

## Camp Impact Leaves a Mark at Ft. Washington Elementary/Middle School



*Camp Impact participants pose for a photo during the second week of the camp. Camp Impact was a five-week camp that introduced them to functional life skills. The camp exposed the youth to educational and cultural experiences to prepare them to become future leaders in their community. Camp Impact's largest community outreach project was a reading-themed mural they created at Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School in East Baltimore's Berea neighborhood.*

*(See article on page 11) Courtesy Photo*



# JUUL Labs offers new device to help smokers monitor, change their habits

*Company also launches education efforts to combat underage use*

*By Stacy M. Brown*

Kevin Burns, the CEO of the e-cigarette technology firm JUUL Labs, said his company is dedicated to eliminating traditional cigarette smoking by offering existing adult smokers a real alternative to combustible cigarettes.

The JUUL device uses an intelligent heating mechanism that creates an aerosol and is engineered to minimize combustion, according to the company's website.

Burns, who formally served as president and COO of the Greek yogurt brand Chobani, told the NNPA Newswire that JUUL remains focused on improving the lives of the more than 38 million adults who smoke in America and the one billion-plus who indulge in cigarette use around the globe.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black adults smoke cigarettes at roughly the same rate as White adults (16.5 percent for non-Hispanic Blacks vs. 16.6 percent of non-Hispanic Whites).

"This is a product focused on the adult smoker and we want to eliminate smoke around the world and give the smoker the nicotine experience with the switch to e-cigarettes" said Burns, who holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Connecticut and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

The JUUL is a slim device that looks like a flash drive. The company, which reportedly has an estimated worth of \$16 billion, also manufactures e-liquid "JUULpods" that contain nicotine salts, which Burns said result in nicotine delivery



*The JUUL e-cigarette is a slim device that looks like a flash drive. E-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products, according to the CDC. (JUUL)*

that users find as satisfying as what they get from traditional cigarettes. The liquid pods contain benzoic acid, a naturally occurring ingredient that, when combined with nicotine, helps in mimicking the peak nicotine delivery of a cigarette.

A single JUULpod contains five percent nicotine; a three percent nicotine pod will be more widely available this month, Burns said.

"We hope the availability of different nicotine strengths will continue to allow adult smokers the ability to explore what's best for them," Burns said.

That's important for African Americans, Hispanics, lower-income individuals and many military veterans, all who tend to use nicotine products, he said.

"We think we can bring a solution that can have an incredible impact on people switching from combustible tobacco products [to e-cigarettes]," Burns said.

The company has created educational

materials to support underserved communities and they continue to encourage the use of their products by adults only, Burns said.

"Our intent is not to have people who aren't using nicotine products to [purchase our products]," Burns said. "We don't want non-users and we don't want underage users."

JUUL Labs has spared little expense in its educational efforts.

In the United States, youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes, according to the CDC, which makes those education efforts even more critical, as the company expands into new markets.

JUUL Labs established an advisory council for community outreach and youth education awareness and prevention in Baltimore, Md. It's the first city in which JUUL is attempting a hands-on approach, aligning with partners like the Black Mental Health Alliance and Baltimore

Corps., an organization that enlists talented individuals in public service and social entrepreneurship in Baltimore.

When asked how does JUUL plan to market its products to African Americans and Hispanics, Burns said the company is evaluating options.

"We're formulating a plan now. We have a partnership with Black Mental Health Alliance...doing community work and we're working on the population that's underserved and over-harmed," Burns said.

The company is also making efforts in terms of retail auditing to make sure people are not selling their products to underage youth, Burns said.

The company takes underage smoking very seriously and, to that end, they're also establishing the use of Bluetooth technology which could one day shut devices down around schools and other places, Burns said.

JUUL is also developing a Bluetooth-enabled device in international markets that consumers can link to health and wellness apps on their smartphones.

"We are looking at the ability to allow them to reduce their dependence," Burns said. "Connection to the app may have features that allow you to monitor and have active management of your device, which can actively manage nicotine levels; getting people off of [combustible] cigarettes is a big win."

Burns concluded: "With the hardware and software, we'll be able to give people every opportunity to minimize their relationship with nicotine. This will be done through a very sophisticated technology where we will have a device connected to an app that will allow you to have active management of your use."

Learn more about the vapor alternative to traditional cigarettes at JUUL.com

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## Wells Fargo ups donations to more than \$1 Million a day to charities

Wells Fargo & Company last year continued to invest in communities across the country through its philanthropy and volunteerism, donating more than \$286.5 million in 2017 to more than 14,500 nonprofits, the company announced.

The company's plan to target \$400 million in donations to nonprofits and community organizations in 2018 is an increase of approximately 40 percent from

2017. Wells Fargo already is one of the top corporate cash donors, ranking first among financial institutions and third among all U.S. companies in a 2016 report (most recent ranking) by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"We understand the important role we play in helping our communities, so we will continue to identify additional opportunities where Wells Fargo can make a difference," CEO, Tim Sloan said. "Wells Fargo's

increased philanthropy will have a positive effect on the causes and communities we support and further enhance our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, which will continue to focus on advancing diversity and social inclusion, creating economic opportunities in underserved communities, and accelerating the transition to a lower-carbon economy and a healthier planet."

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## Wells Fargo commits \$3.5 million to increase financial capability across U.S.

Toncé Jackson was at a low point four years ago. In Chicago's Cook County Jail for a fourth time, she was struggling with substance abuse, had no job, a limited education, terrible credit, and was burdened with debt — she didn't even have a bank account. Caught in a painful cycle that was destroying her family, she resolved to change.

"I wanted to start my life over," said Jackson. "I just needed a little help with my beginning."

The Wells Fargo Financial Capability Grant program focuses on helping people, like Jackson, who are facing destabilizing economic challenges. Started in 2017, the program's grants help people from diverse populations who are underbanked by connecting them to income supports and financial training.

The program has just awarded \$3.5 million to two nonprofits with thoughtful and focused financial capability programs — the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund.

The Wells Fargo grants will provide \$1 million funding for the CFE Fund and \$2.5 million funding for LISC financial capability programs in a total of 25 U.S. cities and regions over three years.

"All of the cities we are working with demonstrated that they are looking to make financial empowerment front-and-center in the work they can do," said Tamara Lindsay, a principal at the CFE Fund. "The long-term vision is to create a permanent home for this work, to help make sure it is sustainable."

City leaders collaborate with CFE Fund partners to open Financial Empowerment Centers, or FECs, for their residents. At FECs, professionally trained counselors help consumers with low and moderate incomes manage their finances, pay down debt, increase savings, establish and build credit, and access safe and affordable mainstream banking products. The FEC model integrates counseling into other social services, including housing and foreclosure prevention, workforce development, prisoner reentry, benefits access, domestic violence services, and more. First piloted in New York City under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2008, the FECs are a proven success — about 80,000 consumers have reduced individual debt by almost \$94 million and increased their families' savings by about \$12 million. A recent CFE Fund evaluation showed that this program works even for residents with very low incomes and other complex financial challenges.

"Offering financial counseling as a public service, though local governments, helps stabilize struggling households and communities. Local leaders know the importance of helping families and neighborhoods build financial stability and make better use of social services," said Jonathan Mintz, president and CEO of the CFE Fund.

Wells Fargo's grant to LISC will strengthen and expand the Financial Opportunity Center, or FOC, model across 15 target markets. Working through local nonprofits nationwide since 2006, FOCs offer services including employment and career counseling, one-on-one

financial coaching and education, and connect individuals with low-cost financial products that help build credit, savings and assets. FOCs also have a remedial education component that provides participants with foundational reading and math skills that they need in order to get into job training programs that can lead to higher paying, living-wage careers.

"Promising talent exists in all our communities, and we have to invest to help people realize their full potential. That's where FOCs come in," said LISC CEO Maurice A. Jones. "By connecting people to the tools they need, they can compete for the quality jobs that employers must fill to innovate and grow. They'll be able to earn more, save more and access life-changing opportunities for themselves and their families."

During a conversation with her parole officer, Jackson found out about a local Financial Opportunity Center housed at Chicago's Jane Addams Resource Corporation, a nonprofit local community resource center. The FOC helped Jackson find additional education opportunities and got her into a job placement program. After she successfully landed her welding job, Jackson continued to receive guidance from a financial coach. She created a budget, reduced her medical debts, and established credit.

Mike Rizer, head of Wells Fargo Community Relations, said results like Jackson's are the goal.

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Does America really have the worst health system in the developed world?

By Sally C. Pipes

America spends twice as much on healthcare as its peers in the developed world yet fares worse on a range of health indicators, including life expectancy and infant mortality.

That's the finding of a new survey of 10 developed countries published by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Surveys like these tend to point out that the United States spends a lot on healthcare but doesn't appear to get much in return. A closer look, however, reveals that America's seemingly poor performance is largely attributable to lifestyle and social factors -- not the quality of the institutions that make up its healthcare system.

Take life expectancy. Americans live for 78.8 years, on average -- less than the citizens of the other 10 developed nations examined in the JAMA study.

Several factors unrelated to our healthcare system explain Americans' poor life expectancy. Our death rate from car crashes is more than double that of other high-income nations. The U.S. drug overdose death rate is higher as well; Americans are twice as likely as Brits and six times as likely as the French to die of overdoses.

Americans are also heavier than citizens of other nations. More than 70 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, which increases their risk of premature death.

None of these factors reflects the quality of America's doctors or hospitals. Yet they all contribute to our low life expectancy.

Then there's infant mortality. The JAMA analysis finds that America has the developed world's highest infant mortality rate -- 5.8 per 1,000 live births, compared to an average of 3.6 per 1,000.

But this statistic is misleading. Countries record infant deaths differently.

In the United States, it's standard practice to count any newborn showing the slightest evidence of life as a live birth. The Netherlands and France, by contrast, don't count babies born before 22 weeks of gestation or weighing 1.1 pounds or less as live births.

By excluding premature and underweight babies, many of whom don't survive, these countries artificially decrease their infant mortality rates.

Yet another deceptive indicator is the share of the population with health insurance. America's 90-percent insured rate falls short of the coverage rates in the other nations.

Insurance, however, is no guarantee of access to healthcare. In my native Canada, the median wait time for receiving treatment from a specialist after referral from a general practitioner soared to a record high of 21.2 weeks last year.

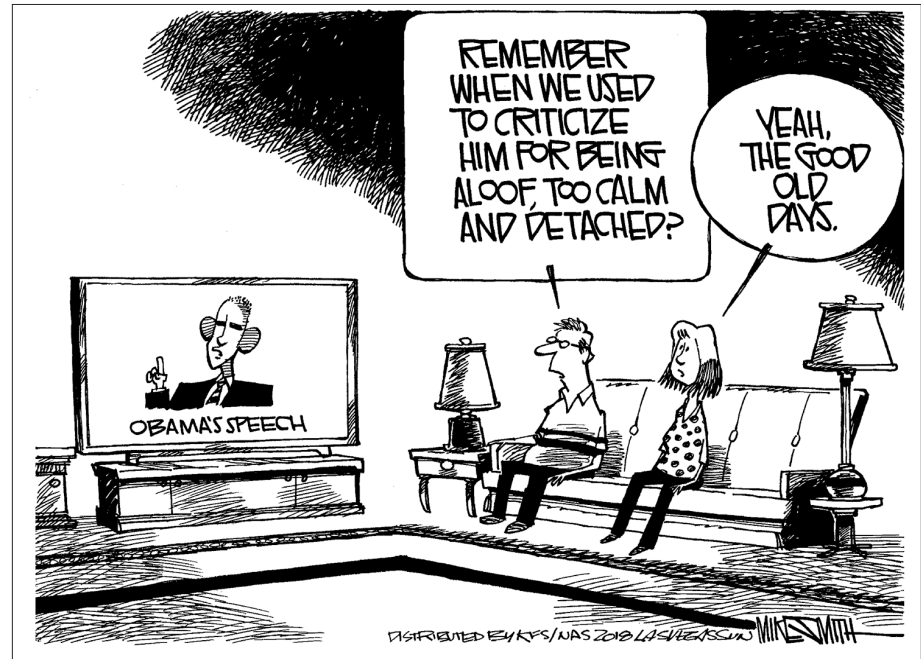
Patients in the United Kingdom's single-payer system routinely wait for hours in hospital hallways -- or even in the back of ambulances.

Most patients in the United States, by contrast, receive top-notch care essentially on-demand. It's no coincidence that roughly 40 percent of patients seeking treatment outside their home country go to the United States, according to a 2017 survey.

The American system is also much better at treating serious illnesses like cancer. Five-year survival rates for breast, colon, and prostate cancers are higher in the United States than in other developed countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

The U.S. healthcare system isn't perfect. But it's irresponsible to blame it for our nation's comparatively low life expectancy and high infant mortality without acknowledging the societal factors behind those problems.

*Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book, The False Promise of Single-Payer Health Care (Encounter), was released this spring. Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes.*



## Letter to the Editor

### Open Letter to Senator Ben Cardin

Dear Senator Cardin:

It is now more evident than ever that Mr. Donald Trump is not competent to serve as president of the United States of America.

To place the entire nation secondary to his personal biases, crass conduct, delusion and disrespect to nation states is both dangerous and antithetical to his oath of office. He clearly demonstrated a lack of faithfulness and an unwillingness or inability to protect the United States at the Helsinki Summit with Mr. Putin.

To act singularly and recklessly against experienced advisors; to ignore briefings in favor of his inexperienced opinion and outright delusion; to denigrate the Intelligence community; and to evade answering critical questions from

the American press on the world stage, is not the behavior of a faithful, protective president.

Perhaps it is past time to call into question Mr. Trump's general mental wellbeing.

Sen. Cardin, this is not a partisan issue to be played back and forth across the aisle or pushed down the road to another session. Congress must step up now and fulfill its role in reigning in and holding accountable a malfunctioning president with a personal agenda that supersedes the domestic and international affairs and concerns of the United States of America.

Please, please communicate this to your congressional colleagues regardless of the side of the aisle on which they may be seated.

Respectfully Yours,  
Joycelyn E. Jolly  
Baltimore, Maryland

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# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## *The Racial Optics of the Opioid Epidemic*

By Raynard Jackson  
(NNPA Newswire Columnist)

Please excuse me for not welling up with empathy for those who are addicted to opioids. Yeah, I know drug addiction is a bad thing, but people make choices and have to live with the consequences.

I am old enough to have lived through the crack epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s and found little to no empathy from the public, especially politicians, because crack fell disproportionately hard on the black community. As a matter of fact, blacks were told it was a moral failing by the user and the seller, thus they deserved what they got. As a matter of fact, the public demanded legal action be taken against those caught up in the crack epidemic.

Lock 'em up and throw away the key was the political sentiment in Washington, D.C. during the 90s when it came to crack dealers and users.

This view led to the mass incarceration of low-level drug dealers and users, culminating in people like Hillary Clinton labeling young, blacks who were caught



Raynard Jackson  
Photo: BABF

up in the drug game “super predators.”

According to the *U.S. News and World Report*, 79 percent of 5,669 sentenced crack offenders in 2009 were black,

ous forms of treatment and prevention; whereas, crack addiction was labeled a moral failing and a law enforcement issue.

Basically, the crack epidemic dispro-

***“Whether it’s abusing opioids or smoking crack, people make choices and have to live with the consequences.”***

— Raynard Jackson

versus 10 percent who were white and 10 percent, who were Hispanic.

Juxtapose that with what the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation found about the opioid problem. In 2016, according to the foundation, white victims made up almost 80 percent of the deaths from opioid overdoses, with black victims comprising only 10 percent of deaths and Hispanic victims 8 percent.

Opioid addiction is being treated as a medical condition, with hundreds of millions of dollars being allocated to vari-

portionately affected blacks and the current opioid epidemic predominately affects whites. A study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that cocaine-related overdose deaths among blacks were on par with heroin and prescriptions opioid-related deaths among whites between 2000 and 2015.

There are all kinds of reasons for this and I get it. But what I don’t understand and won’t accept is the conscious choices media appointed Black leaders make to the detriment of their own people.

When will these leaders stand up and demand more money and programs for the drug problems that are destroying the black community that have nothing to do with opioids? When will they demand law enforcement action against physicians who have willfully overprescribed opioids to patients unnecessarily?

These physicians are the modern-day version of the drug dealer, except they are not working on the street corner, but rather in the cozy confines of their medical offices.

Where is the lock ‘em up and throw away the key sentiment towards opioid users that politicians showed towards crack dealers?

One would have to be totally blind not to see the racial optics being played out in this whole debate about the opioid drug addiction versus how the crack addiction was handled.

I am really struggling with my inability to muster up any empathy for the victims of this latest drug scourge that is moving across our country.

So, to those who are reading this column and think I am cold, heartless, and hateful please spare me your unrighteous indignation.

Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit [www.bafbf.org](http://www.bafbf.org). You can follow Raynard on Twitter @Raynard1223.

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# Josephine Baker documentary headlines African Diaspora International Film Festival



**Josephine Baker: Black Diva in a White Man's World** directed by Annette von Wangenheim is a tender, revealing documentary about one of the most famous and popular performing artists of the 20th century. Courtesy Photos

By Stacy M. Brown

"Streetlight Harmonies," by Brent Wilson and the documentary, "Josephine Baker: Black Diva in a White Man's World," count among the highlights of the 12th annual African Diaspora International Film Festival which opens on Friday, August 17, 2018 at the George Washington University Marvin Center in Northwest, Washington, D.C.

The three-day festival, which presents films to diverse audiences and redesigns the black cinema experience by strengthening the role of directors of African descent in contemporary world cinema, will feature 16 films that will take audiences in and out of the United States, including eight that will have their premieres in the nation's capital.

"There's a lot new this year," said Reinaldo Barroso-Spech, an educator in foreign languages and black literature who created the festival with his wife, Diarah N'Daw-Spech, a financial consultant and university budget manager.

The opening night film, "Timeless," by Ed LaBorde counts as a love story that transcends time from 19th century

Ghana to the modern day Caribbean. Some of the social issues explored in the film are the human trafficking of the slave trade in the past and the present day human trafficking in the Virgin Islands, as well as political corruption and immigration.

The opening night event starts with a VIP catered reception at 8 p.m. LaBorde will participate in a question and answer session at 9 p.m.

Festival organizers also plan to present the premiere screening of the award-winning drama, "The Citizen," a narrative about middle-aged African political refugee Wilson who seeks Hungarian citizenship. The film has already earned acclaim from critics at the New York Times and other publications.

Organizers have also expressed excitement about "Streetlight Harmonies," a film about doo-wop featuring a who's who of musicians that trace the evolution of pop music from doo-wop and Phil Spector's legendary "wall of sound" through Motown, surf music and the British Invasion.

The festival also includes a special program where films depict the lives of



**Streetlight Harmonies** by Brent Wilson is about Doo-wop and features stellar vocal harmonies sung a cappella, born on street corners in the 1950s. In *Streetlight Harmonies*, a who's who of musicians trace the evolution of American pop music from doo-wop and Phil Spector's legendary "wall of sound" up through Motown, surf music and the British Invasion. It's a toe-tapping stroll down memory lane for music lovers of all ages.



**Paris Noir: African-Americans in The City of Light** by Joanne Burke is an exciting, enlightening documentary on the presence of African-Americans in Paris from WWI to the early 1960s

a native of one country who moves to another nation like, "African-Americans in Europe," which features a Josephine Baker documentary by Annette von Wangenheim.

Two other films directed by women explore issues of identity in diaspora communities in the United States.

"The Good Life— or La Belle Vie— by Rachele Salnave, reflects on the cultural crossfire she experienced as a Haitian-American growing up in Harlem juxtaposing her parents' memories of noble family histories with a humble working class reality.

"Life Is Fare," by Sephora Woldu counts as a cross-cultural film that challenges how patriotism and nationalism are practiced by people of a country, and is inspired by current Eritrean and Ethiopian migration experiences in the United States.

"From its inception, the festival has always showcased great films that explore the black British experience," Barroso-Spech said.

For a complete list and the schedule of all films, tickets and more information, visit: [www.nyadiff.org](http://www.nyadiff.org).



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# Keep Sober Driving In Mind This Labor Day Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. It's the Law.

By Dr. Laura Buchanan

This article is part of the #STCPreventionMatters campaign from the University of Maryland Medical Center. For more information about the campaign and the Center for Injury Prevention and Policy, visit: [www.umm.edu/PreventionMatters](http://www.umm.edu/PreventionMatters)

Every day, law enforcement officers and emergency personnel rush to the scene of tragic vehicle crashes. Often, the people involved in the motor vehicle crashes end up at Shock Trauma. Here we treat the most severe and life-threatening injuries in the state; 37 percent of which are caused by a motor vehicle crash. Each crash is unique—each cause and outcome is different.

In 2016, 37,461 people were killed in vehicle crashes, and nearly one-third of those fatalities (10,497) were due to drunk driving. Those numbers remain similar year after year. Even with the knowledge that drunk driving is criminal behavior (not to mention deadly) in all 50 States and Washington, D.C., people continue to drink and drive. Even after numerous DUIs, data shows some people continue this frightening behavior.

Drinking and driving is a choice, and it is a choice that should not be made.

Every month, our Shock Trauma nurses present on the consequences of drinking and driving for the Adult Court Ordered Drinking Driver Monitor Program. The vast majority of the people that attend are first time offenders and it is the nurses' goal to convince attendees to never drink and drive again. They would rather people not drink and drive in the first place.

At Shock Trauma, we firmly believe that most trauma, is preventable and death and injury resulting from drinking and driving is no exception. As a trauma surgeon, I have seen a single mistake ruin six or seven lives, even when the patient survives their injuries.

Patients can break bones, suffer from traumatic brain injuries, and even lose an arm or a leg after a crash. Some never recover. The person who made the rash decision put so many at risk. Few people knowingly decide to DRIVE DRUNK. Instead, people tend to underestimate



how impacted they are by the alcohol they consume. Remember, any amount of drinking and driving is dangerous and impairment begins with the very first sip.

The decision to not drink and drive should never be a tough one. Drunk driving is illegal, but it's also deadly—to the driver, to his or her passengers and to other road users. If you cannot control your own behavior, a law enforcement officer will. They will be out on high alert, seeking out drunk drivers during the holiday period, showing zero tolerance for anyone driving drunk. If they find you driving drunk, you will be arrested—no excuses!

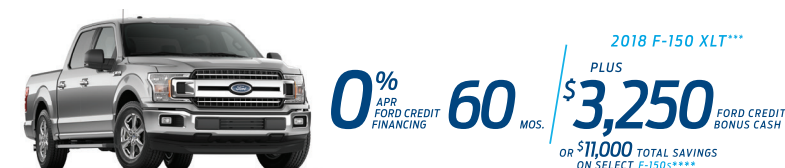
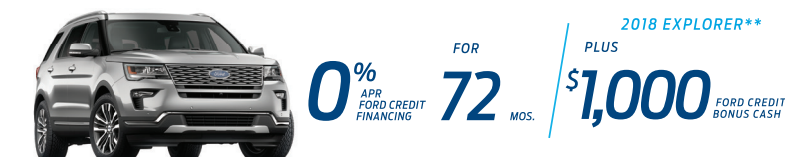
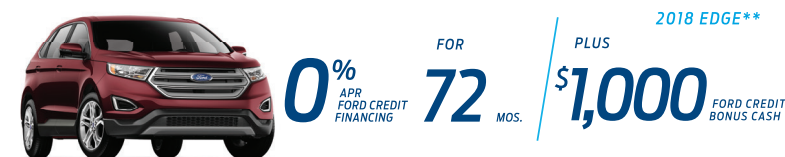
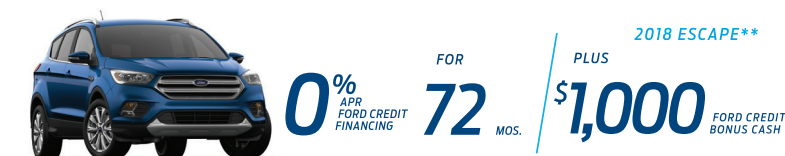
This news should not come as a surprise; everyone knows it is against the law to drink and drive. Alcohol consumption lowers inhibitions, causing you to make bad decisions you would not otherwise make. Do not trust yourself when you drink.

This Labor Day holiday, a time of year when drunk-driving fatalities and injuries surge, local law enforcement will be out in full force in support of the 2018 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. Between August 17 and September 3, 2018, law enforcement officers will team up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to participate in high-visibility exercises, pulling over and arresting drunk drivers. Save a life—do not make the tragic choice to drink and drive.

Laura Buchanan, MD is an assistant professor of trauma and surgical critical care at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a trauma surgeon at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center

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# State and Federal Government Sign Maryland Model All-Payer Contract

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan, together with Seema Verma, Administrator of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), signed and officially enacted Maryland's Total Cost of Care All-Payer Model, known as the "Maryland Model," in a signing ceremony at the Maryland State House.

The Maryland Model is an innovative approach to healthcare provider payment that is unique to Maryland and made possible via a contract between CMS and the state. The new model contract is expected to provide an additional \$300 million in savings per year by 2023, totaling \$1 billion in savings over five years.

"We are thrilled to be here today to officially execute and enact our unique and innovative Maryland Model, which is the only one of its kind in the nation," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Today, we are taking another major step forward in our efforts to ensure that every Marylander has access to quality healthcare. It is my hope that these actions will be an example to the nation that when both sides of the aisle and all levels of government



come together to develop innovative solutions, we can make real progress toward addressing our healthcare challenges and making care more accessible and more affordable."

"This Model is a step towards aligning the entire delivery system toward paying for value over volume," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. "Maryland has led the way by adopting the first alternative payment model to shift hospi-

tal payments to full global budgets. Success under this new Model will require both hospitals and physicians to be equally, committed to payment transformation and care redesign. We look forward to seeing the great work to come and to continuing to partner with you Governor Hogan, and the whole state of Maryland in this bold initiative."

"Maryland can be very proud of our new day in healthcare. [The] signing strengthens and expands our first in the nation patient-focused health system transformation. The Administration, the General Assembly, providers, insurers, and consumers are all working closely together to build a health system which puts keeping people healthy as our top priority," said Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative President Vincent DeMarco.

Maryland's previous All-Payer Model, approved in 2014, has already saved Medicare more than \$586 million through 2016, compared to national spending. Under the current model, hospitals have successfully reduced unnec-

essary readmissions and hospital-acquired conditions while decreasing the growth in hospital cost per capita.

The new Maryland Model will expand this successful approach across the healthcare system when it takes effect on January 1, 2019 and extends through the end of 2023. The contract can then be extended for an additional five years, pending a review of the terms.

The Maryland Model aims to control the growth in healthcare costs, both at hospitals and community providers, while improving patient outcomes and quality of care. To achieve this comprehensive coordination across the entire healthcare system, the Maryland Model will:

- Coordinate care across both hospital and non-hospital settings, including mental health and long-term care
- Invest resources in care that is focused on the patient and enhance primary-care teams to improve individual patient outcomes
- Set a range of quality and care improvement goals and provide incentives for providers to meet them
- Concentrate system and community resources on population health goals to help address opioid use and deaths, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions
- Encourage and facilitate programs focusing on the unique needs of Marylanders across geographic settings and other key demographics

The Maryland Model provides a significant incentive across the health system to provide greater coordinated care, expanded patient-care delivery, and collaboration of chronic disease management, while improving the quality of care at lower costs to the consumer.

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# Maryland mother-daughter duo become semi-finalist in Sally Beauty Supply competition

By Andrea Blackstone

At just 13 years old, Lexi Proctor (Lexi P.) is holding a golden opportunity in the palm of her hands, with the help of her mother. Before Lexi heads to a Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) as an eighth grader, the kidpreneur is creating a social media buzz to urge the public to vote for her company, Curlanistas, LLC (Curlanistas).

Lexi and her mother, Monica Proctor, are one of four semi-finalist hair care brands vying for a \$25,000 monetary grant, product distribution on SallyBeauty.com, and support to help grow her business through the Sally Beauty Cultivate program.

Online voting ends on August 12, 2017. The number of votes, and how well each brand pitches their business at Sally's headquarters in Texas, are factors which determine who will be awarded the top spot.

"This (winning) would help Lexi continue to expand her product line and get it on shelves across the country at Sally Beauty Supply at an accelerated rate," Proctor said. "It would also help her gain even more exposure to a larger audience."

Proctor—a Morgan State University alumna—is operations manager of Curlanistas, LLC. The dedicated mother explained that Sally Beauty Supply, the largest retailer and distributor of professional beauty supplies, crafted a Sally Beauty Cultivate program called "For Women by Women." Sally Beauty Supply has an established track record of supporting emerging products and entrepreneurs before they become household names. A business accelerator program was designed to help women beauty entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

All of these reasons explain why Lexi aims to make her big dreams come true.

"Vote for me because my brand needs this opportunity to help get my message of self-love out there even faster. My curl cream and detangler are really magical and will help so many people with their daily routine of caring for their nat-



***Lexi Proctor, 13, feels that the most rewarding part of being a kidpreneur is knowing that she is inspiring others to follow their dreams. Lexi's Curlanistas, LLC, is one of four semi-finalist brands vying for a \$25,000 monetary grant and product distribution on SallyBeauty.com to help grow her business through the Sally Beauty Cultivate program. The public can vote for Lexi's brand daily until August 12, 2018 via <https://www.sallybeauty.com/cultivate.html> to help her win a rare opportunity.*** Courtesy Photos



ural hair," Lexi said. "I also have other products I'm working on, and this will help me get there."

Ironically, Curlanistas was launched in 2016, and the hair line kicked off in 2018, because Lexi was once teased about her big, curly hair. She decided that she wanted to help girls going

through the same things by sparking a Curlanistas movement, which complimented her first book, "Curly Girls Love Your Curls."

Lexi's goal was to develop her brand to help girls to feel empowered to wear their hair big, bold and proud. She aimed to share her personal lessons about

learning to love herself in her first book. Her second book, "The Ice Cream Talk: Loving The Skin You're In!," expanded on the self-love topic.

"I [teach] girls how to love their hair with my books. Now, I want to teach girls how to care for their hair with my line of hair products," Lexi said. "I launched my Curlanistas hair line in February 2018, but did a soft launch at the world famous Bronner Brothers Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in August of 2017, and I sold out the first day."

Lexi has even recognized by Instagram, in partnership with the Book Confidence Code for Girls, through their #CaptureConfidence initiative. However, Lexi's ambition has been observable since she was a young girl. Proctor revealed that her daughter began showing interest in business at approximately nine years old.

"She asked me to buy some candy, so she could sell it in school [to buy] a new toy she wanted. She soon learned she wasn't allowed to sell the sweet treats at school, but quickly learned about another passion of hers which is writing,"

Proctor said. "Her fifth-grade teacher had Lexi enter a contest for a book she was required to write as a creative writing assignment, and a spark was lit."

After a few short weeks, Lexi informed her mother that she completed a draft of "Curly Girls Love Your Curls." That was the beginning of Proctor knowing that her daughter was serious about becoming an author, plus so much more.

"From there it was only natural for her to transition into the world of being a businesswoman in beauty. When we both saw the impact and responses we were getting from girls, and even grown women, we knew Lexi was doing something so important," Proctor said. "Lexi is passionate about her message and wants to help girls around the world feel good about themselves."

You may vote for Lexi's Curlanistas brand daily until August 12, 2018 via <https://www.sallybeauty.com/cultivate.html>



# Camp Impact Leaves a Mark at Ft. Washington Elementary/Middle School

*Reading-themed mural unveiled at closing ceremony.*

*By Ursula V. Battle*

A group of youth left a lasting impression at a Baltimore school thanks to one summer camp. The youngsters, who were 14-17 years of age, participated in “Camp Impact,” a five-week camp that introduced them to functional life skills. The camp exposed the youth to educational and cultural experiences to prepare them to become future leaders in their community.

Camp Impact’s largest community outreach project was a reading-themed mural created by the campers at Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School in East Baltimore’s Berea neighborhood. The mural’s theme is “Planting the seeds to read.”

On Friday July 27, 2018, Camp Impact closed out their summer camp program with a VIP reception and an unveiling of the mural. The ceremony took place at the school, which is located at 2710 E Hoffman Street in Baltimore. Fifteen youth participated in Camp Impact, which ran from July 25, 2018 to July 27, 2018.

Camp Impact was founded earlier this year by Live the Dream Foundation, a non-profit organization created by All Walks of Life LLC (AWL). The organization was founded in 2006 as an outpatient mental health clinic in the Baltimore metropolitan area. AWL assists youth who are in crisis and need support as they strive for self-empowerment. Live the Dream partnered with the Baltimore City Youth Works program to create the summer program.

Dr. Gwen Taliaferro is the director of Live the Dream Foundation and was the camp’s director.

“These were beautiful young people,” said Dr. Taliaferro. “We have to help children move along to assist them in achieving the goals they have set for themselves. We mentored them, and gave them life-skills. We have to have safe villages for our children. It is also important for our children to feel they are a part of the community and are giving back to it.”

During the camp, artist Breonna Erica worked with the youth.

“Breonna was outstanding,” said Dr. Taliaferro. “We didn’t know the painting skill of the campers, but Breonna said she would show them how to paint. Some of the students painted, others washed out the brushes, and others ran upstairs and downstairs to get and bring back supplies. They all pitched in to complete the mural, and they felt really good about that.”

She added, “At the end of the camp, they all received certificates. Breonna and the camp’s counselor Collette Preston talked to each of them about how they saw them grow, the light they saw in them, and what they needed to focus on. The children felt good about what they heard. Kids need to hear things like that. They were encouraging words for the youth, and made them feel good. They can take that encouragement with them back to school.”

During the camp, various speakers came in and spoke on a variety of topics, which included health and entrepreneurship. The speakers included Lee Taylor Butler, a developer and licensed realtor.

“We painted the mural at Ft. Washington, but in the afternoon we honed in on life skills,” said Preston. “We had a variety of speakers to come in and speak to the campers on various topics. Ms. Butler told her story from beginning to end. She is very successful, and her story inspired them. It let the campers know they can do it too. The students were paid for the mural, which gave them the opportunity to earn money over the summer. When it was complete, the campers’ reaction was ‘Wow! We did this!’”

She added, “The camp was incredible. It was seamless. The kids came from various backgrounds and bonded. They encouraged one another, laughed together, ran together, and played together. The goal of the mural was to give back to the younger children, and encourage them to read more and imagine more. The camp taught them there are many ways to give back. Camp Impact lived up to its name. It definitely made a huge impact.”



*The completed mural at Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School.*

*Courtesy Photos*



*A camper works on the mural during the five-week camp.*

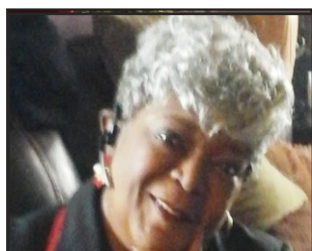


*Dr. Gwen Taliaferro Director of Live The Dream Foundation and Camp Director of Camp Impact talks to campers.*



# Rambling Rose

*Good Music Soothes the Nerves*



*Rosa Pryor Trusty*

Hello everyone! How are things with you? Happy, I hope. Well, looking at my calendar, I believe it is going to be a slow week ahead.....

There is a gospel event coming up, I think it will be awesome because of the acts they will have on the program. You know me, I love my down-home gospel entertainment just as much as I love R&B, oldies, blues and jazz.

Well on this particular program, I believe it will be a whole lot of stumping your feet, clapping your hands and maybe shouting up and down the aisles. Check this out! It is the "26th Anniversary of Sparkie & the Tones of Joy" featuring Lil Rev. & the Georgia Boyz from Douglas Georgia; Anointed Voices from Bainsburg, SC.; Spiritual Voices from Washington, DC.; Kenny Davis & the Melodyaires; The Singing Pastors from New Jersey; Sisters with a Voice Praise Team; Lil' James Price & the Men of God; The New Ebony Singers with Minister. The event takes place at 3:30 p.m. at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 2720 W. North Avenue in Baltimore. Dr. Linwood Robinson is the Pastor. For more information, call 410-949-6687. Tell them you heard about it from "Rambling Rose" in the Baltimore Times.

Speaking of good music, Cleve Brister and the late Ruth Kirk family is still having the "Ruth Kirk Festival" on Saturday, September 1st and Sunday, September 2nd. The date was changed on them by the City for the month of August, but having the festival in September is still good.

This will mark the "24th Annual Ruth

M. Kirk Family Fun Festival" on Labor Day Weekend from 12 noon until 8 p.m. on both days. Activities will include the Children's Village; arts & crafts; games; face painting; lots and lots of food vendors. The live entertainment will include: MC Booze; Rebirth; Marlene Ross; First Impression; Bonia' and her group; and the Spindles. The festival will begin with a parade on Saturday around 10 a.m. starting in the 200 block of N. Schroeder Street and the 1000 blk. of W. Lexington Street, straight up to the Square entrance on N. Carey and Fayette Street. The parade will end up in the center of Franklin Square Park where the event will happen. It is open and FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

Another event coming up is "Moon Man" Show & Dance Cabaret Style" on Friday, August 17th starting at 7 p.m. Free food and a bottle of champagne on every table, free set-ups, and BYOB. You can also bring your own food. The show will feature live in-person from the Motor City of Detroit: Jr. Walkers All Star Band & Show; Detroit Ladies of Soul; Blue Magic featuring Richard Pratt's, Ten Karat Gold Band & Show; The Panama Band & Show; and the Virtuoso Band. Sounds like a party to me! I will see you there. For more information, call Moon Man at 443-854-2771.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space and out of time, remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me [atrosapryor@aol.com](mailto:atrosapryor@aol.com). UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



*Clarence Ward III, saxophonist and trumpeter will be performing at An Die Musik, 409 N. Charles Street in Baltimore on Sunday, August 12 at 7 p.m. with Michael Bowie on bass, Allyn Johnson on piano and Quincy Phillips on drums. For more information, call 410-385-2638.*



*Willie "Moon Man" Bacote, former radio personality and now promoter will host a "Big Motown Show & Dance, Cabaret Style" on Friday, August 17, show starts at 8 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue.*



*Home Going Service for Leon Jones: Viewing is Friday, August 20 at Vaughn Green Funeral Home, 8728 Liberty Road from 4-8 p.m.; the Wake is Saturday, August 11, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3317 St Lukes Lane, in Baltimore at 10:30 a.m., funeral to follow at 11 a.m. Leon Jones was a popular DJ, a Brother of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, former Football Commissioner for Maryland Football and Sponsor with MD Ski Express. Condolences to his Family and Friends.*



*Happy Anniversary to Medford and Joan Campbell, my Brother and Sister of the Order in Prince Hall Mason and dear friends, may God continue to bless this special couple for many years to come.*

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# Peabo Bryson 'Stands for Love' with New CD

By Stacy M. Brown

Peabo Bryson sat on the front porch of his Buckhead, Georgia home, watching a family of deer pass by as the southern sky turned dark because of an impending storm.

Having recently completed his 21st studio album with the legendary production duo of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Bryson lit up as he talked about his career. He says he is as excited as ever about his new music and accompanying tour that will have him travel all over the United States and to Japan.

First, however, he wanted to talk about his son.

"I have such a beautiful family and my little man—I can tell you it's like watching a mini version of myself. Almost every single aspect of him reminds me of me," the proud father said.

One of the premiere vocalists in music over the past 40 years, Bryson has earned two Grammy Awards and two Academy Awards. He is also responsible for a memorable 1992 Oscar night performance with Angela Lansbury and Celine Dion as they earned rave reviews for their performance of the title track from the movie, "Beauty and the Best," which won Best Original Song.

With hits that include duets with Natalie Cole, Roberta Flack and Regina Belle, Bryson has the distinction of being the first artist in music history to have separate records topping four different charts.

He believes his new album, "Stand for Love," has even more hits, particularly because of the added touch of Jam and Lewis.



Peabo Bryson  
Courtesy Photo

"Excited doesn't begin to describe what it's like working with them. The first thing you notice is the absence of ego and self-importance," Bryson said about the producers who have worked with Prince, Michael Jackson and many others.

Together, Jam and Lewis made Janet Jackson an international icon.

"My challenge to them was, 'Can you make me current without destroying what has taken me a lifetime to accomplish?'" Bryson said. "I asked them if they could put me in today's conversation about music—to make me valid to

be in a conversation. I couldn't think of anyone else."

Even prior to its release, the new album has caught on.

The lead single, "Love Like Yours and Mine," has rocketed to No. 3 on Billboard's Adult R&B list and the second single, "All She Wants to Do is Me," has already been featured on the Showtime hit series, "The Chi."

Part of Bryson says his success can be credited to him being able to say no in a world where everybody is accustomed to hearing the opposite. "I was saying no to drugs long ago. Some might have

called me a 'goody-two-shoes' and a bunch of other things but I tend to look at it as being young and pragmatic, as opposed to young and restless," Bryson said.

The singer, whose career has yielded such hits as "Feel the Fire," "Tonight I Celebrate My Love," and "Can You Stop the Rain," has also kept the proper perspective on celebrity and real life.

"There are two things you have to understand about celebrity and success," Bryson said.

"One is, fame is not real. You have to accept that. Fame really for an artist is everybody else's perception of you, but you. Everybody else's perception is valid except for yours if you adapt that. In terms of success, everything that you have can be taken a way from you in the next five seconds.

"[Celebrities] become invulnerable and that's what they think success is but the hardest thing to navigate for a human being is not adversity—it's success itself. Every single virtue you've ever had or everything you've ever hoped to achieve. Look, I treat every human being that I come in contact with the way I want to be treated and look—I buy my own toilet paper."

For Bryson, the new album is just one more thing that he is grateful for.

"At this stage of my life, I appreciate things more completely and it's not just regular gratitude," he said. "I'm starting to appreciate the concept of second-hand grace, and I'm not sitting around waiting for that big grace. To have this kind of success and a seven-month-old to carry my name and to marry my best friend—yes, I'm grateful," he said.



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# Seven things to do in Annapolis & Anne Arundel County before end of summer

Annapolis— It won't be long before the kids' head back to school and another beloved summer comes to an end. As sad as the change in season might be for all lovers of long, relaxing summer days, Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) says there is still time to pack in plenty of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County fun before bidding an official farewell to the lazy, hazy days of summer!

As VAAAC sees it, no summer is complete without indulging in the following key experiences:

**Dinner Under the Stars**— Back for a third year, the weekly Wednesday night event on the first block of West Street in Annapolis's Arts District runs through September 19th. The street closes to traffic, and restaurateurs bring tables into the streets for al fresco dining beneath a canopy of white lights and heavenly stars. It's a perfect opportunity to feast with family and friends in a relaxed setting filled with live music and the arts.



**Wednesday Night Sailboat Races**— Treat yourself to a view of the Wednesday Night Sailboat Races, and you'll better understand why Annapolis is called America's Sailing Capital.

Since April, some 130 crews have been competing in midweek races that run through August 29th. It's not too late to make a reservation at your favorite waterfront restaurant to watch the boats battle it out. If you prefer, stake out a spot along the Spa Creek bridge or City Dock and watch the beauty and magnifi-



**Wednesday Night Sailboat Races**  
Photos: VisitAnnapolis.org

cence of dozens of spinnakers backlit by the setting sun unfold before your eyes. First gun is approximately 6:10 p.m.

**First Sunday Arts Festival**— Now in its 16th year, the First Sunday Arts Festival on the first blocks of West and Calvert Streets in Annapolis's Arts District is bigger and better than ever!

This year, organizers of the free event have expanded the number of artisans and added a local farmers market that offers fresh local produce, meats, seedlings, maple syrup and cheeses. Attendees are invited to peruse the offerings of nearly 150 local artisans and farmers on West and Calvert Streets from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month through November.

Patrons can dine at outdoor cafes and enjoy live music at four free performance stages including Weisman Park near the 26 West Street Visitors Center;

the main stage next to Stan & Joe's Saloon; City Gate Park on the second block of West Street; and on Calvert Street in Whitmore Park.

**Comedy in the Courtyard**— This summer marks the sixth year Annapolis Shakespeare Company is presenting comedy in the outdoor courtyard at Reynolds Tavern's 1747 Pub.

Every Tuesday through September 25th, Annapolis Shakespeare Company is presenting Moliere's fast-paced comedy, *The Miser*, directed by ASC's founding artistic director Sally Boyett. Guests can enjoy a fine meal and a superb performance in the intimacy of the tavern's outdoor courtyard.

**Outdoor Concerts**— Live music lovers are invited to enjoy an outdoor concert nearly every day of the week in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County!

Susan Campbell Park at City Dock is

the place to be for the City of Annapolis's "Rock the Dock" concert series on Thursday evenings through September 7th.

The Annapolis Maritime Museum's Tides & Tunes summer concerts are another Thursday night favorite through August 16th.

Individuals exploring Friday night options may want to check out the Annapolis Towne Centre at Parole concerts through August 24th.

The Greater Parole Community Association presents its Chambers Park Summer Concert Series on Friday evenings through September 21st, and Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater serenades music lovers with Sunday night concerts through August 26th.



**Get Out on the Water**— A great day can be made even better by just adding water! It doesn't matter how you do it, just get out on the water now – before many a boat gets shrink wrapped for the season at the end of October! Whether you opt for a five-minute water taxi ride, a 40-minute Harbor Queen tour, a two-hour sail aboard the 74-foot Schooner Woodwind, or you elect to captain your own electric boat, there are a host of ways to get out in the harbor or out on the Chesapeake Bay! For those who prefer an additional workout, Stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking are great ways to explore waterways as well.



< **Waterfront Concert**  
Photo: Kenneth Tom Photography



## Landmark Alzheimer's Study Urgently Seeks Volunteers



### *Study focuses on early detection of Alzheimer's disease and tracking it over time*

(Family Features) Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death overall in the United States and affects more than 5 million Americans. According to experts, this number could triple to nearly 16 million people by 2050. A momentous scientific study focused on early detection of Alzheimer's disease, and tracking it over time, seeks healthy volunteers without memory problems, as well as people who have mild memory problems and those who have been diagnosed with mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease.

The prestigious Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative – or ADNI – funded by the National Institutes of Health, is one of the largest and longest running Alzheimer's disease trials in history. Now in the third phase of trials, researchers are studying how quickly things like reasoning and the ability to perform certain functions change in the aging brain. Researchers need to better understand the disease progression in order to speed the pace of discovery in the race to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer's disease.

"It is extremely important that more people get involved in the fight against Alzheimer's disease, which affects nearly

all of us in some way," said Michael Weiner, MD, principal investigator of the study. "We need to know how Alzheimer's disease progresses in order to discover new treatments that could significantly improve the way we treat it in the future."

The study uses state-of-the-art imaging to monitor brain levels of two proteins called tau and amyloid, both of which are significant indicators of Alzheimer's disease. Researchers track cognitive function through computer tests at home and in a doctor's office, which includes measuring changes in one's ability to handle money, a common warning sign of the disease.

"One of the biggest challenges researchers face is finding people to volunteer to take part in studies," said Weiner. "We can beat Alzheimer's, but we can't do it without volunteers. We need help."

The ADNI Study needs 800 people to enroll in sites across the United States and in Canada. Researchers are looking for people between the ages of 55 and 90 who have normal thinking and memory function, as well as those who have mild memory problems and those who have been diagnosed with mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. No medication is involved.

Potential study volunteers can learn more by visiting [www.ADNI3.org](http://www.ADNI3.org) or by calling 1-888-2-ADNI-95 (1-888-223-6495).

## A. A. County Community Action Agency appoints new Interim CEO

ANNAPOLIS – The Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency, Inc. Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Dr. Charlestine R. Fairley as Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Agency.

Dr. Fairley joins the agency after a more than 30 year career as a leader in higher education administration. Her career has included serving as an award-winning Dean with extensive administrative experience within institutions of higher education, secondary school systems, federal government agencies, community groups, international organizations, and nonprofit entities. She has been widely recognized for her service to the Anne Arundel County community as well as others where she has resided.

"Dr. Fairley is the consummate professional who significantly impacts any organization with which she has been affiliated. Her work on behalf of families in the Anne Arundel community is well-respected and is just what the Agency needs at this time," stated Leslie N. Stanton, President of the Agency's Board of Directors.



*Dr. Charlestine R. Fairley*

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