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AUGUST 2016

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



Among the apartment complexes listed on the website for potential tenants with housing choice vouchers are Carriage Hill Apartments in Randallstown. Padonia Village in Lutherville and Saddlebrook Apartment Homes in Towson do not accept the voucher.

Not For Rent

Council defeats housing voucher bill that would have expanded opportunities

With the Baltimore County Council's 6-1 vote against the source of income discrimination bill, landlords can continue to turn away individuals, families, the elderly and disabled looking to rent apartments and homes with federally-subsidized housing choice vouchers.

District 4 Councilman Julian Jones was the sole council member who supported Bill 46-16 at the Aug. 1 meeting, which brought out dozens of fair housing advocates from churches and non-profit organizations, and people representing management companies, real estate agents and landlords who opposed the bill. Very simply, Jones said, the bill is about "prejudice and discrimination."

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz was required to introduce the bill as part of a settlement between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Baltimore County to address discriminatory housing practices.

Baltimore County has more than 6,260 housing choice voucher holders; 90 percent of them are Section 8 and the remaining 10 percent are for veterans, the elderly and the disabled.

The largest concentration of people holding vouchers live on the east side in neighborhoods such as Dundalk, Essex and Middle River, according to the county's Office of Housing. The second largest number of tenants, 2,525, are clustered in Owings Mills, Gwynn Oak/Woodlawn, Windsor Mill, Randallstown, Reisterstown and Pikesville.

The bill would have prevented landlords and management companies, such as those for the new apartment complexes going up in Cockeysville, from rejecting prospective tenants solely because they would be paying their rent with a voucher. As a result, renters also could have taken advantage of living in "higher opportunity" areas such as Timonium, which currently has just a dozen people using vouchers; White Marsh and Lutherville, which has one, and Mays Chapel, which has six.

Jones said, "If someone gets a voucher today, they have two choices—east side and west side. You can't go to Towson, you can't go to Lutherville, you can't go to Cockeysville because all of those apartments are saying

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From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

Housing Discrimination: The Same Game with a New Name.

Let me say that yes, indeed, I am in favor of the source of income discrimination bill. The Baltimore County Council introduced the bill in July and defeated it 6-1 at their Aug. 1 meeting. It was hotly debated and District 4 Councilman Julian Jones, the lone African-American member on the council, cast the lone “yea” vote.

Bill 46-16 was about housing choice vouchers, or what we called Section 8 back in the day. The vouchers, which are subsidized by the federal government, are what certain qualifying low-income, veterans, elderly and disabled people use to pay the monthly rent for themselves, their children and other dependents. In Baltimore County, which has a population of more than 800,000 residents, roughly 6,200 people currently hold vouchers. (See the breakdown by zip code on page 3.) Twice as many African-Americans have vouchers than whites (3,806-to-1,909), according to the Baltimore County Housing Office.

My question is this: Why would a property owner reject an opportunity to receive a rent payment for their units each month, on time, and without hassle? Why are some landlords telling applicants, “No, I’m not going to rent to you because I don’t want that guaranteed money.”

I believe landlords are covering their biases. Without even reviewing the application of a voucher holder or, conducting a legal background check or credit history—which is still the landlord’s right—how can you make a determination of what kind of tenant the person would be?

As Jones said, it’s prejudice and discrimination—pure and simple. He knew he would have little to no support from his colleagues, but still stated his case without biting his tongue. He didn’t back down.

I randomly called nine apartment complexes in Randallstown, Towson and Cockeysville and was told that they do not accept vouchers. Do landlords tell seniors on Social Security that they won’t rent to them because of their government check? What’s different about the voucher method of payment? It goes back to who you believe is holding the voucher. Perception prejudice.

What the source of income bill is truly trying to achieve is this: If you have a voucher and you are moving into Baltimore County, the whole county is open for you.

The way it has been working (and now will continue to work) is: If you have a voucher, you can come to the county with that voucher, but chances are you’re going to live on the west or east side.

The bill would have said to the landlords in other areas that they do have to take the voucher if the prospective tenant is otherwise qualified. Now, we know landlords would have tried to find other ways to disqualify the voucher holder, but that would have been dealt with.

I am old enough to remember redlining and other tactics used to steer blacks and other minorities to certain neighborhoods and keep them out of others. This is the same game with a new name. I can’t believe we’re still dealing with things like this in 2016.

It is against the law for landlords to discriminate by race, by religion, disability or family status (no children allowed). So how does Baltimore County allow property owners to discriminate because they don’t like where your money is coming from?

It all comes down to somebody systematically deciding that certain people are not going to live in certain neighborhoods, and steering them to where they believe you should live.

For me, this issue is about extending an opportunity for the next generation, giving folks with children who want something better for themselves and their families.

Such was the case with a young African-American man who testified before the council. His parents received a voucher and moved from the inner city to the county. He did well in our public schools, went to college and is now an engineer. He says most likely if he had stayed in the city neighborhood, he may have ended up in jail and or dead, like some of his cousins who were not able to leave.

There is no good outcome for clustering poor and low-income people, especially for the generations being born into that. Being able to move into any area of the county gives people an opportunity for a better environment, which would then hopefully create new opportunities to lift themselves up. Why should we say no to that? The people coming behind us should not have to keep fighting the same battle over and over again.

We like to make judgments about others. And I’ve heard the stories of people’s personal experiences, that people with vouchers are not good neighbors (how do we know they have vouchers? Or again, are we making a judgment?). That may be true in some cases, as it is with people who don’t hold vouchers.

Some believe people are poor because they want to be poor. Many of us have had help from the government and so how dare we thumb our noses at folks. Some say, “They shouldn’t be allowed to live in my neighborhood. I worked to buy my house

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Northwest VOICE

Your voice in the community

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

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

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Housing Discrimination continued from page 2

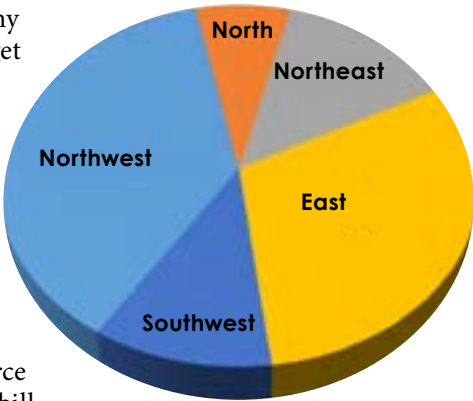
or rent my nice condo. Why should they come in and get for free what I worked hard for? We forget that someone gave us an opportunity. Now that we have “arrived”, we are willing to shut the door of opportunity to those behind us. I do wish there was more education around the source of income discrimination bill before it was introduced and before it

came to a vote. Councilman Jones did his best to educate the community about what the bill was about, and drum up support to help him do the battle. We have to do more than vote and elect our leaders. We have to back them up when they go out to do battle. That’s how we build political power.

Other communities get involved, show up in numbers, and state their cases. How many letters of support or opposition did Councilman Jones, District 2 Councilwoman Vicki Almond and District 1 Councilman Tom Quirk receive? Whether you agreed or disagreed on the issue, it is critical that we show up, send an email or attend the hearing.

There are forces out their working to roll back the clock. We have to make sure it doesn’t happen. The next time out, let’s do what we need to do to understand the issue. Let’s be more visible and vocal.

That’s my opinion. What’s yours? Share it online at www.nwvoicenews.com/publishers-columns/.



Where Are the Housing Vouchers?

Currently more than 6,100 Baltimore County residents pay their rent with federally subsidized housing vouchers, and the majority of them live in the northwest and on the east side. The north section of the county has the lowest concentration of housing vouchers. See how the vouchers are distributed by zip code.

Northwest			North		
21133	Randallstown	571	21286	Loch Raven	236
21244	Windsor Mill	441	21030	Cockeysville	94
21117	Owings Mills	422	21204	Towson-Joppa	49
21136	Reisterstown	307	21212	Towson	15
21215	Milbrook	266	21093	Timonium-Lutherville	12
21208	Pikesville	215	21239	Towson	10
21209	Pikesville	27	21111	Monkton	1
			21120	Parkton	1
Southwest			East		
21207	Woodlawn	421	21222	Dundalk	726
21227	Halethorpe	129	21220	Middle River	542
21228	Catonsville	96	21221	Essex	489
21229	Arbutus	22	21224	Dundalk	70
Northeast			21219	Edgemere	11
21234	Parkville-Carney	323	21206	Baltimore (Cedonia)	52
21237	Rosedale	231			
21236	Overlea-Perry Hall	188			
21206	Baltimore	52			
21128	Perry Hall	10			
21162	White Marsh	1			

Source: Baltimore County Office of Housing



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Questions Linger Around Fatal Shooting of Young Randallstown Mother

With the fatal shootings by police of young men in Baton Rouge and Dallas still fresh in the news cycle, reports that Baltimore County police had shot and killed a 23-year-old Randallstown mother in her apartment and wounded her 5-year-old son shocked the northwest community, as well as people all over the country.

Local and national media outlets, and social media aired the disturbing story of the barricade incident at the Carriage Hill Apartments on Liberty Road. Some found the details unsettling. Police say Gaines aimed the gun at officers and threatened to kill them, they fired and then she shot back.

Police accounts of the situation changed as the additional information became available. Initial reports gave the impression that Gaines used her son as a human shield. That doesn't appear to be true. Forensics eventually determined that it was a round from a tactical officer's weapon that killed Gaines and wounded her son, and not one from her legally registered shotgun.

Community and family members questioned why the apartment complex gave the officer a key to the apartment and why they forced entry with an arrest warrant. They also questioned why, if police were concerned about the child's safety, why police decided to shoot instead of back off and give negotiations more time.

The Police Department posted this update on Aug. 5:

As a result of an additional medical procedure performed today at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, Baltimore County Police believe that a round fired by a tactical officer struck Kodi Gaines, the five-year-old who suffered non life-threatening injuries in Monday's police-involved shooting in Randallstown.

Police confirm that the officer aimed at and struck Korryn Gaines, 23, the boy's mother, after she aimed her Mossberg shotgun at him and threatened to kill him.

Additional forensics tests will be conducted on the recovered round.

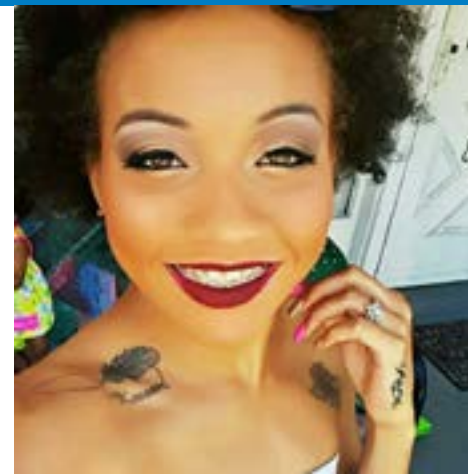
The injury from which the round was recovered is to the boy's left cheek and is consistent with BCoPD's previous confirmation that he suffered a wound to an extremity and shrapnel wounds to the upper body.

The investigation is active and ongoing. No further information is available at this time. Additional information will be provided as it become available.

Original release, August 4:

The investigation of the August 1 Korryn Gaines shooting in Randallstown continues. The Homicide Unit conducts an independent criminal investigation of all police-involved shootings; that investigation is in progress. An administrative review—conducted for all police-involved shootings—also remains in progress.

After those investigations are complete, the case will be turned over to the Office of the State's Attorney for review. BCoPD's Shooting Review Board, which reviews all police-involved shootings, will examine the case for compliance with agency standards.



Korryn Gaines was shot after police say she aimed her gun and threatened them.

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Shooting of Young Mother *continued from page 4*

BCoPD offers the following updates:

- Police Chief Jim Johnson has decided that — because of serious safety concerns — the department will not at this time release the name of the officer who fatally shot Gaines. BCoPD has received an unprecedented number of threats against police, including threats and actions against specific officers and officials.
- Gaines' ideology, consistent with anti-government sentiment, is also a concern. While Gaines does not appear to have been actively affiliated with any specific anti-government group, she identified and behaved as a "free person" who does not recognize governmental authority.
- Johnson said the current national climate is a third significant factor in his decision to withhold the officer's name at this time. The recent Dallas and Baton Rouge shootings, he said, show that "lone wolf" attacks by people emotionally caught up in current events are a real possibility. "We constantly balance the need for transparency with the need to protect investigations and safety. This is a situation where I feel we must err on the side of safety."
- BCoPD's standard procedure is to release the names of officers involved in shootings about 48 hours after the incident. This complies with terms of an agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4, which specifies the delay to give officers and their families time to cope with the situation.
- BCoPD has not yet determined whether the five-year-old, Kodi Gaines, was struck by a round and/or shrapnel from the officer's weapon or Gaines' Mossberg shotgun. They have not yet determined where

the child was at the time of the shooting. These issues remain under investigation. This information will be provided when it becomes available.

- Chief Johnson has completed a legal review of the entry by warrant service officers into Gaines' apartment in the unit block of Sulky Court. After consultation the State's Attorney and law enforcement attorneys, BCoPD has confirmed that the legal requirements for entry to serve an arrest warrant were met.
- After multiple reviews, BCoPD has confirmed that there is no body camera footage filmed from inside the apartment or apartment building. (BCoPD's body camera program is less than a month old, and only about 40 of the 1,900 officers in the agency currently are equipped with them.) There is body camera footage from several officers assigned to support roles on the outside perimeter of the incident. This footage is part of the investigation and will not be released at this time.
- There are no audiotapes of the negotiations with Gaines. In Maryland, the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Section 10-402 of the Annotated Code allows recording only in hostage situations. The child, Kodi Gaines, was not a hostage in this incident; the FBI defines "hostage" as a person held to fulfill a demand, and a threat of harm unless the demand is met. Though Kodi Gaines was not a hostage, police were concerned for his safety because of his mother's unusual erratic behavior; i.e., engaging police in an armed barricade with a five-year-old at her side and wielding a firearm in the vicinity of the child.

The investigation is active and ongoing.

Get updates about this story at nwvoicenews.com/fatal-shooting-of-young-randallstown-mother.

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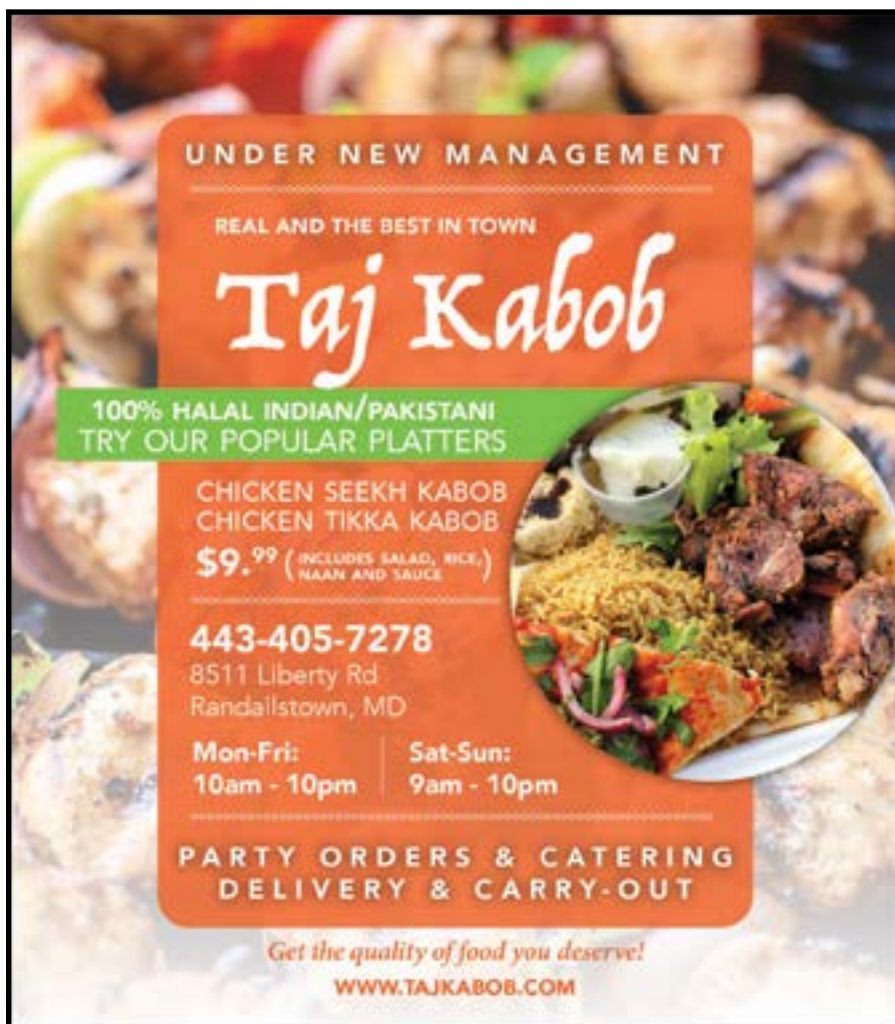
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Preparing for a New School Year

School begins this month for most students, including those from Baltimore County Public Schools who return to class on Aug. 24 to the system's 173 schools. Teachers, including 600 new ones, will go through orientation. It will be a time of excitement and anxiety for students and parents, as they take advantage of new programs and opportunities, get used to new principals and new schools. To ease students' transition from elementary to middle school and middle to high school, BCPS is holding half-day early entry days on Aug. 22. 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.

The *Northwest Voice* spoke with Superintendent S. Dallas Dance recently about what to expect for the 2016-2017 school year. Below are excerpts from that conversation about magnet schools, teachers and principals.

How will the new magnet schools planned for the northwest work?

Our board in the 2014-15 school year voted to create a visual performing arts magnet school at Milford, very similar to what we have at Carver Center for Arts and Technology and Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts. When I first got here I looked at some of the inequities that existed in our county particularly around programming and magnets.

Carver is the crown jewel in Baltimore County. It's open to all students but in reality, the student body predominately comes from the northwest area. And we have Patapsco Performing Arts program. Students from the central area attend Towson, Dulaney and Hereford high schools and most families are satisfied with those schools. Even if they are interested in performing arts. On the east side, we have Patapsco with a very defined program.

I have parents who came to me and board members who say, "We transport our kids all the way Patapsco and we want a bus." It's a bigger issue than a bus. There should be something on the west side.

Milford, in all of its history has had a very strong arts and music program, but wasn't a magnet. We asked for permission to make it a magnet school and fund it as a magnet school. One of the beauties of that program is that it will be available to all kids 9 through 12. We're excited about that.

Milford is overcrowded in terms of capacity so they won't have a problem filling magnet slots. It has a lot of kids who are already on special mission transfers for programs that are magnet in nature and they will be converted to magnet students.

Old Court will be Northwest Academy for Health Sciences. The board approved the name change at its April meeting. We have 90 seats for incoming sixth graders and over 400 applicants. Old Court will have a new principal—Tina Webster from Southwest Academy will be the principal. Kyria Joseph is going [from Old Court] over to become principal at Milford Mill.

The goal is for the next three years that Old Court will be a six- through eighth-grade health sciences program. Those kids will go to Randallstown High School, which has a biomedical magnet program that we will bring more on line with what peer health sciences is. Randallstown will still have their mass communications program,



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New School Year *continued from page 6*

which is very successful, but will be taking 9th graders for 30 health sciences slots. Then you will go to Northwest Hospital, where you will do internship experiences in your junior and senior year. Then, you will graduate with a diploma and associate's degree at the same. (We are also defining our partnership more with CCBC.) When you leave Randallstown, then you go to Towson as a first-semester junior and get employment opportunities at Northwest Hospital.

We are looking at some systemwide consistencies in magnet admissions. Woodlawn High School is a stem magnet program. In the 2017-18 school year, Woodlawn will become an early college high school in collaboration with CCBC. If you can increase the programming you give parents another option. That's why I'm looking at programming across the county. In the case of Woodlawn, let's be clear and upfront. There are some great things going on there. There is a perception that exists within Woodlawn. We want to offer something that will attract people to Woodlawn and makes kids who are zoned there want to stay.

Through our partnership with CCBC, we can give kids an opportunity to get their diploma at the same time they get an associate's degree. We are working with CCBC to identify whether it's health sciences, computer sciences or general studies.

The perception is that the 'bad teachers' end up in the northwest. Bad teachers in general are gone from the system, but there is a process. The belief is that you have more uncertified teachers in the northwest area than other parts of the county. When you look at where our teachers of color are they are predominately in the northwest, because that's where most of our students of color are. There's always going to be principals who want to hire teachers who look like our students. Sometimes we have to recruit candidates who are going through an alternate certification in order to get licensed through the State of Maryland, which probably has one of the hardest credentialing in the country. We have to work with teachers on getting that certification. It happens a lot in math. It happens a lot in Spanish. That's just not in the northwest, it's happens across the entire county. In many cases, teaching is not your first choice because you can make almost double or triple doing something else. So we do work with people

who have math degrees because they don't have the education and courses to get certified, and in many cases those are candidates of color.

How do you decide which principals are a good fit for which school? We have brought the community more into the process. Before I came here people were placed. They are placed by me after the community has given input. When we find out someone is not going to be at a school, e.g. once a principal resigns, retires or goes somewhere else because of a promotion, we hold a staff input meeting and a community input meeting. We don't necessarily say who, but we say "what are you looking for in your next principal that's most valuable to the community." It's not a gripe session or to say what the principal did and did not do. So when our assistant superintendents, who are now community superintendents, are looking at our pool of people, our current APs go out, they are looking for the best fit. We also have an interviewing committee that gets feedback. The overall question we ask is: who can't we live with?

Watch for Part II of the Northwest Voice's interview with Dallas Dance in the September issue.



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Upcoming Events and Activities

Cooking Classes

The American Heart Association is sponsoring Simple Cooking with Heart Kitchen. The program offers fun, hands-on, affordable cooking classes. Students will prepare a main course with side dishes and then take home the food they prepare and the recipes they used, in order to replicate the meal in their own kitchens. Each class will include nutritional information, basic food safety and sanitation overviews, recipes and the preparation of a meal. Sign up for only \$5 a class at heart.org/baltimorekitchen. Classes are held at 210 S. Central Ave. in Baltimore, 21202. Availability is limited. Contact baltimorekitchen@heart.org or 410-246-6715.

Fabulous YOU Diabetes Education Program for Women

The American Diabetes Association is sponsoring a Fabulous You Evening Program for women with type 2 diabetes who want to improve their health through education and lifestyle changes. Take advantage of wellness education, a lifestyle coach, cooking demonstrations, fitness activities, medication management, a grocery tour and more. Enrollment is open and there is no cost to participate, but registration is required. Contact Tracy Newsome, director, American Diabetes Association, at 410-265-0075, ext. 4679.

Family Fun Fest

The Baltimore County Family Health Fun Fest will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resource Drive. There will be games, cooking, children's activities, health screenings, vendors, raffles and prizes. The event is free. Contact Cheryl Belt-Jackson at 410-887-1266 or 410-887-3448.

Restaurant Week Returns for the Summer

Baltimore County's 12th bi-annual Restaurant Week is back for the summer, and will run Friday, Aug. 5, through Saturday, Aug. 20. Participating restaurants in the county will feature special one-to three-course menus for lunch, brunch and dinner at discounted, fixed prices ranging from \$15 to \$35.

View the updated list of participating restaurants at baltimorecountyrestaurantweek.com.

African American Cultural Festival



The 20th annual Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Towson Patriot Plaza, 401 Bosley Ave. in Towson. R&B singer-songwriter and pianist Vivien Green will headline the entertainment. The free event will also feature an education village, health and wellness information, vendor exhibits and a presentation of scholarships.

A week earlier, on Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., local author and historian Louis S. Diggs will conduct a bus tour to honor and remember the African-American veterans from the county who served in the Civil War, World War I and II, and the Korean War. The bus will depart from the rear parking lot of Union Bethel AME Church, 8815 Church Lane in Randallstown.

Del. Adrienne Jones, speaker pro tem, founded the festival in 1996 to celebrate the traditions of the African-American community.

For more information, visit aaculturalfestival.com.

Fights at Franklin Middle School

Better communications, safety procedures to be implemented

Fights between students take place at every school in the county—some planned and some spontaneous; some inside the hallways, some after school; some you hear about, some are settled quietly. A series of fights at Franklin Middle School last May escalated into parents' public complaints that the hostility was becoming more commonplace and interventions were not being managed adequately.

One parent, William Berman, organized a meeting held at Franklin Middle School on July 13 that attracted nearly 80 people who came to talk about the increased number of incidents between students.

The issue was important enough to bring out four county school board members—chairman Charles McDaniel, Marisol Johnson, David Uhlfelder and Romaine Williams; two state elected officials, Del. Adrienne Jones and Del. Jay Jalisi, several Baltimore County Public Schools



Principal Charlyne Maul is making changes at Franklin Middle School to address safety concerns.

administrators, school administrators and principal Charlyne Maul.

Emotions ran high during the two-hour meeting, with parents, just about all but a couple of them white, alleging that their kids were being pushed into lockers, jumped and punched. The effect, some say, was that the students were fearful and their grades were suffering. Though no one said it, there appears to be racial tension. Parents also said they need better communication from the

school.

Maul, Franklin Middle's principal for six years, was distressed by the criticisms, and troubled by the lack of diverse representation at the meeting. "This is not my school."

Most of the information being presented at the meeting was not true, she insisted, and no parent had come to her with those concerns. A school the size of Franklin, with 1,300 students, and represents a microcosm of the community that the students come from, is bound to have fights, the principal said.

At one point, a parent stood up to request that the publisher of the *Northwest Voice* not be permitted to take pictures. Kenny Brown challenged the parent, informing her that it is appropriate for the media to take pictures at a public meeting. She sat down and the meeting continued.

Recognizing that the demographics of the Franklin Middle have changed dramatically over the past several years where minority students are now the majority at the school, Brown asked Berman, who was leading the meeting, what kind of outreach did he do invite parents. As it turns out, he used Facebook.

The group issued some demands. They wanted to be notified by robocall whenever a fight occurred.

continued on page 19



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Aaron Plymouth
is president of
the **Stevenswood
Improvement Association**
and chair of the
**Combined Communities
Advocacy Council of
Greater Randallstown.**

COMMUNITY LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Aaron Plymouth: All Talk and All Action

You will find Aaron Plymouth at just about every political reception, ribbon cutting and community event in the northwest. Considered a go-to person when there is a need for advocacy and action, he can marshal volunteers and get the community engaged on a particular issue. His leadership and influence comes from the strong relationships he has built with elected officials, government and business leaders, and most importantly, his neighbors.

As president of the Stevenswood Improvement Association, an organization representing 205 well-maintained single-family and detached homes off Old Court Road behind Northwest Hospital in Randallstown, Plymouth takes his leadership role seriously. Items related to the safety and quality of the neighborhood—such as installing handicapped ramps and speed bumps, working with Northwest Hospital to enclose an incinerator, and taking a look at deteriorating driveway aprons—get his full attention.

When the neighborhood begins to take on an unruly appearance with tall grass and weeds, unlicensed vehicles parked on the street and the stream littered with debris, Plymouth knows it's time to schedule an Operation Clean Sweep. He sends a detailed letter to homeowners advising them on what they can expect at the two-day activity, for example a visit from county inspectors who will have no problem writing citations for code violations.

During the second day of the clean-up, a street sweeper whisks through the eight streets and four courts. The activity concludes with a curbside pickup by Purple Heart of unwanted clothes and household items.

Plymouth keeps the community informed and in-the-know at monthly meetings of the improvement association and quarterly meetings of the Combined Communities Advocacy Council of Greater Randallstown (CCACGR), a group of which Stevenswood is a member and he chairs.

Describing himself as systematic and organized, Plymouth it is also his style to bring individuals' different strengths together in order to get the job done. He is a stickler for following the bylaws, punctuality and processes, such as following an agenda. If you don't know what time it is, he'll tell you in his base voice.

Anyone looking to open a liquor store on Liberty Road will come up against Plymouth's "Operation 100 Plus 50." Stevenswood homeowners know the drill: When they receive the call to action, it is their responsibility to see to it that the county liquor board receives 100 letters in the inbox or mailbox and 50 people at its public hearings.

continued on page 11

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f t

Aaron Plymouth *continued from page 10*

“Since 2010, we have decided that there will be no more class A liquor licenses granted for package goods, e.g. beer, wine and liquor, to anyone west of the beltway to Deer Park Road,” Plymouth says. “We’re also stopping those for class D, which is a bar or lounge.”

He adds, “So long as I can breathe, I will fight and fight to keep all class A and class D out of the area because we have super saturation of liquor stores. We don’t need anymore.”

Everything the group achieves is part of a team effort and he praises his officers for their support. Prince Green is Stevenwood’s first vice president, Arthur Brown is second vice president, Patricia Moseby is treasurer and Carl Waters is secretary.

In the CCACGR, which is comprised of 10 community associations, Danny Blount serves as vice chair, Susan Sherman as secretary, Tim Clark as treasurer, Virginia Jones as sergeant at arms, Nan Sherman as special assistant, and Patricia Clark as public information officer.

Born and raised an hour’s drive away from Raleigh, in Kingston, North Carolina, Plymouth headed north to attend graduation school at the University of Pittsburgh. He earned a master’s degree in education there and received another in administration and supervision from Loyola. His professional experience includes positions as reading specialist, teacher and assistant principal. After deciding that “administration was not my thing,” he returned to the classroom as a reading specialist at Old Court Middle and Scotts Branch Elementary. He has been retired for 10 years.

Plymouth and his wife Bernice Brooks-Plymouth, a registered nurse in adult psychiatry, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in June. The couple moved from an East Baltimore rowhouse to the Stevenswood community in 1985, attracted by better schools. Their two sons—Phillip, 33, an accounting manager for a large firm, and Paul, 28, is a legislative assistant for Baltimore City Councilman Jack Young—attended Winfield Elementary, Sudbrook Middle and Randallstown High School before heading to college.

7 Fun Questions

Dead or alive, who would you like to have dinner with?

Nelson Mandela. We’d have a five-course meal: chilled soup, with a spring salad, Chilean sea bass, ostrich or buffalo venison or rattlesnake meat, and wine from South Africa.

What do you do for fun?

Travel, cook dishes such as poached salmon with lemon dill butter, French lamp chops and filet mignon, enjoy a good glass of wine and reading. I’m currently reading James Patterson.

What are your favorite travel spots?

I have been to 43 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, and over 25 countries and islands. My favorite is the Caribbean and U.S. Virgin Islands.

If you didn’t go into education, what career path would you take?

Law.

What words do people use to describe you?

Thorough, sincere, compassionate.

What advice should you have listened to as a young man?

Read more books.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

At one time, I wanted to be a minister. I used to have a recurring dream that I was in this shack. Christ was bearing his cross saying Aaron I need you. I thought that was a calling. I am a deacon at Catonsville Presbyterian Church.

Anything else you’d like people to know about you.

When my term expires with Stevenswood, I would have served 30 consecutive years as leadership as first vice president, acting president and president and six years as chair of the CCACGR since it began.



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National Night Out Shines Light on Neighborhood Camaraderie

Community groups around Baltimore County joined organizations around the country to celebrate National Night Out. People will turn on their front porch lights and join together to say “no” to crime in their neighborhoods.

Activities included informational meetings, block parties and cookouts, and visits from local law enforcement and emergency personnel.

Grace Strawder, a 16-year resident of West Edmondale, attended the event at the Emmanuel Luthern Church in Catonsville. Currently acting secretary of the community association, Strawder says activities such as National Night Out are important because “they bring the community out so we can all have fun together and meet one another so that we’re not afraid of people in our community. We’re about friendship, family and looking out for one another.”

According to the Police Department, “The goal is the same for all: To show criminals that our neighborhoods will not be bullied. Baltimore County residents want to keep their neighborhoods safe for their families, visitors and the businesses.”

Since its inception in 1984, National Night Out has grown from 2.7 million Americans participating in 400 communities in 23 states to more than 37 million people and 15,000 communities from all 50 states, United States territories, and military bases around the world.

Photos: The Northwest Voice



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EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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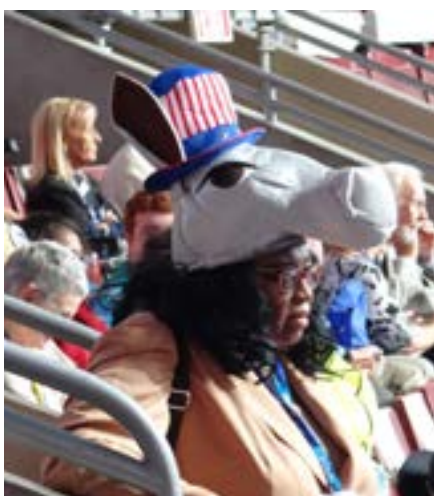


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The Northwest Voice Goes to the Democratic National Convention

Maryland elected officials and delegates were among the thousands who attended the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia last month. Tony Baysmore, special assistant to Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, District 4 Councilman Julian Jones, District 10 Del. Ben Brooks, District 11 Del. Shelly Hettleman and Northwest Voice Publisher Kenny Brown shared photos. Brooks, Almond, Hettleman and Linda Dorsey-Walker, a member of the 10th District Democratic Central Committee, were among the elected delegates who saw Hillary Clinton win the Democratic nomination for U.S. President.



Back to School Immunization Clinics

To assist parents in getting their children immunized before the start of the 2016-2017 school year, the Baltimore County Department of Health will provide immunization clinics for children up to age 18 who are eligible under the Vaccines for Children program. The program serves mainly children who are eligible for Medicaid and children who have no health insurance. No appointments are necessary.

If parents do not know whether or not their child needs immunizations, they can check with the child's school or call the Department of Health's Immunization Action Program at 410-887-2705.

All recommended vaccines will be available at the walk-in clinics, including varicella for students entering kindergarten and Tdap (Tetanusdiphtheria-attenuated pertussis) and meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination for students entering seventh grade. The meningitis vaccine will also be available for students entering college. For children with Medicaid, insurance will be billed. For those with no insurance, an administration fee will be charged on a sliding fee scale.

"I want parents and guardians to take the time to S.A.V.E. this year—start administering vaccines early – by attending one of our free immunization clinics," says Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, director of the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services. "There is no need for any of our students to be out of compliance or excluded from school due to missing immunizations. We are making plenty of opportunities available for students to get their vaccines before schools starts."

Several clinics will be held during the months of August and September. Parents and guardians must bring a copy of their child's immunization record to the visit when the child is seen.

Back to School Immunization Clinic Schedule

On weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22, through Friday, Sept. 23, the following health center locations will accept walk-ins for school immunizations:

- Baltimore Highlands-Lansdowne Health Center
- Hannah More Health Center
- Liberty Family Resource Center
- Woodlawn Health Center

Saturday clinics will also be held at the following locations: Aug. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Baltimore Highlands-Lansdowne Health Center, 3902 Annapolis Rd. in Lansdowne

September 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Baltimore Highlands-Lansdowne Health Center, 3902 Annapolis Rd. in Lansdowne.
- Liberty Family Resource Center, 3525 Resource Drive in Randallstown
- Woodlawn Health Center, 1811 Woodlawn Drive, in Woodlawn

For more information about the back to school immunization clinics or childhood immunization requirements, contact the Immunization Action Program at 410-887-2705 or visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/health.

—Baltimore County Department of Health

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OFFICERS OF THE MONTH
Pikesville Precinct 4's
Officer of the Month for
June is Haines.

During June, Haines issued five traf-
fic citations and 45 warnings. He
also completed 25 field interview
reports, which is double any other
officer on the shift, according to the
precinct.

He cleared one felony case, mak-
ing three felony arrests; 10 mis-
demeanor cases, making one
misdemeanor arrest; and three
serious traffic cases, making three
arrests for serious traffic offenses.

Haines' investigative skills helped
clear a stolen auto case in June.
He worked with the Regional Auto
Theft Task Force and helped to
identify and arrest three suspects.

Haines' supervisor stated, "As a
senior member of the squad he is
looked to for his knowledge and
expertise, but does not shy away
from volunteering for details which
would otherwise be handled by
others on the squad."

**Windsor
Mill
resident
dies in
historic
flood**



Ellicott City, which bumps up to the
northwest, is still recovering from an intense
flash flood resulting from roughly six inches
of rain that dropped on the area in two
hours. One of the two victims of the July
31 Ellicott City flash flooding was Joseph
Anthony Blevins, 38, of Windsor Mill. Blevins
was with his girlfriend when the vehicle
was swept away with the couple inside.
The woman got out of the car and was
rescued, according to Baltimore County
Police. The department investigated
his death, and that of the other victim,
a 35-year-old woman visiting from
Pennsylvania.

Joseph Anthony Blevins was director
of financial aid at the University of
Baltimore and the father of three children.
Condolences to the family.

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—Federal Trade Commission



Major Luke Wright with Jaela Davis and Malik Jackson chat after the Aug. 1 County Council meeting. Davis’ mother Shika Bradford and Jackson’s uncle, Glenn Wilson Sr., also attended for support.

Honing Their Leadership Skills

Two Milford Mill High School students decided to not just complain about issues that were troubling them, but to take them to the County Council.

Jaela Davis, 15, who will enter 10th grade this fall, told council members at the Aug. 1 meeting that more community programs were needed for young people. “We need more recreational and mentoring programs so we can be more productive in the community, especially given what’s been happening nowadays,” Davis said. “We need someone to believe in them and have their back.”

Malik Jackson, 16, who is going to the 11th grade, commented about how teachers are spread thin during summer school and depend on a digital curriculum, which is negatively impacting students.

“My issue is about Apex Learning, a computer software that BCPS has us use throughout summer school. If we didn’t pass the course throughout the normal [school year], why are we forced to teach ourselves a course that we didn’t know to begin with,” he said. “I feel as though it’s not right to our education or to the teachers, because they give the teachers three subjects to teach in one room. For example, I went to summer school for biology, which is categorized as science. But the class is split into biology, physical science and chemistry. That one teacher is trying to scramble and answer everyone’s questions at once.”

It was their Marine Corps JROTC senior instructor, Luke Wright, who encouraged the students to attend the council meeting to share their concerns about what’s going on in their community. Hats off to Davis and Jackson.

Family picnics, badminton and guns?

An amendment to proposed legislation to permit people who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm to bring a gun into a public park was given the thumbs down at the July County Council meeting. If the amended bill had passed, then along with your family outing at recreational areas such as Patapsco State Park and Northwest Regional Park in Reisterstown, gun-toting residents could also be strolling alongside your family and kids enjoying the playground area.

The purpose of Bill 42-16, Recreation and Parks - Enforcement Authority of Recreation and Parks Personnel, was to clarify what visitors could do and not do in county parks, such as hunt, smoke, cause excessive noise, charge fees to conduct lessons, such as for tennis, operate ATVs and gamble.

District 3 Councilman Wade Kach, who offered the amendment, said to allow people to bring guns would add a layer of protection for citizens. He referenced the shooting at the Orlando nightclub where 49 people were fatally shot and dozens more injured. The council didn’t buy it and voted the amendment down across party lines 4-3.

Only police officers are allowed to carry guns. After much debate, the council extended the privilege to retired law enforcement officers.

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Housing Discrimination Can Continue

continued from cover

'no vouchers.' If nothing changes, what makes you think that number will not grow. If you disburse it evenly, then it's not a burden on anybody."

Landlords could still legally reject an applicant based on other criteria, such as criminal background checks and credit history.

Section 8 is a hot button issue that attracted a lot of debate pro and con.

Acknowledging that the intent and benefits of the bill were difficult for some to understand, Jones held a well-attended community forum on July 19 at the Randallstown Library, with Marsha Parham, executive director of the housing office, presenting. "Once I explained the issue, [constituents] understood."

Mention of "Section 8," stirs fear and unfairly conjures images of a

young African-American woman with a lot of children who will "beat up my kids and break into my shed," Jones said.

Community members were split on the issue. Some took a "not in my neighborhood" position, commenting that people with housing vouchers were not good neighbors vested in keeping the community safe and clean, and their presence would bring down property values.

Others shared that landlords with properties in areas such as Towson and Lutherville with access to better schools, jobs and quality of life should take more low-income people so they do not continue to be concentrated in the northwest.

Council members explained their points of view. Council Chair Vicki Almond, who represents Reisterstown and Pikesville, said she was conflicted and took issue with the fact that the executive branch did not consult council members regarding details of the bill and negotiations of the HUD settlement agreement from which it's drawn. "It is concerning for me when such an important issue is unable to be resolved, and is not resolved at the state and federal level, and yet local government is forced to take action," she said.

Cathy Bevins, whose District 3 includes the east side, felt the bill would increase the number of voucher holders moving into her district. She told Andrea Van Arsdale, director of planning, who testified on behalf of the administration, "Until you can guarantee me that I won't receive more vouchers through a bill of this sort, I just don't know how I could ever support this."

Arsdale responded, "I can't ever guarantee that. I can guarantee your situation will not change unless you have a bill like this."

Tom Quirk, who represents Catonsville and parts of Woodlawn, said he heard from constituents in West Edmondale, Edmondson Heights and Gwynn Oak, who had concerns based on their own personal experiences.

"I think the bill can be passed with more time and effort given to some of

the legitimate concerns," Quirk said. Examples are exempting landlords from the bill if they had one or two smaller properties, streamline the process for landlords to rent to receive housing vouchers, and automatically designating a certain percentage of larger number of properties for housing vouchers. "I definitely support the goal. There should be more discussion to craft a better bill to achieve the overall goals."

Shortly after the meeting, Kamenetz tweeted that he was disappointed the bill did not pass, but was "encouraged by the incredible support that it received over the past few months." Calling the bill good public policy, he said, "The deconcentration of poverty remains a very important goal, and one to which I am committed."

According to the terms of the agreement, the bill must be reintroduced after Maryland 2018 gubernatorial elections.

Del. Stephen Lafferty has co-sponsored similar state legislation, House Bill 769, the Home Act of 2016, which also extended to other real estate transactions, such as home sales, and broadened the definition of source of income to inheritance, gifts and pensions. The bill failed.

"People have to better understand the value [of the issue]. A lot of it is education," Lafferty said. "I'm hopeful individual council members will reach out to advocates to get better educated, to better understand the data and better understand the implications and really think harder about some of the testimony about how vouchers have made a difference in their lives. It's a very difficult political issue. Baltimore County is a very hyper-segregated county where discrimination has been rampant."

Jones said, "We have landlords who accept vouchers who voted against the bill. Some landlords don't want tenants to have choices. They want them to stay right there [in certain areas and complexes]."

"I did my best to convince people," Jones said. "I think was the right thing to do."



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For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them. —Matt 21:1-19

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Fights at Franklin *continued from page 9*

Maul told them that is not going to happen, but she will consider sending a message when a major incident happens to let them know students are safe.

Parents claimed that disruptive students are not being suspended and expelled for what they considered to be serious offenses and felt disciplinary action should be automatic. They wanted students' names and to know the outcome of their offenses. Maul responded that Franklin Middle has the fourth highest suspension rate in the county. "We are not zero tolerance because every issue is not going to be treated the same way," she said.

New procedures are being introduced for the 2016-17 school year, according to Maul. The school will stagger dismissals so that everyone doesn't transition between classes and at dismissal at the same time. Maul also plans to have regular meetings between students and teachers. She encouraged the group to find a way to work with the PTSA.

Additionally, to help the students, who are 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds trying to navigate through their issues and problems at home, Maul plans to bring more counselors to the school. She also hopes the school's mentoring program can attract more male mentors.



Parents, elected officials and school board members met July 13 to address a series of fights at Franklin Middle School.

BCPS Superintendent Dallas Dance has said that teaching culture of respect for teachers and students is key. "Franklin Middle School is not the Franklin Middle School from five years ago, when the population was 25 percent African American. It's now 56 percent African American," he told the *Northwest Voice* in an earlier interview. "How do you build relationships with kids, get your teachers to understand cultural competence and get our students to understand how to deal with difficult situations when things don't go their way?"

Dance added, "Some of the fights we are seeing [around the county] are staged, planned fights. They are planning the fight through social media. We have some very brave students who will say 'Look, Dr. Dance, something is going to jump off.' About 85 to 90 percent of the fights we stop. The kids don't want to fight. Our kids come to school because they want a sense of security. They fight in some cases because we have not taught them how to deal with conflict. We are going to be working with our students around culture and respect."

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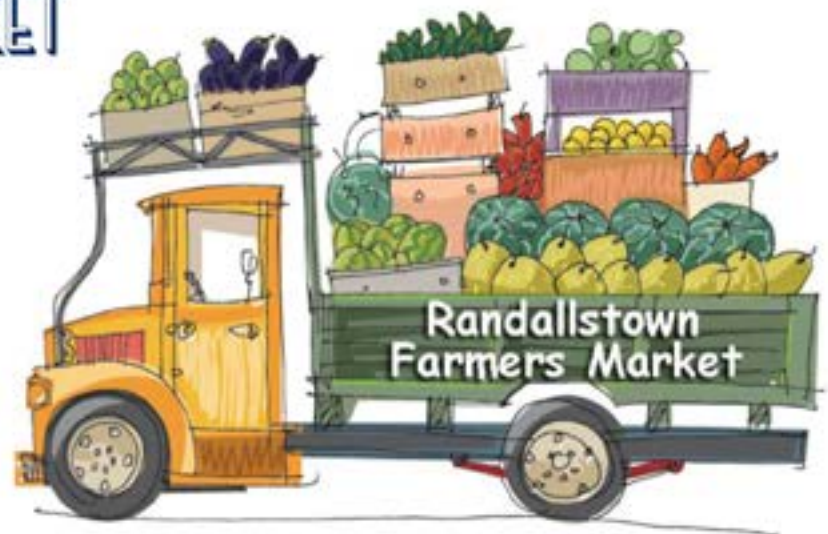
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Local residents Jones, Baysmore to Receive Foundation Awards

Randallstown residents Ernestine Jones and Tony Baysmore will be presented awards at an annual benefit event hosted by Dream 4It Foundation, which awards scholarships and honors community leaders.

Emphasizing a continued commitment to the growth and development of young people, the Dream4It Foundation's ninth annual Sensational Summer Night, will be held on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gordon Performing Arts Center in Owings Mills.

Jones will receive the 2016 Dream Giver Award for her work as host of the WEAA Gospel Grace radio program. The foundation stated that it applauds Jones for "the role you play as an inspiration to women and young people as you share your life story and encourage persons to realize their

dreams."

Baysmore, special assistant to Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, will also receive a DreamGiver Award for his work organizing and engaging communities. The foundation referred to Baysmore as a "recognized voice in efforts to ensure our elected officials remain connected to the needs of the people and who has been instrumental in ensuring the implementation of programs that help preserve and nurture our neighborhoods."

Anthony Brown, the foundation's president, says the evening will be an inspirational journey across the pop, inspirational and gospel charts that will feature Stellar Award winner Maurette Brown Clark, violinist Kendall Isadore and vocalist Michelle

Jackson. Brown, also a local minister and accomplished artist, will also perform. Nearly 400 persons enjoyed last year's concert.

Founded in 2008, The Dream4It Foundation raises funds to support numerous educational endeavors designed to provide youth with scholarships for higher education and position them to realize their dreams. To date, the foundation has awarded nearly \$90,000 in educational scholarships. It also awards special grants to individuals and organizations that provide vital

human services, and honors people whose selfless efforts improve the quality of life for individuals and families across the state.

Brown founded the foundation after an overwhelming response he received to a song he had written and recorded entitled, Dream. "What I came to understand was that the song was more than just an inspiring lyric; it was encouraging persons to once again go after their dreams," he says. For ticket information and more details, visit www.dream4it.net or call 443-472-3311.

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Dream 4 It Foundation, President

MAURETTE BROWN-CLARK
Stellar Award-Winner

KENDALL ISADORE
Violinist

MICHELLE JACKSON
Vocalist

The Dream 4 It Foundation will also award educational scholarships and present awards to members of the community who have committed themselves to inspiring persons to dream.

Tickets: Individual - \$45.00 / Artist Circle - \$65.00 (Includes Pre-Event Reception) / Groups 10+ - \$40.00

Tickets can be ordered online at www.dream4it.net or by mail at:
Sensational Summer Night VII Tickets / P.O. Box 3258 / Baltimore, MD 21228
Make checks payable to "Dream 4 It."
Dream 4 It, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501 C (3) tax exempt corporation.

Caring for Your Pets

Baltimore County's Animal Services is responsible for enforcing the laws that protect animals, sheltering and returning stray pets to their owners and promoting responsible pet ownership. The department urges you to get your dog, cat or ferret vaccinated against rabies for only \$8 at a clinic held the second Sunday of each month at the shelter or in the fall at one of nine rabies vaccination clinics between Sept. 10 and Oct. 22.

Those closest to the northwest are located at: Rockdale Park, 3326 N. Rolling Rd., Windsor Mill,

21244, and will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to noon; and Hannah More Park, 12035 Reisterstown Rd., Reisterstown 21133, which will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to noon.

Be advised that all rabies vaccinations purchased through Baltimore County Animal Services now include free microchipping and initial pet license.

Remember that clinics are held rain or shine; however, the Baltimore County Department of Health reserves the right to cancel or limit the time frame of a clinic in the event of severe weather.

Only dogs, cats and ferrets will be vaccinated at these clinics. Uncontrollable animals will not be vaccinated. Dogs must be on a leash or in a properly sized, escape-proof carrier; muzzles are required

for aggressive dogs. Cats must be contained in a properly sized, escape-proof carrier.

Please bring current rabies vaccination certificate. Without proof of current vaccination status, your pet will receive a vaccination that will be valid for only one year.

Animal Services is also sponsoring a foster program for shelter pets. If you're a Baltimore County resident interested in fostering a cat, dog or both, complete an application at <http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Health/animalservices/fostercareappagreement.pdf>.

For questions or more information, call 410-887-PAWS (7297) or send an email to animalservices@baltimorecountymd.gov.

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Bible Study – 7:00pm Wed.



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—Psalm 27:4*

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Welcome Our New Neighbors

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



ADDRESS	STYLE	BEDROOM	BATH	LISTED	CLOSE SALE
WOODLAWN, 21207					
3814 Cedar Dr	Cape Cod	3	2 ½	\$179,000	\$168,000
8 Bright Cir	Rancher	3	2	\$189,900	\$189,800
3110 Fairview Rd	Rancher	3	2	\$199,000	\$199,000
5905 Montbel Ave	Rancher	5	3	\$225,000	\$225,000
1100 Landington Ave	Colonial	3	2	\$179,900	\$184,000
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244					
2242 Riding Crop Way	Townhouse	2	2	\$139,000	\$138,100
1740 Meadowview Ave	Colonial	3	2	\$299,900	\$300,000
7116 Chamberlain Rd	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$190,000	\$185,000
3310 South Green Rd	Split Foyer	4	2	\$269,900	\$263,000
7840 Gaywood Cir	Split Level	3	1	\$169,999	\$169,000
CATONSVILLE, 21228					
4 New Kent Ct	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$259,000	\$260,000
17 Maple Ave	Colonial	6	4	\$599,900	\$460,000
2020 Pleasant Villa Ave	Split Level	4	2 ½	\$409,900	\$404,000
1204 Corolla Ct	Townhouse	4	3 ½	\$175,000	\$282,000
17 Clay Lodge Ln #401	Condo	2	2	\$329,900	\$328,000
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133					
4310 Travancore Ct	Colonial	3	3	\$309,000	\$296,000
3904 Grierson Rd	Rancher	4	2	\$170,000	\$175,000
3959 Whispering Meadows	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$234,000	\$234,000
11 Cassandra Ct	Split Level	4	3	\$294,000	\$294,000
9508 Oak Trace Way	Townhouse	4	1 ½	\$195,000	\$183,000
PIKESVILLE, 21208					
9110 Field Rd	Rancher	4	4	\$449,900	\$449,900
10 Austringer Ct	Townhouse	4	3 ½	\$319,900	\$319,000
924 Adana Rd	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$274,900	\$263,000
3201 Enclave Ct	Colonial	3	3 ½	\$775,000	\$775,000
514 Marshall Ave	Colonial	3	1 ½	\$124,900	\$127,245
OWINGS MILLS, 21117					
535 Garrison Forest Rd	Traditional	5	6 ½	\$1,499,000	\$1,475,000
94 Ritter Ln	Rancher	4	3	\$399,900	\$315,000
42 Pickersgill Sq	Townhouse	3	2 ½	\$209,999	\$208,250
3717 Caves Rd	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$699,000	\$645,000
9131 Malove Oak Ln	Townhouse	3	2 ½	\$286,000	\$273,000
REISTERSTOWN, 21136					
13810 Mack Rd	Rancher	5	4	\$399,999	\$390,000
620 Quarry View Ct #208	Condo	2	2	\$309,900	\$309,900
12909 Gent Rd	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$499,900	\$465,000
150 Chestnut Hill	Rancher	4	2	\$267,980	\$255,000
829 Stable Manor Rd	Colonial	5	4 ½	\$685,000	\$685,000



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