

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *SINCE 1932*

Vol. 94, No. 39 September 24 — September 30, 2026 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents



Camp Trailblazers introduces young women ages 15 through 18 to careers in firefighting, emergency medical services, and public safety, providing hands-on experiences that showcase the rewarding opportunities available in the fire service.

PHOTO COURTESY
ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Andrews Federal Credit Union Supports Young Women's Career Development Through Camp Trailblazers Firefighting Training Program

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Sept. 15, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union proudly served as the Premier Sponsor of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department's Camp Trailblazers, a two-day leadership and career exploration experience. Camp Trailblazers introduces young women ages 15 through 18 to careers in

firefighting, emergency medical services, and public safety, providing hands-on experiences that showcase the rewarding opportunities available in the fire service. Campers participated in realistic Fire/EMS scenarios, learned life-saving emergency response techniques, developed leadership and communication skills, and connected with accomplished women serving throughout the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

Camp Trailblazers is part of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department's long-term recruitment strategy to build a more diverse workforce. Approximately 12.5 percent of the department's current firefighters identify as female. The program aims to increase awareness of careers in fire and emergency medical services while

See CAREER Page A5

Maryland Welcomes New State Fire Marshal

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Sept 16, 2026)—Today, Colonel Michael A. Jackson announces the appointment of a new Maryland State Fire Marshal. Carol H. Spriggs II, 53, has been appointed to the position of Maryland State Fire Marshal for a six-year term. Spriggs will lead the Office of the State Fire Marshal, an agency of the Maryland Department of State Police. Chief Spriggs will lead the nation's oldest state fire marshal's office, overseeing its mission of protecting lives and property through fire prevention, investigation, code enforcement, and public safety education. Spriggs is also the first African American to serve in this position in the Department's 132-year history. Prior to his appointment, Spriggs served as a Deputy Fire Chief for the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. He also served as Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Annapolis and as a Task Force Officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). In 2019, he was

elected to serve on the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board. In 2020, he was named secretary. Spriggs also served at the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department for 38 years. "I would like to thank Colonel Jackson for this tremendous opportunity," Spriggs said. "I look forward to working with all of the partners of the MDSP to continue making Maryland safe." The selection process for a new state fire marshal began in May 2026 when the position was advertised. Candidate resumes were reviewed by the State Fire Prevention Commission. The top candidates were forwarded to Colonel Michael A. Jackson, who completed the selection process. "With a career rooted in service and extensive experience in fire investigation and explosives, Spriggs brings a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office," said Colonel Michael A. Jackson, Superintendent of the Maryland Department of State Police. "I send my sincere appreciation to Chief Deputy Jason Mowbray for his leadership and his continued dedication to the citizens of Maryland." Since December 2023, Chief Deputy Ja-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND STATE POLICE
Maryland State Fire Marshal Carol H. Spriggs II

son Mowbray has led the agency as the Acting State Fire Marshal. After ensuring a smooth and successful transition, he will be assigned to the senior management team. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is responsible for statewide fire, arson, and explosive investigations, enforcement of the State Fire Prevention Code, coordination of fire prevention efforts, and the collection of fire incident data. Fire Marshal Spriggs will oversee the operation of 85 employees, including more than 42 deputy state fire marshals.

PGCC to Explore Development of New Aerospace Technology Studies Program

New state law directs College to assess workforce needs and design education and training pathways for aerospace and aviation careers

By SAMANTHA E. MCCOY
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 15, 2026)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) will conduct a comprehensive feasibility study and program design assessment to examine the potential for new workforce training programs in aerospace systems technology and aviation systems technology, including how the College could prepare Prince George's County residents for careers in aerospace, aviation, advanced manufacturing and related technology fields.

The work is required under Senate Bill (SB) 198, signed into law by Governor Wes Moore on May 26 and effective July 1, 2026. The legislation directs PGCC to assess workforce demand and determine the education and training programs, facilities, equipment, faculty,

industry partnerships and other resources that would be needed to establish workforce training programs for aerospace systems technology and aviation systems technology. The legislation comes as Maryland continues to expand its aerospace and aviation industries, creating demand for workers with specialized technical skills. PGCC will work with employers and workforce and economic development partners to identify current and projected needs. Additionally, the College will determine which education and training pathways could prepare students and residents for those opportunities. "I introduced SB 198 because

See PROGRAM Page A5

From the NIH to Scientific American: Michele Banks Presents Forces of Nature at Harmony Hall Arts Center

By AMANDA BOHN
Harmony Hall Arts Center

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Sept. 18 2026)—Harmony Hall Arts Center a facility of the Maryland—National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, is pleased to present Forces of Nature, a solo exhibition by Washington, D.C.-based artist Michele Banks, on view from **September 28 through November 7, 2026**, at Harmony Hall Arts Center, located at 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744. An opening reception will be held **Sunday, October 11, 2026**, from 2–4 p.m. The exhibition and reception are free and open to all ages. In Forces of Nature, Michele Banks explores the invisible systems and energies that shape the world around us—from the microscopic motion of atoms to the vast curvature of space. Working primarily in ink and watercolor on Yupo, a smooth synthetic paper that allows pigments and water to move freely. While her inspiration stems

See HARMONY HALL Page A3

National Harbor Kicks Off FestiFall With a Wide Array of Fall Activities

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Sept. 15, 2026)—National Harbor welcomes the fall season with its annual FestiFall, a September and October celebration featuring dining specials, live entertainment, charity walks, family activities, Harbor Halloween and more. "It's a full fall at National Harbor with so many fun activities," said Deborah Topcik, senior director of marketing. "There's something for everyone." **Cheer on the Washington Commanders.** TAP Sports Bar at MGM National Harbor host[ed] a Washington Commanders Rally Party beginning at

noon Sept. 20. Additional rally parties are scheduled for Nov. 12 and 29 and Dec. 6 and 27. **Sip and Shop at Tanger.** The 4th Annual Tanger National Harbor Fall Wine Tasting takes place Oct. 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Hosted with support from Vino301, the event features a selection of wines, food trucks and music. For \$25, guests receive six wine sampling tickets, a commemorative wine glass and special offers from Tanger stores. A \$5 nondrinking option includes a commemorative glass and store offers. Individual wine pours and commemorative glasses will also be available for purchase. **Get Spooky at Harbor Halloween.**

Harbor Halloween returns to Waterfront Plaza (150 National Plaza) Oct. 25 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. National Harbor restaurant chefs and artists will compete in a pumpkin-carving contest at 2:30 p.m., with spectators invited to watch the creative transformations and vote for their favorites. Costumed pets can join the fun during the Pet Pawrade, with prizes for best costume, most creative costume and more. Kids in costume and dogs may ride The Capital Wheel free with a paying adult, with up to two dogs permitted per ticket. The Spirit Park Carousel will also host trick-or-treating from noon to 2 p.m., with candy and free rides for children in costume.

Walk for a Cause. National Harbor will also serve as the setting for numerous charity walks and runs throughout the fall, including: • MMRF 5K Walk/Run, Sept. 26 • St. Jude Walk/Run, Oct. 3 • Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C. Red Shoe 5K, Oct. 4 • Susan G. Komen Walk, Oct. 10 • PPF Walk, Oct. 17 • SunriseWALKS, benefiting children with cancer, Oct. 18 • Easterseals Walk With Me, Oct. 24 • Hot Cider Hustle 5K and 10K, Oct. 31 **Watch Movies on the Waterfront.** Movies on the Potomac continues

through the end of September with free Thursday "Date Night" movies and family favorites on Sundays at 6 p.m. **Get Your Workout in with Free Fitness Classes.** Enjoy free weekly fitness classes through the end of September on the Waterfront Plaza powered by Onelife Fitness. Monday classes "Butts & Guts" are at 7 p.m. followed by Dance Classes at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Yoga is offered at 10 a.m. on Saturday. For more information about National Harbor's FestiFall activities, visit NationalHarbor.com/blog/things-to-do-this-fall. For more information about National Harbor, visit NationalHarbor.com.

INSIDE

Brandywine-Aquasco

Growing Stronger Communities Through Play

Calendar of Events

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

Marietta Historic Site & Museum's Community Day

Christalis Invites Community to 2026 Superhero 5K & Pop-Up Market

Camp Nabi's 31st Year Brings Healing, Joy Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: Introducing Our Congressional Blueprint to Bring Affordability for All

The Urban League movement sees the pain Americans face every day, and we're meeting the moment the best way we can ...

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Moore Launches Fourth Class of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Program

The Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program is a cornerstone of Governor Moore's commitment to making Maryland a state that serves and creates opportunities **Business and Finance, Page A5**

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

SABATON POP EVIL & WINGS OF STEEL

Prepare for a wonderful night December 6, 2026, as Sabaton performs at The Theater, MGM National Harbor, 101 MGM National Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745. Supporting Acts: Pop Evil and Wings of Steel. Tickets: Available December 6, 2026, at the Theater at MGM 7 p.m. Doors typically open 1-hour prior at 6 p.m. Tickets are available through official ticketing platforms like Ticketmaster.

BACHATA & SALSA FESTIVAL

Bachata-Salsa Festival celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Join us for a fun community cultural dance event featuring bachata and salsa live music, dance, performances, competitions, food, and more on Sunday, October 11, 2026, from 1–9 p.m. Downtown Silver Spring-Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place Corner of Ellsworth and Fenton, Silver Spring, MD 20910. More Information: DCBACHATASALSA.EVENT.COM.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Alexandria Chapel United Methodist Church Anniversary Banquet will be held Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 2–6 p.m. at Indian Head Pavilion, 100 Walter Thomas Road, Indian Head, Maryland 20645. Pastor: Nurbert A. Hughes. Tickets cost \$40.00. If you need a ticket, please call (301)743-3939.

BSU ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Dr. Thelma T. Daley (’46). Dr. Daley will receive the prestigious Papal Honor of Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. In recognition of her contributions to the life and mission of the Church, as well as her dedication and service to the Archdiocese of Baltimore, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has conferred this distinguished honor upon her.

Dr. Daley, you continue to exemplify a legacy of leadership and service. Your Bulldog Family proudly celebrates this well-deserved recognition of your extraordinary contributions and lasting impact. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

Career Connections: Help our students imagine the Art of the Possible. Calling all Alumni! Do you have a career journey, professional experience, or industry insight that could inspire the next generation of leaders?

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

Homecoming week is October 18–25, 2026. Homecoming Game Day Bowie State University vs. Johnson C. Smith University Saturday, October 24, 2026, 1–4 p.m. Bulldog Stadium. Alumni VIP Tent: Enjoy an exclusive field-side experience during Homecoming, featuring catered dining, premium refreshments, exciting giveaways, and the perfect game-day atmosphere with plenty of Bulldog pride. Your registration fee includes a ticket to the Homecoming game.

SAVE THE DATES

The 81st CIAA Men’s and 52nd CIAA Women’s Basketball Tournament returns to Baltimore, Maryland, February 21–27, 2027. All tournament games will be held at CFG Bank Arena. Make plans to join Bowie State University for a week of Championship basketball, alumni connections, and #BowieBOLD pride in Baltimore. Stay connected with the Office of Alumni Engagement & Stewardship for upcoming details on hotel accommodations, alumni events, and registration opportunities. We can’t wait to see you there!

Growing Stronger Communities Through Play

Playtime Project Opens Community Hub in Beltway Plaza Mall

By TALIA CURHAN
Playtime Project

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 21, 2026)—In response to the growing need for accessible, high-quality support for families experiencing housing insecurity in Prince George’s County, Playtime Project has opened a new program hub that expands consistent access to critical services for children and their caregivers. A nonprofit serving Washington, DC, and Prince George’s County, Playtime Project builds resilience through the power of play for children experiencing housing insecurity. The organization already serves every emergency shelter in Prince George’s County, and its new “Playtime at the Plaza” creates a permanent home for year-round programs that strengthen children’s resilience, support families, and help more households achieve lasting housing stability.

“Families from our Maryland shelter partners often felt a sense of isolation once moving to more permanent housing,” said Jamila Larson, Founder and Executive Director of Playtime Project. “As grateful as they were to be housed, they were moving into empty apartments without the services and community they had in the shelter. When children asked to Uber back to the shelter so they could come to Playtime programs, we knew we had to bring Playtime to them. Families shouldn’t have to be homeless to find the services they need—Playtime is here to become part of their village, ensuring they have access to consistent support along their journey to stability.”

Many families from Prince George’s County shelters move into Franklin Park Apartments, one of the largest affordable



PHOTO COURTESY PLAYTIME PROJECT

Tim Adams, Prince George’s County Councilmember for District 4, representing Greenbelt, helps to cut the ribbon opening the new Playtime at the Plaza hub on September 16, 2026.

housing communities in the country. “Playtime at the Plaza” is located down the street from the apartment complex, allowing families to easily access free play programming, family support, and community resources, while providing a space to meet other families and rebuild their village.

Over the next year, Playtime expects to double our footprint in Prince George’s County. By providing a safe, inclusive, and enriching space for children and families at The Plaza, Playtime is now better able to serve the diverse needs and populations in Greenbelt West, such as families experiencing housing insecurity, immigrant families, families living with low incomes, and families of children with physical and developmental disabilities.

On September 16, Playtime welcomed

over 80 community members, partner organizations, politicians, supporters, and families to cut the ribbon and officially open Playtime at the Plaza. Speakers included:

- Katie Waldo, Chair of the Playtime Project Board
- Jamila Larson, Founder and Executive Director of Playtime Project
- Charles Bolden, former NASA Administrator and astronaut, and long-time friend of Playtime Project
- Ms. Coats, a current Playtime parent
- Kevin, a current Playtime participant
- Emmett Jordan, Mayor of Greenbelt
- Tim Adams, Prince George’s County

SOUL BRUNCH PAM WARD LIVE

Join us for an unforgettable Soul Brunch with Pam Ward at Piano Keys Lounge in Brandywine, Maryland on Sunday, October 11 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and November 8 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Live performance by Pam Ward. 1st Set: 2 p.m. 2nd Set: 3:30 p.m. No age limit. Free Admission. A La Carte Brunch Menu. Mimosa Carafes and Towers available. Address is 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Suite 104, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Great Food, Drinks, Live Music, Amazing Vibes. Restaurant-side tables are FREE with a 2-hour dining limit and still offer full views of the performance to see the band. For information and reservations: (240) 816 -2211.

DANCING MACHINE

Get ready to bust a move and show off your best dance steps at the Line Dance Lessons by Cherrie Hood. It’s going to be a good time. Come join us for fun-filled line dancing lessons on Monday’s at 3737 Branch Avenue, Temple Hills, MD 20000748. Get ready to groove to your favorite tunes and learn some new moves with latest line dances, hand dance and hip-hop aerobics. No experience required, just bring your energy and enthusiasm. Don’t miss out on the chance to dance the day away with friends and fellow dance enthusiasts.

TRIBUTE TO BERLINE BROOKS

Happy Birthday to my wonderful loving Aunt Berline Brooks who celebrated her 104th Birthday in August. My Aunt is a very loving Christian lady. After she stopped driving, I used to take her to Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland on Sundays. I also took her to funerals, doctor appointments, hair appointments, grocery shopping and other events. Zilpha Pinkney also paid a very important role getting her to church on Sundays. My sister Joyce Sampson also took her to doctor’s appointments. My Aunt Berline would always want to stop at a restaurant after leaving church to enjoy a good meal, because she lost interest in cooking when she reached 95. She is a very caring Christian lady who served on a lot of different committees in her church. A former employee at Prince George’s County Public School System where everyone loved her. Words from Audrey Johnson.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH HARPER

My Grandmother Ruth Harper lived to be 106 years old. She lived alone in her apartment until 103 years old. This lady was an amazing Christian Lady. A stylish dresser wearing heels until she was 103 years old. Drove her car until she was 98. One day I took her shopping for shoes. We were looking at shoes in the store, and she told me that it was time for us to go home because she did not see anything for middle-aged women. She told me that her secret to long living was to never stress yourself out about anything. Stay away from processed food, drink plenty of water and get plenty of sleep, and keep active. My Grandmother was Berline Brooks’ mother and my mother Ruth Turner who used to write the Brandywine/Aquasco Article until she died. Ruth Turner and Ruth Harper left a beautiful legacy and instilled in me to love, give, be patient, kind to people, pray daily. Words from Audrey Johnson.

Calendar of Events

Greenbelt Unidos, A Hispanic Heritage Festival

Date and time: Saturday, October 3, 2026, 12–3 p.m.
Description: In honor of Hispanic Heritage month the City Of Greenbelt will be hosting it’s first ever Hispanic Heritage Month Festival Celebration. This event will be an opportunity for residents to enjoy cultural traditions, music, food, and fellowship while recognizing the rich heritage and contributions of our Hispanic and Latino community. Community resources and information. Fun for the whole family!
Ages: Open to Everyone
Location: Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station, 6220 Springhill Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770

12th Annual Prince George’s County 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). From learning how to become a better environmental steward to discovering County resources you can use right at home, there’s plenty to explore at the Green Festival. And that’s just the beginning!
• Recycling and composting
• Stormwater resources
• Electric vehicles
• Pawchella and pet adoptions
• County agencies and community partners
• Family-friendly activities
• Food trucks and vendors
• Environmental experts and resources
• And so much more!
Cost: FREE, family-friendly, pet friendly
Location: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: mypgc.us/greensummit

University of Maryland Extension—Prince George’s County Open House

Date and time: Thursday, October 15, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Description: Please join us for an evening of community, conversation, and discovery. Meet our Extension team, learn about the programs and resources available to Prince George’s County residents, and see how UME is working in our community. We’ll have opportunities to explore our programs, connect with Extension faculty and staff, participate in hands-on activities, and—of course—enjoy UMD Dairy Ice Cream!
Location: Prince George’s County Extension Office, 6707 Grove-ton Drive, Clinton, MD 20735
Contact: <https://go.umd.edu/PGEOpenHouse>

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!**

Salute to all Veterans

Date and time: November 11, 2026, 12–3 p.m.
Description: Complimentary luncheon and patriotic entertainment by the Youth
RSVP by October 15, 2026 to
Chairman Tyria Henry, 202-300-8304/tyria788@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman Arnita A Foster, 240-521-2706/fosterarnita75@gmail.com
Location: Birchwood Recreation Center, 1331 Fenwood Avenue, Oxon Hill MD 20745

Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit

Date and time: Thursday, November 19, 2026, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Description: From net-zero schools and solar energy to electric vehicles, energy-efficient buildings, and community resilience, Prince George’s County and its partners are working to turn clean-energy goals into real-world solutions. Join us at the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit on Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center on the campus of Bowie State University.
Watch “Tools for Changing the Game: Green and Renewable Energy Solutions,” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGIBEcclFYk>), a discussion from the 2025 Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit exploring how government, schools, nonprofits, and communities can work together to advance cleaner, more affordable, and resilient energy solutions.
The conversation highlights the progress already underway—from Prince George’s County Public Schools expanding net-zero school construction and solar installations to County efforts to incorporate EVs and hybrids into its fleet.
Building a more sustainable future takes innovation, investment, partnerships, and community involvement.
Let’s keep the conversation going at the 2026 Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit!
Location: Bowie State University | Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD 20715

COMMUNITY

Marietta Historic Site & Museum’s Community Day

FREE, Saturday, September 26, 2026, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

FREE event for all ages! Join us **Saturday, September 26, 2026** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day with friends, family, and neighbors to celebrate our community! Celebrate America 250 at Marietta Historic Site & Museum. Enjoy Free Ice Cream available to everyone while supplies last. Browse the local Farmers Market, explore music, family crafts, nature center critters, listen to poetry, and see Native American and local archaeological finds.

Join a lively discussion on “The Declaration of Independence & What It Means Today” with Artura Jackson, Assistant Director for the Division of African American History of Historic Alexandria.

Visit our Public Affairs booth and see our Community Portrait Gallery with photos from last year’s Community Day. Family and friends can visit the Sankofa Mobile

Museum with interactive digital ways to “do” history!

Enjoy family crafts with the colorful Arts on a Roll Van. Families can try out a set of African drums and musical instruments. Learn how to dye scarves.

House tours will be at 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m., and the Law Office and Tack House will be open all day. Guests can have some friendly competition playing cornhole and horseshoes, as well as historical games and crafts to make and take home. We hope to see you here!

The L.H. Farmers Market is on site from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. for those who wish to come early and visit the market, as well as a mocktail vendor and a pound cake vendor.

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email marietta-house@pgparks.com. Marietta Historic Site & Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

National Park Service to Rehabilitate Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site

The site will reopen to the public in early 2027.

By PRESS OFFICER
National Capital Parks – East

WASHINGTON (Sept. 8, 2026)—National Park Service will temporarily close the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site beginning September 9, 2026, for rehabilitation of the historic home. The House is expected to reopen to visitors in early 2027, following improvements to the interior and exterior and cleaning of its historic artifacts.

Located at 1318 Vermont Avenue NW in Washington, DC, the house served as the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and was Mary McLeod Bethune’s last home in the city. Mrs. Bethune established a school for African American girls, known today as Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and founded the NCNW, serving as its first president. She advised four United States presidents

and was an internationally recognized leader in the struggle for civil, women’s and human rights.

The Bethune Council House is one of three historic homes managed by the National Park Service in Washington, DC, that preserve the legacies of African American figures who profoundly shaped American life and history. The other two are the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site. The Woodson Home is temporarily closed for renovation and is expected to reopen in November 2026. Guided tours of the Frederick Douglass Home are available Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit [nps.gov/frdo](https://www.nps.gov/frdo).

NPS is proud to preserve and steward the Bethune House for current and future generations. During the closure, visitors can explore the site virtually on the park webpage: <https://www.nps.gov/mamc/learn/photosmultimedia/virtual-tour.htm>.



NPS PHOTO/KELSEY GRACZYK

A view of the parlor at Mary McLeod Bethune Council House.

Harmony Hall from A1

from concepts in physics and biology, she easily translates complex ideas into fluid, richly layered compositions.

The exhibition also reflects Banks’ ongoing interest in memory, connection, and the relationship between human experience and the natural world. By juxtaposing structured scientific imagery with expressive abstraction, Forces of Nature invites viewers to consider not only how the universe functions, but how we understand our place within it.

Charts, diagrams, cellular structures, and other visual references from science merge with flowing ink, water, and organic forms. Which creates works that feel simultaneously analytical and intuitive. Bank says, “Looking at science through the prism

of art allows me to engage deeply with ideas of what it means to be alive, to be human, and to belong in a natural and social environment.”

Michele Banks has exhibited at the National Institutes of Health, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Microbiology, and numerous galleries and arts festivals. Her paintings have also appeared on journal and book covers and in publications including Scientific American, The Scientist, and Wired. Banks has collaborated with scientists through artist residencies at the Kilpisjärvi Biological Station in Finland and the Institut Jacques Monod in Paris.

Harmony Hall Arts Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri.: 8:30–5 p.m., Tues. and Thurs.: 8:30–8 p.m., Sat.: 10–4 p.m., Sun.: Closed

Christalis Invites Community to 2026 Superhero 5K & Pop-Up Market

By PRESS OFFICER
Christalis Inc.

TAKOMA PARK, Md. (Sept. 11, 2026)—Christalis will host its annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk and Pop-Up Market on Sunday, **September 27, 2026**, at Washington Adventist University. Proceeds from the family-friendly event will support Christalis programs serving vulnerable children in Uganda and the DMV area.

Participants are encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero—or come as themselves, because they are heroes to the children Christalis serves. The event will feature a 5K run/walk along the Sligo Creek Trail, a Little Hero Dash for children, and a costume contest. 5K finishers are awarded their finisher medal by Grace, who joined the Christalis Home at 6 months old. Prizes include a weekend stay in Deep Creek, Giant Food Gift Card, Spa Certificates, Fuel Gift Cards, and more. Runners also get entered into a special scavenger hunt lottery for a \$100 Shell Gas Station Gift Card.

EVENT DETAILS

Superhero 5K Run/Walk and Pop-Up Market
Sunday, September 27, 2026, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Washington Adventist University Commons
7600 Flower Ave
Takoma Park, MD 20912

At the Pop-Up Market everyone can enjoy coffee and other specialty drinks from Travlen’ Tom’s Coffee Truck along with other local food vendors. Kids enjoy Kona’s Ice, a slime cart, and other kids activities. Attendees also get to browse products from local artisans, fashion & beauty vendors.

Registration and packet pickup begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by the Little Hero Dash at 8:35 a.m., and warm-up at 8:45 a.m. The 5K and pop-up market begin at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$35 in advance and \$40 on race day, with discounted pricing for undergraduate students. More

information for participants, vendors, volunteers, and sponsors is available at christalis.org/5k-run-walk.

Started in 2014 at Washington Adventist University, the Christalis Superhero 5K has grown from a small community fundraiser into an annual event that brings together supporters from across the DMV and beyond.

“Our Superhero 5K not only brings together our donor community, but unites the local community with our cause in a fun and exciting way,” said Shalini, President of Christalis.

Christalis is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has served vulnerable children and families for more than 20 years. Through its Child & Family Development Program in Uganda and Lilly’s Gifts Program in the United States, Christalis provides education support, food, emergency healthcare, school supplies, clothing, gifts, and other basic needs, while also helping caregivers through income-generating projects and microloans. <https://www.christalis.org/>

Camp Nabi’s 31st Year Brings Healing and Joy to 35 Grieving Children

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN AUG. 7 TO 9, 2026, AT ARLINGTON ECHO OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER IN MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND, BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

PASADENA, Md. (Sept. 11, 2026)—For the 31st year, Chesapeake Life Center took over the cabins, pavilions, docks and recreation areas of Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville to bring a little peace and a lot of joy to 35 grieving children.

It takes a lot of creativity and many trained volunteers to help make this annual bereavement camp for children ages 6 to 18 a success. Sixty volunteers and 16 Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Life Center team members with a passion for helping kids worked from Aug. 7 to 9 and included:

- 38 Big Buddies, adult volunteers trained to stay with one or two children for the duration of the camp to guide them through the emotional weekend.
- 17 volunteers who were helping at the camp for the first time.
- 2 volunteers who attended the camp when they were children.
- 4 therapy dogs who provided unconditional love to all the humans involved.
- 40 quilts created by Southern Comforters Quilting Guild.
- 20 blankets created by Project Linus of Anne Arundel County.
- 35 stuffies donated by Pam’s Hallmark.
- 1 night of dance music provided by DJ Andy Killen.

All of these numbers added up to a weekend that provided expert grief care for kids and teens experiencing loss with equal batches of laughter and friendship shared with people who understand their loss.

Volunteers helped in a variety of roles, including leading arts and crafts, crabbing, building and guarding campfires, serving as camp nurses, set up and clean up and much more. There were also many individuals, organizations and businesses that helped provide the funds to make this an affordable time for families already dealing with loss, including The Blue Waters Foundation; The Richard T. Brennan Fair Winds Memorial Foundation, Ltd.; Marilyn K. Coffey; Diane M. Dubovsky; and St. Anne’s Episcopal Church, Annapolis.

“None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers,” Camp Nabi Director and Chesapeake Life Center Manager Alena Dailey said. “Because so many people in our community chose to give their time and resources, 35 hurting children were able to build new friendships, enjoy a fun-filled summer weekend and connect with other kids who truly understand what they’re feeling.”



Therapy dog Venture sports his new Camp Nabi baseball cap on the first day of Camp Nabi.



Teen camper Ezra Binkley shares the luminary she created to honor her loved one at a lantern lighting ceremony.



Middle-school-aged campers create a keepsake filled with glitter.

The late Betty Asplund, the founding director of what would become the Chesapeake Life Center, started Camp Nabi in 1982 so that grieving kids could learn they are not alone. With the help of this cadre of volunteers, children and teens share their stories in a safe environment while enjoying fun camp activities.

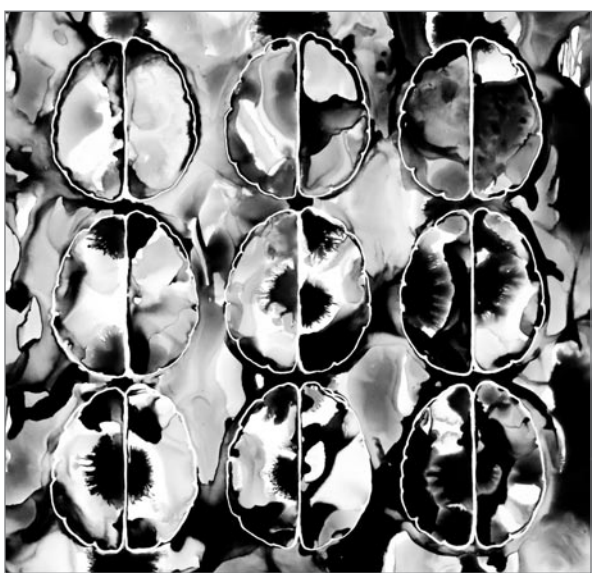
Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org. Chesapeake Life Center is proud to be a part of Chesapeake Health Partners, an organization focused on strengthening community-based care and support services across the region.

Exhibition Details

Michele Banks: Forces of Nature
September 28–November 7, 2026
Opening Reception:
Sunday, October 11, 2026
2–4 p.m.
Harmony Hall Arts Center
10701 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
Admission: Free and open to all ages

“Brain Scan” by Michele Banks

IMAGE CREDIT: MICHELE BANKS



COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Introducing Our Congressional Blueprint to Bring Affordability for All

“The rich nations must use their vast resources of wealth to develop the underdeveloped, school the unschooled, and feed the unfed.”
—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is a peculiar time in America, when economists offer varying outlooks on our economy. Some herald the artificial intelligence era as a period of great prosperity. The stock markets continue to climb, nearly unscathed by a war that costs the nation nearly \$1 billion every day. And the current administration, despite firing the official overseeing the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ monthly jobs report just over a year ago, says the job market shows signs of growth. But for most Americans, the reality paints a much dimmer picture.

This Iran war has cost the average household over \$1,200 in the last seven months as gas prices reach record highs. Access to safe, affordable food is growing scarcer, with nearly weekly recalls on nutritious items. And as tariffs and global spats threaten energy prices as we enter the colder months, disastrous cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP benefits loom on the horizon to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy in the Big Ugly Bill. The Urban League movement sees the pain Americans face every day, and we’re meeting the moment the best way we can through job programs and housing and education supports, but now is also a time for Congress to act. Less than two months ahead of the midterm elections, we’re no longer waiting on either side

of the aisle to present an agenda that will serve the people. We’ve developed one ourselves. I’d like to introduce our blueprint to rescue the American Dream and put working families first: the Affordability for All agenda. This agenda is informed by research from our Washington Bureau, anecdotes from our affiliates, and insights from my leadership as President of the National Urban League for over 23 years. These are the six calls to action:

- 1. Pass a National Living Wage**
No one who works full time should live in poverty. Raise the federal minimum wage to reflect today’s cost of living and index it to inflation so wages keep pace with rising costs.
- 2. Repeal and Replace the Big Ugly Bill**
H.R. 1, “the Big Ugly Bill,” represents one of the greatest threats to affordability for working families. Repeal its harmful cuts and restore investments in Medicaid, education, student aid, nutrition assistance, and other programs that help families succeed, not just survive.
- 3. Housing Vouchers**
Housing vouchers should work more like SNAP or Medicaid: if you qualify, you receive assistance. Fully fund the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, so every eligible family can access safe, affordable housing while expanding pathways for homeownership.

- 4. Launch a National Affordable Housing Trust**
America cannot solve the housing crisis without dramatically increasing the supply of affordable homes. Establish a robust national Housing Trust Fund to finance the construction and preservation of affordable and workforce housing at the scale the crisis demands.
- 5. Restore Affordable Internet Access**
Reestablish and strengthen the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) so every family can afford broadband. In today’s economy, internet access is as essential as electricity for work, education, healthcare, and economic mobility.
- 6. End Inflationary Tariffs that Raise Costs**
American families should not bear the cost of policies that make everyday goods more expensive. Repeal inflationary tariffs and replace them with trade policies that strengthen American competitiveness without driving up household costs. Our nation is facing an unprecedented crisis driven by unregulated technology that threatens to upend our workforce and education system. We have had enough of spending our resources on misplaced priorities and vanity projects for a President who has shown Americans time and time again that their livelihoods and future are not a priority. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to adopt the Affordability for All agenda and make America prosperous again.

—September 12, 2026

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

AAA: New Vehicle Ownership Costs Hit \$12,863 Annually

EVs and Hybrids Join Mainstream Vehicle Comparisons, but Fuel Savings Don’t Offset Higher Ownership Costs

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA

WASHINGTON (Sept. 15, 2026)—For more than 75 years, AAA’s Your Driving Costs (YDC) analysis has helped drivers understand the full cost of vehicle ownership. This year’s analysis finds that the average annual cost to own and operate a new vehicle is \$12,863, or \$1,071.92 per month. This reflects continued increases from fuel prices, depreciation, and finance charges. In 2025, the total annual cost was estimated at \$11,577, or \$964.78 per month. Note: Methodology updates make this year’s results not directly comparable with last year’s estimate.

This year’s Your Driving Costs analysis integrates select electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids into standard vehicle categories that used to be exclusively traditional gas-powered models, reflecting their growing share in the new-car market. “By looking at EVs, hybrids and traditional gas-powered vehicles within the same categories, consumers can better understand how total ownership costs vary by powertrain,” said Greg Brannon, AAA’s director of automotive engineering. “Looking at the full ownership picture—including depreciation and other expenses—can help consumers better understand the total cost of each option.”

Key Cost Themes

Fuel Prices: At the time of the study, the regular-grade gasoline used by nearly all YDC vehicles averaged \$4.152 per gallon, while electricity for home EV charging averaged 18.0 cents per kilowatt hour. Gas prices are up 31.8% compared to 2025, while electricity prices rose only 7.8%, improving the relative affordability of EVs and hybrids; however, fuel economy alone did not determine the most affordable vehicle to own. **Depreciation:** The difference between a car’s purchase price and resale value remains the sin-

gle largest ownership cost, with vehicles losing a weighted average of \$4,422 per year. Vehicle type and purchase price both have a significant effect on depreciation for EV shoppers; for example, EV medium sedans had about twice the depreciation of gas-powered models, helping push total ownership costs 29.1% higher in that category. **Car Prices:** The sales-weighted average MSRP of new vehicles this year is \$39,376. While MSRPs increased slightly on average, incentives, demand and rebates can affect what consumers ultimately pay. The actual purchase price is used to calculate finance costs and depreciation.

EV and Hybrid Comparison Takeaways

By comparing select electric and hybrid models within the same categories as gas-powered vehicles, AAA gives shoppers a more practical view of how ownership costs compare across powertrains. **Gas-powered vehicles:** Overall, gas models offered savings compared to EVs and hybrids in cost categories affected by purchase price, like finance charges, taxes and fees, and depreciation. For example, gas-powered medium sedans cost \$10,582 per year to own—\$3,080 less than comparable EV medium sedans, which had significantly higher depreciation, fees and finance costs. **Electric vehicles:** EVs delivered the lowest fuel costs, with charging costs for EVs about 66%–70% lower than fuel costs for traditional gas vehicles across the categories studied. However, those savings were often outweighed by higher depreciation, fees and finance costs; medium-sedan EVs, for example, cost 29.1% more to own annually than gas-powered models. **Hybrids:** Hybrids were the most consistently lower-cost alternative to gas in the comparison categories. They combined meaningful fuel savings with smaller ownership-cost trade-

Cost per Year @ 15,000 miles driven				YOUR DRIVING COSTS 2026		
	Medium Sedan			Compact SUV		
	Electric	Gas	Hybrid	Electric	Gas	Hybrid
cost per year	\$13,662	\$10,582	\$10,204	\$11,888	\$11,656	\$11,201
cost per mile*	\$0.911	\$0.705	\$0.680	\$0.793	\$0.777	\$0.747
	Medium SUV			Pickup Truck		
	Electric	Gas	Hybrid	Electric	Gas	Hybrid
cost per year	\$14,332	\$14,431	\$13,698	\$17,414	\$16,626	\$16,117
cost per mile*	\$0.955	\$0.962	\$0.913	\$1.161	\$1.108	\$1.074
* Total cost per year ÷ total miles per year.						

offs, costing less annually than gas-powered models in medium sedans, compact SUVs, medium SUVs and pickup trucks.

Car Buying Advice

Vehicle category makes a major difference. ½-ton pickups cost \$1.10 per mile to operate—48 cents more than small sedans—adding an average of \$7,191 per year. In comparison, purchasing an EV may help offset annual fuel costs, but higher depreciation can increase total ownership costs over time. Choosing a vehicle that fits actual transportation needs can help buyers manage long-term costs. Create a monthly and annual budget that includes ownership and operating costs before purchasing. Keep the vehicle price, finance rate, and trade-in value as separate negotiations. Get pre-approved by a financial institution, such as a bank, credit union or AAA, before discussing financing with the dealer. **Additional AAA Support:** Your Driving Costs calculator (<https://www.aaa.com/autorepair/drivingcosts>) helps shoppers compare ownership costs by vehicle category, powertrain, location and driving habits. AAA also offers additional tools to support vehicle research, shopping and repair planning: AAA Car Guide ([\[guide.html\]\(#\)\): Annual guide that rates vehicles with the latest automotive technology. AAA’s Car Buying Program \(<https://aca.truecar.com/?zip=20011&devicecd=PC>\): Comparisons consumers can use while shopping for and buying a vehicle. EV 101 Digital Buyer’s Guide \(<https://www.aaa.com/AAA/common/automotive/usedevbuyersguide/index.html?zip=20011&devicecd=PC#page=1>\): Educational resource for consumers shopping for EVs. Repair Cost Calculator \(<https://www.aaa.com/autorepair/estimate>\): Breakdown of estimated parts and labor costs, including AAA member discounts, available at AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities \(<https://www.aaa.com/autorepair/>\). **Methodology and Overall YDC Analysis** AAA’s YDC analysis discussed here estimates the cost of owning and operating a new vehicle for personal transportation over five years and 75,000 miles. Actual driving costs vary based on driving habits, location, operating conditions, and other factors. AAA evaluated seven vehicle categories and 34 top-selling models across fuel, maintenance, repair and tire costs, license, registration and taxes, depreciation and finance charges.](https://www.ace.aaa.com/car-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

EV and Hybrid Cost Comparisons

For EV and hybrid comparisons, AAA evaluated selected top-selling models in four categories—medium sedans, compact SUVs, medium SUVs and pickup trucks —alongside gas-powered models to show how ownership costs vary by powertrain within the same vehicle categories. Because the EV and hybrid comparison uses a smaller set of categories, its overall results

should not be directly compared with the overall results from the full YDC study. For a full breakdown of the methodology and cost comparisons, download and review the Your Driving Costs fact sheet (https://newsroom.aaa.com/asset/2026_factsheet_your_driving_cost/) and brochure (https://newsroom.aaa.com/asset/2026_brochure_your_driving_cost/).
AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to more than 65.2 million members nationwide, over 80,000 members in Washington, D.C. and more than 1 million members in Maryland. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, not-for-profit membership corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can map a route, find local gas prices and electric vehicle charging stations, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app ([AAA.com/mobile](https://www.aaa.com/mobile)) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit www.AAA.com.

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

Career from A1

encouraging more young women to consider these vital professions.

According to credit union leadership, Camp Trailblazers was a strong fit for Andrews Federal because of the fire department’s focus on empowering local students, expanding educational opportunities, and investing in career development within our local community.

“At Andrews Federal, investing in our community means supporting programs that open doors for the next generation,” said Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer of Andrews Federal Credit Union. “We are honored to partner with the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department to help young women discover meaningful careers in public service while building foundational skills for their future careers.”

Founded in 1948, Andrews Federal Credit Union has grown to serve more than 163,000 members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and military installations in central Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. For more information about Andrews Federal, visit andrewsfcu.org.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I’m Reevaluating My Retirement Plan; What Are my Options?

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

Dear Rusty: I am 69-1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June. I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS. The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer (which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire). I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I’m ready to retire. No Spousal benefits taken yet. **Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement**

Dear Reevaluating Retirement: I’m assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won’t be 70 years old until March 2027. If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) when your benefits start in September—you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025. That’s because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount. Said simply, your initial September benefit will not include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won’t include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027. FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive before you suspend. As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS full retirement age (FRA), you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment “No Spousal benefits taken yet.” FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended. To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse’s benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse’s FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim. In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended.

To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish, and your benefits will not be negatively affected. And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027 (the month you turn 70). You have both options.

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

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

Governor Moore Launches Fourth Class of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Program on the Day of Service and Remembrance

The program welcomes its largest class following an encouraging impact evaluation report from the University of Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 11, 2026)—Governor Wes Moore today launched Class 4 of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program at Bowie State University, welcoming the largest incoming class of young Marylanders into a year of paid, full-time service. The launch coincided with the National Day of Service and Remembrance, marking the anniversary of September 11 with a renewed statewide commitment to service.

“On a day we will always remember, Maryland chooses to honor immeasurable loss with meaningful service,” said Gov. Moore. “I am struck by the fact that many of these young people were not alive when our nation faced the 9/11 tragedy. For them, it remains a history lesson. And yet, they are here—stepping up for their neighbors just as members of our community did 25 years ago. Our state is stronger for it.”

Since its inception in April 2023, the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program, facilitated by the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, has graduated over 1200 Members hosted by over 300 employment partners across all 24 jurisdictions of Maryland.

“We are immensely proud to welcome our newest Members and Host Site Partners into a program that is fundamentally transforming lives and strengthening our state,” said Jonny Dorsey, Secretary, Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation. “Service is a catalyst—it equips young Marylanders with critical skills that open career pathways, build bonds across differences, and drive lasting progress in the communities they call home.”

The University of Maryland’s Do Good Institute recently released an impact evaluation report that analyzed data from the first two classes (2023–24 and 2024–25) of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program. The data shows promising early outcomes for its members, such as:

- Members were more likely to be employed six months after completing their service than when they enrolled, with a substantially larger pre-post increase in employment rates than the comparison group drawn from the Current Population Survey.
- Among Members already employed at enrollment, hourly wages rose 57.5%, compared with 23.0% among the com-

Program from A1

I want Prince George’s County to become a major hub for aerospace, aviation and advanced manufacturing jobs—and that starts with making sure our residents are trained for them. I worked to secure the funding and bring PGCC, employers and workforce partners together to develop the training programs our residents will need to compete for these careers. This study is the first step toward making Prince George’s County a major hub for aerospace education and workforce development,” Senator Alonzo T. Washington said.

Employer input will be central to the work. PGCC is consulting with companies and organizations in aerospace, aviation, engineering, defense and advanced manufacturing, as well as the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission, workforce development entities, the Maryland Department of Labor and other economic development and industry stakeholders.

The legislation calls for employer roundtables, workforce charrettes and demand-validation sessions to assess current and projected labor market needs. Those conversations will inform the education and training opportunities PGCC could offer.

PGCC will identify the programs and credentials that could best prepare students for these fields and determine what is needed to deliver them, including facilities, laboratories, simulators, equipment, infrastructure and faculty. Additionally, the College will explore opportunities for internships and apprenticeships, assess start-up and operating costs, and develop a path for sustainable implementation.



PHOTO MARYLAND GOVERNOR’S PRESS OFFICE

On Sept. 11, 2026, Governor Wes Moore launched Class 4 of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program at Bowie State University, welcoming the largest incoming class of young Marylanders into a year of paid, full-time service.

- Members reported increased voter registration rates and a higher projected likelihood of voting in national elections.

“I had the pleasure of joining the inaugural class of the Maryland Youth Mental Health Corps, a collective of young adults who are passionate about changing the lives of young people by expanding access to in-school mental health support,” said Taylor Bowers, an alumnus of the second year of the program. “I am now an alumnus of both the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option and the Youth Mental Health Corps. My experience in these programs allowed me to receive an offer for a permanent position in a field I love.”

The Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program is a cornerstone of Governor Moore’s commitment to making Maryland a state that serves and creates opportunities for Marylanders to serve their communities and gain paid professional experience. Through the program, young adults from every region in Maryland are hired by community organizations, schools, and government agencies for a year of paid service, professional development, and civic engagement.

“As we work to expand our impact, partnering with Maryland Corps/Service Year Option provides an exciting opportunity to engage more young people in meaningful service while also investing in Maryland’s K–8 students,” said Mysiki Valentine, Executive Director of Maryland Programs, Ampact. “Working together

with the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, we’ve recruited 56 tutors who will be trained to provide high-impact tutoring to support students in Cecil, Charles, and Prince George’s counties. In our inaugural year, we plan to serve more than 1,000 Maryland students, making this partnership a big WIN for Maryland students, young professionals, and local communities.”

As Maryland Corps/Service Year Option continues to grow and serve Maryland communities, DSCI is leveraging state, federal, and philanthropic resources to drive impact in high need sectors across the state. Building on the momentum of the Youth Mental Health Corps, DSCI is expanding the specialty corps offered in Class 4 to include education, technology, literacy, and health. Among the newest specialty corps is the Immigrant Opportunity Corps, established in collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, focuses on assisting local immigrant families.

The Maryland Corps/Service Year Option program is still accepting applications for Members and employment partners for Class 4. Marylanders, ages 18–24, and potential employment partners can learn more at serve.maryland.gov.

Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) *mobilizes Marylanders to drive community impact, build meaningful careers, and forge stronger bonds across differences through service. Learn more at serve.maryland.gov.*

President Falecia D. Williams, Ed.D., sees the legislation as a chance for PGCC to take a closer look at how its academic and workforce programs can meet the needs of a growing aerospace and technology sector.

“Prince George’s Community College looks forward to exploring new ways to prepare our students and residents for opportunities in aerospace, aviation, advanced manufacturing and related technology fields,” Williams said. “The legislation gives us the opportunity to work with employers to better understand their workforce needs and shape education and training programs accordingly. We appreciate Senator Washington’s work to bring this legislation forward and his partnership with the College as we begin this important work.”

The fiscal year 2027 state budget includes \$250,000 for PGCC to support the work. The legislation also requires the Governor to include \$100,000 in the fiscal year 2028 budget for PGCC to complete the feasibility study and program design assessment.

By Dec. 1, 2027, PGCC will report the findings of the feasibility study and program design assessment to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. The report will include workforce demand findings; recommended degree, certificate and noncredit workforce credential programs; required investments in facilities, laboratories, simulators, equipment and infrastructure; faculty and staff plans; potential industry partnerships; an implementation timeline; and a funding and sustainability plan.

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2022–2027), Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George’s County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skill sets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 25,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George’s County. For more information, visit the College’s website at www.pgcc.edu.

Senator Alonzo T. Washington represents District 22 in the Maryland State Senate and serves on the Senate Finance Committee. He is a member of the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission (MATC) and was the lead sponsor that created the Commission, where he works to strengthen Maryland’s aerospace economy and workforce. Senator Washington has worked closely with local aerospace companies supporting NASA Goddard to identify workforce needs and develop legislation connecting Prince George’s County residents to careers in aerospace and aviation. His work with industry partners helped shape SB 198 and secure state funding to advance new aerospace education, training, and credentialing opportunities at Prince George’s Community College.

