

For Every Mountain ...For Every Trial..... For very Blessing, Hallelujah



August 1, 2021

Dear Wonderful Spokes in the Wheel:

Here we are! It's August and we have not been able to meet, hug, and show our love, support, and friendship with each other. Much has happened within the last year. These are things we thought we'd never experience in our life. It's been a very busy time in which we had to provide our citizens with food, clothes, shoes, assist with unemployment calls, homelessness, health issues, evictions, littering, illegal activities, transportation, and the list goes on and on. The most wonderful news is we made it through the pandemic crisis and we are still here! God has been good to us! We still have joy and so much to be grateful for!! It's because of His Grace and Mercy!

We have tried to keep you informed through our website regarding valuable information and projects. Several things for your review are: Our Regional Medical Center Hospital has opened as of June 12th, 2021. Our hospital in Cheverly is closed after 75 years of service. It will be demolished at a later date. We are very proud of our new \$600 million dollar medical center. I hope you have had an opportunity to visit it.

The \$250 million dollar Hampton Park project is under construction. The tall building will be our new Health and Human Service Center. In addition, there will be a hotel, retail stores, offices, upscale restaurant and apartments. We will also have a focused Senior Day Center.

The 24th District Team as established a great partnership with the Washington Football team who will be adopting five of our schools. That is exciting news or our children and community.

The urgency of us being vaccinated cannot be overstated. We are planning to invite the African American doctor who is responsible for the Moderna Vaccine to visit our county so we can see and hear from this brilliant mind. She worked for over 8 years on this vaccine. St. Margaret's Catholic Church has done a remarkable job with the help of Giant Foods, in providing vaccination for many of our citizens.

We have scheduled our first 202 breakfast meeting for Monday, October 25th, 2021 at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 410 Addison Road South, Capitol Heights, Maryland, at 9:00 am. We will have briefings from our Law Enforcement as well as our Fire and EMS agencies. We will also receive a presentation regarding the Central Avenue Connector Trail, our school system, update on the grocery store, doctor's office, the removal of a gas station, and other items of interest.

Can we have a Christmas Party? I want to "**Thank You**" for every single thing you are doing to "raise the bar" for our beloved county. When we pray together, we stay together!

This successful coalition has operated for over 25 years. It could have never happened without your encouragement, interest, attendance and supreme support! We are focused on an agenda which will keep us moving onward, and upward!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Doris Witcher at 301-858-3138 or email me at Joanne.Benson@senate.state.md.us. Please see Special Announcements and other attachments. Also, please visit *Resources* on my website: www.joannecbenson.com.

Gripped with Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne C. Benson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Joanne C. Benson
Senator Joanne C. Benson
24th Legislative District
Prince George's County, Maryland

Special Announcement Briefs

(See my website for more details: www.joannecbenson.com)

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Maryland Office of People's Counsel

Consumer Assistance

6 St. Paul Street, Suite 2102; Baltimore, MD 21202

Pepco Customers: Pepco has proposed a three-year multi-year rate plan from April 2021 through March 2024. According to Pepco, the total bill impact for the average residential customer would be just over \$5.80 in 2023. See the attached *Press Release* from the [Public Service Commission](#) for more details about the plan and how to participate in the hearing.

OHEP Applications: The [Office of Home Energy Programs \(OHEP\)](#) has made a policy change as it relates to incomplete documentation for an energy assistance application. If the reason for application denial is due to incomplete information, the applicant has 90 days from the Notice of Denial to submit the missing eligibility documentation for the original application to be processed.

All utilities are offering 12 month payment plans with no down payment required. Contact your utility for more information.- The [Office of People's Counsel](#) has created an [energy assistance toolkit](#) to help Maryland households facing utility turn-off notices. This toolkit includes videos on how to fill out the Office of Home Energy Programs application, forms, and resource guides. Visit: www.opc.maryland.gov

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Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration

Important Expiration Date: August 15, 2021

If your MDOT MVA Product expired during the COVID-19 State of Emergency (starting March 12, 2020), it will now expire on August 15th, 2021. MDOT MVA products include:

- Non-Commercial Driver's Licenses
- Commercial Driver's Licenses
- Learner's Permits
- Identification (ID) Cards

Schedule Your Appointment at mva.maryland.gov today!