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Four Franklin High School Students Receive T. Rowe Price Scholarships



Four students from Franklin High School are the first recipients of a scholarship named in honor of a famous alumnus— T. Rowe Price. Franklin High School graduates (left-right): Noor Shaike, Margaret Garcia, Daisy Atika, and Syncere Hobbs were selected by the school's guidance department and alumni association and received an initial scholarship of \$2,000. They are eligible to renew the prize for the next four years as long as they continue to meet the criteria. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo

DLA Piper lawyer named chairman of new Equal Justice Associates group

By Stacy M. Brown

Darryl Tarver, an associate in the Baltimore office of the global law firm DLA Piper, has been appointed chairman of Maryland Legal Aid's new Equal Justice Associates (EJA) group.

United to support Maryland Legal Aid's mission of providing equal access to civil legal assistance and representation for low-income Maryland residents, EJA members are young lawyers committed to organizing and developing greater support for Maryland Legal Aid's pro bono efforts.

Those who know him say, Tarver has a broad litigation practice—he has represented global product manufacturers, retailers and insurance companies in state and federal courts and he has also been part of teams conducting internal corporate investigations.

"The EJA is a group of young lawyers who support Maryland Legal Aid in its purpose, which is 'advancing human rights and justice for all,' through pro bono service, fundraising and ambassadorship, and the end result of the EJA's efforts is to support Maryland Legal Aid's work to provide equal access to justice for Maryland's most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable residents, including victims of domestic violence, victims of child abuse and neglect, persons with disabili-



Darryl Tarver
DLA Piper Baltimore
Courtesy Photo

ties, veterans and seniors," Tarver said.

"The pro bono service and fundraising efforts organized by the EJA, empower people to obtain life-changing solutions to their civil legal issues.

"Because of the need for civil legal assistance among underserved Maryland residents, Maryland Legal Aid's staff often calls upon private attorneys to represent clients on a pro bono basis. Providing pro bono representation is one of the principal ways in which EJA supports Maryland Legal Aid."

EJA members represent clients of

Maryland Legal Aid, who are generally low-income individuals seeking civil legal assistance whose income officials say thresholds for the free service vary based on a number of factors.

"EJA's fundraising efforts allow Maryland Legal Aid to serve more people in more communities with life-changing legal help," Tarver said.

For example, in 2017, Tarver noted that contributions from donors enabled Maryland Legal Aid to help 1,515 people avoid the devastating loss of their homes; 227 people obtain protection from the terror of domestic violence; and 171 people secure critical medical benefits.

Clients may engage Maryland Legal Aid by telephone, online, or in-person at one of the 12 offices throughout the state.

Maryland Legal Aid also hosts regular clinics at various locations, including libraries, places of worship and community centers.

"My involvement with EJA has helped me to become a more well-rounded lawyer, which benefits my work at DLA Piper," Tarver said.

"Through pro bono representation, I am able to engage directly with Maryland Legal Aid clients and serve as their lead counsel, which is less than common for a junior lawyer at a large law firm.

"That level of responsibility and

engagement helps me to hone [my] skills that translate to other client interactions. As Chair of EJA, I am also able to demonstrate leadership skills and expand my professional network, both of which will be valuable as I progress in my career."

While volunteering with EJA and Maryland Legal Aid isn't the only way to serve low-income Marylanders, it does offer some special benefits, according to Tarver.

First, Maryland Legal Aid maintains several offices throughout the state, so EJA members can serve populations outside of the major metropolitan areas.


Second, Maryland Legal Aid is the largest private, non-profit law firm in the state, so when EJA members take on clients, Maryland Legal Aid has staff who are ready and willing to serve as co-counsel.

Third, EJA members come from several different legal backgrounds, including large and small private law firms, non-profit organizations, state and federal government agencies.

"So, it is a great platform for networking with other young lawyers who are committed to providing justice for underserved Marylanders," Tarver said.

Anyone wishing to engage the services of Maryland Legal Aid can obtain more information at: www.mdlab.org or by calling 410-951-7777 or 800-999-8904.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Don't let small dollar loans ruin your holidays

By Charlene Crowell

At this wonderful time of the year when family and friends gather in good cheer to celebrate the holidays, nearly everyone has a number of lists. From greeting cards to shopping for gifts, decorations and more, lists are made and reviewed to keep pace with the barrage of seasonal activities.

However if holiday lists seem bigger than budgets, turning to a high-interest, "small dollar" loan can turn joy and merriment into a financial quagmire. The good news is that holiday financial hangovers that predatory lenders give don't need to be a part of your celebrations.

Just keep walking or drive past the brightly colored signs advertising high-interest, small dollar loans. Both payday and car title loans can provide quick cash but the harms these loans create will likely linger well past the winter's cold. In truth, these predatory loans often lead to consumers paying more in interest and fees than the money borrowed.

Research by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) has found that predatory payday loans drain \$4.1 billion in fees from consumers annually— borrowers who typically are unable to fully repay the original loan, usually in two weeks' time. With average annual interest rates averaging 391 percent, 75 percent of all payday loans go to borrowers with more than 10 loans a year.

Like payday loans, car title loans are often marketed as an easy way to get cash without a credit check but with interest rates that tend to be 20-30 times higher than that of credit cards. The average car title loan of about \$1,000 can only be secured by signing a personally owned car as collateral. Further, the loan may only be a fraction of the marketable value of the vehicle. While the lender holds on to a car title, the borrower is faced with triple-digit interest and in one of five cases, a whopping 20 percent, the loss of personal transportation.

As harmful as payday and car title loans are, other seemingly harmful small dollar, transactions can also cause financial havoc.

If you believe pre-paid cards will always avoid financial rip-offs, think again.

Before paying cash for this convenient form of plastic, read all of the fine print that explains the terms and fees that come with its usage. Terms and options can and do vary significantly. Many include a range of fees from activation, to learning your current balances, reloading monies and in some cases fees for inactivity. By the time all applicable fees are assessed, the amount of money actually available on that prepaid card can shrink and shortchange how far it can help on purchases.

Similarly, the convenience of debit cards can easily trigger overdraft charges for consumers with slim or no checking account cushions. CRL research has shown that although overdraft fees vary by institution, the average \$35 overdraft fee on a debit card is double the amount of the overdraft itself. Banks engage in a range of unfair and deceptive tactics to maximize these fees, which can amount to hundreds of dollars over the course of just a day or two— talk about a holiday damper. Too many overdrafts can lead to involuntary account closures.

This holiday season try adding a full measure of practical sense to help your dollars preserve the spirit and joy of the season— it only comes once a year!

Charlene Crowell is the Communications Deputy Director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: harlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



Community Affairs

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at annual parade Jan. 21, 2019

Application Deadline: Monday, December 31, 2018

Baltimore— The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) announces the 19th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Monday, January 21, 2019 at noon.

The parade celebrates the life of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with community-based civic organizations, high stepping bands, colorful cheer and dance squads, military units, equestrian groups and decorative floats.

The parade steps off at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Eutaw Street, proceeds south on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and disbands at Baltimore Street. Groups and

organizations wishing to participate in the celebration can apply at www.promotionandarts.org. The application deadline is Monday, December 31, 2018.

The procession commemorates the remarkable leader's advocacy for racial equality, economic justice and international peace. Martin Luther King Jr. Day promotes collaboration throughout Baltimore City bringing together residents, visitors, elected representatives and organizations for a parade steep in tradition.

The MLK Parade is produced by BOPA and supported by the City of Baltimore and media partner Radio One: 92Q, Magic 95.9, Praise 106.1 and WOLB 1010.

For more information on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, call 410-752-8632 or visit www.promotionandarts.org.

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission.

Your letter will not be published without the required information. Please send your letter by regular mail to:

Letters to the Editor, The Annapolis Times, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218

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Dear Black People: Adoption is a great option

By **Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D.**
NNPA Newswire
Entertainment and Culture Editor

November was National Adoption Awareness Month, which came about as an effort to encourage families to consider adopting children in the foster care system.

First introduced in 1976 by then Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis as National Adoption Week, who wanted to help find forever homes for the massive number of children in foster care.

Former President Gerald Ford made the initiative a proclamation due to the large number of states participating in the week. Thus, the month of November which is usually associated with Thanksgiving—a time for families to come together over food, fellowship and football—was proclaimed as National Adoption Month in 1990 by then President George H.W. Bush.

Adoption is a great option for all families, especially African-American families who typically “take in” children as a regular practice. The informal practice

of “adopting” children began in the United States when black families were often destroyed by the system and practice of slavery. Slaves were sold and traded, so families were broken up, leaving children behind in need of care.

Following slavery, Jim Crow and other national segregation policies discriminated against blacks, denying them adoption services afforded whites by

There are 428,000 children in foster care in the United States and more than half of them are children of color. Half of the children are African-American, most of them are boys and a quarter of the children are over age six. These are the children who are in foster care long-term.

In 2015, 670,000 children spent time in foster care and that number is growing. If we consider the number of black

response was always, “The prisons are full of people who know their parents,” and “As an educator, many are messed up and it isn’t because they’re adopted,” or “Adopted children aren’t the only children who have a hard time bonding with their parents.”

This false idea that if you have biological children, then you won’t have any problems is not only ridiculous but disingenuous. Adopted children are children in need of unconditional love, guidance, commitment and stability and if you have it to give, then why not?

I can honestly say adopting my daughter was the best decision I have ever made. I consider it a privilege to be her mother and she has added so much value to my life, that I cannot imagine my life without her in it.

I look forward to helping to guide her, encouraging her to follow her dreams and helping her reach her goals while becoming a thoughtful, decent and productive human being. Who better than black folk with our history of informal adoption practices and remarkable resiliency in the face of continuous adversity, to give a black child a greater chance at a decent life?

Which leads me back to my original point. Adoption is a great option for black folk. It can be difficult and is unnecessarily complicated, but it’s absolutely worth it.

Nsenga K. Burton, Ph.D. is the entertainment and culture editor for the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). She is founder & editor-in-chief of the award-winning news blog The Burton Wire, which covers news of the African Diaspora. Follow her on Twitter @Ntellecual or @TheBurtonWire.

Nearly 23 percent of African-American children are being raised by a grandparent due to a number of socio-political and socio-economic issues— mass incarceration, health issues, divorce, unemployment. Black folks step up when our children need us and many children we may not know need us now.

adoption agencies and institutions, resulting in many black children in need of guardianship.

According to The Adoption History Project at the University of Oregon, “In some states with large African-American populations, such as Florida and Louisiana, not a single African-American child was placed for adoption by an agency for many years running as recently as the 1940s.”

The practice of caring for children that may not have been biologically related, was prevalent and continues today.

Nearly 23 percent of African-American children are being raised by a grandparent due to a number of socio-political and socio-economic issues— mass incarceration, health issues, divorce, unemployment. Black folks step up when our children need us and many children we may not know need us now.

children available for adoption through private agencies, then it is clear that the agencies are teeming with black children that need good homes. Black and brown children are the least likely to be adopted and disproportionately age out of the foster care system.

Thus, it is imperative that black people, who have a history of informal adoption practices, consider adopting children as an option.

As an adoptive parent from a family with a history of adoption on both sides, I often say if you have a lot of love, are financially and emotionally stable and have good sense, then adoption is for you.

When I was in the process of adopting, I heard terrible things from so-called friends, “You don’t know what you’re getting,” and “Adopted kids are messed up,” or “Adopted kids have a hard time bonding with their families.” My

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Author's new book tells tale of young girl who lives life grounded in her Jamaican roots

By Stacy M. Brown

Surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, Jamaica is an island rich in history, culture and family, and the buoyancy of the music that plays in various locations and homes throughout that island nation brings life and stirs the soul, according to Ayesha V. Dwyer, a passionate storyteller who shares an adventurous tale of a young girl who lives life grounded in her Jamaican roots in her new children's book, "Sista Me – Every Mikkel Make a Mukkel."

"Jamaica is a lively place where seemingly the sun is forever smiling and the clouds are never dreary. This is the perfect backdrop for a children's story," said Dwyer, a wife and mom of two who lives in the Chicago suburb of Wadsworth.

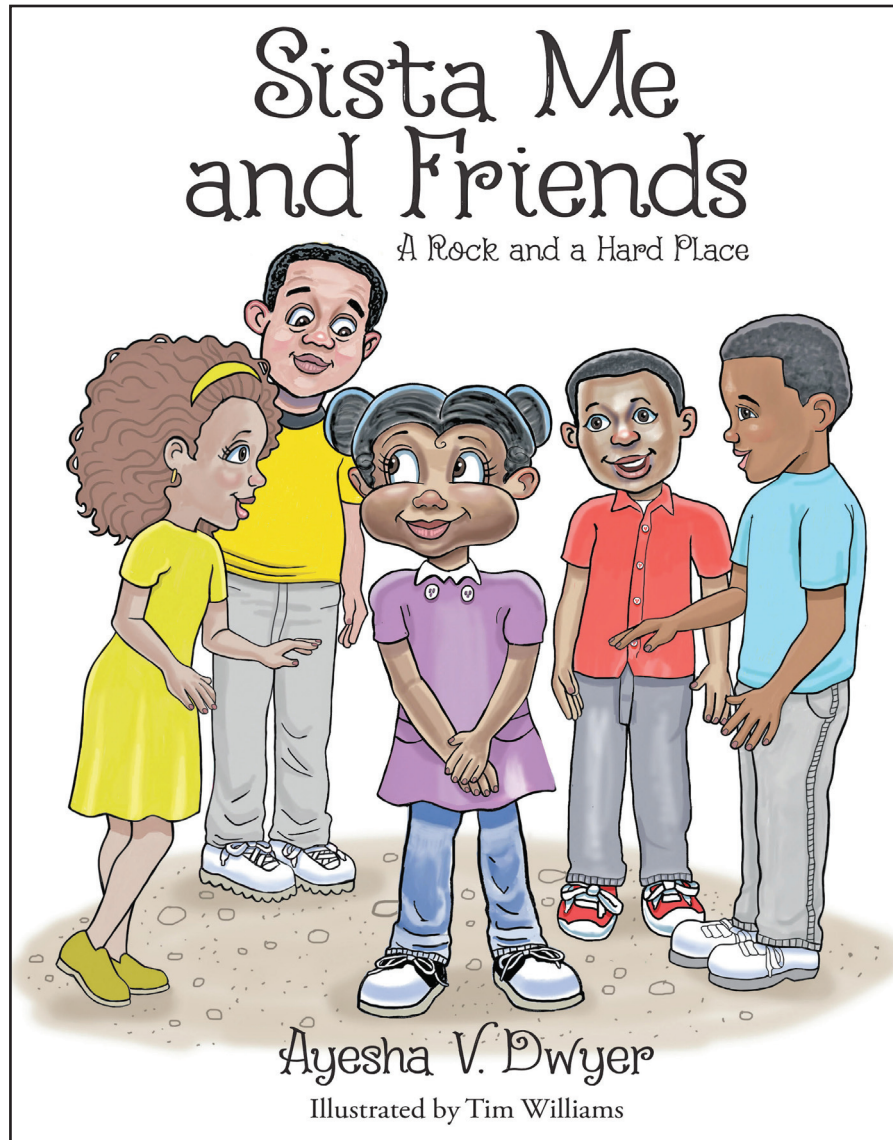
Her illustrated hardcover book chronicles the fictional story of a little girl who shares her Jamaican descent through fun and adventure, and awakens readers to life on the tropical island.

It also shows Dwyer's love of Jamaica, the people, the language and the culture; and even though the characters reside in the United States, the Jamaican influences are very apparent.

In the book, readers are taken on a journey with "Keturah," whose nickname is "Sista Me." There is also "Jaggy," Keturah's grandfather; "Auntie Merty," her mother; "Kingston," her brother; "Noelle," her best friend; and host of other family members and friends.

The book weaves in cultural references, some Jamaican patois, and a glossary to help readers find the definitions of the words.

"Jaggy" counts as a central character always there to support Sista Me, as she



Written by Ayesha V. Dwyer and illustrated by Tim Williams, the book "Sista Me – Every Mikkel Make a Mukkel," chronicles the fictional story of a little girl who shares her Jamaican descent through fun and adventure, and awakens readers to life on the tropical island. Sista Me is available for purchase at SistaMe.com; Amazon.com; and iTunes.

Courtesy Photo

navigates her way through childhood. "You know young kids are full of adventure," Dwyer said. "Sista Me is just

one of those kids who will bring a smile to your face no matter what they do." Dwyer says she drew inspiration to

write the book from her own youth.

"As an adolescent, I was quite rambunctious and facetious; a class clown to say the least. During those times, it was often the wisdom, and aphorisms of my grandfather, Joe. L. McDonald that kept me out of sticky situations," she said. "I was inspired to write this story on account of my relationship with my grandfather. There is nothing more precious and endearing than the relationship between a child and their grandparent."

She also says she had the pleasure of bonding and developing a close relationship with her husband's grandfather, Jaggy, who is of Jamaican decent.

"Jaggy was a man of few words, however when he spoke, there was always a lesson to be learned," Dwyer said.

The book's "Jaggy," is the main character's confidante. He is the teacher and the hero, Dwyer said.

"Sista Me considers him her superhero. They have a very close relationship and on account that Jaggy resides with Sista Me and her family, he's often the first person she encounters before each new adventure," Dwyer said. "Sista Me values Jaggy's insight, even though she may not fully appreciate it until she finds herself in another sticky situation. But, even still, Jaggy is always present when she needs him the most."

To Dwyer, the overall importance lies in having the ability to unlock the imagination of a child, which she calls a gift.

"It's a gift that I most cherish. I desire to inspire children to be creative and utilize their gifts for greatness," Dwyer said. "My goal is to continue to write stories that will be admired and shared for many generations."

"Sista Me – Every Mikkel Make a Mukkel" is available for purchase at SistaMe.com; Amazon.com; and iTunes.



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Ravens, Brandon Carr surprise local principal with Super Bowl tickets

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have been a pillar in the community since moving to the area in 1996. The team's community outreach programs have done great things for local schools.

Ravens cornerback Brandon Carr recently made a trip to Glenmount Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City to make a surprise presentation to school principal, Ben Mosley.

"We are going to do something very exciting," Carr told the students in a video on the Ravens' team site. "We're about to give away some tickets but listen, this is not a regular ticket. This is for February. I was able to finesse two tickets to the Super Bowl. I was trying to figure out somebody very important and special to give them to."

The kids mentioned their principal, Ben Mosley.

Carr is the Ravens 2018 Walter Payton Man of the Year nominee, as a result of his volunteer and charity work,



Baltimore Ravens cornerback Brandon Carr celebrates as he is being introduced before the game against the Indianapolis Colts at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, last month.
Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

which includes devoting his time to the students at Glenmount.

"Brandon Carr has been an intricate part of Glenmount," Mosley said via

the team site. "He comes and reads to the children. He mentors the children, and he's able to bring resources, and brings smiles to their faces. The thing about him reaching out to our kids is that it's a long-lasting effect."

The kids recognize that Mosley is a big part of their exposure to a professional athlete like Carr. That's why it came so naturally for them to mention him as someone who deserves the Super Bowl tickets.

"Mr. Mosely, I just want to say thank you," Carr explained. "From day one, just opening the door and allowing us to come in and do our magic in your building with all of these special children. Hopefully, you can come watch us in February. That's the plan!"

At 7-6, the Ravens currently occupy the final wildcard spot in the playoffs. They have three games to go before the season is over and one would think that Mosley hopes he'll get to see his local team in Atlanta for Super Bowl LIII.



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Holiday Treats That Are Twice As Nice

(Family Features) Transform one vibrant holiday flavor into two festive treats that family and friends are sure to love. Nothing signals the holiday season like the sweet and spicy snap of gingerbread. Enjoy this must-have flavor in freshly baked Gingerbread Men Cookies or a Triple Chocolate Gingerbread cake.

Gingerbread Men Cookies

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 8 minutes

Servings: 24

- 3 cups flour**
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Ground Ginger**
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg**
- 1/4 teaspoon salt**
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened**
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar**
- 1/2 cup molasses**
- 1 egg**
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract**

In large bowl, mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt. Set aside.

In separate large bowl, using electric mixer on medium speed, beat butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into thick, flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap.

Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Heat oven to 350 F. Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness on lightly floured work surface. Cut into gingerbread men shapes with 5-inch cookie cutter. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes, or until edges of cookies are set and just begin to brown. Cool on baking sheets 1-2 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Decorate as desired.



Triple Chocolate Gingerbread

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 50 minutes

Servings: 16

- 1 package (2-layer size) chocolate cake mix**
 - 1 package (4-serving size) chocolate instant pudding mix**
 - 4 eggs**
 - 1 tablespoon McCormick Ground Ginger**
 - 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon**
 - 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Ground Allspice**
 - 1/2 cup sour cream**
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil**
 - 1/2 cup molasses**
 - 1/2 cup water**
 - 1 cup miniature chocolate chips**
- nonstick baking spray with flour**

Heat oven to 350 F. In large bowl, using electric mixer on low speed, beat cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, ginger, cinnamon, allspice, sour cream,



vegetable oil, molasses and water until moistened, scraping sides of bowl frequently. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips.

Pour into 10-cup Bundt pan prepared with nonstick spray.

Bake 50 minutes, or until cake pulls away from sides of pan and springs back when touched lightly. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Invert cake onto wire rack. Cool completely.

Find more gingerbread treats at McCormick.com.



Four Franklin High School Students Receive T. Rowe Price Scholarships

Famous investment firm founder is an alumnus
By Ursula V. Battle

Four students from Franklin High School are the first recipients of a scholarship named in honor of a famous alumnus— T. Rowe Price. Franklin High School graduates Noor Shaikhe, Margaret Garcia, Daisy Atika, and Syncere Hobbs were selected by the school's guidance department and alumni association and received an initial scholarship of \$2,000. They are eligible to renew the prize for the next four years as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

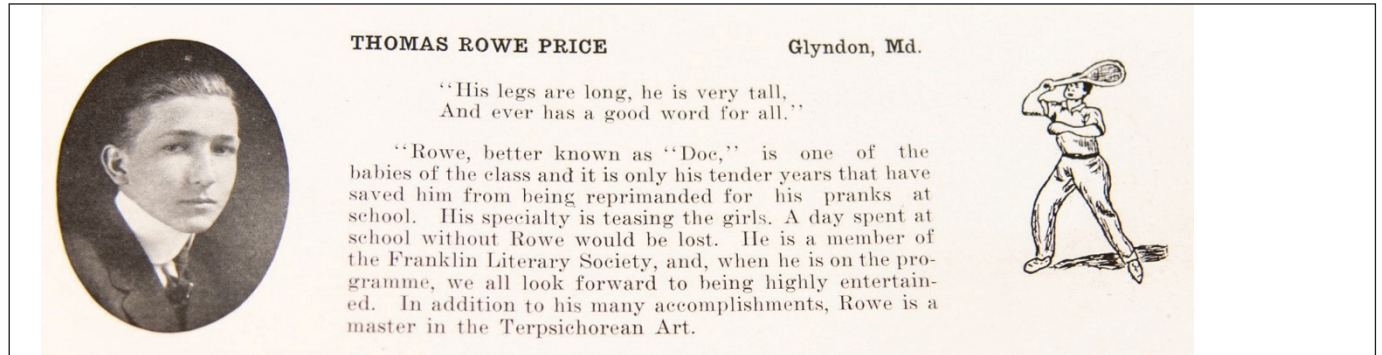
The students attend the following schools: Shaikhe, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC); Garcia, Towson University; Hobbs, University of Maryland, College Park; and Atika, the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC).

"This scholarship really helps a lot," said Garcia. "I thank T. Rowe Price for this scholarship along with the wonderful assistance of Franklin High School's guidance department."

The T. Rowe Price scholarship was created to support students at Franklin, which is located in Reisterstown, Maryland. Price was a member of the graduating class of 1914.

"This is really a story about a graduate from 1914 touching graduates in 2018," says Renee Christoff, head of Global Associate Engagement + Corporate Responsibility for T. Rowe Price. "We are giving in honor of Mr. Price to touch students at his alma mater."

Born Thomas Rowe Price Jr. on March 16, 1898, Price received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Swarthmore Col-



Thomas Rowe Price, Jr. in his Franklin High School senior yearbook.
Courtesy Photo

lege in 1919. With his degree in chemistry, Price initially sought a career with the chemical company DuPont. However, he soon realized that he was more interested in money management than scientific research, and left DuPont to join a series of small investment firms and brokerages.

He founded the investment firm T. Rowe Price in 1937. The company offers mutual funds, subadvisory services, and separate account management for individuals, institutions, retirement plans, and financial intermediaries.

"We focused on students who had worked hard to be successful in school but were not necessarily at the very top of the class," said Tanya L. Scott, School Counseling Department chairperson at Franklin High School. "We were looking for students who made positive contributions to Franklin High School and overall were well-rounded, good young people."

After learning of their awards, the students visited the firm's Owings Mills campus, where they had lunch and a tour. Franklin High School principal Patrick McCusker accompanied the students on their tour, along with guidance

counselors and members of the school's Alumni Association.

"Our mission is to make sure that we set students up for success after high school," said McCusker. "That is, we are committed to providing them with the knowledge and skills to be successful as they transition into post-secondary education, the military, or the workforce.

"The T. Rowe Price scholarships help to ensure that financial need is not a barrier for qualified students who want to further their education. As the alma mater of the business's founder, we are honored that T. Rowe Price has become a partner in helping us fulfill our mission."

The latest scholarships are a part of T. Rowe Price's mission to grow their relationship with the school and help deserving students. The firm also awarded scholarships to the school six years ago.

"I think it is a great way to showcase that the business community recognizes Franklin High is living up to our motto," said McCusker. "We want to be second to none in preparing them for success after high school. We can give them academic support but can't support them financially after they graduate. Doors have opened up for these students after high school because of T. Rowe Price's generosity."



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Developing Trail Network Aims to Foster Immense Change in Baltimore

By Demetrius Dillard

A group of local organizations recently coalesced to devise a plan to revitalize the cultural fabric of Baltimore with a “trail network” that will make life more convenient for some of the city’s underprivileged residents while addressing inequities in access to transportation.

A \$250,000 grant was awarded to the City of Baltimore Department of Transportation to support the development of a key segment of the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network - seeks to create a 35-mile world-class network of urban trails that link together the diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities and outdoor resources that make up the landscape of Baltimore City - located along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River between the Gwynns Falls Trail and Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

Jim Brown, manager of trail development for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), is one of the leaders of the project.

RTC, according to its website, serves as the national voice for more than 160,000 members and supporters, 31,000 miles of rail-trails and multi-use trails, and more than 8,000 miles of potential trails waiting to be built, with a goal of creating more walkable, bikeable communities in America.

The conservancy’s national office is located in Washington, D.C., with regional offices in California, Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Brown says the grant was awarded to the City of Baltimore in September this year and funding was used to finish the design and make the trail project construction-ready in South Baltimore. The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition and RTC worked closely with several local partners to secure the grant and develop preliminary design concepts for the South Baltimore portion of the trail project, and will continue to work with the city government and local communities to complete the design.

Brown, a Baltimore native and resident says the completion of the 35-mile trail network is expected to be complete in the next five to seven years. Only about



Some of the existing trail sections in Baltimore City highlight the type of trail improvements the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy hopes to use a City of Baltimore grant to create a 35-mile trail, serving as a convenient means of enhancing transportation in the city. Photo Credit: Side A Photography.

10 miles of the trail needs to be completed in four different corridor gaps. The grant, Brown added, will help complete the South Baltimore gap between the Inner Harbor and Middle River sections.

“The idea being that it will open up a number of communities in South Baltimore to be connected to the downtown area and to the city’s waterfront. It won’t just be a biking and walking tool, but will be a real community development tool—a transportation tool that opens up opportunities for residents to get downtown and residents to get to parks nearby,” Brown said.

The Sharp-Leadenhall, Westport and Cherry Hill neighborhoods are three predominately black neighborhoods in South Baltimore that are located close to downtown and are part of the overall project. The transportation options are inadequate for the mostly low-income and disadvantaged members of these communities and the trail network is working to address the issues that persist in that regard, prioritizing those areas as part of the project to give people better access to the amenities and establishments close by that otherwise may not be easily accessible through local transit.

“It’s an opportunity to start connecting businesses to customers, workers to their job sites, just to fill in some of the last vital issues in the public transportation system. And it’s a way for Baltimore to celebrate some of its outdoor spaces at the parks that make up the city,” Brown continued. “[These linear paths will allow] residents to really experience the city in a way that selects the diversity of the landscape and the people of Baltimore.”

When complete, the trail will also connect what is now a disjointed collection of sidewalks and on-road bicycle facilities into a seamless off-road trail linking Gwynns Falls Trail and Middle Branch Park to the Westport Waterfront, according to Patricia Brooks of MatchMap Media.

The new trail segment will provide scenic views of Baltimore’s skyline and direct access to one of the last undeveloped shorelines in Baltimore, as well as a safe multimodal route to navigate from downtown to Middle Branch Park in South Baltimore.

“An RTC TrailNation™ Project, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is a key feature of the city’s Green Network Plan to redevelop vacant land, and con-

nect natural areas and community corridors, in an effort to revitalize underserved neighborhoods throughout Baltimore,” Brooks said in a statement.

The project, which is largely community-driven, is also designed to highlight Baltimore’s history, and will provide easier, safer routes to light rail and metro train stations in addition to creating and enriching the cultural, recreational and economic opportunities for Baltimore residents and visitors.

Theoretically, the RTC will be spearheading a plan that may transform Baltimore into a more productive place with the implementation of much-needed community assets.

“As a community, we need to come up with better solutions to transportation problems, because transportation leads to access of opportunity for everybody,” Brown said.

“And the trail network can be a piece of that puzzle when we are thinking about holistic ways to adjust some of these very serious problems.”

Hunger, food insecurities rise during holidays

By Stacy M. Brown

With the holiday season in full swing with festivities that include parties, celebrations, and lots of well-wishing, there still remains another tradition that is always quite sobering—the awareness that hunger is widespread.

One in nine households in America struggles to put food on the table and 220,111 people live in census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more while 3,555 veterans live below the poverty line, according to the nonprofit, Bread for the World.

Even though the United States and the world have made substantial progress against hunger and poverty over the past 50 years, there are too many people that are still being left behind.

Ending hunger and poverty requires political will as well as comprehensive solutions that enable people to move toward financial stability.

In Maryland, 655,420 people are struggling with hunger and of them, 205,800 are children, according to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. Reportedly, the food insecurity rate in Baltimore stands at 23 percent, by far the highest of any jurisdiction in the state.

Food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Hunger and food insecurity are proven to have lasting effects on a child, according to officials from the nonprofit Public Citizens for Children and Youth.

The value of increased poor educational outcomes and lost lifetime earnings as a result of hunger and food insecurity was \$19.2 billion in 2010, according to the national report *Hunger in America*, published by the Center for American Progress and co-authored by PCCY's executive director.

Earlier this month, Wells Fargo launched its second annual Holiday



Food Bank program to help feed people and families in need this holiday season.

The banking giant kicked off the program with a \$4 million donation to Feeding America, the largest domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. Wells Fargo will also match up to an additional \$1 million in consumer monetary donations to Feeding America, potentially bringing Wells Fargo's total contribution up to \$5 million.

The organization estimates that, with every \$1 contribution to Feeding America providing 10 meals, Wells Fargo will help secure more than 40 million meals for people in need.

Feeding America also will help Wells Fargo collect thousands of pounds of food at bank branches and other locations and distribute them to local food banks across the U.S.

"Food insecurity is a very real issue in too many communities, and it feels even more urgent during the holidays," Jon Campbell, president of the Wells Fargo Foundation said in a news release.

"Wells Fargo believes we're in a position to help move people and families out of poverty and build financial stability. And it starts with ensuring that all people have access to basic human needs — stable housing, food, education, and steady employment," Campbell said. "Through our annual Holiday Food Bank, we are combining the power of our extensive branch network, the generosity of our customers, the enthusiasm of Wells Fargo volunteers, and the expertise of community food banks to make the season a little brighter for those who need it most."



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Rambling Rose

*Historical Pennsylvania Ave
Arch Social Club Says 'Thank You!'*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello, everyone, I hope everything is well with you. I was a little under the weather for a while, but I am so much better now and ready to party. I want to start off by thanking my dear friend and Little Brother, renowned promoter and CEO of CH Productions for honoring me at his event last week. It was awesome! It means so much to me when my friends give me my flowers while I still can smell them. Thank you Carlos Hutchins, Thank you!

The Arch Social Club located on Pennsylvania and North Avenue board members and staff say thank you for your love and support. They appreciate all of you that voted for them to win the grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. So, in appreciation, they are having a free live concert featuring Johnathan Gilmore & the Experience Band and all are invited to come on Sunday, December 23, from 5-9 p.m. There will be free food and a cash bar. I will see you there.

"Ursula Battle's play, A Christmas Miracle, A Holiday Musical." The play is a modern traditional story about the birth of Jesus Christ. The touching holiday production is based on the Biblical accounts of Luke, John, and Matthew, and is a moving story about the timeless miracles of Jesus Christ. Battle says, "the production is sure to take the audiences on an emotional rollercoaster of side-splitting laughter, foot-stomping singing and clapping to holiday Christmas classics", while also evoking tears of compassion during the play's dramatic scenes, as terminally ill grandmother tells her grandchildren all about the true meaning of Christmas.

This Holiday Musical will be held at the One God One Thought Center for Better Living, located at 3605 Coronado Road in Windsor Mill, Maryland where

the Rev. Bernette Lee Jones serves as Senior Pastor.

I know it will be all Ursula said it is going to be because she has some dynamite actors in this play that you and I are very familiar with such as: the gospel group SERENITY, comedian; Ms. Maybelle will make an appearance as an angel; now if you know Maybelle and you close your eyes and envision her as an angel you could only imagine she will do something to make you laugh. The other actors are: Sandra Meekins; Tonya Williams; Tanya Brown; Zachariah Hopkins; Xavier Saunders; Leonard Stephney, Jr.; and Kenya Chase. The production is being co-directed by Dr. Tammi Rogers and Minister Tracey Stephenson.

The performance times are Saturday, December 15th for two shows; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 16th at 3 p.m. So, call Ursula at 443-531-4787 to get your tickets. I will see you there.

Last, I want to wish so many of my friends and fans who are celebrating their birthday along with me. My birthday was last week, but other friends you might know you may want to give a shout-out to who are celebrating their birthday the end of last month and this month. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO; Linda Pryor; Marva Law; Dr. Elaine Simon; Claudia Dock; Frankie Addison; Eleanor Massie; Big Jim; Greg Hatza; Ethel Ennis; Mike Jones; Calvin Tolbert; and Milton Dugger, just to name a few off the top of my head.

Well my dear friends, I got to go. But remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



The Historical Arch Social Club will host an "Open House Free Concert" on Sunday, December 23, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. to say "Thank You! Photo: Board Members and Staff: Sozufe Nnamdi, Kaleb Tshamba, Leon Smith-Bey, Denise Johnson, Tavon Carter, Charles Wilson, John Harris, Ronald Bailey, Senator Larry Young and Justin Hughes.



John Lamkin Favorites Jazz Quintet featuring Eartha Lamkin will perform at his CD Release Party at Caton Castle Lounge, on Saturday, December 15 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Musicians include: John Lamkin II, Michael Hairston, Bob Butta, Michael Graham, Jesse Moody and Eartha Lamkin.



Baltimore's own, renowned gospel recording artists, "Serenity" headlines Ursula Battle Musical Production "A Christmas Miracle" on Saturday, December 15 and Sunday, December 16 at One God One Thought Center at 3605 Coronado Road in Windsor Mill, Maryland. For more information, call 443-531-4787.



Journalist and playwright, Ursula Battle presents her Dinner Theatre musical, "A Christmas Miracle" on December 15th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on December 16 at 3 p.m. featuring recording artists "Serenity" at One God One Thought Center for Better Living, located at 3605 Coronado Road in Windsor Mill, Md. For tickets, call 443-531-4787.

Golden Rules for Holiday Shopping



If you bought all the gifts in the holiday classic “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” it could cost a whopping \$39,094.93 this holiday season, according to the 35th annual PNC Christmas Price Index.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

By Joseph M. Jennings, Jr., CFA,
Senior Vice President and Managing
Director, PNC Wealth Management

If you bought the gifts in the holiday classic, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” it would cost a record \$39,094.93, according to the 35th annual PNC Christmas Price Index. Few have a budget for all those birds and performers, but ‘tis the season to get carried away. Here are a few spending tips so you don’t overstuff the stockings— or your budget!

Holiday Spending Tips:

1. Be choosy— Identify your special partridge and pare down your list to those you’re actually close to. Don’t guilt-buy for those far-away relatives who will re-gift your tacky present anyway. If you can’t resist, create a funny e-card for free.

2. Create a budget— Don’t be one of the geese who lays a spending egg. Once you know who you’re buying for, decide how much you will spend per person. If \$15 is all you can afford per person, then spend \$15— not \$17 or \$20. If that seems a bit Scrooge-like, tell your friends/family to set the same limits for you. Take advantage of online budgeting tools to set limits with text or email alerts to warn you.

3. Find the bargains— Be surfing while the swans are a swimming. Look for coupons and Groupons. When it comes to online shopping, there’s a cost for convenience. PNC calculates the online cost of the “The Twelve Days of Christmas” gifts is \$41,165.95, which is five percent over the in-person approach. But you can save by watching for free shipping offers and no-hassle returns plus Free Shipping Day on December 14.

4. Get crafty— Handy drummers are drumming up their own gifts. Whip up a few dozen batches of your special cookies, cake pops or brownies, package in pretty baskets with a bow and call it a day. Who on your list wouldn’t love a homemade treat over a store-bought gift?

5. Pay smartly— Like the maids, milk the most out of your money. Pre-paid cards mean you only spend a set amount and are perfect for kids to learn how to buy for others and stay on budget. Cash in your credit card reward points to buy gifts. When using credit, make sure you have a plan to pay off your balance. For online payments, look for security or privacy seals first before submitting information. The payment page should have a lock icon and the address should start with “https.”

MDTA Officer Makes History

By Stacy M. Brown

Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Chief Colonel Woodrow W. Jones formally announced the promotions of 27 officers to the rank of corporal through lieutenant colonel.

These promotions, which include a historic first, comprise two new bureau chiefs and one of which is the first African American female to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel in the department.

Colonel Jones announced Major Kevin Anderson is promoted to lieutenant colonel and will head the MDTA Police’s Bureau of Operations, which includes two divisions— Patrol and Special Operations. Lieutenant Colonel Anderson is a 25-year veteran and previously served as the head of the agency’s Patrol Division.

Major Lucy Lyles is promoted to lieutenant colonel and becomes the first African American female to hold that rank in the MDTA Police. Lieutenant Colonel Lyles is a 25-year veteran and will now head the Administrative Bureau, which consists of two divisions – Logistics and Support Services.

“I can’t tell you how proud I am of my wife,” said Gary Lyles, Col. Lyles’ husband. “She worked hard and she never stopped reaching for new heights. She said she could do it and she did it.”

While his wife declined to be interviewed, Gary Lyles said it was important that she received the recognition he believes she deserved after years of dedicated service.

“It paid off. Her hard work really paid off and she’s always believed in the job and believed in herself,” Gary Lyles said.

Among the others promoted, Captain Richard Ricko received promotion to major and assigned as Division Commander of Logistics. He has been a member of the MDTA Police for 25 years and previously served as the Commander of MDTA’s Highways.

Captain Timothy Eikenberg earned



Lieutenant Colonel Lucy Lyles is the first African American female to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Maryland Transportation Authority
Courtesy Photo

promotion to major and assigned as Division Commander of Support Services. Major Eikenberg is a 16-year veteran and previously served, as the head of the agency’s Internal Affairs Unit.

Twenty-three additional officers were promoted to various ranks from corporal to captain. The officers were joined at the promotion ceremony on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, by family, friends, fellow officers, MDTA Board Members and the Executive Director of the MDTA.

The officers will take their new assignments throughout the state and will provide safety, security and service to the citizens of Maryland, according to an MDTA news release.

“These promotions are a big step in shaping a proud future for the MDTA Police. I have the utmost confidence in our newly promoted officers to bring ideas that improve the safety and security of those we serve,” said Col. Jones.

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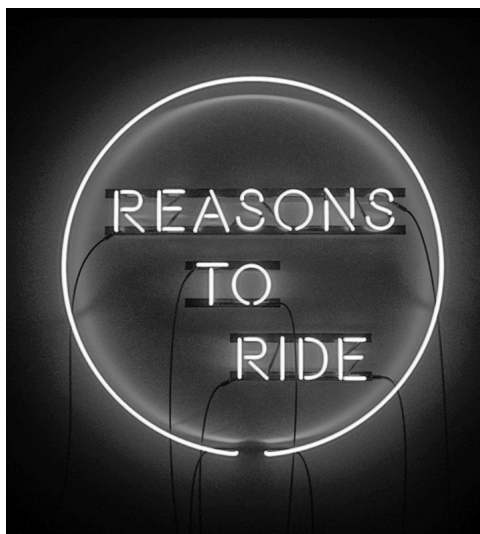
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MADD teams up with Uber to help make roads safer with #ReasonsToRide campaign

Washington, D.C.— Drunk driving remains the leading killer on U.S. roads, and holidays can be especially deadly. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), forty-four percent of traffic fatalities on some days between Christmas and New Year's Day are caused by drunk driving. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) warns there could be an additional spike in drunk driving deaths this December because the holidays fall at the beginning of the week.

"Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day fall on Monday and Tuesday this year," said incoming MADD National President Helen Witty. "This means long weekends for many people, and we know that fewer working days can mean more days celebrating and potentially more drunk driving crashes nationwide. For this year especially, we want to remind people that one of the best gifts you can give, is to get home safely."

This December, MADD is joining ride-sharing company Uber to promote safe rides home and help curb rising holiday casualties. Through their #ReasonsToRide campaign, MADD and Uber remind the public that there are absolutely #NoExcuses to drive



impaired, only #ReasonsToRide, get home safely and not endanger others on the roads.

Uber suggests people download its ride sharing app, or explore other public transportation alternatives, before they head out to holiday get-togethers.

"There is never an excuse to drink and drive. Whether it's a holiday or any day, there is always a bus, a train or a ride share option just moments away," says Kate Parker, head of Trust and Safety Initiatives at Uber. "We are proud of our long-standing partnership with MADD to help encourage people to be safe and remind them of the #ReasonsToRide."

MADD and Uber are encouraging drivers and riders to post their own photos and comments about getting home safely using hashtags #ReasonsToRide and #NoExcuses. For more tips to ensure safe holidays, visit: madd.org/reasonsstoride.

Support a Student needs volunteers

Charting Careers is currently seeking mentors to support high school program participants. Charting Careers collaborates with high school youth facing significant barriers beyond the classroom to help promote hope, self-understanding, and vision so that youth create their own life story and chart a path to success.

Mentors will:

- Be individually matched with a student from 9th - 11th grade
- Support students in individual goal setting
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- Receive on-going training and support through collaboration with Mentor Coordinator
- Have FUN!

For more information and to volunteer, e-mail Christy D'Camera at christy@chartingcareers.com.

Give the gift of trees this holiday:

Trees Provide Ecological, Economic, Quality of Life Benefits

Annapolis, Md.— This holiday season the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is offering everyone the opportunity to give the "Gift of Trees," a program where Marylanders purchase native trees for planting in honor of a celebration, commemoration or observation.

Trees provide ecological, economic and quality of life benefits and services, including enhancing air and water quality, reducing energy costs, increasing property values, beautifying communities, neighborhoods and highways, while also providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. All trees will be planted in locations that will benefit from them the most, including parks, playgrounds and schoolyards; cities and towns; and along creeks and streams. Maryland Forest Service staff help choose the appropriate location and species to best assure the tree flourishes well into the future.

A Gift of Trees certificate suitable for framing will be issued and mailed out within a week or two of an order. All trees will be planted in the next growing season— either spring or fall— to promote optimal growth and survival. Orders must be placed by December 15, 2018, to ensure certificate delivery in time for the holidays.

Trees can be ordered at: <https://www.shopdnr.com/tree-mendousmarylandgiftoftrees.aspx>.



Flowering Dogwood Tree
Courtesy Photo/MD Dept. of
Natural Resources

Nominations open for 2019 Black History Month Community Leaders Awards

Annapolis— The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism announced the opening of the nomination period for the Annual Black History Month Community Leaders Awards.

The awards ceremony, which was introduced last year, recognizes Maryland-based, African American-founded organizations that provide exceptional volunteer service to improve Maryland communities for all. Recipients will be announced during an awards ceremony in February 2019.

"The inaugural Black History Month Community Leaders Awards program was met with an overwhelmingly positive reception and we had the honor of awarding some outstanding Marylanders during an uplifting and inspirational ceremony appropriately held at the Banneker-Douglass Museum," said Van Brooks, director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. "We remain committed to recognizing all Marylanders who seek to improve the world around us through service and

volunteerism, and look forward to seeing this year's nominations to learn about the significant contributions that Maryland's African American-founded organizations continue to provide for our communities."

Over 100 nominations were received for the inaugural Black History Month Community Leaders Awards and ten organizations were selected to be presented the accolade during an awards ceremony held at the Banneker-Douglass Museum last February.

The deadline to submit a nomination for eligible organizations is Friday, January 4, 2019. Eligible organizations must be Maryland-based, African American-founded, and must have been operational for at least two years. Selection for the awards will be based on nominations received that describe the highest degree of meaningful volunteer commitment and service, making a transformative impact in the community.

Recipients of the awards will be notified and honored in a February 2019 ceremony in Annapolis.

For more information and to nominate an organization, visit: gosv.maryland.gov/blackhistorymonth.

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