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# n o r t h w e s t VOICE

Your *voice* in the community

MAY 2016

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



By the time the 436<sup>th</sup> session of the Maryland General Assembly adjourned on Monday, April 11, legislators had passed more than 800. Among them was House Bill 1014-College Affordability Act of 2016, which is awaiting the Governor's signature.

## Legislative Session is a Wrap

### College Affordability Bill Awaits Governor's Signature

Without a doubt, the cost to go to college is expensive. Fifty-eight percent of Class of 2014 undergraduates from Maryland public and nonprofit colleges and universities incurred an average \$27,457 in student debt, according to the higher education nonprofit Institute for College and Success. The figure is three percentage points below the national average. It's also double the amount of debt students incurred in 2004, twice the national growth rate for the same 10-year period, and more than four times the rate of inflation.

As student debt continues to grow, help is on the way. House Bill 1014-College Affordability Act of 2016, sponsored by Del. Adrienne Jones of District 10, aims to relieve students and families of this financial burden.

*continued on page 14*





From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

# Mothers Are The Most Special People

Coming from a two-parent home, I almost immediately saw the difference between moms and dads. While both parents are important to a child's upbringing, I don't know what I would have done without my Mom, Mary Brown. She was an extraordinary woman.

Dad, a steel worker, took on the role of a provider, but Mom, a stay-at-home mom, was special. She was the nurturer and teacher, and represented all the things that are very important in a person's life—love, caring and strength.

She was a fantastic cook, very funny, a great listener and always had my back. This lady was always there for me. She was the one who believed in me and encouraged me to believe in myself.

When you reflect back, you really understand the sacrifices mothers make for the family and the children. Our family was made up of two boys and five girls. When I look back at all she had to do not just for one but for seven, I shake my head and marvel.

She was the first up in the morning and the last to go down at night. Living in a household with a family that large, we didn't have a lot. We lived in West Baltimore and later moved to Woodlawn. But she made sure we had what we needed. When there wasn't a lot of food, she knew how to make those potatoes and onions go a long way. My dad ate, and she'd sit us down at the table, but she then you'd see her doing something else while we ate.

When my Dad died at age 44, she still had to carry on raising us and taking care of the household. She did it with resilience. I just can't imagine what life would be like without mothers. These are the individuals who take on the responsibility of raising and setting the next generation up for a better life.

When I think about Mom's life lessons, the one lesson that comes to mind is to respect women. Living in the house with my sisters, at times with my grandmothers, Louise Cunningham and Ruth Jacks, I have total respect for what women do in this world. It's just not about giving birth. I wonder if guys had to do what women do, whether they could hold up under the pressure. I think we all know the answer to that one.

Mary Brown was one of those mothers who took great pride in her role as a mother. I remember asking her why there were so many children in the house. I liked to think it was because of the lack of birth control, but that wasn't the case. She said it was because she loved children. Being the only child, she loved each and every one of her children



**Mary Brown, who passed away in 2001, relished her role as the nurturing mother of my six siblings and me.**

immensely. She used to say that being a parent was a lifetime job. And so her motherhood didn't end when we became adults. She continued to be the mother in our lives until the end. She passed away on Oct. 24, 1999, seven days after her 65th birthday.

Every man woman and child who walks the face of the earth owes his or her existence to a mother somewhere. Certainly, all mothers aren't perfect and everyone is not cut out to be a mother. But that mother, grandmother, foster mother and mother figure deserve all the honor anyone could give. How do you say thank you for someone who does that much for you?

It's nice that we take one day out of the year to say thank you, but I'm one of those people who could say thank you every day of the year, because what my mom has given to me, I could never give back to her.

We were fortunate that my grandmothers believed in the village-raising concept. I also say thank you to my mother in law, the late Frances Dorsey. It was a strained relationship in the beginning, but she became a surrogate mother to me and a grandmother, of course, to my three daughters Tiffany, Krystal and Eboni. It's always heartwarming, sometimes tough and often times hilarious to watch my Tiffany with her daughter and three boys. I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize Betty for being a fantastic mother to our kids. All



**My mother, Mary Brown, an extraordinary lady.**

these mothers play such an important role in my life, and I love them for all they've done.

Whenever you get the opportunity, please say thank you to and give a warm hug to a mother. They're our queens and we must honor them as such.

## 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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## Rolling Run Technology Center Bringing New Offices to Woodlawn

With office demand high near the headquarters for three federal complexes, Knott Realty Group is building the new Rolling Run Technology Park in Woodlawn. The 58,000-square-foot office building meets the needs of IT, cyber and professional services companies.

"Woodlawn is where 'location, location, location' meets 'talent, talent, talent.' Social Security and CMS decision makers and prime federal contractors are right at a company's doorstep," said Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz.

"Last year, the Federal government spent over \$3.7 billion in Baltimore County — much of that spent in Woodlawn," continued Kamenetz. "With private developers such as Knott continuing to invest here, we know that government contractors and professional services firms will find the space they need near their customers, employees and suppliers."

The county supports a significant federal presence within a two-mile radius in Woodlawn. More than 14,200 people work at the headquarters



of the Social Security Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services headquarters and the FBI Regional Operations Center.

Prime contractors such as CSC, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, MITRE, Northrop Grumman and many subcontractors also have significant operations in Woodlawn.

"Rolling Run Technology Park features a flexible and open space layout that can support a wide array of office users including government contractors, medical and professional services," said James F. Knott, Jr., president of Knott Realty Group. "Our adjacent office properties, with more than 82,000 square feet of space, are 100 percent leased, so we have tremendous confidence in this market."

—Baltimore County government

**The new Rolling Run Technology Center is being built next to headquarters of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Woodlawn. James Knott, Jr., president of Knott Realty Group, Councilman Julian Jones, and Will Anderson, director of Baltimore County Department of Economic & Workforce Development participated in the April groundbreaking.**

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## Upcoming events

### Rabies Vaccination Clinics

Baltimore County Department of Health is holding nine low-cost animal rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets. Animals must be at least 12 weeks old to be vaccinated. You can take your pet to a convenient location in the northwest. Clinics will be held Sunday, May 22, 10 a.m. to noon at the Hannah More Park, 12035 Reisterstown Rd. in Reisterstown, 21136, and Wednesday, June 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Rockdale Park, 3326 N. Rolling Rd. in Windsor Mill, 21244. The cost is \$8. Info: 410-887-PAWS (7297).

### Educational Advisory Council Meeting

The Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council will host a session on student data security on Wednesday, May 18, at Arbutus Elementary School, 1300 Sulphur Spring Rd., 21227

### Prekindergarten Screening

By appointment only, Deer Park Elementary School a prekindergarten screening for parents and guardians interested in enrolling their child for the 2016-2017 school year on Thursday, May 19, for children born Sept. 2, 2011 through Sept. 1, 2012. If you wish to receive a registration packet along with an appointment time by mail for the screening, please call the school office to have your name and information added to the mailing list.

### Informational Community Outreach Session

Del. Adrienne Jones of District 10 will host an information session on May 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Milford Mill Academy, 400 Washington Ave., 21207. A number of State and county representatives will be on hand to provide materials and answer questions about agency services. There also will be information on summer jobs for youth.

### 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.

### Opioid Overdose Response Training

If you are concerned that a loved one is at risk for overdosing on heroin or prescription pain medication, the Baltimore County Department of Health is offering free, two-hour trainings on how to recognize, prevent and respond to an opioid overdose by using intra-nasal naloxone (a prescription medication that is used to reverse an overdose). The training will be held Monday, June 6, 6 to 8 p.m. at Arbutus Public Library, 855 Sulphur Spring Rd. in Arbutus, 21227. Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required. Complete the form at [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health/events/odresponse.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health/events/odresponse.html) or call 410-887-3828 with questions.

### Friends of the Randallstown Library Annual Meeting

Join guest speaker S. Dallas Dance, superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools, on May 16 at 7 to 8 p.m. at the Randallstown Public Library for a discussion on preparing students for this age of increasing technology, and highlights from Randallstown area schools.

### Community Garden

Get your hands dirty in helping to plant the first community garden at the Catonsville Library on Saturday, May 21, 1100 Frederick Rd., from 10 a.m. to noon. Produce will be donated to local nonprofit organizations in need.

### Capital Budget Hearing FY18

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the capital budget for fiscal year 2018 on May

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25, 7 p.m. in the Greenwood campus, 6901 N. Charles St., E building, Room 114.

### Creative Coloring for Adults

Did you know coloring is a wonderful stress reliever? Attend the Creative Coloring for Adults event on Tuesday, May 31, 7 p.m., at the Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville Meeting Room. The library will provide all the materials at this child-free program. All you have to do is show up ready to be creative and color.

See Library events at <http://www.bcplonline.org/events>

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

## Liberty Road Clean-up

Join District 10 Delegates Adrienne Jones and Ben Brooks, Liberty Road Business Association, Liberty Road Community Council and Combined Communities Advocacy Council of Greater Randallstown for the Liberty Road Clean-up.

Phase one will be held along Liberty Road between the beltway and Old Court Road on Saturday, June 4, from 8 a.m. to noon. Participants will meet for their assignments and materials at the District Office, 8419 Liberty Rd., Suite B, Windsor Mill, 21244.

Food will be provided after the event at the district office.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 27,

to Kelly Carter, executive director of the LRBA, at 410-655-7766.

Students can earn community hours for participating in this activity.



Last year, residents planted tomatoes and other crops at the Rockdale Park gardens on Rolling Road in Windsor Mill.

## Get your gardening on!

The Liberty Road Recreation and Parks Council offers gardening at Rockdale Park on Rolling Road. Garden plots are 20 feet by 32 feet and cost \$20 per season and includes water supply.

Accessible raised gardening beds are available. For reservations and more information call the council at 410-887-0700.

Assessible garden plots are also available at Northwest Regional Park on 4514 Deer Park Rd. in Owings Mills. The 4-foot by 14-foot plots are next to the parks' parking lot on Lyons Mill Road.

The cost is free. Contact the Owings Mills Recreation Office at 410-887-1582 for more information.

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# School Projects Key Part of County Budget



Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz presented his State of the County address and fiscal year 2017 budget message to the County Council on April 14. The general fund operating budget is \$1.99 billion, an increase of 1.27 percent above the previous year. The capital budget totals more than \$383 million, much of which will go to school renovation and construction projects.

Once again, there will be no increases in the property tax rate (for the 28th year in a row) and the income tax rate (for the 24th year in the row), according to Baltimore County.

## Operating Budget Highlights

- 2 percent cost-of-living agreement for general government and Baltimore County Public Schools, Community College of Baltimore County and Baltimore County Public Library employees
- \$195.7 million for school renovation and construction projects
- Pikesville High School will be complete in August 2016
- No schools in District 10 are scheduled to have air conditioning installed in the 2017 fiscal year, according to the county's schedule. It appears Franklin Elementary School will have air installed in August 2017.
- 130 new teaching positions for BCPS
- 26.6 additional ESOL teachers
- 20 additional teachers for special education and teachers of at-risk youth
- 2.5 positions for pre-kindergarten
- \$349 million for public safety (Police, Fire, Corrections and 911) – 18 percent of general fund budget
- \$76.8 million to support social safety net programs to support health and human services, homeless programs, support for seniors, housing opportunities and assistance to victims of domestic violence
- \$52.8 million to support culture and leisure in the county and the region

## Capital Budget Highlights

- \$2.7 million to:
  - Replace turf at Catonsville High School and CCBC Essex
  - Install turf fields at Milford Mill Academy and Sparrows Point High School
  - Light an additional all-purpose field at Spring Grove
  - \$1 million for capital improvements to the Catonsville, Randallstown and Reisterstown libraries

You can read the full text at [baltimorecountymd.gov](http://baltimorecountymd.gov).

## NEWS UPDATES?

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**nwvoicenews.com**





## State Operating Budget: Where the Money is Going

There was hardly any contention this year in the budget process, as the Maryland General Assembly passed a \$17.2 billion operating budget (Senate Bill 190) for fiscal year for 2017. Those general funds make up more than 40 percent of the overall \$42.2 billion budget, which includes special funding, such as federal dollars, entitlements and aid to local government.

At the end of fiscal 2017, budget analysts expect that there will be \$364 million in surplus and \$1 billion in the rainy day fund, thanks to an improving economy. However, spending is expected to outpace revenue and deficits may return, according to the Department of Legislative Services.

### Budget highlights include:

- \$5.7 billion for State colleges and universities (a \$119.4 million increase); this includes funds to hold in-state undergraduate tuition hikes to 2 percent
- Regular State workforce totals 80,331 positions, for a decrease of 542 positions
- No cost-of-living adjustment for State employees, but there will be merit increases
- Law enforcement officers will receive retroactive merit increases and a COLA and merit pay.
- \$7.3 billion in State aid to local governments, including \$816.4 million to Baltimore County.

### Capital Budget

The 2016 General Assembly passed a fiscal 2017 capital program totaling \$4.3 billion, including \$2.8 billion for the transportation program. The capital budget includes \$320 million in general obligation bonds for the traditional public school construction as well as the recently established Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems with Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms. Baltimore County is among the school systems to receive funds from this program.

*continued on page 18*

### State Aid to Baltimore County

(\$ in thousands)



County  
**\$25,738**



Community  
Colleges  
**\$43,620**



Public  
Schools  
**\$639,225**



Libraries **\$5,687**



Health **\$5,817**



Retirement  
**\$96,361**

**TOTAL \$816,447**  
Change over FY16  
\$25,905 (3.3%)

Source: Department of Legislative Services



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# Legislation That Our Legislators Got Passed

The *Northwest Voice* asked Baltimore County Delegates and Senators in Districts 10, 11 and 44B, the areas that cover most of the northwest, to provide information on key legislation for which they were the primary sponsors. The summaries below have been excerpted. While the legislators introduced and co-sponsored hundreds more bills than are listed, the roundup primarily includes those that passed the General Assembly. You can find more details from the individual legislators and from the Maryland General Assembly website at [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov).

## DISTRICT 10



**Sen. Delores Kelley**  
**Senate Bill 241, Senior Apartment Facilities**, requires that a landlord who has marketed and leased an apartment residence as a senior building and who subsequently decides to convert the building to serve the general public must provide the elderly and/or disabled residents with 180 days advance

notice before such a conversion. The landlord cannot withhold any part of the elderly tenant's security deposit if the tenant moves out because of notice of the building conversion.

**Senate Bill 336, Designation of Lay Caregivers**, requires Maryland hospitals to seek to identify a patient's post-discharge home caregiver so the caregiver can be prepared for the after-care duties, but only if the patient or guardian signs up for these free services.

**Senate Bill 417, Individuals With Disabilities**, follows recent revisions of a 1938 federal law,

which for decades authorized the payment of a subminimum wage as low as \$3.88 per hour for persons with developmental disabilities who work for state and local operators of sheltered workshops. For almost a century, sheltered workshop operators had no legal obligation to individually evaluate the productivity or capabilities of their employees with developmental disabilities. The bill requires a plan to phase out the subminimum wage in Maryland by July 2020 and to determine the training and other resources needed for proper placement of these persons, as the federal government phases out its "14(c)" certificates for sheltered workshop operators. The bill, also known as the Ken Capone Equal Employment Act, was named for a young adult who uses a computer screen and pointer from his wheelchair.



**Del. Ben Brooks**  
**House Bill 1054, Income Tax Penalties**, reduces income tax penalties and limits the amount of penalties the State of Maryland can assess on underpayments of income taxes. Currently, Maryland can charge a 25 percent penalty.

This is excessive, especially for taxpayers who are burdened with financial

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Baltimore County Department of Health

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Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

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challenges. When you compare our state penalty assessment to that of surrounding jurisdictions, Maryland has been an outlier. HB 1054 will reduce the assessment to 5 percent for the first month the payment is delinquent and 10 percent for the second and succeeding months.

**House Bill 1404, the Construction Education and Innovation Fund**, makes sure that Maryland has a readily available pipeline of workers who can perform trades in the construction industry. The bill requires the Governor to put \$250,000 in the budget to fund the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation.

**House Bill 1600, Baltimore Humane Society**, is a bond bill that provides funding to the Baltimore Humane Society in Reisterstown for an animal safety and energy efficiency plan.



**Del. Jay Jalisi**  
**HB 360, Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Orphans and Foster Care Recipients.**

Awards from this program will be granted in renewable three-year incremental amounts, with the

annual awards equaling 10 percent of the individual orphan or foster care recipient's total college loan debt for undergraduate and graduate education.

**HB 1476, Shelter and Transitional Housing Facilities Grant Program**, requires the Governor to include in the annual budget \$3 million for capital expenditures of homeless shelters. This is a 100 percent increase from 2016 budget allocation. The Department of Housing and Community Development would make this available to local governments and nonprofit organizations in order to develop or repair and maintain emergency shelters and transitional housing for homeless individuals and families. This funding was frozen at \$1.5 million for almost the last 10 years and the Governor did not have any allocation in the 2017 budget.

**HB 1634, Task Force to Study the Restraint, Searches and Needs of Children in the Juvenile Justice System.** This task force would limit the Department of Juvenile Services' use of handcuffing, shackling and strip searches of a child under detention. Children in juvenile jails should be afforded every chance possible for their rehabilitation, and should not be treated the same as gang members or repeat adult offenders.



**Del. Adrienne Jones**  
**House Bill 1014, College Affordability Act of 2016,**

prohibits a public institution of higher education from referring a delinquent student account or debt to the Central Collection Unit except under specified circumstances; requires the

College Savings Plans of Maryland Board to develop and implement a marketing plan regarding the availability of a State contribution; requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Department of Legislative Services to hire a consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

In Jones' capacity as House chairwoman of the capital budget subcommittee, she provided funding for several projects in the southwest and northwest Baltimore County projects. **See Capital Budget story on page 14.**

*continued on page 10*

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

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## Legislation That Our Legislators Got Passed *continued from page 9*

### DISTRICT 11



**Sen. Bobby Zirkin**  
**SB 359, Divorce-Corroboration of Testimony**, repeals a provision that prohibits a court from entering a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party seeking the divorce. It also authorized parties to jointly file a complaint to initiate

divorce proceedings on the ground of mutual consent. Under this legislation, witnesses would no

longer be needed to confirm a couple hasn't lived together for a year when someone is seeking an uncontested divorce.



**Del. Dana Stein**  
**House Bill 741, Higher Education-Consumer Protection Provisions**, provides protections for students who attend for-profit colleges and private career schools from a variety of misleading practices.

Such colleges and schools cannot enroll students in a program intended to lead to employment in a field requiring licensure or certification, if successful completion of the program will not meet the State educational requirements for licensure or certification, and in other circumstances. The bill also creates a Guaranty Fund for students that will provide full reimbursement if the institution breaches a contract or closes.

**House Bill 136, Financial Education and Capability Commission**. Over the past two years, the commission has examined the issue of student loan debt. Central Scholarship, a storied Owings Mills-based non-profit that provides financial aid to low-income students, has provided invaluable advice on this issue. The bill adds a position to the commission for a non-profit such as Central Scholarship.

**House Bill 276, Income Tax Credit**. A top environmental priority in Maryland is to conserve as much open space as possible. Conservation easements, landowners' commitments not to develop their land, are one of the most-effective

means for preserving land from development. Easement donors also benefit from state tax credits. This bill broadens the category of potential donors to include members of pass-through entities, such as S corporations and LLCs.

**House Bill 331, Program Open Space**. Another means for conserving land is through Program Open Space, a State program that acquires and improves outdoor recreation and open space areas for public use. This bill corrects an error in the law that would severely limit the amount of Open Space funding that can be used for improvements on Department of Natural Resources property and public use facilities.

**House Bill 523 – E-ZPass Accounts**. Theft of EZ pass transponders is on the rise. Transponder thefts are becoming more common at truck stops and sites where trucks are parked. If someone's transponder is stolen, the thief can use the transponder to rack up significant tolls quickly. This bill provides for reimbursement to the transponder owner for fraudulent transponder use in certain circumstances.



**Del. Shelly Hettleman**  
**House Bill 1488, Maryland Corps**, establishes a program to provide youth who have completed high school with a year of community service in a non-profit or government agency. I'm hopeful that the Governor will permit start-up funding in the

budget to support stipends and scholarships for successful completers. Participants in the program would be marketable for future jobs and academic opportunities, creating a long-term investment in Maryland's economy and workforce, while performing valuable service to the community.

**House Bill 727, Horse Racing**. There was much controversy surrounding the Timonium Fairgrounds and the expansion of off track betting. Senators and Delegates from District 11 and District 42 introduced legislation and facilitated a memorandum of understanding to prohibit the future development of casino gambling at the racetrack. The bill will ensure that communities must be notified about future off track betting expansion plans before they occur.

In other action, budget language requires that "net price calculators" be posted on college and university websites with the most accurate and updated information. Prospective college students need to know how much it will cost to attend school.



**Del. Dan Morhaim**  
**House Bill 91, National HealthCare Decisions Day**. With the passing of House Bill 91, Maryland will join other



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Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council



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states and organizations in recognizing National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16. This will help educate Marylanders on the importance of advance directives and address a significant health disparity among disadvantaged communities. House Bill 1385, Advance Directives Procedures, takes us closer to this goal, with the creation of an electronic advance directives service.

**House Bill 403, State Procurement Change Order Fairness Act**, will help businesses get paid in a timely manner when doing work for the State. Not only will this support local jobs and companies, it will encourage more competition for state contracts, thus saving taxpayer dollars.

**House Bill 990, Liability of Disability Insurer**, creates a remedy for citizens if their disability insurance policy company has acted with a lack of good faith in denying a claim.

**House Bill 908, Medical Cannabis**, allows health practitioners, such as dentists, podiatrists, and advanced nurse practitioners—all of whom have the same authority as physicians to prescribe controlled dangerous substances—to recommend medical cannabis to their patients under Maryland's medical cannabis program. This will take effect in 2017.

## DISTRICT 44B



**Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Senate Bill 198, Neonicotinoid Pesticides**. This important environmental measures greatly diminishes the widespread use of these pesticides to stop the decline of honeybees. Bees pollinate 71 of 100 crops that make up 90 percent of the world's food supply and

are critical to the success of agriculture and the stability of our food supply. These pesticides have a tremendous economic impact on the beekeepers.

**Senate Bill 393, Maryland Nurse Practice Act**, reinstitutes the misdemeanor penalty for posing as a registered nurse. The Board of Nursing may now establish peer advisory committees like the Board of Physicians.

**Senate Bill 494, School Behavioral Health Accountability Act**. This measure requires that a standardized reporting mechanism be established for schools to account for the use of behavioral health specialists. Learning experiences are impacted not just by the school environment, but also by what's happening in students lives outside the classrooms, whether the result of violence in the community, family trouble, trauma, psychological disorder or drug/alcohol issues. This measure will

help teachers focus on educating our children.



## Del. Charles Sydnor

As chair of conference committees for House Bill 636 and House Bill 637, bills I co-sponsored, I was responsible for leading Senate and House conferees in negotiations. The result is that **HB 636 modifies the Maryland Tort Claims Act** and **HB 637**

**modifies the Local Government Tort Claims Act** by repealing measures commonly used to prevent Marylanders who have been injured by the State or local governments from their day in court. Both bills change the law so the government can no longer have a legitimate case dismissed if the government has actual or constructive notice of the alleged harm.



## Del. Pat Young

**House Bill 1288, Tuition Waivers**, would expand the eligibility of tuition waivers to youths in the foster care system who are enrolled in college.

*continued on page 12*



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## Legislation That Our Legislators Got Passed *continued from page 11*

Providing our disadvantaged and struggling youth with every opportunity to succeed is the least we can do. While there are many more challenges they may face, access to a quality education (whether it be a four-year course or a technical school degree) should not be one of them.

**House Bill 1533, Sales and Use Tax Exemption-Redevelopment Areas**, directly impacts Baltimore County. We are all aware of the Sparrows Point Steel Mill that experienced a slow decline over the last two decades and the affect it had on employees and the surrounding community. Despite the overwhelming task ahead, Trade Point Atlantic has committed to redevelop the 3100-acre property and bring back jobs to Baltimore County. This legislation gives them a tool to

make their commitment a reality by giving them an exemption on the sales and use tax for construction materials making the site more attractive to outside investment.

**House Bill 1458, Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission**, will enable current veterans' programs at Maryland universities and colleges to better understand and support the needs of their veteran student population as they graduate and seek employment. Legislation also passed that authorized employers to grant a preference in hiring and promotion to certain eligible veterans, spouses of specified eligible veterans who have service-connected disabilities, and spouses of deceased specified eligible veterans.



### In Annapolis:

Elected officials representing northwest Baltimore County enjoy a collegial relationship and supported the various community forums and receptions in Annapolis. District 44B Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Del. Ben Brooks and District 11 Delegate Dana Stein; District 10 Senator Delores Kelley and District 2 Councilwoman Vicki Almond; and District 10 Delegates Adrienne Jones, Speaker Pro Tem, is flanked by Ben Brooks and Jay Jalisi.



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## Owings Mills Mall Equipment and Supplies Up For Auction

Once a venue for shoppers seeking designer apparel and shoes, and even quality furniture, Owings Mills Mall is officially closed, with department store names removed from graying buildings. The mall is now in auction mode.

Everything from elevators to escalators to lighting is being sold off for pennies on the dollar before bulldozers demo the property, according to Grafe Auction Company. Online bids are going as low as 25 cents for a pot rack to \$1.25 for broken display cases to \$70 for a two-door reach-in freezer.

The auction was originally scheduled for April but was postponed to accommodate the April 8 closing of J.C. Penney, according to the firm's website. The new auction dates are May 17 and 18. The first day will consist of food service equipment, store fixtures, security gates, water heaters, and more. The

second day consists of elevators, escalators, electrical services, generators, heaters and building salvage and more. Interested persons can view the catalogues and post a bid.

Opened in 1986, the two-level, one-million-square-foot mall once targeted upscale shoppers with anchors such as Lord and Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue. Over the years, shoppers chose Towson Town Center, Columbia Mall and other destinations; retailers left; and tenant vacancies were filled with no-name shops selling jeans, handbags and perfumes. With the mall looking like a ghost town, owners Kimco Realty



J.C. Penney was the last store to close at Owings Mills Mall. Department store signage has been removed and auction notices posted on the doors.

and General Growth closed off access to the interior last September.

Earlier this year Kimco paid \$11.5 million to buy out General Growth's ownership, as well as \$5.2 million for J.C. Penny's structure and \$7.5

million for Macy's, which closed in November. The restaurant park and AMC Theatre will remain.

Plans are to redevelop the mall property, but no timetable has been finalized.



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## College Affordability *continued from cover page*

### Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- HB 1014 provides a matching State contribution of up to \$250 to college saving accounts of qualified middle- and low-income families established under the Maryland College Investment Plan after Dec. 31, 2016. The Governor must appropriate at least \$5 million in fiscal 2018, \$7million in fiscal 2019, and \$10 million annually thereafter for this purpose.
- Beginning in tax year 2017, individuals who have incurred \$20,000 or more in undergraduate student loan debt and have at least \$5,000 in outstanding undergraduate debt qualify for a refundable credit of up to \$5,000, subject to certain conditions. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) may approve up to \$5 million worth of credits annually.
- Often, students who find themselves at the end of a balance on their student accounts—sometimes just a few hundred dollars out of a \$20,000 bill—are not allowed to register for the next semester of classes. Under the HB 1014, colleges must allow individuals with unpaid balances to register for courses under specified circumstances, e.g. enter into a payment plan for balances of more than \$250. The bill also prohibits colleges from referring delinquent accounts to the Central Collection Unit unless specified conditions are met.
- With many students looking to their electronic devices for information, beginning July 1, 2016 MHEC and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will collaborate to create a digital app that provides information about State financial aid programs, calendar notifications for dates and deadlines, and other helpful information.
- Students are also being encouraged to complete their studies on time in order to save on tuition costs.
- The college savings program must conduct outreach to families with children in local school systems, to state employees and other outreach and low-income individuals.
- MHEC, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), must retain a consultant to conduct a study on how financial aid programs are administered. They must report the findings and recommendations to the Governor and certain legislative committees by Oct. 1, 2017.

To view details of the bill, visit [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov).

*Read an article about some of the bills legislators in Districts 10, 11 and 44B passed on page 8.*



County Executive Kevin Kamenetz shared updates with local residents at the Reisterstown Senior Center.

### Reisterstown Coffee with Kevin Forum Held

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz continues to make the rounds to various communities, including Reisterstown. A full house attended the "Coffee with Kevin" event on March 31 at the Reisterstown Senior Center.

In addition to conversation and updates about county government and public school initiatives, the group enjoyed camaraderie, coffee and baked goods.

The community forums are part of an ongoing effort to interact directly with county residents and community leaders. The Reisterstown event represented his tenth forum.

As part of his remarks, Kamenetz reminded attendees that the county's property and income tax rates haven't increased in more than two decades, shared that the crime rates remain historically low, and talked about school construction and renovation projects. He took questions from the group.



**In the Community**  
Traci Webster (left), president of the Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Company, and Sheri Luck (far right), interacted with families at the fire station's open house on April 16. Members of the community were able to tour the station and equipment, take a free hands-on CPR class, and participate in a free fire safety presentation. There was face painting and refreshments. Fire department members were also available for people interested in joining the volunteer company.

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**Wegmans at Foundry Row is slated to open on Reisterstown Road in September.**

## Foundry Row Tenant List Grows

As construction of Foundry Row progresses at Reisterstown and Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills, additional restaurants, stores and services are being added to the list of tenants.

The \$140 million, 50-acre shopping center opens this fall and is nearly 90 percent leased, according to the developer, Greenberg Gibbons.

Among the businesses that have recently signed leases are restaurants Bar Louie, Mission BBQ, and Chipotle; Massage Envy and Hair Cuttery. They will join the 130,000-square-foot Wegmans, LA Fitness, DSW, and others who signed last year.

Greenberg Gibbons has also purchased the Reisterstown Shopping Center, a 167,212-square-foot community shopping center in Reisterstown.

The developer plans to update and remerchandise the property and aims to bring new stores and restaurants to its retail lineup. Currently, the property includes Planet Fitness and Mars Supermarket.



## Eggspectation Opens at Metro Centre

One of the newest tenants at Metro Centre at Owings Mills is Eggspectation. Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Enzo Renda, CEO of Eggspectation, Councilman Julian Jones and David Adler of David S. Brown Enterprises participated in the April 5 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the sit-down restaurant. Community residents and leaders were in attendance.



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Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP - Director, Health and Human Services  
Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

## Teacher of the Year is from Old Court Middle, Principal of Pikesville High also honored

Hats off to Corey Carter, a science teacher at Old Court Middle School and team leader for his grade level, who is the county's newest Teacher of the Year. Carter co-founded the My Brother's Keeper Mentoring Program at Old Court.

Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent S. Dallas Dance named the six-year educator for the top teaching honor during a ceremony on April 20 at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson.

"Corey concentrates on the whole child and fosters relationships with each and every student who comes through his door," Dance said in a statement. "Not only that, but he gives students the tools and confidence they need to be in charge of their own learning, and places an emphasis on critical thinking."

Representing "Team BCPS," Carter will champion the teaching profession and promote what it means to be an educator in Baltimore County Public Schools. As the county Teacher of the Year, Carter will compete for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year honor.

Carter stated, "Every day, teachers must blend life lessons, content, assessments, feedback, and a sprinkling of high-fives all in pursuit of impacting a young life. But the true impact of educating others is as much about sharing knowledge as it is learning from them." He added, "In fact, teaching has been most rewarding when showing others what they have taught me. My students push me to listen more, celebrate more, and to show them why I love what I do."

Also recognized at the ceremony was Sandra Reid, a first-year principal at Pikesville High School, who was named the Secondary Principal of the Year.

The Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year receive a variety of awards and gifts from the school system, the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, and Baltimore County's business community.



Teacher of the Year, Corey Carter stands with Ben Brooks at the annual ceremony in Towson.

## 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**.





## What were the life lessons you learned from your mother?



**Bill Majeczky, Randallstown**



**Mary Molinaro, Reisterstown**



**Kim Bailey, Reisterstown**



**Del. Adrienne Jones, Speaker Pro Tem,  
Woodstock**



**Tanya Johnson, Reisterstown**



**Robert Johnson Jr., Randallstown**

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## Almond, Brooks, Hettleman Elected to Go to Democratic Convention

On Primary Election Day, voters cast their ballots for United States President and a number of other positions, including delegate. These delegates are not the State lawmakers who represent constituents in Annapolis. These delegates are the men and women who will attend the Democratic and Republican political conventions to represent the candidates for U.S. president.

Voters selected up to four male and female delegates for each congressional district. The northwest falls in District 3, 4 and 7. The top vote-getters for two of those territories were state elected officials who represent Randallstown, Pikesville and Reisterstown.

Congratulations to:

- District 2 Councilwoman Vicki Almond, who received the most votes among delegates for District 2 (54,522)
- District 10 Del. Ben Brooks, who received the most votes among male delegates for District 2 (54,200)
- District 11 Del. Shelly Hettleman, who received the most votes among women delegates for District 3 (61,821)

The 2016 Democratic National Convention will take place in Philadelphia, starting on July 25.

Almond, Brooks and Hettleman are all delegates for Hillary Clinton.



Vicki Almond



Ben Brooks



Shelley Hettleman

## State Capital Budget *continued from p. 7*

### Highlights of the capital projects:

- Environmental abatement of Rosewood Hospital property, \$700,000
- New Catonsville District Court, \$28.5 million
- Baltimore County streetscaping, \$5 million
- Talmudical Academy gymnasium, \$250,000
- Randallstown High School infrastructure improvements, \$500,000
- Worthington Valley roundabout, \$400,000
- Milford Mill High School athletic facilities, \$400,000
- Reisterstown Community cemetery project, \$25,000
- Franklin High School infrastructure improvement, \$450,000
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades, \$356,000
- Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery expansion, \$820,000
- Westowne Elementary School construction, \$644,000

Among the \$7.5 million in local Senate initiatives and \$7.5 million in House initiatives were:

- Baltimore Humane Society Animal Safety and Energy Efficient Plan (Reisterstown) \$165,000
- Irvine Nature Center Native American Village (Owings Mills), \$150,000
- Jemicy School Lower and Middle School Campus gymnasium (Owings Mills), \$150,000
- Jewish Community Center of Baltimore-Gordon Center (Owings Mills), \$100,000
- Morning Star Family Life Center (Woodlawn), \$250,000

Get the full budget details at [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov).

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