



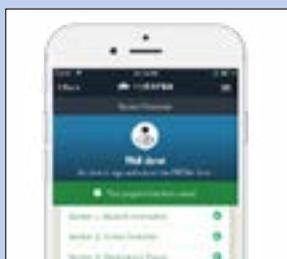
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Your voice in the community

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2019

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



PHOTO: KENNY BROWN

Members of the Baltimore County Board of Education were among the county elected officials sworn in at the inauguration ceremony held Dec. 3 at Towson University's SECU Arena. The board held its first meeting the following week and unanimously selected Kathleen Causey as chair and Julie Henn as vice chair, two incumbents who have been vocal in their opposition to make Verletta White the permanent superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools.

How Will New School Board Tackle Superintendent Search, Other Issues?

Search for superintendent and school construction are among the top issues the Board of Education must address with eight out of 12 new members.

PART I

Now that a new Board of Education has been sworn in and is under leadership that has not been supportive of appointing Verletta White to a permanent superintendent role, inquiring minds what to know what impact the board's actions will have on the direction of Maryland's third largest school system.

As a result of legislation that took effect last year, voters elected seven board members to represent each of the councilmanic districts, and Gov. Larry Hogan appointed four

members from nine names submitted by the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission. Aaron Plymouth, a community leader in the northwest area, chaired the commission.

Together, with the student representative, the hybrid school board will work to set policy, approve a more than \$1.6 billion-dollar budget and manage the 174 school facilities in a system of 113,000 students—roughly two-thirds of them non-White and 40 percent African American—27,000 teachers and staff, and a

superintendent that led the system in an interim capacity for more than 18 months because the state twice blocked the board's majority decision to make her permanent.

Now, with a newly elected school board chair and vice chair, a national search for a permanent superintendent will take center stage. Discussions about the Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow (STAT) technology program have resurfaced, and complaints about overcrowded schools, downe, Dulaney and Towson High are back

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From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

The Purpose and Politics of the Baltimore County Board of Education

I was fortunate enough to attend Baltimore County's inaugural ceremonies to observe some of our elected officials sworn into office. Among these officials were members of the Board of Education. That was unique for two reasons: The school board now includes members elected by you, the citizens of Baltimore County, and school board members were, for the first time in history, sworn in on the big stage. Originally, they were to be sworn in before the start of their first meeting on Dec. 4 in the Greenwood building. I'm glad they got their due.

Now, it's time to get down to business. Like a blended family, the board will go through growing pains getting to know each other, understand complex issues and make decisions that matter. It is most essential that the school board sets politics aside and works with each other, the superintendent and their communities to improve school achievement. One of the most important tasks ahead is to appoint the right superintendent to continue the important work that needs to be done.

Before each meeting, the board holds a closed session to discuss confidential matters, such as personnel and legal issues. It was apparent that before the first meeting on Dec. 11, the board took the opportunity to discuss and select who would be the chair and vice chair. And guess who they are? Kathleen Causey and Julie Henn, two holdovers who were first appointed by Governor Hogan then re-elected in November.

The vote to select Causey and Henn as chair and vice chair was not unanimous behind closed doors. But when board members took the official vote in the public session, they projected a unanimous and united front. So much for transparency! This move was about looking unified to the public, and I encourage our leaders to make sure the community is clear on where they stand with the issues and their comments and votes.

These two, as we say, have history. They were among a handful who were adamant that the previous board should conduct a national search for a superintendent (they lost that motion); that Verletta White should not be the permanent superintendent (both voted against her selection, twice); and that the state was within its power to overturn the school board's 8-4 decision to name White the superintendent.

After Causey took her seat as chair, with Henn beside her, the optics were unsettling. To their credit, each appear to be well prepared at meetings and have asked staff and presenters good questions. However, now we have two of the most vocal and critical people against the White administration

leading the new board.

In her remarks, Causey welcomed the new board members and pledged to keep students and teachers first. She wasted no time appointing Henn to chair the board's ad hoc search committee for a superintendent.

So why did Causey name Henn chair of the ad hoc search committee? It's like a prosecutor taking over the role of judge in the same case. If this is to be a fair board with a fresh start, someone who has not taken a stand in the superintendent battle would have been a sensible choice to lead the ad hoc search committee. With so many new members, it should not have been difficult.

We have to understand what it means to us. The board is going to determine decisions and programs that will affect our leadership, parents, schools and our students. We have to stay on top of their debates, decisions and actions.

Education is the most important investment society makes to a community. It's the surest path to the American dream for people of every race and background. Successful graduates contribute to society. Unsuccessful students carry a cost to society.

If you look at the state's new star ratings for schools, most of Baltimore County's high schools, middle and elementary schools earned three and four stars. Five schools in the northwest and southwest received just two stars (*See page 7 for the list.*) These are our schools and our children. Think about how we can work with the Northwest Education Advisory Council, chaired by Clifford Collins, and Southwest Education Advisory Council to be informed and help our schools. We know that school board members should represent all children, and realistically and practically that each comes with their own priorities and their own biases. They are no different than most of us.

But if we allow politics to consume our board—as it did when the state withheld funding from the county for air conditioning when the Governor and our former county executive, Kevin Kamenetz, got into a war of words, and when state stepped in to block the school board choice as superintendent—we will pay the price. Even before that, when former superintendent Dallas Dance began making decisions that parents did not like about the Hereford Zone, the attacks began.

If education is as important to you as you say it is, I urge you to put in the time to pledge your support, voice your concerns and offer solutions. If you don't care about your community why should anyone else? There may be times when you must

respectfully call out a troubling issue. At their meetings, the board will randomly select up to 10 people to speak for three minutes on an issue. If you sign up to speak before the board, your remarks should be factual, succinct and well researched. You should have a request or call to action for the board. (Don't just complain, offer a reasonable recommendation.)

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Northwest
VOICE
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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Giant to Open Grocery at Mill Station

After closing its supermarket at the Milford Mill location earlier this year, Giant Food will occupy 66,450 square feet at Mill Station, the new development on the site of the former Owings Mills Mall.

Kimco Realty recently made the announcement that the Landover-based regional grocery chain will join previously announced anchors Lowe's Home Improvement, Marshalls, HomeSense, Burlington, Five Below, AMC Theatre and Costco, which opened in October. With the addition of Giant, the 621,000-square-foot open-air shopping and lifestyle destination is approximately 90 percent leased.

"The tenant lineup taking shape at Mill Station has all the necessary elements for a successful open-air shopping destination: everyday goods and services, popular treasure-hunt

and bargain retailers, and exciting entertainment and dining options," said David Jamieson, Kimco's chief operating officer.

Kimco also unveiled final architectural renderings for Mill Station's Courtyard, where 45,000 square feet of retail will surround a four-season landscaped lawn and outdoor gathering space. Tenants will be able to walk to the courtyard along Mill Station's new pedestrian systems, creating a campus-like setting.

Upon completion, Mill Station will house up to 30 tenants, with a mix of national, regional and local retailers and restaurants arranged to incorporate green space and a network of walkways connecting to existing office and retail.

Retailer openings will continue through 2019.

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COUNTY SERVICES

Call 410-887-TIME: Emergency Overnight, Freezing Weather Shelters Available

If you or you know of someone who may need shelter services, Baltimore County has four facilities that provide emergency shelter for people who would otherwise be homeless.

- Eastside Family Shelters, which is for women with children and single men, and is located in Rosedale
- Hannah More Shelter, for women and children, which is located in Reisterstown
- Night of Peace Overnight Shelter, for families with children and is located in Randallstown
- Westside Men's Shelter, for men only, and is located at 309 Redwood Circle in Catonsville.

From Nov. 1 to April 15, the county also has temporary freezing weather shelters at the Eastern Family Resource Center and the Westside Men's Shelter, which are activated on nights when temperatures reach 32 degrees or lower and there are no available beds in the other homeless shelters.

People who are seeking access to these shelters must be referred to these facilities by a qualified placement agency. Call 410-887-TIME (8463) if you are seeking shelter for yourself or to assist someone else.

Additionally, the county has several "warming centers" available where you can get relief from the cold. If you are looking for access to water and bathrooms, you can stop by one of the 19 public library branches that are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The county's 20 senior centers are also open to the general public, regardless of age, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents can watch TV, read a book or sit and relax. For information on the senior centers, call 410-887-2594.

Other places you can go to warm up include community centers, churches and malls.



People, such as a man who sleeps on a bus stop bench on Reisterstown Road in Pikesville, can be helped by emergency shelters.



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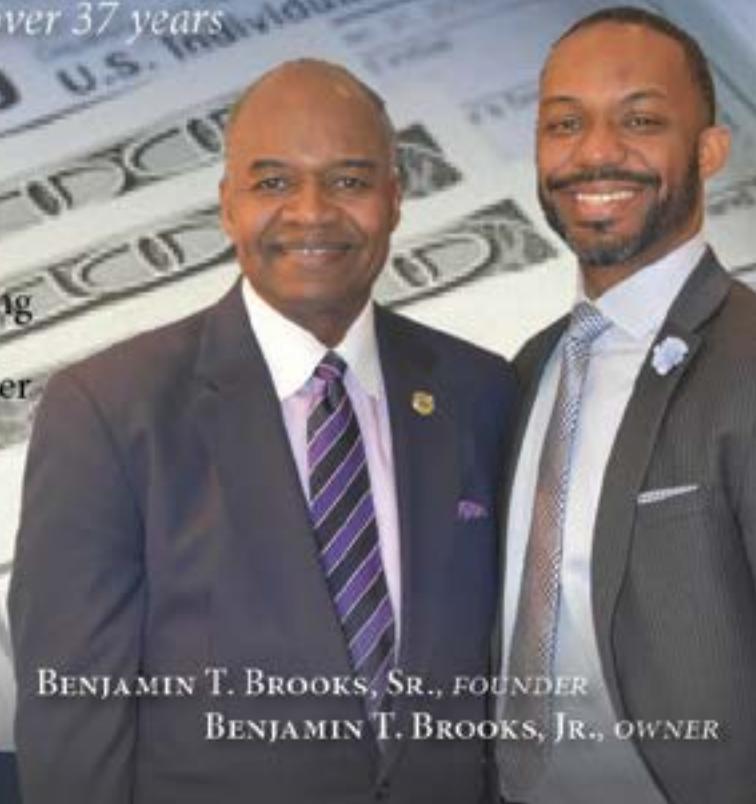
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State Moves to Star Rating to Present Public School Performance

60 percent of Baltimore County Public Schools Earn Top Ratings

The Maryland State Department of Education has released its latest version of a school performance and accountability plan, which now assigns each school between one and five stars based on various indicators that are to help measure how schools are doing.

The 2018-19 Maryland Report Card, released on Dec. 4, compiles and reports data, such as student success and growth on state tests in English Language Arts and mathematics, and factors in students' progress in achieving English language proficiency, as well as chronic absenteeism, high school graduate rates, and access to a "well-rounded" curriculum. MSDE referred to the report card as "the most complete picture of school and school performance in state history."

Karen Salmon, state superintendent of schools, said the report card is a major improvement and has a goal to improve every school.

"The new Maryland Report Card will help parents, educators, policymakers, and the general public gain a better understanding about how

each school is doing based on our accountability measures," Salmon said in a statement.

Schools receive points based on their results of performance indicators, and are given an overall star rating. The summary tallies the school's total earned points percent and issues a rating from 1 to 5 stars; the Percentile Rank, which is how a school performed in comparison to other schools in the category; and the Total Earned Points Percent, which is the total number of points earned by the school across the measures, divided by the total possible points.

The new Maryland Report Card, is based on the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability plan. ESSA, which was signed into law in 2015, succeeded the No Child Left Behind Act in governing state school improvement plans.

ESSA prompted states to develop long term plans to improve schools through accountability and innovation. The Maryland State Board of Education plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in early 2018.

According to BCPS, 60 percent of its 160 schools earned 4 or 5 stars, and nearly 90 percent earned 3, 4 or 5 stars. Elementary schools did well, with 22 earning 5 stars, 44 earning 4 stars, and 28 earning 3 stars. (See page 7 for the star ratings.)

"While we are pleased that our school system, overall, compared favorably with others in the state," Interim Superintendent Verletta White said, "we are fully engaged in elevating the performance of all schools – through our budget process, staffing, curriculum development, support services, professional development, and community partnerships. We are working to ensure that all of our schools are high-performing schools in the eyes of their communities and according to the data."

Detailed report cards for all Maryland schools, including BCPS schools, are available on the state's Report Card website at mdreportcard.org.

continued on page 7

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2018 Star Ratings: How the Schools Fared

continued from page 6

Schools located in the Catonsville, Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown, Reisterstown, Windsor Mill and Woodlawn areas are grouped by the star rating they earned, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

5.0 ★★★★★

At least 75% of total points earned

- Fort Garrison Elementary
- Franklin Elementary
- George W. Carver Center for Arts & Technology Summit Park Elementary
- Westchester Elementary
- Western Tech

4.0 ★★★★★★

At least 60% and less than 75% of total points earned

- Bedford Elementary
- Catonsville Elementary
- Catonsville High
- Catonsville Middle
- Cedarmere Elementary
- Chadwick Elementary
- Chatsworth School
- Church Lane Elementary
- Technology Deer Park Elementary
- Edmondson Heights Elementary Hebbville Elementary
- Lyons Mill Elementary
- New Town Elementary
- Owings Mills Elementary
- Powhatan Elementary
- Randallstown Elementary
- Wellwood International Elementary Westowne Elementary
- Winand Elementary
- Woodbridge Elementary
- Woodholme Elementary
- Sudbrook Magnet Middle

3.0 ★★★★★★

At least 45% and less than 60%

- Dogwood Elementary
- Featherbed Lane Elementary
- Glyndon Elementary
- Hernwood Elementary
- Johnnycake Elementary
- Milbrook Elementary
- Reisterstown Elementary
- Scotts Branch Elementary
- Timber Grove Elementary
- Woodmoor Elementary
- Winfield Elementary
- Deer Park Middle Magnet School
- Pikesville Middle
- Windsor Mill Middle
- Woodlawn Middle
- Milford Mill Academy
- New Town High
- Patapsco High & Center for

2.0 ★★★★★★

At least 30% and less than 45% of total points earned

- Franklin Middle
- Northwest Academy of Health Sciences
- Southwest Academy
- Owings Mills High
- Woodlawn High

1.0 ★★★★★★

Less than 30% of total points earned

- Crossroads Center
- Extended Day Learning Program

Source: Maryland Report Card, Maryland State Department of Education.

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12 Simple Ways to Stay Healthy in 2019

The Centers for Disease Control offers these tried and true suggestions to keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

1. Wash hands often to help prevent the spread of germs. It's flu season. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: light, warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves, and waterproof boots.
3. Manage stress. Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out, overwhelmed, and out of control. Some of the best ways to manage stress are to find support, connect socially, and get plenty of sleep.
4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.
5. Be smoke-free. Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke. Smokers have greater health risks because of their tobacco use, but nonsmokers also are at risk when exposed to tobacco smoke.
6. Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your children in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to their height, weight, and age. Buckle up every time, no matter how short the trip and encourage passengers to do the same.
7. Get exams and screenings. Ask your health care provider what exams you need and when to get them. Update your personal and family history.
8. Get your vaccinations to help prevent diseases and save lives. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each year.
9. Monitor children. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, and other objects out of children's reach. Protect them from drowning, burns, falls, and other potential accidents.
10. Practice fire safety. Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so don't leave fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves, or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan and practice it regularly.
11. Prepare food safely. Remember these simple steps: Wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate foods promptly.
12. Eat healthy, stay active. Eat fruits and vegetables, which pack nutrients and help lower the risk for certain diseases. Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt, and sugar. Also, be active for at least 2½ hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

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School Board Moves to Start Superintendent Search

Continued from page 1

on the table.

Board members elected Kathleen Causey and Julie Henn, previously appointed by the governor, and elected in November, after a closed-door session before the new board's first meeting on Dec. 11.

In her prepared remarks, Causey stated, "My role as chair will be one of facilitating and coordinating the efforts of each member of the board as we collectively strive to fulfill our legal and ethical responsibility to each child in this system."

Causey, a former Hereford High booster, then announced that she had appointed Henn as vice chair of an ad hoc search committee for a permanent superintendent.

The committee's role will be to research and bring to the board recommendations about the process, Causey explained in her remarks, including the selection of a professional search organization "to hire the absolute best leader." She added that the full board will be involved in "all steps along the way," and that there will be more announcements about the oversight of the school system.

Members of the school board that served until December, debated and grappled with myriad issues such as the future of Verletta White, ethics,

the effectiveness of technology initiative called Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow (STAT), school discipline and safety, a bus transportation, overcrowding and school construction. The majority supported White as superintendent.

However, Causey, Henn, Roger Hayden and former board member Ann Miller had voted not to make White the permanent superintendent and had pushed for the board to initiate a national search for the position. The motions did

not pass.

Henn helped lead the vehement opposition to White's permanent appointment. On the day after the board vote last April that approved White as superintendent, Henn wrote on her Facebook page, "Concerned about the superintendent appointment?" and she urged readers to call and write state superintendent Karen Salmon at her state email and school board email. Salmon overruled the county board.



Attendees await the start of the Board of Education meeting in December.

Photo: Kenny Brown

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Meet the School Board Members



Kathleen Causey
Elected District 3
Chair
kcausey@bcps.org



Julie Henn
Elected District 5
Vice Chair
jhenn@bcps.org



Lisa Mack
Elected District 1
lmack@bcps.org

The 12-member Board of Education includes seven elected members and four members appointed by the Governor. They will serve four-term terms. Student leaders select a student representative who serves for one year.

Kathleen Causey was appointed to the board in 2015 and elected in November to represent District 3. She is owner and real estate project manager for Corbett Overlook 2 LLC. She has been involved with Hereford High School's sports boosters and PTSA.

Julie Henn, who has worked in education technology for more than 20 years, is chief information officer and director of technology for Quality Matters. She is a former chair of the Northeast Education Advisory Council. A resident of Perry Hall, she represents District 5.

Lisa Mack is a retired director for Verizon, and was an adjunct instructor at Community College of Baltimore County. She represents District 1.

Cheryl Pasteur, who has more than 45 years education experience, is a former Baltimore City and Baltimore County middle and high school English teacher and principal, and FBI agent. She retired as principal of Randallstown High School. Pasteur represents District 2.

Makeda Scott, an Owings Mills resident, represents District 4. She served as a PTA president. Professionally, her career has involved public relations, public affairs and communications. She is a former communications director for John Sarbanes.

Lily Rowe, elected to represent District 6, is a part-time travel agent. She served three years on the Central Education Advisory Council and serves

as president of the Greater Hillendale Community Association.

Rod McMillion has been a physical education teacher in Baltimore County for 35 years, and served as Chesapeake High School athletic director. He retired upon his election. A resident of Essex, he represents District 7.

The at-large appointed members of the board are Roger Hayden, Moalie Jose, Russell Keuhn and John Offerman.

Moalie Jose is an engineer associated with Hazen & Sawyer in Baltimore. She has over 18 years of experience in environmental program management for public utilities in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Russell Kuehn has nearly 20 years of experience in financial and information systems management for the federal government. Currently, he works as a digital services specialist at the Social Security Administration.

John Offerman served 37 years as an educator in the Baltimore County Public Schools. The majority of his career was spent at Towson High School where he taught mathematics.

Roger Hayden has served on the school board since 2017. His career has spanned management in finance, operations, facilities and transportation. He is a former Baltimore County Executive and currently the president of Hayden Consulting Group.

Haleemat Adekoya, a senior at Milford Mill Academy, is the president for the school's Class of 2019 and a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Society, Principal's Advisory Board, and other groups, and volunteers with Higher Achievement Baltimore and other organizations.



Cheryl Pasteur
Elected District 2
cpasteur@bcps.org



Makeda Scott
Elected District 4
mscott@bcps.org



Lily Rowe
Elected District 6
lrowe@bcps.org



Rodney McMillion
Elected District 7
rmcmillion@bcps.org



Roger Hayden
Appointed by Governor
Member at Large
rhayden@bcps.org



Moalie Jose
Appointed by Governor
Member at Large
mjose@bcps.org



Russell Kuehn
Appointed by Governor
Member at Large
rkuehn@bcps.org



John Offerman
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Haleemat Adekoya
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Baltimore County Leaders Take Office

At the Baltimore County inauguration, held Dec. 3 at Towson University's SECU Arena, Court of the Clerk Julie Ensor administered the oath of office to several elected officials in the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Among those sworn in were Johnny Olszewski as county executive, members of the County Council including Julian Jones, Izzy Patoka and Tom Quirk, and members of the Board of Education.

In his remarks, Olszewski shared that his administration will focus on education, including expanding students' access to community college and pre-kindergarten and rebuilding aging schools, as well as economic stability and government transparency.

A former public school teacher, he said, "My years in the classroom will always drive my decisions. In everything we do, we will ask, "What is best for our families? It is time to invest more — and more thoughtfully — in our people and our infrastructure."

Shortly after his election, Olszewski appointed a transition team led by BGE CEO Calvin Butler and Rachel Monroe, president and CEO of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Olszewski assigned citizens and stakeholders to participate in transition workgroups. The workgroups, which

he says reflect his priorities for the next four years, are: education, job creation and economic development; public safety; health and human services; government reform and innovation; sustainability, transportation and infrastructure; diversity, inclusion and quality of life.

The transition workgroups are meeting through December and January, and are to post their meeting agenda, minutes and other documents online. Only one of the workgroups has posted minutes. On Jan. 31 the transition team will issue a

final report of recommendations to inform policy priorities.

Olszewski has also appointed several agency heads—many of them are carryovers from the Kevin Kamenetz/Don Mohler administration.

A national search is underway for a replacement for Police Chief Terrence Sheridan, who will retire by June. The public will be able to participate in the process through forums that will be scheduled in early 2019 and by submitting comments to policechiefsearch@baltimorecountymd.gov.



District 11 Delegates Jon Cardin and Dana Stein, District 10 Delegate and Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne Jones and other state legislators at the Baltimore County inauguration.

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At the inauguration ceremony on Dec. 3, Izzy Patoka, who replaces Vicki Almond as the County Council representative for District 2 (Owings Mills, Pikesville and Reisterstown), take the oath of office. District 1 Councilman Tom Quirk (seated) looks on.



Julian Jones was re-elected to the County Council as the District 4 representative, which includes Owings Mills, Randallstown and Woodlawn.



John Olszewski was sworn in as Baltimore County's 14th county executive, as his wife Marisa, daughter Daria and elected officials look on.

Photos: Kenny Brown



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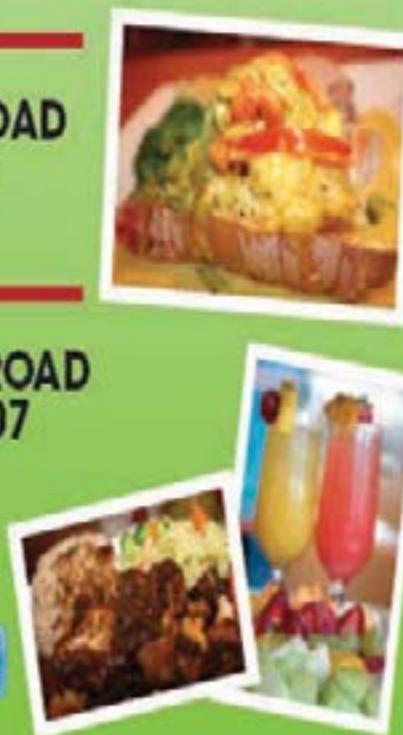




PHOTO: BCPS

Franklin High School won the state Class A football championship for the third time. They beat the Lingnore High School Lancers in the waning seconds.

Franklin High Wins Football Championship in Final Seconds

With Maryland's public high school sports fall season in the rear view mirror, congratulations go to two teams from schools in western Baltimore County for their successes in the state finals.

Franklin High School won its third state football championship for the Class 3A division, defeating Lingnore High School of Frederick in dramatic fashion at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis on Nov. 29.

With the game tied at 14 in the final seconds, junior Simon Spath

kicked a 29-yard field goal to give the Franklin Indians the exuberant 17-14 victory.

In volleyball, the Western School of Technology volleyball team secured a spot in the Class 1A state championship game held Nov. 20 at the University of Maryland College Park Ritchie Coliseum, and lost 3-0 to Clear Spring High School of Washington County. However, the Western Tech Wolverines earned the Maryland Public Schools Secondary Athletic Association's Lesley W. Cooke Sportsmanship Award.



The Western Tech High School volleyball team lost in the state finals but earned the Maryland Public Schools Secondary Athletic Association's Lesley W. Cooke Sportsmanship Award.

PHOTO: BCPS

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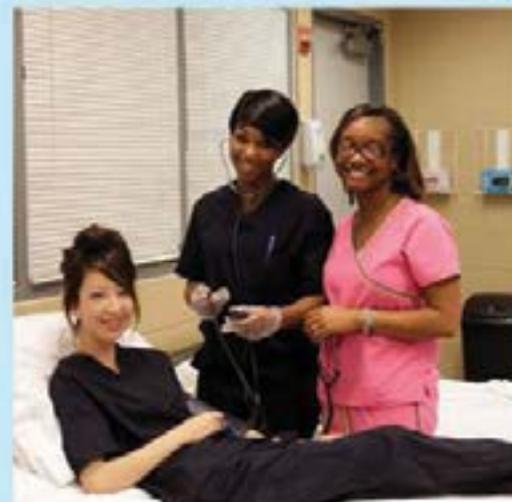
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Ellerbee, Randallstown H.S. Teacher, Earns National Education Award

Susan Ellerbee, a popular multi-media teacher at Randallstown High School, has been named the 2018 National University System - Sanford Teacher Award winner for Maryland. The honor comes with a \$10,000 prize.

The Sanford Teacher Award is an initiative of the National University System, a network of private, nonprofit pre-college and higher education institutions and home to one of the top 10 largest schools of education in the country. This is the first year for this award program, designed to honor one inspirational preK-12 teacher in each state and the District of Columbia.

“As a Mass Communications magnet program teacher, Mrs. Ellerbee deftly designs instruction that prepares students with limited previous knowledge or skills to quickly begin working with



Susan Ellerbee, a multimedia teacher, received the 2018 National University System - Sanford Teacher Award. She is shown with Randallstown High School principal Aubrey Brown.

technology and equipment to create captivating, memorable stories and features,” says principal Aubrey Brown. “Mrs. Ellerbee captures the imagination and interests of students, and then uses this momentum to push students to think critically about authorship, digital citizenship, and responsible journalism.”

Under Ellerbee’s direction, Randallstown High School students are producing television and radio shows, a school news magazine, and a school literary and arts magazine. Ellerbee and The Rams Horn, the news magazine she oversees, has won numerous awards and competitions.

Before teaching, Ellerbee, a Randallstown resident, was an Emmy-nominated producer of television news, documentaries, and public affairs programs.

“A long time ago, I heard an old sage say, ‘Justice is the most sincere expression of love.’ I truly believed it; it made sense and was easy for me to believe because I love justice. However, after witnessing justice denied to victims of police brutality on so many occasions across this country, I’m starting to wonder like Tina Turner, ‘What’s love got to do with it.’ How can you protect something you’re afraid of?”

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3 Elementary Schools to Get AVID Programs

Baltimore County Public Schools is expanding its schoolwide AVID College Readiness System to 10 additional elementary schools, beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Among the local schools, which will begin orientation activities this school year, are Chadwick Elementary, Deer Park Elementary and New Town Elementary schools.

BCPS offers AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, in 22 high schools and 19 middle schools. The high schools include Catonsville, Franklin, Milford Mill, New Town, Owings Mills, Pikesville, Randallstown, Western Tech and Woodlawn. The middle schools include Deer Park, Franklin, Northwest Academy of Health Sciences, Pikesville, Windsor Mill and Woodlawn.

New Town High School is the first and only high school in the state of Maryland to be a National AVID Demonstration School, as well as an AVID Site of Distinction.

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Now is the time that students looking to attend college next fall should be thinking about how they will pay for increasingly rising tuition costs.

For most students, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as FAFSA, is the first step in the financial aid process. You must apply for the FAFSA each year, and you shouldn't assume that you are not eligible.

By filing a FAFSA, you will be considered for State of Maryland financial aid, Federal financial aid and financial aid from the college or university. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) recommends that you check with all the colleges you are considering applying to for their financial aid requirements and deadlines. They may have supplemental forms you need to complete.

FAFSAs for the new academic year can be filed after Jan. 1 prior to the school year for which you are applying. For example, if you are applying for the school year that might begin in August 2019, you should apply after Jan. 1, 2019. You can get the form online at fafsa.gov, or you may call 1-800-433-3243 to obtain a paper copy.

To receive the fullest consideration for Maryland state grants, the federal processor must receive

the application no later than March 1. So, it is recommended that the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA be filed between Jan. 1 and March 1 each year.

Since the FAFSA asks for your family's financial information, you and your parents (if you are a dependent student) will complete the form. You will each need to use information from the most recent Federal income tax returns.

Filling out the tax return first will make completing the FAFSA easier, according to the MHEC. However, if you or your parents won't have the current year tax returns done before the March 1 deadline, use the previous year's returns to estimate your answers and correct them later.

Along with the tax return information, you may need bank statements, W-2 forms and any benefit statements from Social Security, Social Services or other agencies.

For other information, visit fafsa.gov. Also check with your Maryland senator and delegate about their deadlines for legislative scholarships, which are based on financial need.

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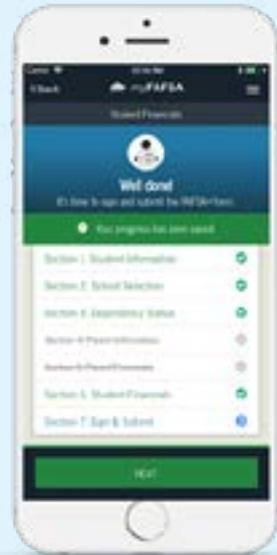


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Meetings and Events

Mark your calendars for the following events and activities.

NAACP Free College Essay Writing Clinic

The Randallstown Branch and the Youth Council Branch of the NAACP are hosting a free college essay writing clinic for high school and college students from 3 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 30, Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 at the Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd., Randallstown 21133. Gain the skills needed to write effective essays for scholarships and college admissions. Contact RandallstownNAACPYouth@gmail.com with questions. Space limited to 25 people for each session.

Pikesville Speaker Series

The Friends of the Pikesville Library's speaker series take place on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., 21208. On Jan. 16, Elaine Weiss, author of "The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote" discusses the battle over the 19th amendment. Contact

RuthGoldstein@comcast.net for the full schedule.

History Presentation on Baltimore County Churches

Local historian/author Louis S. Diggs will present on several historic African-American churches Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Diggs-Johnson Museum, 2426 Offutt Rd. in Granite, 21163. The churches that will be featured in this presentation are: St. Lukes United Methodist Church in Reisterstown (late 1800s), Campfield AME Church in Pikesville (1844), Grace AME Church in Catonsville (1868), Sharp Street Church in Chase (1860s) and Green Spring United Methodist Church in Chattolane in Green Spring Valley (1800s). Persons interested in attending must send an e-mail request to louisdiggs2@verizon.net or sruthstew@verizon.net, indicating the number of tickets desired and a request for a parking permit. Children are welcome.

School Board

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Education will be held at the Greenwood Campus, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson on Tuesday, Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 5 and 19, at 6:30 p.m. A public hearing on the operating budget will be held on Jan. 15 at 7 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, Jan. 7, Jan. 22, Feb. 4 and Feb. 19 at 6 p.m., the work sessions are on Tuesday, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, and Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. 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, which meet to resolve issues of concern and provide an open forum. The forums begin at 7 p.m. Information is subject to change, and meetings may not be held in some summer months, so call to verify the date, location and time.

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. On the even-numbered months, the meetings will be held at the Franklin Precinct, 606

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Nicodemus Rd. in Reisterstown, 21136. On the odd-numbered months, the location is at the Reisterstown Library, 21 Cockeys Mill Rd., 21136. Brad Sharpless is director and may be contacted at bvsharpless@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.

Got a free community event to promote? Please send at least 60 days in advance. Send it to the Northwest Voice at nwvoicenews.com/contact-us/news. We will promote church community events, but not church ministry activities on the calendar.



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Bring Your Ideas, Concerns to the Town Hall Meetings

If you have suggestions or concerns about county government, or just want to know what's planned for your community, mark your calendars.

Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski and County Council members are hosting a series of town hall forums across the county to discuss what's happening in the various communities.

The town hall for District 4, which includes Woodlawn, Randallstown and Owings Mills, will be held Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m. at Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resources Drive, Randallstown, 21133. Julian Jones Jr. is the

councilman and chair of the council.

The forum for District 2, which includes Owings Mills, Pikesville and Reisterstown, will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m. at Franklin High School, 12000 Reisterstown Rd., Reisterstown 21136. Izzy Patoka is the newly elected councilman.

The District 1 town hall, for constituents in Catonsville and Woodlawn, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Catonsville High School, 421 Bloomsbury Ave. in Catonsville, 21228. Tom Quirk is the county councilman.

NAACP FREE COLLEGE ESSAY WRITING CLINIC



The Randallstown Branch and Youth Council Branch of the NAACP will host a free College Essay Writing Clinic.

Location: Randallstown Library
 Time: 3 to 4 p.m.
 Dates: Jan. 6, Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Feb. 24

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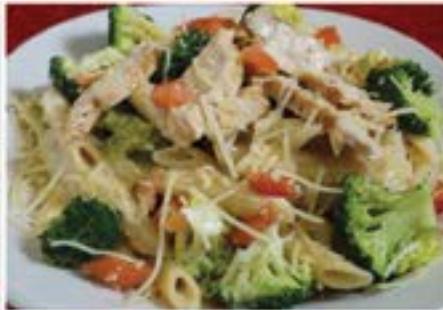


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Crime in Northwest Area Includes Shootings, Burglaries, Robberies

Read a roundup of Baltimore County Police reports on some of the incidences of crime taking place in the area. Be aware of crimes and the alleged suspects' methods of operation.

Reisterstown Man Charged With Attempted Murder

Police have charged Brandon Higgs, 24, with attempted first-degree murder and first degree assault for shooting a man on Bryanstone Road in Reisterstown on Dec. 20.



Detectives determined that Higgs became involved in a confrontation with workers at a neighboring home before returning to his residence on Bryanstone Road. The confrontation escalated into a physical fight and Higgs produced a handgun and shot one of the workers. Workers held him down until police arrived.

Higgs is being held without bail at the Baltimore County Detention Center pending a bail review hearing.

Hazmat Units Respond to Suspicious Package Calls at Synagogues

Baltimore County Fire Department hazardous materials units and emergency medical service personnel responded to three northwest area synagogues that received suspicious packages on Dec. 17.

Just after 2:30 p.m., emergency personnel responded to Beth El Congregation in Pikesville, where two adults working in the offices there opened an envelope and immediately complained that they felt ill.

Hazmat units used meters designed to detect dangerous gases and chemicals to determine if there was any danger to the building. Nothing significant was found and the individuals refused treatment.

A second incident involving a suspicious package was reported two hours later at Beth Isaac Adath Israel in Baltimore City. Again, hazmat crews found no dangerous substances or chemicals, and no injuries were reported.

The third incident involving a suspicious

package was reported at 4:25 p.m. at Har Sinai Congregation in Owings Mills. No injuries were reported, and hazmat crews found nothing unusual.

Pedestrian Critically Injured in Crash Involving Fire Department Medic

Pedestrian involved accidents continue in the northwest area. This time, a pedestrian attempted to cross Reisterstown Road and was struck by a Fire Department vehicle.

Dispatchers received a call on Dec. 12 after 8 p.m. for a crash involving the Garrison Fire Station's Medic 19 in the northbound lane of Reisterstown Road, just before the intersection with McDonogh Road. Medic 19 was not in emergency mode.

The EMT who was driving and a paramedic provided emergency medical care to the victim, who was taken to the Shock Trauma Center in critical condition.

The county's Police Crash Team initially has determined that the 33-year-old pedestrian was not using a crosswalk.

Passenger Dies in Fatal Crash Involving Stolen Car

Just before 4 p.m. on Dec. 10, a Baltimore County Police patrol officer observed a 2014 black Honda Accord in Owings Mills that had been reported stolen on Dec. 7. The officer and stolen vehicle were in the area of Highfalcon Road and Meriam Court.

When the officer stopped the Honda and started to get out of his car, Police say the driver accelerated and fled the area. The officer pursued the stolen car but ended the pursuit within a short period of time, according to Police. The driver of the stolen car continued to flee and struck an unoccupied Ford truck at Highfalcon and Candytuft Road, then continued into a tree.

One of the occupants, Taiwan Linton, 18, was pronounced dead at the scene. The juvenile driver and two other juvenile occupants were taken to local hospitals for treatment. Police are continuing their investigation.

Owings Mills Woman Pleads Guilty to \$4.3 Million Fraud Scheme

Days before she was scheduled to go to trial, Lauren Montillo, a resident of Owings Mills, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and to tax evasion.

According to the 47-year-old Montillo's plea agreement, from 2010 through 2015 she and her co-conspirators sought at least \$8.7 million in advance fees from foreign and United States victims, purporting to offer access to exotic bank financial instruments.

Victims paid more than \$4.3 million in advance fees into Hong Kong bank accounts or attorney escrow accounts and received nothing in return. For tax years 2012 through 2014, Montillo reported no income other than \$100, evading a substantial amount of income taxes.

Montillo and her co-conspirators created shell companies, with associated websites, email addresses and bank accounts, which they used to perpetrate the fraud.

To protect her identity, Montillo frequently used the name "Kati Conti" in the frauds and used a "burner phone" so that after the scam was concluded, she could go dark and stop communicating with the victims.

As part of her plea agreement, Montillo will be required to forfeit a financial judgment of nearly \$850,000 and to pay restitution in the full amount of the loss, which is at least \$4.3 million.

She faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for the wire fraud conspiracy and five years in prison for tax evasion, and will be sentenced in April.

Three defendants were charged in a related case in Texas. Two co-conspirators have since died.

Publisher's Column: School Board

continued from page 2

If you're not able to attend the meeting or would prefer not to appear before the board, contact them. Now too long ago, communicating directly with board members was difficult. You can now email board members. (*See page 11 for the names and email addresses.*) Ask to meet with your representatives, and remember there are four at-large members.

At the *Northwest Voice* political forum in October, each of the board members present pledged to solicit and consider the opinions of the community members, parents, teachers and other stakeholders. I encourage them to hold to that commitment.

To Lisa Mack, Cheryl Pasteur and Makeda Scott, we are counting on you to work together and to be proactive, thorough, thoughtful, innovative and fair in your decisions for our students, parents, teachers, staff and superintendent. Why not hold a town hall to present updates to the community and get their feedback and opinions? And because Districts 1, 2 and 4 are neighboring, I encourage each of you to schedule the town halls so that your colleagues from those districts can be present.

We need your leadership! Our students and community depend on it.

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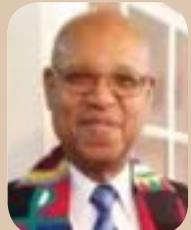
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9/30/18

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OBITUARY

Louis Harper, First Black Captain for Baltimore City Fire Department



Louis Harper was a founder of the Vulcan Blazers.

Louis Harper Jr., a Randallstown resident who was the Baltimore City Fire Department's first black captain, died Dec. 8. He was 89.

Harper began his career as a firefighter in 1956, and climbed the ranks to the position of pump operator, who drives the engine, to lieutenant. In 1970, Harper was promoted to captain. The following year, he served as acting battalion chief.

On Dec. 6, 1971, attorneys filed the lawsuit *Louis R. Harper Jr. et al. vs. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore* to address hiring and promotional inequities. Harper was the plaintiff and won the case.

"Many believed that because of his courage to be named the plaintiff in legal actions, he was not promoted to the next level," says his niece Rose Johnson. "The May 2, 1973, victory was better than any title or promotion. It cemented his legacy in the fire service profession nationwide. It changed the hiring and promotional process in both the fire and police departments and benefited countless numbers of minorities far beyond his time here on earth."

Harper also was one of the founders of the Vulcan Blazers, Inc. He retired from Baltimore City Fire Department in 1981.

Police Department Swears in Recruit Class

Thirty-eight members of the 149th recruit class took their oath of office on Dec. 19 at Notre Dame Preparatory School.

Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski Jr. and Police Chief Terrence Sheridan led the event. Clerk of the Court Julie Ensor administered the oath of office.

The recruits trained for 27 weeks and will spend the next two years in the field as they now apply the skills learned in the classroom.

The following is a list of the officers and their assignments.

Precinct 1-Wilkens

- Robert Agudelo
- Ian Arciaga
- Donald Cargile III
- Adam Ciepiela
- Jamal Joyner
- Nicole Madden
- Sean Paulsen
- Lucas Redman

- Michael Leatherman
- Josie Rein
- Courtney Torbeck

Precinct 3-Franklin

- Roxy Burkins

Precinct 4-Pikesville

- Janelle Daniel
- Christian Maisel
- Brian Schmidt

Precinct 2-Woodlawn

- Jordan Babischkin
- Justin Griffin

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 Rollins, 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					
6040 Central Avenue	Rancher	4 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$249,900	\$250,000
6859 Parsons Avenue	Split Level	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$259,000	\$265,000
4300 Miami Place	Traditional	5 Bedrm	4 Bath	\$254,999	\$254,000
1116 Gregory Avenue	Rancher	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$249,900	\$245,000
3235 Kelox Road	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$219,900	\$219,900
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244					
7245 Fairbrook Road	Rancher	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$219,944	\$219,000
7512 Stones Throw Court	Traditional	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$220,000	\$220,000
8605 Sweet Autumn Drive	Colonial	5 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$499,000	\$475,000
7802 Big Buck Drive	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$340,000	\$345,000
8011 Carlson Lane	Split Level	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$249,900	\$232,000
CATONSVILLE, 21228					
1321 Ridge Road	Colonial	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$312,000	\$312,000
1524 Woodcliff Avenue	Rancher	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$250,000	\$237,500
317 Holly Manor Road	Split Level	4 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$230,000	\$230,000
221 Ridgeway Road	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$450,000	\$445,000
5 Trotting Horse Court	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$619,000	\$596,000
322 Lee Drive	Rancher	2 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$329,000	\$320,000
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133					
9127 Sunset Ridge Road	Colonial	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$349,900	\$349,900
3707 Nauset Place	Cape Cod	4 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$239,900	\$239,900
3621 Blair Avenue	Rancher	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$256,000	\$256,000
4817 Old Court Road	Rancher	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$250,000	\$257,000
3925 Chaffey Road	Rancher	5 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$259,900	\$252,500
PIKESVILLE, 21208					
612 Cliveden Road	Rancher	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$279,900	\$285,000
8337 Streamwood Drive	Colonial	3 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$254,900	\$254,900
807 Smoke Tree Road	Split Level	5 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$349,500	\$340,000
51 Cedarwood Circle	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$275,000	\$269,000
8115 McDonogh Road	Rancher	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$379,900	\$375,000
OWINGS MILLS, 21117					
22 Romney Court	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$489,900	\$510,000
13 Strand Court	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$212,500	\$212,500
820 Academy Avenue	Colonial	5 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$398,900	\$398,900
306 Brushwood Drive	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$412,000	\$412,000
4410 Kentford Road	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$249,900	\$243,000
REISTERSTOWN, 21136					
306 Townleigh Road	Split Level	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$249,900	\$267,600
505 Sacred Heart Lane	Split Level	3 Bedrm	1 Bath	\$250,000	\$245,000
6 Cornfield Court	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$424,900	\$424,900
12905 Gent Road	Colonial	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$598,500	\$578,000
504 Gwynnwest Road	Rancher	3 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$248,900	\$219,308

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