



TIMES



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INSIDE:

News Page 2
 Care Care Page 5
 911..... Page 7
 Obituaries Page 8
 Entertainment Page 9
 Classifieds..... Page 11

With new construction, businesses, developer says Crossroads will support 10,000 jobs



Mike Caruthers, master developer for Baltimore Crossroads @95, told the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber that the development project is growing, nearing its full potential. Retail space is almost completely spoken for, while single home sales are somewhat lagging.

VERSE OF THE WEEK -
Isaiah 25:7-8
On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

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- Article & photo by Devin Crum -
 The massive Baltimore Crossroads @95 development spreads across about 1,000 acres of land along White Marsh Boulevard/MD-43 in Middle River.

And Mike Caruthers, president of Somerset Construction and master developer for the project, said it all started in 2005 with just three buildings constructed before the real estate collapse three years later.

Caruthers reminded members of the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce during a lunch tour on July 10 that previous plans for the property on which Crossroads is now being

built included a Chinese economic and cultural center, as well as a NASCAR track.

"And then there was us," he said.

With financial contributions from Baltimore County, the state completed the extension of MD-43 between Pulaski Highway/US-40 and Eastern Boulevard/MD-150 in 2006. The corridor was meant to be a major jobs engine for the county with abundant commercial development, and the U.S. Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program was projected to funnel thousands of jobs to the area.

But when the real estate market crashed and BRAC never materialized, development at Crossroads stalled. And Caruthers said he was happy they had only built those three buildings at the time.

Now, with the market rebounding and development plans re-envisioned for the corridor, Baltimore Crossroads is growing fast and building toward what Caruthers and others see as its full potential.

The MD-43 extension was initially envisioned with five or six large employers and the area's major use

- see **CROSSROADS** on page 3 -



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Nepali center set to host religious event, despite initial pushback

- By Virginia Terhune -

Members of the Nepali American Cultural Center in Glen Arm will be hosting an outdoor religious and cultural event starting Saturday at the its site off Harford Road, a short distance south of the Mt. Vista Road roundabout.

The first and last days of the event on July 28 and Friday, Aug. 3, are expected to draw the most people, with a total of up to 200 visitors expected the first day arriving at different times, according to organizers. Significantly fewer people are expected at any one time during the week.

Dances, songs, stories and prayers will be presented, and a well-known Hindu priest will read sections of sacred scriptures in the Nepali language. Some Buddhists are also expected to attend, because in Nepal the two religions are so intertwined that followers visit each other's temples.

The week-long event will also be a fundraiser for the group, which bought the hilly 31-acre Bonaparte property last year to preserve the religious and cultural traditions of Nepal, a small country bordering northern India that is home to Mt. Everest and the Himalayas.

Members plan to use the first floor of the house as a temple, where people can visit at various times during the day to meditate and leave offerings. Unlike Christians and Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not meet regularly during the week as a group.

Located not far from the Redeemer Classical Christian School and Redeemer

Presbyterian Church on Mt. Vista Road, the property at one time belonged to Charles Joseph Bonaparte, a relative of Napoleon, who served as the U.S. Attorney General from 1906 to 1909.

The estate's large house was vacant and badly vandalized when the Nepali center bought it in April 2017 and volunteers have been cleaning it up in preparation for future renovations that will include a new well and septic system.

"It's the first Nepali temple in Baltimore County," said Kris Ghimire, a Realtor based in Fullerton who spoke for the group during a hearing before the county Board of Appeals on July 19 in Towson.

Because of an outdoor fundraising event held last August, the center has run into organized opposition from more than 100 neighbors in Glen Arm, as well as some in Kingsville and Hydes. An ongoing discussion about the center is taking place on social media.

Problems arose last year after some first-time visitors got lost and drive into local driveways. There was no sign at the entrance at that time, but a sign has since been installed. A location mistake on the Google map website has been corrected, Ghimire said.

Neighbors also objected to noise coming from the event, a problem that is also not expected to happen this year. That is because amplified music and noise is prohibited as a condition of a special exception granted by the county in January that allows a place of worship in an agriculturally zoned area.



Bonaparte Mansion in Glen Arm is set to become the first Nepali temple in Baltimore County.

Neighbors who testified at the January hearing are also concerned about added traffic near the entrance during special events. The entrance is off a sharply curved, sloped and wooded section of Harford Road that shortens site distances, increasing the chance of accidents.

The State Highway Administration reviewed preliminary plans late last year and recommended to the county that either a separate entrance be created off Harford Road or that acceleration and deceleration lanes be built near the entrance.

The Nepali center has not yet officially applied for an access permit for the planned temple as of Monday, according to highway officials in Cockeysville.

In addition, neighbors have also raised questions about the effect of added people on the underground water table, which has already been affected by other development in the area, which is not served

by public water and sewer systems.

The Nepalis, the neighbors and their respective attorneys tried to meet after the January granting of the special exception to overcome misunderstandings and resolve their differences. However, the meeting failed to materialize before the 30-day deadline for appeals.

The recently formed Gunpowder Falls Watershed Association and several other residents filed an appeal, and the multi-day hearing started last Thursday. During testimony, a member of the Nepali group suggested a meeting with neighbors and respective attorneys.

The attorneys and the groups said they're open to it and hope to meet before the second day of the Board of Appeals hearing set for Sept. 6, which is followed by five additional days of scheduled testimony in September, October and November.



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CROSSROADS

- continued from page 1 -

would be during daytime hours.

"Route 43 was [built as] an economic road," the developer said. "It was not a shortcut to White Marsh."

And although the mixed-use Greenleigh at Crossroads development will add some 1,800 new residences to the area that were not in the original plan, Caruthers said Baltimore Crossroads will eventually exceed 10,000 job opportunities before they are finished.

The developer said a lot has been built so far along the corridor that people do not seem to know about.

"You ride down 43 and people think we haven't done anything," he said, because much of the construction has been "hidden" back off the highway where it cannot be seen.

Crossroads currently has 1.8 million square feet of distribution space, with about 99 percent of it occupied, he said. Additionally, about 98.5 percent of their flex space and 94 percent of their office space, together totaling more than 1 million square feet, is leased and the development overall now hosts about

6,000 jobs.

Part of the reason for the high job concentration is because they are getting above-average use out of their square footage, he said. "Generally speaking you get about four [employees] per 1,000 [square

feet], and we're getting higher than that."

For instance, the building recently leased to Stanley Black and Decker is 76,000 square feet and the company has 500 employees there, he said.

- see CROSSROADS on page 6 -

1ST COMMUNITY MEETING

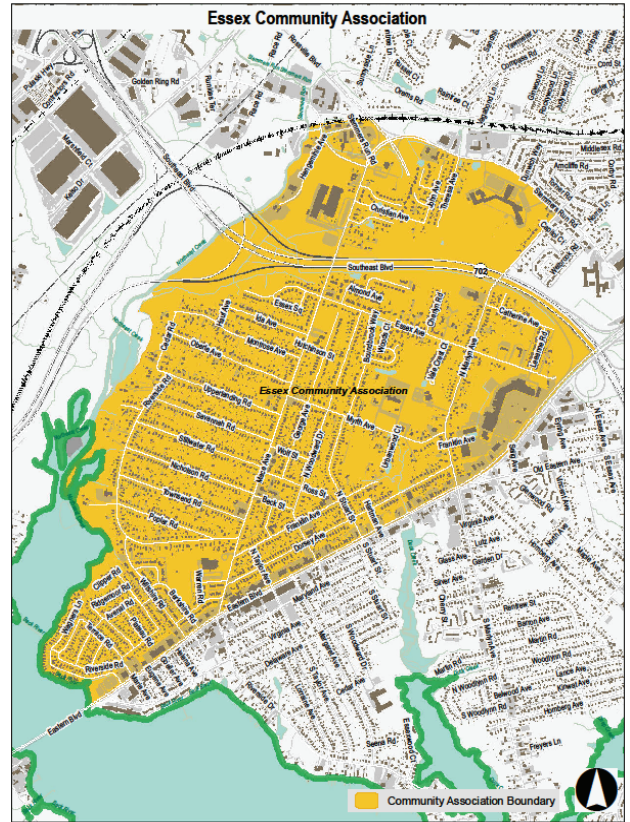


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Singers invited to join Chorus of the Chesapeake for anthems at OPACY

- By Marge Neal -

"Although we hope that some of the guests decide to become members of the chapter, there's no obligation to do so," Day wrote in an email to the East County Times. "The only requirement is that they attend three rehearsals to learn the music."

The venerable men's barbershop chorus enjoys quite a reputation in the Greater Dundalk community and beyond. The two-time international champion recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of its 1957 founding as a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA), now more commonly known as the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The chorus is directed by Kevin King, a 30-year music educator with music in his blood. King's father, the late Fred King, directed the chorus from 1966 to 1996. The elder King was also a long-time Baltimore County Public Schools music teacher and was a barbershopper for nearly six decades. The group won an international championship under Fred King's leadership.

The chorus meets at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the North Point Government Center (corner of Wise Avenue and Merritt Boulevard) in Dundalk.

To reserve a space in the chorus for the OPACY performance, visit www.dundalk.org.

If you've ever wanted to sing the national anthem at a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, here's your chance.

The Chorus of the Chesapeake has traditionally performed at Oriole Park at Camden Yards for a number of years, according to Bill Day, a chorus member and vice president of public relations.

This year, the group will get the honor on Tuesday, Aug. 28. Because the Orioles are playing the Toronto Blue Jays, it's a double honor: the group will sing both "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "O Canada."

Each year, the group invites guest singers to participate.

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Fixing a chipped windshield is now an inexpensive, do-it-yourself repair

It takes mere seconds for a pebble or road debris to damage a windshield. What starts out as a small bullseye or chip in the glass can quickly grow into a crack that compromises the safety of drivers and their passengers. Fixing the damage before it escalates into a safety issue used to require an expensive trip to the repair shop. However, now most drivers can tackle dings and chips from the comfort of their own driveways.

An unattended chip in the windshield could get worse with time, because constant vibration in the vehicle and changes in temperature can cause the chip to expand and spread. Eventually, you may be left with a larger, unsightly crack stretching across the glass, and what started as an inexpensive repair job has now turned into an annoyingly costly windshield replacement.

Glass repairs may or may not be covered by your

insurance. Repair bills for damaged windshields can range from \$75 to several hundred dollars. Many drivers are unaware that windshield repair does not have to be a difficult or expensive venture. With do-it-yourself kits, repairing chips can now be done in mere minutes for right around \$10.

Permatex® has developed a special Windshield Repair Kit that fills in the ding and stops the damage from spreading while minimizing the blemish on the glass. It comes complete with everything needed to make a permanent, professional quality repair in minutes, including step-by-step instructions and an online demo video. There is no mixing required and the repair cures automatically under natural sunlight.

For the kit to be effective, the chip or bullseye should be no more than a 1 inches long and must be on the outside of the windshield. It is a good idea to make the repair as soon as possible after it happens. This prevents the crack from getting contaminated and spreading.

The Windshield Repair Kit follows the same steps that a repair shop would, including sealing the crack with resin under a vacuum. View the Permatex how-to demo video at www.permatex.com.

In addition to quickly repairing a ding in the windshield, there are other windshield maintenance tips to follow.

- Clean the windshield regularly. Regular cleaning prevents the buildup of dirt, sand and debris on the glass and helps avoid scratches when you use your wipers.

- Check the windshield washer. Test your windshield washer regularly to make sure it works properly. In addition, keep the washer fluid level topped off so it's there when you need it to clean the windshield.

- Drive defensively. Avoid following a large truck that may be kicking up debris. Move into another lane, if possible. Also, do not follow vehicles that are transporting unsecured items on the car roof or in a pick-up truck bed.

Technology can help extend the life of your lights

Perhaps no aspect of life has gone untouched by technology in the 21st century. Technology has changed the way we communicate, how we watch television and listen to music and even how we keep abreast of the latest happenings in our communities and abroad.

Technology is also changing the way we drive and, in many ways, making today's highways more safe. While automotive gadgets like built-in WiFi or back-up cameras may be the first amenities to grab our attention, new developments in lighting technology are enhancing driver visibility and making it safer to hit the open road.

Many auto manufacturers still use standard incandescent bulbs in their vehicles. But advanced lighting that's more befitting of today's technological standards can make it easier for drivers to see and be seen by fellow motorists. Vision LED Lights from leading automotive lighting manufacturer Philips employ cutting edge LED technology to deliver better and more dynamic lighting for applications such as brake and taillights, back up lights, side markers, fog lights, and license plate lights. Guaranteed for up to 12 years, Philips Vision LED Lights are highly resistant to extreme heat and vibration, meaning drivers are very likely to replace their vehicle long before they ever need to worry about replacing their LED lights.

The right lighting can vastly improve driver visibility and safety and prove a wise investment for drivers who want to see the road better while making themselves more visible to other motorists. In

addition to upgrading their vehicles' lighting, drivers can take the following steps to ensure they're seeing the road ahead of them as clearly as possible.

- Get vision checkups. A standard ophthalmic exam is a series of tests conducted to check an individual's vision and the health of his or her eyes. The National Institutes of Health note that the frequency of such tests depends on an individual's age, but drivers should know that they should get screened more frequently as they age, and the NIH notes that drivers who wear contact lenses need yearly eye exams.

- Take steps to improve your reaction time and that of your fellow motorists. Personal reaction time also can influence how drivers see the road and how quickly they react to potentially negative driving conditions. Making sure you get enough sleep and exercise can increase alertness and improve your reaction time. In addition, the choices you make when upgrading your vehicle can improve the reaction time of your fellow drivers. For example, Philips Vision LEDs' instant-on response make sure brake lights come on the moment you apply the brake, instantly alerting other drivers should you be forced to make a sudden stop.

- Prioritize complete vehicle maintenance. No vehicle maintenance routine is complete unless it includes regular cleaning of headlight lenses, sideview mirrors and interior glass and mirrors. Dirty mirrors and glass compromises driver vision, so be sure to periodically remove any debris or film buildup on such surfaces.



SPRINGING TO ACTION

While many vehicle owners assume that the suspension springs on their automobiles will last forever, their assumptions aren't always correct. Consider the fact that the springs not only endure quite a bit of stress while driving, but they also help support the weight of the vehicle while it is parked. Made of coiled steel and usually coated with paint that protects them from rust and corrosion, springs may be strong and durable, but they are not impervious to deterioration and wear. Over time, springs can begin to sag and lose their "springiness." Drivers should look out for wear symptoms such as the vehicle leaning to one side, a break in a coil, visible rust or deterioration, and rough ride quality.

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CROSSROADS

- continued from page 3 -

The developer said they are "light on retail" with only 39,000 square feet built, but that too is 90 percent leased and "could be 100 before the end of the month."

Greenleigh is a mix of office and residential uses, and its multifamily component - the Berkleigh - is nearly complete with 317 apartment units. It also includes 986 single homes and townhouses with about 70 percent of them towns. Caruthers said they have already sold more than 100 townhouses, however

the singles are not selling as quickly.

In the southern portion of the site closer to Eastern Boulevard, he said they have 11 distribution buildings, five of which are owner occupied, which they are proud of because those occupants are rooted.

"Those people are not leasing product and going to be gone in 10 years," he said. "They're here to stay."

Another building is currently empty but is leased to a pharmaceutical company which produces a brain cancer drug.

With respect to retail, Caruthers said they want Crossroads to be "everything to everybody."

He said a veterinarian, a UPS Store, a dentist, a Thai restaurant and a brewery are among those that plan to move there.

Pooles Island Brewing Company, a trademark of Mastiff Brewing Company, LLC, plans to locate within Crossroads by the end of the summer, according to Caruthers. A post on brewingwork.com about the company said it is a community-focused company that plans to brew a variety of unique craft beers and sell them primarily out of its taproom, but also provide limited distribution to local bars and restaurants.

The developer said Wendy's has also agreed to build a new location at the site near Royal Farms, and they are in the process of moving the Subway to a new location directly on MD-43. Then, a "burger place" which he could not yet name would come in and take the former Subway bay and the vacant one next to it, and add a drive-thru.

Additionally, Michael's Café is scheduled to open its new location at Crossroads Sept. 1.

Caruthers said Crossroads has a site prepared for a grocery store, but a deal has not yet been finalized to bring one in. However, they are in talks with five different companies for that space.

"Last year at this time we couldn't get anyone to return a phone call, but right now we're talking to five different stores," he said.

Caruthers said one of the issues they have had with grocery stores is that some want to incorporate gas pumps, and he does not want to allow that since it would compete with what is already at Crossroads.

"I know that everybody's doing some kind of deal on gas now, but we've got a Royal Farms across the street," he said. "Work a deal with them."



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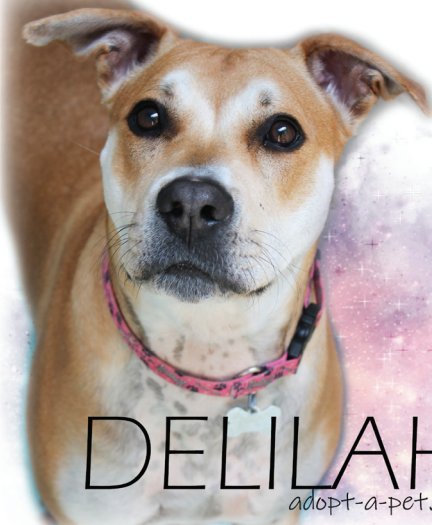


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Two injured in overnight shooting in Dundalk

Two men suffered gunshot wounds during a shooting inside a Dundalk residence early in the morning on July 19.

Police responded for a man with a gunshot wound in the 1900 block of Frames Road just after midnight and discovered a second man, also suffering from at least one gunshot wound. Both men were transported to local hospitals for treatment and are expected to survive their injuries.

Detectives from the Baltimore County Police Violent Crimes Unit are continuing to investigate the circumstance surrounding the shooting but believe this was a targeted incident and there is no further danger to the community.

Police investigate arson in Bowleys Quarters

Baltimore County Police are investigating a series of overnight vehicle fires in the Bowleys Quarters area as arson.

Police and Fire Department units responded to four different calls for vehicle fires between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. between July 17 and 18, involving damage to six vehicles. Two incidents occurred in the 400 block of Carrollwood Road, causing damage to a Cadillac at one location and a Chrysler at another. In the 300 block of Carroll Island Road units were dispatched to a boat fire but discovered that a Jeep parked behind the boat was actually set on fire. In the 3700 block of White Pine Road an Infiniti and a Suzuki motor bike were set on fire, causing additional fire damage to a Chrysler parked nearby.

Detectives believe that these incidents may be related due to the time frame and area of the fires, but have not yet determined if one or more suspects are responsible for the fires.

The Baltimore County FID unit is continuing the investigation into these fires. Anyone with information is asked to contact police by calling 410-307-2020.

Precinct 11/Essex

First Degree Burglary: On July 21, officers from the Essex precinct responded to a call in the unit block of North Hawthorne Road in Middle River. At 3:25 p.m., an unknown suspect attempted to break into the victim's residence. The suspect fled when the resident came to the door.

First Degree Burglary: Shortly before 2:30 p.m. on July 21, Baltimore County Police were called to the 1300 block of Fuselage Avenue in Middle River. Sometime between 1 and 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect gained entry into the locked residence by unknown means and stole a cell phone and a game system.

First Degree Burglary: Sometime between 1:30 and 3:35 p.m. on July 18, an unknown suspect entered through the rear window of the victim's home, located in the unit block of Bayou Court in Middle River, and stole, cash, a computer, jewelry, medication, several purses, a shotgun and a television.

Essex man charged with string of burglaries

David Warren Chilcote, 66, of Wiltshire Road in Essex, has been charged with 14 counts of burglary in Howard County.

Chilcote is charged with committing commercial burglaries, all but one in Ellicott City, between September 2016 and April 2018. The last case was in Fulton. He is currently being held without bond in Anne Arundel County Correctional Facility after being arrested in mid-June for a string of burglaries.

Chilcote has been captured on video at numerous businesses over the last two years, but often wore a mask. Police posted the surveillance photos on social media in May 2017, as well as January and April of this year, but no one came forward to identify the suspect. Detectives continued to investigate and later determined the man in the images was Chilcote.

Chilcote has been charged in Howard County with multiple counts of burglary, destruction of property and theft for prying or attempting to pry doors at the following businesses, and in some cases, stealing cash.

The Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office says on June 14, around 6 AM, members of the of the Criminal Investigation Unit as well as members of the Baltimore County Police Department, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Howard County Police Department and Belair Police Department executed a search and seizure and arrest warrant at the Wiltshire Road home of 66-year-old David Warren Chilcote Sr., in Essex, MD.

Deputies say Chilcote was arrested in connection to multiple burglaries at commercial businesses in Queen Anne's County, Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Frederick County, Baltimore County and Harford County as well as other locations in Pennsylvania.

Authorities say entry was gained through a window or door, and the suspect would go in the business and steal money. In some incidents, the suspect would apparently cover his face with a ski mask.

Precinct 12/Dundalk

First Degree Burglary: On July 23, Baltimore County Police responded to a burglary call in the 100 block of Kweisi Mfume Court in Dundalk. Between 7 a.m. and 5:52 p.m., an unknown suspect forced entry into the rear door of the location. The main bedroom was ransacked and a safe was missing.

Second Degree Burglary: Shortly before noon on July 22, officers were called to the 1900 block of Willow Spring Road in Dundalk. Sometime between 1 and 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect(forced open the garage door and stole a four wheeler. The suspect then fled in a vehicle.

Attempted Robbery: On July 20, Baltimore County Police responded to a robbery call in the unit block of Wise Avenue in Dundalk. At 9 p.m., the victim was walking when two unknown suspects attempted to rob him of his gold chain. A struggle ensued, the victim was stabbed but was able to escape and seek help. The victim was transported to a local hospital.

Beware of deception scams

Deception burglaries and home improvement scams occur throughout the year, but are known to increase when the weather gets warmer. Typically these are criminals who are on the move. They begin working in the southern states and head north during the spring and summer months.

The elderly are the most likely targets since they tend to be trusting and very concerned about their property and their neighborhood. Adult relatives of senior citizens should remind them of this possible crime.

Be mindful of certain ruses. Suspects generally work in pairs and approach homeowners at their residence with the intent of gaining entry under a seemingly benevolent role like posing as a legitimate worker from a local gas company, water department, cable company, or as a tree trimmer, paver, county inspector, or government official. One suspect will distract while the other will enter the home and search for valuables and cash.

A suspect may also pose as a family friend of a relative or friend of a neighbor. He or she will knock on the door and ask for a pen and paper to leave the victim's neighbor a note. The suspect may appear to have difficulty writing the note, and will ask to come inside the house. Once inside the victim's house, the suspect will ask the victim to help write the note. While that criminal distracts the victim, others enter the residence to remove money and valuables.

Always ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get authorization from their company before allowing them access. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait.

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Staab, Leo E. Jr.

Leo E. Staab Jr. (Lee) passed away on July 18. He is survived by his wife Donna (nee Anders), a son Mike Simpson (Sharon) of Florida, and a sister Pat (Rick) of Louisiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo E. Sr. and May Ellen, as well as sisters Janet Williams and Barbara Ortiz, both of Louisiana.

Funeral services will be private.

Murray, Edward Gerard

On July 20, Edward Gerard Murray, beloved husband of Dorothy E. Murray; devoted father of Nancy Cook, Brian Murray, Ellen Seed and her husband Paul and the late Paul Edward Murray; loving grandfather and great-grandfather of Emily, Allan, Jacob and Matthew Cooke, Jason Murray, Jessica and Zachary Cook, Callum Winstead, Samantha, Robert, Ethan and Alexis Emkey, Ian Cook, Allison and Michael Nine, Daniel Seed and Gabrielle Murray.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to The ARC Baltimore at Dundalk Parents Group, 1401 North Point Road, Baltimore, MD 21222.

Swinney, Howard Carver Jr.

On July 20, Howard Carver Swinney, Jr., beloved husband of Joan Katherine Swinney (nee Goetzke); devoted father of Michele R. Robertson and her husband James, David H. Swinney and his wife Debra, the late Robert Swinney and the late Therese A. Swinney Winkler; loving grandfather of Brianna N. and James E. Robertson, Marissa S. Schultz-Swinney and Carmen R. Winkler-Mummert; dear stepgrandfather of Mia E. and Ian C. Smith; cherished great-grandfather of McKayla Mummert.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Entombment in Gardens of Faith Memorial Gardens.

Bach, Francis Joseph Sr.

On July 17, Francis Joseph Bach, Sr., beloved husband of Shirley Ann Bach; loving father of JoAnn Stockman, Karen Hidy, Francis Joseph Bach, Jr. and the late Donna Collins; cherished grandfather of seven grandchildren; dear great-grandfather of four great-grandchildren.

Services provided by Bruzdinski Funeral Home. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Francis's name to Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 South Marlyn Ave., Essex, Maryland 21221.

Pitura, Anthony J.

Sadly, Mr. Anthony Joseph Pitura, known to family and friends as "Andy," passed from this earth on Tuesday, July 17. Mr. Pitura was the beloved husband of the late Vita Pitura and dear friend of the late June Thomas; devoted father of Larry Bray and Doris Henning; devoted grandfather of Wendy Musella, Christopher Henning, Amanda Bray-Hooker and Megan Bray and great-grandfather of Ryan Bray, Elijah Staebler, Anthony Branham, Dylan Branham and Blake Christian. He was the loving brother of Bernice Adamski and Angeline Mack, and was preceded in death by sisters Mary Rychwalski, Carolyn Wolf, Julie Campbell, Agnes Ostendorf and brother Leon Pitura. Mr. Pitura is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Services provided by Kaczorowski Funeral Home of Dundalk. Internment to follow at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, 6515 Boston St., Baltimore MD. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Disabled American Veterans (www.DAV.org) and BARCS (BARCS.org).

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and many cousins and friends*

Atkins, Edna Mae

On July 21, Edna Mae Atkins, beloved wife of the late Curtis D. Atkins, Sr.; devoted mother of Eileen Wilson, Dan Atkins, Dianna Wildman, Brenda Atkins and the late Donnie Atkins; loving sister of Roy Croaston and Naoma Croaston; cherished grandmother of 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Bethel Christian Church Cemetery.

Berkshire, Robert C. Jr.

On July 19, Robert Claude Berkshire, Jr., beloved husband of Mary A. Berkshire (nee Proost); devoted father of Terry J. Berkshire and his wife Malinka, Lisa L. Christopherson and her husband Phil, Alyson M. Collins and her husband Jason and Rebecca B. Ebert and her husband Kevin; loving grandfather of Joey, Christopher, Megan, Andrew, Lilly, Gracelyn, Brandon and Ryan; dear brother of Elizabeth Houvatter and the late Louis Berkshire and Theresa Gemas and her husband Bob; brother-in-law of Dalice Berkshire, Peter Proost and his wife Bonnie and Richard Proost and his wife Margie. Also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to the First Lutheran Church of Gray Manor - Good Samaritan Fund or to BARCS.

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'MAMMA MIA'! A surprisingly great sequel

- By Teddy Durgin -

There is a great moment in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" where Clark Griswold's obnoxious and uncouth brother-in-law, Eddie, shows up uninvited to the Griswalds' holiday celebration. Eddie asks Clark if he's surprised to see him. Clark responds, "Eddie, if I woke up tomorrow with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn't be more surprised than I am now!"

That's how I felt watching "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" this week in preview. I know it's wrong to say this as a professional film critic, but I was dreading this flick, folks. I really despised the first movie, with its off-key singing, rampant camera mugging and the wife begging me to drop thousands of dollars to take her to Greece afterwards. It made my 10 Worst list of 2008.

So, I'm sitting there watching the sequel, and about five minutes in I'm ... smiling?! About 10 minutes in, I'm ... tapping my feet and humming?! About 15 minutes in, there's a completely charming, extremely entertaining sequence set in a French restaurant featuring ABBA's "Waterloo," and I literally wanted to turn to the reviewer next to me and exclaim, "Holy BLEEP! This flick is freakin' great?!"

I love this movie, dear readers. I make no apologies. And, yes, I am SO surprised! Like a liberal on election night

in 2016 surprised. Like Simon Cowell listening to Susan Boyle sing for the first time surprised. Like a UMBC alum waking up the next morning after the Retrievers beat Virginia in the Tournament surprised.

I don't want to over-sell this, of course. If you don't like ABBA music, I imagine this would still be tough to sit through. I mean, I don't care how good Steven Spielberg or Martin Scorsese could make a movie set entirely to Justin Bieber songs ... it would still be "Marathon Man" torture for me. But true confession time. I'm actually an ABBA fan! It's one of the reasons I hated the first flick so much, because their songs were SO badly sung. The Swedish super-group's heyday was my childhood, and songs like "Fernando" and "Take a Chance on Me" played many o' mornings on the drive to school.

Basically, nearly everything I didn't like about that first movie gets corrected here. Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgaard barely sing in this one. But the younger men - Jeremy Irvine, Hugh Skinner and Josh Dylan - they cast to play their three characters in flashback sequences to 1979 CAN sing. And you can blast me for this, but I really didn't care for Meryl Streep in the original either. Well, in this one, her Donna is deceased, and her daughter Sophie (Amanda Seyfried)

- see MAMMA MIA on page 10

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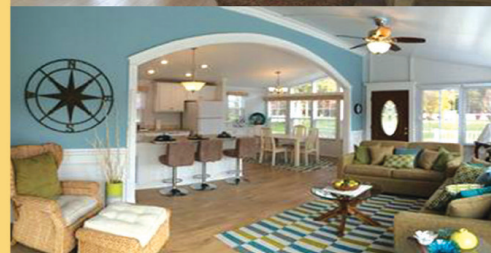
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Mamma Mia

- continued from page 9 -

takes over the lead actress duties. And anyone who has seen her perform in "Les Miserables" knows she has a beautiful voice. She needs to eat sandwiches. Many sandwiches. But she sings like an angel.

The film is directed by Ol Parker of "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" fame. He earns his money with the musical sequences. I don't want to ruin too much here. I've already let slip how fun and terrific "Waterloo" is. But wait until you see how they use "Dancing Queen" and "Super Trouper" and ... wow, wow, wow ... "My Love, My Life." I'm still verklempt. And the editing throughout is exquisite, particularly in a duet between Sophie and her husband Sky (Dominic Cooper) where she's in Greece and he's in New York.

Yes, yes. There's not much plot. Sophie and friends scramble to get their Greek isle hotel open and ready for an invitation-only premiere after a freak thunderstorm nearly wipes them out. She feels the pressure of trying to honor her late mother's dream, even as her marriage to Sky has hit the skids. Meanwhile, the film is indeed intercut with flashbacks to '79 of her mom as a young college graduate visiting Greece for the first time and falling in love with the scenery ... and three men.

Because I see so many movies and most of them turn out pretty much as I expect them to, a flick like "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" is a real rarity for me. I'm going to be buzzing off of this one for a while.

Denzel becomes The Sequelizer. Is his new film to die for?

- By Teddy Durgin -

What a difference a week makes! Seven days ago I was plotting out my movie schedule for the days ahead. There were two sequels on my horizon. The first was the "The Equalizer 2," which I was looking forward to big time because I love Denzel Washington and the first "Equalizer" was a pretty cool action thriller. The second was "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," a follow-up to a 10-year-old movie I truly despised.

So, I previewed "Here We Go Again," and I was ... totally charmed! So much fun, so much better than the first one, so surprised. And "The Equalizer 2?" Oooof! What a missed opportunity.

The first "Equalizer" came out in September 2014, almost a month to the day before the first "John Wick" flick came out. And they were really two sides of the same coin. Both were former trained killers, adept at using their hands and whatever those hands could get a hold of to use as a weapon. Both were just looking to leave their old life behind. Both were called upon again due to a code of honor to slaughter large numbers of bad dudes. They were kind of the Ebony and Ivory of blood-lusting ex-assassins.

Whereas the "John Wick" sequel ratcheted up the violence, cool kills, and even cooler characters several notches almost to the point of high comedy, "The Equalizer 2" is an oddly paced, oddly plotted, rather glum and even preachy in spots would-be thriller.

The sequel begins promising enough, with McCall on a train heading towards Istanbul on which he attempts to rescue a kidnapped little girl from her abusive, international criminal father. The sequence has all of the style and brutality of the first "Equalizer." Then, McCall comes home to Boston, and we find him as a part-time Lyft driver being kind to an elderly Holocaust survivor, a local teen torn between gang life and art school, and other potentially lost souls.

It takes a while before anything resembling a plot kicks in involving murder and espionage in Washington and in Europe. And when the story does kick in, centering on a murdered colleague and a crooked former operative, it keeps getting interrupted by Robert's efforts to play Good Samaritan back in Beantown.

I think Denzel and his frequent collaborator, director Antoine Fuqua, took this all a bit too seriously this time. Their film that feels long and drawn-out. Either Fuqua and Co. should have kept their film focused on McCall cleaning up his neighborhood at home or on his globe-trotting intrigue and espionage abroad. The two just don't quite mix here.

That's not to say there aren't pleasures to be had. There's a sequence where McCall has to defeat a backseat passenger using only one hand, his gas pedal, and his brake that is perfectly shot and edited. There's also a great bit where McCall breaks into a drug den full of street thugs, pulls out his young friend who he has been mentoring, and when one of the crooks asks, "Who the BLEEP are you?!" McCall calmly replies, "I'm your father. Your mamma didn't tell you." And the Holocaust survivor storyline also comes together beautifully in the end in an emotionally affecting final scene.

I guess, in retrospect, what I am realizing writing this out is that all of the Boston stuff worked. It was grounded in the sort of gritty realism Fuqua and Washington were going for here. All of the stuff with the international intrigue feels like low-rent "Jason Bourne" junk. And, yet, I still like McCall enough to hope for a third film. Hey, if "Mamma Mia!" can be made great with a sequel...

"The Equalizer 2" is rated R for bloody violence, language, and some sexual references.

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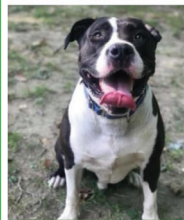
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Baltimore Humane Society's PETS OF THE WEEK



Hi guys! My name is Tucker and I LOVE tennis balls and cheeseburgers. Do you like to play ball? Great! I just got here a few days ago so I'm still a little shy, but trust me, once you give me a treat, I'm all yours. In my previous home I lived with a female dog and she was in charge for sure. I like kids, but just keep in mind my size (because I don't.. lol) I might bump them right over. I'm a good boy in the car and even went to Mission BBQ the other day with my friend Katie. If you're looking for a fun loving sweet big boy as your new family member, please come out to BHS to meet me!

TUCKER



Dazzling Ruby, here! I am a well-mannered, reserved lady who's looking for her purr-manent home! Are you the one? I have lived with dogs and cats before, and we co-existed very peacefully. I love to play with my toys! Come meet me soon! I'm ready to cuddle and play with my future humans.

RUBY

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For more information visit www.bmorehumane.org.



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e.o.e.

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3086 RAKING LEAF DR., ABINGDON, MD 21009 Enter to boasting hardwood floors that lead to your large kitchen with an island. 3BR 3.5 BA with master en-suite that includes a walk-in closet. Freshly painted with new carpet on the upper and lower levels. Nice large deck with easy access to large, flat common area and playground.

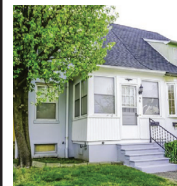
DUNDALK VILLAGE



3521 McSHANE WAY BALTIMORE, MD 21222

2BR 1.5 BA home is currently rented. This income producing property is ready for a new investor.

DUNDALK MANOR



56 KINSHIP RD. BALTO., MD 21222

Beautiful. Cozy. Captivating. These are only a few words to describe this charming home. Perfect for 1st time buyers, this unique 2BR, 1BA home has tons of potential. Nestled into the tranquil and desirable neighborhood of Historic Dundalk with shops, schools and parks only a stroll away.

GLENBAUER



12202 DARNEY VIEW RD. KINGSVILLE, MD 21087

Brick Rancher on over 3 acres. Enter into the foyer overlooking the Great Room with an amazing fireplace. Master BA has jet tub and separate shower and his and hers sinks, 4BRs with den. Lower level has rough-in to finish but is a large open space.

RIDGE GROVE



9124 AVONDALE RD. BALTIMORE, MD 21234

This is a 2 unit home. It is currently rented and tenants would love to stay. Home was originally used as a home with an in-law suite. Huge yard and 2 decks. Off-street parking. This is a must see! Stacked Duplex is an income producing property.

INVERNESS



103 DELMAR AVE., BALTO., MD 21222

Lovely 2BR waterfront home on Chink Creek. Sold As-Is, needs a little TLC. Finished lower level, new kitchen and BAs. Lower level has wood burning stove. Pier with 3 boat slips and 1 boat lift. This is a must see!!!

FORGE HILL



2853 FORGE HILL RD. BEL AIR, MD 21015

Great starter home. Lovely quiet country setting, minutes from Palmer State Park. Large garden prepared and ready for planting. Low maintenance, cost effective home. Ample parking. No HOA. Lots of yard for pets / animals (zoned AG) horses, chickens, etc. Old rustic barn great for storage which needs TLC.

ESSEX

TOO NEW FOR PHOTO

1546 EASTERN BLVD. BALTIMORE, MD 21221

Great business opportunity to rent on a busy street corner. Remodel the unit to suit your business!! No food business.

EAST VIEW



7605 AVONDALE AVE. BALTO., MD 21224

Brick Home, Completely Remodeled in 2014, 2 New Kitchens, 1 New BA, New Roof, New Windows, New Electric, New Plumbing, New Tank-less Water Heater... Has 4 BRs, 2 BAs, 2 Kitchens, 2 Liv Rms, 2 Din Rms, Laundry Rm, Pantry, 2 Car Detached Garage, 3 Car Drvwy, 2 Sheds, Fenced Yard, alarm system, camera surveillance & Above Ground Pool.

BALTIMORE CITY



5116 CRAIG AVE. BALTO., MD 21212

3 PROPERTY PACKAGE DEAL GENERATING OVER \$7,700 A MONTH!! TOTAL PRICE IS \$540K. Incredible opportunity to own 9-UNITS across 3 adjoining properties (5112, 5114, 5116). Each property has 3 separately metered units, each with 2BRs & 1BA. Prime Location with shops and bus lines in walking distance.



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Neal Simon

INDEPENDENT FOR U.S. SENATE



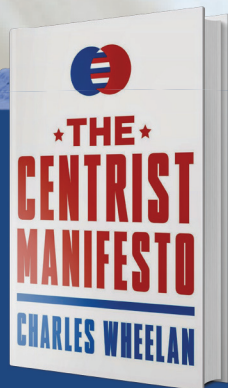
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