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PGCMLS November Virtual Author Series

Features Former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (November 4, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) continues to provide dynamic virtual events for readers to learn from leading national authors. The November lineup features award-winning authors and renowned poets, including Pulitzer Prize-winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, NEA Fellow in Literature Randall Horton, Kendra Allen (winner of the 2018 Iowa Prize for Literary Nonfiction Kendra Allen) (was Thursday, November 5), and bestselling author Michael Farris Smith (was Monday, November 9).

Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. | NEA Literature Fellow Randall Horton in Conversation

Dr. Randall Horton discusses his new poetry collection “{#289-128}.” He is currently the only tenured Full Professor in the United States of America at a university or college with seven felony convictions. He is a member of the experimental performance group Heroes Are Gang Leaders. Their latest project, “The Baraka Sessions,” was named best vocal jazz album by NPR in 2019. Horton is a Professor of English at the University of New Haven. He is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and is a National Endowment of the Arts Fellow in Literature. Co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission and Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Thursday, November 19 at 7 p.m. | Natasha Trethewey in Conversation

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey discusses her memoir “Memorial

Drive” with Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy Alford. Trethewey is the author of five collections of poetry: “Monument” (2018), which was longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award; “Thrall” (2012); “Native Guard” (2006), for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize; “Bellocq's Ophelia” (2002); and “Domestic Work” (2000). Co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Featured authors' books are available for checkout through the PGCMLS online catalog and through OverDrive. Washington, DC and Maryland-based Loyalty Bookstores is the independent bookstore partner for the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Featured author event titles are available for purchase at loyaltybookstores.com.

Select PGCMLS author

events are presented in association with the following partner libraries: Anne Arundel County Public Library, Carroll County Public Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Howard County Library System, Kent County Public Library, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County, Talbot County Free Library, and Worcester County Library.

Randall Horton
in Conversation
NEA Fellow in Literature
Wednesday, November 18 at 7 pm
Virtual Event

Logos for Prince George's County Memorial Library System, hrc, LOYALTY, and BLACK CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Natasha Trethewey
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Prince George's County Launches On-Demand Rideshare Service

By PAULETTE L. JONES
Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (November 6, 2020)—On Monday, November 9, 2020, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is launching “Prince George's Link”, a flexible, on-demand microtransit service being piloted in the Fort Washington area from National Harbor to East Swann Creek Road. The pilot service will run for six months with a possible extension to become part of DPW&T's regular service.

Like other rideshare services, “Prince George's Link” uses a smartphone app for riders to schedule customized curb-to-curb microtransit trips. A small neighborhood-friendly bus will pick riders up and drop them off anywhere within the defined service boundaries. Along the way, the bus may pick up other passengers who also request service. Social distancing will be enforced, and passengers and transit operators are required to wear face coverings.

“We are excited for the opportunity to offer a new customized transit experience that will provide our residents increased access to desired points of interest in their community,” said DPW&T Director Terry Bellamy.

To use the new rideshare program, passengers must first download the free TransLoc app

from the Google Play or Apple iOS store prior to requesting a ride. The app will provide estimated pick-up times, track vehicles in real-time, and alert customers when their ride is about to arrive. Passengers will also be notified when they are approaching their desired destination.

The cost to use this premium service is only \$2.00 per trip, making “Prince George's Link” more affordable than traditional rideshare services, which could cost riders more than five times the amount for a similar trip.

Wait times for service are subject to vehicle availability and demand. The County fleet includes a lift to accommodate riders with disabilities, strollers and mobility devices. Customers with service-related questions can receive assistance by calling 301-499-8603.

“Prince George's Link” is intended to complement “TheBus” and Metrobus service and address gaps in service in the County. The new pilot program will be implemented in partnership with TransLoc, a Ford Smart Mobility Company. TransLoc is the largest provider of agency-owned microtransit systems for municipal transit agencies in the U.S., with the company's products used at more than 500 agencies.

Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital COVID-19 Testing Site Serves As a Model in the Transition to Safe, Comfortable Winterized Sites

Infection prevention a key consideration in the move to indoor spaces

By PRESS OFFICERS
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (November 6, 2020)—The Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital COVID-19 testing site, operated by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in partnership with Johns Hopkins Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical System, has moved indoors to accommodate patients as the weather turns cold this fall and winter. As of Wednesday, November 4, testing operations at the BCCFH have been relocated to climate-controlled space selected with patient and staff safety in mind.

“Testing is a key element of Governor Hogan's Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery,” said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert R. Neall. “Winterizing our testing infrastructure will

allow us to continue accommodating large numbers of patients through the cold months ahead and to maintain accessible, safe and comfortable testing sites for Maryland residents.”

The BCCFH testing site's new indoor location was chosen for its ability to safely accommodate high volumes of tests. 1,143 individuals were tested during the first day of indoor operations on Wednesday. More than 38,000 COVID-19 tests have been performed to date at the site, which is one of the busiest walk-in sites in Maryland.

More than 32,000 square feet of floor space and 32-foot-high ceilings provide ample room for physical distancing and air circulation. The facility's air-filtration system completely exchanges indoor air with fresh air from outside four times every hour. Additionally, each individual testing station at the site has a dedicated industrial-grade HEPA filter.

Staff working at the site are required to wear an N-95 mask at all times.

“Our new space's design was meticulously scrutinized by infection preventionists,” said Dr. James Ficke of Johns Hopkins Medicine. “We worked closely with MDH's indoor testing working group and others to make sure that this site represents some of the highest standards and latest thinking on infection prevention.”

Among the many modifications that were made to the space to accommodate testing are new walls and other barriers designed to maximize infection control.

“This is one of the most innovative testing sites in the state,” said Dr. Charles Callahan from UMMS. “The

infrastructure that we have in place here reflects months of planning and attention to the smallest of details. We hope that we can serve as a model of safety and patient accommodation for other testing sites across the state.”

“The Baltimore City Health Department is excited to collaborate with the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital as part of ensuring availability of testing for all of our city's residents throughout the winter months,” said Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Letitia Dzirasa. “With cold and inclement weather season upon us, expanding availability of testing in a way that meets residents' weather-related needs will be a critical piece of the puzzle.”

Other COVID-19 testing sites across the state are taking similar action to prepare for cold weather. The MDH testing sites at the corner of Calvert and Bladen Streets in Annapolis and the Six Flags America theme park will both be converted to winterized models in the coming weeks. Testing operations at the Annapolis site will move into a new semi-permanent tent on November 16, while additional heaters are being added to the existing tents at Six Flags currently.

The Baltimore Convention Center's indoor testing space is accessible from a pedestrian entrance on Charles St. The site is open every Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In preparation for Thanksgiving, the site will open on Monday, November 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The site team also plans to expand its schedule after Thanksgiving. Details will be announced in the near future.

The Six Flags and Annapolis sites also are expanding operating hours for the winter. The Six Flags site is now open on Mondays from 2 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and Fri-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Each testing station at the site has a dedicated industrial-grade HEPA filter.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
With more than 32,000 square feet of floor space and 32-foot-high ceilings, there is ample room for physical distancing and air circulation at the Baltimore Convention Center's new indoor testing space.

INSIDE

- Celebrate Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month With PGCMLS
 - Voting Rights Champion John Lewis Featured in November 16 Virtual Film Event
 - Oprah Winfrey Network Recognizes Aisha Braveboy as Champion for Voting Rights And Criminal Justice Reform
 - CSM Announces Dean's List for 2020 Summer Sessions
- Around the County, Page A2

Prince George's County Creative Arts Center Pivots to Celebrate the Holiday Season Safely

Prince George's Community College Announces Plans for Spring 2021 Semester

Alzheimer's Association Shares Tips to Support Alzheimer's, Dementia Caregivers

Community, Page A3

Anthony Brown: President-Elect Biden Will Be a President For All Americans, and Together This Country Will Build Back Better

Capital Caring Health Recognizes National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Commentary, Page A4

Startup 'dAAB' Launches Private Beta of Platform For Black Businesses, Uses Video Comment Reviews as Key Feature

dAAB is launching their private beta testing for 4-5 weeks, and will launch their platform for public use in December.

CSM to Conduct National Search for New Chief Academic Officer

Business and Finance, Page A5