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Hundreds Volunteer to Help Revitalize Collington Square



Kevin McCarthy, Senior Manager, T. Rowe Price; Savannah Isner, Senior Specialist for Comcast Public Relations; Jessica J. Gappa, Director of Community Impact for Comcast Cable; Dana Robinson of the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Lawrence Williams of Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and his son Ethan Williams, 15, during the 18th annual Comcast Cares Day on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Now in its 18th year, Comcast Cares Day is one of the largest corporate commitments to volunteerism and service in America. To date, more than 1 million Comcast Cares Day volunteers have contributed over six million service hours to improve local communities at more than 10,000 projects. (See article on page 8) Photo: Ursula V. Battle

Vaccines protect you, your family and your community

By *Matthew Baker*
Region III Regional Director
Health and Human Services

Washington, D.C.— Pockets of our country are experiencing a significant uptick in the number of measles. Measles is not just a harmless childhood illness. It is actually a highly contagious, dangerous disease that can even be deadly.

However, measles is also easily preventable with a safe and highly effective vaccine. It is especially important to remember the value of vaccines as we mark National Infant Immunization Week, which reminds us that vaccines are essential to the health of our youngest and most vulnerable.

As a regional director for the Department of Health and Human Services Region III, which includes Maryland, it's my job to raise awareness of facts that can help protect the health of all Americans. Vaccines play an extremely important role in this goal because they save lives, protect your children from

debilitating and deadly diseases, and promote the overall health of the community where you live and work.

Vaccines are safe and highly effective. There is a lot of misinformation swirling around out there suggesting otherwise, so we want to get the facts out.

Vaccines are among the most extensively studied medical products we have. Large studies undertaken over the years have confirmed their safety again and again. Vaccines do not cause autism and do not contain toxic chemicals. Any serious side effects from vaccines are exceedingly rare, and the protection from diseases that vaccines provide outweighs any risks.

Some parents also wonder whether it is safe for children to get multiple vaccines in a day. The answer is yes, and we have years of science that backs that up. Even if your child gets several vaccines in a day, the weakened germs in vaccines that build protection make up only a tiny fraction of what a child's immune system fights off every day.

So what can you do to maximize the



value of vaccines and help stop preventable diseases?

If you're a parent, talk to your child's doctor and make sure your child is up to date on all of his or her scheduled vaccinations. This is especially important if you have an infant, because vaccinating your baby according to the recommended immunization schedule provides protection against 14 serious childhood illnesses.

If you're an adult, check with your doctor about whether you're up to date on your vaccines.

If you're a healthcare provider, explain to your patients that vaccines are safe, effective, and highly recommended, and remind them to stick to their vaccine

schedule. For measles in particular, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children get two doses of the MMR vaccine, starting with the first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 through 6 years of age.

You can find out more about the measles vaccine and other vaccines at Vaccines.gov.

We all want our children to grow up in a world that is free from preventable diseases. The single most important thing each of us can do to make that happen, is staying up to date on our vaccines. So let's get serious about this issue before it gets out of control—let's get vaccinated.

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Rookie Daylon Mack overcame depression and disappointment en route to Ravens

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens got quite a bargain when they selected defensive tackle Daylon Mack in the fifth round (No. 122 overall) of the 2019 NFL Draft. Mack was coming off a senior year at Texas A&M in which he posted 5.5 sacks and 9.5 tackles for a loss. The 6' 1" and 340 pound defensive lineman managed to rebound after a disappointing sophomore and junior year.

Mack was an Under Armour All-American coming out of Gladewater High School in Texas. He was considered a five-star recruit when he decided to attend Texas A&M. He showed promise as a freshman rotational player and ended his season with a forced fumble in the Aggies' loss to Louisville in the Music City Bowl.

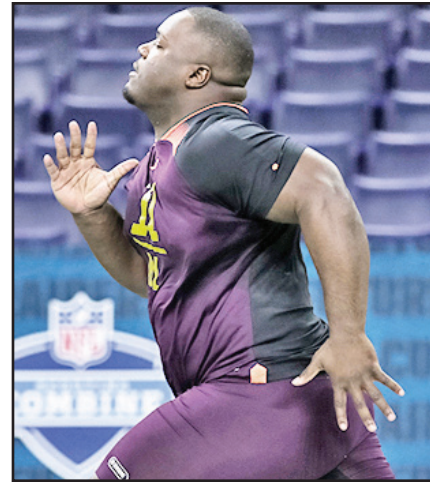
The plan to go to the NFL after a couple of seasons in college seemed to be in tact. All Mack had to do was build on his outstanding freshman season. Unfortunately, a major change in his life had an adverse impact after his excellent freshman year. "My parents got a divorce during my

freshman year in college," Mack said at the Scouting Combine in March. "During the season it didn't affect me much but when I got home I saw how different things were."

Although he was never diagnosed with depression (he didn't seek help), Mack knows he was depressed. His production on the field reflected it. Mack struggled over the next two seasons. He only started one game only posting a combined 2.5 sacks and 7.5 tackles for a loss over the next two years. Mack considered transferring but decided to stick it out with Texas A&M.

Another change. This time, on the football field helped turn things around for the once budding star when new head coach Jimbo Fisher was hired to take over the program. Fisher then hired Mike Elko to be the defensive coordinator in 2018. He also had Elijah Robinson take over as the defensive line coach. Mack credits these three coaches with helping him turn things around.

"They came in and gave me a different mentality. They changed my life," Mack said.



Baltimore Ravens rookie Daylon Mack running the 40-yard dash at the 2019 NFL Combine in Indianapolis.
Courtesy Photo/nfl.com

The new defensive scheme allowed Mack to return to the up field, attacking player that he once was. He became known for his disruptive play during his senior year. Next up was an invitation to the East-West Shrine game where Mack played well enough to earn a call to play

in the Reese's Senior Bowl the following week.

Mack's performance during both weeks of practice paid off. The Ravens have always placed a heavy emphasis on college all-star games. Former GM Ozzie Newsome made the annual trip to St. Petersburg for the East-West Shrine week practices. He would have current GM Eric DeCosta right by his side.

This year DeCosta made the trip to both weeks as the Ravens GM. Fortunately for Mack, DeCosta got to see him stand out in person.

"Daylon Mack is a big, strong guy we saw at the East-West Shrine game and the Senior Bowl. He has two-gap ability as a nose tackle but he's also a sneaky pass rusher. He ran a five-flat 40-yard dash. For a big guy, he moves pretty well," DeCosta said after the final day of the draft.

The college years were an up and down rollercoaster ride for Mack. He ended on a good note and now finds himself with a franchise that prides itself on defense. He will have veterans Brandon Williams and Michael Pierce to serve as mentors as well.

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Editorials/Letters

Lost one, gained two in Baltimore City Government

It would not be hyperbole to describe the assumption of Baltimore's latest mayor and city council president as the Dynamic Duo. The elevation of Bernard C. "Jack" Young as Baltimore's Mayor, and Brandon M. Scott as city council president, is an exciting transition coming on the heels of a very uncertain period in the Baltimore history.

The recent scandal, which precipitated the unforeseen changes at the helm at City Hall, has actually repositioned the city for greater overall stability, including a meaningful reduction in crime and violence, and economic growth that is more equitable for more of Baltimore citizens.

The key to the city's positive prospect's are not only the passion and ability these men have brought to the task of municipal governing individually, but the long-term personal and professional chemistry and superb working relationship these two leaders have developed over a decade.

In the case of Jack young, nearly 25 years of City Council experience including almost a decade as City Council President, uniquely position him to work with his former colleagues to address critical issues facing the city.

Young's popularity and longevity as the council's leader suggests shared concerns and priorities for the city's agenda. Now that Jack Young is in the mayor's chair, perhaps many of the goals of the council can become official policies and laws more expeditiously.

As council president, Jack Young has demonstrated he sees the big picture of how Baltimore must develop to be competitive among American cities, and as a world-class venue for commerce and culture based on policies he's supported and votes he has taken.

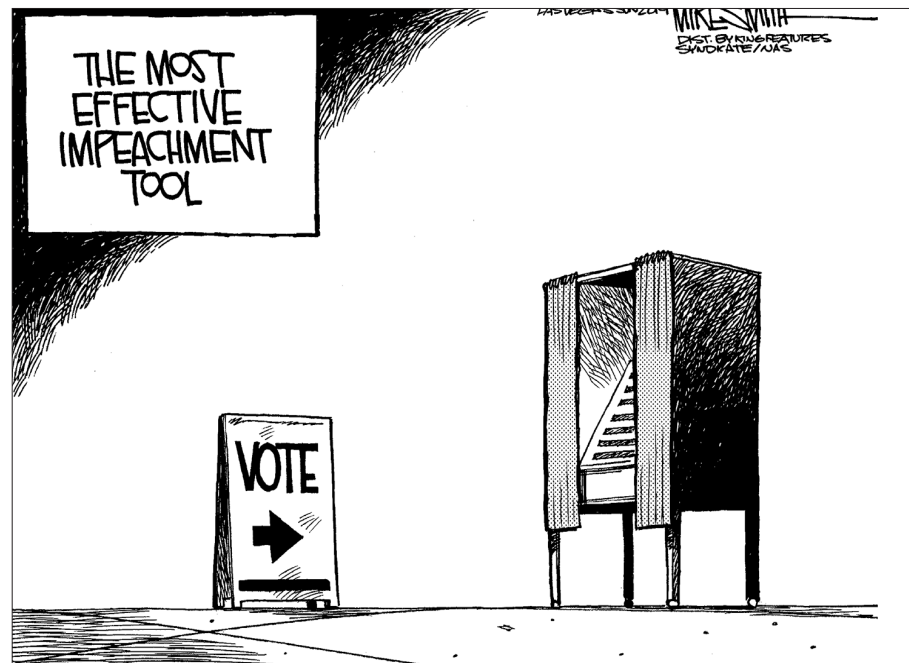
However, while fulfilling his role as a business booster, Young has kept his eye squarely on the prize as it relates to what is best for his constituents, and Baltimore's neighborhoods at-large, which is why he has remained a favorite of council members and voters alike. Jack Young is a steady hand at the wheel of city government at a crucial time.

Then there is Brandon Scott. As the youngest member ever elected to Baltimore City Council, and the first millennial chosen as the council's president, Scott is a youthful voice championing issues critical to the community, namely public safety. Scott has been an important partner of law enforcement when he recognized initiatives that have been germane to the interests and well being of citizens. On the other hand, he has been a fearless, unabashed critic of police where their policies, procedures and certain incidences were antithetical to citizen interests.

As a child of the Park Heights neighborhood, Scott has unfortunately been an unwilling witness to street violence and the ravages of Baltimore's high murder rates, which no doubt was a motivation for him to join, and then lead, the city council's Public Safety Committee. So seriously does Brandon Scott take the issue of murder in the Baltimore, he presided over his committee's meetings by opening with a report of the to-date murder tally and a moment of silence.

Along with his ascension to City Council President, Scott will also head the Board of Estimates, the municipal body that ultimately controls Baltimore City's purse strings. In this capacity he will heavily determine the appropriation of resources to fulfill the agenda of the city council relating to uplifting citizens that have been prioritized, in part, by himself and Jack Young.

Considering how bleak Baltimore's situation appeared just one week ago, citizens can take comfort that the city's governing is in very capable hands.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Two obnoxious and un-American Congresswomen

Incredibly, voters elected hate-filled Muslim women to the U.S. House of Representatives. Tlaib, Michigan and Omar, Minnesota have established platforms of Jew hating rhetoric. Is this typical of Muslim politicians?

It's not surprising the two women are Jew haters because many Muslims hate non-Muslims. This is why we should continue to restrict immigrants allowed into the United States from countries that harbor potential enemies. A very high percentage of Muslims from the Middle East and North Africa and around the world hate Christians as evidenced by thousands of attacks by Muslims on Christians over the centuries, including the 9/11/01 attacks in

the United States killing 3000 Americans, which Omar trivialized. She is un-American.

The United States, was founded on Christian principles by persecuted Christians who emigrated from Europe and most Americans believe in helping others in need, loving thy neighbors and respecting other religions. My extended family includes black Christians, Lutherans, Methodists, Unitarians, Jews, Catholics, Russian Orthodox and Evangelical Christians; and we all respect and nurture each other.

The two ugly mouthed congresswomen are disloyal to our country's founding principles and are un-American.

Donald Moskowitz

Londonderry, NH

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Letters to the Editor

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Is the black jockey demise a precursor of where Pimlico is heading?

By Regi Taylor

Imagine if your great, great grandchild was viewing some cultural data on the Baltimore Times virtual communications portal during Black History Month in the year 2169, and happened upon a surreal account of a time 150 years earlier, in 2019, revealing that of the 494 National Basketball Association (NBA) players, 370 or 75 percent were African American, compared to only twenty or four percent, who were playing in the league contemporaneously.

Well, you don't have to imagine that this exact scenario has befallen the horseracing industry in America. In a 2012 CNN exposé, *The Forgotten Godfathers of Black American Sport*, Sheena McKenzie examined how the post-Civil War, pre-Jim Crow horseracing industry, then a nearly exclusive vocation for African American jockeys, had dwindled to less than three dozen riders nationally, of nearly 800 currently registered jockeys.

"Today you'd struggle to find an African-American jockey on a U.S. race

track. Just 30 of [roughly] 750 members of the National Jockey's Guild are black," according to McKenzie's CNN report. African American jockeys have gone from domination to decimation in American horseracing, representing only four percent of professional riders today.

As in other instances during and since slavery, when African Americans turned garbage into gold, former slaves elevated thoroughbred racing to an artform despite being conscripted by slave owners as

Maybe this shouldn't come as a surprise since 13 of the 15 jockeys competing in that race were African American. Fifteen of the first 28 Kentucky Derby Stakes were won by African American jockeys. However, the last African American jockey to win the Kentucky Derby was nearly 120 years ago in 1902 by 19-year-old James Winkfield, who also won the sweepstakes in 1901.

Twenty years after Winkfield's first Kentucky Derby win, 1921, the last

the first jockey to win the Kentucky Derby three times, in 1884, 1890 and 1891. By 1887 he was arguably the highest paid athlete in the U.S., the first millionaire black athlete and in some quarters considered the best professional jockey of all time.

Some estimates say Isaac Murphy won 44 percent of his races, while the consensus accepts his success rate on the track being at least one win in three. An anonymous sports writer wrote about Murphy at the time: "He has a steady hand, a quick eye, a cool head, and a bold heart."

Not only did Burns employ a Caucasian valet, his purchase of a large home in Lexington, Kentucky was covered on the front of the June 13, 1887 edition of the *New York Times*.

The prevalence and good fortune of African American jockeys began to wane around the turn of the century. After 1900, the backlash of racism exercised through Jim Crow laws, and the lucrative lure of horseracing was attracting Caucasian riders who employed racist threats and physical intimidation to drive African American jockeys out of the sport.

There were frequent accounts of African American jockeys and their horses being steered against the rail, and sometimes shoved over, during races. Horse owners began to deny opportunities to African American jockeys less concerned about the riders well-being as much as their concern of possible injury to their expensive thoroughbreds.

Regi Taylor is a West Baltimore native. The married father of four is an artist, writer and media professional specializing in political history.

"Moreover, the early success of African American jockeys was further buttressed by the expertise of their support crews, also African Americans, who bred, trained, conditioned and groomed the race horses. These horse handlers were unsung but just as professional, and integral to the jockey's success at the finish line."

jockeys due to the perilous nature of racing horses for sport in the mid-1800s.

Not only were African American jockeys the original 'horse whisperers,' able to harmoniously engage with their steeds, they were able to develop a synergy that allowed them to function and perform as one with a horse, effectively channeling their mutual energies toward finishing first—efficiently and consistently.

Moreover, the early success of African American jockeys was further buttressed by the expertise of their support crews, also African Americans, who bred, trained, conditioned and groomed the race horses. These horse handlers were unsung but just as professional, and integral to the jockey's success at the finish line.

The very first Kentucky Derby Stakes, in 1875, was won by a renowned African American jockey, Oliver Lewis, at age 19.

African American jockey would compete in the prestigious Churchill Downs sweepstakes for the duration of the 20th century. Since 1921, only two African American jockeys have competed in the Kentucky Derby stakes: Marlon St Julien in 2000 and Kevin Krigger in 2013.

Besides seeing a previously spectacular display of African American athleticism essentially stolen as many of the culture's contributions have over the centuries, your great, great grandchild's visit to the Baltimore Times history portal would also provide them a glimpse of the admiration, even if fleeting, that the larger society would have for African American sports heroes.

African American jockey's success earned them cultural adulation and financial wealth comparable to today's sports superstars. Isaac Burns Murphy

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Time off for boxer 'Papi' Allison means helping children reach their goals

By Stacy M. Brown

When Mack "Papi" Allison's latest boxing match scheduled for May 4, 2019 in Waldorf was postponed, the Baltimore fighter took the time to attend another one of his passions— helping others who aspire to ring greatness.

Allison, the son of boxing Hall of Fame member Mack Allison Jr., joined Coach Troy Harris and others at UnBoxed gym in Cockeysville, Maryland, where he helps to teach young ones the sweet science.

"Troy Harris admires the boxing knowledge that I have and he wanted me to help give some of that knowledge to the people at his gym," said Allison, who with a professional record of 10-2 is already on the fast track to getting a shot at a world title.

UnBoxed is a small group-training studio where individual fitness and wellness goals are assessed by fitness and health coaches. A combination of small group classes, personal training options and nutrition counseling offered at UnBoxed is tailored to each individual.

Each client is provided a coach whom Harris says is passionate and invested in their clients' success and assists and guides them to their desired goals. A variety of classes are also offered at the facility, including: fitness boxing, functional training, cardio, resistance training and yoga.

The Unboxed mission is to provide clients with an individualized fitness and wellness plan while coaching them to realize and reach their full potential.

The gym even includes martial arts and boxing in a 45-minute "Combo Kids" class designed to get young people moving and having fun while learning discipline, coordination and focus.



Baltimore boxer Mack "Papi" Allison IV in 2016 after he won the United States Boxing Union Championship. Now, whenever Allison has free time he helps to teach young people the sweet science at the UnBoxed gym in Cockeysville, Maryland. He also teaches kids how to play chess. Courtesy Photo

"I teach various of ages, but most of them are kids," Allison said. "I like teaching people the basics cause it's hard to start someone off. It's hard training people new to boxing because it's a lot of things they have to get accustomed to doing that they never previously did."

"But, I love watching the person finally catch on. That's my reward— seeing the person get better and finally catching on."

The time away from the ring also allows Allison a chance to help young people in another of his favorite pastimes— chess.

"I first learned how to play chess in middle school," Allison said. "An old friend of mine named Maurice Chandler taught me how to play chess. We were the same age, but he was so advanced at chess and who won numerous chess championships."

Now, Allison says he enjoys teaching kids to play chess because the game presents many strategic challenges that are useful in life.

"Chess is an important game because at any time you make the wrong move [and] it can cost you the game," Allison said. "So when I teach the kids it helps to make them think, and it teaches them patience, since a chess game can really be long."

Mostly though, Allison says he enjoys working with young ones and teaching them something they can use as they pursue their goals.

"The advice I give young ones is that nothing in life is easy, especially the goals you want to accomplish," Allison said. "But, I always tell them that they can do it. Just stay focused and don't quit no matter what!"



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Comcast Holds 18th Annual Comcast Cares Day

Hundreds Volunteer to Help Revitalize Collington Square

By Ursula V. Battle

Sleeves rolled up and working the gardening edger in her hand, Jessica J. Gappa, Director of Community Impact for Comcast Cable looked out at the picturesque view of Baltimore City from the grounds of Collington Square School.

“When you look out from here, it gives you a real feeling of promise,” said Gappa. “Working together with fellow employees and community members, adds to that feeling. This is a city I love, and having this opportunity to give back is wonderful.”

Glancing around at the scores of volunteers who were cleaning, painting the playground, power-washing, planting, and carrying out other activities, Gappa added, “When you talk about hope, well... this is it.”

Gappa was among the hundreds of Comcast Cable employees, their families, friends and community partners, which included the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. who volunteered to clean and beautify Collington Square’s elementary school, recreation center and neighborhood in Baltimore City as part of the 18th annual Comcast Cares Day.

Councilwoman Shannon Sneed of District 13 also participated in the event, which was held Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the school, which is located at 1409 N Collington Ave. in Baltimore. Activities also included painting murals (indoor and outdoor) and picking up trash and debris on and around school grounds.

“From the Comcast employee perspective, Comcast Cares Day is a part of my everyday job,” said Gappa. “I live here, work here, and this is where I want to serve. I think that there is something really special about gathering so many community partners together. Great things happen when everyone pitches in and work together. One person can do a lot, but with a collective effort, so much more can be accomplished.”

Comcast Cares Day is one of the largest corporate commitments to volun-



Comcast Cable employees and their families, friends and community partners, which included the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., all volunteered to clean and beautify Collington Square’s elementary school, recreation center and neighborhood. Photos: Ursula V. Battle

teerism and service in America. To date, more than 1 million Comcast Cares Day volunteers have contributed over 6 million service hours to improve local communities at more than 10,000 projects.

“Comcast truly cares about our community,” said Gappa. “As an employee, I am proud to be a part of this company.”

Arlene Wongus, president of the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, said the sorority’s participation aligns with its extensive array of public service initiatives through its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Educational Development, Economic Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement.

“We are a public service sorority,” said Wongus, who highlighted the efforts of chapter member Cori Ramos. “We have been participating in Comcast Cares for many years. It’s our way of giving back to various communities. We always have a large contingency to participate. As I look around, I get so excited looking at the transformation. I would love to see the students’ faces when they return to school.”

She added, “Environment makes a difference and says, ‘we care’. All it takes is one day to make a tremendous difference in an area. We are all here because we want to help and make a difference.”

Devin Johnson is the principal of Collington Square School.



Volunteers helped beautify the grounds of Collington Square School in East Baltimore during the 18th annual Comcast Cares Day on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Now in its 18th year, Comcast Cares Day is one of the largest corporate commitments to volunteerism and service in America. To date, more than 1 million Comcast Cares Day volunteers have contributed over 6 million service hours to improve local communities at more than 10,000 projects.

“It was inspiring to see so many fraternities, sororities, community members, parents and teachers dedicate their time to pour into a beatification project that will have a lasting impact on students,” said Johnson. “It shows them the community cares about the environment in which they live, play and go to school.”

He added, “In addition, several other projects were done, which included installing computer labs and upgrading our food pantry. This shows that people are not only willing to talk about it, but are

also willing to put time and sweat into their communities. That was evident today.”

Johnson proudly surveyed the transformation made possible by the volunteers. As he walked outside the building, he was joined by parent Larry Wardlow.

“This made me smile,” said Wardlow.

For more information on Comcast NBCUniversal volunteer and community impact initiatives, visit www.comcast.com/community.

50 Years Later, Father and Daughter To Unite

'The Greatest Mother's Day Gift I Could Have Ever Received'

By Ursula V. Battle

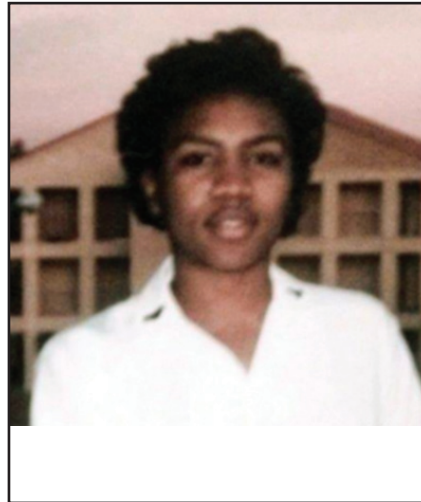
This is Part 1 of a Two-Part Series on the making of a Surprise 50-year reunion between Arthur Shepard and his daughter Brenda Sawyer. The father and daughter found one another through Ancestry.com and Facebook. Part 2 of the series will conclude next week with the result of the Surprise Reunion, which is taking place on the evening of Friday, May 10, 2019.

A daily prayer was always on the lips of Arthur Shepard. "I prayed that before I close my eyes for the last time, I would find my daughter," recalled the 66-year-old. Just over 700 miles down the road in Warner Robins, Georgia, a school teacher by the name of Brenda Sawyer was also praying to one day find a close relative. "I prayed that before I took my last breath, I would find my father," said the 49-year-old.

On Good Friday, April 19, 2019, the prayers of both Shepard and Sawyer were answered after the father and daughter connected as a result of Ancestry and the online social media networking service Facebook. Shepard recalled the message he received from Sawyer that day on Facebook.

"I was at a friend's house when I received the message from her on Good Friday. She wanted to know if I knew the name of a woman that lived in Washington, D.C. At first, I thought someone was playing with me. And then, I just fell apart because I knew this was my daughter."

The name of the woman Sawyer had given, was that of her biological mother. Sawyer was able to contact Shepard using Facebook after a persistent, decades-long journey.



Brenda Sawyer as a youngster.
Courtesy Photos

"She was looking for Tony, which is my nickname," said Shepard. "All of these years, she was looking for the wrong person, and so was I. But neither one of us gave up."

Sawyer utilized Ancestry to contact family members of Shepard, which eventually led to her correspondence with him on Facebook. The two then utilized AncestryDNA to confirm they were father and daughter.

The Ancestry brand family encompasses Ancestry, AncestryDNA, AncestryProGenealogists, and more. Sophisticated engineering and technology harnesses family history and consumer genomics, combining billions of rich historical records, millions of family trees, and samples from over 10 million people in the AncestryDNA database to provide people with deeply meaningful insights about who they are and where they come from.

"We took the DNA testing, and every-



Brenda Sawyer who turns 50 in July, is looking forward to meeting her father for the first time.

thing matched," said Shepard. "We have been talking and sending pictures back and forth ever since. It's like I am watching her grow up all over again. The last time I laid eyes on her, she was two days old. We will see each other again when she comes to Baltimore in May."

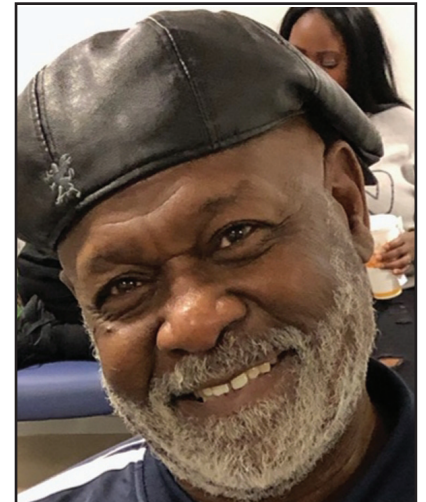
Little did Shepard know at Baltimore Times press time that the visit would be coming much sooner than he expected. With the help of Shepards' children and other relatives, Sawyer is coming to Maryland on Friday, May 10, 2019 for a surprise visit.

"I can't wait to see him," said Sawyer. "It's going to be a family reunion. After contacting him on Facebook, everything catapulted into now. I will turn 50 this year, and this has been one of the most amazing things I have ever felt."

According to Sawyer who was raised by her grandparents, the first clue she received as to who her father was, came from a relative.

"My relative told me his name was Tony," she recalled. "I named my son who is now 20 after him. I knew Tony could be many things, so I named my son after what I thought my father's name was - Anthony."

She added, "I kept that name Tony with me all my life. Sweet 16, then 18, and 25, and now I am almost 50. My fiancé gave me AncestryDNA for Christ-



Arthur Shepard, 66, is looking forward to seeing his daughter again.

mas. Through the test, I was able to connect with family members, and eventually my father. Some say it was AncestryDNA, and others will credit it to Facebook, but I know it was God. This is the greatest's Mother's Day gift I could have ever received."


Sawyer said her son, who is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, plans to travel to Maryland with her to meet his grandfather for the first time.

"All of my siblings and other relatives have reached out to me," said Sawyer. "They have really poured out. We talk on the phone for hours. They are so loving to me."

One of those siblings is Toni Saunders.

"When my father told us about the call that he received from his daughter, my initial thought was 'What in thearnation is going on?'" said Saunders with a laugh. "As he went further into how she found him, I said 'Look at God.'" She added, "As we approach this Mother's Day weekend, let us not forget that, yes we are uplifting the mothers who birthed, cared for and nurtured us...but within this miraculous story we are celebrating those who don't give up."

Coming in next week's edition: The Reunion. Also be sure to log-in to baltimoretimes-online.com/ to see video and photos captured from the long-awaited reunion of the father and daughter.




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You Can Help an 'OrchKid' Grow Over the Summer

\$20,000 Day of Giving Campaign to be held May 16

By Ursula V. Battle

To help keep its "OrchKids" growing over the summer, the program will hold its "Day of Giving" online crowdfunding campaign. The campaign will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019, and will include String Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and Full Orchestra performances by students from Booker T. Washington Middle School for the Arts, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School and Highlandtown Elementary School.

The concert will take place at 5 p.m. in the Creative Arts Room of the Enoch Pratt Library located at 400 Cathedral St. in Baltimore.

"The Day of Giving is a day for us to do a big campaign to raise money for the OrchKids Summer Program," said Raquel Whiting-Gilmer, Executive Director for OrchKids. "We host a four-week music summer program at The SEED School and serve over 150 students. We supply private lessons, ensemble classes, academic tutoring, and various fun activities for the students."

She added, "We believe summer learning is really important. Our students feel they get a good mix of fun while also keeping up with their instrumental skills. Students from the East and West side come together for the summer. They get to meet new friends, and reconnect with old ones."

OrchKids is a year-round during and after school, music program designed to create social change and nurture promising futures for youth in Baltimore City neighborhoods. Founded in 2008, OrchKids is the cornerstone of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's community engagement efforts across the city.

In collaboration with Baltimore City Public Schools and several community partners, OrchKids provides music education, instruments, academic instruction, meals, as well as performance and mentorship opportunities at no cost to students and families.

According to OrchKids, every summer, low-income youth lose two to three months in reading while their higher-in-



OrchKids students will hold a concert on May 16, 2019 at the Enoch Pratt Library as part of its Day of Giving fundraising campaign. Courtesy photos

come peers make slight gains. The program also points out that low-income youth lose access to healthy meals over the summer, and that six out of every seven students who receive free-and-reduced-price lunches lose access to them when school lets out for the break.

"Students are actively engaged with a full day program from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.," said Whiting-Gilmer. "Through this program, we are helping to avoid summer learning loss. Summer is really an important time. When kids don't have places to go when they are out of school, that is problematic. We want them to be safe and productive."

According to Whiting-Gilmer, program expenses includes shuttle transportation for the students, which costs \$500 per-day, along with other expenses, which includes meals, field trips, academic tutoring, recess and physical activities, guest artist performances, and sending OrchKids students to prestigious summer programming opportunities across the country.

"We provide a lot of opportunities for our students," said Whiting-Gilmer. "Students from all over the city get to experience extensive musical programs and travel to other places which include Europe. We pick them up from their school-based site, and then transport



OrchKids is a year-round during and after school, music program designed to create social change and nurture promising futures for youth in Baltimore City neighborhoods.



The OrchKids Summer Program offers its students tutoring and a variety of other activities.

them to The SEED School."

She added, "Every day, the program costs us a few hundred dollars. Through the Day of Giving, we want people to be a part of supporting the phenomenal journey of these students."

The organization is also looking for both groups and individuals to volunteer in areas which include: academic tutoring, serving meals and snacks, morning greeters, and classroom support.

According to Whiting-Gilmer, the last "Day of Giving Campaign" took place in 2017, and raised over \$30,000. This year's goal is \$20,000. Whiting-Gilmer is hopeful this year's campaign will also surpass its fundraising goal.

"We did great in 2017," she said. "We raised over \$30,000 and our goal was

\$10,000. This year, our goal is \$20,000. Like 2017, we are hoping to surpass our fundraising goal.

Recently, OrchKids received some news that was "music to their ears":

"We had a donor who said they would match our campaign dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000," said Whiting-Gilmer. "That gives us a great start. The campaign is online. People can also send in gifts. People can also attend the concert and bring their contributions. We are asking everyone to join in and support this wonderful endeavor to support our summer music camp."

To support OrchKids' "Day of Giving" online campaign visit <https://www.bso-music.org/>. For more information call (410) 783-8061.

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CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

CITY OF BALTIMORE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT #1295 – ON CALL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The City of Baltimore Office of Boards & Commissions has been requested by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to certify the qualifications of engineering and architectural firms interested in providing various on-call engineering and architectural services for proposed improvements to the City's system of Streets and Highways, and Bridges.

Once the Architectural Engineering Awards Committee (AEAC) has approved the recommended award(s) of this Project; this procurement will follow Competitive Negotiation – Qualification-based Selection procedures provided and directed by DOT.

Qualified firms will be placed on DOT Architect and Engineer Schedule ("A/E Schedule"). DOT intends to award, one (1) on-call contract to a qualified selected firm, for a base period of three (3) years with two (2) one-year options for a potential total of five (5) years or until the upset limit for the contract is reached, whichever occurs first.

Local, minority, women and disadvantaged businesses are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal for any of the categories listed under this advertisement.

The total number of awards will be dependent upon DOT funding and project needs.

Project Scope

DOT requires the services of engineering and architectural consultants to supplement its in-house capabilities for the provision of services involving professional engineers and architects. Consultants will be on-call to provide engineering, architecture, and related services on an as-needed basis, and in the categories of work defined herein: (1) Roadway & Streetscape Design, (2) Bridge Design, (3) Conduit duct and manholes Design, (4) Construction Engineering and Management, (5) Streetlight and Traffic

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Signal Design, (6) Traffic Engineering (Operations and Safety), (7) Geotechnical Investigations and Studies, (8) Environmental Engineering Investigations and Studies, (9) Transportation Planning Studies, (10) Public Participation and Partnering, (11) Bicycle and Pedestrian Studies, Planning and Design, (12) Pavement Management & Infrastructure Data Collection, (13) Materials Testing, (14) Building Design, (15) Program Management, (16) Stormwater management and Green Infrastructure Design.

Submittal Process

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202 or OBC.Consultants@baltimorecity.gov Since these letters are utilized to assist small, local, minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, the letters should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal joint ventures may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

Each consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Standard Form (SF) 255, along with **five (5) copies**, for each requested category, to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). An original Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 is required for each service category for which a prime consultant is submitting a proposal.

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project must be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. Any construction contractor listed in the specific proposal for the Project to perform work in an existing prequalifica-

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tion category must also be prequalified. A **copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.** Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

To attend the Q&A Session; **firms must RSVP to DOT** Executive Administrative Manager, Ms. Veobia Akilo by e-mail – Veobia.Akilo2@baltimorecity.gov no later than 12:00 P.M (Noon) on Friday May 17, 2019. Space is limited to two (2) attendees per firm. *Failure to RSVP will not preclude attendance of the Q & A session*; however attendees will not be guaranteed due to limited seating. The RSVP request shall include the following information:

- Subject line of email: "Project #1295 – On Call Design, Construction and Program Management Services for Transportation Projects RSVP"
- Name, company name and phone numbers of attendees.

Interested firms are **invited to attend a Questions & Answers (Q&A) Session from 1:00 P.M – 2:30 P.M on Wednesday May 31, 2019**, in the Planning Department Board Room located on the 8th Floor of the Charles L. Benton Building, 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD. This session will provide interested parties with a more detailed overview of the scope of requested services and provide any necessary clarifications prior to the response deadline.

Answers from the Q&A session will be posted on the City of Baltimore Department of Transportation website:
<https://transportation.baltimorecity.gov>.

The Federal Standard Form (SF) 255 and the five copies must be submitted **on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on Friday July 12, 2019**. Submittals will not be accepted after this deadline, no exceptions.

If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Ms. Amah Binde by email: Amah.Binde@baltimorecity.gov. Projects will need to comply with all applicable Baltimore City Standards, Policies and Guidelines. City personnel will utilize the "City of Baltimore Guidelines for The Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors" for this contract/project.

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Firms desiring consideration for an Architect-Engineer or related services for this on-call contract may request consideration under one or more categories as set forth in the project scope.

DOT may select firms for more than one category; however, DOT will award only one contract to each Consultant. DOT will include in such contract all of the categories for which the Consultant has been selected. The selection process will use a multi-step approach as follow:

- In Step one, (a) the proposals received will be reviewed and ranked using the evaluation criteria below:

- Professional qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of required services, including professional qualifications of Key Personnel (25%).

- o Details on the principal members of the proposed operations and management team to be assigned to projects, complete with experience data on projects of similar nature.

- o An indication of the firm's ability to undertake the work in a timely, responsive manner.

- Specialized experience and technical competence in the types of work required (35%).

- o Established quality assurance and quality control procedures

- o Well-developed processes

- o Appropriate equipment and technology

- Ability to provide personnel familiar with Baltimore City standards or equivalent (25%).

- o Recent experience in execution and management of similar projects (local and companywide, with an emphasis on local experience)

- o Emphasis on local office resources

- o Local being defined as Baltimore City or similar urban areas

- Overall team approach with Minority Business Enterprises- MBE/WBE (15%)

(b) For each category, as listed in the project scope, a short list of approved firms will be created for evaluation to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services. The number of firms shortlisted may be different for each category.

- In Step two, for each category, the shortlisted firms will be invited to conduct a presentation and interview session. Firms will be required to present on all categories for which they have been shortlisted. shortlisted firms along with the interview invite.

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Continued on page 13

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Legal Notice — Project #1295 **Continued from page 12**

Individual task orders will be issued for specific work to be performed under the awarded on-call contract and the tasks valued at \$250,000 or more will be awarded based on second tier competition.

The terms of individual task orders, including price, will be negotiated in response to the issuance of a Request for Task Order Proposal by DOT. Consultants will be required to submit additional information for project-specific proposals. Task orders will be awarded to the most qualified Consultants with respect to the scope of work defined in the Request for Task Order Proposals.

Once the contract awards have been made by the Board of Estimates, for each task order proposal, valued over \$250,000, DOT will compete tasks among three or more firms.

Next, DOT will negotiate a task fee that DOT determines to be fair and reasonable with the firm selected as the most highly qualified firm for the task order at hand. If DOT is unable to negotiate a task with the most highly qualified firm, then DOT will initiate task negotiations with the second-most highly qualified firm, and so on, until an agreed upon cost proposal is reached.

Only Tasks valued at \$250,000 or more will follow this process. Discussions with firms will not be required for an original task order that is less than \$250,000 or for a task order that is a continuation of an original task.

By submitting a proposal for this project, firms accept the selection process and acknowledge and accept that determination of the “most qualified” firm(s).

Contract

Contract amount will have the upset limit listed below depending upon the number of categories for which the Consultant is selected as follows:

- Group A: 1-2 categories \$500,000 maximum
- Group B: 3-6 categories \$1,000,000 maximum
- Group C: 7-10 categories \$3 million maximum
- Group D: 11 categories and above \$5 million maximum

Insurance Requirements

The consultants selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability,

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ity, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Prequalification Certification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal must have demonstrated experience for each service category for which they are submitting a proposal, as follow:

- Group A: 1-2 categories \$500,000 maximum (1 to 2 years of relevant experience)
- Group B: 3-6 categories \$1,000,000 maximum (3 years or more of relevant experience)
- Group C: 7-10 categories \$3 million maximum (3 years or more of relevant experience)
- Group D: 11 categories and above \$5 million maximum (5 years or more of relevant experience)

All firms listed in the specific proposal must be pre-qualified at the time of the proposal submittal. A proposal will be rejected if a firm listed in the proposal is not pre-qualified at the time of the proposal submittal.

MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 29%
The WBE goal is 10%

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project. All sub-consultants must be pre-qualified at the time of the proposal submittal.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each MBE/WBE firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project should be certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to

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submitting the proposal. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255's should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5 subtitle 28-41).

A minority firm submitting application that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

Standard Form 255 cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound. Applications should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project. Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application will cause disqualification of the submittal.

Sincerely,
Deena Joyce, Executive Secretary
Office of Boards and Commissions

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **Water Contract No. 1402-Urgent Need Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvements-Phase I-FY20** will be received at the Office of the Comp-

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troller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, June 12, 2019**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Transportation Service Center located on the First Floor of the Harry S. Cummings Building, 401 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, May 10, 2019** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the Department of Public Works-Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC). Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the OBC at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551-Water Mains**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**

A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted in the **3rd Floor Large Conference Room of Office of Engineering & Construction, 200 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, on May 17, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.**

Principal Item of work for this project are:

Urgent need water main repairs and replacement as necessary, including, but not limited to, replacement/installation of various size new ductile iron pipe, valves, fittings, and appurtenances replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **13%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

WATER CONTRACT NO. 1402

APPROVED:
Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director of Public Works

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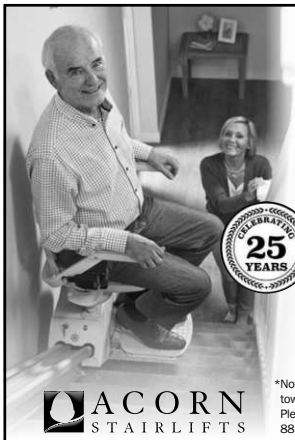
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