



THE COALITION CHRONICLES NEWSLETTER

“PATHWAYS TO SERVICE”



**NEXTGEN PUBLIC SAFETY
YOUTH EXPO**



**SETTING THE PATHWAY FOR
FUTURE HEROES OF TOMORROW**

NextGen Public Safety Youth Expo: A Day of Learning, Leadership & Community

The Coalition for Public Safety Training in School, Inc. (CPSTS) proudly sponsored a successful and impactful NextGen Public Safety Youth Expo, bringing together youth, families, community partners, and public safety professionals for an unforgettable day of education, engagement, and empowerment.

The event featured two exciting components that kept attendees informed and entertained throughout the day. The seminar portion provided youth with valuable insight into careers in public safety, leadership development, mentorship opportunities, and personal growth. Participants had the opportunity to hear directly from

professionals serving in law enforcement, fire and EMS, park police, and other public safety sectors, allowing them to ask questions, gain knowledge, and envision future career pathways.

The exhibition portion brought energy and excitement as attendees explored interactive displays, emergency vehicles, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences from various public safety agencies. From meeting K-9 units and first responders to viewing specialized equipment and learning safety techniques, the expo created a fun and educational atmosphere for youth of all ages.



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Also, as part of the festivities, attendees enjoyed a fantastic array of food provided by our incredible caterers and vendors. Zig's Kitchen served up the most incredible, flavorful, and tasty fried fish, hot dogs, hamburgers, and crispy French fries. while Flames and Cones delighted the crowd with delicious pizza and refreshing snow cones throughout the day. DJ Oz brought the joyful sounds of fantastic musical selections. Their contributions played a significant role in creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere for all our youth, families, and guests to enjoy!

In addition to engaging activities for the youth, parents and adults were also able to enjoy sessions focused on mental wellness and community support. These conversations provided encouragement, resources, and meaningful discussions centered around emotional well-being, healthy coping strategies, and strengthening families and communities.

Overall, the NextGen Public Safety Youth Expo was a tremendous success filled with learning, inspiration, connection, and community collaboration. Events like these continue to strengthen relationships between public safety agencies and the communities they serve while motivating the next generation of leaders.

CPSTS would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Office of the Sheriff, Park Police, Fire and EMS Department, and the Police Department for their participation, partnership, and continued support in helping make this event a wonderful success. Their dedication and commitment to our youth and community are truly appreciated.

PARTNERSHIP

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MAY MONTHLY AWARENESS

HONORING OUR EDUCATORS DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK & NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

The month of May gives us a special opportunity to recognize the dedication, compassion, and commitment of educators everywhere during Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher's Day. On behalf of the Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc. (CPSTS), we proudly celebrate the teachers, mentors, school staff, and educational leaders who continue to shape the minds and futures of our youth each and every day.

Teachers do far more than educate; they inspire confidence, encourage growth, provide guidance, and create safe learning environments where students can thrive. Their influence extends beyond the classroom walls, helping to build stronger communities and preparing the next generation for success in life and leadership.

At CPSTS, we especially recognize the educators who support public safety awareness, youth development, mental wellness, and positive community engagement within our schools. Your passion and commitment help bridge the gap between education and community partnership, creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, grow, and lead.



As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week and National Teacher's Day this May, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all teachers for the countless sacrifices, long hours, and unwavering dedication you give to your students and communities.

Thank you for being mentors, role models, and everyday heroes.

HAPPY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK & NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY FROM CPSTS!

COALITION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING IN SCHOOL, INC.

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MAY MONTHLY AWARENESS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Each May, our nation observes Military Appreciation Month as a time to honor and recognize the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces. Established in 1999, Military Appreciation Month includes several important observances such as Loyalty Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. This month serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by military members and their families to protect our freedoms and uphold the values of our country.

Military Appreciation Month is significant because it allows communities, organizations, schools, and families to reflect on the courage, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by our service members. From active-duty personnel to veterans and fallen heroes, these individuals have answered the call to serve with honor and selflessness. Their efforts help ensure the safety, security, and freedom that we enjoy every day.

This observance also highlights the importance of supporting military families, who often endure long separations, relocations, and challenges while standing beside their loved ones in service. Recognizing their strength and resilience is equally important as we celebrate those who wear the uniform.

The Coalition for Public Safety Training in School, Inc. (CPSTS) would like to recognize and thank the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. Your sacrifice, dedication, and commitment to protecting our nation are deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten.



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CPSTS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING FUTURES: COLLEGE AND CAREER DECISION DAY

Students, families, educators, and community partners recently came together to celebrate PGCPS' annual College and Career Decision Day, a meaningful event honoring seniors as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives. The event recognized students who have committed to colleges, universities, trade schools, military service, apprenticeships, and workforce opportunities.



Held at Baysox Stadium, the celebration also featured a college and career fair where organizations and vendors connected directly with students to share valuable information about scholarships, training programs, career pathways, and employment opportunities. The event highlighted the importance of supporting and encouraging young people as they pursue their goals and dreams for the future.

PGCPS extends sincere appreciation to all community partners, vendors, educators, and supporters who helped make this special day a success and inspired students to take confident steps toward their future careers and educational journeys.



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CPSTS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection proudly served as the sponsor and host of the 18th Annual Senior Celebration honoring the graduating Class of 2026. Held at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, the special evening brought together students, families, educators, and community supporters to recognize the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of Prince George's County seniors.

The celebration was filled with joy, encouragement, and inspiration as graduates were honored for reaching this important milestone in their educational journey.

Hillside remains committed to supporting youth through education, mentorship, and career readiness opportunities, and was honored to celebrate the bright future ahead for the Class of 2026.



SPOTLIGHT ON CPSTS BOARD MEMBERS

Meet Thomas “Tom” Martin

For over five decades, Thomas “Tom” Martin has dedicated his life to serving others through military service, government leadership, and community engagement. As Vice President and one of the Founding Members of the Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc. (CPSTS), he shares his extensive knowledge to educate and inspire the youth throughout Prince George’s County and beyond.

Tom’s commitment to public service began with his honorable service in the United States Army, where he developed the discipline, integrity, and leadership that laid the groundwork for a remarkable 50-year career. He spent 33 years in the Washington, D.C. Government, ascending through various leadership positions, including Accounting Officer, Management Analyst, and Chief of Customer Services. In these roles, Tom managed complex operations, supervised hundreds of employees, and implemented systems enhancing efficiency and public service.



Following his distinguished tenure in D.C., Tom contributed 19 years to Prince George’s County Government as Deputy Chief Liquor Inspector. He supervised 29 inspectors and ensured compliance for over 600 establishments while creating community outreach and training programs to strengthen partnerships among businesses, residents, and county agencies.

Tom holds an Associate Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University and has extensive training in management, supervision, and career development. His professional accomplishments are complemented by his commitment to youth mentoring and community development. He has provided free baseball instruction to over 2,000 youths and served as a football coach for the Clinton Boys and Girls Club, earning a proclamation from Prince George’s County for his exceptional service.

As a Life Member of the American Legion Post 256 in Clinton, Maryland, and the Fraternal Order of Police, D.C. Lodge No. 1, Tom has also served as President of the Home Plate Club of Washington, where he received the Jake Milwit Award.

Through his work with CPSTS, Tom remains passionate about exposing students to careers in public safety and demonstrating the impact of commitment and service for future generations.

ON THE WATCH WITH CPSTS PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

Summer Fire Safety Preparedness

As we enter the summer season, the Coalition for Public Safety Training in School, Inc. (CPSTS) encourages families and community members to stay alert and prepared when it comes to fire safety. Warmer weather often brings outdoor grilling, cookouts, fire pits, and increased outdoor activities, making it important to practice safe habits to prevent fires and accidents.

One of the most important summer fire safety tips is to never leave grills unattended while cooking. Grills should always be placed a safe distance away from homes, decks, trees, and any flammable materials. Before using a grill, check propane tanks and connections for leaks, and keep a fire extinguisher nearby in case of an emergency.

Families are also encouraged to test smoke alarms regularly and replace batteries when needed. Smoke alarms save lives and should be installed in every home, especially near bedrooms and common areas. Creating and reviewing a family emergency escape plan is another important way to ensure everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.

During the summer months, children should also be reminded not to play with matches, lighters, or fireworks. Fireworks can be extremely dangerous and should only be handled by trained professionals during approved public displays.

CPSTS also encourages residents to remain mindful of outdoor fire hazards by properly extinguishing fire pits, campfires, and cigarettes. Even small sparks can quickly spread during hot and dry conditions.

Safety Tips for Summer Fire Prevention:

- **Never leave grills or open flames unattended**
- **Keep grills away from homes and flammable objects**
- **Test smoke alarms monthly**
- **Keep fire extinguishers easily accessible**
- **Teach children basic fire safety rules**
- **Properly extinguish campfires and fire pits**
- **Avoid illegal or unsafe fireworks**

This summer let's work together to keep our homes, families, and communities safe by practicing smart fire safety habits and staying prepared.

CPSTS MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

Scholarship Committee Report

May 16, 2026

The Scholarship Class Updates:

	Class Start Date	School District	Registered	Completed	Comments
1.	9/15/2025	AACPS	24	16.1	
2.	10/13/2025	PGCPS	30	19	
3.	10/27/2025	AACPS	33	17	
4.	11/10/2025	PGCPS	28	28	
5.	12/1/2025	PGCPS	31	31	
6.	1/5/2026	PGCPS	32	24	
7.	1/20/2026	PGCPS	24	14	
		AACPS	8	6	
8.	2/17/2026	PGCPS	36	21	
9.	3/2/2026	AACPS	6	4	
		PGCPS	26	21	
10.	3/16/2026	AACPS	7	5	
		PGCPS	25	25	
11.	4/20/2026	AACPS	4	2	
		PGCPS	31	21	
12.	5/4/2026	PGCPS	31		38 scholarships awarded
13.	5/18/2026	PGCPS	1		54 scholarships awarded

REPORT

From the President's Desk



As the President of CPSTS, I am thrilled to share my thoughts for this edition of the newsletter. It is with great excitement that we announce that we are sponsoring and hosting NextGen Public Safety Youth Expo. A groundbreaking event designed to inspire and engage our youth in public safety careers. This initiative aligns perfectly with my deep-rooted passion for public service, shaped by my extensive involvement in the Fire and EMS sectors.

My journey in public safety began with my time as a volunteer with the Chapel Oaks PGC Volunteer Fire/EMS Department and the Landover Hills Volunteer Fire/EMS Department. Through these experiences, I have come to appreciate the dedication and commitment that come with serving our communities. Additionally, my family has played a significant role in shaping my

commitment to public safety. My daughters have proudly served as paramedics and EMS specialists, while my son-in-law is a retired firefighter from the DC Fire and EMS Department. Their passion for service has inspired me and reinforced the importance of fostering the next generation of public safety professionals.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a former board member has been advocating for the continuation of the Prince George's County Public School Fire Science Cadet Program. Thanks to these efforts, the program is still thriving in three of our high schools, providing students with the opportunity to explore careers in fire and emergency services. This initiative is vital in ensuring that young people understand the importance of public safety and have the support and resources they need to pursue their dreams.

The NextGen Public Safety Youth Expo is a product of our commitment to mentoring and empowering youth. We are dedicated to providing a platform where young individuals can connect with professionals in public safety, learn about various career paths, and gain firsthand insights into the rewarding experiences that await them. Hosting this event reflects not just our mission at CPSTS but also my personal investment in nurturing the next generation of leaders in public safety.

The importance of this event cannot be understated. It is an opportunity for us to showcase the myriad career options available in public safety, from firefighting and emergency medical services to administrative roles and beyond. We believe that by engaging students and inspiring them early on, we can ignite their passion for service and encourage them to pursue their aspirations in this vital field.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to making this event a reality. It is through our collective efforts that we can create meaningful change and inspire our youth to become the heroes of tomorrow.



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TRAINING IN SCHOOLS, INC.**

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