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Andrews Federal Credit Union Provides 800 School Uniform Packages to Support Students and Families in Prince George's County

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Oct. 1, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union recently partnered with Prince George's County Council Member Edward P. Burroughs III to help families prepare for the new school year with essential supplies, clothing and community resources.

The Back to School event in Fort Washington, Md., brought families together for an afternoon of food, fun and back-to-school support. Students and families living in District 8 of Prince George's County had access to school supplies and shoes, haircuts and styling, and other resources to ease the transition into a new school year.

Andrews Federal provided 800 school uniform packages at the event. Each package included essential school clothing items, including unisex khaki pants, polo shirts for boys and girls, socks and undergarments.

"Preparing for a new school year should be an exciting time for students and families, not a source of financial stress," said Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer for Andrews Federal Credit Union. "We are proud to partner with Council Member Burroughs to remove financial barriers for fam-



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Andrews Federal provided 800 school uniform packages at the event.

ilies and ensure students walk proudly and confidently into a new school year."

Andrews Federal has continued to expand partnerships and educational resources as part of the credit union's commitment to supporting local communities. Other recent initiatives include support for local youth and family programs, a major donation to fund Prince George's County's 311 On The Go program, and the credit union's annual

college and summer camp scholarship awards.

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.

M-NCPPC Highlighted as National Gold Medal Finalist for Parks and Recreation Excellence

M-NCPPC Recognized Nationally as a Top Four Parks and Recreation Agency

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Oct. 1, 2026)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), serving Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, has been recognized as a 2026 National Gold Medal Finalist by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

M-NCPPC was recognized in the Class I category, which recognizes agencies serving populations greater than 400,001. The recognition places M-NCPPC among four finalists nationally, highlighting the Commission's continued commitment to excellence in parks and recreation, innovation, environmental stewardship, quality programming, and meaningful community engagement.

Established in 1927, M-NCPPC is approaching its centennial in 2027 with nearly a century of service to the residents and communities of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The Commission has earned the National Gold Medal six times, in 1973, 1977, 1983, 1984, 2003, and 2015, making M-NCPPC the only six-time National Gold Medal recipient. This year's finalist recognition adds another chapter to that longstanding legacy and reflects the continued dedication of the people who plan, protect, maintain, program, and invest in parks and recreation opportunities across the two counties.

"M-NCPPC is proud to create spaces and programming that inspire connection, equity, and opportunity for all," said Chair of M-NCPPC, Artie Harris, Mont-

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Quantum Companies Expand in Maryland

State and business leaders promoted the growth of quantum computing companies in Maryland at the recent opening of Microsoft's new quantum center in Discovery District Maryland.

By CHARLOTTE ORMOND
Capital News Service

RIVERDALE, Md. (Oct. 1, 2026)—State and business leaders promoted the growth of quantum computing companies in Maryland at the opening of Microsoft's new quantum center in Riverdale, advancing the state's goal to become the "Capital of Quantum."

"Quantum is sort of an emerging technology, so it has a lot of promise," Gretchen Campbell, the associate vice president for quantum research and education at the University of Maryland, told Capital News Service.

Campbell joined others at the Microsoft center's grand opening last Tuesday. The center will



PHOTO CHARLOTTE ORMOND/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Wes Moore celebrates the opening of Microsoft's new quantum research center, Sept. 22, 2026 in Riverdale, Maryland.

house technology designed to advance quantum research and bring together global partners to collaborate in Maryland. Unlike traditional computers, quantum computers use quantum physics

to process information much faster and solve complex problems. While many quantum computers are still in the prototype stage, the technology is rapidly advancing, experts say.

Campbell said she hopes the new center will advance quantum science and give University of Maryland students opportunities to work with scientists and learn about the developing technology.

Gov. Wes Moore, who spoke at the opening, said Microsoft's decision to build this center in Maryland is a major accomplishment for the state and will attract quantum researchers and business leaders to the area.

"The world has descended upon College Park," Moore said. "They came here because they believed. They came here because they saw the future being written in College Park."

The opening of the center comes a year after Moore's announcement of the partnership with Microsoft at the 2025 Quantum World Congress.

Campbell said other major technology companies have announced plans to establish headquarters in Maryland. In September, Riverlane, a developer of quantum error correction technology, said it will locate its U.S. headquarters to Discovery District Maryland. The district is a 150-acre research park in Prince George's County that

houses more than 60 research organizations and federal agencies, including Microsoft's new center. QuEra Computing, a neutral-atom quantum computing company, also said in September it will open an office in the Discovery District.

Moore said that in under two years, partners at the University of Maryland, in the private sector and across all levels of government have pledged over \$500 million in investments to support the growth of quantum research in Maryland. The initiative aims to raise \$1 billion in investments over the next five years.

"This is international. This is real," said Rep. Glenn Ivey, D-Md., who also spoke at the opening. "This is a major piece putting us on, not just the map, but the globe...It's not an overstatement, really, to say that the direction that the world takes, maybe even the fate of the world, is going to hinge on what happens in these areas."

Governor Moore Announces Maryland SUN Bucks Program Feeds More than 600,000 Children for Third Consecutive Year, Fights Childhood Hunger

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 2, 2026)—Governor Moore and the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) today announced that, for the third year in a row, the Maryland SUN Bucks program has served more than 600,000 Maryland students. As of September 30, the 2026 program has delivered over \$72.2 million in direct grocery benefits to 602,582 students across all 24 Maryland jurisdictions, generating up to \$108.3 million in economic impact for local grocery stores and retailers.

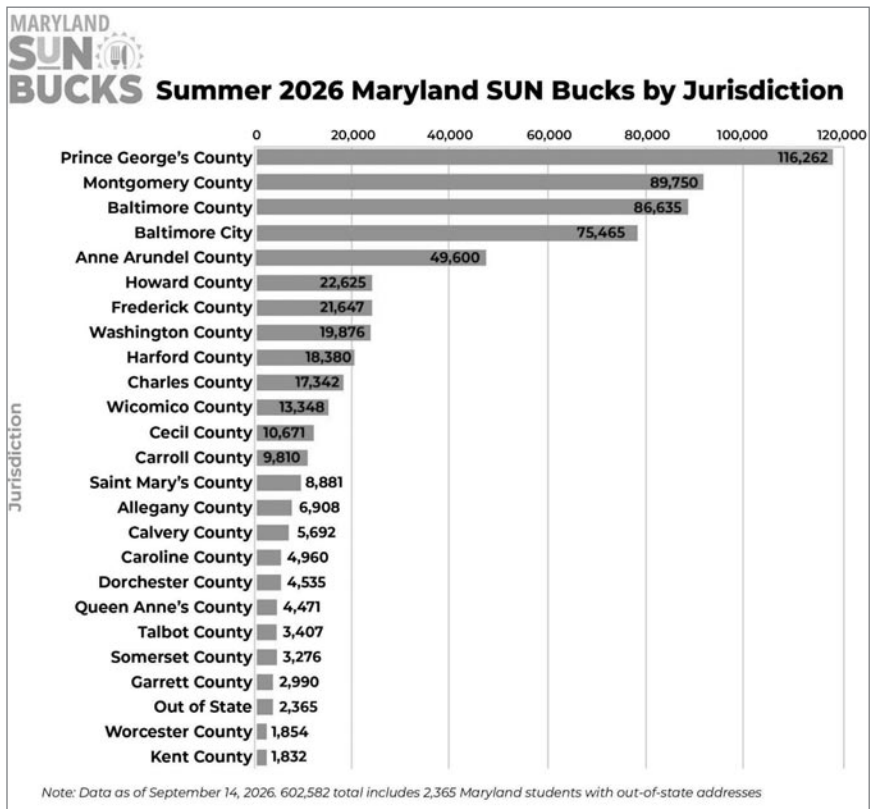
"When I first took office I committed to an all out attack on childhood poverty and hunger and over the past three years, the SUN Bucks program has been a central pillar in our commitment," said Gov. Moore. "By delivering grocery benefits to families, we're utilizing every tool to address nutritional gaps school children experience during the summer months and further our work in tackling childhood hunger."

"SUN Bucks means a lot to me and my family and helps us tremendously throughout the summer," said Mahala Saver, a SUN Bucks customer from Garrett County. "When you're caring

for five children, grocery bills add up fast once school lets out. SUN Bucks makes sure I can keep good food on the table for my kids when they aren't receiving regular school meals."

"Sustaining this scale of assistance for three straight years reflects the Moore-Miller administration's continued commitment to ensuring Maryland children have access to nutritious food year-round," said Maryland Department of Human Services Acting Secretary Stacy L. Rodgers. "Our job isn't done

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CITY CRUISES WASHINGTON

Skip the traffic and take the scenic route to your destination with the unlimited water taxi pass, granting you unlimited water taxi rides on a single day or for two days. Cancellation policy: This activity is non-refundable. Valid 1–2 days. Check availability to see starting. From \$36 per person. English audio guide included. Pickup included. Check availability for details.

Highlights: Explore Washington via elegant taxis for an unforgettable experience. Admire the Potomac River’s beauty on every ride. Enjoy Georgetown, the Washington Monument, Old Town Alexandria & National Harbor all with ease, avoiding the traffic! Choose single-day or two-day passes for your convenience. Create lasting memories with stunning photos onboard. Enjoy audio insights on select route. Where to Meet (Docking Locations). Please look for the dock address you are departing from. The Wharf Dock: Transit Pier, 950 Maine St. SW. Drop-Off: 950 Maine Ave SW, Washington, DC. Pedestrian access only. Located between Blair Alley SW & 9th Street SW. Georgetown 3100 K St NW. Washington, DC. Approximate trip time: 30 min. Georgetown Dock is not wheelchair accessible. Please note, the water taxi route traveling from Georgetown directly to Old Town Alexandria is the Monuments cruise. Alexandria City Marina O Cameron Street, Alexandria, VA. Located behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Approximate trip time: 30 minutes. National Harbor 145 National Plaza, National Harbor, MD. Approximate trip time: 45 minutes. Drop-off points are same as pickup points.

CHRISTMAS AT GAYLORD NATIONAL

Christmas at Gaylord National November 14, 2026–January 3, 2027. Experience so many Christmases with dazzling displays, tempting treats, holiday shows, and festive activities throughout the resort. Our signature attraction, ice™ featuring Dr. Seuss’s “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” brings beloved scenes to life through colorful, colossal ice sculptures.

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS DESTINATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Critically acclaimed. See “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” come to life in ice sculptures and discover the magic of ice! Has been featured in Forbes, Conde Nast, CNN, & more. Two million pounds of ice hand-crafted to create our immersive Christmas experience. Characters you love. See the Grinch, Cindy Lou-Who, Max, and more carved into towering, frozen sculptures. Enchanting Deco. Discover more than two million dazzling Christmas Lights around every bend of our resort. So much Christmas. Holiday shopping, festive treats and sips, and more than 10 delightfully themed experiences await.

CIAA TOURNAMENT

CIAA Basketball Tournament will be held from February 24–28, 2026, in Baltimore, Maryland. #February is CIAA. Every year we come together to create memories and build the legacy of the nation’s oldest historically Black Athletic Conference, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). February, recognized nationally as Black History Month, is our time to celebrate and showcase our rich history, culture and HBCU championship basketball.

Bowie State is once again proud to serve as the host institution for this highly anticipated week of men and women’s basketball, a career expo, step show and more. Bulldogs, we hope you will

be able to join us for a variety of events, kicking off the excitement and showing your BSU pride on campus and in Baltimore! Visit the CIAA website for more information.

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

Washington International Horse Show will be at Show Place Arena Thursday, October 22, Friday, October 23, Saturday, October 24 at 1 p.m. Cs12 Grand Prix, Saturday, October 24, 6:15 p.m. World Cup Night at Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

MEN’S DAY

Clinton United Methodist Church 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735 celebrates Men’s Day Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. service. Guest Speaker will be Pastor Nurbert Hughes, Alexandria Chapel UMC. Gospel Extravaganza at 3 p.m. featuring various choirs from the metropolitan area churches. Melaina Trice, Pastor. Lawrence Omoregbe, President.

BRIDGE TO RECOVERY

Helping you build a Bridge to Victory. Bridge to recovery Faith-Based Recovery Program. Finding Support. There is Hope for you! Are you looking for a way out? Are you looking for weekly support? The Bridge to Recovery offers a lace of love, hope, and healing for you to overcome your battles and gain victory in your life. We have been healing people find God and rebuild their lives for over 20 years. Come visit us for a new look at support and recovery.

One-on-One Support: During our second Connect you will be given a moderator and a peer to help you on your journey. 12 Core Truths: We have 12 foundational truths based on the Word of God to help you grow and live sober each day. Connect! First, we connect with God. Second, we connect with others. Third, we connect with self. 52-Week Curriculum. Easy to use, simple curriculum built to help you grow closer to God and overcome your battles.

THE BRIDGE TO RECOVERY: (301) 856-1616 www.ibcministries.org Independent Baptist Church, 9255 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Meeting Times: Fridays at 7 p.m.

SET UP CAMP

African Methodist Episcopal UNION BETHEL invites you to Set up Camp. A place where heaven touches earth and you leave different than you came. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Every Sunday. Find us ubame.org. 6810 Floral Park Road, Brandywine, Maryland. What to expect when you arrive C.A.M.P THE EXPERIENCE. Come as you are. Leave with more than you came with. C - COME AS YOU ARE. Bring all of yourself, not the cleaned-up version. A - ANTICIPATE GOD. Expect something to happen. Don’t let familiarity rob you. M - MAKE ROOM FOR GOD. Follow the instructions you have. Allow God to blow your mind. P- PROCEED DIFFERENTLY. Leave changed in how you think, speak, and live.

lace of Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Lynn Dohm of Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS), Kishore Bitra of Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT), and more.

New for this year, GreyCon will offer a book-signing opportunity with local alumni and tech authors. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided.

As the second annual conference approaches, Capitol Tech’s GreyCon serves as an important part of its broader professional outreach, concluding their Founder’s Week activities and highlighting both the university’s history and the future of technology innovation.

For more information about GreyCon 2026, visit www.greycon.org.

Capitol Technology University is a leading STEM university located in Laurel, MD near the vibrant DC metropolitan area. Ranked #1 in Maryland for graduate salaries at all degree levels, the university’s mission is to educate individuals for successful professional careers in STEM research, engineering, management, and business by providing relevant learning experiences. Through industry-expert faculty, technical skills development, and innovative partnerships, Capitol Tech fosters career advancement opportunities for the evolving global community. Visit www.captechu.edu to learn more.

success in increasing SUN Bucks usage across the state.

SUN Bucks benefits remain active on EBT cards for 122 days from the date of issuance. All SUN Bucks recipients are encouraged to spend their balances before they expire on a rolling basis through the rest of the year. Families with questions about their SUN Bucks balance, EBT cards, or eligibility can call the hotline at 1-800-332-6347 (and select the Maryland SUN Bucks option) or visit dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks.

Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (NCAE-CD) and was later selected to lead the NCAE Northeast Regional Hub.

Through longstanding industry partnerships, pioneering hands-on curriculum, a state-of-the-art cyber lab, team competitions, outreach initiatives, and evolving opportunities, Capitol Tech has built strong leadership in cybersecurity education. GreyCon 2026 will commemorate this milestone by bringing together alumni and community thought leaders to share insights from their research and professional careers, while exploring the innovations and challenges shaping an increasingly connected world.

The conference will take place on Capitol Tech’s campus in Laurel, Maryland, with workshop tracks, panel discussions, academic poster presentations, and a networking mixer. Featured speakers include Alice Smitley of the Dept. of War (DoW) Cyber Service Academy (CSA), Dr. Joe Billingsley of Military Cyber Professionals Association (MCPA), Dr. Diane Janosek of JANOS, LLC, Dr. Davina Pruitt-Mentle of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Steve Wal-

they expire. The “Use It or Lose It” campaign included targeted social media ads on Meta platforms, which have reached more than 670,000 people and generated over 1.6 million views. Additionally, DHS sent direct text messages to 73,000 customers with unspent balances, prompting them to check their cards and redeem their benefits.

These proactive outreach efforts are working: Maryland reached a 75% SUN Bucks redemption rate 30 days faster than last year, demonstrating the campaign’s

Hunger from A1

when benefits are placed on a card—our goal is to make sure those dollars translate into meals on the table. Through direct, proactive outreach, we are removing barriers, closing the participation gap, and helping families make full use of every SUN Bucks dollar available to them.”

For the first time since the program’s inception, DHS launched an outreach campaign this year urging families to spend their SUN Bucks benefits before

Around the Area

As Families Search for Greater Educational Opportunity, Black and Latino Student Funds Open Doors for a 54th Year

WASHINGTON (Oct. 2, 2026)—At a time when families across the Washington region are asking increasingly urgent questions about educational opportunity, affordability, and access, two organizations with a remarkable history are once again providing answers.

The Black Student Fund (BSF) and Latino Student Fund (LSF) will host the 54th Annual School Fair, bringing families face-to-face with many of the region’s leading independent schools and the people who make decisions about admission, financial aid, and enrollment.

For more than half a century, the School Fair has done something both simple and powerful: put opportunity within reach.

What began more than five decades ago as an effort to expand educational access has grown into the region’s longest-running independent school fair and an enduring gateway for generations of Black, Latino, and underserved students and families.

This is more than a gathering of schools. It is where parents learn what is possible, students begin imagining themselves in places they may never have considered, and families gain access to information and relationships that can change the trajectory of a child’s education.

“For 54 years, we have believed that talent exists in every community, even when opportunity does not,” said Leroy Nesbitt, Executive Director of the Black Student Fund. “Our job is to help close that distance. When a family walks into this fair, they should leave knowing that excellent educational opportunities are not reserved for someone else’s child.”

- This year’s School Fair will give families the opportunity to:
- Meet directly with admissions representatives from leading independent schools
 - Learn about financial aid, scholarships, and affordability
 - Receive practical guidance on navigating the independent-school admissions process
 - Connect with resources designed to support first-time applicants and families unfamiliar with independent education
 - Discover educational opportunities that many families may not have known were available to them

For generations, a conversation begun at the BSF/LSF School Fair has led to an application, an acceptance, a scholarship, a diploma—and, ultimately, a different future.

That is why, 54 years later, the mission remains urgent. A child’s potential should never be limited by a family’s zip code, income, or access to information. Opportunity begins with knowing that the door exists—and having someone willing to help you walk through it.

The Black Student Fund and Latino Student Fund have spent more than half a century doing exactly that.

Event Details

- Sunday, October 18, 2026, 2–5 p.m.**
University of the District of Columbia Student Center (Building 56)
Admission is free and open to the public
Register on Eventbrite, BSF/LSF 54th Annual School Fair Tickets:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bsflsf-54th-annual-school-fair-tickets-1984558226077>

Harbor Halloween Returns to National Harbor on October 25

Family-friendly celebration features trick-or-treating, Hocus Pocus, pumpkin carving/decorating contest, Pet Pawrade and more

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Sept. 29, 2026)—Harbor Halloween returns to National Harbor on **Sunday, October 25**, with an afternoon of family-friendly Halloween fun, including trick-or-treating, a waterfront movie, pumpkin carving contest, Pet Pawrade, free Capital Wheel and carousel rides, and more. Activities take place from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

The festivities kick off with trick-or-treating from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., featuring 30+ participating retailers, restaurants, and hotels handing out candy to costumed guests ages 12 and under. Adding to the excitement, the first 2,000 trick-or-treaters will receive a complimentary, reusable trick-or-treat bag courtesy of Andrews Federal Credit Union and Tom’s Watch Bar.

At 1 p.m., families are invited to gather in front of the Plaza screen (150 National Plaza) for a free waterfront showing of the Halloween favorite Hocus Pocus.

The smiles will reach new heights with free carousel & The Capital Wheel rides: Children ages 10 and under who arrive in costume can enjoy free rides on the Spirit Park Carousel and The Capital Wheel. The free ride on The Capital Wheel is valid during regular operating hours when the child is accompanied by a paying adult (limit one free child admission per paid adult admission).

Following the movie at 2:30 p.m., National Harbor merchants will put their creativity to the test in a pumpkin painting and carving contest. Spectators can watch the pumpkins take shape and vote for their favorites during the 30-minute competition.

At 2:40 p.m., pets get their turn in the spotlight during the Pet Pawrade on the Plaza stage. Prizes will be awarded for best costume, most creative costume and more. Pets can also ride The Capital Wheel for free with paid adult admission.

Throughout the afternoon, guests will have the opportunity to meet and interact with various community partners. Representatives from Prince George’s County Fire/EMS, local police departments, and the 3-1-1 On The Go! Mobile Unit will be on-site with emergency vehicles, educational resources, and community safety services.

For more information about Harbor Halloween, visit www.nationalharbor.com/events/harbor-halloween/. For more information about National Harbor, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

COMMUNITY

Marietta Historic Site & Museum Presents: Black Fashion: Wearable Language in the 19th & 20th Centuries

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

Please join Sonya McKenney, Montpelier Historic Site & Museum’s collections manager, on **Saturday, October 10** at 1 p.m. for a discussion on how fashion was a form of communication by the men and women, with and without agency in the 19th & 20th centuries. Following Q & A, guests will make a fabric craft, and light refreshments will be served. \$5/person. Ages 12 & up. Registration is required. Please register on www.pgparksdirect.com and use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20261010.

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@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.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County Announces October Events

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 28, 2026)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County will host a series of free and low-cost events throughout October, offering residents and visitors opportunities to celebrate the fall season with family-friendly festivals, cultural programs, arts events, and Halloween-themed activities.

Upcoming Events:

Waterfront Art Festival | Free
Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Join us at Bladensburg Waterfront Park for a day filled with creativity and inspiration. Explore a variety of artworks from talented local artists, ranging from paintings to jewelry, photography, and sculpture, and everything in between. Immerse yourself in the vibrant art market while enjoying live music and the scenic views of the Anacostia River. Grab tasty food and treats, create some art of your own, or take a relaxing boat tour!

Through the Dark, the Light Beckons with Dissonance Dance Theatre

Saturday, October 10, 7–8:30 p.m. & Sunday, October 11, 4–5:30 p.m.

Prince George’s Publick Playhouse
Washington, D.C.’s Dissonance Dance Theatre celebrates its 20th anniversary season at the Publick Playhouse with *Through the Dark, the Light Beckons*, a powerful evening of movement and meaning rooted in the African American experience. Featuring beloved company repertoire and world premieres by acclaimed choreographer Shawn Short, the program unfolds in three chapters: the pulse and grit of the city’s streets, the fragments of memory that shape us, and the spirit, soul, and sophistication of everyday people.

Mental Health Resource Fair | Free
Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Kentland Community Center

The Park Police Mental Health Resource Fair features vendors and resources for all ages, including interactive activities such as CPR and Narcan training, line dancing, giveaways, and free groceries to the first 150 families. Special guest speakers will discuss suicide and mental health awareness.

American Indian Festival | Free
Saturday, October 17, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Patuxent River Park

The American Indian Festival is a vibrant celebration of Native American culture, heritage, and traditions, offering diverse Native communities a space to honor and share their rich cultural legacy.

Flights & Frights: Trick or Treat at the Museum
Saturday, October 24, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
College Park Aviation Museum

Set your Halloween spirits soaring at Flights and Frights at the College Park Aviation Museum! Join us for an evening filled with trick-or-treating in the gallery and spook-tacular games, crafts, and experiments. Come dressed in your favorite costumes and get ready for a high-flying Halloween adventure. Registration required by October 17.

Magical Night of Wizardry
Friday, October 30, 7 p.m.–8 p.m.
Watkins Regional Park

Enjoy an evening of magic, mystery, and Halloween fun! Magical Night of Wizardry offers enchanted beverages, magical snacks, spellbinding crafts, and a screening of a favorite wizard-inspired film. Brave guests are also invited to journey through the Enchanted Watkins Forest.

For a full list of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events, please visit pgparks.com.

Andrews Federal Credit Union Develops Andrews in Action Partnership, Brings Summer Fun and Community Building to Prince George’s County

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Sept. 28, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union continued its commitment to community connection and financial empowerment this summer through the Andrews In Action community engagement initiative.

The credit union provided a \$50,000 contribution to support Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy’s 311 On the Go (311OTG) program and make resources, including financial education, more accessible to those who live and work in Prince George’s County.

The Andrews in Action initiatives kicked off with a celebration of Prince George’s County’s 330th birthday, during which Andrews Federal Vice President of Retail Delivery John Masteron spoke about the credit union’s commitment to serving the local community.

In addition, credit union volunteers facilitated free-to-attend community events across Prince George’s County throughout the summer. Attendees enjoyed fun evenings of connection and outdoor activities, while also accessing financial resources and building stronger bonds with neighbors and local business partners. According to Andrews Federal leadership, this program aligns with the “people



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Andrews Federal Credit Union staff and volunteers facilitated free-to-attend community events across Prince George’s County throughout the summer.

helping people” mission that is foundational to the credit union movement.

“When we build community partnerships, our goal is to show up where people need support and to make resources more accessible to our communities,” said Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer of Andrews Federal Credit Union. “Through our Andrews in Action partnership with 311 On the Go, our team was empowered to spend the summer connecting with Prince George’s

County residents, providing financial education and actively engaging with the communities we serve.”

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.

LEAP Forward Awards Scholarships to 10 PGC Students

By PRESS OFFICER
LEAP Forward, Inc.

On June 28, more than 200 scholars, friends, donors and sponsors celebrated the 25th Anniversary of LEAP Forward, Inc. This event honored high school graduates and college students for their outstanding academic, leadership, and community service achievements as well as provided an overview of the organization’s historical achievements and accomplishments.

The scholarship program started in 1998, when LEAP Forward awarded three book scholarships totaling \$1,000. With the help of the community, volunteers, sponsors, family, corporations, friends, and board members, the organization has seen consistent growth in its service to local youth. In 2026, 69 scholarships were presented at a minimum award of \$1,500, totaling \$121,000. To date, LEAP Forward has awarded over 576 scholarships totaling more than \$646,000.

“LEAP” Forward is named in memory of Wallace Lorenzo Leeper, a Calvert High Vocational Guidance Counselor, who was a strong advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math career options. He is featured in Calvert High School’s Hall of Fame for his distinguished service to his job and his students.

This year’s theme, “A Silver Journey of Nurturing Students to Success—Honoring Our Legacy, Celebrating Our Impact, Inspiring the Future,” set the tone for the program. It featured career exploration, entertainment and interviews with the first scholarship recipient, selected donor families and past scholarship winners, all reflecting the spirit of the theme.

The following **Prince George’s County** scholarship recipients are college freshmen or returning students in a wide variety of programs at various colleges and universities:

Recipient of the Grace Parker \$2,500 Memorial Scholarship: **Vidal Bickersteth** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Computer Science - University of Maryland at Baltimore County).

Receiving the Lawrence Myers \$2,000 Memorial Scholarship: **Rebekah Bobo** (Suitland High School; Music - Morgan State).

The selected scholarship recipient of the Violet Parker \$2,500 Memorial Scholarship was **Maximus Salawu** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Electrical Engineering - Princeton University)

Receiving the Gladys Henson \$1,500 Memorial Scholarship was **Keyona Tharpe** (Suitland High School; Business Administration – North Carolina Central University)

The Thomas Family \$1,500 Scholarship was presented to **Kai Jones** (Dematha Catholic High School; Accounting - Indiana University of Pennsylvania).

The Dorothy Mae Smith \$1,500 Memorial Scholarship went to **Brianna Reynolds**



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM BEA WEEMS

Keynote speaker Kahlil Lee delivered powerful remarks, challenging the students to always believe in themselves and their potential in spite of the adversity and challenges they could face along the way.



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM BEA WEEMS

The reception began in the Calvert High School atrium with a career exploration session that connected scholarship recipients with current and retired professionals from a wide range of fields, including education, data science, aviation, engineering, cybersecurity, accounting, information technology, criminal justice, meteorology, and biology.

(Bishop McNamara High School; Dance - Alabama State University)

The MasterMind Group \$1,500 Scholarship was awarded to **Boyan-Jise Tiwang** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Data Science – University of Michigan-Ann Arbor).

The \$2,250 Martin Barnes Scholarship was awarded to **Duke Boateng** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Information Science - University of Maryland).

The recipients of the Morsell Legacy Family \$1,500 Scholarships were **Lusenie Turay** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Information Science-University of Maryland College Park) and **Muhammad Bilal** (Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Computer Science - University of Maryland College Park).

A special thank you to the scholarship program committee, board members, family and organization donors, faithful contributors, volunteers, and Calvert High School

and their outstanding and hardworking custodial staff. Sponsors for scholarships and the reception included United Way of Southern Maryland and the National Capital Area, Mallory and Associates, Battelle, Walmart sparkgood (Dunkirk), Shore United Bank, ParkerSimms Management Solutions, NAACP Calvert Branch, Calvert County Minority Business Alliance, State Farm Agent Esther Smith, Cedar Point Federal Credit Union, Lebowitz & Mzhen, Smart Ride, SMECO and DM Innovations. Special donations were received from Shelby’s Grab and Go in Waldorf, Maryland, and Laurretta Grier. Event planning was led by Special Touch Events Consulting.

More information about LEAP Forward, Inc. can be found at www.leapforwardinc.org and our 25th year highlight video can be viewed on the organization’s YouTube channel (LEAP Forward Inc and on LEAP Forward 25th Anniversary Facebook page.

COMMUNITY

Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Popular Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$220,000

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Sept. 29, 2026)— Golfers, volunteers and sponsors came together once again to make Hospice of the Chesapeake’s annual Golf Tournament a resounding success. The event brought in more than \$220,000 to support the nonprofit’s work caring for families across Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties.

The tournament took place Sept. 24 at Queenstown Harbor Golf Course, where players enjoyed a day full of friendly competition and outstanding food, including a made-to-order omelet bar at breakfast by Main & Market, a grilled lunch courtesy of Buddy’s Grill, and a gourmet dinner at the awards banquet by Two Rivers Steak & Fish House. Prizes and good company rounded out a memorable afternoon on the course.



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE
(Sept. 24, 2026—Queenstown, Maryland) Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Golf Committee stands on the putting green before the start of the tournament. Pictured from left are Tony Toskov, Mary Lombardi, Randy Pleasant, Chris Wilson, Tom Hogan, Lauren Thurston, Austin Shuttle and Jerray Slocum. Not pictured are committee members Brian Chisholm, Scott Mielke, Challie Samaras, Laura Toskov and John Warner, Sr.

None of it would be possible without the Hospice of the Chesapeake Golf Committee, whose year-round planning and dedication turn this tournament into an event that golfers look forward to every year. Their hard work makes a real difference for the patients and families the organization serves.

The success of this event is also made possible by Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Premier Sponsor, the Brian and Patricia Giese Foundation and Masters-level sponsors Green Point Wellness Dispensary and Safford Brown Auto Group, as well as U.S. Open-level sponsors Greenberg Gibbons and SMART; Augusta-level sponsor The Michael Stanley Foundation; and Heritage-level sponsors Crescent Cities Charities, Constellation, COPT Defense Properties, First National Bank, John & Terri Hussman, Weston Property Management and The Wilburn Company, and many other businesses, individuals and organizations.

Thank you as well to the event’s underwriters, including Breakfast underwriter The Davies Family Foundation, the Lunch-at-the-Turn underwriter University of Maryland Baltimore Wash-

ington Medical Center, Beverage Cart underwriters Sunmed Growers and University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, Cigar underwriter Flooring Partners, and Beverage Stations underwriter Sunmed Growers.

Days and people like this give families facing life’s hardest moments a chance to find joy, dignity and connection.

Hospice of the Chesapeake provides expert, compassionate care for individuals and families navigating serious, advanced illness and loss. Care is built around a genuine partnership between skilled clinicians, healthcare partners, and the patients and families we serve—centered on supporting quality of life at every stage. For more than 45 years, we have had the privilege of caring for more than 65,000 patients and more than 100,000 family members across the communities we serve. Hospice of the Chesapeake is proud to be a part of Chesapeake Health Partners, an organization focused on strengthening community-based care and support services across the region.

BILINGUAL SOUNDS ON HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Free Concert by Alejandro Meola in DC October 10

Celebrating cultural diversity with a bilingual fusion of Latin, Rock, Blues, Folk and World sounds

By PRESS OFFICER
Alejandro Meola

Alejandro Meola presents his new single “Viejo Teléfono” on **Saturday, October 10** live at Tryst Cafe, 2459 18th St NW, Washington, DC. Celebrating cultural diversity on Hispanic Heritage Month with a bilingual fusion of Latin, Rock, Blues, Folk and World sounds. 7 p.m., no cover.

Alejandro Meola is an independent Argentine-American guitarist, singer, songwriter and educator. Based in the NYC area since 2013, he was included on NPR’s World Café Best New Latinx playlist and has performed across the US, Europe and Latin America in cities like Los Angeles,

Chicago, London, Paris, Barcelona, Mexico and Buenos Aires.

His new single “Viejo Teléfono” (Old Phone) is a guitar-driven suave reggae tune longing for connection, spirit and unity now streaming on digital platforms.

The songwriter will also be revisiting songs like “LUX”, “La Inmigración”, “Tiempos Dificiles” and “Gente Rota” on a tour that will take him throughout the US from Coast to Coast.

This new single follows the path of his previous releases “Electro Folk”, “VIVO” and “Sed De Nacer” where Meola explores new soundscapes only with guitar and vocals. “Lately I had the opportunity to travel quite a bit and on the road tried to sort out

the songs with less, searching for their most essential form”, he shared.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an annual event in the United States observed from September 15 to October 15 that honors the culture, history and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean as well as Central and South America.

Saturday, October 10 free concert by Alejandro Meola

Tryst Cafe, 2459 18th St NW
Washington, DC.

7 p.m., no cover.

For more details visit alejandromeola.com or follow Alejandro on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Finalist from A1

gomery County Planning Board Chair. “We’re honored to be recognized alongside so many outstanding organizations, and this recognition reflects the dedication of our staff and partners who work every day to make a difference in our community.”

“Being recognized as a National Gold Medal finalist is a tremendous honor for M-NCPPC and the communities we serve,” said Kevin A. Anderson, Chair of the Prince George’s County Planning Board. “It reflects the strength of our parks and recreation system and the impact it has on communities across the region.”

Darius A. Stanton, Director, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, added: “Being named a National Gold Medal finalist reflects the dedication of our staff and their commitment to serving our communities every day. We are proud of this recognition and remain focused on helping our communities Live More, Play More.”

“Being recognized as a Gold Medal Award finalist is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners who provide exceptional programs and facilities,” said Miti Figueredo, Director of Montgomery Parks. “We’re proud to be recognized among the nation’s leading park systems and grateful to everyone who helps make Montgomery Parks a place where our community can thrive.”

The National Gold Medal Finalist designation recognizes M-NCPPC’s continued commitment to excellence in parks and recreation management, includ-

ing long-range planning, resource management, environmental stewardship, community engagement, and innovative programming. M-NCPPC’s bi-county structure brings together the expertise and resources of Montgomery Parks and the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County to serve communities across the region.

The 2026 National Gold Medal finalists competed in the Class I category alongside Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation, and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks was named the 2026 Class I Grand Plaque recipient during the 2026 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPAA) Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

Created in 1927, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has endeavored to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of the bi-county area it serves and of the communities in which these citizens live, work and raise their families.

With over 29,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. www.pgpcarks.com.

Montgomery Parks manages 417 parks and more than 37,000 acres of parkland. MontgomeryParks.org

All Aboard! Moore-Miller Administration Celebrates New MARC Express Train Service Directly Connecting Baltimore and Montgomery County

Customers Can Enjoy \$2 Promotional Savings for Six Months on Maryland Transit Administration’s Newest MARC Train Service

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Transportation

BALTIMORE (Sept. 30, 2026)—Maryland Department of Transportation representatives joined Montgomery County leaders to celebrate the launch of the new MARC express train service directly connecting Baltimore and Montgomery County for the first time. The new express service will link Maryland’s largest city and its most populous county without a transfer in Washington and will shave travel time in half for many riders traveling between Baltimore City and Montgomery County.

Officials gathered at the MARC Camden Station in Baltimore to welcome passengers of the new service. Each weekday, one train will travel the new route to Baltimore in the morning and another will depart from Baltimore in the afternoon.

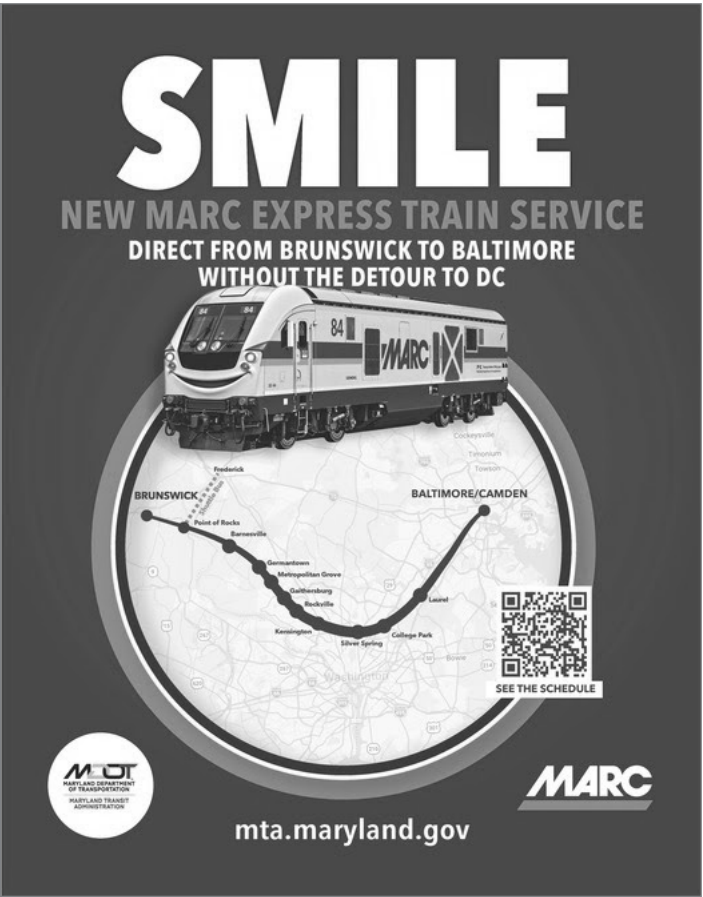
“Today, we are closing a gap between major destinations and job centers in Maryland, speeding up connections between Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties and the city of Baltimore,” said Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Katie Thomson. “This service is new, but we are using our existing assets to do it, showing the Moore Miller Administration, MDOT and MTA are committed to finding creative ways to maximize the resources we already have to best serve rider needs and grow the state’s economy.”

“The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to expanded transit service throughout the state,” said MTA Administrator Tony Bridges. “Linking our largest city and our most populous county in a way that saves time and saves money shows how we are building a stronger transportation network in Maryland.”

The service will directly connect Brunswick, Point of Rocks, Barnesville, Germantown, Metropolitan Grove, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Kensington, Silver Spring, College Park, Laurel, and Baltimore with one train traveling to Baltimore in the morning and one returning in the evening. The direct travel will bring significant time savings for commuters and serve riders traveling across multiple counties.

For example, a MARC train ride from Silver Spring to Baltimore Camden would be reduced in half from 118 minutes to 57 minutes. A MARC ride from Germantown to College Park, which now takes 90 minutes, would be reduced to 46 minutes. And a MARC train ride from Gaithersburg to Baltimore Camden Station, which now takes 137 minutes, would be reduced to 78 minutes. Rail travel times will now be competitive with drive times between those same destinations.

“This new service will strengthen the regional economy in many ways. For example, Montgomery County’s life sciences and tech-



nology corridors will gain easier access to Baltimore’s talent pool of seasoned professionals and new job-seekers,” said Montgomery County Delegate Jared Solomon “It is truly a win-win for the state of Maryland.”

For the next six months, riding on the Brunswick-Camden Run-Through service will come with a \$2 promotional discount. The discount will reduce a Silver Spring-Baltimore regular one-way fare of \$10 to \$8, and the highest one-way fare, \$15 Brunswick-Baltimore will be reduced to \$13. The promotional fares run for six months from September 28 to March 28.

Development of the new MARC Train service underscores the Moore-Miller Administration’s commitment to expanding travel options for Maryland commuters and improving the customer experience by making the existing rail network work smarter.

See EXPRESS TRAIN Page A6

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

When Will Congress Repay Social Security Money Taken Years Ago?

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 seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest? **Signed: Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned Senior: I’m afraid your recollection is not correct —no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security (SS) Trust Funds—not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever. Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations. In 1983, Congress & President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security’s revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut. Then in 1993, Congress & President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue. What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered, or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes. And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds which pay interest (just like normal government “T-bills”). The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025. Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true—just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs. So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as “money borrowed” and sometimes call the bonds “worthless IOUs.” This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest. Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear (and refute) similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors. We’ve written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation’s two main websites—www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question “when will this (money) be repaid with interest?” The answer is—there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them. These bonds are secured by the “full faith and credit of the U.S. government”—a financial designation which is globally considered to be “exceptionally low risk.” FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits. And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now!

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

Bowie Entrepreneur Marks First Year of Business Ownership With Documentary Chronicling Journey From Corporate America

Seven-minute film follows Ramsey Moorman’s transition from a 23-year corporate career to entrepreneurship, highlighting family, faith, community and the realities of building a business.

By PRESS OFFICER
Floor Coverings International of Bowie

BOWIE, Md. (Sept. 2026)—One year after leaving a 23-year corporate career to pursue entrepreneurship, Bowie-area business owner Ramsey Moorman is sharing the story behind the transition through a newly produced seven-minute documentary chronicling his journey into business ownership.

Moorman, owner of Floor Coverings International of Bowie, launched the business in June 2025 after more than two decades in corporate leadership. The decision to leave the familiarity and security of corporate America was not made overnight. Long before opening the doors, Moorman began documenting the process—the research, family conversations, prayer, uncertainty and ultimately the decision to take the leap into entrepreneurship.

What began as a personal journal eventually became the foundation for a short documentary capturing not only the milestones of launching a business, but also the realities that followed.

“I didn’t want to create something that only showed the highlights,” Moorman said. “I wanted to document the entire journey—the uncertainty, the wins, the challenges and what it actually felt like to leave a career I had known for more than two decades and start over as an entrepreneur.”

A Family Journey

The transition has also been a family endeavor. Moorman’s wife, Caryl, played an integral role during the company’s launch, helping prepare the business for opening and supporting her husband throughout the transition. Their children, Tyson and Hailey, have also had a front-row seat to their father’s journey into entrepreneurship.

“One day my children will be adults, and hopefully one day I’ll have grandchildren watching this,” Moorman said. “I want them to understand that building a legacy isn’t only about what you leave behind financially. It’s also about what you demonstrate—faith, courage, work ethic, perseverance and being willing to pursue something when you believe you’re being called to do it.”



PHOTO COURTESY FLOOR COVERINGS INTERNATIONAL

Ramsey and Caryl Moorman with the Floor Coverings International Mobile Flooring Showroom

Capturing the Reality of Entrepreneurship

The documentary follows Moorman from the decision to leave corporate America through preparing the business, opening the office, receiving the Mobile Flooring Showroom, serving the first customers and navigating the challenges associated with a new business. The film also captures the role Moorman’s Christian faith played throughout the process.

“There are moments when everything seems to be working and moments when you question what you’re doing,” he said. “I’ve learned that owning a business requires you to become comfortable being uncomfortable. You have to keep learning, keep adjusting and keep moving forward.”

Building a Business With Community in Mind

Floor Coverings International of Bowie serves homeowners and businesses throughout Bowie, Crofton and surrounding communities using the company’s Mobile Flooring Showroom®, which brings flooring samples directly to customers’ homes and businesses. Moorman has sought to combine that model with the professionalism and customer-service principles developed throughout his corporate career.

The business has also become a vehicle for community involvement, supporting local schools, youth sports and nonprofit

organizations while developing relationships with other small-business owners and community organizations throughout the region.

The Story Is Still Being Written

For Moorman, completing the documentary after the company’s first year represents a milestone rather than a conclusion. The film serves simultaneously as a record of the company’s beginning and a personal message to his family about taking calculated risks, persevering through uncertainty and pursuing purpose.

“The first year wasn’t about proving that I had everything figured out,” Moorman said. “It was about learning that sometimes you have to move forward before you know exactly how the story is going to end.”

DOCUMENTARY LINK:
<https://youtu.be/IFPDK8e-XnA?si=1iM-mdOA26YXPgb4j>

Floor Coverings International of Bowie provides residential and commercial flooring solutions throughout Bowie, Crofton and surrounding Prince George’s and Anne Arundel County communities. Through its Mobile Flooring Showroom®, the company brings flooring selections directly to customers, allowing homeowners and businesses to compare products within their own spaces.

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Named Best Credit Union in the 2026 Best of Southern Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Educational Systems Federal Credit Union

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 28, 2026)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has been named the 2026 Best of Southern Maryland Winner for Best Credit Union, recognizing the Credit Union’s commitment to serving members and communities throughout the region.

The recognition builds on Educational Systems Federal Credit Union’s longstanding presence in Southern Maryland and reflects the trust and support of the members, community partners and organizations the Credit Union serves.

“We are honored to be named the Best Credit Union of Southern Maryland,” said Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. “This recognition is especially meaningful because

it reflects the relationships our Ambassadors build every day and the trust our members place in us to support their financial goals. We are grateful to everyone across Southern Maryland who continues to welcome and support our Credit Union.”

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union serves the Southern Maryland community through its Lexington Park, Prince Frederick and Waldorf branches, as well as Digital Banking and partnerships with education organizations throughout the region. Members have access to a full range of financial solutions, including checking and savings accounts, certificates, vehicle loans, home lending, credit cards and financial education resources.

The Credit Union’s commitment to Southern Maryland extends beyond financial services. The Credit Union serves the local community in a variety of methods,

such as partnerships and community initiatives that support students, educators, families and local organizations.

“This recognition motivates us to continue finding new ways to serve our members and strengthen the communities we are part of,” Smith said. “We look forward to building on the relationships we have established throughout Southern Maryland and continuing to help our members achieve a brighter financial future.”

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has proudly served the education community since 1955. With \$1.4 billion in assets and 13 branches, the Credit Union serves over 80,000 members of the education community including school employees, students, parents and individuals working for education-related organizations. For more information, visit esfcu.org.

Maryland Awarded \$9 Million Federal Grant to Build Student Career Exploration System

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 29, 2026)—Gov. Moore today announced that Maryland was awarded a three-year, \$9 million Career Pathways Exploration grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop a statewide career exploration system for more than 600,000 Maryland students. The new system supports seamless transitions from high school, giving students access to a personalized and comprehensive plan for college and the workforce.

“Our administration is dedicated to building the best education system in the nation by creating every opportunity for our students to pursue their passion,” said Gov. Moore. “This grant allows schools access to state-of-the-art technology that connects students to opportunities in higher education or their desired career field—while expanding our many work-based learning programs—paving pathways to work, wages and wealth for Maryland high schoolers, so they can serve their communities and build a brighter future.” Maryland will use the grant to develop

a digital state-owned platform for students to build out six-year plans for students in grades 7 through 12, stored in a “learner wallet,” that document skills, credentials, experiences, and progress. A learner wallet is a secure digital portfolio that holds a student’s verifiable credentials, such as certificates, transcripts, and other learning records, to share with employers, schools, or training programs. The funds will also expand work-based learning through in-

See CAREER Page A6

