#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



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Hometown
Heroes

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# Thorthwest Colored

Your *voice* in the community

NOVEMBER 2017

A free publication serving Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown, Reisterstown, Windsor Mill, Woodlawn and Catonsville



PHOTO: J. ANDERSON

### What is Being Done to Rid Our Community of These Commercial Eyesores?

Fire broke out in August at a McDonalds restaurant that has been vacant for years. The fast food eatery that sits across from the Social Security Administration complex in the 6500 block of Security Boulevard is just one of multiple commercial buildings contributing to commercial blight.

#### Part I: The Blight

When you travel some of northwest Baltimore County's high-traffic corridors, you observe the good, bad and ugly on busy main roads, staid strip shopping centers and outright commercial blight.

The 2008 financial collapse did not just hit residential properties, it took down numerous businesses, sapping the area of once-vibrant offices, restaurants and retailers. What's left in many communities are the remnants of banks, fast-food and grocery stores, and national retail chains that succumbed to intense industry competition, consolidation and declining sales.

Some of this evidence appears as vacancies within malls and shopping centers. For example, when the family-owned Mars supermarket chain closed 13 stores, Weis agreed to acquire five of them,

continued on page 14



From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

## Should Elected Officials Occupy Seats on the Baltimore County Central Committee?

If you're a voter, you have probably noticed that in the Maryland gubernatorial elections, key races on the ballot are for delegates and senators, but are also for members of your political party's Central Committee. How many of you are familiar with the role a Central Committee member plays?

For the purpose of this column, I will use the Democratic Central Committee as the source. For full disclosure, let me say that I am a political consultant for a District 10 delegate and a District 44 senator, both of whom serve on their respective district's Central Committee. As always, my views are my own.

To review some of the duties of the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee, according to its website, members are the "grass roots-level elected volunteers of the State Democratic Party." They must be dedicated to working for the election of Democrats to public office, while encouraging the participation of activists, volunteers, and financial contributors." The website continues: "In essence, Central Committee members are the people elected to work directly in the trenches on behalf of the Party and develop a Democratic Party presence at the local level. They are the ones who do the organizing and actual tasks that help get Democrats elected. They are not managers or members of a board of directors, but worker bees themselves. They help organize and when necessary do the following activities: fundraising, staff party booths/events, precinct organizing and canvassing, distribute political literature, voter registration, phone banking and any task needed to be successful in an election."

Why should elected officials who have already been elected to a state and local offices sit on the Central Committee?

In my research regarding elected officials' membership on central committees in Maryland, I discovered that out of the state's 24 jurisdictions, there were only two jurisdictions that had current elected officials holding central committee seats—Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Baltimore County has nine Democratic central committees, which represent the nine county districts. Out of the nine, only two of the districts have current elected officials as members—District 10 and District 44B.

District 10 has five seats and four representatives occupy those seats—Sen. Delores Kelley, Del. Ben Brooks, Del. Jay Jalisi and Councilman Julian Jones. Pat Kelly is the fifth. Four is the highest number of elected officials on a central committee in any jurisdiction.

District 44B is represented by four Central Committee members, and Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and Del. Charles Sydnor III hold half of those seats. The other members are Bishop Barry Chapman and Nayna Phillipsen. (By the way, District 11's members are: Linda Dorsey-Walker, Noel Levy, Matt Peterson, and Braxton Street.) Currently, there is one vacancy because Marisol Johnson, who is running for Baltimore County Council, decided to step down.

Please understand my position that elected officials should not occupy two seats has nothing to do with their qualifications. Many of our current elected officials and others started their political careers on central committees. And when elected officials run for these seats, they have a huge advantage in winning them, particularly as an incumbent who has the capacity to promote themselves and raise money.

It appears that in Baltimore County elected officials did not become part of the Central Committee until 1994, with the formation of the Tenth District. When that minority district was created, some candidates ran for office as senators and delegates, as well as members of the Central Committee. American politics was never designed for us to occupy two seats for elected office simultaneously. You can't play on a minor league baseball team and a major league team. You can't be governor of the state and executive of a county. If you have a seat and run for another and win, you have to give one seat up.

What drives a candidate to campaign to serve as a state or local official, as well as a member on the Central Committee? Is it influence? If a delegate and senator can't fulfill their position for elected state office in their particular district, it is the Central Committee that chooses who replaces that representative. A person, from a community activist to someone who has never won any election at any level, to someone who may be a friend or relative, can walk into elected office with just the vote of the majority of five individuals. The committee's recommendation is sent to the governor, who then appoints them to the seat.

In District 10, that responsibility to select a replacement has been used twice. When first-term Del. Joan Parker became ill and passed away, the Central Committee had the duty of finding her replacement. Del. Adrienne Jones was recommended and appointed delegate. It was a wise decision, as Del. Jones has climbed the legislative ranks and has been Speaker Pro Tem since 2003. After serving on the Central Committee for years,

Del. Jones decided to resign, which presented District 10's second opportunity to recommend a replacement. That was Rob Johnson, who fulfilled her term but was not re-elected by voters to the Central Committee. In District 44B, when Rainier Harvey resigned in 2015, the Central Committee selected Nayna Phillipsen.

Continued on page 23

## To r th we s t OICE Your voice in the community

The Northwest Voice is a privately-owned community newspaper founded in 2005 to inform, entertain and inspire, as well as share news of interest to the northwest Baltimore County communities of Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown, Reisterstown, Woodlawn, Windsor Mill and Catonsville.

Readers are welcome to comment and respond to articles. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, as well as to publish them online, in print or not at all. Anonymous letters or those that cannot be verified will not be published. The opinions of readers and guest columnists are not necessarily the opinions of the *Northwest Voice*. Unsolicited material will not be returned.

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### Jobs, Crime, Education the Topics at Coffee With Kevin Kamenetz Event

At his Coffee with Kevin Kamenetz event held at Owings Mills Public Library, the Baltimore County Executive presented an update on county initiatives related to jobs, education and protecting the environment, and listened to comments from the audience about a range of issues—from opportunities for young people to crime.

Kamenetz went through his usual talking points about the \$1.3 billion investment to build or rebuild public schools—80 percent of which are more than 40 years old, he says—to his request for state funds for desired transportation projects, such as an interchange at Interstate 795 and Dolfield Avenue. He also mentioned negotiations to put solar panels on closed landfill sites and on the rooftops of county buildings.

"[Crime] is a problem we're going to have to tackle. I have to rely on the expertise of the police department to take care of the issue," Kamenetz said.

The two-term County Executive also also reported that early college program at Woodlawn High, where students can graduate with a high school diploma and associate of arts degree tuition-free from Community College of Baltimore County. Recognizing that every student will not go to college, Kamenetz said, the county is setting up certification where a student can get state certified in health sciences and automotive to increase their opportunities for a job after high school. Some 17,000 "new generation" jobs are expected to come to Trade Point Atlantic, the former Sparrows Point steel site, he said.

When it was their turn to speak, local residents, leaders and business owners brought up what they say is an increase in crime in the New Town area of Owings Mills. Kamenetz said the county will assign a CAT (community action team) of officers that is not assigned to a particular precinct but goes where needed.



Community members asked questions of County Executive Kevin Kamenetz at his Nov. 6 Coffee With Kevin Kamenetz event.

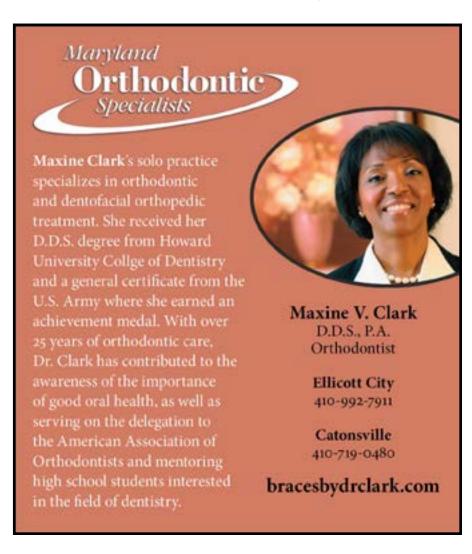
In response to audience members' concerns about the lack of activities for young people, Kamenetz said, "We are trying to add more opportunities for recreation activities."

Other points Kamenetz noted:

The county's fire department has more female firefighters than any jurisdiction of similar size.

An announcement on the future of Owings Mills Mall is expected soon. Efforts to "get some movement" on a redeveloped Security Square Mall in Woodlawn continue. The county opened a \$24 million transitional housing facility in eastern Baltimore County for women and children and also medical care for men and women in eastern Baltimore County.

Keith Dyson, president of King Park Estates, a 539-home community in Randallstown, said he found the event helpful. "I came to find out what's going on and bring it back to my community members, which is about 85 percent seniors."





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Woodland Job Corps 3300 Fort Meade Rd, Laurel, MD 20724

301-362-6014





CREDIT GEORGE WHITE.

Councilwoman Vicki Almond, who announced her bid for Baltimore County Executive, pledged to authorize universal pre-K and support small businesses and communities with more resources.

## Councilwoman Almond, Senator Brochin Officially Enter Race for County Executive

The race for Baltimore County Executive widened, as Councilwoman Vicki Almond and Maryland Sen. James Brochin announced bids to run for the office.

Brochin filed for office and made his announcement on Oct. 19 at Towson Manor Park in Towson. A 15-year member of the Senate representing District 42, he touted legislative wins that he supported, such as same-sex marriage and the Healthy Air Act. He also promoted progress in the Towson area such as additions to two elementary schools, saving the trees at Dumbarton Middle School and preserving Black Water Wildlife Refuge. But most of his victories, Brochin said, have centered around stopping overdevelopment and protecting open space.

Brochin noted he was involved in protesting the Royal Farms issue in Towson, and. He criticized elected officials for their relationships with developers and protested overcrowded schools, congested roads and less open space. In response to the opioid epidemic, Brochin said he'd build a state of the art treatment center.

"Under my administration, we will protect green-space, build more parks, more rec centers, and embrace a less congested way of life. In addition, there will still be plenty of work for quality development because we desperately need to redevelop the heart of Towson, Pikesville along the Reisterstown Road corridor, and the Liberty Road corridor," he said.

Brochin grew up in Pikesville and lives in Cockeysville. He is serving his fourth term as a state senator representing the 42nd Legislative District serving areas including Pikesville, Towson, Cockeysville, Lutherville, and Northern Baltimore County.

Vicki Almond made the official announcement of her candidacy on Nov. 1 at Foundry Row, a shopping, retail and restaurant destination in Owings Mills developed from the demolished former Solo Cup factory site. A strong turnout of elected officials, community and business

continued on page 7



leaders, and local neighbors attended the event to support the two-term councilwoman who has represented District 2 (Pikesville, Reisterstown and Owings Mills) since 2011.

Almond considers getting council approval of the zoning that gave the Foundry Row project the green light one of her accomplishments and an example of smart economic development.

She recounted other successes as legislation she and her council colleagues passed, such as clamping down on convenience stores that were selling the synthetic drug, Spice, to teens, and putting more police officers in public schools.

As county executive, Almond says she wants to implement universal pre-kindergarten "to make sure our schools are competitive" and add more career and technical training. She also pledged to provide more support to communities, which she called the backbone of Baltimore County. "To keep them strong and sustainability, we need to focus on schools, public safety, economic development and smart growth," Almond said.

She added that she will use local chambers of commerce to help small businesses grow. "It takes leadership that brings people together to solve tough problems. I want to restore people's trust in government, make sure it's working for families, not politicians and not special interests."

Almond, who was raised in Catonsville by a single mom who worked two jobs, says her community activism and public service began with grassroots volunteer work at her two daughters' schools in Reisterstown, multiple terms as PTA president and participation on the Police Community Relations Council. It was through her involvement with the PCRC that she helped establish the county's School Resource Officers program, which puts a police officer in public middle and high schools.

The third declared Democratic candidate, Johnny Olszewski Jr., announced in Woodlawn Village in June. Alfred Redmer, a former three-term state delegate who now serves as Maryland Insurance Commissioner, is running for the Republican nomination for County Executive. Redmer announced his candidacy in Rosedale. Five-term state Del. Pat McDonough announced in September at a diner in Dundalk.

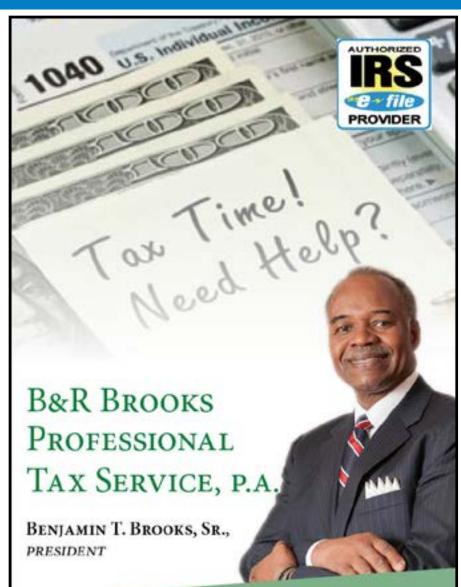
County Executive Kevin Kamenetz is term-limited and has announced plans to run for Governor.



Sen. Jim Brochin threw his hat in the ring for County Executive, pledging to protect more green space and build a treatment center for opioid abusers.

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#### Individual and corporate taxes

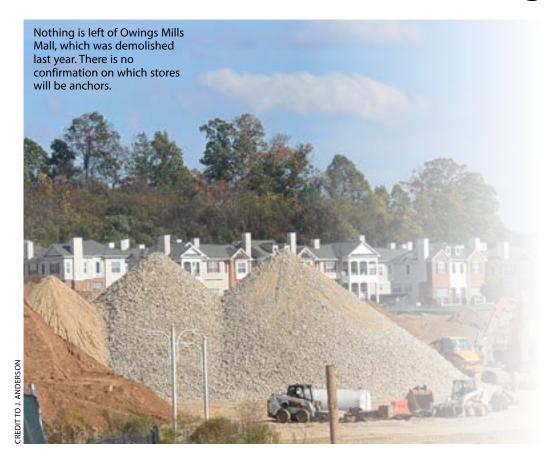
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### What's the Status of Owings Mills Mall?



It's been almost a year since bulldozers razed the final pieces of Macy's, J.C. Penney and other stores at Owings Mills Mall. Heavy equipment is still on the site pushing mounds of dirt around the site, which has been cordoned off. But the community is still awaiting official word on what is to become of the mall's future.

District 4 Councilman Julian Jones had been stating in community meetings and other remarks that an announcement was near. At his town hall in April, Jones shared with a standingroom audience that plans to bring three big box stores were reportedly being finalized. Those stores were later identified to be Dick's Sporting Goods, Lowe's and Costco. However, no official confirmation has been obtained.

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz said in a Sept. 27 Facebook post: "I made redeveloping the Owings Mills mall site a priority and we're getting closer to knowing which stores are coming. We are in close contact with the developer, but leases are not confirmed yet."

At his Nov. 6 Coffee With Kevin event in Owings Mills, Kamenetz stated that he met with the mall owners earlier that day, but could not share any information other than to say, "Some good things are going to happen. In the next month you should know something."

When Jen Maisch, a spokesperson from Kimco Realty, was asked if she could confirm who the mall anchors would be and whether Walmart was definitely off the table, she responded: "We're hoping to make an official announcement by the end of the year."



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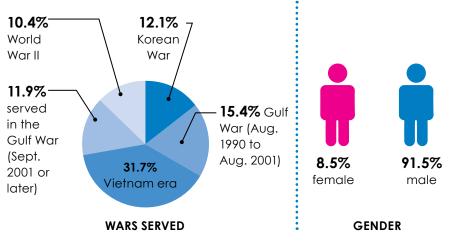
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### **About Our** Courageous **Veterans**

Veterans Day is celebrated the Nov. 11 of each year to honor military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The State of Maryland recognizes November as Veterans Appreciation Month. You and your loved ones can take advantage of resources at:

- State of Maryland, http:// veterans.maryland.gov
- **Baltimore County Department** of Economic and Workforce Development, https://www. baltimorecountymd.gov/ Agencies/economicdev/jobseekers/jobs-for-vets/index.
- **Baltimore County Public Library** at www.bcpl.info/veterans According to the U.S. Census, there are approximately 52,572 veterans in Baltimore County's civilian population. Here are some facts.

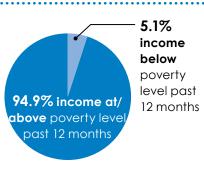
#### **VETERANS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY: 52,572**





**8.6%** less than high school graduate; **29.1%** high school graduate or equivalent; 32.9% some college or associate's degree; 29.5% bachelor's degree or higher

**EDUCATION** 



**EMPLOYMENT STATUS** 

income below poverty level **73.8%** without past 12 a disability months

**DISABILITY STATUS** 

70.7%

White

**RACE** 

2.0%

Latino

Hispanic or

26.2%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2011-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

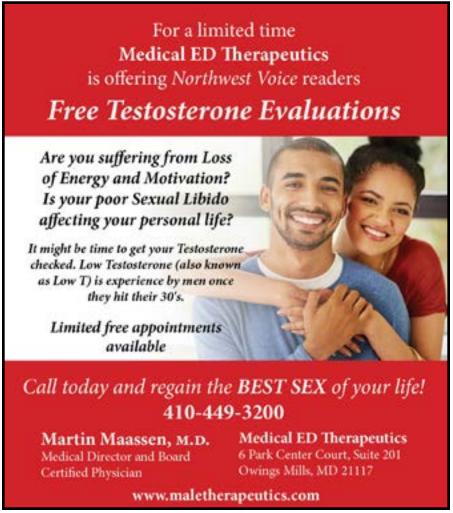
26.2%

Black/

African

American





#### Retail Survey Predicts Consumers Will Spend More This Holiday

With the holiday shopping season quickly approaching, consumers say they will spend an average of more than \$967 this year, according to the annual survey conducted for the National Retail Federation (NRF). That's up 3.4 percent from what consumers said they would spend when surveyed at the same time last year.

Holiday spending comes in three main categories — gifts, at approximately \$608; items such as food, decorations, flowers and greeting cards, at about \$218; and other nongift items consumers buy for themselves and their families, at almost \$141.

"With employment and incomes increasing, consumers are more confident this year and that is reflected in their buying plans for the holidays," NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said.

The retail federation's annual holiday spending forecast, which takes into account a variety of economic factors, such as consumer credit, disposable personal income and previous monthly retail sales, projects that holiday retail sales

in November and December will be up between 3.6 percent and 4 percent this year, for a total between \$678.8 billion and \$682 billion. This excludes automobiles, gasoline and restaurants.

Sectors that depend the most on holiday sales in November and December are: jewelry stores (28.6 percent), department stores (23.7 percent), discount department stores (22.5 percent) and electronics and appliance stores (22.2 percent). Clothing and shoe stores, and warehouse clubs and superstores were not far behind.

For the eleventh year in a row, gift cards remain the most popular items on wish lists. The survey also found for the first time in its survey history that online is the most popular shopping destination this year, cited by 59 percent of consumers.

The National Retail Federation also points out that Christmas falls 32 days after Thanksgiving this year, one day more than last year, and is on a Monday instead of Sunday, giving consumers an extra weekend day to complete their shopping.

#### **Average Consumer Spending**

TOTAL \$967.13

Gifts \$608.06-----

Food, decorations, greeting cards, etc. \$219.09 Non-gift items \$140.99

### \$608.06 Gifts

#### Gifts Consumers Would Like to Receive

#### Gift cards & certificates 61%...

Clothing & clothing accessories 55% Books & other media 39% Consumer electronics & accessories 33% Home décor & furnishings 24%

Home décor & furnishings 24%
Jewelry 23%

Personal care & beauty items 21% Sporting goods & leisure items 20% Home improvement items & tools 18% Other 6%

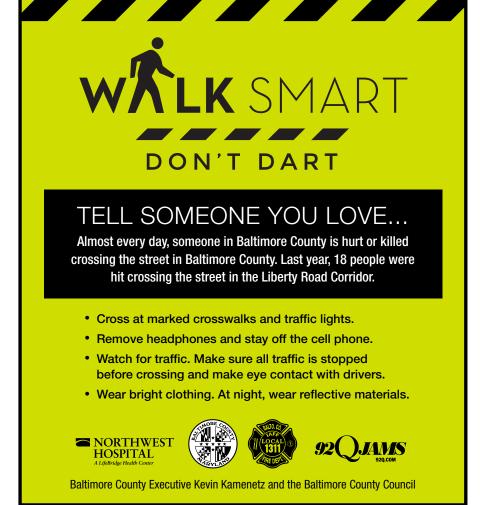
#### Where Consumers Plan to Shop This Year

Online 59% -----

Department store 57%
Discount store 54%
Grocery/supermarket 46%
Clothing or accessories 35%
Electronics store 27%
Local/small business 25%
Crafts/fabrics store 18%
Drug store 15%











COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

## Fund for Youth Recreation and Health Programs Pass

The Baltimore County Council adopted legislation at its Nov. 6 meeting to support additional funding for two programs focused on youth, restrict the use of air cannons for farming, and approve a grant for a heroin coordinator.

Council members approved Bill 59-17, which requested \$52,000 in supplemental state funds to hire a temporary part-time management assistant position to help enter data on heroin and opioid incidences into the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Case Explorer System.

Under Bill 60-17, the county's Cops and Kids Sports and Child Protection Program will get to use more than \$2,000 in grant monies to purchase basketballs, jerseys and other supplies for its basketball clinics. The Police Department holds four three-hour clinics around the county for youth aged 8 to 16 years old, which led to 350 interactions last year. The Police Department also requested \$4,600 for purchase two child computer ID kits to take photographs and fingerprints, which it says will expedite reporting of a missing child.

"Both programs will build trust between police and young people, while reducing juvenile delinquency and crimes and ensuring the safety of our children, Col. Al Jones told the council.

Bill 61-17 authorized using \$10,000 in supplemental funds from a federal grant to support a public health nurse to dedicate 28 hours a month for the Student Healthy Weight Program. The program aims

to encourage more pediatricianpractice referrals for about 16 elementary-aged students and expand consultations with school nurses and physical education teachers on strategies to address the obesity. The program features nutrition and wellness education, reviews of physical activity logs, electronic screen time awareness, and best practices for engaging parents, schools and children.

Bills 59-17, 60-17 and 61-17 will introduced at the request of the County Executive.

Farmers blast loud air cannons to ward off wild animals from their crops and livestock on their properties. Community members complained about one farmer in particular, who was firing the cannons every three to five minutes around the clock. Bill. 62-17, sponsored by council members Cathy Bevins and Wade Kach, prohibits the discharge of air cannons from within 500 feet of a dwelling between 10 p.m. and sunrise. The bill would expire two years after enactment without council action.

The council also introduced resolution 99-17, requesting the Health Department and other county agencies to look into what can be done about the opioid issue. Gregory Branch, director of the Department of Health and Human Services, will chair the task force.

The council adopted no legislation at its October meeting.

#### **BE IN THE KNOW**

Keep up to date on decisions by the Baltimore County Council. Attend the meetings and work sessions or view them online at baltimorecountymd. gov/countycouncil/index.html.

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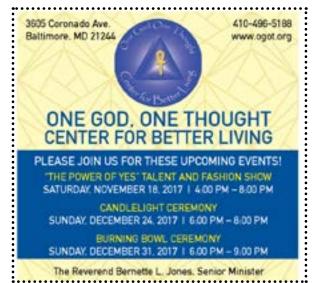
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#### **Commercial Blight in the Community**

continued from cover

but the Reisterstown location was one of the unfortunate ones. That 42,000-square-foot store closed last year, along with eight others, due to a lagging sales performance.

Retailer hh gregg, which offered home appliances, electronics and furniture from a shopping center with Home Depot on Baltimore National Pike (Route 40 West) in Catonsville, is looking for a tenant after closing earlier this year. Down the road at Pike Park Plaza also on Route 40, Sports Authority met its fate after the sporting goods chain filed bankruptcy.

Even more visible than those stores are the shuttered gas stations, most of them Gulf stations on corners of busy intersections, and stand-alone vacant businesses on busy roads such as Route 40, Security Boulevard, Liberty Road and Reisterstown Road, which create distress and eyesores for residents and commuters. Most of the businesses' signage has been removed, and some are in derelict and decaying condition, giving the buildings an even more ominous appearance.

A few examples: On Reisterstown Road in Reisterstown, 7-11 and Gulf gas stations are shuttered. In Owings Mills, Shoppers Food and Pharmacy, which closed in 2011, remains a looming empty space in the 11100 block. Frank's Nursery and Crafts, which after filing for bankruptcy in 2004, shuttered its 169 stores, including the location at Tollgate Road. Plans for a RiteAid, then an automotive lot have not yet materialized.

Not far from Foundry Row in Owings Mills, which was developed from the demolished Solo Cup property, are the vacant Fuchs and Lion Brothers facilities. Lion Brothers, at one time the largest manufacturer of embroidered emblems, moved from its six-acre Reisterstown Road site to more space in an Owings Mills corporate park. It had been vacant for about three years. Earlier this year, Rite-Aid acquired Fuchs, which stopped making seasonings at the 80,000-square-foot headquarters and relocated to a newly constructed site triple its original size in Carroll County this summer.

Krispy Kreme returned in September, a short distance from

the demolished shopping center that once housed Signs by Tomorrow, a restaurant and cell phone business. A CVS is being constructed there.

On Security Boulevard, the most visible blight is the old International House of Pancakes and Bennigan's restaurants that sit with boarded windows and doors and worn roofs on the property in front of Security Square Mall. Bennigan's has been closed for around eight years, and IHOP even longer (two pay phones are outside the front door). David S. Brown Enterprises announced that it is taking steps to acquire the Security Square Mall properties and turn the space into office, community and retail space and restaurants.

Between Woodlawn Drive and Gwynn Oak Road, not far from Social Security Administration is the gutted McDonalds, which was an eyesore before it caught fire in August. Another McDonalds franchise is vacant on Route 40 in Catonsville.

Also in Catonsville, cement barriers block the entrances to the Gulf gas station at Route 40 and Winters Lane, which stopped pumping gas months ago. Debris litters the unsightly property.

There are signs of progress and renewals, as a few buildings have gotten new leases and new life. Inside the beltway, the once vacant 15,000-square-foot Office Depot in the 1600 block of Reisterstown Road in Pikesville is now a Seasons, which is attracting shoppers looking for a variety of kosher food.

While maybe not the most desired solution, The Best Buy on Security Boulevard across from the mall will become a storage facility. Last year, the electronic retailer closed the underperforming Woodlawn store.

The Food Lion that shut its doors to shoppers at Kings Point Shopper Center in Randallstown is now a Tractor Supply Co. While community members lamented the fact that another grocer was interested in replacing Food Lion, they preferred the business to an empty space at that corner.

Next month, read more about the plans for vacant buildings and what our county government and elected officials have to say about the problem.







From top: On Reisterstown Road, Franks Nursery and Crafts in Owings Mills has been vacant since roughly 2004, Lion Brothers former headquarters site became vacant when it moved to larger space in a corporate park in Owings Mills, and the Shoppers in Owings Mills is also waiting to be leased.











Clockwise, from top: While the Security Boulevard area in Woodlawn has the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Social Security Administration, it also has several vacant buildings: a long-closed McDonalds that was burned in August, the former Bennigan's and IHOP restaurants at Security Square Mall, Wendy's at Whitehead Road, and an office building across from Social Security Administration. To the left is the shuttered Gulf gas station on Baltimore National Pike at Winters Lane in Catonsville.

### Know the Basics About Diabetes, the Risk Factors and What You Can Do About Prevention, Control

The statistics regarding diabetes are staggering. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 30 million people in the United States have diabetes, but one out of four of them don't know they have it. At least one in three will develop diabetes in their lifetime. And, the risk of death for adults with diabetes is 50 percent higher than people without.

There are three main types of diabetes: type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes (diabetes while pregnant, which can put the pregnancy and baby at risk and lead to type 2 diabetes later).

About 5 percent of people who have diabetes have type 1, where your body can't make insulin. Insulin is a hormone that acts like a key to let blood sugar into cells for use as energy, so you need to take it every day. Currently, no one knows how to prevent type 1 diabetes.

Most people with diabetes—9 out of 10—have type 2 diabetes, where your body doesn't use insulin well and is unable to keep blood sugar at normal levels. If you have any of the risk factors below, the CDC recommends that you ask your doctor if you should be tested for diabetes.

- Having prediabetes (blood sugar levels that are higher than normal but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes).
- Being overweight.
- Being 45 years or older.
- Having a parent, brother, or sister with type 2 diabetes.
- Being physically active less than three times a week.
- Ever having gestational diabetes or giving birth to a baby who weighed more than 9 pounds.

Race and ethnicity also matter:

African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and some Asian Americans are at higher risk for type 2 diabetes.

You can lower your risk for developing type 2 diabetes by losing a small amount of weight if you're overweight and by getting regular physical activity.

Regular physical activity means getting at least 150 minutes a week of brisk walking or a similar activity. That's just 30 minutes a day, five days a week.

Keep it fresh by shopping the outside aisles of the grocery store for fruits, veggies, lean meat, and dairy.

Ask your doctor about diabetes self-management education and support, and to recommend a diabetes educator.

—Centers for Disease Control



#### LEARN MORE

Baltimore County
Department of Health
is offering a diabetes
prevention program for
anyone identified as having
pre-diabetes and at risk for
diabetes on Thursdays 10:30
to 11:30 a.m. starting Nov.
30 in the library basement
conference room. Contact
Kim High at 410-887-0413 or
khigh@baltimorecountymd.
gov to enroll.



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- · Chicken Kabobs over Rice
- 1/2 BBQ Chicken & BBQ Ribs with Fries
- Fried Pork Loins with Mashed Potatoes
- Fried Catfish & Fries
- · Pan-fried Trout & Fries

\*Itema zubject to change



If your restaurant or eatery is looking for a way of reaching the northwest community, look no further than the Northwest Voice restaurant directory.

For more information on rates and available ad space, contact 410-508-1424 or advertising@nwvoicenews.com.

#### Library Will Come to You Virtually Anytime, Anywhere

Movies, ebooks, audiobooks and online courses are included in the library's online offerings

Did you know that Baltimore County Public Library offers a variety of resources that can be accessed from the comfort of home — for free — with a tablet or device? See how you can take advantage of the library's "Anytime, Anywhere" program. You will save lots of money in subscriber fees with a library card. Cardholders who don't have a device can borrow Chromebooks from their closest branch for seven days.

#### **Stream Movies with Kanopy**

Kanopy features more than 26,000 movies, documentaries, and indie and foreign films from hundreds of producers including The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, Kino Lorber and PBS, and thousands of independent filmmakers. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/2viyylV

#### **Read or Listen To Books**

Borrow e-books and audiobooks from the library anytime, anywhere, http://bit.ly/2uye769

#### Learn a New Language with **Rosetta Stone and Mango**

Learn a language online with two of the most well-known languagelearning services. Rosetta Stone offers courses in 30 languages (http://bit.ly/2w1q0j8) and Mango Languages in more than (http://bit. ly/2tGgp0f).

and "return" them electronically.

#### Learn a New Skill with Lynda.com

Take advantage of learning about business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals. The wide variety of courses helps with coding, social media marketing for businesses, design and much more. http://bit.ly/2d\$2EbR

#### **Read the New York Times Online**

Catch up on the news with free access to NYtimes.com. http://bit. ly/2tZYgJW

#### **Read Digital Magazines**

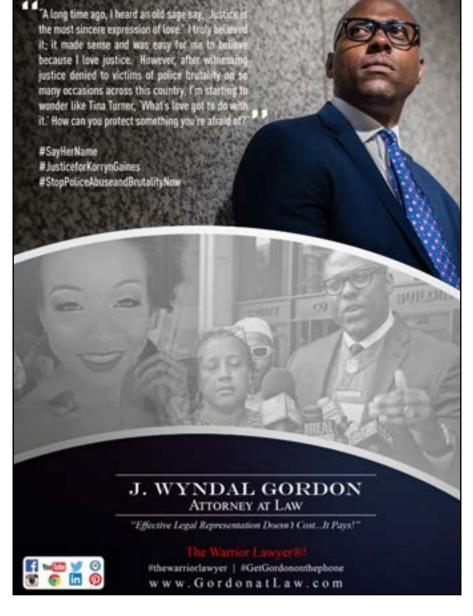
Read dozens of magazines, such as The Atlantic, The Economist, The Atlantic, Glamour, National Geographic, and O in digital format. And, you won't have to deal with due dates or late fees. http:// bit.ly/2eIz1Kq

#### **Put Kids in Learning Mode**

A Baltimore County Public Library card provides access to World Book Kids, World Book Student, Science Reference Center and more. Do they need homework help? Kids are able to live chat with tutors seven days-per-week, from 2 p.m. to 11:55 p.m. via Brainfuse. There is also a Testing & Education Reference Center (http://terc.nelnetsolutions. com/error/details/rcauth) for those studying for important tests.

Baltimore County Public Library has 19 branches and online resources that empower and engage individuals for a more inclusive and connected community, and provides opportunities to explore, learn, create and connect. Library cardholders may borrow laptops, DVDs, music, e-books and gain access to our research databases. Branches provide computer and Internet access, job search assistance and offer a multitude of daily learning proarams for adults and children.

For more information about branches and services, visit bcpl.info or follow @BCPLinfo on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.







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#### Randallstown Library Celebrates 50 Years

Randallstown Library opened to the public on Oct. 23, 1967, as the largest branch of Baltimore County's 16-branch system at the time. With a staff of 36 employees, the library served population of 100,000 from the Baltimore City line to Carroll County and from Pikesville to Woodlawn. The two-floor, 29,000-square-foot building cost \$483,000, and other \$137,000 for the land, furniture and equipment.

Since technology in the 1960s did not compare to what we have now, the library's collections featured 75,000 books, phonograph records, and 8-mm silent films for home projectors for checkout.

Last month, the library's service to the community culminated with a 50th anniversary event that included a community youth talent showcase, children's activities and a Jazz Night featuring entertainment by Definite Friends.

Branch manager Sarah Smith encourages residents who haven't visited in a while to stop by the branch. "Randallstown is such a vibrant community and we're thankful to be part of our customers' lives throughout the year," she said.

Now serving a population area of more than 60,000 and 12 schools, the renovated and redesigned Randallstown Branch attracts thousands with its enclosed children and teen areas, laptop bars, a meeting room, study spaces, and the CoLab, a Center of Excellence dedicated to creating, collaborating and learning through technology and maker equipment. Also popular are its Beyond the Bell afterschool program (during the school year), free meals during the summer, and after-school snacks year round.





Top, at the Randallstown Library's 50th anniversary event on Oct. 14, Branch Manager Sarah Smith shows off the notes of memories library customers posted as part of the celebration activities. Bottom, two library visitors take in a display of Afro American newspaper photographer Anderson Ward's work.



Meetings and Events
Mark your calendars for the following events and activities.

#### Pre-budget Hearing at **Northwest Area Education Advisory Council Meeting**

The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m. at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School on grading and reporting. (This date and location reflects a correction from the September issue.) The contact is Clifford Collins, cjacob123@aol.com.

#### Are You At Risk For Diabetes?

Take advantage of a diabetes prevention program the Baltimore County Department of Health diabetes is offering for anyone identified as pre-diabetes and at risk for diabetes on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 30, 2017 through Oct. 5, 2018 at Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd. in Randallstown. Contact Kim High at 410-887-0413 or khigh@ baltimorecountymd.gov to enroll.

#### **Enrollment for Health Coverage**

Libraries across Maryland host trained experts to help you enroll in health coverage on Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9. Visit the Catonsville Public Library, 1101 Frederick Rd., 21228, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for assistance. This event is sponsored by Maryland Health Connection, HealthCare Access Maryland, and the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators. Open enrollment for 2018 plans ends Dec. 15.

#### **School Board**

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Education will be held at the Greenwood Campus, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson on Tuesday. Nov. 7 and 21, and Dec. 5 and 21, at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.bcps.org/board.

#### **County Council**

Upcoming meetings of the County Council will be held 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 20, Dec. 4 and Dec. 20 (work sessions Nov. 14 and 28, Dec. 12) at the Historic Courthouse. 400 Washington Ave. in Towson. For more information, including on the agendas and instructions to watch the meeting online, visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/ countycouncil.

#### **Police Community Relations Council**

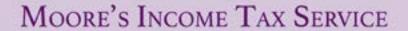
These councils consist of community leaders, interested citizens and representatives of the local business community, and meet to resolve issues of concern and provide an open forum.

**Woodlawn Precinct 2** meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Woodlawn Precinct, 6424 Windsor Mill Rd.,

21207. Contact Malinda Taylor at mrtaylor@verizon.net or 410-265-5926. The police precinct station number is 410-887-4714.

Franklin Precinct 3 meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Franklin Precinct, 606 Nicodemus Rd. in Reisterstown, 21136. Brad Sharpless is director and may be contacted at bysharpless@ hotmail.com. The precinct station number is 410-887-6985.

Pikesville Precinct 4 meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 7401 Park Heights Ave. in Pikesville, 21208. Jerry Dantoni may be reached at j.dantoni@verizon.net. The precinct contact number is 410-887-6775.



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#### **Don't Assume We Know**

Submit your notices for free community events that are taking place in the Northwest Voice coverage area to nwvoicenews.com/contact-us/news/. Send your information at least 60 days prior to the event. For paid advertising, contact advertising@nwvoicenews.com or 410-508-1424.



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#### Apply for a Crime Prevention, Youth Activity Grant

The Baltimore County Police Department is now accepting applications for its Community Crime Prevention and Youth Activity Grants Program for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019).

- Community Crime Prevention grants are available for county Citizens On Patrol groups and other programs aimed at reducing crime.
- Youth Activity grants are available for programs that provide ongoing, sustained efforts that focus on early intervention and long-term behavior modification of at-risk youth.
- Only non-profit groups, community organizations and individuals that operate or reside in Baltimore County are eligible to receive funding. An application packet that outlines program rules and requirements may be obtained by calling Sebastian Zito of the Police Department's Grants Management Team at 410-887-5637 or szito@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Completed applications must be received no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8.

#### **Owings Mills Gets Early Voting Center**

The Baltimore County Board of Elections approved the addition of two new early voting centers at its Oct. 26 meeting.

The locations are:

- County Campus Metro Centre at Owings Mills, third floor community meeting rooms, 10302 Grand Central Ave., Owings Mills, 21117
- Jacksonville Recreation Center at Sweet Air Park, gymnasium, 3605 B Sweet Air Rd. Jacksonville, 21131

This brings the total number of early voting centers in the county to 11. Other centers are located in the Randallstown Community Center,

Reisterstown Senior Center Hannah More and Woodlawn Community Center.

The 2018 gubernatorial primary election takes place on Tuesday, June 26, and the general election will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Early voting for the primary election is June 14 through June 18, and is Oct. 25 through Nov. 1 for the general election.

For a voter registration application, visit www.elections.state.md.us/voter\_registration/application.html

<b>Voting:</b> How Do	4		
JURISDICTION	NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS	NUMBER OF VOTING CENTERS	
Montgomery	646,928	11	
Prince George's	576,213	11	-
<b>Baltimore County</b>	549,870	11	\ VOT
Baltimore City	385,224	7	1.01
Anne Arundel	382,304	7	No.





#### Crime in Northwest Area Include Shootings, One Fatal

Read a roundup of Baltimore County Police reports on some of the incidences of crime in the area so that you are aware of crimes and the alleged suspects' methods of operation.

### Shooting at Randallstown lounge leaves one dead, one injured

One man is dead, and a second injured, in a shooting on Nov. 5 at the Slate Lounge in Randallstown.

Police reported that shots rang out during a fight involving a large group of people on the parking lot of the Slate Lounge just after 1 a.m. Two men were wounded, both suffering at least one gunshot wound. A 28-year-old man was transported to a local hospital for treatment and is expected to survive his injuries. The second man, Keonta Lyons, 34, of Baltimore, 21229, died of his injuries.

The Baltimore County Police Homicide Unit is continuing to investigate this shooting. Anyone with information regarding this incident, including possible suspects, is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020.

#### Domestic Incident in Owings Mills Escalates to Shooting

Baltimore County
Police report that a
violent domestic
dispute at Hair
Cuttery at Foundry
Row in Owings Mills
on Oct. 29 led to the
arrest of a 42-yearold woman's boyfriend.



Steven Scott, 36, of Baltimore, was denied bail and is being held at the Baltimore County Detention Center. He is charged with attempted first-and second-degree murder and assault.

The incident began as a verbal dispute between Scott and his girlfriend, a customer at the Hair Cuttery. As the argument escalated, Scott retrieved a handgun from his vehicle and returned to the store where he pointed the gun at an

employee and chased after his girlfriend. As the girlfriend exited through a rear door, Scott fired several rounds in her direction. No one was injured during the shooting.

#### Shooting in Pikesville Leaves Man Injured

Police continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding a shooting in Windsor Mill on Oct. 15.

Witnesses described an unknown hooded subject who approached a crowd of people on the parking lot in front of The Greek Village sub shop in the Milford Mill Shopping Center at around 2 a.m. and began firing shots at the crowd. No one in the crowd was struck, but another adult male patron was unintentionally struck in the lower portion of his body. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment and is expected to survive his injuries. Detectives are

still investigating to determine the circumstances and motive leading up to this shooting.

The Violent Crimes Unit is investigating this incident. Anyone with information on this shooting or suspect is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020.

Anyone with information on the Pikesville and Randallstown cases can also submit a tip to Metro Crime Stoppers, an organization that is separate from the Baltimore County government and Police Department and offers rewards for information in connection with felony offenses. Anonymous tips can be sent to Metro Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-866-7LOCKUP, text message (text "MCS" plus your message to "CRIMES" (274637), or online at www.metrocrimestoppers.org.





Publisher's Column

#### Should Elected Officials on the Central Committee?

That's why it is important to have well-intentioned people on the Central Committee. People who will show up for the meetings—not just attend a couple a year when it is convenient—as well as people, who as the guidelines, say are willing to be "worker bees."

Local central committees can create their own bylaws. In Prince George's County, they used to allow this dual representation, but officials changed the bylaws to prohibit elected officials from running for a seat on the committee. This is something Baltimore County should look at.

We need more representation in our districts, not a consolidation of representation. One individual should not take up multiple elected seats.

After all, one of the functions of the central committee is to help the state and local officials get elected and to help the Democratic Party. If you're already in office, why would you hold a seat of a body designed to help you and your colleagues get elected? When elected officials run for these seats it may discourage other qualified people from running because they feel they can't compete.

In my view, the ideal candidate for Central Committee is someone who wants to be involved in the political process. This person may or may not have higher aspirations, but if you're interested may be a good place to start.

The Central Committee meets monthly, including during the legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. The issue of attendance has come up. Our legislators should be focused on the business of state government. And if they're not at the Central Committee meetings, I question how they effectively fulfill their Central Committee duties. If elected officials want to be a part and bring their experience and wisdom to the Central Committee, they can seek out qualified candidates, support them in their run, and mentor them. Other community leaders and members should do the same.

I've had conversations with people on the state and local level. Nobody seems to be able to make a good argument on why it is essential for an elected official to hold a central committee seat.

The way you make a community better is by bringing more new people into the process—people who are collaborative team players, and also independent thinkers. By elected officials running for two offices, they could be blocking fresh talent, ideas and commitments. More people need opportunities to be part of the process. Open the Central Committee tent and let people in.

What do you think? Share your opinion at nwvoicenews.com

#### Comcast Offers Low-Income Families Low-Cost Internet Service

To make sure your child is prepared to succeed in school and has the tools needed to complete homework, email teachers and stay connected, Comcast is offering Internet service to qualified families.

Your family may qualify for Internet Essentials, Comcast's low-cost Internet service.

Families eligible for the program include those with at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program. Once in the Internet Essentials program, participants receive fast, affordable Internet service for \$9.95 a month + tax, the option to purchase a computer for just \$150 and access to free digital literacy training.

Comcast is also offering an amnesty program for certain low-income families who could qualify for Internet Essentials, but have a past due balance.

Call 1-855-339-6124 or visit https://apply. internetessentials.com/ to see if you qualify and to apply.

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### County recognizes 'Hometown Heroes'

Three local residents and community leaders were among those Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz honored in a Neighborhood Heroes awards program. One person was selected from each of the eight councilmanic districts.

Award recipients, nominated by their neighbors and community partners, include: Eric Addison, a longtime resident of the Colonial Village neighborhood in Pikesville, who has mounted a one-man litter cleanup effort for the past 10 years; Kelly Carter, a Reisterstown resident and community volunteer who serves as executive director of the Liberty Road Business Association; and Jay Patel, the 20-year president of the Greater Oella Community Association, community volunteer and store owner. A 45-year resident of Catonsville, Patel also sits on the Committee for the Catonsville Fourth of July Parade.

"These folks are our unsung heroes, truly impressive and folks who unselfishly devote their time and energies and expertise because they simply want to give back and keep our communities strong," said Kamenetz.







County Executive Kevin Kamenetz is shown with county residents recognized for making significant contributions to the community. Hometown Hero Jay Patel and his wife are shown with Del. Pat Young; Eric Addison is pictured with District 2 Councilwoman Vicki Almond and Maureen Evans Arthurs, aide to Del. Shelly Hettleman; and Kelly Carter is shown with Councilman Julian Jones and Alonza Williams, chief of staff for Del. Adrienne Jones.



#### **NAACP Local Branch Recognizes 4 Honorees**

With the theme, "Steadfast and Immovable," the NAACP Baltimore County Branch honored four local residents at its biennial Freedom Fund Awards Banquet on Oct. 22 at Martin's West. Anthony Fugett, local president, presided.

Hundreds of guests, elected officials and community leaders turned out to celebrate the organization's work and the honorees.

Colonel Alexander Jones, the highest-ranking minority member in the Baltimore County Police Department, received the organization's Trailblazer Award. As chief of the operations bureau, he oversees 10 precincts, patrol operations and support operations. Jones has been involved in many local and national forums, including the Police Executive Research Forum on "Strenthening Police and Community Relationships."

The Rev. Charles Sembly, pastor of Union Bethel AME Church in Randallstown for the past 33 years, received the Baltimore County Community Service Award. Over



The NAACP county branch saluted local leaders for their commitment to the community. Shown are Del. Adrienne Jones, who accepted the award for Rev. Charles Sembly, Verletta White, Col. Alexander Jones, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, University of Baltimore professor Tiffaney Parkman, and NAACP Baltimore County Branch president Anthony Fugett.

the years, the church's ministries and outreach programs have grown to over 50 and are designed to help the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the community. Rev. Sembly is active in the 2nd District Episcopal District Washington Conference.

The NAACP also honored Verletta White, interim superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools, with the Excellence in Education Award. A former teacher, assistant principal, principal and mentor, White has pledged to strengthen literacy across the curriculum to

prepare every student for college and career success. A graduate of Woodlawn High School, she has risen through the leadership ranks, most recently serving as chief academic officer.

The Keeper of the Flame Award went to Tiffaney Parkman, a lecturer in the School of Health and Human Services at University of Baltimore. Since her first job working in a group home for adults diagnosed with serious mental health issues, Parkman has worked in the mental health field for more than a decade, including as a counselor in a prison. A graduate student instructor at the time of the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech, she supported her undergraduates as they dealt with the effects of the tragedy.

Also on the program was keynote speaker Rev. Marvin Tiller Jr., who shared why organizations such as the NAACP are needed in these divisive times, and the Milford Mill Academy Marine Corps Junior ROTC Color Guard.



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#### **CAMPING OUT?**

In what has become a ritual, people will wait for hours outside the day before a Chick-Fil-A opens because the first 100 adults in line will get a free chicken sandwich each week for a year. In Reisterstown, at the newest restaurant at 12001 Reisterstown Road to open in the area, it looked like a camping scene as dozens waited to be one of the lucky giveaway recipients.



#### **MAKING MEALS**

Photos: George White, Kenny Brown Community members, church congregation members and organizations participated in a Meals of Hope project on Oct. 14 at Milford Mill Academy. The volunteers packed food to serve families in need.

#### Welcome Our New Neighbors

Welcome our new neighbor is a list of some residential sales in the coverage area of the Northwest Voice newspaper from the previous month. This will be a feature every monthly issue. This list is from the MRIS and is provided courtesy of Tammy Moore, Broker of Rollins & Associates Real Estate, 201 Milford Mill Rd., Pikesville. The list includes address, style, bedrooms, bathrooms, list price and closing price.



ADDRESS	STYLE	BEDROOM	BATH	LISTED	CLOSE SALE		
WOODLAWN, 21207							
3413 Yataruba Dr	Split Level	3	2	\$235,000	\$235,000		
6705 Alter St	Rancher	4	2	\$199,900	\$199,000		
5002 Norwood Ave	Traditional	7	3	\$279,000	\$265,000		
2156 Lorraine Ave	Cape Cod	4	2 1/2	\$222,000	\$230,000		
5820 Royal Oak Ave	Colonial	4	2	\$220,000	\$230,000		
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244							
8420 Maymeadow Ct	Split Level	4	3	\$275,000	\$265,000		
3310 Blazing Start Cir	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$449,900	\$479,167		
3644 Langrehr Rd	Cape Cod	4	2	\$206,000	\$206,000		
8616 Windsor Mill Rd	Traditional	5	3 ½	\$350,000	\$350,000		
3229 Southgreen Rd	Rancher	4	2 1/2	\$269,900	\$263,000		
CATONSVILLE, 21228							
1514 Touchard Dr	Colonial	4	2 1/2	\$530,818	\$530,818		
114 Glenrae Dr	Rancher	4	2	\$299,900	\$275,000		
15 Old Granary Ct	Colonial	3	3 1/2	\$429,900	\$420,000		
713 Hidden Bluff Cir	Cape Cod	4	3 ½	\$474,900	\$450,000		
38 Delrey Ave	Split Level	3	1 ½	\$434,569	\$332,000		
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133							
6 Ensenada Ct	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$190,000	\$180,000		
3908 Susanna Rd	Rancher	4	2 1/2	\$215,000	\$210,000		
4325 Breeders Cup Cir	Colonial	4	2 1/2	\$242,000	\$242,000		
3929 Nemo Rd	Split Level	3	2 ½	\$299,900	\$299,900		
8606 Winands Rd	Cape Cod	4	3	\$250,000	\$245,000		
PIKESVILLE, 21208							
101 Mt Wilson Ln	Colonial	4	2	\$469,900	\$450,000		
8321 Burning Wood Rd	Contemporary	5	3	\$599,900	\$575,000		
4 Clifton Ct	Transitional	3	3 ½	\$599,900	\$575,000		
3418 Manor Hill Rd	Rancher	3	3	\$379,000	\$350,000		
8213 Streamwood Dr	Split Level	4	2 ½	\$265,000	\$265,000		
OWINGS MILLS, 21117							
10 Aynesley Ct	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$275,400	\$245,000		
9675 Julia Ln #232E/236	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$391,990	\$386,497		
4320 Vintage Ivy Ln	Contemporary	3	3 ½	\$250,00	\$247,500		
4302 Sihler Oaks Trl	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$424,900	\$420,000		
12008 Hunting Tweed Dr	Rancher	5	4	\$409,900	\$394,000		
REISTERSTOWN, 21136							
6500 Deer Park Rd	Rancher	4	3	\$485,000	\$470,000		
215 Bentley Hill Dr	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$269,900	\$262,000		
13025 Heil Manor Dr	Rancher	6	4 1/2	\$650,000	\$608,000		
13 Mamopa Ct	Rancher	3	2 ½	\$319,900	\$311,000		
113 Chestnut Hill Ln	Split Foyer	3	2	\$274,900	\$275,000		



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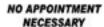








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