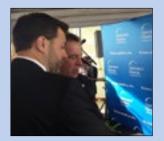
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MARCH 2016

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



The last store, J.C. Penney, will vacate Owings Mills Mall on April 8. Developers and county officials are reviewing proposals to renovate the property. The movie theatre and restaurant park will remain open.

Owings Mills Mall in the Final Countdown Once Affluent Shopping Destination to be Razed, then Resurrected

Purnell Parker was sifting through clothing racks in the men's department at J.C. Penney at Owings Mills Mall one recent Sunday, lamenting the April 8 closing of the store.

When the doors lock for good at J.C. Penney, the once-heralded mall will be no more, leaving Northwest Baltimore County without a major shopping destination.

"When Penney's closes, it will push us out to Columbia Mall or Westminster," says Parker, a resident of Owings Mills. He says the mall presented an opportunity to enjoy simple pleasures like eating ice cream with his wife and children.

Other shoppers say they will visit The Mall in Columbia, Towson Town Center or Arundel Mills when they want a mall experience, go to strip shopping centers, or shop online something many had been doing since the mall has been in decline. (Read comments from local residents on page 18.)

Help is on the way. A transformation of the mall property is expected to revive the shopping experience. In a statement, Kimco spokesman David Bujnick said, "To date, no formal redevelopment plans have been finalized nor has any construction timetable been formally approved. We continue to evaluate the various options for Owings Mills Mall including several open-

"THEY PLAN ON TEARING DOWN THE MALL AND DOING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO HUNT VALLEY." —JULIAN JONES, COUNCILMAN

air shopping center concepts." He added, "Businesses that are open and operating at the site include the AMC movie theater, JCPenney, The Greene Turtle, Olive Garden, Red Lobster and Red Robin." Julian Jones, Councilman for District 4, says he has been meeting with the mall's owners in recent weeks to review redevelopment proposals. "They plan on tearing down the mall and doing something similar to Hunt Valley," he told attendees as a Feb. 22 town meeting held at the Community College of Baltimore County's Owings Mills branch. He added that one proposal would bring "middle-box" stores, similar to Kohls, and invest some \$6 million in the movie theater and add a restaurant.

The mall's demise accelerated in September when owners closed off the interior. In November, Macy's ran its final clearance sales and removed its prominent red logo from the building. The J.C. Penney and Macy's buildings have since been purchased, paving the



From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown What Do You Do When Your Next-Door Neighbor Needs Help?

There are those of us who watch TV in the comfort of our homes listening the news about Baltimore City's homicide rate, rows of vacant houses and school problems. We shake our heads with disgust and pity, saying to ourselves "Boy, am I glad I don't live there!"

Certainly, Baltimore City has some real problems, and we look at the situation and say, "It's not my problem." After all, it is easy for us to believe that Baltimore City is Baltimore City and we live in the county. We have nice homes, and we believe our schools are better and that our neighborhoods are safer. Life is good. Or is it?

The truth is Baltimore County is changing ever so slowly. If you look deep into what is affecting these changes, some of them can be traced right back to the city. There is a direct correlation to the decrease in Baltimore City's population and the increase in the county's population.

In the 1990 United States Census, some 736,000 people lived in Baltimore City; Baltimore County had 692,000 residents. In 2000, the city had 651,000 residents and the county 754,000. In 2010, the city had 620,000 and the county had 805,000 residents. So, as you can see as the numbers flip this migration has been going on for some time.

If someone lives in a crime-ridden neighborhood with poor schools and food deserts, I can't blame them for wanting to find a better place to live. I get that. My parents moved my six siblings and me from West Baltimore to Woodlawn over 40 years ago. The neighborhood was in decline and gangs and drugs had crept into the area.

Now, I know a lot of you would like to believe that the migration is over. Early on, the people leaving the city for the county were the well-off and middle-class families seeking larger homes with green space and playgrounds and better schools. The second wave included more of the lower-middle class families. Remaining were a higher proportion of seniors who had a difficult time leaving the homes after raising their families in and the families who did not have the means to leave. Much of Baltimore City is either rich or poor, with a lot of the middle class gone.

The question for Baltimore County is how much of the city's population can we accommodate with insufficient resources before it becomes a strain on our budget and infrastructure? Don't get me wrong. I am not Donald Trump pledging to put a wall around the county. I understand that most people just want to live, work and play in a comfortable, safe environment. History has shown us that people will not remain in a bad situation; they will eventually get fed up and move.

Just look at what's happening around the world. If the civil war and terrorist acts in Syria didn't exist, Germany and other countries would not be bursting at the seams to accommodate the refugees. If countries such as those in South America created a better environment for their people to thrive, people wouldn't be risking their lives to cross the border into the United States. Our heads are in the sand if we think that this immigration doesn't pose challenges for Texas, California and other states.

If we do what we can to improve the situation in Baltimore City, and the city gets its act together, I believe the residents would be more than happy to stay in their communities. It's a dangerous thing to smell smoke, know that your next-door neighbor's house is on fire and you do nothing to extinguish it. Eventually, without intervention the flames will spread to your house and maybe the entire neighborhood will burn.

However, if we keep turning our backs with an "it's not my problem" attitude, it won't be long before the city's problems become our problems.

HOW MUCH OF THE CITY'S POPULATION CAN WE ACCOMMODATE WITH INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES?

The responsibility lies with city leaders and policymakers. They raised their hands to make a difference; they are the ones who must be the voice for those whose voices are muted. Investing in buildings downtown is not the solution to the city's ills; the solution has to start with investing in communities and people with quality education, job opportunities and skills training.

Certainly, Baltimore County is not made up of all daisies and roses. And I am not asking you to neglect your own backyard. There are lots of things we can do to make a difference. Share your talents and ideas. Find organizations that are doing impactful work to improve city communities. Join them in their mission. If you don't have time, but have the money, please lend your financial support.

I believe our inaction will end up costing us more than you ever know. The United States gets involved in the matters of governments around the world to protect U.S. interests. We have to do the same. You can even help candidates who are running for office in the city. You may not have a vote, but you can affect change. The bottom line is: Just do something.

What do you think? Do you agree or disagree. Go to http://nwvoicenews.com/what-do-youdo-when-your-next-door-neighbor-needshelp/ to leave your comments.



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.

Publisher: Kenneth C. Brown, kennybrown@nwvoicenews.com Editor: J. Anderson, editor@nwvoicenews.com Creative Director: Lori Kirkpatrick Circulation Manager: George E. White Advertising: Kenneth C. Brown, advertising@nwvoicenews.com

P.O. Box 47266

Windsor Mill, MD 21244 Phone: 410-508-1424 Web: nwvoicenews.com Email: info@nwvoicenews.com

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Health Care Center Opens on Liberty Road

The longtime vacant brick building at the corner of Liberty and Old Court roads that had housed two banks—one of them the infamous Old Court Savings and Loan—has been renovated to provide convenient health care services to the community.

Northwest Hospital debuted Liberty Center, a new medical facility at 5105 Old Court Rd., as part of a multi-phase development plan to unify and revitalize its Randallstown campus. The 13,800-square-foot building will house medical offices and an urgent care center.

Dozens of local residents, business and community leaders, and elected officials attended an event on Feb. 26 to hear about the facility and take a tour of the space.

Brian White, president of Northwest Hospital and senior vice president of LifeBridge Health, called the building a "shining example of Northwest Hospital's ongoing redevelopment in Randallstown and our continued commitment to addressing the needs of the communities we serve."

LifeBridge Health, the parent company of Northwest Hospital, invested more than \$5 million to redevelop and expand the Liberty Center building, growing the available space from 8,000 to nearly 14,000 square feet to accommodate new medical offices.

ExpressCare, a LifeBridge Health partner, anchors the first floor with an urgent care center. It opened for business on Feb. 29 and will provide patient care seven days a week. The space will feature eight exam rooms, an on-site X-ray machine and laboratory for some basic tests. A pediatrician's office will occupy the second floor of the building; plans for the third floor are still in development.

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz praised the health system for contributions that extend beyond its medical mission. "As the corridor's largest employer, LifeBridge Health continues to make significant investments that contribute to the



County Councilwoman Vicki Almond and Kelly Carter, executive director of the Liberty Road Business Association, at the Liberty Center opening event.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

I am very pleased that the *Northwest Voice* is back in business and serving the community! Congratulations to Kenny Brown for being inspired to revive this respected publication which has served as an important source of news for the vibrant northwest corridors of Baltimore County and City and beyond. The Voice has a history of offering positive news stories, valuable insights and a unique perspective on local issues and events.

I applaud the publisher and advertisers for supporting local journalism. The Northwest Voice is a welcome vehicle to help keep people connected by reporting on a range of issues with a positive spirit. I wish the Northwest Voice success and look forward to many years of coverage of community events, local government and education news and stories that highlight the success of the families, neighborhoods, businesses, faith communities and people of the Northwest Baltimore County and City neighborhoods.

Very truly yours,

Kerin Kamenety

Kevin Kamenetz Baltimore County Executive

Inaugural Award Named for Local Historian

Louis Diggs, the authority on African-American history in Baltimore County, got a surprise on Feb. 18 when he attended an event at the Baltimore County Public Library in Owings Mills.

With community leaders and residents in attendance, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced that every year during Black History Month, the county would present the Louis S. Diggs Award to someone who has contributed to the African-American culture.

Recognizing Diggs' research, which has led him to publish 10 books, organize tours in the community, and manage the recently opened Diggs-Johnson Museum in Granite, Kamenetz stated, "No one has done more to preserve and promote African American history in Baltimore County than Mr. Louis Diggs. He added, "An award such as this is long overdue, and we in Baltimore County are so fortunate to have this notable expert on African-American history right here in our own community." After declaring the award named for Diggs, Kamenetz revealed the 2016 recipients – Audrey Simmons and Ray Banks, who together brought the Hubert V. Simmons Museum for Negro Leagues Baseball to fruition. Simmons is the widow of Hubert Simmons, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants in the 1950s, and Banks,

also a Negro Leaguer, was a longtime friend.

The free museum showcases exhibits, memorabilia and artifacts on three floors in the Owings Mills library, and is open during normal library hours.

Simmons and Diggs share a smile after the event, held Feb. 18 at the Baltimore County Public Library in Owings Mills.



County Executive Kevin Kamenetz prepares to present the first Louis S. Diggs Award to Audrey Simmons and Ray Banks for their work in bringing the Simmons Museum for Negro Leagues Baseball to fruition. The award is named for Baltimore County historian Louis Diggs (forefront).

For Councilman Julian Jones **'The Constituents Come First**'

At his February town meeting, Julian E. Jones Jr. looked comfortable in his role as Baltimore County Councilman for District 4, which covers Woodlawn, Owings Mills and Randallstown. A capacity-crowd of more than 100 community presidents, activists and other constituents packed a conference room at the Randallstown Community Center to get an explanation from guest speakers on the county's snow removal policy, find out about the future of Owings Mills Mall, and get updates on projects such as the Windsor Mill Road sidewalk construction. He scanned the room to recognize local leaders and when it was time for the first agenda item, he encouraged attendees to ask questions but not "tell a story or have a debate."

At his seventh town meeting since taking office in December 2014, it was typical Jones, taking charge while

keeping it light, and confidently preparing to take questions as part of his "stump the chump" session. When the meeting ended two hours later, a half dozen attendees lined up to say hello, ask a question and chat.

He is just the second representative of District 4, territory carved out of the northwest to give the predominately African-American territory a better opportunity for representation on the council. After losing to incumbent Kenneth Oliver in 2010 by less than 100 votes in a six-way race, Jones returned in 2014 to defeat the three-term councilman in a hard-fought election by more than 1,700 votes.

"I took this job to be able to do some good, to make [the community] a place we can be proud of," Jones says, who handles constituent concerns from offices in Randallstown and Towson. "It means a lot that [the constituents] trust me. I'm going to do my best for them." Admittedly, he finds it gratifying that one phone call can get things moving or resolve an issue. On the flip side, oftentimes he must manage a resident's expectations on what he can accomplish.

Though he says he generally tries to get buy-in, everyone is not always in support of his position. Residents attended a public hearing upset that a controversial planned "workforce housing" apartment complex was being built on the prospering Red Run Boulevard in Owings Mills.

Residents also took issue with Jones' first bill, 56-14. The bill offered developers additional options for the types of community benefits they can provide when constructing a planned unit development. Instead of just offering a capital improvement to their property, Jones day, that benefits "could be computers for schools or \$5,000 to a PTA that is struggling to make money selling candy."

The bill passed unanimously. But County Executive Kevin Kamenetz vetoed it and council members declined to override the veto—a major disappointment for Jones.

Since then, his focus has turned to Owings Mills Mall. He's been reviewing proposals with developers to transform the property, and working to expedite the construction process for Metro Centre for activities such as parking, signage and setbacks.

With developers having contributed generously to his campaign, Jones acknowledges that he must balance the needs of developers' business interests

continued on page 8



Councilman Julian Jones talks to constituents after his town meeting on Feb. 22 at the Randallstown Community Center.



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Events

Lecture Honorina Women The Women's HerStory scholarly lecture

series will be



to 3 p.m. at the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, 300 Oella Ave. in Catonsville. The theme is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government." Sharonne Bonardi, deputy comptroller for the State of Maryland, and Alyce Dixon, World War II veteran, who died in January at age 108, will be honored. Cynthia Neverdon-Morton, a history professor and author, will present. Students will portray African-American women in the military during World War II.

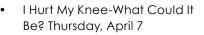
The Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, **Baltimore County Department** of Recreation and Parks and Links Patapsco River Chapter are sponsoring the event. For more information, contact 410-887-1081.

Family Fun Fest

Baltimore County is hosting a Family Fun Fest on Saturday, March 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resource Drive in Randallstown. The free event will feature games, story time and face painting. There will also be vendors, raffles and prizes, and wellness and family health resources. For more information, contact 410-887-3448 or women@ baltimorecountymd.gov. You can also visit baltimorecountymd.gov/ Agencies/women/familyfun2016. html.

Recreation and Parks Speaker Series

Recreation and Parks is hosting a speaker series that will address topics relevant to the health and wellness of children. The schedule for the presentations to be held 7 p.m. at Randallstown Community Center is as follows:



- Environmental Concerns for Athletes, Wednesday, May 4
- General Medical Conditions: Pearls for Parents and Coaches, Wednesday, June 8
- Preparing My Kids for the Hot Summer Programs, Tuesday, June 21
- Pediatric Athletics: They're Not Just Small Adults, Wednesday, Sept. 14
- Nutritional Concerns for Athletes, Tuesday, Oct. 4

Call 410-887-5889 to register. For more details about the presentations, visit http://www. resources.baltimorecountymd. gov/Documents/Recreation/ speakerseriesbrochure.pdf

Caregivers Conference

The annual caregivers miniconference will be held Saturday, April 16, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Edgemere Senior Center, 6600 North Point Rd. in Sparrows Point, 21219. The free event, which is designed for family caregivers of older adults, will include information on:

- Mindfulness-based stress reduction meditation demonstration
- Health care decision making and advance directives presentation
- Overview of helpful programs, benefits and services
- Resource tables with experts providing individualized guidance
- Continental breakfast and beverages
- Health screenings

For a copy of the agenda and event flier, contact the Caregivers Program at 410-887-4724. See resources, services and other information about how family caregivers can take care of themselves and their relatives, visit http://www.baltimorecountymd. gov/Agencies/aging/caregivers/

MTA Local and Express Bus Service Changing

If you use bus transportation in the northwest, it is likely that your commute between the city and county includes travel on Security Boulevard, Liberty Road or Reisterstown Road. Hopefully, your ride will be on time, more efficient and more pleasant. Maryland Department of

Transportation is rolling out a redesigned transit system called BaltimoreLink, which officials say will expand and improve service.

The goal is also to better integrate local and express routes with Amtrak, MARC train, commuter bus, light rail and Metro subway service, provide better customer service and cleaner buses. The first phase of implementation includes improvements to the MTA express bus service, which hits stops at Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) in Catonsville. Designed to connect commuters to work centers, new express routes are slated to become effective June 19.

The public will be able to provide comment on the express bus proposal at six scheduled hearings in the metropolitan area. Two of them will be held in the area, at the Woodlawn Library on March 23 and the Owings Mills Library on March 28 (See sidebar below)

The new suburb-to-suburb routes are:

• Route 106: Owings Mills Metro Station to White Marsh, with stops at Stevenson University and Towson



Logan Mitchell Sr., center, a Social Security Administration employee, was among the riders who attended workshops this fall to hear the State's plan for improved bus service. Logan would like to see the long-overdue extension to the rail system implemented but says, "The Baltimore Link initiative is a start for transit improvement."

- Route 107: Old Court Metro Station to Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, with stops at Security Square Mall, CCBC and UMBC. The current Route 99 will be eliminated because of duplication.
- Route 102: White Marsh to Towson, with stops at Towson Town Center and North Plaza Mall

Route 150, which goes from Columbia Town Center to downtown Baltimore, was modified to extend to Harbor East. Service on that route will be eliminated to Long Gate Park and along Edmondson Avenue between Ingleside Avenue and Rolling Road. Local Bus 77 will have additional trips between Old Court Metro and UMBC during peak hours.

The State's BusLink plan also features expanded light rail service and new commuter bus service between Baltimore and Aberdeen Proving Ground/Havre de Grace and between Annapolis/Kent Island and enhanced service to Columbia.

Gov. Larry Hogan announced the \$135 million plan in October,

weeks after declaring that he was eliminating state funding for the Red Line project. The Red Line would have connected a 14.1-mile light rail line from CMS in Woodlawn to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in East Baltimore.

The first round of meetings was held in November and December. Complaints ranged from discourteous and unhelpful drivers to buses that arrived late or not at all, forcing customers to walk to their destinations or arrive late to work.

MTA is still gathering feedback. You can also submit comments to HearingComments@mta.maryland. gov; mail comments to MTA, Office of Customer and Community Relations, 6 St. Paul St. Baltimore, Md. 21202; or visit **mta.maryland**. **gov/baltimorelink-hearings** to download and print a comment form.

To get the full details of the new routes and changes, visit http://mta. maryland.gov/baltimorelink.

Northwest Voice Calendar of Events

We'll publish your community meetings and free events in our online calendar at no charge. Submit the details to nwvoicenews. com or email **editor@ nwvoicenews.com**. Please submit at least 30 days prior to your event and allow 7 days for publication.

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Schedule of public hearings

Wednesday, March 23, 6 to 8 p.m. Woodlawn Library 1811 Woodlawn Drive, 21207 Monday, March 28, 6 to 8 p.m. Owings Mills Library, Room A 10302 Grand Central Ave., 21117

Hearings Scheduled for Zoning Requests

How an area is zoned can determine the character of a community.

Liberty Road, a busy corridor in Randallstown with an eclectic mix of supermarkets, homes and storefront offices, has a different look and feel than McDonough Road in Owings Mills, with its condos, horse farms and abundant green space. That is due in part to the zoning designation.

The reason the Foundry Row shopping center is being constructed on the former Solo Cup property, previously zoned for manufacturing, is because of a zoning change approved by the County Council to permit a large commercial enterprise (after much controversy and debate).

Most of these decisions on land use are made through two types of zoning processes. One is the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP), which takes place every four years. What is unique to the CZMP process is that any citizen may request a zoning change on any property in the county. According to the county's log of issues, more than 500 petitions for zoning changes are awaiting action; 119 of them are in councilmanic Districts 1, 2 and 4.

This month, the Baltimore County Planning Board will hold public hearings in each of the seven councilmanic districts. The hearings begin at 6 p.m., with public sign-in starting at 5 p.m.). The schedule includes:

- Council District 1 (Catonsville, Windsor Mill, Woodlawn), Thursday, March 3, Lansdowne High School, 3800 Hollins Ferry Rd., 21227
- Council District 2 (Owings Mills, Pikesville, Reisterstown), Tuesday, March 8, Sudbrook Middle School, 4300 Bedford Rd. in Pikesville, 21208
- Council District 4 (Owings Mills, Randallstown, Woodlawn), Thursday, March 15, New Town High, 4931 New Town Blvd. in Owings Mills, 21117

After the hearings, the Department of Planning staff will make their recommendations prior to public hearings the County Council will hold in June. The council will adopt the official zoning map in special session on Tuesday, Aug. 30, in their Historic Courthouse chambers at 400 Washington Ave. in Towson.

The other principal way a zoning classification can be changed is through cycle zoning. Only the property owner or contract purchaser is entitled to petition in the cycle process. This opportunity arises twice a year, during the years between the quadrennial CZMP. The Board of Appeals makes the final decision, instead of the council.

For full details on the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, visit http://www. baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/ zoning/czmp2016/index.html.

Councilman Julian Jones continued from page 5

with the community's needs. But in the end, he says, "My constituents come first. I will always side with the community. They elected me."

His goal, Jones says, it to make the area "the most sought after community in the region. People would come here because of the best schools, the best amenities and the best quality of life they could find. How do we get there? One step at a time."

He stays on the move. His legislative assistant, Chrissandra Caldwell, keeps his schedule chock full of fundraisers, ribbon-cutting ceremonies and other government or community events. He rarely misses the opportunity to mark the occasion by posting selfies on his Facebook page or publishing them in his community e-newsletters.

A resident of Woodstock, he is married to Sabrina and has three children. His evening hours are spent reading up on business trends within the food industry so he could provide a global perspective to constituents upset about the January closing of Food Lion closed in Randallstown. During the day, he works as a division chief with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department.

His start in the fire service was by chance. While a student at University of Maryland Baltimore County pursuing a bachelor's degree in information management systems, he did security work at the Baltimore Zoo. He followed his calling after he responded to a radio advertisement for a position in "I WORK EXTREMELY HARD FOR THE CONSTITUENTS. I DON'T TAKE THE TASKS THEY HAVE ENTRUSTED IN ME LIGHTLY."

the fire service earning under \$19,000 in 1985. Since then, he has steadily climbing the ranks. The 30 years there has prepared him well.

"In the fire service you get used to anything happening and being prepared." It could be an issue in the neighborhood, someone making a \$1 million transaction. You have to treat them with the same intensity."

Looking back on his performance the 16 months he's been in office, Jones says he believes he's done well. He rolled out a summer jobs program, where 10 high school and college interns have provided service at senior centers, helped cleaned neighborhoods and performed administrative tasks.

He also launched Operation Spring Cleaning, patrolling the area and contacting businesses, such as Wal-Mart, BGE and Mass Transit Administration, to clean up their properties when he sees trash or plastic bags caught on fences and trees. He will also call out residents for code violations when he sees a sofa or rolled up carpet on the curb that hasn't been picked up. "Really?"

"I don't want our community to be run down and crime ridden. I want the best for the community." He is most passionate about education. Giving young people a quality education and keeping them busy will break a cycle of crime, unemployment and poor schooling, Jones believes. "It's very important to me to give our kids have something to do. We must give them a great education, employment opportunities and then recreation."

To that end, he pledged that the basketball courts in the area will have their missing rims installed by the end of the school year. "I think it's insulting to spend \$30 million on a school [referring to the new Lyons Mills Elementary] and not have basketball rims up because they think our kids can't behave."

Another priority is to find funding for council members to pursue business development opportunities, such as those at the retail conference held every year in Las Vegas. "How can I attract people to Randallstown and Owings Mills if I have zero budget to do it?"

What's next? Jones plans to organize a college fair where students can get strategies and tips on how to complete a college application, to get grants and scholarships, and a SAT prep course. Operation Spring Cleaning will be ongoing.

"I work extremely hard for the constituents. I don't take the tasks they have entrusted in me lightly."



Considered a walkable community, you will be able to walk from Metro Centre to the Owings Mills Mall area, movie theatre and restaurants.

Foundry Row, Metro Centre Office, Retail Construction Progressing

Construction of the new 100,000-square-foot Wegmans is in full progress at Foundry Row at Reisterstown Road at Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills.

Slated to open in September 2016, the regional supermarket chain will be one of the first stores to open at the \$140 million, 50-acre redeveloped site of the former Solo Cup factory.

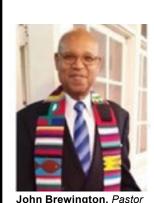
Other stores to open at the open-air center will be LA Fitness, Sports Authority and DSW, as well as Ulta Beauty, Panera Bread, Zoe's Kitchen, Smashburger and Nally Fresh.

There is also 40,000 square feet of office space. LifeBridge Health, the parent company for Northwest Hospital, will be leasing roughly 75 percent of it, according to the project's developers Greenberg Gibbons and Vanguard. The office is expected to open this year.

Foundry Row will support 2,300 full- and part-time jobs in Baltimore County during the construction phase, and will permanently support nearly 3,100 jobs, the developers say.

Construction for the Foundry Row began last summer. Competing developers tried to stop it, but the Baltimore County Board of Appeals upheld the Administrative Law Judge's decision in June 2014 to approve the site development plan.

Metro Centre at Owings Mills is a transit-oriented development that features retail shops, office space, and the Owings Mills branch of the Community College of Baltimore County and Baltimore County Public Library. Leasing of the 1,700 one- and two-bedroom apartments is progressing. Groundbreaking is expected soon on a new 225-room boutique hotel.



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To Vote in the Primary Election, You Must Be Registered by April 5

If you have been watching the news, listening to political observers, or taking note of the polls, you know that the 2016 presidential-year elections will be highly competitive. **The Presidential Primary Election** will be held **Tuesday**, April 26—not in the fall, as you might have been used to in previous years.

Make sure you, your family members, friends and neighbors are registered to vote. If you or anyone you know is not, you should be advised that the **deadline to register is Tuesday, April 5**, if you intend to vote in the Primary Election. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen, reside in Maryland and be at least 16 years old at the time of registration (although you cannot vote until you turn 18 by the time of the next General Election).

You can register at local post offices, libraries, and Motor Vehicle Administration, county municipal and public assistance offices. You can also request an application from the Board of Election or download an application at elections. state.md.us/voter_registration/ application.html or in person.

The Baltimore County Board of Election is no longer located in Catonsville. The office has moved to 11112 Gilroy Rd., Suite 104 in Hunt Valley, Md. 21031. The office remains open until 9 p.m. for the registration deadline.

For other information about voter registration, visit http:// www.baltimorecountymd.gov/ Agencies/elections/voterreg.html.

Edwards, Van Hollen Set to Attend Political Forum in Woodlawn

The Maryland Federation of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) of Chapters and the Business and Professional Women of Maryland (BPW) are convening a forum on Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m., which will feature candidates running for the U.S. Senate. The event will be held at the Woodlawn Community Center, located at 2131 Woodlawn Drive.

Congresswoman Donna Edwards of Prince George's County and Congressman Christopher Van Hollen of Montgomery County, Democratic frontrunners in the Senate race, as well as other candidates running for the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Barbara Mikulski, are scheduled to participate in the forum. The Democratic winner of the Primary Election on Tuesday, April 26, is expected to win the General Election in November.

Organizers of the forum say the two sponsoring organizations represent a significant Maryland constituency. Candidates will discuss issues important to active and retired federal employees and their survivors, and to business and professional women in Maryland.

The Maryland Federation of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's mission is to protect and enhance its members' earned benefits, and the Business and Professional Women's mission is to achieve equity and economic self-sufficiency for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information. NARFE National President Richard Thissen will introduce the Senate candidates and National Legislative Director Jessica Klement will serve as the moderator.

The forum will convene with preregistered NARFE and BPW members, preregistered constituents and invited officials, seniors and youth. Due to limited capacity, citizens interested in the two organization's issues who are not already registered to attend in person can view the forum on a live webcast. The forum will also be videotaped and available on YouTube.

To RSVP and for more information, please contact Gary Roundtree Sr. at groundtreesr@ hotmail.com.

Election Judges Needed

With the primary presidential election just weeks away, the Baltimore County Board of Election says it is still in need of 250 election judges.

The county election board is seeking motivated people who can endure long hours — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. — to work for the upcoming Primary Election on April 26 and General Election on Nov. 6.

You can make \$162.50 per election as an election judge or \$225 as a chief judge. An additional \$40 will be paid for attending a mandatory training session prior to the election. To receive the \$40 compensation the attendee must work the assigned days of election.

To quality, you must be a registered voter in Maryland; be able to withstand at least a 15-hour day of work; and be able to read, write, speak and understand the English language. You also must attend a mandatory training session.

If you would like to serve as an election judge, or you would like more information, contact the Board of Election at 410-887-0982.

THE LAW OFFICE OFImage: Colspan="2">Image: Colspan="2">Image: Colspan="2">Colspan="2"Colspan="2">Colspan="2"Colspan=

www.GordonatLaw.com jwgaattys@aol.com

'Love People, Love Food'

Wegmans is Hiring for 475 Positions

Looking for a job? Wegmans Food Markets has 475 openings at its under-construction Owings Mills store, with 90 percent of them to be filled with people who live in the area.

The national grocery chain began accepting applications last month for 150 full-time positions and has begun the interview process. "So far response has been great," says store manager Matt LePore. "All of our efforts are tied to the local area, for example within a five- to 10mile radius." Outreach will continue on social media and job fairs at local colleges.

The full-time openings range from customer service and entry-level management to culinary positions, such as line cooks. The idea candidate? "People who love people and love food," he says. LePore declined to give details on benefits but noted that they may include health insurance and flexible schedules for certain employees.

The 109,000 square-foot supermarket will anchor the Foundry Row shopping complex that is being constructed off Reisterstown and Painters Mill roads. It is slated to open in the fall. In the meantime, new hires will train at Wegmans' sister stores later in the spring.

"We teach employees about Wegmans, our culture, how we operate our business, what makes us successful,"



Wegmans mailed post cards to local residents' homes announcing plans to hire people to work at its Owings Mills store.

LePore says about the training. He recalled his start at the store as a high school student in Rochester, N.Y., pushing carts and after graduation from college working his way through the management chain. He stresses that the company and employees will

learn from each other. "We learn from the community. We have to make sure we're listening to [local employees] because they know best."

Noting that "giving back to the community is very important," LePore says that Wegmans has supported Junior Achievement in Owings Mills, Franklin High School with its auditorium, and is sponsoring a History Day with the Maryland Humanities Council. The store is also working with Maryland Public Television on the Vietnam event.

Full-time job applicants are invited to apply online at wegmans.com or call 1-877-WEGMANS (934-6267) for more information. Wegmans will not accept applications at the store or construction site, nor conduct interviews there. The company plans to hold interviews at its Owings Mills employment office.

Looking for **flexible** work hours?



Sales position available for community news publication in

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Freewill Offering the beautification of our restrooms AND bless the outreach/evangelism

ministries as they provide for the

Do you get enough sleep?

Most health professionals will tell you that sleep is an important component of health and wellness and that adults aged 18 to 60 should get at least seven hours of shut-eye each night. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 35 percent of U.S. adults do not get enough sleep, and that lack of sleep carries health risks.

How much sleep do we need? What can happen when we're not getting enough? Sleeping less than seven hours per night is linked to an increased risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and poor mental health, as well as early death, reports the CDC. It can affect your ability to make good decisions and increases the chances of motor vehicle crashes.

To improve your sleep, the National Sleep Foundation recommends that you:

- Go to bed at the same time each night and rise at the same time each ٠ morning.
- Make sure your bedroom is a quiet, dark, and relaxing environment, which is neither too hot or too cold.
- Make sure your bed is comfortable and use it only for sleeping and not for other activities, such as reading, watching TV or listening to music.
- Turn off your phone. The blue light is distracting.
- Remove all TVs, computers, and other "gadgets" from the bedroom.
- Avoid large meals before bedtime.
- If you're having problems sleeping, be sure to talk to your health care provider

Concerned about falling? Can vitamin D help?

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- \blacksquare Are you willing to take vitamin D pills?

Program conducted at Johns Hopkins Pro Health in Woodlawn, MD., Principal Investigator: Lawrence J. Appel, MD, MPH, Protocol #IRB00063914

If STURDY seems right for you: Call us today 410-281-1600 or send an email to prohealth@sturdytrial.org



PROHEALTH



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> Black Tie Gala to support our community's Youth Programs

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BLACK TIE GALA

FRIDAY April 8, 2016

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6:00 PM

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\$175 TICKET COST

For More Information Contact Chloe Williams cwilliams@druidheights.com 410.523.1350

Where's My Refund?

The deadline to file your 2015 tax returns is Monday, April 16,

since Washington, D.C., celebrates Emancipation Day on the traditional deadline of April 15. If you filed and received your refund, use it wisely. If you have filed and are wondering when you'll receive your refund, use the Internal Revenue Service's Where's My Refund? tool at https:// www.irs.gov/Refunds.

You can check the status of your refund within 24 hours after the IRS has received your electronicallyfiled tax return or four weeks after mailing your paper return. You will need Social Security Number, your filing status and the refund amount as shown on your tax return.

When the IRS processes your tax return and approves your refund, you can see the actual personalized refund date.

Even though the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days after it receives your tax return, it might take longer if your tax return requires additional review.

You should only call 800-829-1040 if it has been 21 days or more since you filed electronically; more than six weeks since you mailed your paper return; or the Where's My Refund? tool directs you to contact the IRS.

Visit **irs.gov** for more information.

2016 FILING STATISTICS RETURNS

Total received: **58,304,000** Total processed: **56,290,000**

REFUNDS

Number: **46,533,000** Amount: **\$142.085 billion**

AVERAGE

\$3,053 Source: IRS, as of Feb. 26, 2016

GOT NEWS?



Submit your news item or press release for consideration. Deadline is the 18th of the preceding month of issue publication. Remember to include details on the 5 Ws (who, what where, why and when). Submit the details to **nwvoicenews.com** or email **editor@nwvoicenews.com**.

Owings Mills Student Named Young Woman of the Year

Kenisha Brannon, a stand-out student at Owings Mills High School, has been selected as the Baltimore County Commission for Women's 2016 Young Woman of the Year.

The commission, along with County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and members of the County Council and state delegation, will recognize Brannon and two others at the 34th Annual Woman of the Year Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 31, at 6 p.m. in the historic Towson Courthouse.



The awards are given to female county residents who have enhanced the lives of others and made significant contributions to their community, workplace, or school to further the interests of women and children.

The Owings Mills High School senior spearheaded fundraising

Kenisha Brannon is the Baltimore County Commission for Women's Young Woman of the Year.

initiatives by leading the Red Cross Blood Drive and the Harlem Wizards Basketball exhibition, which benefits school programs. Brannon is Student Government president and a member of the school's Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America. In college, she plans to double-major in health sciences and biology with a minor concentration in business management. Not only does Brannon excel in academics, she is a competitive track runner.

The commission's other honorees are Anita Rozenel, a retired Baltimore County Public Schools music teacher, and Nancy Hafford, executive director of the Towson Chamber of Commerce.

Rozenel will receive the LaFrance Muldrow Woman Making a Difference Award. She founded Kids Helping Hopkins, a program that assists children coping with illness. As a music teacher for more than 20 years, Rozenel has instilled in her students the value of giving back. Known as the "music lady," she continuously provides music and sings along with the children who are ill.

Nancy Hafford is the commission's Woman of the Year. As head of the Towson chamber since 2005, she has helped transform Towson as a preferred location in the county for business, dining, entertainment and living.

Catonsville, New Town Win County Basketball Championships

Congratulations to the Catonsville High School girls' basketball and New Town boys' basketball teams for capturing the Baltimore County championship title.

On Feb. 23 at the Towson University's SECU Arena, Catonsville defeated Milford Mill 60-43. New Town Titans beat the defending county champion Woodlawn Warriors 66-50.

All schools will participate in the regional play Feb. 26 through March 4. The girls state semifinals will be played at Towson SECU Arena on Thursday, March 10, for Class 4A and 3A, and Friday, March 11, for Class 2A and 1A. The boys state semifinals will be held at the University of Maryland's Xfinity Center on Thursday, March 10, for Class 3A and 4A, and Friday, March 11, for Class 1A and 2A. The state championships will be held March 12.

The Catonsville Comets and New Town Titans won the 2016 Baltimore County basketball championship.





Scholar-Athletic Scholarship Application

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association and The Allstate Foundation are accepting applications to its ninth annual Minds In Motion Scholar-Athlete Scholarship program for 2016. The deadline for all applications is noon on Friday, April 8.

Applicants must have a minimum 3.25 unweighted overall grade point average and have participated in interscholastic athletic activities sponsored by MPSSAA during their high school careers. Eighteen \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to a male and a female from each of the nine MPSSAA districts. Recipients will be honored at a luncheon at M&T Bank Stadium on Thursday, June 2.

Winners will be notified by Friday, April 22.

To apply and for full details, visit mpssaa.org/applicationsfor-2016-minds-in-motionscholarship-available-on-31/.

Beware of the Tax Scams

With the tax season is in full swing, identify thieves and scammers have stepped up their fraudulent activities. The Internal Revenue Service warns consumers to beware of these two recent scams, as they are observing a 400 percent increase in phishing and malware incidents so far this year.

Fraudsters are asking for personal tax information, which could be used to file false tax returns. Official looking websites are also asking people for Social Security numbers and other personal information. When you click on these sites, that use malware to infect your computer, criminals and monitor your keystrokes or access your files to gain information.

Tax Preparer Phishing Scam

A bogus email asks tax professionals to update their IRS e-services portal information and Electronic Filing Identification Numbers (EFINs). The links that are provided in the bogus email to access IRS e-services appear to be a phishing scheme designed to capture your username and password. This email was not generated by the IRS e-services program. Disregard this email and do not click on the links provided.

IRS-Impersonation Telephone Scam

An aggressive and sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be employees of the IRS, but are not. These con artists can sound convincing when they call and use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license.

Or, victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

The IRS reminds you that they will never:

- call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill;
- demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe;
- require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card;
- ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or
 threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups
 - to have you arrested for not paying. You can report any unsolicited

emails that appear to come from the IRS, email phishing@irs.gov. For more details, visit irs.gov.

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COMMENTARY

The Glover Report: From Sandtown to Randallstown

Part 2: Healing the Divide Between Baltimore City and Baltimore County (...with a Simple Conversation)

by Doni Glover

Truth is, before we go looking at what white folks have been doing and how they have been treating African Americans, the thinking person – at some point – has to look at what black folks are doing and how we are treating each other.

Since integration, we have moved freely from the city to the county. In the process, we now have a couple of generations of county blacks who are less familiar with where their parents and grandparents were raised.

Even more, some of us in the county look down on the city. We

point the finger and perpetuate the stigma that only bad things come out of Baltimore City. And that is simply not true.

When the police pull over people on Pennsylvania and Laurens, I can tell you that they are not just city residents. We see people in the 'hood' every single day who hail from not just Baltimore County, but Carroll and Harford counties as well. No, they are not all black either. The police are always pulling over white folks cruising through the 'hood' looking for dope.

Tell you something else, many drug dealers who operate in the city actually live in the county.





My point is that whether the issue is the preponderance of group homes in Randallstown or prostitution or illegal drugs, what affects one affects the other. What happens in the city is reflected in the county, and vice versa.

Look at the gang problem in every jurisdiction in Maryland. Unfortunately, Baltimore County cannot escape the gang dilemma because gangs are everywhere. What's particularly interesting to me is how much county gangsters have to work to get the same level of respect as their city cousins. It's like the county kids have to do more to earn rank.

Nonetheless, the simple solution is first understanding the interrelationship of the city and the county and how, regardless of what we might think, our issues are very similar. And if our issues are similar, then it would behoove us to work together on the solutions.

Communication is a critical key. Whether it relates to business or family, I think the sharing of information and resources helps everybody. And that is a major reason why I accepted this assignment to be a part of the *Northwest Voice* family. Even though Bmorenews keeps me extremely busy, there was no way I would miss this opportunity to be a part of the solution dialogue.

I need my family members in Randallstown and Owings Mills, for instance, to be aware of the prescription drug era that was magnified exponentially during NONETHELESS, THE SIMPLE SOLUTION IS FIRST UNDERSTANDING THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF THE CITY AND THE COUNTY AND HOW, REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE MIGHT THINK, OUR ISSUES ARE VERY SIMILAR.

the Freddie Gray riots. Black youth who are 18 to 25 years of age are being bombarded with the Percocet culture. Listen to a lot of the new age hip hop, and the topic of pills and syrup (Robitussin) is a common theme.

And it is not just in Maryland; it is a national pandemic. Kids are rapping about these intoxicants in a way not done before. Historically, artists were ashamed of addiction. Now, it's almost worn as a badge of honor.

Times are changing. So, we must adapt and must insist on having these and other pointed conversations with ourselves, our children and our community. Then, we must expand the dialogue across jurisdictions and beyond the state line.

If we don't, if we continue to bury our heads in the sand – we will lose yet another generation of African Americans. Whether we live in the county or the city, our issues have a lot of commonalities. Sure, the city may have more black single-mother households, but best believe the county has its share, too.

With a host similar of challenges, including under-education, it becomes all too clear that we don't need anything else dividing us. Instead, we need to use every possible opportunity to work together, to build bridges, and to begin the healing process. A lot of people are hurting out here and I don't think we can afford to ignore that pain any longer. And for me, that all begins with a simple conversation.

Doni Glover is the publisher of bmorenews.com, host of The Doni Glover Show on Radio One Baltimore's WOLB 1010 AM (Tuesdays, 10 to 11 a.m.), and a television political analyst. The founder of the ORIGINAL Black Wall Street SERIES *NYC *MD *DC *ATL *NOLA, Glover is also the author of "Unapologetically Black: Doni Glover Autobiography."

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Health Care Center continued from page 3



Brian White, president of Northwest Hospital, speaks to community representatives at an event announcing the opening of Liberty Center, which will house an Express Care urgent care center.

economic vitality of Randallstown and the entire county," he stated.

The hospital's campus revitalization plans will shift to a collection of nowclosed medical offices across the street from the hospital on Old Court Road. When redeveloped, the buildings will feature clinics offering medical care for chronic diseases, as well as services to support the organization's population health initiatives, focusing on prevention, wellness and community support. Plans and timelines for this next phase are still in development. The new projects complement improvements already underway inside the hospital itself, such as upgrades to the emergency department and the operating rooms.

Northwest Hospital officials say they have been meeting with local government and community leaders, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations and others about the campus revitalization plan. The hospital will continue this collaboration as projects develop.





Owings Mills Mall to be Renovated continued from cover

way for movement on plans to redevelop the space. The restaurant park will continue selling their hamburgers, seafood and Italian fare, and AMC Theatre will remain open for moviegoers.

David Parker, a resident of Owings Mills since 2002, who has always lived in the area, says he remembers when the mall opened with Saks and other upscale stores. He wonders why the mall didn't survive and what would change the odds if the mall becomes a main street or town center style of shopping.

Rouse Company opened the two-level, onemillion-square-foot mall in 1986 targeting upscale shoppers with a Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue. Macy's, Sears and Boscov also anchored the mall. But over the years, traffic slowed, the occupancy dropped and the tenant mix changed. The more than 150 spaces changed from national brand stores to an assortment of shops selling jeans, perfumes and handbags. After the department stores left, other stores and food court restaurants followed. Management stopped renewing leases, and eventually the mall became deserted. Still, shoppers visited the area's only department stores, Macy's and J.C. Penney.

General Growth Properties, owner of several area malls, including White Marsh Mall, Towson Town Center and The Mall in Columbia, had been Owings Mills Mall's sole owner. After some back and forth between developers and Baltimore County over the past several years, things came to a resolution.

In 2011, GGP and Kimco Realty, another major developer, announced a joint partnership to redevelop the mall. The plan was to raze and rebuild it into a shopping center with exteriorfacing stores, and junior- and big-box retailers. But plans stalled, frustrating county officials anxious to give life to an area that had been designated as a growth area.

The future began looking up after the two developers came together in one accord. In January, Kimco announced it was paying \$11.5 million to buy out General Growth's ownership, as well as J.C. Penny's structure for \$5.2 million and Macy's for \$7.5 million.



Purnell Parker of Owings Mills says he will miss shopping and spending time with his family at the mall.

Development in the area is picking up dramatically. Foundry Row, located at the intersection of Painters Mill and Reisterstown Road, is scheduled to open its first store, Wegmans, in in the fall. Work at Metro Centre at Owings Mills, located at the metro station on Painters Mill Road, is progressing. (See related story on page 9).

How important is it for a community to have a mall?

With the Owings Mills Mall shuttered, The Northwest Voice also asked neighbors their thoughts about their shopping preferences.



"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MALL CLOSE TO HOME BECAUSE I HAVE TO TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN. I PREFER A MALL TO A SHOPPING CENTER BECAUSE OF THE CONVENIENCE OF HAVING EVERYTHING INSIDE IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT WITH STORES RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER."

Joi Cuningham, Windsor Mill



"I SHOP THE AVENUE AT WHITE MARSH A LOT, AND TOWSON TOWN CENTER. I ALSO DO SOME SHOPPING ONLINE WITH AMAZON." Sarah Milne, Reisterstown"



IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MALL IN THE AREA BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GO IN THE CITY TO SHOP. I LIKE TO GO IN THE MALLS. NOW, I MAY HAVE TO SHOP ONLINE." Karen Brodie. Randallstown



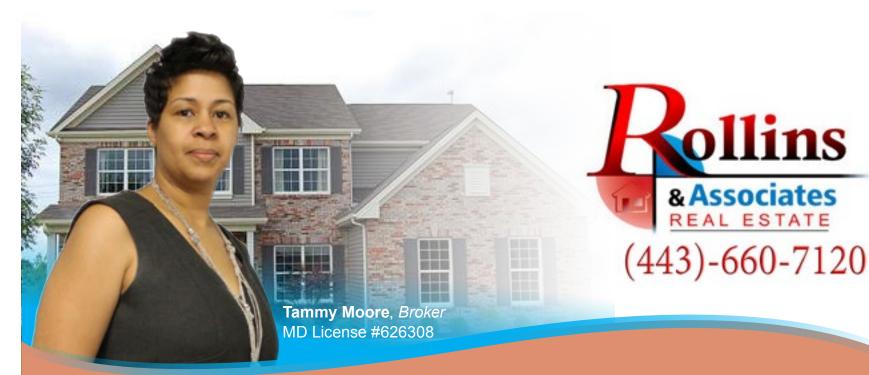
"MY WIFE AND I ARE NEW TO THE AREA. WE'VE SHOPPED AT J.C. PENNEY IN OWINGS MILLS AND ARE SAD TO SEE IT CLOSE. I'M SHOPPING MORE AND MORE ONLINE, ESPECIALLY WITH AMAZON. I WON'T GO TO COLUMBIA, SECURITY SQUARE OR TOWSON TOWN MALL." *Ray Rogers, Pikesville*



"WE COME OUT TO THE MALL VERY OFTEN. IT'S AN OUTING. IT'S NOT ALWAYS ABOUT SHOPPING. SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT EATING ICE CREAM TOGETHER." Purnell Parker, Owings Mills



"IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MALL IN THE AREA. I GO TO SECURITY SQUARE MALL AND MONDAWMIN BECAUSE THEY HAVE NICE STYLES. I PREFER A MALL TO A SHOPPING CENTER BECAUSE YOU'RE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND IN ONE LOCATION AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS THERE." Edward Ngethe, Woodlawn



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