjoy the day with your family, the health fair offers Prince George’s County residents an opportunity to make wellness active, accessible and fun.



Dual from A1

“This partnership reflects our shared commitment to expanding access to higher education and creating clear pathways to student success,” said UMGC President Gregory W. Fowler, PhD. “Building on successful collaborations such as the 3D Scholars program, UMGC and Prince George’s County Public Schools are creating new opportunities for students to earn college credit and industry-relevant credentials before they graduate from high school. Together, we are helping more Maryland students gain an early start on their academic and career goals while strengthening the future workforce of our state.”

For PGCPSS, the partnership builds upon its Dual Enrollment program, giving students more opportunities for a head start on college credits while helping them explore career interests, strengthen academic skills and gain valuable college experience before graduation, at no cost to students.

“Partnering with UMGC allows us to remove financial barriers and provide our students with direct, high-value pathways into the modern workforce,” said PGCPSS Superintendent Shawn Joseph, EdD. “By offering tuition-free certificates in emerging and critical fields like artificial intelligence, leadership, and professional Spanish, we are not just giving our high schoolers a head start on college credit—we are empowering them with practical, industry-aligned skills that give them a competitive edge in their future careers.”

Students accepted into the program will begin coursework in fall 2026 and complete a career preparatory course that introduces them to UMGC and helps connect their academic experience with professional goals and career options. Interested students and families are encouraged to speak with their school counselor and visit the partnership webpage for more information: <https://www.umgc.edu/transfers-and-credits/pgcps>.

University of Maryland Global Campus

was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service members. Today, UMGC is the largest provider of postsecondary education in Maryland and continues its global tradition with online and hybrid courses, more than 175 classroom and service locations worldwide, and more than 100 degrees and certificates backed by the reputation of a state university and the University System of Maryland. For more information, visit umgc.edu.

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation’s 20th largest school districts, has 200 schools and centers, more than 130,000 students and 22,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union Launches Membership Drive to Strengthen Community Connections

New and current members can take advantage of special incentives through September 30

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. (Sept. 1, 2026)—Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union (PGCFCU) is inviting Prince George’s County residents, employees, students, business owners, volunteers, and worshippers to discover the benefits of credit union membership during its 2026 Membership Drive, underway through September 30, 2026.

Under the theme “Your Community. Your Credit Union.” the campaign reinforces PGCFCU’s longstanding commitment to providing accessible financial products, personalized service, and financial resources designed around the needs of the Prince George’s County community.

“Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union has been part of the county for nearly 60 years, and our Membership Drive is about introducing even more people to the value of having a financial institution that is rooted in the community it serves,” said Diane Coleman Brown, President & CEO of Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union. “When someone becomes a member, they are joining a financial cooperative built to serve its members and help strengthen our community.”

That commitment extends beyond traditional financial services. Throughout its history, PGCFCU has responded directly to the needs of the county, including hosting fresh food giveaways for local families and providing dedicated financial resources and personalized financial plans to help Prince George’s County employees manage income disruptions during the federal government shutdown.



Special Membership Drive Incentives

Through September 30, PGCFCU is offering special opportunities for both new and existing members:

- **New Member Giveaway:** New members who join during the campaign have a chance to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card.
- **Member Referral Incentive:** Current members can earn \$50 for each qualifying friend or family member they refer who opens an eligible account and meets program requirements during the promotional period.
- **Community Outreach:** Throughout the campaign, PGCFCU is meeting prospective members where they are through community events, local partnerships, digital outreach, and its branch locations throughout Prince George’s County.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative, PGCFCU offers a range of financial products and services designed to support members at different stages of their financial lives, including checking, savings and money market accounts; vehicle and personal loans; credit cards; mortgages; home equity products; and other financial solutions.

Unlike a traditional bank, membership in a credit union means becoming part of a financial cooperative owned by its members. PGCFCU combines that member-focused model with a deep con-

nection to Prince George’s County and the people and communities it serves.

Membership is open to individuals who live, work, worship, volunteer, attend school, or own a business in Prince George’s County, Maryland, making membership accessible to a broad range of individuals and families throughout the county.

The Membership Drive is part of PGCFCU’s broader effort to increase awareness of the benefits of credit union membership, expand access to community-based financial services, and build lasting financial relationships with more people throughout Prince George’s County.

Join by September 30

Individuals interested in becoming a member are encouraged to join by September 30, 2026, to participate in the Membership Drive promotion. Current members are also encouraged to share the benefits of PGCFCU membership with eligible friends and family. For more information about membership, eligibility, products, and services, visit PrinceGeorgesCFCU.org or call 301.627.2666.

Membership eligibility requirements apply. Promotional incentives are subject to program terms, qualifying account requirements, and other restrictions. Membership Drive promotional period ends September 30, 2026. Contact PGCFCU for complete details.

Established in 1967, Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union was created to provide financial services to Prince George’s County employees. Over nearly six decades, the credit union has expanded its reach to serve more than 19,500 members throughout the county, with assets exceeding \$300 million. Today, PGCFCU remains a member-owned, community-based financial institution serving individuals who live, work, volunteer; worship, attend school, or own a business in Prince George’s County. Through its financial products, services, educational resources, and community involvement, PGCFCU remains committed to helping its members and the communities it serves build stronger financial futures. For more information or to become a member, visit PrinceGeorgesCFCU.org or call 301.627.2666.

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller Chairs Safer Maryland Coalition Inaugural Meeting Advancing Roadway Safety

Coalition brings together leaders across sectors to make bold commitments and take collective action to reduce roadway fatalities

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland LG News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 1, 2026)—Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller and Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Katie Thomson today convened the inaugural meeting of the Safer Maryland Coalition, bringing together leaders from across Maryland to turn shared responsibility for roadway safety into concrete action.

The coalition is made up of 15 members from different leadership positions across local and state government. Each participating member is asked to make a meaningful commitment within their own community and sphere of influence to improve roadway safety outcomes. By bringing those individual actions together, the coalition aims to accelerate Maryland’s work to reduce roadway fatalities and continue to move the state toward zero deaths on its roads.

“Safer roads begin with understanding that every Maryland community faces different challenges,” said Lt. Governor Aruna Miller. “The Safer Maryland Coalition brings together leaders from across the state to share ideas, identify solutions, and put them into action where they can have the greatest impact. By pairing statewide collaboration with local knowledge, we can build safer roads for everyone.”

The coalition builds on the Moore-Miller Administration’s collaborative approach to transportation safety, including the work of Maryland’s Work Zone Safety Work Group. That effort brought together stakeholders following the tragic 2023 I-695 work zone crash and helped advance lasting changes designed to better protect workers and motorists, including:

- Implementation of the Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024
- New Basic Work Zone Training classes and updated traffic control standards
- Collaboration with Maryland State Police (MSP) on “Move Over” enforcement initiatives
- Frequent work zone safety public education and outreach opportunities highlighted during the annual Work Zone Safety Week, Work Zone Safety Summit, Work Zone Safety Fair and Unity Ride.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR’S PRESS OFFICE

Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Katie Thomson and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller

During the inaugural meeting, coalition members received an overview of Maryland’s transportation safety landscape from Maryland Highway Safety Office Director Tim Kearns, discussed the State’s own safety commitments, and reviewed a Rapid Action Toolbox designed to help members identify steps they can take within their organizations and communities. Members were also asked to consider what roadway safety means to them and why they are joining the effort.

“Every life lost on our roads is a preventable tragedy,” said Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Katie Thomson. “Safety is the Maryland Department of Transportation’s top priority and we are determined to continue making progress toward our goal of Zero Deaths on Maryland roads, but we can only do that if we harness all our resources and work together to find solutions. We share the urgency of Maryland families and communities around reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries.”

The coalition is charged with bringing together local leaders and

partners to take coordinated action to help the state achieve zero deaths by 2030. The purpose of the Coalition is to:

- Build a common understanding of Maryland’s roadway safety needs and share proven solutions.
- Foster a cohort of transportation safety leaders to support one-another in delivering safety related planning, policy or project advancements in communities statewide.
- Scaling each member’s safety action to deliver statewide results in pursuit of the State’s Vision Zero goals.

The coalition’s approach is designed to turn ideas into measurable action by tapping the expertise and reach of leaders across the state. Potential initiatives outlined for consideration include implementing a new, local safety policy, championing a project or programmatic intervention, leading the development of a Safety Plan and working with stakeholders to pursue improved enforcement, among others.

The Safer Maryland Coalition will continue working with members to develop and advance individual safety commitments, share best practices and strengthen collaboration around Maryland’s broader roadway safety mission.

Office of Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller: *Follow Lt. Governor Aruna Miller for more updates: Facebook, Instagram, X, Bluesky, Threads, LinkedIn, Youtube.*

Maryland Department of Transportation: *Visit mdot.maryland.gov and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube, Threads and Bluesky.*

The Safer Maryland Coalition *brings together partners across Maryland committed to improving roadway safety outcomes. Led by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation and comprised of local elected leaders able to make a meaningful commitment within their own community, the Coalition provides a forum for collaboration, shared strategy development, and coordinated action to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The Coalition aims to accelerate Maryland’s work and continue to move the state toward zero deaths on its roads.*

Governor Moore Announces Employer Registration for Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Is Live

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 1, 2026)—Governor Wes Moore announced today that employer registration for Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) in Maryland is now live—a critical step forward in implementing this new program. Employers are strongly encouraged to register as soon as possible at paidleave.maryland.gov, so they can be fully prepared for the rollout of this highly anticipated program.

When benefits become available, the program will provide employees with up to 12 weeks of job-protected, paid time off—up to \$1,000 a week—to welcome a new child, tend to their own or a family member’s serious health condition, or manage urgent family needs related to deployment. In addition to helping workers stay financially stable during tough times, this program will help employers recruit and retain talent in a competitive landscape where neighboring jurisdictions—including DC, Delaware, New Jersey, and Virginia—

already or will soon offer family and medical leave.

“Maryland workers deserve time to manage the biggest moments in life—having a baby, tending to a serious health condition, caring for a loved one, or managing urgent family needs—without worrying about their employment,” said Gov. Moore. “Maryland’s paid family and medical leave program will make Maryland’s economy more competitive by helping ensure our workers don’t have to choose between their job and their family and our employers don’t have to choose between supporting their employees and making payroll.”

FAMLI is an insurance program where contributions go into a dedicated fund that provides partial wage replacement during a period of leave, offering greater financial predictability for both workers and employers. All employers with at least one Maryland-based employee are required to register. Employers have the choice to participate in FAMLI’s State Plan or apply to provide a private plan.

Under Maryland law, the State Plan is funded through quarterly contributions from

employers and employees. Employers can withhold up to half of the contribution rate from employees via payroll deductions. Employers with fewer than 15 employees will qualify for FAMLI’s small employer discount, making them exempt from the employer’s portion of the contribution. More than 80% of Maryland employers will qualify for this discount, designed to support Maryland’s small businesses.

When benefits start, either the State Plan or the employer’s private plan will provide partial wage replacement to the employee while they are on leave.

While employers should register now, other key dates are also quickly approaching: employers must begin withholding contributions via payroll deductions in the first pay period in January 2027, and the first contribution payment will be due April 30, 2027. Job-protected, paid leave will become available beginning in January 2028.

For more information, visit paidleave.maryland.gov or contact the Customer Care team at (410) 525-4010 or paid.leave@maryland.gov.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty: Why Change Social Security now? It’s a Working “Ponzi Scam”

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

Dear Rusty: Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency. I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its Inception; why have you decided (in 2026–2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam. In all reality, this began with Babylon. I’m sure that if you searched the meaning of the words “Babylonian money magic,” you would understand what I’m talking about. If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency? **Signed: Skeptical Senior**

Dear Skeptical Senior: You touch on an item that the AMAC Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme. Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency, with its financial status, formulas, and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented, and reported to the President and Congress annually. Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there’s a taxpaying workforce. Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce (and their dependents) recover their Social Security contributions via benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud. Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades. We sometimes hear well intended (but sometimes uninformed) comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency. And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

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

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.Amac-Foundation.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.

AMAC | Washington DC | 917-846-8485

Leadership Maryland Now Accepting Applications for the 2027 Class Year

Deadline to Apply is October 31, 2026

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

MARYLAND (Sept. 2, 2026)—Leadership Maryland, the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders, is now accepting applications to its Executive and Emerging Leader programs for 2027. Leadership Maryland’s selection committee will choose 53 applicants for the Executive Program Class of 2027 to complete an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state’s most vital social, economic, and environmental issues. The selection committee will choose up to 40 applicants for the Emerging Leader Fourth Class to complete a six-month learning program focused on a holistic approach to leadership development, designed to help each applicant increase their self-awareness and gain behaviors, skills, and tools to become more adaptive, inclusive, strategic, and impactful leaders.

Applications to the flagship Executive Program are open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland applicants will have a desire to learn more about Maryland’s most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, communities, and state. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age, and gender.

Applications to the Emerging Leader

Program are open to individuals who are advancing in their careers, are actively involved in their communities, and desire to become stronger leaders in both areas. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age, and gender. A full tuition scholarship is available to one emerging leader who lives and works in Garrett County or Allegany County to participate in the 2027 Emerging Leader Program. To learn more about this opportunity, visit www.leadershiptmd.org/emerging-leader-program.html.

To be considered for the 2027 class year, application packages must include:

- Completed application, available online only at www.LeadershipMD.org;
- Paid non-refundable application fee;
- Scholarship request form and proof of income, if applicable;
- Two references;
- One letter of recommendation;
- Authorizing official statement from applicant’s supervisor or CEO (unless applicant is self-employed or is their own supervisor);
- Professional color photo

Completed application packages and registration fees must be received by Leadership Maryland by 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026. Upon acceptance of the application, candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview with members of the Leadership Maryland selection committee. The selected Class of 2027 will be announced in early February 2027.

Before applying, candidates should know they will be able to attend program sessions on the dates outlined in the application instructions, available on the Leadership Maryland website.

Full information regarding Leadership Maryland’s application instructions, selection process, tuition, and financial assistance, 2027 program dates and locations, and attendance policy are available at www.LeadershipMD.org. Anyone with questions may contact Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or Info@LeadershipMD.org.

Leadership Maryland is a statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland’s Executive Program selects as many as 53 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders from Maryland’s public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state’s most vital social, economic and environmental issues. And new in 2024, Leadership Maryland’s Emerging Leader Program brings together a class of 30–40 of the state’s rising stars and gives them the skills and tools they need to advance in their careers. With an alumni network comprised of leaders from all industries and regions of the state, Leadership Maryland has established thousands of Marylanders on their career leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change. Visit leadershiptmd.org.

University System of Maryland (USM) Agrees to pay out Raises to Staff After Pressure From Union and Governor

Union contract covering nearly 6,000 USM workers called for a 2.5% merit increase for AFSCME-represented employees this past July

By PRESS OFFICER
AFSCME Council 3

BALTIMORE (Sept. 2, 2026)—On Tuesday, September 1, the University System of Maryland agreed to stop withholding negotiated raises from its employees. Governor Moore’s administration instructed the university system to pay out the raises outlined in AFSCME’s union contract with the system. The raises include a 2.5% merit increase effective July 1, 2026 as well as a \$500 base pay increase effective January 1, 2027.

This news is a direct result of pressure, rallies, and demonstrations from AFSCME members across the USM, many of who depend on these raises to keep up with rising costs of living and whose work keeps the state’s universities functioning.

“This victory is a win for everyone—the AFSCME members who keep our campuses running, the students who come for a world-class education, and our campus communities across the state. When university system leaders attempted to treat our legally binding union contract as an option rather than an obligation, AFSCME members did not back down. We sent a clear message that leading with integrity and honor as premier higher education institutions starts with treating your workers with the respect that they deserve. We are pleased that Governor Moore and his team agree, and we are appreciative of his continued commitment to working with our union to support working people,” said Sabeela Ally, Executive Director of AFSCME Maryland Council 3.

The university system has a history of being anti-union and has made every effort to withhold the raises outlined in AFSCME’s union contract while pursuing unprecedented layoffs earlier this summer. This has included hiring a union-busting law firm, being unwilling to work with AFSCME to discuss alternative cost-saving measures, and refusing to meet with laid-off workers looking for answers. Although AFSCME members make up a fraction of the university’s overall workforce, 80% of the layoffs were AFSCME members, reinforcing strong anti-union sentiment from the USM. Some of these workers also received the news that they were being laid off while on medical or parental leave, and many had open grievances with the USM that are still unresolved.

“It’s only right that the university system follows through on the union contract that we spent almost 2 years negotiating. I am thankful that Governor Moore understands the importance of honoring our raises. Every single raise that we have fought for at the bargaining table has been earned by the people who show up every single day to take care of our students and keep our universities running smoothly,” said Victoria Kelly, Vice President of AFSCME Local 1297, representing nearly 200 workers at Bowie State University.

“It’s good news that people in power finally understand their obligations to the workers who keep our campuses running, to honoring our union contract, and to doing the right thing. It’s even better news for the workers who are being increasingly squeezed by the high cost of living and

depend on these raises to make ends meet. We will continue to fight tooth and nail for our union siblings who were unjustifiably laid off when the funds were clearly there, and we will continue to protect and expand workers’ rights on every campus because that’s what folks deserve,” said Todd Holden, AFSCME Local 1072 leader, representing over 4,000 workers at the University of Maryland College Park.

“I’m delighted that Governor Moore’s administration recognized the importance of honoring union contracts. We spent almost two years working in good faith to negotiate these raises and this contract. I came all the way from the Eastern Shore to stand with my union, and today, we can see that standing together has made a difference,” said Deborah Robinson, Vice President of AFSCME Local 1833, representing nearly 150 workers at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The work continues to reinstate the positions eliminated by the university system, particularly at the University of Maryland College Park and Bowie State University. Workers who served in a variety of critical university positions suddenly found themselves without a job, while executive salaries have gone untouched.

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents over 55,000 public service workers in local, city, county, and state government as well as in higher education and the private sector who provide the valuable public services that our communities rely on. From Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, we make Maryland happen.

Quantum from A1

Quantum World Congress to Prince George’s County,” said Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy. “These are leaders in their field who not only accelerate innovation and collaboration in quantum technology, but also create new jobs, build community partnerships, and showcase our region’s readiness to lead in an innovative and emerging economy. Quantum technology is no longer futuristic, it is in our labs, our boardrooms, our learning centers, and now part of Prince George’s County!”

“Prince George’s County isn’t just adjacent to Maryland’s quantum story, we’re the engine driving it forward,” said Ingrid S. Watson, President & CEO of PGCEDC. “As the Quantum World Congress brings the world’s attention to the Discovery

District, we want businesses, investors, and innovators to see what we already know: this county is where quantum research turns into quantum industry.”

“Every generation has a defining technology; quantum is ours,” said Sam Braden IV, PGCEDC Director of Business Development - Information Technology & Cyber Security. “But research alone does not build an economy. It takes businesses, talent, capital, infrastructure, and community. That is how Prince George’s County can turn innovation into new companies, jobs, and investment. The Business of Quantum will help local businesses find their place in that economy.”

New Resource Hub: Capital of Quantum

To mark the occasion, PGCEDC has launched a dedicated web-

page that highlights resources, insights, and opportunities in the regional and global quantum industry. The page is designed to serve as a go-to resource for entrepreneurs, researchers, and companies looking to understand and plug into Prince George’s County’s quantum ecosystem.

Visit the new resource hub at: www.pgcdc.com/capital-of-quantum

The mission of the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses. It is dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation.

EarthTalk®
Q&A

Backyard Bird Feeders:
Good or Bad for the Birds?

By Kyle Chan | August 19, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:
How has the prevalence of bird feeders in the U.S. affected birds’ evolution? Is putting up a bird feeder good or bad for ecosystems and the planet?

—Estelle Louis, Twin Falls, ID

In America, an estimated 50–60 million people maintain backyard bird feeders, a device often hung on yard trees or outdoor decks. Residents deploy these to intend to supply birds with the necessary foods. Although many hang up these feeders in hopes of helping wildlife through harsh seasons, research suggests that this well-intentioned habit may reshape bird behavior beyond the intended benefits.

Feeders are one of the most significant factors in modern bird evolution, contributing to new selective pressures found in urban and suburban environments. For example, the access point of many feeders has caused physical and genetic adaptations among many birds. Studies suggest that some urban bird populations have been found with altered beak shapes and bolder foraging behaviors, a shift researchers attribute to bird feeders. Though this trait may help them exploit human-provided food, it can also significantly reduce their survival in the wild.

Many feeders also favor certain species over others and can cause population instability. Dominant, more adaptable birds such as jays or house finches can gain a competitive advantage over hu-

man-provided resources, often at the expense of shyer or less aggressive birds. As a result, feeders can contribute to biodiversity loss and significantly marginalize quieter species, contributing to unbalanced ecosystems across bird populations.

Environmentally, feeders create artificial dense areas that introduce several well-documented risks. Domestic cats, raccoons, and predatory birds hang around these food sources in addition to the targeted birds, often as unwanted guests that can threaten vulnerable bird populations. In addition, illnesses such as avian influenza, salmonella, and conjunctivitis can spread more easily in these crowded spots. Excess seeds and droppings beneath feeders can contribute to localized nutrient pollution. Researcher Andrew Abraham, from Aarhus University in Denmark, notes that when “the nutrients in bird feed are washed into rivers...they may also exacerbate issues of eutrophication.” (Eutrophication is an excessive growth of algae that is suffocating for all wildlife.)

That said, bird feeders should not be entirely abolished from backyards. Indeed, they can provide a huge survival boost for bird populations after natural disasters, helping wildlife through tough winter storms, droughts, or other severe conditions. Moreover, bird feeders can partake in citizen science, allowing scientists to track and monitor bird populations through local resident feeders.

The final verdict on bird feeder viability is complicated, but having attentive responsibility over feeders is one of the best ways to manage its benefits and consequences. Observers should clean them and provide proper food to avoid disease, while also ensuring that they only supplement natural sources and not replace it. If you



PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

You may not be doing birds a favor giving them access to your bird feeder.

would like to learn more about how to eco-consciously set up a bird feeder, consider contacting local wildlife centers or Audubon Society chapters near you.

CONTACTS: Audubon North American Birdfeeder Guide, <https://www.audubon.org/marketplace/audubon-north-american-bird-feeder-guide/>; To Feed or Not to Feed Wild Birds, <https://www.fws.gov/story/feed-or-not-feed-wild-birds>.

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HBCUs from A1

Welcome to HBCU Week at Bowie State University—Tuesday, September 22, 7:30–8 p.m.

A 2022 visit to Bowie State University and discussions with President Dr. Aminta Breaux, students, and alumni of Bulldog Nation. Dr. Breaux shares her vision to expand Bowie's impact in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

One On One: Dr. Heidi Anderson, UMES—Wednesday, September 23, 7–7:30 p.m.

MPT's Jeff Salkin, news anchor, visits the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for an in-depth interview with President Heidi M. Anderson, Ph.D. Viewers also observe a unique program in the university's Fine Arts department that's drawing students from across the state and beyond, and they witness a UMES art exhibit featuring works on loan from the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia.

Welcome to HBCU Week at UMES—Wednesday, September 23, 7:30–8 p.m.

A 2024 visit to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and interviews with President Dr. Heidi Anderson, students, and alumni of Hawk Nation. Dr. Anderson shares her vision for UMES to expand its veterinary school and natural sciences department.

One On One: Dr. Anthony Jenkins, Coppin State University—Thursday, September 24, 7–7:30 p.m.

MPT's Jeff Salkin, news anchor, visits Coppin State University for an in-depth interview with President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D. The episode also features reports about how Coppin State students are learning to procure, protect, and analyze patient health records and introduces viewers to the university's youngest student, then-14-year-old rising sophomore West Muhammad.

Welcome to HBCU Week at Coppin State—Thursday, September 24, 7:30–8 p.m.

A 2025 visit to Coppin State University and discussions with President Dr. Anthony Jenkins, students, and alumni of Eagle Nation. The special includes Dr. Jenkins' vision for Coppin to lead efforts to revitalize West Baltimore.

Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect—Thursday, September 24, 8–9 p.m.

Explore the life and legacy of the nation's first African American Supreme Court justice. The film follows Justice Marshall, known as “Mr. Civil Rights,” from his legal career with the NAACP to his 1967 appointment to the nation's highest court.

State Circle Special: HBCUs in Washington, DC—Friday, September 25, 7–8 p.m.

With interviews and reporting from the Washington, D.C., campuses of Howard University and University of the District of Columbia, this one-hour special edition of State Circle explores the rich history of HBCUs in the nation's capital

Dangerous Acts—Saturday, September 26, 6–7 p.m.

This collaboration between HBCUs and the Lucille Lortel Theatre celebrates Black writers from the past with the next generation of actors training at the Howard University College of Fine Arts. Dean Phylicia Rashad directs student actors in staged readings of “The Deacon's Awakening” and “Aftermath.”

Artworks: Imani-Grace Special—Saturday, September 26, 7–8 p.m.

With a voice compared to Billie Holiday, Howard University graduate Imani-Grace Cooper has performed alongside jazz greats such as Esperanza Spalding and George Duke. In this Artworks special, Cooper performs Black American music classics that harken back to the jazz legends of the past, soul singers of the present, and a sound for the future.

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