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# n o r t h w e s t VOICE

Your voice in the community

APRIL 2016

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



## EDWARDS VS. VAN HOLLEN

### Who Will Be Our Next U.S. Senator?

**Early voting begins April 14 for presidential elections**

For the past 39 years, the very popular Barbara Mikulski has served as Maryland's representative in Congress. When the feisty, 4-foot-11 former social worker announced last year that she would not seek another term as U.S. Senator—she's the longest serving women in Congress—two candidates jumped into the race and almost immediately became frontrunners.

Rep. Donna Edwards, a congresswoman representing Prince George's County District 4 since 2008, and Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a congressman since 2003 from Montgomery County's District 8,

are vying for a Senate position that doesn't become available too often.

They both acknowledge that by succeeding Mikulski, they have big shoes to fill, especially given her legacy of constituent service, unflagging support of seniors, Medicare and Social Security, and issues involving young people, working families and quality education. While Edwards and Van Hollen frequently invoke her name into debates and positions, Mikulski's office says she does not make endorsements during the primary.

Locked in a tight race and not widely known to county voters, both

have been spending millions in radio and television advertising, hours participating in political debates and forums, and hours stumping on the campaign trails to introduce themselves to Baltimore area voters.

Voters will head to the polls for early voting April 14 through 21, and their campaigns are ramping up their television and radio advertising. Election Day is Tuesday, April 26. Baltimore County is expected to be a deciding jurisdiction in the race.

Larry Young, former state senator for Baltimore City and radio show

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From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

## Black Votes Matter

In the campaign for President of the United States, Hillary Clinton won the primaries in South Carolina, North Carolina and other southern states on the strength of African-American voters. Bernie Sanders looked to Black Lives Matter activists to get the attention of black voters, and has just opened a campaign office in West Baltimore.

The race for U.S. Senate is also counting on black votes, with Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George's County expected to play important roles. A key demographic of Rep. Donna Edwards' constituency is African-American women, and like most other candidates, she is making the rounds visiting churches that have large African-American congregations.

Not long after announcing his candidacy for the Senate, Rep. Chris Van Hollen almost immediately began pursuing endorsements from black elected officials in the big three jurisdictions. His advertisements feature District 10 Sen. Delores Kelley and make mention that his children visited Selma, a historic site in the civil rights movement.

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced his support for Van Hollen at the black-owned Colin's Seafood Grill in the predominately black Randallstown. The Randallstown Community Center, which attracted voters from the surrounding communities, was the number-one early voting center in Maryland for the 2014 primary and general elections. Imagine that!

And we can't forget the role blacks played in the Governor's race. In his uphill campaign, Larry Hogan's ads featured African-Americans lamenting how Democrats have taken them, their most loyal constituency, for granted and that they needed a change.

You can best believe that potential candidates running for Governor in 2018 will be paying lots of attention to African-Americans. It's already started.

We can't leave Baltimore City out of this conversation. In campaign ads for Mayor, blacks are front and center mingling and hanging onto the words of businessman David Warnock's and Elizabeth Embry; they are prominently featured in the ads of African-American candidates also.

My friends, I could go on and on with examples in Maryland and around the country that indeed, black votes matter! If just about every campaign recognizes the importance of the black vote, why are African-Americans not leveraging that?

Other groups have figured out how the power of the vote works. The Jewish, Muslim, Hispanic and Greek communities operate as cohesive groups.

They invite candidates in to listen to their issues. They share their legislative agenda and obtain a commitment from the candidate on which issues they will support. If they like what they hear, the groups will throw their support behind the candidate, in money and sweat equity, e.g. making calls, knocking on doors, and getting out the vote on Election Day.

If we take a look at the history of our forefathers who formed the Constitution, we find that democracy was a unique concept where people would choose one individual to represent a group. The only difference was that in the 1700s, these men were only thinking about men who looked like them. You had to be white and own land to vote, so even they considered it a privilege to vote. I'm not sure they envisioned what America would become and how we have evolved. Today, you only need to be 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen to vote.

If your vote wasn't as valuable as it is, there wouldn't be a movement to suppress your vote. I believe the powers that be recognize that there are more votes against their interests than for their interests. So the trick is to keep you out of the

IS THERE ANY REASON WHY A  
PERSON CAN'T FIND AN HOUR  
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COUPLE OF MILES OF THEIR HOME  
TO VOTE?

voting booth. They divide and conquer, discourage and dissuade. And the low voter turnout shows that we fall for it.

We have something more valuable than money. We are sitting on untapped power. If you consider your vote like currency, it would be like having millions of dollars and just leaving it the bank for the state to take. Wealthy and powerful people spend millions on the elections. They're not buying the people, they're buying the vote.

Let's use this power, our votes, in the same way other groups do, including the LBGT community, women's blocs, unions and ethnic groups. Is there any reason why someone can't find an hour during an eight-day period to visit a location within a couple of miles of their home to cast a vote?

For those who say, my vote doesn't count? Let me share some facts.

- District 44B, Del. Pat Young edged out Aaron Barnett by 34 votes in the 2014 gubernatorial elections for the General Assembly.

*continued on page 15*

## 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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# Free Community Shred Day

Hosted by Securityplus Federal Credit Union

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 23rd, 10am – 1pm

**WHERE:** Northwest Plaza Shopping Center,  
4470 W. Northern Parkway, Baltimore

Guard against identity theft by properly disposing personal documents including:

- Financial forms
- Old checks
- Personal documents that contain account information, signature and/or Social Security Numbers

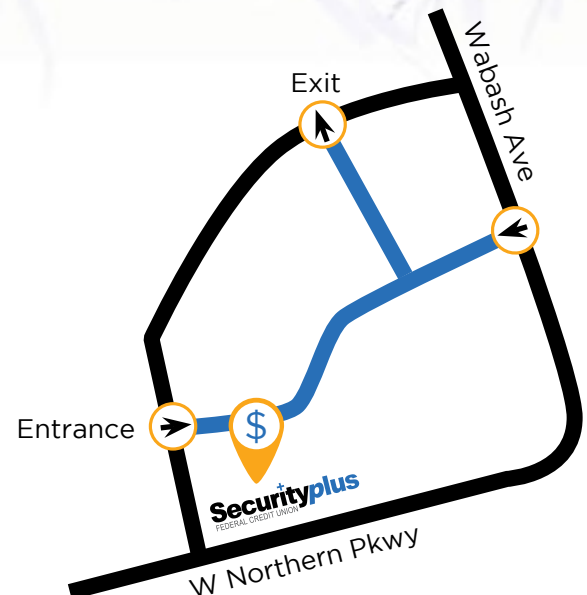
We will be accepting donations during the event to benefit Arlington Middle/Elementary School.

Recall Shredding Services are providing three shred trucks for the convenience of those that attend.

*We hope to see you there!*

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# Morning Star Breaks Ground on New Church Site in Woodlawn

More than 500 people turned out to celebrate the long-awaited groundbreaking of Morning Star Baptist Church of Baltimore County in Woodlawn. The church, currently located on Winters Lane in Catonsville, is constructing a new house of worship at Woodlawn Drive and Security Boulevard. It will be its fourth site in its nearly 120th year of existence.

The Woodlawn High School marching band led the ministry's Bishop Dwayne Debnam and other leaders from the church's nearby Renaissance Center building to a stage set up in front of a large bus draped with a vinyl rendering of the new church.

The high-spirited hour-long program featured singing, remarks from the project team and ministers, and citations from elected officials.

"This has been a long journey coming. The Lord has done what he said what he would do in his time in his season," Debnam said. "We are so excited to be able to come and celebrate and formally declare that we are here in Woodlawn now."

Debnam drew cheers when he introduced the project team and minority general contractor, Kevin Johnson, who pledged that the church would be delivered "on time and on budget."

The appreciation continued when

Del. Adrienne Jones, speaker pro tem for the Maryland House of Delegates and chair of the Appropriations' capital budget subcommittee, announced that a \$250,000 grant had been secured for the ministry's family life center.

Mary Manokey, 97, a longtime Catonsville resident who has been a member of Morning Star for 85 years, recalled the church's humble beginnings and expressed gratitude that she could participate in the ceremony.

Since Debnam became the church's tenth pastor in 1996, the revitalized ministry has grown from one Sunday worship service with a few hundred regular congregants to three services and more than 3,000 members. The church operates a day care center, and holds classes and various activities throughout the week.

"The ministry has simply outgrown its present Catonsville location and requires more space for

parking, worship and their crucial community ministry programs designed for children, youth, adults and seniors," according to Minister Anthony Brown, who emceed the event.

The building will offer seating for 1,300 persons—more than double the seating for the current sanctuary—and additional space for Christian education classes and administrative offices. The family life center will include a day care center, banquet facility and activities for seniors and youth.

The new 49,000-square-foot facility will be constructed over the next 18 to 24 months and opening in late 2017 to early 2018, the bishop said. "Morning Star's charge is clear — we want to build and rebuild lives. The building becomes a means to that specific end."

Church officials looked at the Woodlawn site after a requested zoning change to expand the building across the street from its existing

Catonsville location failed. "This site is even better and it fits this campus like a glove," architect Henry Onochie said of the 120,000 square feet of building space.

Debnam said the new ministry will reaffirm Morning Star's commitment to building and rebuilding lives. "It is championing a vision intended to transform lives spiritually, professionally and emotionally." People will be able to reshape their lives and mature not just financially but spiritually.

The event culminated with the ceremonial groundbreaking where some two dozen people who donned hard hats and shovels pitched dirt to applause. The day also featured music, food truck and special activities for children.



**The event culminated with the ceremonial groundbreaking where some two dozen people who donned hard hats and shovels and pitched dirt to enthusiastic applause. The day also featured music, food truck and special activities for children.**

[Leave a comment at nwvoicenews.com](http://nwvoicenews.com)

## 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](http://nwvoicenews.com) or email [editor@nwvoicenews.com](mailto:editor@nwvoicenews.com).

2016 STATE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Minority mentoring, new magnet programs coming to area schools

Superintendent S. Dallas Dance announced in his 2016 State of the Schools that new magnet programs were coming to area schools—welcome news for the more than 1,250 community members, business leaders, students and staff who gathered at Martin's West on March 23 to hear how the school system is doing and what the plan is moving forward.

In his fourth annual presentation, themed "Believe, Rise, Lead," Dance reaffirmed signature initiatives such as the S.T.A.T. digital learning transformation and Passport elementary world language instruction, and introduced new supports designed to promote equity and academic progress for all students. He also outlined a host of new efforts to meet individual student needs including expanded staffing, services, and supports for BCPS' growing populations of English learner students and those with severe disabilities.

### Magnet Schools

The county's highly competitive visual and performing arts program will expand to Milford Mill Academy, and provide students intensive training in music, literature and drama.

A health sciences magnet program will be offered at Old Court Middle School in Randallstown. BCPS will partner with Northwest Hospital for advanced coursework, job shadowing and other interactions between students, physicians and medical professionals at school and hospital. Those successful in the program will continue to Randallstown High School Academy of Health Professions. More than 450 students applied for the program's 90 available slots, according to Dance.

Changes are also underway for Woodlawn High School. The county's first early college high school will

*continued on page 17*



**Danny Hawkins Jr., a fifth-grader at Johnnycake Elementary, had the support of family members. He is a National Elementary Honor Society member and a founding member of the school's dance team, top. Kevin Watley, principal of New Town High School, and other guests were among the 1250 attendees at the 2016 State of Schools 2016, bottom.**



“Too many in our communities have been the victims of gun violence. I will stand up to the National Rifle Association, and make sure we get sensible gun control laws. Our children deserve no less. **On Tuesday, April 26, I'd be grateful if you would stand with me.**

— Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Candidate, US Senate

[www.donnaedwardsforsenate.com](http://www.donnaedwardsforsenate.com)  [facebook.com/DonnaEdwardsforSenate](https://facebook.com/DonnaEdwardsforSenate)  [DonnaFEdwards](https://twitter.com/DonnaFEdwards)

Paid for by Donna Edwards for Senate



# County, HUD reach settlement on housing discrimination practices

\$30M slated for 1,000 affordable-housing units over 10 years

Low-income and minority families and people with disabilities will have access to more affordable housing options in prosperous Baltimore County neighborhoods, as a result of a landmark settlement.

The agreement between the county and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was announced on March 15 and outlined in a 46-page document. It settles a 2011 complaint filed against the county by the Baltimore County Branch of the NAACP, Baltimore Neighborhoods, Inc., and three individuals alleging decades of unfair housing practices. The complaint claimed that the county created affordable housing in areas concentrated by mostly poor blacks, focused new housing on seniors, and failed to provide adequate housing for people with disabilities.

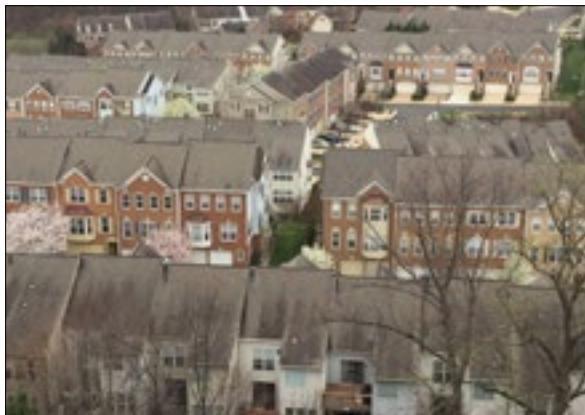
By the county's own analysis conducted in 2012, it had the most segregated neighborhoods in Maryland.

To resolve the issues, the county agreed to commit \$30 million over 10 years to make at least 1,000 affordable rental units available to low- and very low-income residents in "higher opportunity" areas dispersed over dozens of census tracts. Half of the units must be at least three-bedroom units to accommodate families with children, and at least a third of them must be accessible and made available to the disabled.

According to a color-coded map indicating where the units could be located, most northern and central sections of the county and areas near the Carroll, Harford and Pennsylvania lines are designated to accommodate an unlimited number of housing units. Only a limited number of units could go in certain parts of Randallstown, Owings Mills and Woodlawn, as well as the eastern part of the county in Essex, Middle River and Dundalk around Eastern Avenue and Pulaski Highway.

The terms of the agreement also require the county to establish a housing mobility program and provide 2,000 Housing Choice Vouchers over the next 12 years to assist families with access to better quality jobs and schools.

Tony Fugett, president of the Baltimore County NAACP for the past 16 years, calls the agreement a step in the right direction. "Although it's not perfect, it is a starting point. It's an opportunity to



**African Americans and low-income families will be able to move into more prosperous neighborhoods.**

ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT PERFECT, IT IS A STARTING POINT. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE PAGE AND GET A FRESH START AS IT RELATES TO LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES."

—TONY FUGETT, PRESIDENT, BALTIMORE COUNTY NAACP

turn the page and get a fresh start as it relates to low- and middle-income families."

He added that the agreement will be monitored to ensure progress is being made. There also will be testing to make sure landlords are not discriminating.

Recognizing that many landlords don't readily rent to tenants with Section 8 vouchers, the agreement also calls for County Executive Kevin Kamenetz to introduce legislation that prohibits discrimination based on source of income.

"Every person deserves a fair shot at opportunity and that starts with a decent, safe, and affordable place to call home," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro in a statement. "This agreement sets Baltimore County on a path to stronger, more inclusive communities where everyone can enjoy equal access to opportunity."

Fugett says he is hopeful there will be some successes. "It will take a lot of work on everyone's part—the citizens, county, developers," he says. "We

should take a deep break and give it an opportunity to work."

People who believe they have experienced discrimination may file a complaint by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at 800-669-9777 (voice) or 800-927-9275 (TTY). Housing discrimination complaints may also be filed at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).

You can also contact the Baltimore County Human Relations Commission to report housing discrimination: phone 410-887-5917, TDD 410-339-7520, fax 410-887-6079.

To view frequently asked questions and view the map of where affordable housing can be located, visit Baltimore County's website at [baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/fairhousing/hudconciliation.html](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/fairhousing/hudconciliation.html)

## Highlights of Housing Settlement

Under the terms of the HUD agreement, Baltimore County will:

- Invest \$3 million annually for 10 years to create 1,000 affordable housing units
  - At least 500 of the units will have three or more bedrooms to accommodate families with children
  - At least one-third of the units will be accessible and made available to people with disabilities
  - Ensure all of units comply with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act
  - Provide Housing Choice Vouchers to at least 2,000 families
  - Proactively market the units to potential tenants who are least likely to apply, including African-Americans families and families with a member who has a disability.
- Provide an additional \$300,000 annually for 10 years to finance structural modifications to make other affordable housing units in Baltimore County accessible
- Run a housing mobility counseling program to offer expanded housing opportunities to families.
- Seek the enactment of legislation that prohibits discrimination based on source of income
- Pay the three individual claimants \$150,000 in monetary relief.

Source: Housing and Urban Development

## Business Owners

Looking for a way to make 2016 a banner year for your business? The best way to reach the community is to advertise in the *Northwest Voice*.

Call **410-508-1424** or email [advertising@nwvoicenews.com](mailto:advertising@nwvoicenews.com) for advertising rates and information. Get your message out in the print and online editions. Also find out how "sponsored content" can help you get results.

## Federal Funds Available to Serve Summer Meals to Children and Teens

Programs are available to give students free and reduced-price breakfast and lunches, but what happens to these students when schools are out for the summer?

Federal funds are available to assist public and private nonprofit organizations in serving free, nutritious meals to children and teens this summer through the Summer Food Service Program, a U. S. Department of Agriculture program. The Maryland State Department of Education is seeking to expand access to and participation in these meal programs. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2016.

More than 400,000 children in Maryland are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, but may not have access to healthful meals during the summer when schools are closed. For these families, food insecurity increases during the summer months. The Summer Food Service Program plays a vital role in reducing childhood hunger along with providing healthful meals.

“While Maryland has made progress to expand access and increase participation in the summer meals program, more communities need to become involved in providing a meal service so children have access

to meals in the summer months and return to school ready to learn,” according to Jack Smith, interim state superintendent of schools.

The program provides reimbursement to organizations for meals and snacks served to children in areas where at least 50 percent of the children qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, or when 50 percent of the children enrolled in a program qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Most organizations may be reimbursed for up to two meals or snacks per child per day. Camps and migrant programs may be reimbursed for up to three meals per child each day. Meals and snacks must meet federal nutrition standards.

The program is open to children and teens age 18 and under and to individuals over 18 who are mentally or physically disabled.

Interested organizations should contact MSDE at 410-767-0214. For information, visit [eatSMARTmaryland.org](http://eatSMARTmaryland.org).

—Maryland State Department of Education

### 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](mailto:nwvoicenews.com) or email [editor@nwvoicenews.com](mailto:editor@nwvoicenews.com). Please submit at least 30 days prior to your event and allow 7 days for publication.

Visit us at  
[nwvoicenews.com](http://nwvoicenews.com)

## Concerned about falling? Can vitamin D help?



**Consider STURDY.** STURDY is a research program to find out if Vitamin D pills will help prevent falls. Is STURDY for you? Free Medical Test and up to \$120 over 2 years.

**If you answer YES to all 3 of these questions, you may be eligible:**

- ☒ Are you age 70 or older?
- ☒ Are you afraid of falling or have you had a fall in the past year?
- ☒ 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](mailto:prohealth@sturdytrial.org)**





# Uninsured?

Get help applying for Medicaid or the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)

**9 a.m. to Noon**

**EVERY Saturday until May 21**

**Drumcastle Government Center**

(6401 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212)

Must meet income requirements and provide verification documents for eligibility to be determined.

**For details, call  
410-887-2957**



**Baltimore County Department of Health**

Healthy people, living, working, and playing in Baltimore County

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MSA, CPH, TACF - Director, Health and Human Services

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

This message has been brought to you by the Baltimore County Department of Health with funds from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

## Upcoming Events

### U.S. Senate Political Forum

The Maryland Federation of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association of Chapters and the Business and Professional Women of Maryland are convening a forum on Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m., which will feature U.S. Representatives Donna Edwards and Chris Van Hollen and other candidates running for the U.S. Senate. The event will be held at the Woodlawn Community Center, located at 2131 Woodlawn Drive. RSVP to Gary Roundtree Sr. at groundtreesr@hotmail.com.

### Mental Wellness for Older Adults

Learn warning signs of anxiety, depression and Alzheimer's disease and steps older adults can take to combat these disorders. Baltimore County Department of Aging is sponsoring the presentation on Wednesday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. at Pikesville Senior Center, 1301 Reisterstown Rd. Call 410-887-1245 for more information.

### Open House at Woodlawn Fire Company

Join the Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Company for an informative, fun-filled open house on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its station located at 2033 Woodlawn Drive. Tour the station and see the equipment, take a free hands-on CPR class, and participate in a free fire safety presentation for the family. There will be face painting, food and much more. Most importantly, you can meet the fire department members and learn how you can become one.

### Spring Fundraiser at Randallstown High

Randallstown High School PTSA will host a Spring Xplosion on Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school, located at 4000 Offutt Rd. There is still space available for vendors to showcase unique crafts, artwork, jewelry, beauty products, Ravens spirit items, T-shirts and more. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available

for purchase. There will be activities for the kids. Contact rhsevents12@gmail.com for vendor space and questions.

### Mortgage Late? Don't Wait

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is hosting a foreclosure prevention workshop on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Senior High School, 1801 Woodlawn Drive. Talk to counselors and attorneys and meet with loan servicers about how to prevent your home from going into foreclosure. Bring all paperwork related to your current and former mortgages, including loan applications, settlement paperwork, and lender statements; all foreclosure notices; and monthly household budget and pay stubs. RSVP online by April 14 at mdhope.org. On-site registration is also available. To pre-register for a free legal consultation, call the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, call 1-800-396-1274, ext. 3052.

### Free Hearing Screening for Seniors

Get your hearing checked on Thursday, April 21, between 9 and 11 a.m. at Liberty Senior Center, 3525 Resource Drive in Randallstown. Call 410-887-0780 to make an appointment. Baltimore County Department of Aging and Health Department are sponsoring the screenings.

### Compost Bin And Rain Barrel Truckload Sale

Baltimore County will host a compost bin and rain barrel truckload sale on Saturday, April 23, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road (enter near the electronic sign). Compost bins will sell for \$35 each and rain barrels for \$50 each. The sale will occur rain or shine, and all items will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last. This sale is not limited to county residents and there are no limits on the amount of bins and barrels an individual may purchase.

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11:00am**

**Happy Hour  
Mon-Fri, 4-7pm**

**Private Room  
Off-Site Catering  
Parties/Meetings  
443-564-5641**

**www.colinsseafoodandgrill.com**



## Educational Advisory Council Meetings

Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will host a legislative meet and greet on Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at Woodlawn Middle School, 3033 St Lukes Lane, 21207. The council also will hold a session on student data security on Wednesday, May 18, at Arbutus Elementary School, 1300 Sulphur Spring Rd., 21227

## Free Community Shred Day

The SecurityPlus Federal Credit Union is hosting a Shred Day on Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Northwest Plaza Shopping Center, 4470 W. Northern Parkway in Baltimore. Guard against identity theft and get your old checks, financial forms and documents shredded. For more info, visit [securityplusfcu.org](http://securityplusfcu.org).

## Movin' to Good Health

Get free health screenings, take advantage of tips on health living and see fitness demonstrations at the Movin' to Good Health event on Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Northwest Hospital, 5401 Old Court Rd. in Randallstown. Call 866-404-DOCS or visit [lifebridgehealth.org/movintogoodhealth](http://lifebridgehealth.org/movintogoodhealth)

## Learn Your HIV Status

The Baltimore County Health Department is holding a clinic so you can learn your HIV status. You can get a free oral HIV test every Saturday until May 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Drumcastle Government Center, 6401 York Rd., Baltimore, 21212. For information, call 410-887-2437.

Check for updates at [nwvoicenews.com](http://nwvoicenews.com)

## Hazardous Waste Drop-off April 10

It's time for spring cleaning, and part of that process should be to properly get rid of household hazardous waste.

Baltimore County residents can drop off their unwanted paints, fluorescent light bulbs and other hazardous waste items at Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection, which will be held on Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Central Acceptance Facility at Drop-off Drive and Warren Road in Cockeysville, 21030.

Other acceptable items include household chemicals, gasoline, ammunition, fireworks, recyclable batteries, swimming pool chemicals, mercury thermometers, fireworks and automotive fluids. The items will be recycled or disposed of properly.

For other details, visit <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/groundwatermgmt/hazwaste.html>.

Got questions? Call the department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability at 410-887-3745 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Got a free community event to share? Submit it at [nwvoicenews.com/contact-us/news/](http://nwvoicenews.com/contact-us/news/)



State Senator Dolores Kelley



County Exec. Kevin Kamenetz



Councilmember Julian Jones



Councilmember Vicki Almond



State Delegate Ben Brooks

We don't agree on everything, but we agree

**Chris Van Hollen**  
is the BEST Choice  
for U.S. Senate

*"a talented successor to  
Barbara Mikulski"*

-Washington Post

*"Effective, tenacious"*  
-Baltimore Sun

**VOTE APRIL 26!**

Chris  
**VanHollen**  
DEMOCRAT ★ US SENATE

Paid for by Van Hollen for Senate

Endorsed by: SEIU • SIERRA CLUB • MARYLAND FIREFIGHTERS • UAW

**LaFew**  
& Associates

In business, building relationships and pursuing growth opportunities are top priorities. While you focus on your big-picture goals, look to LaFew & Associates as your virtual partner for exceptional administrative and business management services to assist with the day-to-day operational details.

### We offer support:

- Project management (administrative)
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- Newsletter Management
- Administrative Support
- Office Organization
- Bookkeeping



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410-281-1600 or email us at [spirit@jhmi.edu](mailto:spirit@jhmi.edu)

Hsin-Chieh Jessica Yeh, PhD. Principal Investigator, IRB# IRB00035653



## New ROMG President/CEO Welcomed

The Reisterstown Owings Mills Glyndon Chamber of Commerce introduced its new president and CEO, Mary Ellen Morrison, to the community on March 21 at the Glyndon Grill. Morrison, previously executive director at the Hunt Valley Business Forum, is shown with Bob Frank, chairman of the board of directors. Several members attended. Contact [romg@romgchamber.com](mailto:romg@romgchamber.com) or 410-702-7073 for more information.



## Woodlawn Business Group Meets

Business owners, entrepreneurs, and government representatives turned out for the Security Woodlawn Business Association March meeting at the Woodlawn Library. Marisol Johnson is the recently elected president.

Margaret Stokes, representative for Tom Quirk, Baltimore County councilman for District 2, which covers Catonsville and Woodlawn, presents citations of service to Bill O'Brieht, owner of Calico Cat; Delores Douglass, former owner of the Woodlawn Villager; and Denise Litzau of Property Title & Escrow (not shown).

Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month (except July and August) and are usually held at the Woodlawn Library on 1811 Woodlawn Drive.





## ELECTION 2016: Voters to choose Senator Mikulski's successor

(continued from page 1)

host, says that Edwards and Van Hollen are coming from two of the largest jurisdictions, but must appeal to the Baltimore area. "Both are doing a good job coming to this region to ask people to vote for them," he says. "They have strong commercials and they're being progressive."

"Since the turnout in Baltimore City is expected to be low, Baltimore County is key," he says.

Though Van Hollen has racked up considerably more endorsements and raised significantly more funds than Edwards, recent polls put them within six percentage points at any given time, with each exchanging leads.

Their views on the environment, national security and most other issues are similar, but they're trying to distinguish themselves in other ways, e.g. ability to collaborate with colleagues, perspective on the middle class.

To that end, "They're doing what anybody would do—advertise, advertise, advertise," says Donald

Norris, professor of political science at University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Both are courting women and black voters. Norris says, "The African-American vote in the primaries is big because they make of 30 percent of the vote in the State. Within the Democratic Primary they make of 40 to 50 percent in the state." He pointed out that most African-American leaders have endorsed Van Hollen.

Young attributes Van Hollen support from African-American elected officials to collegial relationship he has maintained during his tenure in the House of Delegates. "They know him and they trust him."

Young says that when voters are considering candidates with similar records, they will vote for the person who they think will do better given the opportunity.

He presented three scenarios: "Will Edwards' constituency come

out stronger or will Van Hollen?" Will women look to Edwards, who has the support of Emily's List? Will Baltimore County, Anne Arundel and Harford tend to go Van Hollen or will Anne Arundel County go to Edwards?

While themes of establishment candidate versus outsider and political correctness have dominated the conversation in the presidential contest, they will have no bearing on the Maryland Senate race, says Norris. "It will depend on who turns out their constituencies," he says.

Young agrees that it will come down to the support of Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

There are eight other Democrats, 14 Republicans, six independents, one Green and one Libertarian in the race.

In the Democratic primary for president, Maryland will play a greater role this year with former Secretary Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders still running strong.



Reps. Donna Edwards and Chris Van Hollen greet each other before the start of the March 28 debate at Goucher College.

# MEET • LISTEN • VOTE

## Senatorial Candidates Forum for U.S. Senate



**Donna Edwards**  
Democrat



**Christopher Van Hollen**  
Democrat



**Violet Staley**  
Democrat



**John Graziani**  
Republican

**SAT., APRIL 9, 2016**  
**1 pm to 4 pm**

(Doors open at 12:30 pm)

**Woodlawn Community Center**  
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# Donna Edwards

## Making a historic run to be the voice of the middle class

As a young girl growing up in a military family, U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards says she and her five siblings went to the dinner table with more than an appetite. Every evening, she recalls, the children were expected to share something they had thought about, read or heard about. Many times the conversations would lean toward politics and other robust topics. An even more influential part of her upbringing, Edwards says, was her parents' insistence that their children avoid using the word "can't" and their encouragement that they live up to their dreams and aspirations.

An even more influential part of her upbringing, Edwards says, was her parents' insistence that their children avoid using the word "can't" and live up to their dreams and aspirations. "Those things have contributed to my work ethic, my intellectual curiosity, and to my belief that anything is possible," says the four-term congresswoman.

Edwards represents residents of District 4, territory that covers Prince George's and parts of Anne Arundel County. If her campaign is successful, she would be the second African-American woman in the Senate—there hasn't been one in more than two decades—and the first black Senator in Maryland. She acknowledges that it is essential for the Senate to have diverse

representation. It is just as important, she says, for constituents to have a representative who has the personal experiences and perspective to carry the voice of the middle-class to the Senate.

Edwards stresses that she did not "grow up in Annapolis politics" but has skills and experience that give her a "lens" into voters' needs. She is a lawyer and community activist who has held leadership positions in philanthropy, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

"WHAT DRIVES ME IS TRYING TO MAKE A BETTER WAY FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE JUST LIKE MINE, WHO JUST WANT TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND WANT FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO DO BETTER THAN THEY DID."

"What drives me is trying to make a better way for families who are just like mine, who just want to meet their responsibilities and want for their children to do better than they did," says the single parent of a 27-year-old son. "I'm driven to that because of the way I have grown up."

A first-generation college graduate, Edwards says she accumulated \$100,000 in student debt which she has paid off, and struggled to pay rent, utility bills and late fees for child care—bread-and-butter issues that working families deal with.

One of the first bills she got passed and one that she considers her most proud achievement established an after-school supper program where children who received free and reduced lunch can now eligible to receive dinner.

Health care was another area of focus. When the Affordable Care Act was making its way through the legislative process, Edwards says she worked hard to understand what the impact on consumers who already had insurance coverage. "When I figured out there was a real gap I went to leadership and got passed legislation that allows our insurance commissioners to review rate increases proposed by insurance companies, and then to penalize them

—REP. DONNA EDWARDS

if they were unjustifiably high," she explains. "That has resulted in savings to Maryland consumers this year that was announced of about \$66.6 million dollars."

A resident of Fort Washington in Prince George's County, Edwards says she has been traveling to every corner of the state to meet the voters of "all walks of life" including Baltimore County's. Their issues focus on development, education and the environment.

When it comes to constituent service, Edwards says she takes it personal. "By the time people come to a congressional office, they have exhausted every available course and we're their last stop. Even when they are not federal issues, we make sure they are connected directly with a person in the county or the state who can solve their problem."

She recalls cutting through bureaucratic red tape to get a woman who had multiple sclerosis her disability payments, and intervening to halt the foreclosure of a family dealing with a son who had a brain tumor and a husband who lost his

job. "We were able to, through the intervention, save the home, the parents are back to work, the son is healthy and they are still in their family home."

To connect constituents to resources, Edwards holds foreclosure prevention forums, college fairs for parents and students, workshops for small business owners, and forums for nonprofit organizations. "It's about individual constituents but also about strengthening systems of support for people who want to contribute to the economy," she says.

When asked how her chief rival, Rep. Chris Van Hollen, has secured numerous endorsements from African-American elected officials, Edwards attributes the support and his significant fundraising advantage to the Washington establishment. "I'm not surprised that my opponent, who comes out of the political apparatus and establishment, has the support of someone who comes out of the political apparatus and establishment."

Former national NAACP President Ben Jealous, several unions and legislators have endorsed Edwards, but she says the most important endorsements come from grassroots. "I'm proud that we're running a campaign that reaches the people."

"It doesn't matter where they are in the state, I am going to represent them. Every single day I will wake up fighting for them."

Throughout the campaign, it's been a family affair. Her mother makes calls in the phone bank, her sisters are knocking on doors and her son, Jared, advises her on issues that move young people. "He's helped me reach out to young people who might not otherwise be involved, Edwards says. "He's your classic millennial."

Win or lose, what will Edwards be doing on April 27, the day after the General Election? "Making calls to thank people and get a really good night's sleep."

—J. Anderson

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**U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards is meeting Baltimore County voters, a key constituency to win a seat in the U.S. Senate.**



# Chris Van Hollen

## Continuing his work as a 'dreamer and a doer'

Rep. Chris Van Hollen says he's always been focused on action and results, and a proponent of economic opportunity and social justice—"not just in words but in deeds."

He is counting on those characteristics to put him on top in a tight race for the U.S. Senate against colleague Rep. Donna Edwards.

An attorney, Van Hollen practiced law in the private sector before pursuing a career in public service. In 1991, he ran and won a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates, then four years later beat the well-financed Mark Kennedy Shriver by three percentage points in the race for state Senate. He served there until 2002, then ran for the U.S. House of Representative for District 8, which covers Montgomery County and parts of Carroll and Frederick counties and is considered one of the wealthiest congressional districts in the nation.

"I have devoted my public life so that everyone gets a fair chance and a fair shake," he says.

His major achievement, Van Hollen says, has been working with President Barack Obama to pass key legislation. "I was part of the leadership team that passed Obamacare, that passed Wall Street reform legislation to rein in the big banks, and to pass the economic recovery bill which helped stop the free fall in the economy," he says. "I am also proud to have led the fight to end the outrageous profits that big banks were getting at the expense of the student loan program."

When speaking to voters in the northwest, Van Hollen says certain issues rise to the top of their priority list of concerns: more economic opportunities to the county, a better transportation system that links people from their homes to their jobs, and educational initiatives, such as a school construction program and smaller classrooms.

A ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, Van Hollen noted that he has been endorsed "by every single Democrat on Baltimore County

Council and people like Sen. Delores Kelley because of my belief that we can partner together to get things done."

When asked about how important the Baltimore County vote is to the Senate race, he says, "It's very important because Baltimore County is a vital part of our state." Protecting and expanding federal assets, such as the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, is a priority, he says.

About the importance of blacks and women in the election, Van Hollen says, "African-American voters and women voters are very focused on trying to make sure we achieve important results together for community," such as investments for early education and a college system that allows people to graduate without debt.

Still, with the long list of endorsements and fundraising advantage, Van Hollen finds himself, just weeks from Election Day, in a close race with his challenger. "I will continue to talk to voters, and I have a major grassroots effort going. It's important that Democrats regain the majority in the Senate."

He's getting some assistance from daughter Anna, 25, a social media guru, sons Nick, 23, and Alex, 20, and his wife, Katherine.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Van Hollen is the eldest of three children. His father, a Baltimore City native and Navy veteran, worked overseas for the Foreign Service and his mother worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and State Department. The family returned to the States when he was middle school age.

As a college student, Van Hollen says he became a leader in the anti-apartheid movement to get the school to divest funds corporations doing business from South Africa. It was an important lesson on how "grassroots activism is the fuel can propel change. I've seen my role in



**Rep. Chris Van speaks in Randallstown at a March 14 event where he was endorsed by County Executive Kevin Kamenetz.**

"I HAVE DEVOTED MY PUBLIC LIFE SO THAT EVERYONE GETS A FAIR CHANCE AND A FAIR SHAKE."

—REP. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

Congress being part of that."

He recalls the times he traveled with fellow representative and civil rights activist John Lewis on a three separate pilgrimages to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Ala., taking one of his children on each visit as a learning experience.

Looking back on how he has helped some of his constituents, Van Hollen recalls a young man named Matthew who faced with a poor prognosis for brain cancer. "I focused on increasing our funding at places like NIH so we can provide the resources for individuals and families stricken by diseases, such as diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's, etc." He believes that the research and experimental efforts helped save Matthew's life.

"One of my favorite phrases is that we need dreamers and we need doers, and I am a dreamer and a doer."

After a hard fought election, what will he be doing on April 27? "Hopefully preparing for the run in the General Election to make sure ... after taking a moment's breather."

—J. Anderson

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## 2016 Presidential Primary Elections

Note the timelines and deadlines for the U.S. President and Senate races

- You can also register to vote during the early voting period. Go to an early voting center in the county where you live and bring a document that proves where you live.
- Early voting begins Thursday, April 14, through Thursday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Presidential Primary Election Day: Tuesday, April 26

### Locations for Early Voting

There are nine locations in the county for early voting and citizens can vote at any of them.

Those most convenient to the northwest are:

Arbutus Community Center  
865 Sulphur Spring Rd.  
Halethorpe, Md. 21227

Randallstown Community Center  
3505 Resource Drive  
Randallstown, Md. 21133

Reisterstown Senior Center Hannah More Campus  
12035 Reisterstown Rd.  
Reisterstown, Md. 21136

Woodlawn Community Center  
2120 Gwynn Oak Ave.  
Woodlawn, Md. 21207

### Election Day Voting

There are 236 precincts and 192 polling places in Baltimore County, according to the Board of Elections. On Election Day, you vote at the polling location that is listed on your voter card. You can also use the election board's online tool at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch> to find out where you will vote.

**Questions?** Contact the Board of Elections at 410-887-5700 or visit <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/elections/index.html>

## Election Judges Needed

With the Primary Presidential Election just weeks away, the Baltimore County Board of Election is still in need of 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. 8.

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 qualify, 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.

### 2016 Presidential Elections

Source: Maryland Board of Election

#### Primary Election Day

April 26, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Early voting

April 14-21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### General Election Day

Nov. 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Early voting

Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Baltimore County voters will cast their votes for:

U.S. President  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. House of Representatives

### Maryland Orthodontic Specialists

Maxine Clark's solo practice specializes in orthodontic and dentofacial orthopedic treatment. She received her D.D.S. degree from Howard University College of Dentistry and a general certificate from the U.S. Army where she earned an achievement medal. With over 25 years of orthodontic care, Dr. Clark has contributed to the awareness of the importance of good oral health, as well as serving on the delegation to the American Association of Orthodontists and mentoring high school students interested in the field of dentistry.



**Maxine V. Clark**  
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410-992-7911

**Catonsville**  
410-719-0480

**[bracesbydrclark.com](http://bracesbydrclark.com)**

## Voting With a Paper Trail

### Touchscreen System Replaced Paper Ballots

After several years using the touchscreen voting system, Maryland will use a new voting system starting this year that produces a voter-verifiable paper record, or paper trail, of each voter's selections. The General Assembly enacted legislation in 2007 authorizing this system, but funding was not available until now.

During the 2016 presidential elections' early voting and Election Day, voters will be given a pre-printed paper ballot. You will mark the pre-printed paper ballot by hand at a voting booth, review the ballot, then insert the ballot into the scanner to cast your vote. After the scanner reads and counts the selections, the ballots will automatically drop into a secure ballot box. When voting ends, the system produces a total report of each vote from the paper ballots.

Election officials have tested each device. They can also compare the ballots marked by voters against the results generated by the scanners.

An accessible voting method for voters with disabilities is available upon request at each early voting and Election Day location.

For other details and to view a video, visit [elections.state.md.us/voting\\_system/index.html](http://elections.state.md.us/voting_system/index.html)





## Voices of the Northwest

### In an election, what influences your voting decision most?

The issues, advertisements, the people who have endorsed the candidates, or a personal interaction?



"I LOOK AT THE CANDIDATES' POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES. I GET MY INFORMATION FROM DEBATES ON TV."

**Michelle Curtis, Pikeville**



"I LOOK AT WHERE THEY STAND ON THE ISSUES. I ALSO CONSIDER PERSONAL PERCEPTION OF THE CANDIDATES. I THINK THE MEDIA IS BIASED TOWARD WHATEVER NARRATIVE GETS THE MOST VIEWERS. I DON'T TRUST THE ADVERTISEMENTS EITHER."

**Vincent Ng, Reisterstown**



"IT HAS TO BE THE ISSUES. I GET MY INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, SUCH AS TV, LITERATURE, AND I GOOGLE TO SEE WHAT COMMENTS THEY HAVE MADE ON VARIOUS THINGS."

**Ernie Schmidhauser, Reisterstown**



"MY VOTING IS INFLUENCED MOST BY THE ISSUES THE CANDIDATES STAND FOR. BASED UPON LISTENING TO THEM, THEN I HAVE TO SEE THEIR LEVEL OF PASSION. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY AND DO WHAT YOU SAY WHEN PEOPLE ARE NOT WATCHING."

**Denise Davis, Woodstock**



"IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO IS ALIGNED WITH PERSONAL VIEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT HOW I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WORLD MOVING OR MY COMMUNITY MOVING."

**Towanda Dorsey, Randallstown**



"IF THE PERSON IS PRESENTLY IN OFFICE I LOOK TO THEIR VOTING RECORD ON ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO ME. IF THE PERSON IS SEEKING OFFICE, I DON'T CONSIDER ENDORSEMENTS, I LOOK AT THEIR POSITIONS AND WHETHER OR NOT THE PERSON IS A FOLLOWER OR A LEADER."

**Michael Brown, Randallstown**

## Black Votes Matter

(continued from page 2)

- Ken Oliver edged Julian Jones in the 2010 contest for District 4 County Council by 70 votes.
- Kweisi Mfume lost to Ben Cardin in the 2006 congressional election by four percentage points.

My advice to you? Vote based on your research and convictions. How many of our elected officials do you think endorse a candidate for the good of the community vs. for their own good? Before they make an endorsement do they get your thoughts? My point exactly. So, when you go to the booth, you vote you! De-bunk the myth by some that certain people in our community tell us how to vote and we blindly follow them. Don't allow yourself to be manipulated by people who don't have your best interests at heart.

The only time one individual is equal another is when you pull that lever to cast your ballot. My vote carries no more weight than your vote and the vote of an elected official or businessperson or CEO carries no more weight than either of our votes. Regardless of whether you're a homeowner or renter, married or single, or have a high school education or a Ph.D., the weight of each vote is the same, and you only get one.

Early voting starts April 14 and continues through April 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; you can vote at the Randallstown Community Center, Reisterstown Senior Center and Woodlawn Community Center.

Also, if you want to hear directly from the candidates, unfiltered, and not through someone else's lens, stop by the Woodlawn Community Center, on Saturday, April 9, at 1 p.m. I have said a lot, and I have done so from my perspective. Let me hear your thoughts. What do you think? How can we move forward?

Leave a comment at [nwvoicenews.com](http://nwvoicenews.com).

**Mother's Day**  
is May 8



### Honor Thy Mother. Win a \$100 Gift Certificate.

What makes your mother, grandmother or mother figure a unique individual? Share your heartwarming, humorous or compelling story in 200 words or less.

The Northwest Voice will select 3 lucky ladies who will win \$100 gift certificates for dinner at one of these local restaurants:

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Submit article by April 20 to [editor@nwvoicenews.com](mailto:editor@nwvoicenews.com) or mail (postmark by April 20) to Northwest Voice, P.O. Box 47266, Baltimore, MD 21244.

Winning entries and photos will be published in the May issue of the Northwest Voice.

# County High School Graduation Rates Rise

Following a state trend, Baltimore County students are graduating at a higher rate last year than they did in 2014. When you look at schools in the northwest, the majority of students are crossing the stage at higher rates also.

According to the Maryland State Department of Education, the state's 87 percent graduation rate for students who came out of school at the end of the 2015 academic year is the highest in state's history. As the graduation rate set new records, the dropout rate reached 8.9 percent, an all-time low.

In Baltimore County, the 2015 graduation rate increased over the previous year by a fraction

of a percent to 87.78 and by more than four percentage points since 2011. African-American students' graduation rate rose by almost 1 point last year over 2014 and by more than 11 percentage points since 2011. Black students are also closing the gap on their Caucasian counterparts. Seven percentage points separated the two groups in 2011; last year, there was just a seven-tenths of percent difference.

The MSDE data also reveals that of the nine high schools in the area, graduation rates ranged from more than 95 percent at Pikesville High School and Western Vocational School of Technology and Environmental

Science to 79.6 percent at Owings Mill High School.

Woodlawn High students showed the most dramatic improvement over the last five years, going from a graduate rate of just over 69 percent to 85 percent; African-American students' rate improved 20 percent during that period. Franklin High's graduation rate rose an impressive 5 percent over the last year. (See chart).

Woodlawn High students showed the most dramatic improvement over the last five years, going from a graduate rate of just over 69 percent to 85 percent; African American students' rate improved 20

percent during that period. Franklin High's graduation rate rose an impressive 5 percent over the last year.

Owings Mills High and Randallstown High were the only schools to show a decrease in students crossing the stage from 2015 to 2014.

Maryland uses a cohort graduation rate, which follows a set group of students from freshman year through their senior year. In the four-year cohort graduation data for student subgroups, graduation rates for African-American, Asian and White students all increased, as did the rate for students identifying as two or more races.

To view the graduation rates by county, school and statewide, visit **msde.state.md.us**.

**High School Graduation Rates**

How are our students doing at area schools? See the graduation rates, which are percentages of the students who graduated after four years. The Class of 2015 represents students who entered high school as freshmen in the fall of 2011; the Class of 2014 represents first-time freshmen in the fall of 2010 and the Class of 2011 entered as freshmen in 2007.

	2015	2014	2011
Baltimore County			
All students	87.78	87.63	81.82
African-American	87.76	86.84	76.69
White	88.48	88.38	83.75
Catonsville			
All students	91.18	90.19	90.20
African-American	84.62	91.04	88.68
White	94.78	89.12	89.54
Franklin			
All students	94.52	89.42	86.86
African-American	92.48	85.83	86.30
White	>95	9.86	89.58
Milford Mill			
All students	91.64	91.07	83.53
African-American	91.93	92.35	84.21
White	no data available		
New Town			
All students	93.95	92.92	84.21
African-American	94.32	93.27	85.47
White	*	*	*
Owings Mills			
All students	79.76	88.09	73.85
African-American	89.71	88.41	73.58
Pikesville			
All students	>95	>95	87.04
African-American	94.34	*	85.37
White	94.38	>95	88.46
Randallstown			
All students	87.82	91.09	81.14
African-American	89.51	91.53	80.99
White	no data collected		
Western Vo-Tech			
All students	>95	>95	>95
African-American	>95	*	>95
White	>95	>95	>95
Woodlawn			
All students	84.98	82.98	69.12
African-American	87.32	83.23	72.62
White	*	*	*
State of Maryland			
All students	86.98	86.39	82.82
African-American	82.29	80.54	76.09
White	92.03	91.01	89.10

\* No students or fewer than 10 students  
Source: Maryland Department of Education



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## 2016 State of Baltimore County *(continued from page 5)*

launch there in fall 2017. Through this new program, students will graduate with high school diploma and an associate's degree.

### Minority Mentoring Initiative

Male students in Baltimore County Public Schools are more likely to switch schools, drop out and not enroll to college, Dance reported. In grades seven through 12, 48 percent of Baltimore County Public Schools' African-American males and 31 percent of Hispanic males have been suspended, compared to 23 percent of their white male counterparts.

To address the gender gap, he is implementing a Superintendent's Minority Male Mentoring Initiative and issued a call to action: "I will be calling on men from around the Baltimore region to further this cause along with me to make it a collective responsibility to wrap our arms around our young men."

Noting that Freeman Hrabowski, president of University of Maryland Baltimore County, serves as his closest mentor, Dance acknowledged, "I would not be standing here today without the guidance and support of mentors throughout my life.

A full-time mentoring coordinator will ensure all schools share best practices.

### Other Initiatives

To ease students' transition from elementary to middle school and middle to high school, Dance shared that an early entry day will launch this fall. Students will try out their lockers, ride their bus routes and review their course schedules. They will meet their teachers, eat in the cafeteria and tour the school, as well as learn about extra curricular activities.

In the last 10 years, the population of English learners has doubled to more than 5,000 students who are from 106 countries and speak 80 languages, Dance reported. With their graduation rate having declined to 48 percent for the 2015 graduates, while the rate for all BCPS students rose to nearly 88 percent, the superintendent created an English Learner Office and says he will increase classroom staffing and teacher training, and build parent advocacy.

Additional staffing and training, and resources for students with severe disabilities, another group whose population and needs have increased within the school system.

To support students' social and emotional needs, the role of school counselors will go beyond skills training. More social workers will be placed in the schools and will assist with basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and mental health services.

To view the full presentation, visit [bcps.org](http://bcps.org).

To leave a comment, view the online version at [nwvoicenews.com](http://nwvoicenews.com).

### Student Participation, Performances Steal the Show

Students were front and center throughout the State of Schools, serving as greeters, performers, and speakers.

They also created artwork for a silent auction. **Danny Hawkins Jr.**, a fifth-grader at Johnnycake Elementary School, led the pledge of allegiance, and **Madison Janey**, an eighth-grader at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School, shared a reflection on her BCPS journey.

**Jasmine Martin-Wilson**, an eighth-grader at Windsor Mill Middle School, shared comments about what the system is doing well and where it can improve.

**Blessing Kimbi** and **Thai Trogon** of the Woodlawn High School Navy JROTC participated in the JROTC Color Guard.

There were performances from the all-county honors dance ensemble, which featured students from Deer Park Middle Magnet School, New Town High School, Southwest Academy and Sudbrook Magnet Middle School; the Lyons Mills Elementary School Swing Dancers; and Milford Mill Academy Chorus.

The theme, "Believe, Rise, Lead, was created by Pikesville High School students.


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## Keep Your Community Within County Code

Spring is here and it is time to think about neighborhood beautification and tidiness.

Does your community have an issue with neighbors whose grass grows a foot before they crank up the lawn mower, collects junked vehicles and appliances in the yard or keeps their trash curbside weeklong?

When all else fails, you can file a complaint with Baltimore County's Code Enforcement division.

Some 25 inspectors respond to roughly 18,000 complaints about code and zoning violations each year. Commonly reported violations include rodent or insect infestations, high grass, illegal structures, abandoned vehicles, improperly stored trash or garbage, and defective roofs, windows, doors or fences.

To file online, go to [baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeenforcement/codecomplaint.html](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeenforcement/codecomplaint.html). You must leave your name, address and phone number to file online. Or, you may call 410-887-3351.



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# Teacher, Principal of the Year to be Named April 20

Six Baltimore County Public Schools educators have been named finalists for the school system's annual Teacher of the Year award for 2016-2017. Six county principals also are finalists for the Principal of the Year Award.

The Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year will be named from the finalists and honored during a ceremony on Wednesday, April 20, 5:30 p.m. at George Washington Carver Center for Art and Technology, 938 York Rd., in Towson.

The teacher finalists with ties to the northwest are:

- Corey Carter, a science teacher at Old Court Middle School
- Shannon Johnson, of Owings Mills, a S.T.A.T. (Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow) teacher at Arbutus Middle School
- Molly LaBricciosa, an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) coordinator and English teacher at Pikesville High School

The other finalists are Christian Johnson, a fifth-grade teacher at Hawthorne Elementary School; Meaghan O'Reilly, a visual arts teacher at Mays Chapel Elementary School; and Ryan Twentey, a visual arts teacher at Parkville High School.

The principal finalists with ties to the northwest are:

- Harvey Chambers of Owings Mills, principal of Windsor Mill Middle School
- Missy Fanshaw of Glyndon, principal of Rodgers Forge Elementary School
- Lois Stokes of Owings Mills, principal of Randallstown Elementary School
- Sandra Reid, principal of Pikesville High School

The other finalists are Marquis Dwarte, principal of Overlea High School, and Kevin Connelly, principal of Villa Cresta Elementary School.

The ceremony will also honor the more than 150 teacher nominees and their schools, and feature student performances and remarks from current Baltimore County Teacher of the Year Orly Mondell.

A panel of judges from across the county representing teachers, students, administrators, and the teacher's union selected the Teacher of the Year finalists. The winner will go on to participate in the state Teacher of the Year program. A panel of judges representing stakeholders from across the BCPS school community selected the Principal of the Year finalists.



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# Early Detection For Colon Cancer Can Save Lives

Colorectal cancer is cancer that occurs in the colon or rectum, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Colorectal cancer primarily affects people aged 50 years or older. For men, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer after prostate cancer and lung cancer. For women, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer after breast cancer and lung cancer.

Screening can find precancerous polyps, which are abnormal growths in the colon or rectum, so that they can be removed before turning into cancer. If everyone aged 50 years or older were screened regularly, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented, according to the health department.

Assistance is available to Baltimore County residents who do not have health insurance for colon cancer screening services, are age 50 to 64 and have limited income. Assistance may be available to county residents who have health insurance, but have high out-of-pocket expenses for colon cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment services, are age 50 to 64 and have limited income.

If you are 50 or older (younger, if at increased risk), you should be screened for colon cancer.

To find out if you are eligible for free screening services or have questions about colon cancer screening, call 410-887-3456.

—Baltimore County Health Department

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# Water Bill to Rise 12%, 8% for Next 2 Years

An average family of four in Baltimore County will pay an additional \$227.43 on their water and sewer bills over the next two years starting July 1.

The county announced the increases on March 15. They follow a 15 percent rate hike that took effect last July. Officials say the money is needed to replace water pipes, reline sewer pipes and address other portions of the aging infrastructure.

To pay for these upgrades, water rates will rise about 12 percent effective July 1 and an additional 8 percent July 1, 2017. The average impact on a family of four is \$130.20 the first year and \$97.23 the following year, the county estimates.

The public water system, called the Metropolitan District, is an extension of the Baltimore City system, which draws water from county reservoirs, treats the water, and then returns it to county residents at cost. The system is required to be financially self-supporting.

County residents pay an annual fee for sewerage based on water

usage (“water in, water out”); a flat annual rate for water distribution based on meter size; and quarterly for metered water usage. Most county residents get their quarterly water bill from the City of Baltimore and make payment to the Director of Finance. The sewage and water distribution charges appear on an individual’s property tax bill in July.

Ed Adams, county director of public works, noted in a statement that “water main breaks and sewage overflows continue to occur, even with the increased efforts of the past decade.” He added, “Sewage overflows present a health hazard to the Chesapeake Bay and the entire watershed. As anyone who owns an older home can attest, pipes that are 60 and 70 years old are just a disaster waiting to happen.”

According to County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, the county is obligated under a federal decree and by law to fully finance the Metropolitan District fund. “As a responsible government, we must bite the bullet now and not kick the can down the road,” he said.

## Water Bill Rate Increases

### Fiscal Year 2017

#### Annual sewer service charge

Current rate: \$45.40 per 1,000 cubic feet of water consumption  
New Rate: \$50.85  
Appears on property tax bill

#### Annual water distribution charge

Current rate: \$112.83  
New Rate: \$126.37  
Appears on property tax bill

#### Quarterly metered water usage charge

Current rate: \$16.73 per 1,000 cubic feet of water consumption  
New Rate: \$18.74  
Billed quarterly from Baltimore City  
Average impact on a family of four: \$130.20 per year

### Fiscal Year 2018

#### Annual sewer service charge

Current rate: \$50.85 per 1,000 cubic feet of water consumption  
New Rate: \$54.92

#### Annual water distribution charge

Current rate: \$126.37  
New rate: \$136.48

#### Quarterly metered water usage charge

Current rate: \$18.74 per 1,000 cubic feet of water consumption  
New rate: \$20.24  
Average impact on a family of four: \$97.23 per year

Source: Baltimore County



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## COMMENTARY

## Will Donna Edwards, Sheila Dixon Usher in a New Era in Maryland Politics?

by Doni Glover

The Democratic Party is on trial in Maryland by way of two races: the U.S. Senate race to replace the Barbara Mikulski and the Baltimore City mayoral race. In short, the powers that be in the Maryland politics have their picks.

In the Senate race, the establishment supports Congressman Chris Van Hollen. In the Baltimore City Mayor's race, Senate President Mike Miller is a monumental supporter of Catherine Pugh.

As Dr. Wilbert Wilson stated on a recent WOLB 1010 AM news talk show, "Donna Edwards and Sheila Dixon: These two women will carry Maryland into a brand new day." Wilson, the author of "The Power that Never Came," suggests that the upcoming election is going to usher in a change that is long overdue.

One could suggest that Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown's lost to Republican challenger Larry Hogan sent a signal that the Maryland Democratic Party is in trouble. It is in trouble, I think, because for too long, it has ignored the needs of its most loyal demographic: African Americans.

Frankly, politics is a sophisticated game that only the most organized get their voices heard.

People may not want to admit it, but there is a certain classism found in politics where few actually even want to be around poor people. And if we're talking about the State of Maryland, then that would include a lot of black people.

Frederick Douglass, the famous Marylander who once beat up a slave breaker on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the heat of slavery, said, "Power concedes nothing without a demand." He said that it never has and it never will.

Last April, the young people of Baltimore let the world know that the black community has some demands.

What's most disturbing, I must add, is that all through the riots, we saw people at Penn-North who never came there before the civil disturbance; nor, have they returned. They got their interview and bounced.

However, what is unfortunate is that it took the first civil unrest in Baltimore City in 47 years to actually get their attention.

There is a classism in the community when some blacks don't care for poor blacks. Why? They don't vote anyway, some suggest.

But I am reminded of the day Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. It was Nov. 4, 2008. And on that day, I saw everybody in line in Sandtown voting. Regardless of folks' station in life, I saw people lined up all the way outside the door. I have never seen that before; not here in Sandtown. But it did happen because people had mad love for him.

That same energy must be harnessed again. Black people make up 30 percent of this state. And while we do indeed have a black President down the road, there are times when slavery still seems to be live and in full effect in Maryland.

I have witnessed our black politicians, time and time again, give away their power politically.

We don't need leaders who give away power. We need leaders who will use the power to serve the people.

This same Democratic monster – the one that did not support Kweisi Mfume for U.S. Senate or C. Anthony



WE DON'T NEED LEADERS WHO GIVE AWAY POWER. WE NEED LEADERS WHO WILL USE THE POWER TO SERVE THE PEOPLE.

Muse for Senate – seems to think that a black person doesn't deserve to be a U.S. Senator in 2016. Donna Edwards and Sheila Dixon have gone without the benefit of the Democratic establishment's support. Their stubborn competitiveness in the

race proves that, with or without the support of the establishment, they can, in fact, win.

I am proud of these two fighters. On April 26, I encourage you to vote.

Doni Morton Glover, President & Publisher  
DMGlobal Marketing & Public Relations  
Author, *Unapologetically Black*:  
Doni Glover Autobiography

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### Did you know?

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Let's all vote and remain #1!

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