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Your voice in the community

JANUARY 2018

A free publication serving
Owings Mills, Pikesville,
Randallstown, Reisterstown,
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PHOTO: KENNETH BROWN

Customers were surprised to learn that Sam's Club on Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills was one of 63 across the nation slated for closing. Walmart, its parent company, announced the closings hours after reporting it was raising the minimum wage for its workers and giving them a bonus as a result of the federal tax reform legislation.

Abrupt Closing of Sam's Club Stuns Community, Puts 169 Out of Work



News that Sam's Club at 9750 Reisterstown Road was closing its doors immediately caught members of the community, customers and elected officials by surprise. Some 169 employees were out of a job with little or no notice.

One unaware employee who showed up for work at the Owings Mills warehouse club appeared annoyed that he did not get the notice that he no longer had a job. Shoppers who stopped to pick up groceries and other goods were stunned to see television cameras, reporters and security officers on the mostly-empty parking lot as they approached the front door.

People who came to pick up prescriptions were escorted into the pharmacy, which is to remain open through Jan. 26. Cases of water stacked high on plats near the front door blocked the view of those who tried to peer inside the store. A sign informed that the store was closed for the day and that Sam's regrets any inconvenience.

Outside, others huddled to share notes about what they had heard. They lamented that they would have to

travel to the Route 40 or Timonium stores to shop. A representative from Lowe's was handing out flyers that it was hiring. (Elected officials had announced last year that Lowe's would be coming to the former site of the Owings Mills Mall, but Kimco Realty will not confirm it.)

On Jan. 11, Sam's Club announced it was closing 63 of its warehouse clubs nationwide and converting 12 of them to ecommerce fulfillment centers. The Reisterstown Road location was the only club closing in Maryland. Locations in Catonsville, Golden Ring and Timonium will remain open.

Earlier in the day, Wal-Mart Stores, Sam's parent company, announced good news. Giving credit to the recently signed tax reform plan, Wal-Mart officials reported plans to increase its starting wage for all hourly associates in the U.S. to \$11, expand maternity and parental leave benefits and provide a one-time cash bonus for eligible associates of up to \$1,000, with the maximum going to those with 20 or more years of service. Wal-Mart

continued on page 6



From the Publisher, Kenneth Brown

'Our Lives Begin to End the Day We Become Silent About Things That Matter'

Normally my column is about issues closer to home, such as local politics, the community and education. But I find it hard to stay quiet about what is happening on the national level. There have been a lot of decisions, actions and tweets from the White House about things that we find objectionable and shocking. I thought things could not get any worse, but I was wrong.

By now, most of you are aware that in a recent meeting, Donald Trump questioned why the United States would accept more immigrants from "shithole" countries like Haiti, San Salvador and the 54 African nations rather than from countries like Norway. By the way, according to Index Mundi, 98 percent of Norway's population is of Norwegian or other European descent (white), and people from the other countries the president references are mostly brown and black.

You have not seen words like shithole used in the Northwest Voice and many other publications, and seeing and hearing the word most likely makes you uncomfortable. My sole purpose for repeating the word the president used (and he denies) is to bring the full effect of his vulgarity, ignorance and racism to light. If you're describing these countries with an expletive, what does that make the people who were born and raised and who live there?

What bothers me most is that we have watched this man for a year. Those of us who are of color have recognized from the beginning that what he does and says is racist behavior. The president believes in white supremacy. He's my perfect example of a privileged and disconnected person.

The president of the United States is elected to represent all 327 million Americans. Currently, about 60 percent are white and 40 percent are nonwhite. A lot of people immigrated, as his family did, to the U.S., and many of them are U.S. citizens who come from the countries he puts down. How many times have you heard Trump say derogatory things about European countries?

What he said was hurtful, mean and racist. There were 12 elected officials of both parties in the room, and most of them kept quiet and contracted amnesia. I'm not sure why every elected official has not spoken out. I'm not sure why more Republicans are not condemning what he said.

We are all disgusted by what the president does and says, but like most of those in the room, we stay quiet. I understand that taking in the president's actions and comments on a day-to-day basis is emotionally draining, and may at times sap the peace and joy out of our day. A lot of people have instituted "no Trump" rules in their conversations and social circles.

I have a lot of friends who refuse to see this man for what he is. Had the president or CEO said what the president said, he or she would be fired.

A racist is someone who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against other races. Whether it has been to keep Muslims or other brown and black people from coming into the country, deport Hispanics to their native countries, or spew vitriol about certain people of color being thieves, drug dealers and rapists, the president's words and actions rise to the level of racism. A racist person can cause a lot of damage, but a racist government can do far worst. We've given the president the power of our government and we are not the same country because of him. Yes, please make America great again!

Until this president came along, folks with racist views kept a low profile. What disappoints me is that a man like Trump would not have been able to become president if there were not so many people who aligned with his beliefs. Many people who voted for him, who may not agree with everything he's doing, are still for him because he's not talking about them. However, if you're not denouncing him, I have to assume you are with him.

I'm a person who loves history, and as a child of the 60s have participated in and lived through an important part of our history—the Civil Rights movement. Yes, we've fought battle after battle. I got to see the evolution, revolution and implementation of integration, voter rights, labor rights and women's rights. Our forefathers and a lot of people have put in a lot of hard work, some at the cost of death, to move us past America's ugly past.

Will we allow this individual to go into the White House and take us backwards? The current state of affairs tells me there is still a lot of work to be done. We are not doing ourselves any favors by staying quiet.

Even for people in my generation, who believe it is time for those behind us to pick up the banner, it will be shame for us to fight the battle and then lose ground to the point that our children and grandchildren will have to fight the same battles again.

Let's speak up and speak out. Call the White House at 202-456-6213 and your congressional representatives. Send a tweet or post on Facebook to voice your opposition to the degradation of our people and our country.

We need to pay attention. Don't be prepared to ride the tide. Don't normalize the abnormal. We have to challenge hatred against our brothers and sisters every step of the way. To our elected officials, lead and let your voices be heard. Do not let us have

to guess where you stand. As long as the president believes that American citizens think it's OK for him to act like this, he will continue to embarrass America before the world.

As we observe the 79th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King on Jan. 15, I reminded of one of his quotes: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Be woke!

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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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County Council Elects Julian Jones as its First Black Chairman

Since 1956, when Baltimore County established an executive-council system of government, there have been 61 chairpersons of the County Council—just three of them women and all of them white. That deficiency of diversity changed on Jan. 2, when members of the council elected Julian Jones, the county's second African-American councilman, to serve its first African-American chair.

Councilman David Marks pointed out that "reflection of the county's evolution" as part of remarks he and other council members offered about Jones' collegiality, qualifications and work on the council. Then Vicki Almond of District 2 (Owings Mills, Reisterstown and Pikesville) nominated him to chair the seven-person council for the 2018 session. Calling Jones a "fierce advocate for his constituents," Almond said, "He will bring a new voice for Baltimore County."

After the unanimous vote was announced, Jones, who represents District 4, which covers Owings Mills, Randallstown and Woodlawn, received a standing ovation from the full chamber of family, friends and community members who turned out to see history made. The chairman nameplate was moved to a space in front of Jones' new center seat. He then presented outgoing chairman Tom Quirk of District 1 (Catonsville and Woodlawn) with a mounted gavel for his service. In his remarks,



In his first term on the Baltimore County Council, Julian Jones leads his first meeting on Jan. 2 as chairman.

Jones expressed his pride and elation of the chairmanship, which came in the last year of his first four-year term. "I am honored and excited to accept the position," he said. "I wish the day would come where we would never have a 'first' based on someone's race, their religion, color or gender or ethnicity. But unfortunately, we are not there yet."

However, he added, people should make a big deal of a first in order to encourage and motivate others as an example of what we can do and to encourage ourselves when we are on the right track and making progress. "I promise to do my best to

represent the community and family in a fashion that people will be proud."

Kenneth Oliver was elected in 2002 as Baltimore County's first African-American council member. Jones unsuccessfully tried to unseat Oliver in 2010, but won election four years later. A resident of Woodstock, he is also a member of the Baltimore County Central Committee for District 10. A member of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department for 31 years, Jones was the department's first African-American lieutenant, captain and battalion chief. He retired as a division chief in 2016.



Lisa Dingle and others who attended the council meeting give Julian Jones a standing ovation.

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Sam's Club Closes Abruptly *continued from cover page*

is also creating a new benefit to assist associates with adoption expenses.

In a statement, president and CEO John Furner said, "After thorough review, it became clear we had built clubs in some locations that impacted other clubs, and where population had not grown as anticipated." The company is working to place as many of [employees] as possible at nearby locations, and Walmart will provide support and resources to those associates who are affected, including the just-announced bonus and 60 days of pay, as well as severance to those eligible.

Local resident Earl Divers took issue with the way the closing was done. "Walmart gave their employees a raise and bonuses. And then you turn around and do this to these [Sam's Club] employees," he said. "It's sad. It's a sad way to conduct our economy."

Pikesville residents Art and Muriel Shefrin just purchased an annual membership weeks ago. "We shop here at least four times a month," Art said. "This was a mainstay for many years. We're very disappointed." Muriel said she comes for the rotisserie chicken. "Where are I am going to get my Sam's chicken?" she asked.

Because of Sam's bulk purchasing, businesses will also be impacted. Tony Illiano, president of Vito's Pizza, said he and brother come to Sam's

when they run out of items for their restaurant, which is located a short distance away at St. Thomas Shopping Center. "Something else should locate here. It's a nice store and it's centrally located and serves a lot of people."

County officials pledged their support. "I am reaching out to Walmart to make sure they live up to their responsibilities to assist employees at Sam's Club who have worked hard to benefit the company," said Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. "The county will also provide assistance in securing jobs for these hard working people to keep them from the unemployment line."

Councilwoman Vicki Almond, in whose District 2 the store is located, expressed regret. "I am so sorry that so many people have lost their jobs and I hope that Walmart will do everything within their power to place these employees in other Sam's Club or Walmart locations." Almond added, "I would like to see those jobs stay in Baltimore County and sincerely hope they consider Owings Mills for one of their distribution centers."

Among the warehouse clubs in the area is a B.J.s on Music Fair Road. Next year a Costco will open at Mill Station. A Walmart sits adjacent to Sam's on Reisterstown Road.



Art and Muriel Shefrin: "We're very disappointed. The rotisserie chickens were the best"



Earl Divers: Giving raises and bonuses to Walmart employees then eliminating the jobs of Sam's Club employees "is a sad way to conduct the economy."



Tony Illiano: "My brother and I would stop by to pick up a few items if we ran out of anything at the [pizza] shop."



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Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

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Attorney General Frosh Announces \$45 Million Settlement with PHH Mortgage Corporation

Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh has announced a \$45 million settlement with PHH Mortgage Corporation, a New Jersey-based mortgage lender and servicer. The settlement resolves allegations that PHH, the nation's ninth largest non-bank residential mortgage servicer, improperly serviced mortgage loans from Jan. 1, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2012.

The agreement also requires PHH to adhere to comprehensive mortgage servicing standards, conduct audits, and provide audit results to a committee of states. The settlement does not release PHH from liability for conduct that occurred beginning in 2013.

"PHH will be held accountable for its improper loan servicing and the requirements of the settlement will ensure PHH doesn't repeat its illegal conduct," Frosh said in a statement.

The \$45 million settlement includes payments to Maryland borrowers who lost their homes to foreclosure or who faced foreclosure. PHH will make



additional payments to state mortgage regulators, including the Commissioner of Financial Regulation.

Borrowers who were subjected to PHH foreclosures during the eligible period will qualify for a minimum \$840 payment; borrowers who faced foreclosures that PHH initiated during the eligible period, but did not lose their homes, will receive a minimum \$285 payment. Approximately 831 borrowers in Maryland are eligible for a payment. A settlement administrator will contact eligible payment recipients at a later date.

In addition to Maryland, 48 other state attorneys general, the District of Columbia and over 45 state mortgage regulators participated in the settlement.

Keep Abreast of Zoning Hearings

Did you know that on Jan. 2, there was a development review committee hearing held in the County Office Building in Towson regarding a request to construct a fuel service station with a Royal Farms convenience store and carryout restaurant with outdoor seating at 6124 Edmondson Ave?

Also on that day, a meeting was held on a request to raze the existing buildings at 10620 Reisterstown Rd., and construct a one-story car wash and retail building. On Jan. 4, a meeting was scheduled for a zoning hearing to put up signs at 9115 and 9127 Liberty Rd. near Offutt Road for a used car dealership.

Be in the know about what is going on. Stay abreast of zoning hearings regarding properties in your community. Regularly visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdmevents. You can review by district and filter by the day, week and month. It is best to sort the information by month.

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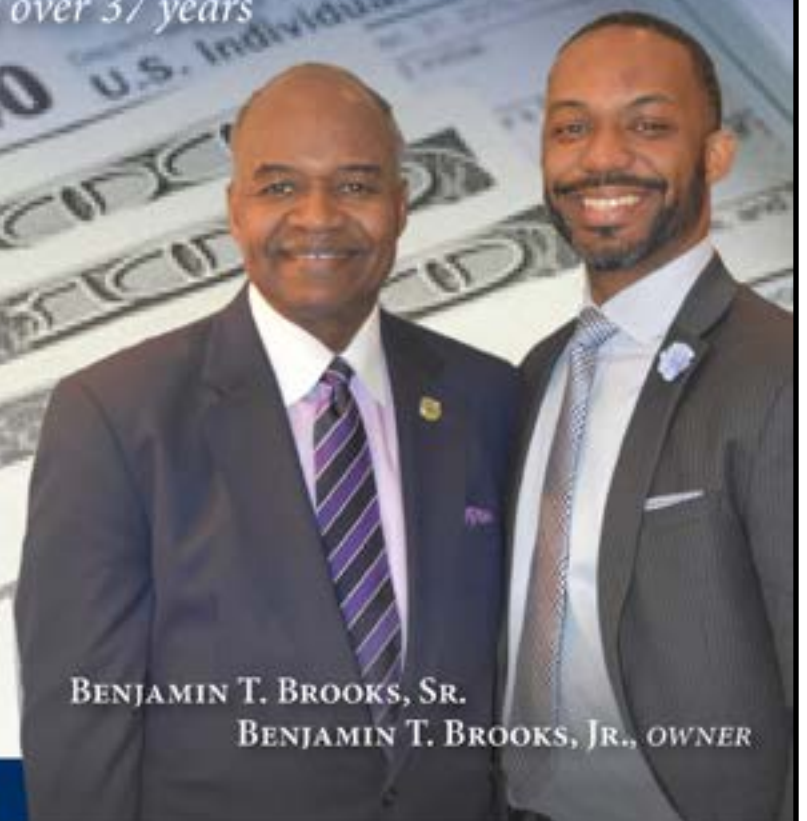
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Historic Morning Star Baptist Moves to Woodlawn

After more than 121 years at three locations in Catonsville, Morning Star Baptist Church opened a majestic house of worship in Woodlawn. Hundreds of congregation members, elected officials, and spiritual and community leaders braved the chilly weather for a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on Dec. 16 to celebrate the new location on Woodlawn Drive.

Pastor Bishop Dwayne Debnam, who shepherds the 4,000-member congregation, said, “Morning Star is doing more than opening a new church. We are moving forward with the creation of a campus that will continue the ministry’s efforts to build and rebuild lives.”

With Bishop Walter Scott Thomas of New

Psalmist Baptist Church presiding, highlights of the program included Marty Glaze and Kevin Johnson of Commercial Group presenting Bishop Debnam the keys to the church, and John Richard Bryan, retired bishop of the AME Church, consecrating the crosses and grounds and anointed the doors with prayer.

After a countdown, Bishop Debnam and First Lady Carla Debnam cut the ribbon. Then attendees formed a procession to enter the 49,000-square-foot church for an uplifting worship service.

Linda Day, a Randallstown resident who joined Morning Star several years ago with her husband Danny Day and daughter Tamara

Byrd-Taylor, was ecstatic that the church was finally welcoming existing and inviting new members into its new edifice. “This is an awesome day,” she said. “I am so proud and so overwhelmed to be part of the Morning Star movement.”

The two-story building will offer seating for 1,300 persons—more than double the seating for the previous sanctuary on Winters Lane—and additional space for Christian education classes and administrative offices. Once it opens, the family life center will include a day care center, banquet facility and activities for seniors and youth.

Clockwise: County Executive Kevin Kamenetz shakes hands with Robert Hawkins and Myrtle Conigland, longtime residents of Catonsville and members of Morning Star Baptist Church. Bishop Dwayne Debnam and First Lady Carla Debnam cut the ribbon for the official opening of the church. The church beacons from its location at 1512 Woodlawn Drive. Randallstown resident Linda Day enjoys outside the sanctuary before Dec. 16 service begins.



PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE WHITE

"A long time ago, I heard an old sage say, 'Justice is the most sincere expression of love.' I truly believed it; it made sense and was easy for me to believe because I love justice. However, after witnessing justice denied to victims of police brutality on so many occasions across this country, I'm starting to wonder like Tina Turner, 'What's love got to do with it.' How can you protect something you're afraid of?"

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Tax Season Begins Jan. 29, Refunds Won't Be Available Until Late February

As the impact of the recently passed tax reform law continues to be analyzed, the Internal Revenue Service has announced that the tax season will begin Monday, Jan. 29. Taxpayers claiming certain tax credits that refunds won't be available before late February.

The IRS will begin accepting tax returns on Jan. 29, and expects nearly 155 million individual tax returns to be filed this year. The nation's tax deadline will be April 17 this year — so taxpayers will have two additional days to file beyond the usual deadline. April 15 falls on a Sunday and Emancipation Day, a legal holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls on Monday, April 16.

Many software companies and tax professionals will be accepting tax returns before Jan. 29 and then will submit the returns when IRS systems open. Although the IRS will begin accepting both electronic and paper tax returns Jan. 29, paper returns will begin processing later in mid-February as system updates continue. The IRS strongly encourages people to file their tax returns electronically for faster refunds.

The IRS set the Jan. 29 opening date to ensure the security and readiness of key tax processing systems in advance of the opening and to assess the potential impact of tax legislation on 2017 tax returns.

Also, by law the IRS cannot issue refunds claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Additional Child Tax Credit before mid-February, although the returns will be processed when received. The IRS expects the earliest refunds related to earned income tax credit and additional child tax credit to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards starting on Feb. 27, if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with the tax return.

Taxpayers should keep copies of their prior-year tax returns for at least three years, according to the IRS. Taxpayers who are using a tax software product for the first time will need their adjusted gross income from their 2016 tax return to file electronically. Those who are using the same tax software they used last year will not need to enter prior-year information to electronically sign their



2017 tax return. Using an electronic filing PIN is no longer an option. Taxpayers can visit [IRS.gov/GetReady](https://www.irs.gov/GetReady) for more tips on preparing to file their 2017 tax return.

The IRS still anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days. The IRS also reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can provide helpful information and advice.

For more information on filing your taxes, accessing your federal tax account and volunteer assistance with filing, visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

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New Year, New You

It's a new year and many of us are looking at establishing resolutions or setting new goals. To improve your chance of success, be sure to use smart goals, so that they are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely. Instead of "I'm going to lose weight," say, "I'm going to cut out sodas and exercise 30 minutes at least three times a week." Here are some tips to help you improve goals related to health and finance.

Improve Your Diet and Your Health

Certain foods carry a lot of empty calories and ingredients that are bad for you. Reduce or eliminate processed foods, added sugar, sugary drinks such as fruit juices and sodas. Try seltzer water instead. You don't get sugar and you get the fizz. Drink more water. Eat at least one fruit and one vegetable with each meal, and plan your meals at the beginning of the week. Eat more fiber and antioxidants. Spend time with family and friends, keep up with your doctor and dental visits, have fun and exercise. Get quality sleep.

Financial

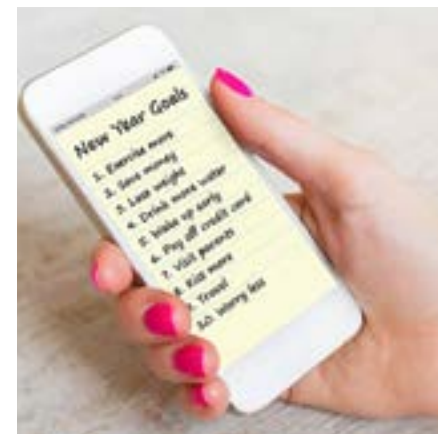
Save more money. Track your expenses daily. Use free apps to do this or put it in a spreadsheet.

Try using cash whenever possible. Figure out your budget and limit yourself to that amount. Set up an automatic transfer from your checking account to a savings account. Try to put away 15 percent of gross income for emergencies. Pay your bills online.

Save for retirement. Take advantage of your company's match for retirement accounts and don't leave money on the table. Automate your retirement payments. Set up an account on ssa.gov and learn about Social Security payments. You'll also get information on signing up for Medicare if you are 65 or close to it.

Look at your debt and come up with a plan to reduce and eliminate it. According to WalletHub.com, the average indebted household today carries roughly \$8,600 in outstanding credit card debt.

Consider whether to consolidate and transfer the balance to zero



interest credit cards. Consider if it makes sense to refinance personal and student loans or your mortgage. Work with a financial planner or someone with financial expertise to pay down your debt, if that helps.

Some experts recommend that you repay your most expensive debt first. That means putting the majority of your monthly debt payment toward the balance with the highest interest rate and making the minimum payment required on the rest. Once your most expensive debt is paid off, repeat the process until you're debt-free.

Monitor your credit score. Credit reports may affect your mortgage rates, credit card approvals, apartment requests, or even your job application. Reviewing credit reports helps you catch signs of identity theft early.

Lots of sites provide free annual credit reports, but the only official credit card annual report site is <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action> authorized by federal law. Get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three credit reporting companies, Equifax, Transunion and Experian. It's good to stagger your requests so you can monitor activity and your report throughout the year. The recent Equifax data breach should give you a good reason to monitor your credit activity. Certain credit cards allow you to check your FICO score for free. If not, you can check with sites that do. If you find a problem, such as companies you have not used or charges that are not yours, take steps to dispute and fix it.

Take advantage of freebies

Legislative Session 2018 Convenes

Delegates and Senators returned to Annapolis on Jan. 10 to convene the 438th session of the Maryland General Assembly—the last session before the 2018 gubernatorial elections. Legislators’ business will be to review and debate hundreds of bills, the state of Maryland operating budget for fiscal year 2019, which the Governor will submit, as well as state capital budget.

Much of the first day was ceremonial, with the Governor and House and Senate leaders delivering remarks encouraging collegiality during the 90-day session. Hot topics lawmakers are expected to debate include paid sick leave, legislation to ensure minority owners can grow and process medical marijuana, bail and parole reform, and bills to eliminate parental rights for a man who rapes a woman and that woman conceives a child. Maryland citizens can also expect bills that will

address issues taking place at the federal level, such as immigration, tax reform and health insurance.

Make sure you stay in the know, to know when bills are introduced and amended, when hearings on those bills are scheduled to go before a committee, when they go up for a vote, and how your legislators are addressing issues important to you.

How can you become an informed citizen on the legislative session? Go to the Maryland General Assembly website at www.mgaleg.maryland.gov. Click around on the various tabs and links, e.g. “legislators” to find the contact info for the Senators and Delegates and what bills they are introducing and co-sponsoring; “committees,” to find out when the various committees are meeting; and “home” for the summary and status of the bills.



Senators Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Delores Kelley, Bobby Zirkin and Ed Kasemeyer in the Senate chambers.

Your State Legislators

Four districts cover the northwest Baltimore County area: **District 10**, which covers Reisterstown, Owings Mills, Randallstown and Woodlawn; **District 11**, which covers Owings Mills and Pikesville; and **District 44B**, which covers Windsor Mill, Woodlawn and Catonsville. Parts of Catonsville also fall in **District 12**. You can reach your Senator and Delegates in Annapolis at 410-841-3000 or toll free at 1-800-492-7122.

District 10



Sen. Delores Kelley Del. Ben Brooks Del. Jay Jalisi Del. Adrienne Jones

District 11



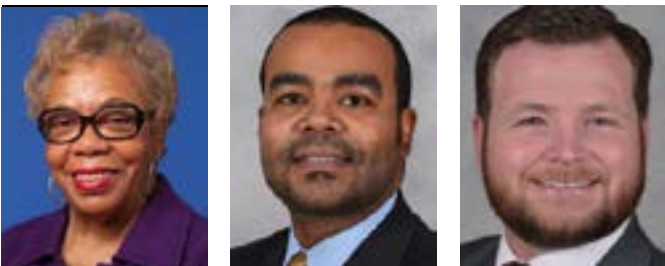
Sen. Bobby Zirkin Del. Shelly Hettleman Del. Dan Morhaim Del. Dana Stein

District 12



Sen. Edward Kasemeyer Del. Eric Ebersole Del. Terri Hill Del. Clarence Lam

District 44, 44B



Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Del. Charles Syndor Del. Pat Young

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS
Maryland General Assembly, mgaleg.maryland.gov

Randallstown High team wins Rep. Ruppertsberger's App Challenge

Kudos to a team of Randallstown High School students— Re'Niya Avery, Saniya Holmes, Aaliyah Philippe-Auguste and Adaora Umeadi—who won Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger's fourth annual high school App Challenge.

The competition, open to all high school students in Maryland's second congressional district, challenges students to create an original software application. The tenth-grade students in Randallstown High's Academy of Health Professions sought to create an app to help others prepare for health care careers by learning medical technology. Their app, Health Care 4 U, teaches through an interactive matching game.

Over the course of several months, the students learned computer coding, designed graphics, developed music, and created a marketing and advertising plan for their game. Contest participants were required to submit a video

demonstrating and explaining their app and what they learned through the competition process.

Ruppertsberger called the students' creativity and technical expertise remarkable. "I am particularly proud that this year's winners are all women, who are historically underrepresented in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] industries," he said. "If they are any example, our community will be generating impressive talent that will help our country innovate and create jobs."

The contest is part of a national effort established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014 to promote STEM innovation. The Randallstown students and other winners from across the country will be invited to showcase their apps to members of Congress and members of the tech community at #HouseOfCode, a reception on Capitol Hill to be held in April 2018.



PHOTO: BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Randallstown High School students who won U.S. Dutch C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger's high school App Challenge are Saniya Holmes, Adaora Umeadi, Re'Niya Avery and Aaliyah Philippe-Auguste.

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BE IN THE KNOW

Keep up to date on decisions by the Baltimore County Council. Attend the meetings and work sessions or view them online at

baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil/index.html

Protecting Yourself Against the Silent Killer Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

With more frigid weather on the way, it is important to stay safe while staying warm. To protect your family, make sure you have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed. After all, you can't see or smell carbon monoxide, which is why it is called the silent killer.

Carbon monoxide produced by furnaces, vehicles, portable generators, stoves, lanterns, gas ranges or burning wood can make you sick and even be life threatening. CO detectors sound an alarm before the average adult normally would experience symptoms of CO poisoning. They are designed to sound an alert based on exposure to gas over time.

The Centers for Disease Control urges you to protect yourself by taking the following simple steps:

- Install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.
- Leave your home immediately and call 911 if your CO detector alarm sounds.
- Have your heating system, water heater,

and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

- Seek prompt medical attention if you feel dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated and suspect CO poisoning.
- Do not heat your house with a gas oven.
- Never run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Do not burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented.

If your power goes out, remember—never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or outside less than 20 feet from a window, door or vent.

Be aware that Baltimore County law requires carbon monoxide alarms in all rental units. The state of Maryland and Baltimore County have taken steps to place carbon monoxide detectors in many residences. Information about these laws and regulations is available online at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/fire.

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Familiarize Yourself With New Smoke Alarm Rules

A new state law regarding battery-powered smoke alarms is designed to reduce home fire deaths became effective Jan. 1.

This law requires replacement of all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. That means 10 years from the date of manufacture that should be printed on the back of the alarm. If no date is visible, replace the alarm.

The law also requires the replacement of all battery-powered smoke alarms with new, 10-year alarms with sealed-in batteries and a “hush” button feature. Do not remove hard-wired smoke alarms and replace them with battery-operated smoke alarms of any kind. A 110-volt electrically powered smoke alarm may be replaced only with a new, 110-volt unit with battery backup.

The change in law is designed to make smoke alarms tamper resistant. According to the Maryland State Fire Marshal, two-thirds of home fire deaths across the United States occur in homes that either

do not have smoke alarms or that do not have working smoke alarms —usually because the batteries have been removed. Sealing the battery inside the alarm means consumers do not have to remember to change the batteries and cannot remove them for other uses. Sealed-in, continuous use smoke alarms provide life-saving protection for a decade.

Here’s what the Baltimore County Fire Department wants you to know:

- Smoke alarms should be placed on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas; e.g., in the hallways outside bedrooms. Keep bedroom doors closed when sleeping to prevent smoke, toxic gases and flames from entering the room in case of fire. Smoke alarms lose their operational sensitivity after 10 years.
- Alarms should comply with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) 217, “Standard for Safety for Single and

Multiple Station Smoke Alarm.”

- The local fire code does not grant right of entry into privately-owned single- and multi-family dwellings.
- The law was designed to achieve the most reliable smoke alarm coverage possible in older dwellings without requiring homeowners to run new wiring.
- Studies of residential fire fatalities show that more than half of smoke alarms in these incidents failed to sound because the 9-volt battery had been removed. The sealed battery requirement eliminates that problem.
- The change applies to rental properties but does not affect properties in the county’s rental registration program, which are required by county law to have hard-wired smoke alarms.



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Meetings and Events

Mark your calendars for the following events and activities.

Free Opioid Response Training

The Baltimore County Department of Health is offering a free, two-hour training on how to recognize, prevent and respond to an opioid overdose by using intranasal naloxone—a prescription medication that is used to reverse an overdose. Trainings will be held Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 to 8 p.m. at Episcopal Church of Christ the King, 1930 Brookdale Rd., Windsor Mill, 21244, and Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6 to 8 p.m., Reisterstown United Methodist Church, 246 Main St., Reisterstown, 21136.

History Presentation About Slaves in the Civil War

Historian and author Louis S. Diggs will give a presentation about slaves and freed slaves from Baltimore County who served in the Civil War. The presentation is based on a 492-page book—his tenth. The program will take place on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. and is free to the public, but donations will be accepted. Because of the extreme limited parking at the museum, parking passes will be required. To request a ticket to the

program and/or a parking pass at the museum, contact louisdiggs2@verizon.net.

Free Legal Advice at 'Lawyer in the Library' in Owings Mills

Get free one-on-one legal advice as part of Maryland Legal Aid's Lawyer in the Library program, which is being hosted at various library locations around the county, including in Owings Mills, 10302 Grand Central Ave., on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 1 to 3 p.m. No appointments are necessary. Attendees will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring all relevant documents with you. Se habla español. Maryland Legal Aid attorneys and paralegals, law students, and volunteer attorneys will provide brief, one-on-one advice on a variety of civil legal issues including: bankruptcy, child custody and support, debt collection, expungements, government benefits, housing, landlord/tenant issues, veterans benefits and wage claims. For more information, call 443-451-2805.

Southwest Area Education Advisory Council Meeting

The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Johnnycake Elementary School library, 5910 Craigmont Rd., Catonsville, 21228. The topic is restorative practices.

Northwest Area Education Advisory Council Meeting

The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at Pikesville High School, 7621 Labyrinth Rd., Pikesville, 21208. The topic is school climate. The contact is Clifford Collins, cjacob123@aol.com.

Transitioning to Medicare

Turning 65 years old or disabled and are ready to enroll in Medicare? The Baltimore County State Health Insurance Assistance Program will hold an information session on transitioning to Medicare on Monday, Feb. 5, at Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd., 21133. RVSP at 410-887-2059 or medicareinformation@baltimorecountymd.gov.




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Jam n' Slam

The Randallstown Community Center and Baltimore Jazz Alliance present a free weekly Jam n' Slam jazz and poetry workshop on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call the center at 410-887- 0698 for more information.

School Board

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Education will be held at the Greenwood Campus, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson on Tuesday, Jan. 23, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. A public hearing for the FY2019 operating budget will be held on Jan. 16 and the school board's work session will be held on Jan. 23. For more information, visit www.bcps.org/board.

County Council

Upcoming meetings of the County Council will be held 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, Monday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 20 (the work sessions are on Jan. 9, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.) at the Historic Courthouse, 400 Washington Ave. in Towson. For more information, including on the agendas and instructions to watch the meeting online, visit www.baltimorecountymd.gov/countycouncil.

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. The forums begin at 7 p.m. Information is subject to change, so call to verify the date, location and time.

- **Woodlawn Precinct 2** meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Woodlawn Precinct, 6424 Windsor Mill Rd., 21207. Contact Malinda Taylor at mrtaylor@verizon.net or 410-265-5926. The police precinct station number is 410-887-4714.
- **Franklin Precinct 3** meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Franklin Precinct, 606 Nicodemus Rd. in Reisterstown, 21136. Brad Sharpless is director and may be contacted at bvsharpless@hotmail.com. The precinct station number is 410-887-6985.
- **Pikesville Precinct 4** meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 7401 Park Heights Ave. in Pikesville, 21208. Jerry Dantoni may be reached at j.dantoni@verizon.net. The precinct contact number is 410-887-6775.

Don't Assume We Know



Submit your notices for free community events that are taking place in the Northwest Voice coverage area to nwvoicenews.com/contact-us/news/. Send your information at least 60 days prior to the event.

For paid advertising, contact advertising@nwvoicenews.com or 410-508-1424.

Want to share your opinion about an article that was published in the Northwest Voice?

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Crime in Northwest Area Include Shootings, Robberies

Read a roundup of Baltimore County Police reports on some of the incidences of crime in the area so that you are aware of crimes and the alleged suspects' methods of operation.

Police Seeks Public's Assistance

The A Style Studio store at 25 Hooks Lane in Pikesville was burglarized in the early morning hours on Dec. 4 when the suspect shattered the front glass door and stole numerous articles of designer clothing.

Anyone with information on the identity of this suspect or this crime is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020. The Baltimore County Police Burglary/West Side Unit continues to investigate this crime.



gunshot wound to the upper body. The suspect is described as a short black male between the ages of 30 to 40 years old. Anyone with information about this shooting should call Baltimore County Police at 410-307-2020.

You can also contact Metro Crime Stoppers. If your tip to the MCS hotline leads to the arrest and/or indictment of a suspect for a felony crime, you may be eligible for a cash reward. Contact the hotline available 24-hours a day toll free. Phone: 1-866-7LOCKUP; text message: Text "MCS" plus your message to "CRIMES" (274637); and web tip: www.metrocrimestoppers.org

Windsor Mills Shooting Leaves Man Injured

Baltimore County Police are investigating a shooting that occurred just before 10 p.m. on Dec. 23 on Cheviot Court in Windsor Mill.

Two unknown suspects approached the male victim and during the ensuing encounter, he was shot at least once in the upper body. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment and is currently in good condition. The suspects remain outstanding.

The Baltimore County Police Department's

Violent Crimes Unit continues to investigate this incident. If you have any additional information regarding this crime, please contact police at 410-307-2020.

Contact the Metro Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-866-7LOCKUP; text message: Text "MCS" plus your message to "CRIMES" (274637); and online at www.metrocrimestoppers.org

Woodlawn Precinct and Officers Exposed to Fentanyl

Just after 11 p.m. on Dec. 21, Baltimore County Police dealt with several officers and the Woodlawn Precinct facility being exposed to fentanyl.

The incident began when two people were arrested during a traffic stop and recovered narcotics. The arresting officer returned to the Woodlawn Precinct to continue arresting procedures and he and another officer started to become ill after locating a white powdered substance. Both received immediate medical attention from other officers inside the precinct and from the Baltimore County Fire Department medical personnel. A third officer later became

Man Shot at Loafer's in Catonsville

Just after 12:30 a.m. on Dec. 25, Baltimore County Police responded to the parking lot of Loafer's Sports Bar and Grille, located in the 6500 block of Baltimore National Pike in Catonsville, for reports of gunshots.

The victim, a 27-year-old man, suffered a

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ill and was treated also. The three officers were transported to a local hospital for continued treatment. All three were later released from the hospital.

Because the substance was confirmed as fentanyl, the building was evacuated of all occupants.

Suspect Charged with Owings Mills Burglaries

Baltimore County Police has charged Kristopher Delauter of Owings Mills with the robbery of China Wok and Beauty 2U, as



well as one additional robbery.

Detectives received a number of tips from citizens that led them to identify Delauter, 28, as the suspect in the Beauty 2U and China Wok robberies that occurred on Dec. 10 and 12, respectively. Additionally, Delauter was identified as the suspect in a third robbery on Dec. 14 at Asian Garden restaurant on Franklin Boulevard in Reisterstown.

The burglaries caused a heavy police presence after reports that he displayed a rifle under the coat he was wearing; local schools were put on alert. The suspect is charged with three counts of armed robbery and has been released on his own recognizance from the county detention center.

Prepare to Submit Your Application for Federal Student Aid

If you or your student is considering college, it is time to think about financial aid.

Each year, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as the FAFSA. By filing a FAFSA, you will be considered for financial aid from the State of Maryland, Federal government, and various educational institutions.

Check with all the colleges you are considering applying to for their financial aid requirements and deadlines. They may have supplemental forms you need to complete.

FAFSAs for the new school year can be filed after Jan. 1 prior to the academic year for which you are applying. You can get them online at www.fafsa.gov, or you may call 1-800-433-3243 to obtain a paper copy.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission recommends that the FAFSA or renewal FAFSA be filed between Jan. 1 and March 1 each year. Federal processors must receive the application no later than March 1 for you to receive the fullest consideration for State grants.

Please note that college deadlines may differ; check with all the colleges you are considering for their deadlines.

For more information on preparing for college, visit www.mdgo4it.mhec.maryland.gov.



New Year, New You *continued from page 12*

The Baltimore County Public Library has free access to magazines, professional development classes and tools, and tutoring services. Look for the digital library tab on BCPL's website at www.bcplonline.org.

You can also take advantage of free computer classes there and at the Baltimore County Economic and Workforce Development website at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/economicdev/index.html

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Holiday Reflections

Cheerleaders from New Town High School in Owings Mills pose with Santa before they took the stage at the Christmas event at Metro Centre “Band the Community Together” event and Christmas tree lighting last month.



Brothers Darryl Gamerman and Stanley Fishman represented Sharon Lodge #182 of Reisterstown, and brought the spirit of the season to Sarah's Hope, a shelter for over 85 individuals in our community. Food and gifts were provided for everyone. When asked what was the best part of this program, the two brothers responded that it was the faces of the children and the sense they were not forgotten.



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 Rollins, Broker of Rollins & Associates Real Estate, 201 Milford Mill Rd., Pikesville. The list includes address, style, bedrooms, bathrooms, list price and closing price.



ADDRESS	STYLE	BEDROOM	BATH	LISTED	CLOSE SALE
WOODLAWN, 21207					
4107 Chatham Rd	Colonial	3	3 ½	\$190,000	\$190,000
4103 Springdale Ave	Other	5	5 ½	\$220,000	\$222,400
1512 Kent Ave	Split Level	3	2 ½	\$215,000	\$220,000
7116 Marston Rd	Cape Cod	3	2	\$234,900	\$234,900
5504 Wilvan Ave	Rancher	3	2	\$189,900	\$189,900
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244					
8442 Dogwood Rd	Split Level	4	2 ½	\$480,000	\$465,500
3612 Derby Shire Cir	Colonial	2	2	\$160,000	\$160,000
4 Hanna Ct	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$259,900	\$259,900
2811 Claybrooke Dr	Split Level	3	2	\$212,000	\$225,000
3201 Ripple Rd	Cape Cod	4	3	\$270,000	\$262,000
CATONSVILLE, 21228					
1019 Viney Hill rd	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$475,000	\$465,000
3 Morerick Ave	Cape Cod	5	3	\$424,900	\$425,000
2135 Rockwell Ave	Rancher	3	2 ½	\$375,000	\$365,000
4 Grantfield Ct	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$579,900	\$555,000
217 Worthmont Rd	Split Level	3	2 ½	\$349,000	\$340,000
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133					
9007 Marcella Ave	Colonial	4	3	\$300,000	\$300,000
3606 Rusty Rock Rd	Tudor	3	2	\$289,900	\$287,500
4041 Carthage Rd	Racher	3	2 ½	\$229,900	\$225,000
4100 Bald Eagle Ct	Colonial	5	3 ½	\$449,000	\$449,000
8434 Lecerner Rd	Split Level	3	3	\$269,900	\$270,000
PIKESVILLE, 21208					
4730 Byron Rd	Rancher	3	2 ½	\$229,900	\$230,000
8830 Pikesville Rd	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$369,900	\$360,000
110 Old Crossing Dr	Colonial	4	23 ½	\$399,900	\$375,000
1212 Cobb Rd	Split Foyer	3	1 ½	\$244,900	\$235,000
7940 Winterset Ave	Contemporary	4	3 ½	\$449,900	\$425,000
OWINGS MILLS, 21117					
33 Saddlestone Ct	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$277,000	\$277,000
2319 Velvet Ridge Dr	Contemporary	5	3 ½	\$475,000	\$470,000
1049 Campbell Meadows Rd	Colonial	3	3 ½	\$249,900	\$253,000
4004 Long Lake Dr	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$425,900	\$415,000
3647 Epping Forest Way	Traditional	3	3 ½	\$409,900	\$399,900
REISTERSTOWN, 21136					
2 Quail Cross Ct	Colonial	4	3 (2) ½	\$799,999	\$800,000
201 Cherry Hill Rd E	Split Level	4	3	\$289,900	\$295,000
4501 Butler Rd	Rancher	3	2	\$325,000	\$315,000
8 Cornfield Ct	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$424,900	\$412,500
40B Stocksdale Ave	Craftsman	4	3 ½	\$524,900	\$524,900



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