The Prince George's Post

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M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department with the 2026 Maryland Planning Award from the APA MD.



The award was for Best Community Engagement for the Walker Mill CDC Youth Wellness and Opportunities Assessment.

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department Wins 2026 Maryland Planning Award

Planning Department Receives Best Community Engagement Award for Walker Mill CDC Youth Wellness and Opportunities Assessment

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 22, 2026)—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) won the 2026 Maryland Planning Award from the American Planning Association Maryland Chapter (APA MD) for Best Community Engagement for the Walker Mill CDC Youth Wellness and Opportunities Assessment. Derived from a community-driven initiative and guided by youth voices and adult stakeholders, the assessment addresses the needs of nearly 2,400 youth across three communities in Prince George's County, Maryland—who are often underrepresented in planning processes. The recommendations and lessons learned over the course of the two-year study can be applied countywide. The award was presented at the 2026 APA MD Conference on Monday, October 19, 2026, in Ellicott City, Maryland.

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New Sphere Project Faces Crucial PG County Vote

By SOL GARCIA-TERRAZAS
Capital News Service

As Prince George's County considers millions in public financing for a proposed Sphere theater at National Harbor, county officials, residents and labor groups are asking whether the costs outweigh the benefits.

The proposed 6,000-seat entertainment venue is expected to cost $1.4 billion, with $1.2 billion coming from private financing. Sphere Entertainment Co. wants $184 million in government assistance from Prince George's County and the state of Maryland, which includes $130 million in county tax increment financing bonds, a $40 million county-owned parking garage, and $13.5 million in state funding. The National Harbor developer, Peterson Companies, plans to provide an estimated $15 million contribution through a discounted land transaction.

The Prince George's County Council is scheduled to vote on the proposed Sphere financing legislation on Oct. 27. Some residents question whether public investment in the project is justified.

"If taxpayers are being asked to chip in to this project, first off, I don't understand why," David Watkins, 75, of Fort Washington, said in an interview. "I want to know how those dollars are going to be spent, and what is the benefit to the residents."

For residents around National Harbor, however, the debate extends beyond the project's price tag. About 80 people attended a county hearing on September 22 about the Sphere project, filling most of the committee room and spilling into an overflow room. Nearly 40 people signed up to speak. Residents worried the project would worsen traffic and transportation problems in the congested National Harbor community.

"Traffic is already bad enough crossing Woodrow Wilson Bridge, not to mention 210 and Oxon Hill Road," said Sharon Lawrence, president of the Livingston Woods Homeowners Association and an Oxon Hill Resident of more than 33 years. "An additional attraction to our area will only exacerbate an already horrendous situation."



PHOTO COURTESY SPHERE ENTERTAINMENT

An artist rendering of the Sphere project at National Harbor

Del. Jamila Woods, D-Prince George's County, represents Oxon Hill and National Harbor and supports the project. But Woods wants Sphere to sign agreements with labor unions before Prince George's County agrees to the financing. Woods said the venue could bring "much-needed job opportunities" and revenue to the county, but argued that public incentives of that size should create an investment in surrounding communities.

Sphere Entertainment has promoted the project as a major economic opportunity for the county. An economic impact study by Ernst & Young projects more than $1.3 billion in annual economic impact over three years and around $128 million in annual state and local tax revenue from Sphere operations and visitor spending. About $52.2 million of that revenue would go directly to Prince George's County.

Sphere has pointed to those projections to make the case for the county's investment. "That means that the county will have its investment fully paid back in a matter of a few years just from tax collections," Paul Macchia, Sphere Entertainment's senior vice president of government affairs and social impact, said at the September 22 hearing.

The study was commissioned by National Harbor developer Peterson Companies and relied in part on data provided by Sphere, according to the Washington Business Journal. Karen Laureano-Rikardsen, a Sphere spokesperson in New York, declined comment.

Kasia Tarczynska, a senior research analyst at Good Jobs First, a group that researches corporate agreements with governments, said the Sphere economic projections don't answer a central question: whether the public investment is worth the cost. "They show you benefits, but they don't show you costs," Tarczynska said. She said an independent cost-benefit analysis should account for the public resources committed to the project and what those resources could otherwise support.

County staff have also raised similar questions about how those projections translate into financial benefit for the county, citing several unresolved issues, some structural to the financing plan itself.

"What year does the county arrive at the break-even point on all relevant expenditures and revenues?" Arian Albear, the Prince George's County Council's di-

See **SPHERE** *Page* **A6**

Friday, October 30: An Evening of Sax, Spoken Word & Soulful Vocals

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council

Let's Celebrate The Arts!

Live Music. Powerful Words. Soulful Performances.

Looking for a little inspiration to close out your week?

Join us at Arts'tination Gallery in National Harbor on **Friday, October 30**, for an evening celebrating the creativity and cultural expression that bring our community together.

In recognition of National Arts & Humanities Month, PGAHC presents Sax, Spoken Word & Vocals—Let's Celebrate!, a free, 90-minute showcase featuring four talented artists.

Meet the Performers

Johnny Jones—Saxophonist

Tatiana Figueroa Ramírez—Prince George's County Poet Laureate

Dinahsta "Miss Kiane" Thomas—Spoken Word Artist

Leilani Clendenin—Vocalist

Moderated by Sistah Joy

From smooth saxophone melodies and expressive poetry to engaging spoken word and soulful vocals, this evening offers a little something for every arts lover.

Event Details

Date: Friday, October 30, 2026

Time: 6–7:30 p.m.

Location: Arts'tination Gallery, 162 Waterfront Street National Harbor, MD 20745

Free Admission | All Ages Welcome

Bring a friend, enjoy an evening at National Harbor, and experience the artistry of some of our community's creative voices.

Whether you're a lover of live music, poetry, spoken word, or simply looking for an inspiring cultural experience, we invite you to join us.

RSVP on Eventbrite. Reserve your free spot and celebrate the arts with PGAHC!

Pyramid's Gallery Goes Rogue With OUTLAW PRINTMAKERS

On view through Nov 15, 2026

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Oct. 21, 2026)—Pyramid's gallery has gone rogue with work by 15 artists in the Outlaw Printmakers collective. Known for working outside "the system," and for art rich in political satire and social narratives, the Outlaw Printmakers is a collective of artists that enjoys breaking art norms and challenging conventions. Pyramid's gallery is full of meticulous woodcuts, layered screenprints, print collages, and more with subjects including monsters, devils, skulls, robots, and Pez dispensers.

OUTLAW PRINTMAKERS MMXXVI: is on view through November 15, 2026 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thu, 10 –8 p.m. and Fri–Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. For more information, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

Law breakers or not, many of the artists have work in collections of major museums, professorial teaching positions, and a slew of national and international exhibition credentials. This group of Outlaws includes artists from around the country, Mexico, Canada, and Scotland. Tom Hück and Carlos Hernandez selected 13 additional artists for the exhibition, some like Sue Coe and Bill Fick have been long outlaw affiliates and some like Violeta Juárez and Claire Roberts are very new to the group.

"It's a tremendous group of artists and work. Some of it is beautiful, some political, and some repellent, and it is all compelling," remarks Executive Director Kate Taylor Davis. "It's exciting to have these important printmakers and their work represented here and available for up close and personal viewing at Pyramid".

ARTISTS: Paul Bonelli | Sue Coe | Bill Fick | John S. Hancock | Carlos Hernandez | Tom Hück | Violeta Juárez "Niña Calavera" | Dennis McNett | Ryan O'Malley | Kathryn Polk | Claire Roberts | Artemio Rodriguez | David Sandlin | Sean Starwars | Ericka Walker

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic *is a nonprofit contemporary art center. Our mission is to sustain and elevate a welcoming arts hub in Hyattsville. MD that champions contemporary printmaking, papermaking, and book arts. We equip, educate, and exhibit while prioritizing artistic integrity, creative growth, and inclusivity. Our vision is to anchor an arts community that recognizes and uplifts the importance of artists, the intrinsic values of working with your hands, and the economy of artist-made work. Visit pyramidatlanticartcenter.org*

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Hampton University School of Religion is proud to spotlight Rev. Clarence J. Parks J.D. M.Div., a third -year doctoral student in the Ph.D. Program in Public Theology and Community Engagement. Rev. Parks was drawn to HUSOR because of its groundbreaking approach to theological education. "I was inspired to attend HUSOR because it is the first HBCU to offer a PH.D. in Public Theology and Community Engagement. As such, HUSOR provides a unique approach to theology which takes into consideration the African American experience."

As Senior Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, a historically significant African American congregation in Washington, D.C., Rev. Parks values the opportunity to connect his doctoral studies directly to his ministry. "I am able to immediately apply what I am learning in my ministerial connect". When reflecting on what has been most meaningful about the HUSOR experience. Rev. Parks points to the people who have challenged and strengthened him along the way. "What I have enjoyed the most is the instruction and interaction with the very astute faculty and highly accomplished cohort colleagues. As it is said, "iron sharpens iron". Indeed. I have been sharpened because of the instruction and interactions I have with faculty and colleagues."

"I'm Super Proud to be a doctoral student at the Hampton University School of Religion. It has been an arduous yet very rewarding journey. Although I'm not finished yet, it feels good to have made some considerable progress." Rev. Parks' journey reflects the heart of HUSOR's mission, developing scholars and ministry leaders to engage theology with the critical issues facing our churches and communities.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University students had the opportunity to sit down with award-winning journalist and entrepreneur Shawn Yancy for the inaugural podcast launch of Ask an Entrepreneur, hosted by the Bowie State Entrepreneur Innovation Center (EIC) and led by Johnetta Hardy, Executive Director and Founder of the Entrepreneur Innovation Center. Students heard firsthand about Yancy's journey, the lessons she's learned and what it takes to create your own path.

Alongside Professor Tewodross Williams, the conversation gave students space to ask questions, make connections, and learn from experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Through opportunities like Ask an Entrepreneur, the EIC is connecting Bulldogs with accomplished professionals and entrepreneurs who can expand what they see as possible for themselves. That's what it means to be #BowieBold, learning, connecting, and being inspired to build what's next.

PEACE CORPS

Peace Corps achieves historic milestone of 250,000 volunteers since 1961. In the 250th year of the United States, the Peace Corps achieved the historic milestone of placing its 250,000th Peace Corps volunteers into service with the latest cohort, sworn in. Charge d'Affaires of U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh Aleks Zittle presided over the swearing-in ceremony of the 27 new Peace Corps volunteers. The education volunteers will teach in primary and secondary schools and teacher training centers throughout Cambodia for the next two years. The new Cambodia volunteers join more than 3,400 Peace Corps volunteers serving in 60 countries worldwide.

Acting Peace Corps Director Christopher Landau congratulated the historic cohort of Volunteers, saying, "It's fitting that the Peace Corps reached this milestone during America's 250th anniversary year. From the agency's earliest days 65 years ago, Peace Corps volunteers have embodied American values, leadership and goodwill in communities around the world. Wherever their service brings them. Volunteers gain valuable skills while also delivering meaningful results for their host country partners. I want to thank and celebrate this historic cohort of volunteers for putting their personal passion, purpose, and skills to work for America and the world."

"My husband Owen Johnson, Jr. and I were Peace Corps Volunteers serving in Bogota, South America, and Caracas, Venezuela. I was responsible to the Ministry of Education during my service in Venezuela. I was assigned along with my husband Owen Johnson, to Calabozo, State of Guarico and to Maracaibo, State of Zulia after completing nine weeks of intensive training, Los Teques, Venezuela. I served two years of service after passing the official training (Spanish and cross-cultural training courses), Peace Corps Training, and the State Department Spanish proficiency test. I served in the Peace Corps from October 20, 1974, to May 19, 1976. In Calabozo, South America, I taught English in a Technological School for males ages 16 through 21 years of age where they only spoke Spanish. Second year of service I transferred to Maracaibo, state of Zulia in Venezuela, and worked with mental and intellectual disability students (ages 12 through 22 years of age). Some of our projects included sewing, hand making leather handbags, macrame, etc. I also did volunteer work in a girls Catholic School assisting with games and recreation with the help of other teachers grades 1 through 6 in Venezuela. Serving in the Peace Corps was a very rewarding experience for me. I learned to speak Spanish fluently and I was able to put my skills to work for America and the world." Submitted by Audrey Johnson.

PIANO KEYS RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

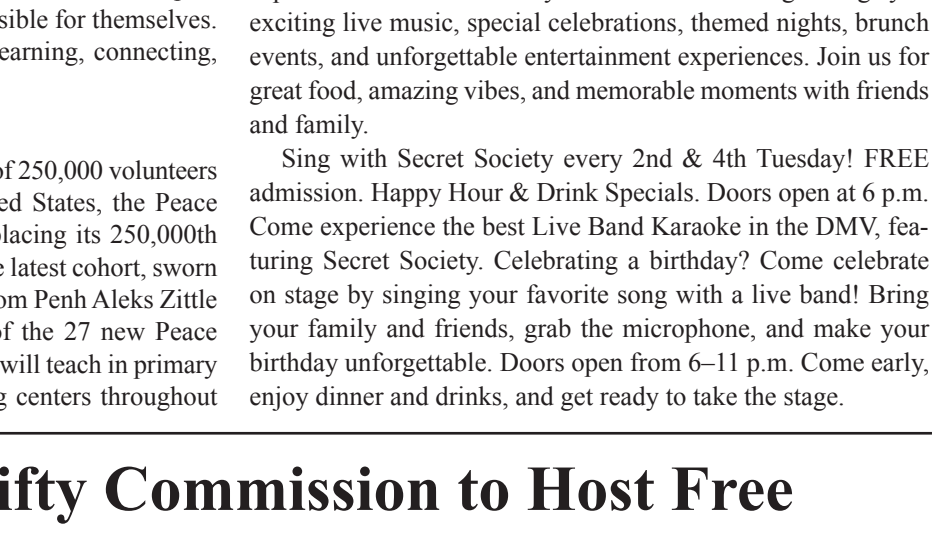
Piano Keys Restaurant is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, Maryland. Phone: (240) 816-2211. They accept reservations. Piano Keys Restaurant & Lounge brings you exciting live music, special celebrations, themed nights, brunch events, and unforgettable entertainment experiences. Join us for great food, amazing vibes, and memorable moments with friends and family.

Sing with Secret Society every 2nd & 4th Tuesday! FREE admission. Happy Hour & Drink Specials. Doors open at 6 p.m. Come experience the best Live Band Karaoke in the DMV, featuring Secret Society. Celebrating a birthday? Come celebrate on stage by singing your favorite song with a live band! Bring your family and friends, grab the microphone, and make your birthday unforgettable. Doors open from 6–11 p.m. Come early, enjoy dinner and drinks, and get ready to take the stage.

Maryland Two Fifty Commission to Host Free Community Event, "Speaking Truth to Power: The Free Press in a Changing World"

This will be the culminating event for the statewide tour of Revolutionary Maryland, which discusses the importance of a free press to American democracy.

By HOLLY HOANG
Maryland Humanities



ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 21, 2026)—The Maryland Two Fifty Commission is thrilled to present "Speaking Truth to Power: The Free Press in a Changing World" on **Wednesday, November 18**, 2026 at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis, MD from 5–8:30 p.m. This event will be a special evening of programming and community dialogue about the state of journalism and a free press in the United States.

Freedom of the press, protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, is essential for the functioning of a healthy American democracy by ensuring an informed and engaged citizenry. This community event comes at a crucial point in time, as the current rise in hate speech, disinformation, and deadly attacks against journalists threatens freedom of the press on a global level. Examination of the history and role of a free press today is more important than ever before as the nation commemorates 250 years of American democracy in 2026.

Beginning at 5 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to see the "Revolutionary Maryland: Freedom of the Press Then and Now" traveling exhibition, learn about living history interpretation, discover archaeology that supported the research for this exhibition, and participate in hands-on activities.

At 7 p.m., the evening will feature a keynote presentation and panel discussion examining who qualifies as the press, public trust in media and journalism, and what the future of a free press looks like in America. "Speaking Truth to Power" brings together a deeply experienced group of journalists to offer insight into this fundamental cornerstone of American democracy.

Our keynote and moderator for this conversation will be Terry Moran, an American independent journalist and former ABC News anchor and correspondent. Throughout his distinguished career at ABC, Moran served as Senior National Correspondent, Chief Foreign Correspondent, co-anchor of Nightline, and Chief White House Correspondent, spending decades reporting from the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court, national campaign trails, and global frontlines. He is the founder of Real Patriotism, an independent media platform where he explores the stories, struggles, and soul of American democracy during a time when truth itself is clouded with uncertainty. He also hosts the Real Patriot podcast on YouTube.

Our distinguished panelists for the evening will include Ian Cameron, Dr. Yanik Lamb, and Lisa Stark.

Ian Cameron has more than thirty years of broadcast journalism experience, including twenty in senior news management at ABC News and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. At ABC News, he was Executive Producer of This Week and Washington Senior Producer for World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, where he was part of the Peabody Award-winning team covering 9/11. At the CBC, he was Washington bureau chief, foreign editor of The National, and a producer on The Journal, covering Tiananmen, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of apartheid.

Yanick Rice Lamb, Ph.D. is a tenured professor in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University. Her mission is to give voice to the voiceless and share the gift of knowledge through the written word. An award-

See **EVENT** *Page* **A4**

Around the County



PHOTO CREDIT M-NCPPC

2025 Gingerbread House Committee Selected Winner A Christmas Wedding by Jennifer Ellerbe



PHOTO CREDIT M-NCPPC

2025 Viewer's Choice Award Winner Billingsley House by Ami Hazell

Call for Contestants!
Red, White and Gingerbread: An America 250 Gingerbread Contest at Darnall's Chance Historic Site and Museum

Hear ye, hear ye! A sweet revolution is upon us! In celebration of 250 years of American independence, Darnall's Chance Historic Site & Museum (14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD) invites patriots of pastry to enter our annual gingerbread contest and show.

This year's theme calls on contestants to bring the nation's past and present to life in gingerbread! From revolutionary moments to iconic landmarks, entries must depict historic sites, monuments, events, places, or people that helped shape America's story.

Whether you're a seasoned baker, a history buff, or simply love a fun challenge, this is your chance to bake it revolutionary!

Contest Divisions

Adult Division: Individual adult, age 17 years & up
Child Division: Individual child, age eight to 16 years
Family Division: Group of three to seven individuals of any age

Prizes Awarded in Each Division

1st Place: $100 Gift Card
2nd Place: $75 Gift Card
3rd Place: $50 Gift Card

In addition to gift cards, ribbons will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each category.

Viewer's Choice Awards 2026

All entries are eligible for the Viewers' Choice Awards, where public votes determine one winner in each of the three categories. Each winning entry will receive $300.

Rules for 2026

See the complete list of rules for this year's show:
https://www.pgparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/GB-Rules-2026-DCHM-WCAG.pdf

Registration

To register online:

Go online to pgparksdirect.com and search keyword GINGERBREAD or with Ticket # DCHM-SPEC-GA-20261122. Registration fee is $5/entry. ***Deadline to register is Friday, November 6, 2026.***

To register via mail-in form:

Visit
https://www.pgparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/DCHSM-GB-Entry-Form-2026.pdf and print the mail-in form. Mail it along with the $5 registration fee for each entry by ***Friday, November 6, 2026.***

Maryland Choral Society Winter Concert: Light of Hope Returning

Sunday, December 13, 2026, 4 p.m.
Mount Calvary Catholic Church
6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD

Our winter concert features the Maryland premiere of a new oratorio by acclaimed American composer Shawn Kirchner. Combining new and traditional carols for Christmas, Winter Solstice, and the New Year, Kirchner takes us on a journey from distant hope, through darkness, and into the rebirth of light and hope for the future. Alongside this major work, we will perform Kachomer Beyad Hayotzer (As Clay in the Potter's Hand), a lively set of Jewish folk arrangements by Tzvi Sherf featuring renowned cantor Dr. Ramón Tasat and accompanied by a professional klezmer ensemble.

Tickets: https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/maryland-choral-society/light-of-hope

COMMUNITY

Marietta Historic Site & Museum Presents: Women and Children on the Underground Railroad

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

Want to know more about the women and children who used the Underground Railroad? Then this is the program for you! Please join us on **Thursday, November 5**, 6:30–8 p.m., as historian and founder of UGR3DAY Underground Railroad Experiences, Dionne Patterson, presents "Women and Children on the Underground Railroad." ***This presentation is online using Microsoft TEAMS.***

Ms. Patterson has written several children's books about the Underground Railroad. She has published multiple articles about the resilience, survival, and ingenuity of many Underground Railroad "travelers" who sought freedom from enslavement.

Ages 12 & up. $5/person. Registration required. To register online, please go to www.pgparksdirect.com and use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20261105.

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.

Soil health is more than a conservation practice. It's a business strategy!

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's Soil Conservation District

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District and Bloomin' PGC Partners invite you to participate in our upcoming Urban Farmers & Growers Open Mic Night on **Tuesday, November 10** from 4:30–6:30 p.m.! This event is a platform for the urban farm community to collaborate and share useful information. While the focus is on urban ag conservation, any topic is open for discussion. All farmers (not just PGC urban farms) and growers are welcome to join us!

Your soil is one of your farm's most valuable assets. Are you managing it for long-term profitability? Join Dr. Pride Anya Ebile of the University of Maryland Extension to explore how practical soil management decisions can reduce unnecessary input costs, support productive crops, and strengthen your bottom line. Discover how to evaluate soil investments and make informed decisions that protect both your land and your farm's financial future.

Agenda:

- Networking & Refreshments (4:30–5 p.m.)
- NRCS Staff Table with Program Applications (4:30–5 p.m.)
- Welcome + Introductions (5–5:10 p.m.)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Updates(5:10–5:20 p.m.)
- Pride Ebile: Soil Health as a business strategy (5:20–6:20 p.m.)
- Questions & Wrap Up (6:20–6:30 p.m.)

Reserve your spot on Eventbrite. Must have at least 12 farmers registered BY NOON the day before the Open Mic Night or it's subject to cancellation.

Award from A1

"This recognition from our industry peers reflects our unwavering commitment to inclusive and equitable engagement with the youth, community stakeholders, and residents to realize the vision outlined in Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan and the Subregion 4 Master Plan," said James Hunt, Acting Director of the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department. "The robust and intentional community outreach for the Walker Mill CDC Youth Wellness and Opportunities Assessment focused on health, wellness, and opportunity goals to produce an implementation-ready framework and matrix to guide Walker Mill CDC and its partners in carrying out the recommendations."

The Youth Wellness and Opportunities Assessment was developed for the Walker Mill Community Development Corporation (CDC) *by the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department through the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) program. With funding approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board, the assessment aims to highlight community-identified challenges and propose solutions to reduce crime, violence, mental illness, and addiction while improving health and educational outcomes for nearly 2,400 historically underserved youth between the ages of 13 and 24 across three communities within Prince George's County. The youth-driven assessment produced a Vision for Youth and identified six priority areas:*

- Jobs and Career Success
- Health, Mental Health, and Wellness
- Community Safety
- School and Educational Opportunity
- Quality of Life and Community Spaces
- Family Engagement and Support

For more information on the PAMC program and to view and download a copy of the publication, visit https://pgplan.org/pamc.

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) *is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Our mission is to promote economic vitality, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and quality development that promotes healthy lifestyles in Prince George's County. Visit our website, www.pgplanning.org, to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community. Assistance: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register two weeks in advance to receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org,*

Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union Named Official Presenting Sponsor of Tanger National Harbor Tree Lighting Celebration

Partnership celebrates the holiday season and strengthens community connections in Southern Prince George's County.

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCFCU

OXON HILL, Md. (Oct. 20, 2026)—Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union (PGCFCU) is proud to announce its role as an official presenting sponsor of Tanger Outlets National Harbor's Tree Lighting Celebration, taking place **Friday, November 6, 2026**, at 6 p.m. at Tanger National Harbor.

The annual holiday celebration brings families, shoppers, and community members together to welcome the season. As part of the festivities, the credit union will serve complimentary hot cocoa to attendees and share information about its financial products, services, and membership opportunities.

The sponsorship builds on a growing partnership between PGCFCU and Tanger National Harbor. Earlier this year, the credit union participated in Tanger National Harbor's Back-to-School Bash, connecting with families and supporting students preparing for the new school year. Both initiatives reflect PGCFCU's commitment to increasing its presence and accessibility in the southern part of Prince George's County.

"We're excited to welcome Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union as a presenting sponsor of this year's Tree Lighting Celebration," said Carrie Masich, Marketing Director at Tanger National Harbor. "Their participation in our 2026 Back-to-School Bash demonstrated a shared commitment to supporting local families, and we're delighted to continue that partnership during one of our most anticipated celebrations of the year."

Event Details

Event: Tanger National Harbor Tree Lighting Celebration
Date: **Friday, November 6, 2026**
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Tanger Outlets National Harbor, 6800 Oxon Hill Rd.
Oxon Hill, MD 20745
Presenting Sponsor: Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union

For PGCFCU, the partnership represents an opportunity to connect with existing members while introducing more residents to the benefits of a locally focused financial institution.

"Being a community credit union means meeting people where they are, and that extends well beyond our branch locations," said Diane Coleman Brown, President & CEO of Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union. "We want families across Prince George's County, particularly those in the southern part of the county, to know that their credit union is here for them. Supporting events that bring our community together is one of the many ways we demonstrate that commitment."

With the holiday shopping season approaching, PGCFCU will also highlight its Holiday Loan, offering eligible members a financing option to help manage seasonal expenses, from gift purchases to travel and family celebrations.

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the PGCFCU area during the event, enjoy a complimentary cup of hot cocoa, meet the credit union team, and learn more about membership.

For more information about membership and Holiday Loan options, visit www.princegeorgescfcu.org or call 301-627-2666.

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

First Black Secret Service Agent's Story Takes the Stage Nov. 13

"Out From the Shadow" honors Charles L. Gittens

By PRESS OFFICER
Shannon Whren Entertainment

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. (Oct. 19, 2026)—The story of the man who broke the U.S. Secret Service's color barrier comes to the stage **November 13** as Shannon Whren Entertainment presents "Out From the Shadow". The production brings Charles L. Gittens' determination, service and legacy into focus, inviting audiences to discover the man behind a historic first.

Produced by Whren and based on Maurice A. Butler's book about Gittens, the production explores his pursuit of opportunity despite racial barriers and his commitment to opening doors for others. Gittens became the first Black Secret Service special agent in 1956 and rose to deputy assistant director before retiring in 1979. Gittens was the son of a Barbadian immigrant father. His Caribbean roots add another dimension to his legacy, connecting his achievements to the broader story of Caribbean-Americans.

EVENT DETAILS

Performance location:
Faith City Central, Temple Hills
2261 Oxon Run Dr,
Temple Hills, MD 20748

Opening-night date and time:
November 13, 2026, 7 p.m.

Tickets and performance information:
SWEshows.com

Opening night will bring together elected officials, current and former Secret Service leaders, and members of the Gittens family for an evening celebrating his contributions to American history and public service.

"Mr. Gittens did not allow the barriers before him to deter him from reaching his goals," said Whren. "When he wasn't invited to sit at the table, he built his own. His story reminds us that progress takes persistence—and that the trailblazers who create opportunities for others deserve to be seen and remembered."

For audiences across Washington, Maryland and Virginia, the production connects Black history, military service and federal law enforcement through the personal story of a pioneering public servant.

Shannon Whren Entertainment *brings compelling stories to the stage through the work of playwright, director and producer Shannon Whren, whose theatrical career began in 1994. Her productions include "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing", "Bound & Gagged" and "A Soulful Christmas Wish", with work presented at venues including Washington's Lincoln Theatre, Warner Theatre and Howard University's Cramton Auditorium. Combining entertainment with community engagement, her work has raised awareness of domestic violence and created opportunities for actors and musicians. Visit ShannonWhrenEntertainment.com.*

Red Cross: Blood and Platelet Donors Needed Now

Up to $20 in Gift Cards for coming to give in weeks ahead
Free A1C testing on successful donations in November

By PRESS OFFICER
American Red Cross

WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE and DELMARVA (Oct. 23, 2026)—The American Red Cross urges people to leave a lasting impact by giving blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types, especially those with type O blood, are needed to keep the blood supply steady ahead of the holiday rush.

As we lean into fall activities, keeping blood and platelet donation appointments on the books is crucial to ensuring hospitals have the tools they need to care for patients this fall. In thanks, all who come to give Oct. 19–Nov. 22, 2026, will get up to $20 in Gift Cards—that's a $10 Amazon Gift Card by email and 500 bonus points, which can be redeemed for a $10 e-gift card through Blood Donor Rewards! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Maze for details.

Get into the spirit of saving lives. Visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App to schedule a donation appointment.

Empower your health

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. To help empower and educate our blood donors, in November, successful donations will once again get free A1C testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes. (One result per calendar year; do not fast before donating.) For additional information, see RedCrossBlood.org/Maze.

Blood donation appointments are available every day of the week across the region. Find one that fits your schedule by entering your ZIP code at https://www.redcrossblood.org/.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact—volunteer!

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience. Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists. For more information, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

Business and Finance

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

My Brother Died on December 23— Does he Get Social Security for December?

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

Dear Rusty: My question concerns the passing of my brother on December 23, 2025. Since he passed away before the month was over, does that mean he will not receive a Social Security payment for December 2025? Does the fact he passed before the end of December negate him receiving benefits for December 2025? ***Signed: Executor of my Brother's Estate***

Dear Executor Sister: Please accept our sincere condolences on your brother's passing. FYI, according to Social Security law, all SS benefits are paid in the month following the month they are earned, which means two in things in this circumstance:

1. Any SS payment your brother received during the month of December (his month of death) is legally his (or his estate's) because that payment was for the month before he died (November 2025).

2. Any SS benefits received thereafter (e.g., SS benefits paid in January 2026 for the month of December 2025) must be returned to Social Security (the bank which received his SS payments would normally handle this automatically if they were notified of your brother's death).

Social Security benefits are not paid for the month of death because the beneficiary did not live the entire month, and SS benefits are not paid for partial months. So even though your brother lived about 3/4ths of the month of December, he (his estate) will not get any SS benefits for the month of December. Indeed, even those who pass shortly before midnight on the last day of the month do not get Social Security benefits for the month they died.

For additional information, if your brother was married and his wife is still living, she would be entitled to a one-time, lump sum death benefit of $255 (if she is also eligible for her own SS retirement benefit). And, depending on her own SS retirement amount, she might also be eligible for a surviving spouse benefit as your brother's widow.

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.*

AMAC | Washington DC | 917-846-8485

Brand Strategist Rhett Butler Launches "Brand Power Direct 101: Harness the Psychology of Your Brand" on November 4

Launch event at Venture X College Park on Wednesday, November 4, 2026

By PRESS OFFICER
BP Direct Comms

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Oct. 13, 2026)—Executive brand strategist, journalist, and Brand Power Institute founder Rhett Butler will officially release his new book, "Brand Power Direct 101: Harness the Psychology of Your Brand", on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, with a launch event at Venture X College Park.

The book asks a question that founders, executives, and public leaders face every day: why do some brands command attention, loyalty, and a premium, while others, even with a better product, remain invisible? Butler's answer is that the difference is not simply better marketing. It is psychology.

Drawing on the enduring metaphor of Freud's Id, Ego, and Superego, Brand Power Direct 101 gives founders, executives, creators, and communications leaders a practical system for understanding the forces that shape perception, desire, trust, and loyalty. Readers learn how to uncover the emotional desire their brand activates, translate it into a clear and credible promise, and anchor growth in values people can recognize and believe.

"Branding is the creation of perception," said Butler. "This book helps people see their brand as more than a logo and start building the world it lives in. Each of us is a universe in our own right, and when you harness your Brand Power, you become a pillar in your industry and in your life. Brand Power Direct 101 is the foundation of that framework."

Two Decades of Shaping Perception

For two decades, Butler has worked where media, government, economic development, and organizational leadership meet. A Howard University graduate, he contributed to TIME and MONEY, shaped editorial narrative at The Source and Black Enterprise, managed the high-stakes environment of Showtime Championship Boxing, and helped develop international teams and domestic operational systems for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, Xtreme Fighting Championships, and other major organizations. That work showed him how influence is built, how it is sustained, and how quickly it can be lost.

He has applied those lessons to cities and counties. In 2016, he helped create the campaign and branding for 202Creates, the Washington, D.C. initiative developed with the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. The campaign shifted perceptions of the nation's capital away from federal-city imagery and toward its local creative economy, and is now marking its tenth anniversary.

As Director of Marketing & Communications at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Butler led the rebranding of the county's economic development efforts through the lens of the businesses and resource partners that make up its business ecosystem.

The New World of "Interest Media"

Butler argues that social media has evolved into "interest media," where platforms deliver content based on what people care about rather than whom they follow. In that environment, anyone can become a brand if they decide to tap fully into their Brand Power. He offers practical tactics for executives, entrepreneurs, and institutions learning to compete for attention on those terms.

"Rhett Butler has always understood that storytelling and strategy are inseparable. He is a decoder of cultural moments, someone who sees what a moment means before most people see the moment itself, then translates that clarity into narrative, strategy, and action."—Melvin Lewis, Transformational Growth Architect, EVP & C-Suite Marketing Executive

Rhett E. Butler *is the founder and chief strategy officer of Brand Power Institute. Known as The Washed Strategist, he has spent two decades in media, government, economic development, and organizational leadership, from Showtime Championship Boxing and the editorial pages of The Source and Black Enterprise to advising government agencies and guiding startups through critical stages of growth. The patterns he saw across those sectors became the Brand Power Method, and Brand Power Direct 101 is its foundational text.*

Brand Power Institute *is an executive education institution dedicated to developing strategic capability in the leaders responsible for how organizations are understood. Its work is grounded in the Brand Power Method™. Learn more at brandpowerinstitute.com. The book is available at brandpowerdirect.com.*

Andrews Federal Credit Union Supports Students Through Mount Vernon Springfield Scholarship Program

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Oct. 19, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union invested in the future of local students through its support of the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Education Partnership. Through this program, the credit union helped to provide scholarships to graduating seniors pursuing higher education in business-related fields.

Seventeen high school students from the Mount Vernon/Springfield area were recognized this year for outstanding achievement. George Ksenics, Chief Information Officer at Andrews Federal Credit Union, serves on the Education Partnership's Board of Directors, which supports fundraising for the scholarship program and selects scholarship recipients.

According to Andrews Federal leadership, this scholarship program is part of the credit union's strong overall focus on education. "Supporting students as they pursue their educational and career goals is an important part of our commitment to the communities we serve," said Damita Robinson, Chief Operating Officer for Andrews Federal Credit Union. "We are proud to partner with the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Education Partnership to help local students build solid foundations for their futures."



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

In addition to the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Education Partnership, Andrews Federal continues to invest in education through college scholarships to local students, summer camp awards to fund youth development, financial education programming, and donations to local schools and to non-profits that support education.

Founded in 1948, Andrews Federal Credit Union *has grown to serve more than 165,000 members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and military installations in central Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Visit https://www.andrewsfcu.org/*

Event **from A2**

winning journalist, she teaches reporting, editing, fact-checking, health and science writing, and media entrepreneurship. She is also adviser to 101 Magazine, TruthBeTold.news, Cover 2 Cover, and the Howard University News Service.

Lisa Stark was an award-winning network news correspondent who reported for ABC News, Al Jazeera America, and the PBS NewsHour. She won two Emmys, a Peabody award, and a DuPont award for her work. As American University's Assistant Vice President for Communications & Media, she handled media outreach and crisis communication during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stark now runs her own communications company offering media training and moderating and emceeing services.

For the past year, Stark and Cameron have organized veteran journalists to speak out in defense of the First Amendment and freedom of the press. Their efforts have earned widespread news coverage and helped start a dialogue about defending freedom of the press at a time of unprecedented assaults.

This evening will serve as the culminating event for the statewide tour of the Revolutionary Maryland traveling exhibition. As the nation commemorates 250 years of American democracy in 2026, this event seeks to encourage all citizens to think critically about the role of a free press to self-government in democracy.

Registration for this event is free but required. Register on Eventbrite to attend: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speaking-truth-to-power-the-free-press-in-a-changing-world-tickets-2003141324625?aff=oddtdtcreator&keep_tld=true.

Learn more about the Revolutionary Maryland traveling exhibition on Maryland Humanities' website. For more information about this event, contact Mary Zell Galen, Programs and Partnerships Specialist, Maryland Two Fifty Commission at maryzell.galen@maryland.gov or Robert Forloney, Program Officer, Partnerships, Maryland Humanities at rforloney@mdhumanities.org or (410) 463-2293.

Revolutionary Maryland: Freedom of the Press Then and Now *is a partnership between Maryland Humanities; the Maryland Historical Trust; Historic Annapolis; Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum; Afro Charities; the Tiny News Collective; and local partners. Major funding for the project was provided by the Maryland Two Fifty Commission.*

The Maryland Two Fifty Commission *is charged by Executive Order of Governor Wes Moore with encouraging, planning, and executing an inclusive statewide yearlong commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence based on the themes of history, civics, and service. Connect with the Maryland Two Fifty Commission on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.*

Maryland Humanities *creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, the Citizens of Baltimore County, private foundations, corporations, small businesses, and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, LinkedIn, and YouTube.*

The Prince George's Post

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P.O. Box 1001, 15209 Marlboro Pike, Suite 209
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
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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

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Where Curiosity Builds Trade Skills

5 Ways to Help Kids Discover the Skilled Trades



FEATURE IMPACT

Most students hear questions about what they want to be when they grow up. By the time their middle and high school years arrive, they're often starting to consider their answers more in depth. Conversations with adults can help shape their awareness of and interest in various career paths, including skilled trades.

When they're provided with opportunities to learn, build, experiment and solve problems, young people can discover whether their talents and passions are a good fit for a career in the trades. Programs like Path to Pro Skills Explorers, launched by The Home Depot in partnership with Scouting America and Boys & Girls Clubs of America, provide free, accessible ways to introduce students to options like the plumbing, construction and electrical fields, as well as content on leadership and soft skills.

Parents, educators and mentors can encourage young people to broaden their horizons as they plan their futures and build awareness around careers in the skilled trades with these tips.

Start Career Conversations Early

Choosing a career path doesn't have to be one intimidating, life-changing moment. Parents and mentors can normalize career conversations by starting them early and keeping things casual. Opening the dialogue sparks curiosity about the activities kids enjoy and allows them to start connecting those interests to potential career paths. To get started, set kids up with access to online programs, videos and introductory courses so they can explore a variety of possibilities.

Turn Curiosity Into Hands-On Learning

For many students, learning by doing is the most satisfying way to test, improve and build skills. Instead of only reading textbooks or listening to instructors, offer them the chance to follow a plan, work with different materials, troubleshoot problems and build something tangible. Young people considering hands-on careers need hands-on practice to develop confidence and adaptability. Take the first step by researching online resources and local opportunities for classes, job shadowing or even apprenticeships.



Recognize the Skills Kids Are Already Building

Skilled trades aren't just about knowing which wires to connect or what tool to reach for. They also rely on a variety of soft skills like communication, patience, critical thinking, time management, attention to detail and more. When kids demonstrate these traits, point them out and encourage them. Take opportunities to let them experiment with hands-on projects, whether they want to try building a treehouse, repairing a bike or tinkering with technology.

Expand Views of Career Pathways and Success

The road to success is more like an intersection. Let young people know there are many pathways to fulfilling careers and futures, and while the traditional college-to-career plan can still be a viable option, it isn't the only one. Skilled trades offer competitive salaries, job security and the opportunity to learn hands-on skills that will always be in demand. Even in a world where technology is rapidly changing many career fields, it takes skilled workers to replace roofs, repair electrical systems, fix sewer lines and lead disaster recovery efforts.

Find Programs That Make Skilled Trades Exploration Accessible

There is a gap between labor supply and demand in the trades, and it's only widening as older generations approach retirement age. Programs like The Home Depot's Skills Explorers are designed to empower young people to step into these roles by providing a mix of online resources and hands-on activities to explore viable career paths. As a key part of a commitment by The Home Depot and The Home Depot Foundation to deliver 15 million introductions to the skilled trades by 2032, the program offers an accessible, no-cost curriculum for youth education groups to learn what it's like to work in these important fields.

"For years, The Home Depot and The Home Depot Foundation's Path to Pro program have helped separating military, career changers and others build pathways to the trades," said Michael Rowe, executive vice president of Pro for The Home Depot. "We know that closing the skilled labor gap starts much earlier. We need more young people to see what's possible and understand the lucrative opportunities these careers provide."

Visit pathtopro.com/skills-explorers to access the free curriculum and discover how to bring hands-on skilled trade exploration to students.

Bridging the Gap Between Military Experience and Civilian Careers

5 Tips for Veterans

FEATURE IMPACT

Every year, approximately 200,000 service men and women transition from military life to corporate America. Finding the right civilian career is a transition, but it's an opportunity to leverage military leadership and mission-driven talent.

Traditional hiring processes often focus on conventional resumes, but forward-thinking organizations recognize military experience as a competitive advantage in today's workforce. The resilience, integrity and adaptability of America's veterans and military families make them uniquely positioned to drive growth and innovation in their communities.

"Veterans bring unmatched discipline, adaptability and a results-driven mindset that directly translates to high-impact corporate careers," said Drew Matheson, senior director at Capital One's Commercial Bank and retired U.S. Army infantry officer. "While military experience doesn't always fit perfectly on a traditional paper resume, employers like Capital One who know how to decode these unique leadership skills are able to unlock an incredible pipeline of proven performers."

To help transitioning service members successfully navigate this career pivot, military community leaders at Capital One offer these five essential tips for service members entering the civilian workforce:

1. Start With What You've Already Earned

Opportunity starts with preparation. Beyond the well-known Post-9/11 GI Bill, which can cover tuition, housing and books, transitioning service members can look into vocational rehab or the SkillBridge program, which allows them to do civilian internships during the last 180 days of service. Many employers also offer internal tuition reimbursement programs. Taking the time to proactively map out these benefits ensures you aren't leaving valuable opportunities or money on the table.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

2. Find Employers with Veteran Support Structures

With almost half of veterans leaving their first post-military job within a year, according to research published by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families and VetAdvisor, finding the right culture and community is key to a successful transition. Look for employers with active veteran networks and dedicated mentorship.

For example, Capital One's Salute Business Resource Group serves as a thriving internal community of more than 6,000 members, offering peer support, year-round professional development and mentorship for veterans, reservists and military spouses. Additionally, partner organizations like Hiring Our Heroes provide career workshops, fellowships and job fairs to ensure you're employment-ready from day one.

3. Lean Into and Translate Your Soft Skills

Veterans bring a distinct competitive advantage to the applicant pool. You should confidently lean into the cross-functional "soft skills" learned in the line of duty such as risk management, crisis resolution and building trust under high-pressure scenarios.

The trick is translating these capabilities out of military jargon on your resume. Swap military terms like "NCOIC" for "Operations Manager" or "commanded" for "directed." To make this easier, look for military-friendly employers that employ dedicated military recruiters who specialize in decoding military resumes to align skills with the right roles.

4. Prioritize Support for the Whole Family

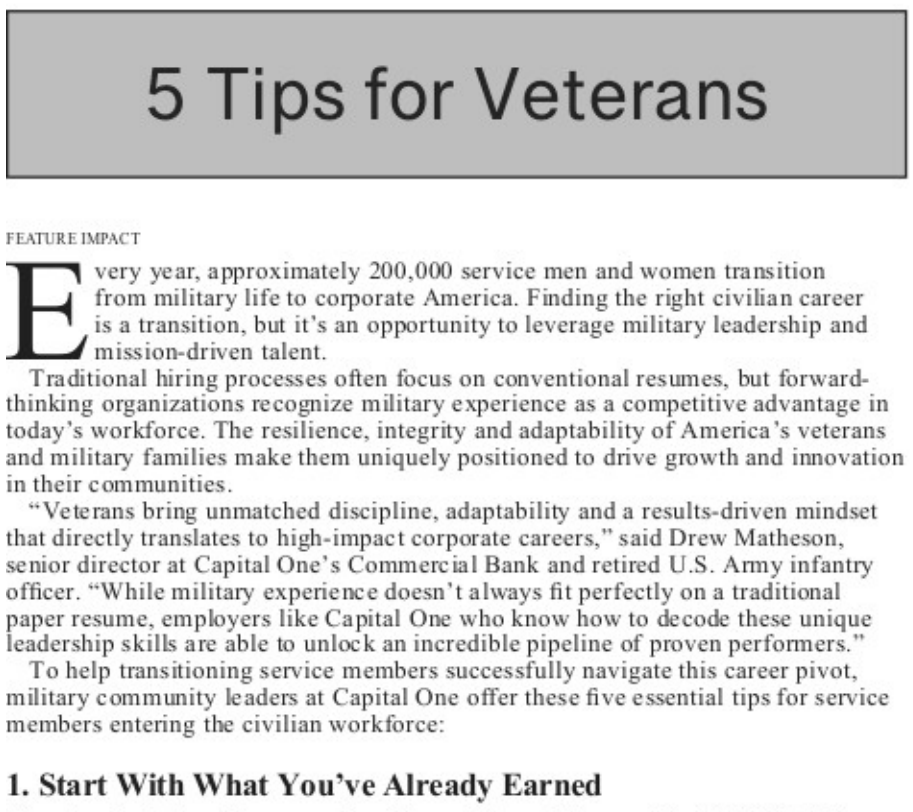
Military service is a family commitment, and the transition out of uniform affects everyone. Military spouses often face unique career hurdles, including frequent relocations and employment gaps. When evaluating employers, look for companies that offer holistic benefits and flexible structures.

For example, Capital One, recognized by "U.S. Veterans Magazine" as a Top Veteran Employer and Top Military Spouse Employer, actively supports military spouses and families through dedicated spouse hiring initiatives and internal support mechanisms. Furthermore, look for organizations that support continued military training and active-duty leave, ensuring military associates never have to choose between their service and their careers.

5. Build Your Civilian Network Early

In the military, your network is built in. In the civilian world, you have to cultivate it. Long before your terminal leave begins, connect with veterans who work at companies you admire. Reach out for brief, 15-minute informational interviews to learn about their transition journeys rather than simply asking for a job. With more than 70% of civilian jobs filled through networking, according to estimates from Career Horizons, making organic connections early is a powerful tool for getting your foot in the door.

To find additional resources and learn more about how to support the hiring of veterans and military spouses, visit CapitalOneCareers.com/Military.



EarthTalk® Q&A

Clothing Companies Innovating to Reduce Textile Waste

By Vicky Zhang | October 15, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:
How is it that more materials go to waste in producing clothes than ends up in the clothes themselves? What can we do to turn this around?

—Bill T., via email

Over the past few decades, the fashion industry's production, consumption and discard of clothes has constantly deteriorated the planet's health. In fact, the industry accounts for over 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions each year. With the rise of the fast fashion sector, more and more low-quality clothes are designed and produced to meet constantly changing trends. These clothes are intended to be discarded after use, not recycled or reused. In addition, the production of virtually all textiles uses significant amounts of water, chemicals and energy, further adding to the industry's eco-impact.

Textile waste encompasses all discarded natural or synthetic materials, especially during the lifecycle of clothes. The materials can take up to many decades to fully decompose, which causes landfill saturation, pollution emissions and contamination. Typically, it is divided into pre-consumer and post-consumer. Pre-consumer textile waste is the material discarded before the items reach consumers. Some examples include fabric scraps, rejects and unsold stock. On the other hand, post-consumer textile waste includes used and discarded materials by consumers. These items are often challenging to deal with due to dyes, blended materials, attached hardware and other decorations.

Though the majority of textile waste occurs after a garment is sold, there is still a lot of material lost in the production process: "Approximately 44 percent of the material is lost as early as the production stages," said Rakib Ahmed, a researcher at SINTEF Industry. Some of the most significant causes include rejected designs, defective items and unsold surpluses. Most of this waste is incinerated, not recycled or reused.

Starting with the beginning of the clothing cycle, the process of converting raw material into yarn or another usable form through spinning and ginning results in textile waste, as there are discarded scraps. Subsequent steps of dyeing, printing designs and weaving also create textile waste as mistakes and mishaps that cannot be undone. Next, the clothes are often shaped, producing additional discarded materials that are often rendered unusable due to their small size.

To combat this issue, producers should focus on increasing the recycling of materials while reducing pre-consumer textile waste. By adopting a circular fashion model, producers can reduce the amount of textile that is discarded, especially in yarn production and processing raw materials. As a result, the greenhouse gas emissions of the fashion industry could decrease by around 10 percent.

As consumers, we can support sustainable companies like Patagonia, Madewell and The North Face that are conscious of their textile waste both pre- and post-consumer. At the same time, advocating for political change can bring about large-scale attention on shifting the standard in the fashion industry for textile waste during production. Individuals can reuse materials from old clothes to reduce their post-consumer waste. or donate them, which promotes a circular fashion model.



PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

Over the past few decades, the fashion industry's production, consumption and discard of clothes has constantly deteriorated the planet's health.

CONTACTS: Nearly half of every T-shirt goes to waste before you even buy it, norwegianscitechnews.com/2026/05/nearly-half-of-every-t-shirt-goes-to-waste-before-you-even-buy-it/; SINTEF Industry, sintef.no/en/sintef-industry/.

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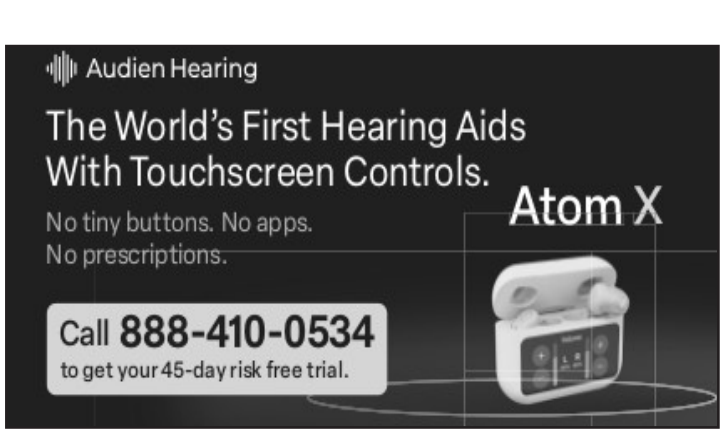
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Sphere from A1

rector of legislative impact, asked during the county hearing.

County legislation introduced Sept. 1 would authorize up to $215 million in special obligation bonds. Those bonds would be repaid through National Harbor tax revenues rather than the county's general fund. The bonds would also help pay Sphere-related costs while refinancing existing National Harbor debt.

A county policy and fiscal analysis also identified potential risks, including lower-than-projected revenue, construction cost overruns, and project delays. The analysis says several details remain unclear, including the final financing plan, debt-service schedule and revenue projections.

Labor groups have also become central to the debate over the proposed legislation, pushing for stronger worker protections as a requirement for public financing. A coalition of labor unions, including UNITE HERE Local 25 and 23, Service Employees International Union's 32BJ unit, and the Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council, is seeking project labor agreements for construction workers and labor peace agreements for employees who would work at the venue.

"We don't believe that the county should be giving money to a five-billion-dollar corporation without these strong labor agreements in place," said Samuel Stern, the political director with UNITE HERE Local 25.

Sphere has emphasized its relationship with organized labor. At the county hearing, Macchia said the company expects "a very robust contingent of unionized workers" during construction and union representation after the venue opens. "We will have unions representing our employees after we open our doors," Macchia said.

Other councilmembers supported the Sphere project as long as the labor issues are resolved. "It's hard, you know, we want to make sure this Sphere is coming to the county, and we want to make sure labor is supported, and there are good labor opportunities for our unions, for our black businesses," said Wanika B. Fisher, a Prince George's County Council member.

Jolene Ivey, an at-large Prince George's County Council member, said the Sphere is important for the county's future. "I'm optimistic that this is going to actually happen and bring in significant revenue for the county, which we really need because right now most of the money we get is from homeowners' taxes and we need to shift that to corporate taxes," she said.

Wala Blegay, another at-large Prince George's County Council member, supported the project in a preliminary committee vote on September 29 but said infrastructure issues need to be resolved. She was worried that requiring a project labor contract would prompt the Sphere to walk away. "We do know that this has been a contentious issue that would have Sphere walk away, and we cannot afford to have Sphere walk away in such an important project that could bring jobs and opportunity for our small businesses," Blegay said.

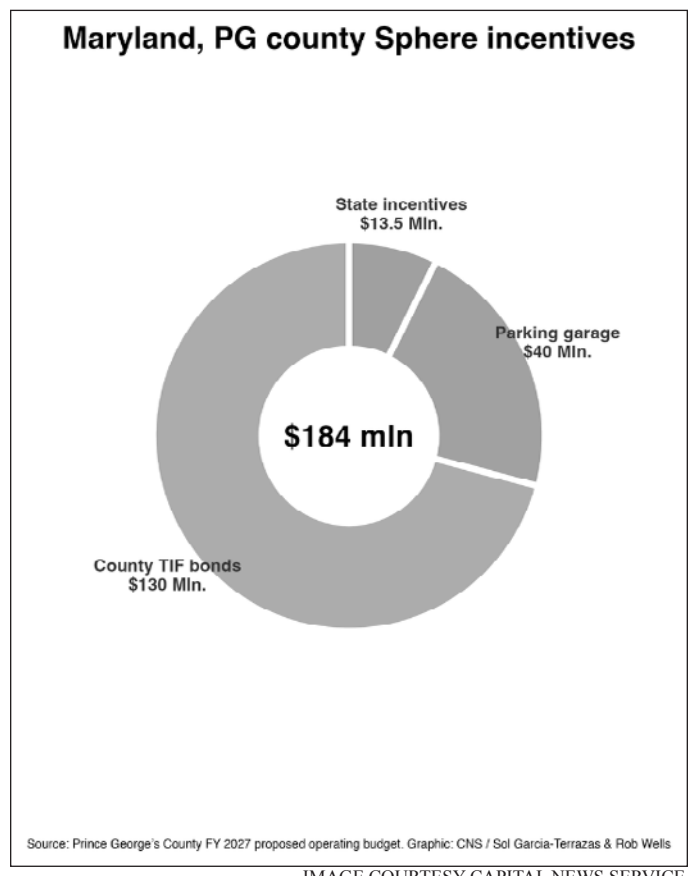


IMAGE COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A chart of the government financial incentives for the Sphere project