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n o r t h w e s t VOICE

Your voice in the community

MAY/JUNE 2023

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



PHOTO: BALTIMORE COUNTY

Baltimore County Police Chief Robert McCullough



PHOTO: BCPS

Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Myriam Yarbrough.

History Making Appointees Have Ties to NW Area

New police chief is a longtime resident of Randallstown and new BCPS superintendent began her career at Woodlawn High.

Two veteran leaders have been tapped to fill posts that have significant impact on the everyday lives of local residents. Robert McCullough, a longtime resident of Randallstown and well-respected colonel, was appointed chief of the Baltimore County Police Department and is the first African American to hold the post. Myriam Yarbrough, a highly regarded administrator who previously oversaw secondary schools in the western sector, is the new superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools and the first woman permanently appointed to that role. Both acknowledge the challenges ahead but are bolstered by deep knowledge and experience in their fields, and strong partnerships and support from the community and their peers.

Robert McCullough: From Cadet to Colonel to Chief

Before a packed-to-capacity auditorium at Randallstown Community Center of family members, community leaders, elected officials and fellow law enforcement officers, Robert McCullough, a 35-year veteran of the Baltimore County Police Department (BCPD), was sworn in on April 19 as the department's new chief and its first African American to hold that post. He will helm the nation's 21st largest police agency, with 2,300 personnel including 1,850 sworn police officers.

After McCullough took the oath of office, his wife

Continued on page 4

Myriam Yarbrough, 'We Will Improve and Accelerate Student Learning'

The next superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is Myriam Yarbrough, a home-grown educator, who began her educational career in 1996 as a chemistry teacher at Woodlawn High School and currently serves as BCPS deputy superintendent. Yarbrough will assume leadership over the 111,000-student school system and 20,000 teachers and staff. She will be the first permanently appointed woman superintendent.

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From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

Newest Baltimore County Appointees Appear Up for the Challenge

Great leaders come and go—voluntarily and involuntarily. Sometimes we look back and ask if the person in a certain position of influence have what it takes to be successful in their role. Or were there factors and forces working to hold them back from achieving their goals. Some have winning dispositions and strategies, some grow into their roles and do well, some struggle and disappoint, and some are downright perpetrators—in it not to win it.

In Baltimore County, we have had a mix of profoundly remarkable, average and uninspiring, and somewhere in between. I must say that two of the most recent high-profile appointees, Robert McCullough, who was named police chief, and Myriam Yarbrough, who will be the superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), hold a lot of promise.

I think back to some of the business articles I've come across over the years, and some of the information is still relevant. CEOs and entrepreneurs would share their thoughts on what makes an effective leader. When evaluating the qualities, many corporations and businesses look for the three C's: commitment, character and competence.

Individuals feel inspired and motivated to work with someone who is committed to the goals, the people and the purpose; who has the resolve and dedication to see a mission through; and who has the resilience to press forward in challenging times. People know they can count on a leader who demonstrates commitment.

The second C, character, refers to a person's moral compass, ethical standards and principles. Character is one of the key distinguishing attributes that grounds an individual.

Last but not least is competence. If you can't do the job, don't fake it. You'll eventually be exposed, and it could be in a very embarrassing manner. Now, every great leader does not know everything, and the best leader is not necessarily the person who has the most knowledge. However, your expertise and skills should most definitely align with the job you've been hired to do. You should seek valued opinions of others, be willing to learn, listen to new ideas and perspectives, and think creatively and strategically. It's important that you have keen insights, exceptional judgment, great vision and the ability to bring the best minds together. It's critical that you have the best people working with and around you.

I'm going to add two more C's –

communication and community engagement.

Your best laid plans can be derailed if you can't effectively communicate. Communication helps build positive and productive relationships, which are crucial for any initiative. If you don't clearly communicate a consistent message to your team members and other stakeholders, the message will be lost.

Because of politics, bad fits, and other reasons, people who most might consider to be exceptional leaders, are not successful in all situations, positions and organizations. We have seen that happen in Baltimore County.

McCullough and Yarbrough are battle-tested veterans who climbed the ranks to achieve their very important posts. Interestingly, both have ties to the northwest—McCullough as a resident of Randallstown and Yarbrough as a former Woodlawn High School teacher. Both made history—McCullough as the first black to lead the Police Department and Yarbrough as the first woman BCPS superintendent.

It's an understatement to say many community members are proud. We also know that there were forces who attempted to derail the BCPS superintendent appointment. We know how important community engagement is and we know that both McCullough and Yarbrough have plans to meet, greet and listen to the concerns, ideas and suggestions of community members and other stakeholders. A lack of communication was a complaint heard about both of their predecessors.

Both have extraordinary challenges ahead. Though the county touts a decrease in crime, it seems shootings, homicides and assaults continue to plague citizens of the western and eastern parts of the county. The police force is still understaffed. You still wonder if your civil rights will be protected and respected.

We don't hear much in the news about school disturbances, but casual conversations with parents tell you that fights, bullying and other bad behavior is still a concern.

Whether it's public safety, education or another aspect of government, awareness and enforcement of the rules and regulations, training, appropriate follow-up and consequences, and consistently proactive community engagement are key responses to an issue.

I'm hopeful that Chief McCullough and Superintendent Yarbrough will address the root of the issues head-on. Everything cannot

lie at their feet. Yes, our officers and educators absolutely have a difficult job, but as parents and citizens, we must also hold ourselves accountable when we are not operating for the greater good. We must do our parts. Hopefully, these new leaders will tell the community what they need from us to help them in their job, and we can all work together for the betterment of community policing, education and good government.

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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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Randallstown Resident Sworn in as County's First Black Police Chief

Continued from page 1

Alicia and cousin Ret. Col. Johnny Whitehead, the county's first African American promoted to the rank of captain and of major, pinned the badge on his uniform—to signify the promotion. The audience responded with a standing ovation before McCullough took the podium, fighting back tears.

He praised officers, who he said give their all and are at a crossroads faced with changing laws, evolving threats, conflicting perceptions of what policing is and should be. “My vision for our police department is a proactive community-oriented agency that is focused on preventing and combating crime and its negative effects.”

McCullough stated that his priorities are: “community policing and crime prevention; building and strengthening trust through transparency and accountability;

recruitment, hiring and retention of sworn officers and professional staff; officer training, education, health and wellness; safety of our schools and faith-based institutions; and advancing the use of technology.”

“As a department we will restore

the collective sense of safety

through proactive public safety strategy,

meaningful community engagement,

and holistic, unyielding support for our officers and our community,” he pledged. “We will treat with dignity and respect and be a resource and a partner to the community.

A resident of Randallstown, and who for over 30 years has lived and worked in Baltimore County, raised

his family and participated in faith-based activities and volunteered for youth and senior citizens, McCullough said he's grown to understand the needs and concerns of each community.

He rejoins the department after

retiring as a colonel and operations bureau chief in 2021. Pursuing a childhood dream, McCullough began a highly decorated career in 1985 as an

18-year-old cadet and continued as a patrol officer in the North Point Precinct upon graduating from the police academy. He served in a number of senior leadership roles, including bureau chief of criminal investigations, Eastern Patrol division commander, captain

of the Wilkens Precinct, and the department's Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness commander. McCullough is a retired master sergeant in the Maryland Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves.

He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in management from The Johns Hopkins University and completed the university's Police Executive Leadership Program.

Olzsewski nominated McCullough after a nationwide search. The County Council confirmed him on April 17.

McCullough replaces Dennis Delp, who served as interim chief since November 2022 and will remain with the department as a colonel. Delp took over the job after the departure of Melissa Hyatt, who was appointed in June 2019 as the BCPD's first woman police chief. Her four-year contract was not renewed.

“My vision for our police department is a proactive community-oriented agency that is focused on preventing and combating crime and its negative effects.”

Robert McCullough
Baltimore County Police Chief



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Dr. Clark began her career almost 30 years ago, specializing in the correction of spaced and crowded teeth, and also jaw malformations and dysfunctions. A U.S. Army veteran and recipient of several awards, Dr. Clark mentors young adults in dentistry and serves on the advisory boards for Maryland State Medicaid and Women's Giving Circle of Howard County.



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PHOTO: BALTIMORE COUNTY

Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones (at podium) and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski (behind her) announced at a May 17 press conference that the county was acquiring its second piece of property at Security Square Mall. They are flanked by Del. Sheila Ruth and Councilman Pat Young on the left and Sen. Charles Sydnor and Del. Scott Phillips on the right.

Another County Purchase at Security Square Mall

Baltimore County is acquiring its second parcel of property at Security Square Mall—this time a 12-acre parcel.

County Executive Johnny Olszewski announced the acquisition at the site on May 17. In combination with the

prior purchase of the former 202,000-square-foot Sears building and lot, the county will now own over one-third of the overall property at Security Square Mall, which will help support a coordinated,

Continued on page 16

Board of Education Selects Myriam Yarbrough as Next BCPS Superintendent

Continued from page 1

The news was well received. When school board chair Jane Lichter announced the board of education's selection at the May 16 meeting in Towson, attendees broke out in cheers and gave Yarbrough a standing ovation. Lichter noted that Yarbrough has built strong relationships with staff and stakeholders and received 40 letters of support from community members.

In her remarks to the board, Yarbrough recalled that when she was a first-year teacher, BCPS was ranked as a top school system in the state. "It is my intention to work together with you, the community, our staff, all stakeholders, and our students first and foremost to get back to the top of the state and the nation," she pledged. "You have my word."

The needs and challenges of the students, staff and system are growing, Yarbrough continued. "But I believe in our boundless potential if we work together to meet the needs of the students and staff moving forward. We will improve and accelerate student learning."

Known by many as an effective communicator, Yarbrough said she is committed to engaging stakeholders in "face to face, direct conversation."

She said, "I will empower your voices so that you are part of the problem solving."

She thanked her boss, outgoing Superintendent Darryl Williams, who months after his appointment in 2019 was forced to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a ransomware attack, and complaints about his leadership style. He also had to work with a dysfunctional, less-than-supportive board. He announced in January that he would not seek another four-year contract.

It was Williams who recruited Yarbrough to work in Montgomery County Public Schools. After leaving BCPS for Montgomery County, Yarbrough served as principal of a middle school and high school. Earlier in her career, she also worked as a science department chairperson, assistant principal, and adjunct professor at McDaniel College.

Yarbrough returned to BCPS in 2020 and worked in several administrative roles, such as chief of organizational effectiveness, executive director for secondary schools in the western sector of the county, and director of school performance. She has been deputy

superintendent since December 2021.

A resident of Prince George's County, Yarbrough received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Bowie State University and holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Maryland, College Park.

A series of public meetings designed to connect Yarbrough with parents and community members, and business, civic and other stakeholders are being scheduled prior to her assuming the job as superintendent.

The search for a new BCPS superintendent was an expedited process. McPherson and Jacobson, LLC, launched a nationwide search a superintendent on March 1. The search firm facilitated the recruitment process, which BCPS says incorporated input from hundreds of system staff, parents, students, and other stakeholders from community input meetings held over three days in March. Ultimately, there were 24 applicants from 15 states. Four finalists were announced in April and interviewed in May by the board and members of key stakeholder groups such as the student council, teacher and employee unions, and area education advisory councils.



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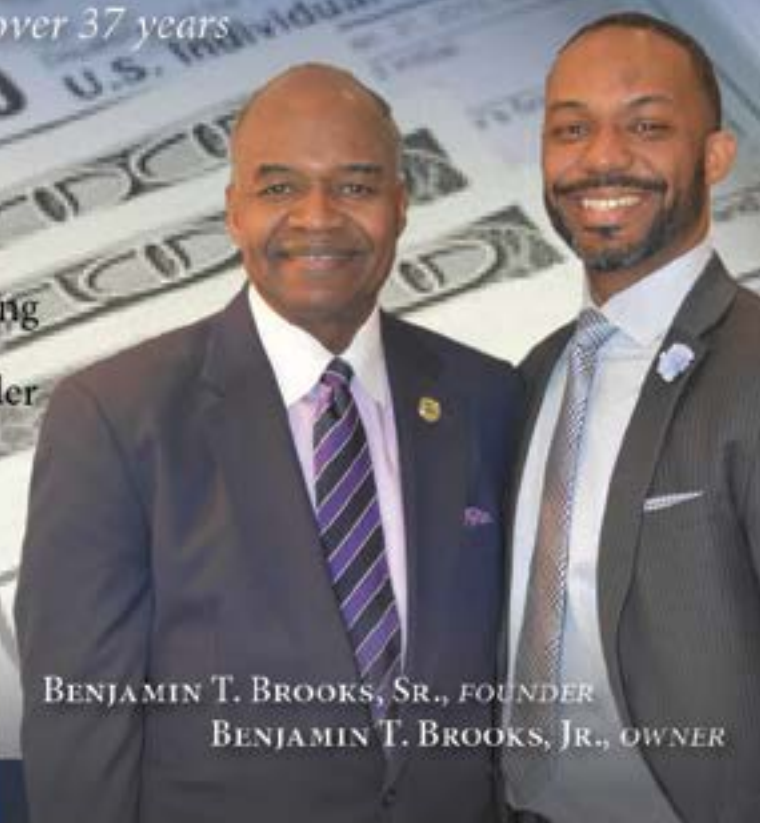


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Test Scores Dip But Not at Rate Some Expected From Pandemic

In the first Maryland School Report Card released since the COVID-19 pandemic, Baltimore County schools performed slightly lower on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) results than the state overall. However, even amid expectation of learning loss, several schools met targets and showed improvement over the previous assessment from 2018-2019, the last year school ratings were calculated.

PHOTO: DEPOSITPHOTOS



students on state tests; academic progress; progress in achieving English Language Proficiency; and school quality and school success.

Statewide more than 75% of Maryland schools earned three, four or five stars. Across the county, the attendance rate was 91% and graduation rate was 84.5%

The 2022 Maryland School Report Card provides a comprehensive picture of school performance and is a return to the reporting after a two-year pause due to the pandemic.

Data for the MCAP released in March provides information on student growth and achievement and learning accountability at schools throughout the state. Maryland schools receive ratings from a low of one star to a high of five stars based on four indicators at the elementary and middle school levels: academic achievement, academic progress, progress toward English Language Proficiency, and school quality and

student success. High schools also earned points for the graduation rate. Overall school performance is determined by a combination of academic and school quality indicators: academic achievement, which is a combination of the percent of students scoring “proficient” or higher on state tests in math and English language arts, and the average performance level of

According to the Maryland State Department of Education, nearly two-thirds of schools had the same rating in 2022 as they did in the prior school report card. More than a quarter of schools earned a lower star rating than in 2019, while 11% of schools received a higher star rating.

On the county’s west side Summit Park
Continued on page 7



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School Star Ratings

Continued from page 6

Elementary and Westchester Elementary earned five stars. Bedford, Catonsville, Chatsworth, Deer Park Fort Garrison, Franklin, Hillcrest, Lyon Mills, Westowne, Woodbridge and Randallstown elementary schools and Watershed Charter Public School received four stars. Nineteen elementary schools received three stars, three schools received two stars, and no schools received one star.

In that same geographic area, Western School of Technology earned five stars and Catonsville High School earned four. No middle school earned higher than three stars and seven received two stars. At six middle schools and one high school in the county's western sector did so poorly that 5% or fewer students were proficient in math.

Generally, BCPS students performed better in language arts than they did in math.

BCPS officials addressed the data at the March 14 school board meeting. In her presentation, Mary McComas, chief academic officer, stated that as an immediate response, the school system is reevaluating how teachers deliver learning materials and is providing "tailored support" to schools with professional learning so staff can create a short-term action plan based on student needs. Additionally, BCPS is offering targeted tutoring support to students in need, recommending summer school to families for their students (BCPS can't require it) and convening stakeholder groups for feedback for the 2023-24 school year.

Long term, BCPS will conduct instructional rounds in classrooms and implement an evidence-based curriculum.

"This is hard work that we're doing because it means making some changes and filling in gaps of students who may have had gaps before the pandemic," stated Superintendent Williams. "It is a partnership of the parent, student and school. When they are not all there, we have to figure out what more we can do to help the parent or the student."

The star system appears to be relative and indicate questionable results. For example, at least one elementary school that earned four stars, less than of third of the students there were proficient in math and less than half were proficient in language arts.

How Did Schools in Western Baltimore County Perform on the State Assessment Tests?

The Northwest Voice is showing the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program star ratings and proficient ratings for all students. More specific results include detailed information about the performance for each school of student groups: Black, White, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, students with disabilities, English learner, and economically disadvantaged can be viewed at mdreportcard.org. Star Ratings: 5 stars — a school has at least 75% of total earned points; 4 stars — at least 60% but less than 75% of total earned points; 3 stars – at least 45% but less than 60% of total earned points; 2 stars — a least 30% but less than 45% of total earned points; and 1 star — less than 30% of total earned points.

	School	# Points	Stars	Proficiency	
				Math	Language
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	Bedford	69.0%	★★★★	34.0%	49.1%
	Catonsville	70.3%	★★★★	37.3%	57.4%
	Chadwick	58.6%	★★★	22.4%	37.7%
	Chatsworth	65.5%	★★★★	41.2%	55.0%
	Church Lane	45.9%	★★★	14.3%	28.6%
	Deer Park	61.0%	★★★★	30.6%	47.0%
	Dogwood	47.2%	★★★	8.9%	24.1%
	Edmondson Heights	*46.9%	★★★	7.8%	21.9%
	Featherbed Lane	25.0%	★★★	14.2%	28.6%
	Fort Garrison	*71.9%	★★★★	46.4%	59.2%
	Franklin	72.4%	★★★★	43.8%	55.4%
	Glyndon	50.0%	★★★	18.8%	33.2%
	Hebbville	47.8%	★★★	10.3%	26.5%
	Hernwood	58.4%	★★★	9.5%	38.5%
	Hillcrest	72.5%	★★★★	47.1%	65.4%
	Johnnycake	48.6%	★★★	8.4%	20.2%
	Lyon Mills	63.4%	★★★★	29.1%	48.6%
	Milbrook	40.6%	★★	9.2%	18.5%
	New Town	58.9%	★★★	22.7%	44.2%
	Owings Mills	54.8%	★★★	13.5%	43.3%
	Powhatan	49.6%	★★★	15.2%	27.7%
	Randallstown	63.2%	★★★★	17.4%	46.9%
	Reisterstown	44.3%	★★	14.1%	17.6%
	Scotts Branch	50.4%	★★★	10.3%	26.5%
	Summit Park	75.3%	★★★★★	41.0%	69.0%
	Timber Grove	47.5%	★★★	13.1%	24.3%
	Wellwood International	54.4%	★★★	19.0%	30.1%
	Westchester	77.6%	★★★★★	54.5%	68.4%
	Westowne	61.9%	★★★★	28.6%	42.0%
	Winand	56.7%	★★★	22.4%	45.8%
	Winfield	51.7%	★★★	17.5%	33.3%
	Woodbridge	74.3%	★★★★	37.0%	55.0%
	Woodholme	53.3%	★★★	21.0%	25.7%
	Woodmoor	44.4%	★★	8.9%	21.8%
	Watershed Public Charter	69.8%	★★★★	28.8%	44.2%
MIDDLE SCHOOLS	Catonsville	52.5%	★★★	16.1%	47.9%
	Deer Park Magnet	36.9%	★★	≤5%	24.9%
	Franklin	40.0%	★★	≤5%	31.1%
	Northwest Academy	35.4%	★★	≤5%	24.9%
	Pikesville	37.7%	★★	6.0%	28.9%
	Southwest Academy	42.0%	★★	≤5%	26.1%
	Sudbrook Magnet	50.1%	★★★	7.1%	40.8%
	Windsor Mill	44.7%	★★	≤5%	25.1%
	Woodlawn	38.5%	★★★	≤5%	29.9%
HIGH SCHOOLS	Catonsville	61.2%	★★★★	35.9%	64.8%
	Franklin	56.2%	★★★	25.2%	61.6%
	Milford Mill Academy	53.3%	★★★	8.7%	47.8%
	New Town	*47.5%	★★★	≤5%	41.2%
	Owings Mills	44.9%	★★★	5.7%	39.5%
	Pikesville	57.6%	★★★	28.5%	43.5%
	Randallstown	*51.9%	★★★	6.3%	35.7%
	Western School of Tech	85.4%	★★★★★	70.8%	88.5%

* The denominator was less than 100. **Bold green** figures indicate improvement. Source: Maryland State Department of Education

PHOTO: BCPS



Left: Newly appointed school board members Emory Young and Tiara Booker-Dwyer were sworn in outside the County Courthouse in Towson on April 17. Right: Tiffany Frempong (center), pictured with Baltimore County Public Schools Superintendent Darryl Williams and board chair Jane Lichter on her left and board members Robin Harvey (vice chair) and Christina Pumphrey on her right, was sworn in on April 14. The new board members' terms will end in 2026.

Three Appointees Join the School Board; One Seat Awaits Governor's Decision

After a months-long delay, Gov. Wes Moore has appointed three new members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County on April 14. Tiara Booker-Dwyer,

Tiffany Frempong and Emory Young have been sworn in and will join other school board members to address important matters of Baltimore County Public Schools

such as school boundary changes, construction and the hiring of a new superintendent.

Earlier this year, the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission sent four recommendations to the Governor for consideration. Moore accepted the names of three of the nominees and declined to appoint the commission's fourth recommendation. One seat remains vacant on the 12-member board.

Joining the board as at-large members are:

- Randallstown resident Booker-Dwyer, a senior policy associate. She previously served as an assistant state superintendent for the Department of Education and as program director for the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education.
- Frempong, a Parkville resident who chairs the Northeast Area Education Advisory Council, a school board-appointed position charged with advising the board on issues that affect students, families, communities and schools.
- Young, a former president of the PTA Council who is serving his second stint on the school

board. Young was appointed by former governor Larry Hogan in 2017 to fill the seat vacated by Marisol Johnson, the District 2 representative at the time. The Reisterstown resident works as an engineer with Verizon Communications.

The hybrid board is made up of seven elected members who represent each of the councilmanic districts, one student member and the four appointed members.

According to the nomination process, the commission presents at least two names for each at-large seat to the Governor. Moore was to either select from the nominations or make his own choices within 30 days of taking office. Moore reported in January that he would delay his decision until after the state budget process and legislative session. Because of recently passed legislation, the appointed board members will serve until 2028.

The four-year terms of the appointees from the previous administration, Erin Hager, Russell Kuehn, Moalie Jose and John Offerman, ended in December but they agreed to remain in their posts until the new members joined.



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Social Worker in the Library Service Expands to West Side



Valerie Greisman (left) and fellow social worker, Barbara Elgin are part of the Social Worker in the Library program.

As part of the Baltimore County Public Library's Social Worker in the Library program, a social worker will be available to provide free, one-on-one advising and guidance for decision making, as well as to connect customers with resources and referrals.

Get answers to questions and help finding resources for a variety of topics, including: access to public assistance such as child care subsidy, financial assistance, food stamps and medical care. The BCPL says that social workers will also advise on resources for domestic

violence, grief and loss support, LGBTQIA+ support, mental health, parenting resources, senior resources, substance abuse and youth services.

Initially offered in October 2021 at six library locations on the east side, the Social Worker in the Library service has expanded to other branches, including those on the westside. The branches and hours are:

- Arbutus branch, second Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon
- Woodlawn branch, second Mondays and fourth Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Pikesville branch, second Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Randallstown branch, third Mondays, second and fourth Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

Email socialworker@bcpl.net to request an appointment with at one of the branches or call Barbara Elgin at 443-862-9348 for an appointment at one of the westside branches: Arbutus, Catonsville, Lansdowne, Pikesville, Randallstown or Woodlawn.

If you are experiencing a crisis or mental health emergency, you should call 911 or the 24/7 Baltimore County Crisis Response line at 410-931-2214.

A New Library App



Baltimore County Public Library has launched its new B Mobile app. From the app, customers can access core library services, which include:

- Accessing their library account, including current checkouts, holds and reading history
- Changing their holds' pickup location
- Self-checkout of items, including books, DVDs and video games
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The app is available for both Apple and Android devices. Search Baltimore County Public Library in your favorite app store.

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Dr. Lawrence Appel, Principal Investigator, Protocol #: IRB00232059

Local Projects are Receiving State Funds for FY2024

Ever wonder how certain building and construction projects such as youth facilities, schools and fire departments receive state funds? One source is through the annual legislative bond initiative process. While any organization may seek funding for a capital project, to request a state bond the organization must arrange for legislative sponsorship of various cultural, historic, health, educational, and economic development projects that are not funded by other state capital grant and loans. According to the Department of Legislative Services, there were 459 bond initiatives funded across the state, and about 55 of them are located in Baltimore County.

See what legislators representing the western part of the county in Districts 10, 11 and 44 requested and received through the fiscal year 2024 capital budget, which takes effective July 1.

District 10

Sen. Ben Brooks and Dels. Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House, N. Scott Phillips and Jennifer White

- Harriet Tubman Agriculture Technology Incubator, granted \$200,000. The Technology Incubator will build a vertical farm using LED lighting and will support infrastructure, equipment, mentoring and technical assistance to help launch businesses. The project will be located at 9600 Liberty Rd. in Randallstown.
- Chase Brexton Health Services Center, \$350,000. The health care center will relocate from Brenbrook Plaza Shopping Center in Randallstown to 32,849 square feet of vacant space at Security Square Mall in Woodlawn. As a federally qualified health center, Chase

Brexton serves an area of more than 63,300 low-income and disadvantaged residents in seven zip codes in northwest Baltimore County.

- Liberty Community Development Youth Center, granted \$100,000 of a \$800,000 request. A new

29,000-square-foot community youth center will be located in the Set the Captives Free Outreach, Worship and Education (O.W.E.) Center at Security Square Mall. The facility will include an early education center and an enrichment

center to house a music center, computer lab, gaming room, and meeting and training rooms. The O.W.E. Center also houses the Liberty Community Development Food Pantry and the Baltimore County Health Center.

District 11

Sen. Shelly Hettleman and Dels. Jon Cardin, Cheryl Pasteur, Dana Stein

- Maryland Troopers Association Headquarters, \$100,000. About 9,400 square feet of the building in Pikesville will be renovated. This includes roof repairs and interior renovations needed to meet American Disabilities Act requirements.
- Owings Mill High School, granted \$25,000 of a \$625,000 request. This project includes the improvement and replacement of stage, and house and emergency lighting systems in the school auditorium, and replacement of the scoring system in the gymnasium.
- Iglesia de Dios Hispana playground and fencing, \$85,000. The Owings Mills church wants to install a perimeter fence around the property to increase security and restrict access to unauthorized people.
- Woodholme Elementary School playground, \$200,000. The funds will furnish and install a new playground, associated site work, and renovation of existing playgrounds.
- Bais Yaakov of Baltimore, granted \$200,000 of \$500,000 requested. The funds will help renovate and expand the pre-K to 12 school for girls on its aging Park Heights campus. Specifically, a new building will be constructed to house a gymnasium and treatment rooms for student therapy.



Maryland Troopers Association headquarters at 1300 Reisterstown Rd. in Pikesville received \$100,000 to do repairs and renovations to its building.



The Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills plans to use the \$250,000 it received in bond money to construct a new building that will house a nature preschool facility and accommodate programs and features. On Fridays, through Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. admission is free to visit the eight miles of trails, animal exhibits and more.

Local Projects are Receiving State Funds for FY2024



The Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Company received a state bond to construct a new sign. The fire company protects a primarily residential community of 18,000 people living in an area of 17 square miles.

- Irvine Nature Center, granted \$250,000 of a \$500,000 request. Under the project, a new 8,550-square-foot building will be constructed next to the main center and upgrades will be made to the existing facilities. The expansion will include a new nature preschool facility, new educational programming and event space, and expansion of animal care facilities.
- District 44**
Sen. Charles Sydnor and Dels. Aletheia McCaskill, Sheila Ruth and Eric Ebersole

 - Banneker Community Center, \$300,000 for gymnasium renovations.
 - Music City Maryland Amphitheater, \$60,000. The funds will go toward building an amphitheater stage and other amenities on the 12-acre property of the CAA Park on Ingleside Avenue in Catonsville.
 - Community Learning Center, received \$110,000 of \$650,000 requested. Phase 2 of the Islamic Society of Baltimore (ISB) project involves completing the Outdoor Learning Pavillion and Smart Playground project in Catonsville, which ISB says benefits residents of Westview Park, Woodbridge, Woodlawn and surrounding areas.
 - St. Luke's United Methodist Church, \$350,000. A second floor over the church annex will be built to create a community

multipurpose space that will include an administrative office, storage and a state of the art computer lab that will be available for public use. The historic African American church was erected on purchased land in 1880 by free blacks and descendants of 43 slaves. Over the years additional land and a fellowship hall were acquired.

- Woodlawn Volunteer Fire Company, \$50,000. The funds will support replacement of the fire house's outdoor sign.
- Youth Learning and Vocational Center, received \$300,000 of a \$1 million request. Established in 1863, The Children's Home in Catonsville is a residential care facility that provides long- and short-term services to youth

13 to 21 years of age who have experienced abuse, neglect, violence, abandonment, and/or need supervised care. The 44-acre home intends to restore and repurpose a 101-year-old building into a state-of-the-art arts and vocational learning center. The facility, formerly built as a laundry and heating facility, is currently in use as a maintenance shop.

Interested organizations can reach out to state lawmakers representing their legislative districts to request funding for a capital project. For information about the criteria and application process, visit mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Budget/BondInitiatives.



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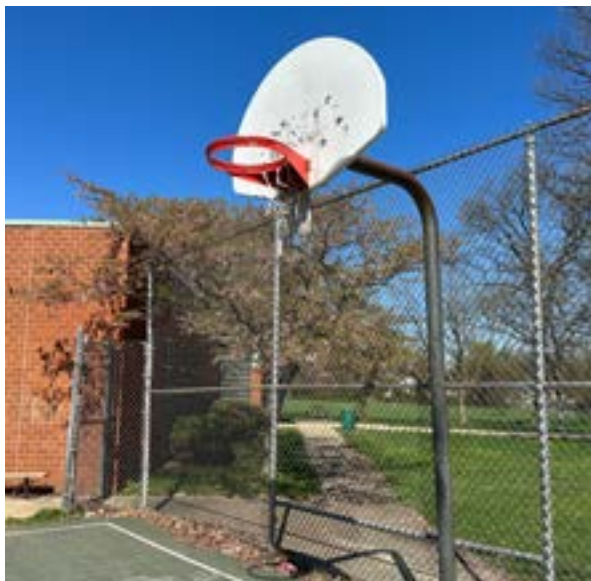
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Baltimore County is using American Rescue Act funds to repair basketball hoops such as the one shown at Woodmoor Elementary School in Woodlawn.

County Basketball Hoops to be Replaced With Federal Funds

Aging basketball equipment at more than 175 outdoor sites across Baltimore County will be updated before the fall. County officials say under the project outdated equipment at 168 county-managed basketball courts and 10 recreation activity centers — some put in place more than 40 years ago — will be replaced with new poles backboards and rims.

The project is part of County Executive Johnny Olszewski administration's ongoing efforts to modernize recreation amenities and upgrade aging infrastructure, according to a county news release. Replacing the hoops is expected to save the county money and time, as well as make maintenance efforts more efficient and economical moving forward, say property management officials.

About \$45.5 million in capital funding has been budgeted this year for recreation and parks. The initiative is supported by approximately \$500,000 in American Rescue Act federal funds.

"We are fully committed to expanding recreational opportunities across our great county and that means doing more to modernize our aging equipment," said Olszewski. "By the end of this project, every court the county maintains will provide the modern basketball hoops residents deserve so that every community has a modern, local space to visit, play, and enjoy."

Renovated Woodlawn Senior Center That Will Triple in Space

At the Woodlawn Senior Center (WSC), you might find members playing spades, shooting pool or listening to a guest speaker on any given day. Now that construction has begun at WSC, one of the county's smallest centers, seniors can look forward to spending time in a building more than triple its current space when it's finished next year.

The Woodlawn Senior Center's long-awaited renovation will add approximately 9,200 square feet of space to the existing 3,600-square-foot center. The facility will feature a large multipurpose room that includes two pickleball courts, large line dancing or aerobics classes, parties and celebrations. A fitness center, two additional classrooms and office space will also be included. In addition, the center will have a new parking area with 50 spaces, double its current number.

During the renovation, the adjacent recreation center, where teens and adults come to play basketball and participate in other activities, will remain open for use by all.

While the center is under construction, senior activities moved to Morning Star Baptist Church Outreach Center at 6665 Security Boulevard.

The newly expanded Woodlawn Senior Center is expected to open in early 2024.

"This investment will create more equitable

opportunities for our county's seniors, helping to ensure our neighbors can stay active, stay connected, and age in place," County Executive Johnny Olszewski said in a statement.

He joined state and local elected officials along with senior center members in February to break ground for the expansion. The groundbreaking activities included a line dance and remarks from elected officials and Department of Aging and center leaders.

Olszewski said he recognized that senior centers are an anchor in the community, and the 1,000-plus members at WSC were not adequately serviced by the cramped facility. "We are excited to give you all a place to prosper," he told a group of community members who had gathered to participate in the groundbreaking.

In her remarks, Patty Delotch, president of Woodlawn Senior Center's executive board, told attendees, "We have been waiting for this day for many years." She thanked past presidents Delores Douglass, first WSC president, and Charolene Oliver, immediate past president.

The \$6.7 million project includes \$2 million in state funding, an \$800,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Aging and \$3.9 million in county capital funding.



Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones, Department of Aging Director Laura Riley, elected officials and community members participate in the groundbreaking of a renovated Woodlawn Senior Center.



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LAWYERS ON THE ROAD & IN THE LIBRARY.

July 12, Woodlawn Library, 4 to 6 p.m.; and July 19, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Woodlawn Library. In partnership with legal services providers, the Mobile Library Law Center provides free assistance for civil legal issues, including bankruptcy, child custody and support, debt collection, expungements, foreclosure, government benefits, landlord/tenant, veterans' benefits and wage claims. Maryland Legal Aid lawyers are on hand to offer free legal advice for eligible individuals on. Bring all relevant documents. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-served basis to those eligible, as there are income

guidelines. For more information about eligibility requirements and other dates, visit mdlab.org or call 410-887-7586.

SNAP OUTREACH. July 11, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Owings Mills Library; July 13, 5 to 7 p.m., Pikesville Library; and July 19, 5 to 7 p.m. at Randallstown Library. A benefits eligibility specialist from Community College of Baltimore County provides one-on-one assistance with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications and re-determinations.

FREE WALK-UP HEALTH SCREENINGS.

July 10, 1 to 5 p.m. and July 27, 1 to 4 p.m. Owings Mills Library. The

Baltimore County Department of Health Harm Reduction Program is on site offering free health screenings, including blood pressure and blood glucose, as well as HIV and hepatitis C rapid testing with immediate results in a private space. This is a walk-up service; no registration required.

SCHOOL BOARD. Upcoming meetings of the Baltimore County Board of Education are July 11 and Aug. 8 and 22, 6:30 p.m. at the board's Greenwood campus, Building E, Room 114, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson. To watch the meetings online, go to bcps.org/video/liveStream.html. You can submit comments to the board at boe@bcps.org.

COUNTY COUNCIL. Upcoming legislative sessions of the County Council will be held in-person and via web conferencing at 6 p.m. on June 5, July 3 and Aug. 7, with work sessions on Aug. 1 and Aug. 29. For more information, including on the agendas and instructions to watch the meeting online and testify, visit baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil. The virtual meeting page is at baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/virtualmeetings.

html or you may call 410-887-3916 for more information. The public are encouraged to provide written testimony or comment via email at countycouncil@baltimorecountymd.gov or traditional mail.

POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL.

These councils consist of community leaders, interested citizens and representatives of the local business community, which meet to resolve issues of concern and provide an open forum. Many meetings are now held online and/or may be paused during the summer.

- Wilkens Precinct 1 meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The police precinct station number is 410-887-5165.
- Woodlawn Precinct 2 meetings are held the second Wednesday at 6424 Woodlawn Drive. The precinct station number is 410-887-4714.
- Franklin Precinct 3 meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month. The precinct number is 410-887-6985.
- Pikesville Precinct 4 meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department, 40 E. Sudbrook Lane. The next meeting is June 27 at 7 p.m. The precinct contact number is 410-887-6775.

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GOT A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT TO PROMOTE?

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

Got an Unwanted Mattress or Sofa? Next Round of Bulk Collection Begins in July

Time to think about what furniture, appliances and other unwanted household items you can set out for free curbside pickup.

Baltimore County has announced that this year's second bulk item collection schedule for county residents will begin in July and run through December.

For county residents who want to take advantage of the service, the county recommends they set out bulk items the night before their scheduled bulk collection day and leave the items out until collection occurs. This is because two different trucks provide bulk item collection (one for scrap metal and one for all other items) and may not arrive at the same time. Households are limited to three items on each bulk collection day.

Certain items won't be accepted, such as tires, stumps and logs, mirrors, and pianos and pool tables. Others will need special preparation, for example gas tanks must be removed from lawn mowers and large items such as playsets and metal sheds must be dissembled.

To find out the pickup dates for your address, watch your mail for postcards with the upcoming dates and details. You can also contact the Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000 or solidwaste@baltimorecountymd.gov or visit the county's website, baltimorecountymd.gov, and search for Solid Waste.

For the first time since 1992, Baltimore County reinstituted its new bulk trash program last year, scheduling each single-family residence and townhouse for two free pre-scheduled bulk item collections during the calendar year.

Residents may continue to take bulk items to the county's drop-off facilities in Halethorpe, Cockeysville and White Marsh year-round with a limit six loads per calendar year at no charge. A disposal preauthorization may be required in some cases.

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With New Land Acquisition, County Owns 1/3 of Security Square Mall

Continued from page 5

long-term vision for the site's redevelopment, a news release stated.

Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski stated, "We believe this site can once again become an economic gem, providing a better quality of life and sense of community for our hardworking residents."

The new parcel will be acquired from property owner Helmsman Property Services, Inc., leveraging \$6.85 million in state and county capital funds.

Built in the 1970s, Security Square Mall has been occupied by a mix of regional and national stores. However, the site has declined and currently, more than 20 percent of the one million gross-square-feet of built space

on the site is vacant.

Officials say surrounding communities have long sought revitalization; however, potential solutions have been complex as the approximately 90-acre site has multiple property owners with tenants offering disparate uses, such as an AMC movie theatre, the North American Trade School drivers' academy, the Set the Captives Free Outreach, Worship and Education (OWE) Center, and the Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services' Woodlawn Health Center.

The county's planned purchase of this additional parcel is subject to approval by the County Council.



PHOTO: JANET ANDERSON

The county has used \$847,000 in state funds to acquire more than 108 acres of woodlands and stream near Diamond Ridge Family Park in Windsor Mill.

County Acquires 110 Acres in Windsor Mill for Parks and Recreation

Baltimore County has bought nearly 110 acres of land situated in the 7800 block of Dogwood Road in the Windsor Mill area near Diamond Ridge Family Park.

In an April 24 announcement, County Executive Johnny Olszewski said acquiring the 108.9-acre parcel will preserve approximately 100 acres of woodlands, as well as streams that flow into Dogwood Run, a Baltimore County Master Plan designated recreational greenway. The numerous trails

that run through the property, formerly used for hunting, will offer expanded opportunities and access for hiking, mountain biking, and bird-watching.

The site was acquired using \$847,000 in Maryland's Program Open Space grant funds. The program, established under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 1969, provides financial and technical assistance to local jurisdictions for the planning, acquisition and development of recreation land or open space areas.

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Crime in the Northwest: Homicide, Shootings, School Vandalism

Many robberies, thefts and assaults have taken place against people, residences and businesses by a variety of methods, such picking locks, entering unlocked doors, and assaults. Below are some homicides and other activities the Baltimore County Police Department has highlighted in its crime blotter. Also, two accidents ended in fatalities.

Man Killed at Catonsville Hotel

An 18-year-old man has been charged with first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder in the death of 30-year-old Javier Argueta, who was fatally shot May 29 at approximately 3 a.m. at a hotel in the 5800 block of Baltimore National Pike in Catonsville. When officers arrived, they located three people suffering from gunshot wounds. Medics transported two men to area hospitals with what appeared to be non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect is being held at Baltimore County Detention Center without bond.

Shots Fired Near Franklin High School

Following up on a May 10 report of shots fired in the 11900 block of Reisterstown Road in Reisterstown at approximately 11:15 a.m., officers

arrived on the scene but did not locate a victim. As officers searched the area, Franklin High School was placed on lockdown while Owings Mills High School was placed on lockout status. No students were injured.

Person Arrested for Vandalism at Northwest Academy

At approximately 6:30 a.m. on May 22, officers responded to Northwest Academy of Health Sciences School, located in the 4600 block of Old Court Road following a report of vandalism on the school grounds. As a result of the investigation and damage believed to have occurred over the weekend, classes were cancelled for the day. Matthew Parry, 27, was later taken into custody and faces several charges, including

second-degree burglary, malicious destruction of property, theft and trespassing.

Fatal Crashes in Milford Mill, Windsor Mill

In Windsor Mill on May 21 at approximately 1:40 a.m., officers responded near the intersection of Dogwood Road and Ambassador Road for a motor vehicle collision. Investigators determined a 2014 Mercedes C300 was traveling westbound on Dogwood Road, when it collided with a 2016 Honda Civic traveling northbound on Ambassador Road. The driver of the Mercedes, 52-year-old Willie J. Smith, was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

In Milford Mill on April 9 at approximately 10:40 p.m., officers responded to the area of Liberty

Road and Courtleigh Drive. Investigators determined that a 1999 Toyota Camry was traveling westbound on Liberty Road when it crossed over the center two-way turning lane and into the eastbound lane, striking a 2015 Chrysler 200. The driver of a Toyota, 70-year-old Moyo Fagbayi, was pronounced dead at the scene. The other driver was not injured.

Both crashes remain under police investigation.

With some serious offenses, **Metro Crime Stoppers** offers a reward to eligible persons. Anonymous tips can be sent by phone: **1-866-7LOCKUP**, online at **metrocrimestoppers.org** or via the Mobile app: **P3TIPS**



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Top: Members of the Morgan State University Alumni Association of Baltimore County partnered with Lifebridge Health to host a health fair at Randallstown Community Center. Bottom: Staff from the Baltimore County Health Department informed an attendee about their services.

Morgan State Alumni Chapter Holds Community Health Fair

Morgan State University Alumni Association (MSUAA) of Baltimore County, in partnership with Lifebridge Health, hosted a health expo at the Randallstown Community Center. Dozens participated this spring in the fair, which featured health screenings, resources and information.

The health fair was part of an ongoing effort to meet the health and wellness needs of residents in northwest Baltimore County and the surrounding communities, said MSUAA president Michael Bishop. “The health and well-being of our families and communities is a priority,” Bishop said. “The Morgan State Baltimore County alumni chapter is committed to doing our part to help make this happen.”

Pikesville residents Maryann Ferguson, president of Pahl’s Crossing Community Association, and her mother Anna Mouden, were among those who stopped by the event. “We came to get information on a healthy lifestyle,” said Ferguson. “There weren’t any long lines. The event was run very efficiently.”

Representatives from service lines from Northwest Hospital and other community partners handed out information about diabetes and stroke prevention, provided resources for those experiencing domestic violence, firearm storage, and answer questions from the attendees.

Welcome Our New Neighbors

Welcome our New Neighbors is a list of some residential sales in the coverage area of the Northwest Voice from recent months. This will be a regular feature. This list is from the MRIS and is provided courtesy of Tammy Rollins, broker of Rollins & Associates Real Estate, 201 Milford Mill Rd., in Pikesville. The list includes address, style, bedrooms,bath, list price and closing price.



ADDRESS	STYLE	BEDROOMS	BATHROOMS	LISTED AT	CLOSED
WOODLAWN, 21207					
6819 Windsor Mill Rd	Cape Cod	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$499,770	\$484,000
3671 Forest Hill Rd	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$350,000	\$350,000
3659 Forest Garden Ave	Traditional	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$285,000	\$299,250
3119 Fairview Rd	Rancher	3 Bedrm	1 1/2 Bath	\$249,900	\$209,900
1202 Newfield Rd	Colonial	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$199,900	\$185,000
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244					
8612 Windsor Mill Rd	Split Level	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$379,900	\$400,000
26 Six Point Ct	Split Level	3 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$405,000	\$391,000
7205 Fairbrook Rd	A-Frame	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$275,000	\$269,000
7321 Castlemoor Rd	Traditional	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$259,900	\$259,900
2603 Molton Way #2603	Colonial	2 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$170,000	\$163,000
CATONSVILLE, 21228					
1031 Hartmont Rd	Split Level	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$459,944	\$450,000
2136 Chantilla Rd	Rancher	3 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$399,000	\$399,000
6003 Black Friars Cir	Rancher	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$349,950	\$349,950
6217 Gilston Park Rd	Split Level	4 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$260,000	\$260,000
122 Winters Ln	Colonial	2 Bedrm	1 Bath	\$229,900	\$229,900
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133					
9120 Sunset Ridge Rd	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$499,900	\$505,000
51 Millstone Rd	Colonial	4 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$430,000	\$417,500
8817 Sigrid Rd	Split Level	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$349,900	\$349,900
3733 Trent Rd	Rancher	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$325,000	\$325,000
9625 Axehead Ct	Colonial	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$239,990	\$244,698
PIKESVILLE, 21208					
18 Esperanza Ct	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 (2) ½ Bath	\$335,000	\$326,000
306 Sophia Ct	Cape Cod	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$309,900	\$315,099
7235 Pahl's Farm Way	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$265,999	\$266,500
207 Oak	Cape Cod	3 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$250,000	\$265,000
7 Stonehenge Cir #7-1	Contemporary	2 Bedrm	1 ½ Bath	\$199,900	\$162,500
OWINGS MILLS, 21117					
9128 Marlove Oaks Ln	Contemporary	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$415,000	\$415,000
9528 Georgian Way	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$375,000	\$380,000
4308 Vintage Ivy Ln	Traditional	3 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$379,990	\$380,000
9334 Vanguard Ct	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$319,000	\$320,000
4802 Wainwright Cir	Colonial	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$279,900	\$270,000
REISTERSTOWN, 21136					
9 Timber Run Ct	Contemporary	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$635,000	\$625,000
114 Nicodemus Rd	Traditional	4 Bedrm	3 Bath	\$499,900	\$500,000
4 Mycroft Ct	Colonial	4 Bedrm	3 ½ Bath	\$332,000	\$333,000
14 Tattersaul Ct	Traditional	3 Bedrm	2 ½ Bath	\$309,950	\$310,000
12333 Bonmot Pl	Split Level	3 Bedrm	2 Bath	\$235,000	\$230,000



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