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FEBRUARY 2018

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and Catonsville



Photo: Family Feud

Posing with Family Feud host Steve Harvey are Johnson family members Nikiya Walston and Carolyn Johnson live in Owings Mills, Fraun Bellamy in Windsor Mills; and cousin Lavonnia Iler and Albert Harrison are originally from Randallstown.

Survey Says: Owings Mills Family is a Winner on Family Feud

When the casting call went out in Baltimore for “loud and proud” families to audition for a spot on Family Feud, thousands sent producers videos and passionate mails about why they should be contestants on the popular television game show hosted by Steve Harvey. One of the lucky teams, the Johnson Family, has family members who live in New Town and Windsor Mill.

Spoiler alert: Their episodes will air on Feb. 15, 16 and 19, and they won almost \$21,000 in cash. On the way to victory, the family had to answer questions, like name someone who looks like cheese.

“The experience was great. It was so much fun,” said Courtney Johnson, who submitted the letter that won judges over and who organized the team. “Everyone was so nice. Steve Harvey was the nicest person you’d want to meet. He even did comedies in between filming.”

As unusual as it sounds, the Family Feud journey began with a dream, says Johnson, a state employee who

works in capital construction and lives in New Town. The family members competing in the dream were the ones she chose to join her on the show: her sister Nikiya Walston, who works as a Medicaid specialist for a nursing home and lives in New Town, and her mom Fraun Bellamy, a claims examiner for State government, who lives in Windsor Mill. Also on the team were her cousin Lavonnia Iler, who moved from Randallstown to North Carolina, and uncle Albert Harrison, also a Randallstown native, who now pastors a church in Pennsylvania, both of whom are “full of life.”

“A few days later I saw that they were going to hold auditions in Baltimore. I sent in a letter and we were selected to audition in September 2016 at The Grand hotel, with 700 families that day, Johnson said, “We were the first family to go up and everyone cheered.” After a

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From the Publisher

Why Waste Time Looking For a BCPS Leader That We Already Have? Make Verletta White Permanent.

In recent weeks, there has been a lot of news around school systems in Maryland—from unheated classrooms, to funding for new and renovated high schools, to even mold. In Baltimore County, the Board of Education has decided that it wants to conduct a nationwide search for a permanent superintendent, when we have a competent and caring leader in Verletta White.

I am always puzzled about why folks believe the best talent comes from outside their walls. Why do we believe that the best person for the position of BCPS superintendent is in California or Texas or Colorado or somewhere outside the county? In other words, why are we looking for something we already have?

Back in May, the board voted unanimously to appoint Ms. White interim superintendent, after the former superintendent left a year into the second term of his contract. Ms. White is vested in Maryland, in Baltimore County, and in BCPS. Most of you know that she was educated in the Baltimore County public school system all her life, graduating from Woodlawn High School, as well as Towson University and College of Notre Dame in Maryland. She has worked in the system for more than 25 years, first as a classroom teacher, then climbing the ranks to principal and administrator, and now to interim superintendent.

Who knows the system and the students better than she?

Because the former superintendent has been investigated and indicted for perjury since his departure, some are looking at her through cloudy lens. Ms. White did not disclose information about \$3,000 in annual income from a company that paid administrators and superintendents to participate in focus groups and share feedback on some of the newest products coming down the education pipeline. In her mind, she said, she was completing the disclosure form properly and without ill intent. She admitted her mistake, apologized and immediately amended the form in question. Now, there is some second-guessing taking place.

If there is anyone out there who has not made a mistake, I'd like to meet you. Many people, probably including some of the fingerpointers, will refuse to admit mistakes or wrongdoing or to take responsibility for their actions.

Back to external candidates: Anytime you hire from the outside, the person has to learn how the system works. Then, the outsiders come in, start putting their stamp on things, try new things and make changes. What's their connection to the community? What's their connection to the

county? Many times, these individuals are not vested. For some, the new position is just a stop on a career journey.

We understand candidates from out of state can bring new ideas. But what if the person hired makes a mistake? Do you push him or her aside, appoint an interim and start another national search for a new leader? What kind of stability does that provide for our students and teachers?

When you have people who have built their whole career on education, analyzing what works and what doesn't for all these years, why would you dismiss their contributions? Everybody else has recognized Ms. White's talents and abilities to move things forward.

Sen. Jim Brochin, chair of the Baltimore County delegation, held a meeting in January in Annapolis for Senators about the situation and has called for a broader audit—something Ms. White already initiated, proposed and agreed to do. (You can find the video on You Tube to listen to the comments and questions.) Governor Hogan is introducing legislation to establish an Office of the State Education Investigator General, which will be an independent unit within the Maryland State Department of Education. Are they playing to a certain audience? Are some elected officials using this situation to advance their political aspirations at the expense of our children and grandchildren's education?

Verletta White has the respect of teachers—because she was one of them, principals—because she was one of them, and parents—because her children attend BCPS. Those are valuable assets for a leader.

There has been nothing in Ms. White's career to suggest that she was unethical and lacked integrity. For those who want to make those innuendos based on the actions of the former superintendent, tell me, would it be fair for you to be judged based on your boss's actions or intentions?

Generally, board members are hardworking volunteers who have the interests of the students at heart. I do question the motives of some school board members. We have some recently appointed board members who all of the sudden think they know more than our educators who have been in the trenches, on the battlefields and in the central office handling budgets, curriculum and construction. It has become apparent that certain members come to the meetings with political and personal agendas.

They question every detail of every decision, policy and budget item. They try to lay the blame

for every incident at every school at Ms. White's feet as if she is personally responsible and has personally allowed these incidences to happen. Yes, she's the interim superintendent, but not every fight on a bus or in a school yard is her fault. Do we hold the governor of Maryland responsible for every misdeed of a state employee? Of course not.

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Northwest VOICE

Your voice in the community

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

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

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Attorney Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit in Police Fatal Shooting of Korryn Gaines

It has been 18 months since a Baltimore County Police officer shot and killed Korryn Gaines, a 23-year-old mother of two in her Randallstown apartment, and wounded her then 5-year-old son Kodi.

What began with three officers serving Gaines a bench warrant (not a search warrant) for failing to appear in court for traffic violations and other misdemeanors, evolved into forced entry into her home and a more-than-six-hour barricade. Ultimately, the situation escalated further into the shooting that led to her death.

Attorney J. Wyndal Gordon filed a \$42 million wrongful death lawsuit against Baltimore County, Officer First Class Royce Ruby Jr., who fired the shots, four other officers—Officers John Dowell and Allen Griffin who were on site, and Major Woodland Wilson and Captain Elliott Latchaw, who were in charge of the operation.

Gordon is representing the estate of Gaines, as well as Gaines' mother Rhanda Dormeus and Kareem Courtney, Gaines' fiancé and father of her three-year-old daughter. Gaines' father, Ryan Gaines Sr., and Corey Cunningham, the father of her son Kodi, are also part of the case and are being represented by other attorneys.

The month following the shooting, Scott Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County, ruled that Officer Ruby was legally justified in his actions because Gaines raised her shotgun. Shellenberger declined to bring criminal charges against Ruby or find any wrongdoing.

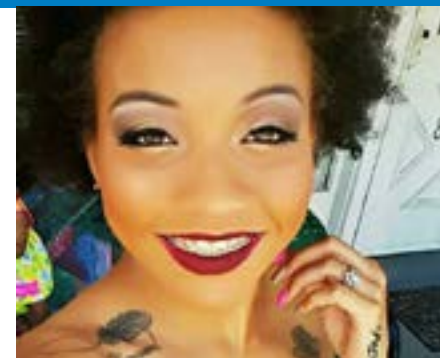
Gordon disagreed, putting Ruby's "malicious" intent at the center of his case. After Judge Mickey Norman ruled against the county's request for a dismissal, the jury trial began this month in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in Towson.

Among the statements of facts Gordon presented in documents:

* Ruby "illegally, negligently, improperly, maliciously and unconstitutionally shot and killed" Gaines on Aug. 1, 2016, not because he feared for his life or perceived her as a threat, but because he grew frustrated by the amount of time it was taking for Gaines to surrender and because of the extreme hot conditions in the hallway of the apartment building. Officers were wearing full body ballistics armor designed to stop a shotgun blast and had safe cover behind brick walls in the hallway.

* Ramone Coleman, a next-door neighbor, heard an officer say, "I'm sick of this sh--." The neighbor contends shots were fired from the hallway and he heard a male voice express multiple expletives. There was silence, then chaos.

* At approximately 10 a.m., Gaines



said to police, "If you put your guns down and back up from my apartment, I will come out." None of them backed up from the door.

* Family members, including Gaines' mother, who is a psychiatric nurse, who were yards away from the command post of the standoff and pleaded with officers to allow them to deescalate the situation. Police declined. Police admitted they did not use their crisis team, which can be dispatched for these types of situations.

* During the standoff, Gaines began live-streaming through social media to capture what officers were doing to her in real time. Police asked Facebook to deactivate Gaines' ac-

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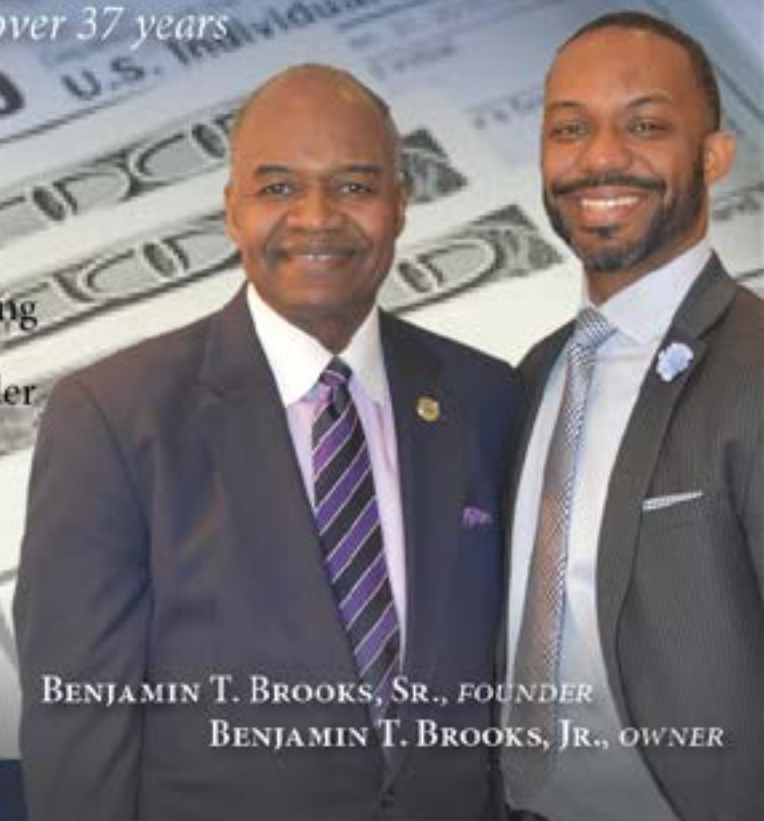


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Community Wins Fight Against Low-Income Housing in Pikesville

After opposition from several community associations, the affordable housing project proposed for construction on the former Pahl’s Farm property in Pikesville will not move forward. Instead, new townhomes will be built and sold at market rates.

Councilwoman Vicki Almond, who represents Pikesville, informed community leaders that in response to their concerns about

the low-income housing project in an established community of homeowners off Campfield Road, she would not pursue legislation for the Planned Unit Development. The PUD zoning process allows a developer to construct more units than permitted under county regulations regarding

density.

“Overwhelmingly, the community is satisfied,” Sheila Lewis, president of Villa Nova Community Association, who led several meetings the homeowners. “It was not just about low-income housing,” she said, it was the density of so many apartment complexes in a small



area.

Developer Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI) planned to build 66 one-, two- and three-bedroom townhouse-style rental units on the narrow 4.4-acre tract. The project was to be income restricted, though CHAI had insisted Section 8 vouchers would not be accepted for rent.

In informal meetings over the

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- Democratic Central Committee
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For details and requirements, visit <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/elections/running.html>

Junk Yard Owner in Woodmoor Says She Plans to Move

Imagine looking out the window of your apartment, sitting in your backyard or taking a stroll, and having an eyesore of a junk yard stare back at you.

Residents of Lantern Hill Apartments and homeowners who live behind the Woodmoor Shopping Center on Sedgemore and Hillsmere roads in Lochearn get a view of a dirt lot with dozens of junked vehicles, stacks of old tires and parts. Even storage containers, tow trucks and old trailers sit on the property. Tarp hanging on the chain link fence that surrounds the lot does little to hide the junk from the view of passersby and residents.

Business owner Maimouna Bagayoko says that she rents the property and parks wrecked vehicles, disassembles them and ships the parts to her native Mali, Africa. No elected official or community member has talked to her about their concerns, she says. When Baltimore County Police

frequently stop by the lot to check the vehicles' identification numbers, she explains to them she does not have stolen property.

Bagayoko says she received a \$6,000 fine. She plans to move in a few weeks, she said.

According to one complaint filed with the department, "[The lot] is a breeding ground for rodent, criminals and trash. The eyesore has and will force property values to decline. This junkyard never should have come into existence." Another complaint alleged that there is no resident agent to oversee the property.

County Councilman Julian Jones, who represents District 4, which includes the Woodlawn area, is holding a community meeting Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in Randallstown Community Center. A representative from Code Enforcement will be present to outline the reporting, inspection and enforcement process.



Junked vehicles and parts are in clear view from homes on Hillsmere Avenue. Right, Maimouna Bagayoko, owner of the junk yard off Liberty Road in Lochearn, says she plans to clear the yard and move.



Photo: Kenneth Brown

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Mentee Johnson Takes on Mentor Kelley for District 10 Senate Race

District 10 incumbents Brooks, Jalisi and Jones form a ticket for the House of Delegates



Photo: Kenneth Brown

From left, Rob Johnson announced that he has filed as a candidate to run for Senate in District 10. Also running is incumbent Sen. Delores Kelley updates members of the Baltimore County West Democratic Club at a recent meeting.



the Judicial Proceedings Committee, she introduced some 28 bills—many of them related to juvenile justice, parole reform and criminal law.

Kelley is introducing a bill that would require a development of 11 or more homes to be built by the same builder and who must provide a purchaser with written information on energy-efficient options, and legislation that would require the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to establish procedures regarding changes to information that come to a forecloser purchaser's attention and that must be submitted to the Foreclosed Property Registry within a certain time period.

Lawrence Williams, a school administrator and founder and tour coordinator of the Caring For Young Minds College Tour, is also running for the Democratic nomination for Senate. According to his bio, Williams' vision for District 10 is to "improve education (as a basis), community safety, economic prosperity, and target health issues for a better quality of life."

In the contest for House of Delegates, Delegates Ben Brooks, Jay Jalisi and Adrienne Jones have filed for re-election and will run as a team. The incumbents are currently part of the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Among the bills Brooks is sponsoring are those related to alcohol licenses, bills that would establish a low-cost automobile insurance program for Baltimore City and Baltimore County residents; and that would modify taxes on military retirement income in certain situations. In his first term, Brooks is a member of the Economic Matters Committee and serves as the House of Delegates' deputy majority whip.

Jones, a delegate since 1997 and speaker pro team since 2003, chairs the capital budget subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee. She is pushing for legislation that would require the Governor to budget funds to increase the Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement rates, establish an endowed University of Maryland System scholarship

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Legislative races for the Democratic nomination in District 10 are shaping up in unusual ways as the deadline for Maryland candidates to file for office draws near.

In the Senate race, Rob Johnson, a director and attorney with the Prince George's County Public School system, is taking on his longtime mentor, Sen. Delores Kelley. During the 2014 gubernatorial campaign, Johnson ran for the House of Delegates in the Primary Election as part of Kelley's team. He placed fifth, capturing just 9.5 percent of the vote.

While he originally planned to run a House seat this time around, Johnson said community members encouraged him to throw in his hat for the Senate race. He announced his candidacy at the Randallstown Gateway Park on Feb. 3 before a small but enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

In brief remarks, Johnson said, "We can rest on our laurels and be satisfied with where we are or can seize control of our destiny and build on the foundation laid down by the generations that came before us."

His goal is to ensure state government works effectively and efficiently for families, schools and the community, Johnson added.

First elected to the Senate in 1994 after serving four years in the House of Delegates, Kelley has filed to run for a sixth term in the Senate. Currently serving as vice chair of

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program for low-income residents, and improve the application process for Maryland College Investment Plan.

Legislation that Jalisi is introducing this year includes bills that would give a property tax credit for people 70 years old and older, limit the amount of a deposit that a gas and electric provider could require of a person 70 and older; and eliminate credit history ratings in vehicle insurance. Jalisi is also a first-term lawmaker and serves as a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

Running for the Republican nomination are two former Democratic candidates. Michael Brown Sr. has filed to run for the House of Delegates and Stephanie Boston for the Senate. After losing in the Democratic Primary in 2014, Brown and Boston ran as write-in candidates in the General Election. The deadline for candidates for the 2018 gubernatorial elections is 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Visit <http://elections.state.md.us> for details.

Incumbents Ben Brooks, Adrienne Jones and Jay Jalisi are running as a team for the House of Delegates.



Community Wins Fight Against Low-Income Housing in Pikesville

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past few months, residents from surrounding the Pahl's Crossing, Villa Nova, Williamsburg and Willow Glen communities shared their concerns about the project, which included overcrowding of schools, environmental issues, traffic. They also feared their property values would decrease.

Some residents protested the project for deeper reasons. Although the community had a 21208 Pikesville zip code, many believed their neighborhood was being targeted for low-income housing because it has a minority majority of African-American residents.

This, they said, was against the spirit of a 2016 agreement between the Baltimore County and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development where affordable housing for low-income, minority

families and people with disabilities was to be created in more prosperous "high opportunity" county neighborhoods dispersed over dozens of census tracts.

"For now it appears that things may be headed in the right direction," said Maryann Ferguson, president of Pahl's Farm Crossing Community Association, in a letter to association members.

In addition to Almond, Lewis gave praise to Del. Charles Sydnor III and Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam. "They were extremely supportive and very interested from the beginning," she said. Lewis said she appreciated that Sydnor facilitated and mediated small meetings with their community leaders and the developer so they could talk honestly.



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Jake Oliver, Tim Tooten and Verletta White Honored with Louis S. Diggs Award

The 2018 recipients of the Louis S. Diggs Award were recognized in a Feb. 5 ceremony to celebrate Baltimore County's African-American heritage at the Owings Mills Public Library. More than 100 community members attended the third annual program.

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz presented awards to three recipients, including Jake Oliver, publisher of the AFRO-American Newspaper since 1982. Founded in 1892, The Afro is the longest-running family-owned newspaper in the nation and covered news from post-slavery to desegregation to present-day issues.



Louis S. Diggs Award recipients Jake Oliver, Tim Tooten and Verletta White (center) are flanked on the left by Del. Adrienne Jones, Del. Ben Brooks and Councilman Julian Jones, and on the right by historian Louis S. Diggs and County Executive Kevin Kamenetz.

Tim Tooten, WBAL-TV's education reporter and pastor of Harvest Christian Ministries in Perry Hall, also was recognized. The Emmy-award winning journalist received the National Headliner Award for his "Africa's Maryland" documentary, which earned him a National Edward Murrow award.

Baltimore County Public Schools Interim Superintendent Verletta White also received the award. White is the first woman to lead the 113,000-student county school system. After starting her career in 1992 as a Baltimore City classroom teacher,

White transitioned to a teaching position in the county before coming a principal and rising through the senior-level and executive ranks. Her entire education has been in county public schools.

"I am proud to recognize these outstanding individuals whose life work represents a commitment to the celebration of the African-American experience in Baltimore County, and whose accomplishments inspire others to strive for success," Kamenetz said.

Kamenetz created the annual award in 2016 to recognize individuals who demonstrate a commitment to promoting African-American history and culture in Baltimore County.

The award is named in honor of local historian and lecturer, Louis S. Diggs, who has researched and published numerous local history books and is president of the Diggs-Johnson Museum in Granite.

"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?"

#SayHerName
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Interested in Running for the Baltimore County Board of Education?

It's still a new concept for the community—that they will elect some of the members of the Baltimore County Board of Education and others will be appointed.

Some members have already thrown their hats in the ring to run for a seat on the board, but the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission is looking for candidates for the four at-large seats on the Board of Education of Baltimore County.

Following the 2014 and 2017 Maryland General Assembly Sessions, the composition and selection of the Board of Education of Baltimore County changed. Beginning in 2018, rather than the current 12-member fully appointed body, the board will include both appointed and elected members. Seven members of the school board will be elected, while four members of the board will be appointed by the Governor.

The newly created Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission has the task of selecting nominees to recommend to the Governor for the four at-large positions.

Commission Chairman Aaron Plymouth says, "Interested Baltimore County

continued on page 16

MTA Eliminates Express Bus Service for Northwest Area

As part of changes to its winter service, the Maryland Transit Administration eliminated three express bus routes on Feb. 4 based on low ridership, which will force riders into longer commutes or alternate modes of transportation.

Cut were Express BusLink 102, which runs from Sheppard Pratt Hospital to the White Marsh Park & Ride; Express BusLink 106, which travels from Sheppard Pratt Hospital to Owings Mills; and Express BusLink 107, which goes from Old Court Road to BWI Rail Station.

Maryland Department of Transportation’s MTA had proposed eliminating the suburb-to-suburb routes last fall and held public hearings to gather feedback. At the Nov. 13 meeting at Owings Mill library, commuters told transit officials how the express bus service cut their commutes in half since they did not have to travel from the county to downtown and transfer back out to the county again in order to get to work and other destinations. They also commented that if they had promoted the service, more riders would have been aware of the service.

In a statement announcing the change, MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn said, “In response to our riders, we’re also adjusting our system to reduce overcrowding, eliminate inefficiencies that improve reliability, provide better connections between transit modes and improve access to shopping, entertainment and education.”

The agency believes the modifications to existing routes will provide access to employment opportunities near BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and to Tradepoint Atlantic, which includes a FedEx Distribution Center and a new Under Armour facility.

MTA representatives also had previously cited high operational costs as reasons to eliminate the three



Photo: Kenneth Brown

Commuters board an MTA bus at the Owings Mills Metro Station. The Express BusLink 102, 106 and 107, which served the Owings Mills and Old Court areas have been eliminated.

.suburban express buses. Quinn said that data from ridership analysis and comments from the public hearings helped drive the State’s decision to modify service.

MDOT MTA conducts service changes to local bus service three times a year — in February, June and September. For a full list of 2018 Winter Service Changes, visit <https://mta.maryland.gov/servicechanges/winter2018>.



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Owings Mills Family is a Winner on Family Feud

(continued from cover page)

video audition to see how they looked on camera, Johnson got a card in the mail indicating they made the second round, and finally got word they would be flying out to Los Angeles to tape the show in August.

"We didn't think we made it. It took so long to get the post card [indicating a successful audition]," Johnson recalls. "We were so excited. We had to FaceTime our cousin in North Carolina and uncle in Pennsylvania.

Johnson took charge of getting the family ready for competition, organizing practices for the Fast Money round, writing and printing out questions, and organizing games through the Family Feud app. To make sure everyone was smartly dressed with no wardrobe clashes, Johnson says, "I made everyone go shopping and found everyone's outfit"—red and blue dresses, pantsuits and suits one day and orange attire on another day. "We made my uncle the captain."

The Johnsons family was one of the first families to tape in the new studios in LA. They played three

games, including the money round, naming the top answers from "100 people surveyed" in response to a variety of silly, curious and compelling questions, such "If cheese was a person, how would you describe them?"

Johnson also recalls one instance where her sister was so nervous she froze. "She wasn't looking or listening, and everyone was laughing."

With their winnings, Johnson says, she will take a trip with her boyfriend to Paris, her uncle will invest in his church, and her cousin will seed her son's auto mechanic business. "My mother is a saver, so she will probably just save her winnings," she laughs.

The experience was memorable. "We became very close with the families we went up against," Johnson said. One family from Kansas invited them to their daughter's wedding and they keep in contact through Facebook with another family.

If you ever have the opportunity to apply to be on the Family Feud show, Johnson offers this advice: "Be yourselves, make sure you're authentic, and have fun."

Publisher's Column *from page 2*

We do not need political and personal agendas when our children's education at stake. The question is: Does the superintendent have plans, processes and people in place to address issues of concern, to move the system forward and prepare our students for careers and higher levels of education? I believe she does. Are there opportunities to find more innovative ways to do things better? Of course. Can we trust her to do an effective job as superintendent? Absolutely.

BCPS is the 25th largest school system in the nation, and probably one of the top performing in the state.

Let's move on. Stop hovering. Get out of the way of Ms. White and our administrators and let them do their jobs. Ms. White and her team should be focusing on the next school year and responding to and not defending activities from the past. Let's make Verletta White our permanent superintendent now so she can go about the business that people really care about—our children's education.

Wrongful Death Lawsuit *continued from page 4*

count and Facebook did. About two minutes after that Ruby, who had killed another citizen in 2007, fatally shot Gaines twice and critically wounded her son.

Gaines feared police and had a legal license for her shotgun. Police

say that Gaines pointed the gun at them. Police acknowledge the officer shot first. Gaines' attorneys say she was not pointing the gun at officers when Ruby shot her.

A decision is expected this month on the lawsuit.

Love Story: Brandon and Myisha Maybin

From Nursery School Playmates to Husband-and-Wife Soulmates



Courtesy Photo

Newlyweds Brandon and Myisha Maybin say friendship is an important foundation to marriage. They met in Morning Star Baptist Church's day care center and married in July. They are grateful that their parents and grandparents, Catonsville residents and former classmates themselves, enrolled them in the day care. Myisha is the daughter of Roxanne McCray, a retired employee of Spring Grove Hospital, and Brandon's parents are Rodney Maybin, a retired Baltimore County police officer, and Pat Maybin, a retired Police Department employee, who live in Woodlawn.

From the time they played games, did arts and crafts and enjoyed story time as playmates at a church day care center in Catonsville, Brandon and Myisha Maybin had a special connection. The four-year-olds were even crowned king and queen one year—a reward given to the girl and boy who brought in the most money for the school fundraising competition.

After the decades-long friendship, Brandon and Myisha tied the knot last summer.

"It was the best day of my life," beams Myisha, a 32-year-old social worker for the state of Maryland. During the conversation, they look at each other when they spoke and laugh often at some of the memories.

Throughout their school years, even while they had other relationships, Brandon and Myisha remained friends, picking up the phone to chat every once in a while and connect on Facebook. But they never crossed into romantic territory.

It wasn't until the topic came up about whether to attend the 10th year reunion for Western School of Technology in Catonsville, where they both graduated, that the friendship went to another level.

"That was Oct. 21, 2014," Myisha piped in, who remembers all the significant dates of the relationship.

The couple decided to skip the reunion, but then talked and texted every day. They scheduled a standing date night on Tuesdays for a movie at the Cinemax theatre in Towson —"since it was half price, says Myisha" — and on Thursdays for the latest episode of "Scandal" at her Timonium apartment.

"I called her and said, 'What are we doing? We've been spending a lot of time together,'" says Brandon, who also is 32 and works at FedEx. Myisha was afraid a romance might ruin the friendship she treasured, but gave in to her deepening feelings for Brandon.

"It was a feeling I'd never had before," she says. "We complement each other.

There are no complications with him."

About Myisha, Brandon says, "She is very kind and very gentle, very loving and very encouraging."

Ready to take the relationship to still another level, Brandon says he picked out and paid for a ring, even before getting the advice of his grandmother, parents and friends. He was confident he wanted to marry Myisha, but valued the opinion of family and friends. If you're sure, they all told him, go for it.

On Nov. 25, 2016, at Myisha's favorite restaurant, Olive Garden in Owings Mills, Brandon popped the question to an unsuspecting Myisha and before parents, other family members and friends. "I told her that these have been the best two years of my life and I wanted to make it a lifetime," Brandon recalls. "She backed up," he laughs. "Then she started crying. Everybody started crying."

Eight months later, on July 15, the couple married at Carter Memorial Church of God in Christ in Baltimore, where both are members.

Saving every penny, they hosted a traditional ceremony, and had the reception at Preston Hall. Myisha said, "We were truly blessed by God. It was a God-confirmation marriage because everything went so smooth. It was awesome."

After a honeymoon to the Western Caribbean the couple has settled into a home in Windsor Mill. Because of their busy schedules, they set aside 6:30 to 8 p.m. each evening to relax with one of Myisha's home-cooked meals of cajun shrimp alredo, chicken wings and meat loaf to eat while watching Family Feud, Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune. They also are awaiting the birth of their first child, set to arrive in September.

Their advice to couples is: Be friends first. Communicate often. Don't be afraid to talk about the hard stuff. Be yourself. Don't be forceful.



Randallstown Teacher Earns Recognition for Boys Mentoring Program

Da'Nall Wilmer, a fifth-grade teacher at Randallstown Elementary School, is making an impact with Boys in the Good, a weekly afterschool leadership development program he created that teaches boys in Grades 3 through 5 new attitudes, behaviors and ambitions while recognizing the importance of dressing well and being respectful.

Wilmer, who founded the program in 2016, makes note that “good” stands for giving, optimism, originality and determination.

The initiative began approximately four years ago, when Wilmer discovered that most of his students did not own ties or know how to tie them. That led to a drive to secure ties for the students and to Wilmer’s Well-Dressed Workshop, GQ Tuesday—where students came to school dressed for success each Tuesday—and eventually to Boys in the Good.

Students participate in weekly character education workshops, community service activities, and a number of enrichment opportunities, including field trips to college campuses.

The Fashion Umbrella Foundation will honor Wilmer with a 2018 Impact Award.



Students at Randallstown Elementary School learn the importance of respect and dressing well as part of the Boys in the Good mentoring program, led by teacher Da'Nall Wilmer.

CREDIT: BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Public schools 2017 graduation rate remains at 89 percent

Parity continues for black, white students

Baltimore County Public Schools graduated 89 percent of the class of 2017, according to data released by the Maryland State Department of Education. The graduation rate for the class of 2016 was 89.17 percent.

“A plateau is not unexpected following six years of graduation rate increases, but I certainly want even more of our students to earn the high school diploma,” said BCPS Superintendent Verletta White. “I appreciate the coordinated, comprehensive strategies that our school leaders and families are using to help students meet this milestone. We will continue to push even harder.”

Like last year, there was no gap in graduation rates between African-American and white students, and graduation rates increased for student groups described as American Indian, Asian, African-American and two or more races, and for all special services student groups.

English learner students demonstrated the largest one-year increase of 6.4 percentage points, reaching a 2017 graduation rate of 54.9 percent.

The BCPS dropout rate increased three-quarters of a percentage point to 8.2 percent.

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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/

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Students' Artwork Featured at Baltimore Museum for African American History Month

Congratulations to the Baltimore County Public Schools students whose artwork will be among the pieces on display at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum as part of its 10th annual High School Juried Art Show in celebration of African American History Month.

The show, which includes 27 pieces by Maryland students, will be exhibited at the museum through Wednesday, Feb. 28. This year's exhibition focuses on portraits of famous African Americans.

Western School of Technology student Niara Spence received second-place honors in the show for her digital artwork titled She's In Me. The piece featured different pictures of Rosa Parks inside of Spence's own portrait to show the different, important stages of the civil rights activist's life.

Other area students whose work was featured in the show include: JoAnne Allen, Grade 12, Western School of Technology; Ikem Booker, Grade 12, Woodlawn High School; Taylor Freeman, Grade 10, Sania Harris, Grade 11, and Maliya Parson, Grade 12, all of Pikesville High School; and Rayshaun Pettit, Grade 11, Western School of Technology.

The students were honored in a reception on Jan. 15.



PHOTO: BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Western Tech student Niara Spence displays her certificate for second-place recognition of digital artwork she created featuring images of her and Rosa Parks.

Interested in Being Nominated For Board of Education?

continued from page 10

residents are urged to submit applications." The application form is available online at www.bcps.org/board/bcsb-nominating-commission.html. Applications will be accepted through March 16.

Applications can be mailed to the Baltimore County School Board Nominating Commission, c/o Debi Decker, 6901 N. Charles Street, Towson, MD 21204.

Candidate interviews, which will be held in public, are scheduled for:

- April 23 – Milford Mill Academy
- May 7 – Perry Hall High School
- May 21 – Loch Raven High School
- June 4 – Dundalk High School
- June 25 – Catonsville High School

Interview times will be announced at a later date.

You can also file to run through the election process. That deadline is Feb. 27. See more details and requirements at elections.state.md.us/candidacy/index.html





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Meetings and Events

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Job Readiness Skills Workshop

Hear motivational speakers and take advantage of resume writing and interviewing sessions, and networking opportunities at the Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's job readiness skills workshop on Monday, Feb. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resource Drive, 21133. For more information and registration, contact impactday@bcacdeltas.org or 443-358-7066.

Minority and Local Contractors Pre-Bid Meeting

Councilman Julian Jones will host a pre-bid meeting with Kimco Realty that will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 9 to 11 a.m. at Randallstown Library, 8604 Liberty Rd., 21133. The event is designed to provide an opportunity for minority and local contractors to be considered in the construction of Mill Station, a shopping venue that will replace the former Owings Mills site.

Education Advisory Council Meetings

Baltimore County Public Schools will host school safety and discipline community meetings in conjunction with the February area education advisory council meetings. BCPS representatives from the Department of School Safety, and Offices of Student Support Services, School Climate, and the Community Superintendents will be available to hear concerns and gather input from parents and community members on safety practices. The Southwest Area Education Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Johnnycake Elementary School library. The Northwest Area Education Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at Pikesville High School. The contact is Clifford Collins, cjacob123@aol.com.

Candidates Forum

A candidates forum sponsored by Radio WMC will be held Monday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m. at Woodlawn Library, 1811 Woodlawn Drive. Invited candidates are for County Executive, local Senate and House of Delegates, Board of Education and County Council for District 1.

District 44 Legislative Night

Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and Delegates Charles Sydnor III and Pat Young will host a legislative reception on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Senate Miller Office Building, 6 Bladen St. in Annapolis, 21401. Enjoy refreshments and an update on the legislative session. To reserve bus transportation, RSVP by Feb. 23 to shirley.nathan.pulliam@senate.state.md.us or 410-841-3612.

District 10 Legislative Night

Delegates Ben Brooks, Jay Jalisi and Adrienne Jones will host a legislative reception on Thursday, March 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the House Office Building.

Spring Craft Fair

Randallstown High School will host a Spring Craft Xplosion on Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is availability for vendors to showcase unique crafts, artwork, jewelry, beauty products, clothing, and more. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Certain vendors will not be duplicated to ensure variety. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. There will be activities for kids. Contact Rhsevents12@gmail.com or 443-376-7267 for an application or more information. Student volunteer hours are available.

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.



Baltimore County Public Library

BCPL has several events planned for Black History Month 2018 throughout the county. Take a look at these activities, as well as book club discussions, story times, workshops and other events taking place at the local library branches at www.bcplonline.org/events.

School Board

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Education will be held at the Greenwood Campus, 6901 N. Charles St. in Towson on Tuesday, Feb. 6 and 20, March 6 and 20, at 6:30 p.m. A public hearing for the FY2019 capital budget will be held on May 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, Feb. 5 and Feb. 20, and March 5 and March 19; (the work sessions are on Feb. 13, Feb. 27 and March 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.

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An Evening of Praise and Worship

**Saturday March 17, 2018
at 6:00 P.M.**

Lochearn Presbyterian Church
3800 Patterson Avenue / Baltimore, MD 21207
Minister John Brewington, Pastor

For more information, contact:
Sister Danielle Bass, co-coordinator
Elder Berdetta White, co-coordinator
Email: berdetta@msn.com or 443.677.2100

"All proceeds collected will benefit the outreach/evangelism ministries as they provide for the homeless throughout the year."

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DON'T DART**

TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE...
Almost every day, someone in Baltimore County is hurt or killed crossing the street in Baltimore County. Last year, 18 people were hit crossing the street in the Liberty Road Corridor.

- Cross at marked crosswalks and traffic lights.
- Remove headphones and stay off the cell phone.
- Watch for traffic. Make sure all traffic is stopped before crossing and make eye contact with drivers.
- Wear bright clothing. At night, wear reflective materials.

NORTHWEST HOSPITAL
A LifeBridge Health Center

82QJAMS

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

Crime in Northwest Area Include Arson, Shooting

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.

Catonsville Boy Charged With Arson, Multiple Crimes

Police have charged 16-year-old Daquane Antonio Ray as an adult with first degree arson, first degree malicious burning, two counts of first degree assault, second degree assault and theft charges. Ray will be held at the Baltimore County Department of Corrections.

On Jan. 25, police alleged, Ray committed a string of crimes, including house fire that was believed to have been intentionally set by the suspect.

Police then received a call that the suspect was carrying some type of weapon and chasing a man on Bardswell Road, in the direction of Johnnycake Elementary School. This was followed by a call from the elementary school that the suspect, who could be seen wearing a mask, walked into the school building. The

suspect did not have a weapon when he walked into the school. Officers are continuing their investigation and expect to place charges against the juvenile.

Officers Shoots at Suspect After Alleged Assault

On Jan. 12, police officers located a 2014 Honda Accord in the area of Countess Drive and Village Queen Drive in Owings Mills. The car was reported stolen in January. Officers say after trying to apprehend the suspect he struck the officers with the vehicle. Police say officers shot at the suspect after he drove toward him, but did not hit the officer with the car. The suspect continued to flee with the stolen car, but was eventually apprehended near Old Court and Greenwood Road.

The 18-year-old was arrested. He did not suffer any injuries. The offi-

cer who fired his weapon was not injured. The officer inside the struck car received minor non-life-threatening injuries.

Randallstown Man Indicted for Child Pornography

A federal grand jury has indicted John Michael Fowler, age 27, of Randallstown on charges relating to the production and possession of child pornography, the Department of Justice for Maryland announced.

According to the five-count indictment, between 2013 and 2014 Fowler produced images of prepubescent minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with an adult male.

Fowler faces a possible sentence of 30 years in prison for each count of production of child pornography and 20 years in prison for possession of child pornography.

This case was brought as part

of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Catonsville Man Sentenced For "Swatting" Incident

Zachary Lee, 26, of Catonsville, was sentenced to two years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release for conspiracy to provide false information and hoax relating to a scheme to cause an emergency services response, a practice known as "swatting."

The caller pretended to be the victim and stated that he had a loaded gun, several bags of plastic explosives, and three hostages. The caller demanded \$15,000 in cash be delivered in a red bag to the victim's address, and stated that he would

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- Bible time
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2211 St. Lukes Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207 Reverend Emmett C. Burns, Jr., Ph.D., Pastor

Legislators Adrienne Jones, Shirley Nathan-Pulliam among K LW Service Club Honorees

Kings Landing Women's Service Club (KLW) hosted its 43rd annual Martin Luther King memorial breakfast on Jan. 15 at Martin's West, with a program that recognized local residents and organizations for community service and outreach.

Honored as Man of the Year was Rev. Damion Cooper, founder of Pneuma Project, a holistic program focused on forgiveness and curbing impulse actions in young African-American males by teaching them yoga, mindfulness and martial arts.

The Rev. Christina Holtsclaw earned the Lifetime Legacy Award. She is the apostle and overseer of the East Baltimore Deliverance and Miracle Deliverance Church, serves on many boards, and holds leadership positions in church and community organizations.

Kenneth Wright, an Overlea High School senior, who is ASE certified in auto mechanics and active in his school, church and community, received the Youth Achievement Award.

Earning the Legacy Award recipients were Del. Adrienne Jones, who represents District 10 and serves as Speaker Pro Tem, the first African-American woman to hold that post; and Sen.

Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, who represents District 44 and works as an advocate for improved health care and reduced health disparities.

Other Legacy Award recipients were Betsy Simon, director and founder of Zeta Health Aging Partnership; Marie Washington, president of the East Baltimore Community Corporation; and Damitra Sorden-Viera, owner of the mobile shoe boutique Soles4Divas, who takes cancer patients to medical appointments and assists them with other needs. The Baltimore Chapter of the Continental Societies, a nonprofit service organization with a focus on education, also earned the award.

Rev. C. Anthony Hunt, senior pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church in Lochern and professor of St. Mary's Seminary, was the event's keynote speaker, and Latonia Moss, an associate professor at Baltimore City Community College, was the mistress of ceremonies.

Delivering remarks on the theme, "Preserving the Legacy" were Del. Ben Brooks of District 10 and Linda Hursey, president of KLW. Musical guests Joyful Sounds performed.



Among the Kings Landing Women's Service Club Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast honorees were: (front) Christina Holtsclaw, Marie Washington, Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and Betsy Simon; and (back) Adrienne Jones, an unidentified member of the Continental Societies and Damitra Sorden-Viera. Danny Blount, president of the Hernwood Heights Association in Randallstown, and other members of the Baltimore County Human Relations Commission and county representatives were among the attendees.




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Faith Communities Honor ‘Voices of Change’



PHOTO: GEORGE WHITE

Honorees of the Interfaith Coalition of Baltimore County event are: (front) Verletta White, Martha Weiman, Indira Sharma, Diane Bell-McKoy, Shahida Siddiqui and Louise Geezy; (back) the son of honoree Gurcharan Singh, Sridhar Vanneemreddy Kanwaljit Singh Soni and Ken Darden.

The newly formed Interfaith Coalition of Baltimore County recognized community members as “voices of changes” at its Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon, held Jan. 15 at the Morning Star Baptist Church Community Outreach Center in Woodlawn. The theme was unity—not division.

WBAL anchor Jason Newton, the emcee, said, “This is an event to celebrate diversity a renewed vision of solidarity and of peace as well under the banner of unity championed by Dr. King.”

Recognizing that King had a unique ability to work with people of different races and faith, representatives from the Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Christian faiths selected two people for their work in transforming communities.

The honorees were: Diane Bell-McKoy, executive director of Associated Black Charities; Ken Darden, president and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore; Gurcharan Singh, Kanwaljit Singh Soni, Martha Weiman, who is active in Jewish causes, teacher Louise Geezy, physician Shahida Siddiqui, Verletta White, interim superintendent for Baltimore County Public Schools, Sridhar Vanneemreddy, who supports a lot of causes, and law firm partner Indira Sharma.

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, representatives from the offices of Gov. Larry Hogan and the various faith communities gave remarks. The event also attracted many candidates for state and local office.

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					
6802 Yataruba Dr	Rancher	3	2 ½	\$209,900	\$185,000
3624 Sylvan Dr	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$259,900	\$259,900
1530 Barrett Rd	Traditional	3	1 ½	\$179,000	\$175,000
5328 Dogwood Rd	Cape Cod	4	3	\$215,00	\$215,000
22 Garobe Ct	Split Levl	3	2 ½	\$239,900	\$235,000
WINDSOR MILLS, 21244					
7372 Maury Rd	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$145,000	\$153,200
3122 Rolling Rd	Traditional	4	3 ½	\$279,900	\$275,00
7 Spring Heath Ct	Rancher	4	2 ½	\$359,900	\$327,500
2930 Ridge Rd	Cape Cod	4	2 ½	\$275,000	\$268,000
3316 Courtleigh Dr	Split Level	4	2 ½	\$280,000	\$280,000
CATONSVILLE, 21228					
419 Rolling Rd S	Cape Co	3	2	\$377,000	\$370,300
19 CLay Lidge Ln #402	Contemporary	4	2	\$309,900	\$305,000
10 Forest Rock Ct	Colonial	5	3 ½	\$299,900	\$240,000
220 Rollingbrook Way	Split Level	4	2 ½	\$350,000	\$340,000
2120 Rockwell Ave	Rancher	2	1 ½	\$330,000	\$315,000
RANDALLSTOWN, 21133					
3918 Winlee Rd	Split Level	5	2 ½	\$295,000	\$284,500
3707 Marriottsville Rd	Traditional	4	3 ½	\$359,999	\$357,000
5001 Old Court Rd	Split Level	4	3 ½	\$248,500	\$248,500
4248 Pinefield Ct	Traditional	4	2	\$249,900	\$244,000
4324 Pinefield Ct	Colonial	3	2 ½	\$248,000	\$248,000
PIKESVILLE, 21208					
8002 Brynmor Ct #302	Traditional	2	2 ½	\$339,900	\$310,000
101 Old House Ct #101	Villa	4	3 ½	\$385,000	\$365,000
10 Austringer Ct	Colonial	3	3 ½	\$309,900	\$289,000
34 Stone Pine Ct	Rancher	3	2	\$339,900	\$325,000
3500 Arborwood Ct	Other	4	2 ½	\$585,000	\$575,000
OWINGS MILLS, 21117					
12 Montgomery Rd	Rambler	3	2	\$265,000	\$255,000
12108 Long Lake Dr	Colonial	4	2 (2) ½	\$439,900	\$425,000
2 Bridlewood Ct	Rancher	4	2 (2) ½	\$499,900	\$482,500
10608 Brooklawn Rd	Contemporary	3	3 ½	\$675,000	\$675,000
4519 Runnymede Rd	A-Frame	3	3 ½	\$318,000	\$300,000
REISTERSTOWN, 21136					
14 Bellinger Ct	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$325,000	\$315,000
15251 Dover Rd	Colonial	4	2 ½	\$420,000	\$410,000
11 Latimore Ct	Colonial	4	3 ½	\$319,900	\$319,900
107 Delight Rd	Colonial	4	2	\$365,000	\$358,000
322 Wembley Rd	Craftsman	4	2	\$264,900	\$269,000

Crime in Northwest Area

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start executing the hostages in 15 minutes if his demands were not met.

At the time the call was made, authorities were not aware that the emergency call was false.

The swatting caused over 40 Howard County Police Department officers to respond to the home and remain there for over 2.5 hours and cost the HCPD over \$10,000. Tactical team officers ultimately shot the victim with rubber bullets, causing significant injuries.



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