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Baltimore students take part in Amazon's first-ever Future Engineer Robotics Camp



On January 24, 2020, Amazon hosted KIPP Ujima Village Academy's first-ever middle school robotics team for a "Future Engineer Robotics Camp," which included a behind-the-scenes tour of the Baltimore robotics fulfillment center followed by a thought-provoking robotics activity and the opportunity to meet with Amazon leadership. (Above) Amazon leaders and associates from the Baltimore area take the new robotics team from KIPP Ujima Village Academy on a special tour of the robotics facility. (Story on page 8) Photo Credit: Tasha Dooley

Before blacks could visit Ocean City, there were Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach

By Timothy Cox

During the Jim Crow era post 1940, a large number of recreational water locales, including the popular Ocean City, Maryland and Virginia Beach, Virginia were off limits to African-American vacationers.

Segregation-era laws in Southern states jetted its ugly heads just south of the Mason-Dixon Line and legally prohibited blacks from enjoying the fruits of summertime fun in the sun— even in Central Maryland near Baltimore.

To counteract such despicable acts, African-American entrepreneurs often created businesses that solely catered to a black clientele or a black patronage.

In an effort to provide blacks with opportunities to enjoy summertime fun in Maryland, two sisters— Elizabeth Carr Smith and Florence Carr Sparrow, who were bold, visionaries developed the beachfront property originally owned by their parents and former slaves, Frederick Carr and Mary Wells Carr.

According to published reports, the couple purchased 180 acres of farmland on the Annapolis Neck Peninsula, off the Chesapeake Bay and the Severn River. Even though they were farmers, the family hosted family picnics and church outings, and invited boarders to participate in summer outings on their water front property. By 1926, the family officially named the water location Carr's Beach and a nearby ocean-side property was named Sparrow's Beach.

By the late 1940s, Carr's Beach had earned a growing reputation as one of the most popular beach spots on the East Coast. Black vacationers from as far west as Ohio and West Virginia, found themselves frolicking with revelers from New York State, Pennsylvania and of course nearby Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

While the weekdays attracted family-life picnics, Sunday School and church picnics, on weekends, some of the premier black entertainers from the so-called "Chitlin Circuit" found themselves entertaining thousands of appreciative patrons who were starved to see top-notch performers such as Billie Holiday; Count Basie; James Brown; Ray Charles and the Raelettes; Wilson Pick-



By the late 1940s, Carr's Beach had earned a growing reputation as one of the most popular beach spots on the East Coast. Black vacationers from as far west as Ohio and West Virginia, frolicked with revelers from New York State, Pennsylvania and of course nearby Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Courtesy Photo/ Robert McNeill Archives

ett; Otis Redding; Little Richard; Esther Phillips; The Orioles and Frankie Lymon and The Teenagers.

Popular Annapolis radio disc jockey, Charles W. "Hoppy" Adams Jr. of radio station WANN, spear headed the music scene and ensured that premier entertainment consistently performed on "The Beach" soundstage.

Two Baltimore area gentlemen, Mile Lee and Robert Ford who were youngsters at a time when their parents would drive them from West Baltimore to partake in picnics and overall good summer fun, near the Annapolis beaches.

Mike Lee, 68, recalls being in elementary school when he first visited Carr's Beach.

"I was aware that we weren't welcome to places like Ocean City," said Lee. "So Carr's and Sparrow beaches offered us a safe haven, a place where we could do what we wanted to do, and not have anyone looking over us, like law enforcement."

Lee's high school classmate, Robert Ford, 67, also has fond memories of visiting "The Beach" as a youngster.

"Carr's Beach was a summertime location where everyone wanted to go to experience the beach but due to the activities below the Mason-Dixon Line, we were faced with Jim Crowism and segregation [and] we could not go everywhere, including Ocean City," said Ford. "To this day, I have never gone to Ocean City. It's just something about not being allowed to go back then, I guess that's lingered with me even now."

Pittsburgh native, Darryl Dunn, 73, was first introduced to Carr's Beach by a former girlfriend from Baltimore whose father had business partners who often frequented "The Beach."

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"It's been several years ago but I recall the first time I heard about Carr's Beach. She invited me down to go see James Brown perform. I couldn't believe my eyes.

"In Pittsburgh, we never had such a water-front beach presence so to see thousands of black people having so much fun in bathing suits, and picnicking and just having a flat-out ball—I knew it was something unique, and now I realize it was part of Black History."

According to published reports, on the evening of July 21, 1956, an estimated 70,000 people traveled to Carr's Beach to hear rock 'n roll creator/guitarist Chuck Berry perform. However, only 8,000 made it past the gates because the grounds were filled beyond capacity.

It's been said that a 1962 performance by James Brown drew 11,000 fans, and also marked the last of the major crowds drawn to the area, which is located near Annapolis, Maryland – off the Chesapeake Bay and Severn Rivers.

Susan McNeill's father, photographer Robert H. McNeill, was a regular visitor to the beaches and took hundreds of photographs of revelers who visited Carr's and Sparrow beaches. The District of Columbia native offered the Baltimore Times a choice of images of her father's work at no cost for this story.

"There are times when we charge for [the] use of the images, McNeill said, "But in the case of a newspaper, we want to inform, and keep this historical legacy alive."

Both Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach are now mostly populated with expansive million-dollar, single-family homes of which most are white-owned properties. The area where blacks used to congregate and dominate is now a ritzy beachfront property known as Annarundel on the Bay.

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Maryland Carey Law Scholarship Honors Elijah E. Cummings '76

Baltimore— The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law has established a scholarship honoring cherished alumnus Elijah E. Cummings '76, who died in October 2019.

Under the leadership of Chair Robert J. Kim '83, the Maryland Carey Law Board of Visitors, of which Cummings was a longstanding member, created and swiftly funded the scholarship in the weeks following the congressman's death. The Cummings Scholarship reached its initial endowment goal of \$50,000 before the end of 2019.

"We lost a great man whose contributions to the law school, Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the nation are immeasurable," said Kim. "The Cummings Scholarship honors Elijah by continuing his legacy of empowering students to become legal leaders, using their education to do good in the world."

Awarded to one recipient per year, the scholarship will support Maryland Carey Law students who have an interest in public service, a record of academic excellence, and demonstrated financial need.

"Congressman Cummings meant so much to our community, and I am incredibly grateful to the Board of Visitors for their leadership in creating and supporting this scholarship," said Maryland Carey Law Dean Donald B. Tobin. "We will carry on Elijah Cummings' legacy for years to come, and look forward to selecting the inaugural Cummings Scholarship recipient."

The law school will also honor Cummings' memory by posthumously awarding him Maryland Carey Law's Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Alumni Honors Banquet in April. He will be only the second recipient since the award's establishment in 2016. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given by the Alumni Board at the discretion of the dean.

A Baltimore native, Cummings graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University, before completing his JD at the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976. At the time of his death, Cummings was in his 13th term advocating for Maryland's 7th District in Congress,



Elijah E. Cummings graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Howard University, before completing his JD at the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976.

Courtesy Photo/UMD-Baltimore

and had risen to the powerful position of

chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the main investigative committee in the House of Representatives. Even with his demanding schedule, Cummings was a consistent presence at the law school, serving on the Board of Visitors, and mentoring and supporting current students and recent graduates.

"The Cummings family is delighted that the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law decided to honor our beloved Elijah with an annual needs-based scholarship for a student interested in a public service career," said Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, the congressman's widow. "This scholarship is consistent with Elijah's passionate belief that financial challenges should not prevent promising students from receiving a quality education."

To donate to The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings '76 Scholarship Endowment, visit: www.law.umaryland.edu/CummingsScholarship.



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

The Essence and Beauty of Black Women in America

By Roger Caldwell, NNPA Newswire Contributor

Black women are some of the most amazing females on the planet. There are many fraudulent images and concepts about Black women in American culture, where they are considered angry, hard to talk to and unintelligent. The image of black women as a B, gives everyone in the country, the impression that the majority of our women will curse you out, and are always ready to fight.

These inaccurate descriptions of black women give young black girls a negative impression of themselves, their culture, and race. When they are constantly being bombarded with foolishness on the radio with hip hop, and reality television, it makes black women appear silly.

But for decades, black women have achieved phenomenal accomplishments and achieving the goal of sharing this information requires Black Media to lead the way, by exposing the truth to America and the world.

Shonda Rhimes, the most powerful show-maker in Hollywood says, “What we are is truth tellers, change agents and troublemakers— in the best way. We’re agitating. And advocating. Standing on the shoulders of a long line of resourceful, and resilient black women. And preparing the next generation to take on the mantle, with their own kind of activism.”

Black women have always understood that there was racial discrimination, but they also were discriminated against because of their gender. Black women, and women in general, knew they had to fight and still nurture and take care of their children, and their man. Black women are magicians, and they were always working, and more women are graduating from college than ever before.

The essence of black women is they are survivors, with purpose as their common denominator. They take care of business, and they get the job done. “There are also countless women beyond the headlines doing the work every day without any of the fanfare,” says Amber Scott of the Black Enterprise.

There are always black women like Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama, whose contributions are too numerous to count, and are using their influence to promote other black women. “There is DJ Beverly Bond, who’s gathered up the sprinkles of Black Girl Magic to show the world how much Black girls do indeed rock.” says Amber Scott.

Not only are black women some of the smartest on the planet, they are also the prettiest. In December 2019, black women held five of the biggest beauty pageant titles in the United States and the world. “When Miss Jamaica, Toni-Ann Singh, was crowned Miss World in London, she joined an impressive roster of black women who hold some of the world’s most prestigious pageant titles,” says Tara Law of the NY Times.

The prestigious pageant titles were: 1. Zozibini Tunzi as Miss World, 2. Cheslie Kryst as Miss USA, 3. Ralieggh Garris as Miss Teen USA, 4. Zozibini Tunzi as Miss Universe, and 5. Nia Franklin as Miss America (who is scheduled to crown her successor on Dec. 19). It is the first time that black women have held all five of these titles at once.

Black women have a troubled history with race, when it comes to beauty pageants in America. The wins were very difficult for blacks to get, because racism played a major part in every judge’s decision. But black women never gave up, and many of the contestants considered themselves freedom fighters.

In almost every field black women achieved— and they never stopped fighting. Truth tellers, change agents and troublemakers, Black women were advocating, agitating to break down the walls. Black women are the most beautiful women on the planet, they are queens, and we must edify them with our love.



Community Affairs

Nearly \$1 million in African American Heritage Preservation Grants Awarded

12 Organizations receive funding to repair and restore cultural and historical sites

Annapolis— The Hogan administration announced that 12 Maryland nonprofits were recently awarded nearly \$1 million in funds by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). These grants offer assistance to organizations and private citizens in their sponsorship of projects involving the acquisition, construction, or improvement of sites related to African American heritage.

“Our administration is pleased to provide funding that will improve and preserve sites that promote African American heritage in Maryland,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “It is essential that we recognize and understand the history of these sites and their significance in the African American experience in our state and our nation.”

The goal of the African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) is to identify and preserve buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American community in Maryland. The FY20 grant awards range from \$12,250 to \$100,000.

The AAHPP is administered as a partnership between the MHT and the MCAAHC. The MHT, a division of the Maryland Department of Planning, assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage through research, conservation, and education. The MCAAHC is one of seven ethnic and cultural commissions within the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives, and works to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland’s African American heritage and support institutions and groups with similar objectives.

For more information about the grant program, contact Charlotte Lake, Ph.D. (MHT) at charlotte.lake@maryland.gov or 410-697-9559, or MCAAHC Director Chanel Compton at chanel.compton@maryland.gov or 410-216-6180.

The Martin Luther King They Love

By Wornie Reed, Ph.D., Professor, Sociology and Africana Studies Director, Race and Social Policy Research Center, Virginia Tech

Two decades after his assassination, Martin Luther King, Jr., was highly regarded. His favorability rating was 76 percent among white Americans. By then, of course, we had the national holiday established in his name, quite a change from 1966, two years before his death, when his favorability rating among white Americans was only 28 percent. We should remember that while he lived and worked, the majority of white America reviled Martin Luther King.

Whites framed their malice toward King as something other than racism. They did not oppose MLK because he struggled for black freedom and equality. Rather they detested him—they said—because he was a rabble-rouser, a

Communist, and a lawbreaker. J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, called him the most dangerous man in America, and there was rejoicing at his death.

Millions of white Americans hated Martin Luther King. All over the country, many celebrated his death.

Young whites, absorbing the hatred of their parents, also celebrated. Archives

the country would be "better off in the long run."

Here at Virginia Tech, where I currently teach, some students were saddened by King's assassination, while others were not. There was a demonstration against lowering the American flag "for a nigger."

Now they love him. What happened?

“Whites framed their malice toward King as something other than racism. They did not oppose MLK because he struggled for black freedom and equality. Rather they detested him—they said—because he was a rabble-rouser, a Communist and a lawbreaker. J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, called him the most dangerous man in America, and there was rejoicing at his death.”

in the library at the University of Memphis tell the story of a Memphis-area high school class. The teacher asked his students to write about their responses to King's assassination. Most of the students responded with satisfaction or jubilation.

One student described his immediate reaction to King's murder: "I thought it was one of the greatest feats of Americanism I have ever heard of." Another explained that because of King's death,

What caused the change of heart among whites? One thing, of course, was his death. Although there was a significant amount of celebration at his assassination, with him no longer around, there was less hatred toward him, but not enough for a positive favorability rating.

Undoubtedly the whitewashing of Martin Luther King did the trick. King, the rabble-rouser, who got arrested 30 times, has been scrubbed clean. Now he is depicted as a dreamer, something

opposite of the activist he was. He is widely viewed as a person who mildly promoted peace – no activism, no strife, no confrontations, no defying unjust laws.

So what? You may ask. What difference does it make that now whites love MLK when previously, they hated him. It matters a lot. They love the person they made him, in death—a peace-loving dreamer. If we follow this person, we do nothing. We hope for better relations. We dream of a better day, thinking that time will erase the oppression. That is what we did for decades. For some 40 years—from the mid-1970's to the mid-2010's—there was no national black movement. During this time, racial progress came to a grinding halt, possibly going backward.

It is way past time to bring back our deceased icon, the real Martin Luther King, the man who was leading the Poor People's Campaign when he was struck down, the man who vowed to close down the Nation's Capitol if the government did not heed our demand to eliminate poverty and hunger in this wealthy nation, the man who continued this effort in the face of death. If we bring back the memory of this MLK, we may be inspired to do what he asked us to do after he was gone, "Continue this movement. Do this work."

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Baltimore Sixth District Councilwoman Sharon Middleton:

A Woman Who Makes The Most of Her Opportunities

By Ursula V. Battle

Opportunities seem to always come Sharon Middleton's way and the Baltimore Sixth District Councilwoman has always managed to make the most of them. She recalled being told about a job opportunity at Hochschild Kohn's department store one day while she was walking down the mall with hair rollers in her head. She got the job.

As a councilwoman, the opportunity to become Vice-President of the Baltimore City Council came her way after Stephanie Rawlings-Blake moved up to become Mayor of Baltimore City and Bernard C. "Jack" Young moved up to President of the Baltimore City Council.

Councilwoman Middleton said former City Councilwomen Rochelle "Rikki" Spector and Helen Holton recommended she join the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo).

"When I got on the Baltimore City Council, Helen Holton and Rikki Spector were members of MACo," said Councilwoman Middleton. "They said it was an organization I needed to belong to because it was good to know colleagues around the state and country and also a way to obtain best practices. I joined and immediately started going to conferences. I eventually worked my way up to be on the Board."

MACo is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that serves Maryland's counties by articulating the needs of local government to the Maryland General Assembly. The Association's membership consists of county elected officials and representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Soon after joining the organization,



Baltimore Sixth District Councilwoman Sharon Middleton in her City Hall office. Councilwoman Middleton is the President of MACo. The former educator is the first African American from Baltimore City to hold the position.

Photo by Ursula V. Battle

several leadership opportunities within the organization came her way.

"I worked my way up to Second Vice President and then First Vice President," said Councilwoman Middleton smiling as she reflected on the words of her late mother, Martha. "My mother always said to me, 'you never had a problem finding a job. The job always came to you.'"

The former teacher now serves as President of MACo, becoming the first African American from Baltimore City to hold the position.

"Periodically, I testify in Annapolis," she said. "Part of my charge is to promote Baltimore City. People forget about this, but Baltimore City is the economic engine of the state. We have the Port of Baltimore. Approximately 75 percent of all cars that come in the United States first comes through our port.

The Baltimore native is in her third term as a Sixth District Councilwoman, representing one of the city's largest districts. She was elected to her first term after her appointment in 2007.

"The Sixth District includes Park Heights," she said. "Park Heights has been such a neglected area. I want the overlooked areas of Park Heights to be a part of my legacy of accomplishing growth there. We have been putting in a lot of work to meet human service needs. Park Heights has gone to another level. Now, we are starting the physical development piece. As a result of our efforts, a new library is coming."

Councilwoman Middleton chairs the Baltimore City Council's Taxation and Finance Committee. She is also a commissioner on the Division of Aging and Care.

Councilwoman Middleton is a graduate of Morgan State University. She is married to Glenard S. Middleton Sr., Executive Director of AFSCME's Maryland Council 67 and President of Maryland Public Employees, Local 44. In addition to public service she says that she also enjoys being a wife and mother.

"I don't like to be called a politician because of my service as teacher," she said. "I still use those help skills."

Her 20-year career in the Baltimore County School System included teaching at Woodlawn Middle School.

When asked if she was interested in pursuing a higher political office, Councilwoman Middleton replied, "I'm happy doing what I am doing. With me, it's never been about the titles. It's about the work. I enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of those who have received my help. Hearing 'thank you' is enough for me."

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Baltimore students take part in Amazon's first-ever Future Engineer Robotics Camp

By *Demetrius Dillard*

A special group of Baltimore students had the privilege of missing a portion of their school day for another intriguing learning experience.

On January 24, 2020, Amazon hosted KIPP Ujima Village Academy's first-ever middle school robotics team for a 'Future Engineer Robotics Camp,' including a tour of the Baltimore robotics fulfillment center facility, which was followed by a thought-provoking robotics activity and the opportunity to meet with Amazon leadership.

KIPP Ujima Village Academy, a public charter middle school in the Walbrook Junction section of the Baltimore, just formed its robotics program as a result of a \$10,000 computer science grant from Amazon in April 2019. High Point High School (Beltsville) was the other public school in Maryland that was a recipient of the grant last year.

The behind-the-scenes tour consisted of Ujima students and staff seeing the life cycle of Amazon products and seeing live robots in action in the Amazon Baltimore fulfillment center. Hailey Davis, the assistant general manager of the robotics fulfillment center, led the tour.

"We want to continue to engage our community, we want to continue to engage our future STEM associates in these programs so these can be our innovators for the future," Davis said. "In the long run we want to make sure that children in our community have the opportunity to experience something like [this]. This is a new program that Amazon is very dedicated to, to create our future leaders."

Following the tour, students broke off in groups to assemble robots with Legos by following outlined instructions. After the robot was built, students collaborated to program the robots to make certain movements through a computer coding system. Once students completed the robotics activity, they placed their finished products on the ground and beheld how the robots operated.



(Left) Amazon volunteers from the nearby Baltimore fulfillment center engage with students during the Amazon Future Engineer Day Camp. (Right) Amazon robots have come a long way—students from KIPP Ujima Village Academy learn about the evolution of robots over time during the Amazon Future Engineer Day Camp. Photo Credit: Tasha Dooley

Teamwork, communication and overcoming failure were some of the take-aways from the robot building activity, according to Ben Davis, a sixth grade science teacher at Ujima Village Academy who came along to mentor the students as they built robots.

"You think about the future of the economy and the world—majority of the things are going to be computer-based, involving software design, or computer design or coding," Davis said. "Getting kids experience with this in middle school years allows them to get the opportunity to be experienced with this stuff, and feel confident they can pursue something like this in the future."

Davis also serves as the lead robotics instructor in Ujima Academy's robotics program, which is comprised of 10 students so far. The program, still in its early stages, meets every Tuesday after school for various computer science-related activities.

Ujima and High Point are the first grant recipients in Maryland as part of Amazon's "Future Engineer" nationwide

grant program that recently launched. According to the company, the Future Engineers Program provides more than 150 underserved schools with access to robotics and computer science programs.

Cameron Collins, an eighth grader at Ujima Village Academy, is enrolled in the robotics program and was one of the estimated 20 participants in the robotics camp event at the fulfillment center.

She says she feels that robots will soon be a main part of the modern world so learning more about it is what drew her to the robotics program at school. Assembling the robots was somewhat of a difficult team-building exercise, Collins said, but was nonetheless a worthwhile learning experience.

"While it can be confusing and frustrating, it's a good learning experience," said Collins, who plans to go on to Baltimore Polytechnic Institute after graduating from Ujima. "I feel like you can learn a lot working with other people, and it's nice knowing how to cooperate and get things done as a group."

Jasmine Bacot, manager of external

relations with KIPP Baltimore, was partially responsible for applying for the \$10,000 grant. She says that she and her colleagues pursued the grant funds as a way to create various opportunities for students in accordance with KIPP's STEM programming and initiatives.

"I see future scientists, future engineers, future computer scientists, software developers—they're all a very bright group of students, and it's just a joy being able to watch them learn, and grow, and work together on these different initiatives and to be excited about STEM," Bacot said.

Ujima staff members, along with leaders at Amazon, foresee the partnership and robotics camp with the Amazon Baltimore fulfillment center being an ongoing function for years to come.

To conclude the robotics camp, Ujima students and staff engaged in a question and answer session with Amazon leadership and received Amazon toy vans and planes as souvenirs before boarding the bus back to campus.

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But... the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Founder of Maryland media non-profit on his journey from learning disability to stellar career in TV

By Nadine Matthews

First came the weeping, then came the whipping. In the aftermath of a fire mistakenly started by him and his sister in their one-room apartment while his mother was at work, Robert Jackson's shaken mother fell to weeping. The tears were brought on by relief that her kids were okay and likely guilt that as a single working mother, she had to leave little Robert and his sister to fend for themselves. After regaining her composure, she wiped her tears. She then gave Robert the whipping of his life. The post-beating lecture, Jackson recalled in an interview with *Baltimore Times* included her telling him, "You are too smart to be doing something like this because if you were stupid, then you wouldn't be alive right now. That really made an imprint on me."

Jackson had undiagnosed dyslexia all through his youth, which in those days, was often misread. But, Jackson, buoyed by his mother's belief in his intelligence, found ways to enrich himself educationally and ultimately achieved a long and successful career in media arts, including television and radio.

With his own unhappy experience in traditional education in mind, the Washington DC-raised Jackson started the non-profit B-Roll Media & Arts, Inc. in 2012. With his own money and funding from a number of sources, the program offers free of charge, eight-week sessions in photography, video, filmmaking, music production, and animation. Through a partnership with Prince



*Robert Jackson, founder,
B-Roll Media & Arts, Inc.
Courtesy Photo*

George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, many of the classes are offered at their locations. The program is open to anyone thirteen to twenty-one though certain tracks are open only to older students. "The filmmaking pro-

gram," Jackson explains, "is for ages sixteen to twenty-one because younger kids just didn't have the discipline to sit and get the theory." They also ask for a firm commitment to completing the full eight weeks of the program from partici-

pants. Troubled that the sub-standard housing they were in might have played a part in how easily the fire had started, Jackson's mother wrote to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and asked to be moved to better quality housing. Jackson isn't sure if Eisenhower himself read the letter, but he does know his mother saw results. Recalls Jackson, "Shortly after she wrote that letter. We got moved. A car came and got us and took us to these newly-built projects in southwest DC. It made an impression on me."

A mom unafraid to write to the president for better housing for her children raised a son unafraid to write to his congressman for assistance. His dyslexia made it difficult to pass the test that would have allowed him to pursue photography while he was in the Navy, which he joined after high school, so Jackson wrote his DC Congressman. Jackson was then allowed to work in the photo lab where, through his own efforts, he picked up the necessary skills. "I became a Navy photographer," he recalls triumphantly.

After a medical discharge from the Navy, Jackson used the GI Bill to go to American University, double majoring in Visual Communications and Audio Technology. He then failed, more than once, the test for his FCC license which would allow him to get a job in the broadcasting field. Jackson persevered again. "After several tries, I passed the FCC test and got my first license and became a broadcast engineer." Jackson went on to a hugely successful career as an audio engineer and technical operations management for companies like BET, NBC, CNN, and NPR.

As his stellar career wound down, Jackson realized he "wanted to be of service to young people."

In the internet era, the programs taught in B-Roll are at least as important as reading and writing, and in some cases, are even more important. Jackson notes, "The sky is the limit for kids who go through these programs."

He's been impressed with the comfort Generation Z has with technology. "This younger generation is unafraid to tackle technology of any type," he marvels. However, Jackson also notices a downside. "They want immediate gratification so the concept of being goal-oriented and working toward a specific goal gets lost, and needs to be focused on."

For more information about free classes offered by B-Roll Media & Arts, Inc. Please visit www.b-rollmedia.org (See full article at: www.baltimoretimes-online.com)

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Rambling Rose

**Baltimore Celebrates
Black History Month**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, we have a lot to talk about and a little space to do it. So let's get started. Black History Month has always been very special to me because I really get to talk a couple of weeks about what our folks are doing in the community to celebrate this Black History Month.

First, let's talk about this weekend. Baltimore's own international recording artist and saxophonist, Gary Thomas, his quintet along with special guest, E. J. Strickland, will perform Saturday, February 8 for two shows at 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at An die Musik Live, 409 N. Charles Street.

Kier Johnson & the New Eubie present Y.A.M.S. (Young Artist Music Series) on Friday, February 7, 2020 from 8-10 p.m. with the talented saxophonist and trumpeter, Clarence Ward III & Friends from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. The Roux, an Eclectic Fusion of Organic Hip Hop, Soul & Jazz band will start. WOW! I know I won't be at this one!

Mannnnnnn! It's too much going on with the title of this band. If you go, let me know what the hell this music sounds like. Anyway all of this is happening at 847 N. Howard Street. For more information, call 410-294-4101.

On Sunday, February 9, Corey Harris; an acoustic Blues Master performs at the Creative Alliance, located 3134 Eastern Avenue in east Baltimore starting at 8 p.m. Corey is a Blues & Reggae Musician and is really good.

On Saturday, February 8, The Soundry, which has only been open for a couple of years, located 10221 Wincopin Circle in Columbia, Maryland has booked Jah Works for the Bob Marley's Birthday Bash, also featuring STRYKER POSSE. Show time is 8 p.m. I heard the food and drinks are good, I

have to check this out myself.

Celebrate Black History Month at the opening of the B&O Railroad Museum's new temporary exhibit; a rare art collection not previously displayed honoring the historical legacy of African Americans on the B&O Railroad. Become immersed in the lives and labor of such seminal B&O Railroad workers as Thurgood Marshall, Fearless Mentor Williams, Charles Wright and Maggie Hudson. The exhibit is at the B&O Railroad Museum, 901 W. Pratt Street in Baltimore.

The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum celebrates Black History Month throughout the entire month of February. The museum hosts an assortment of events including roundtables, documentaries; panel discussions and so much more. The Museum is located 1601-03 E. North Avenue. 410-563-3404.

Enjoy a living history performance, film and talk about the NAACP and its leaders from the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era., See a living history performance of activist Juanita Jackson Mitchell, hear a lecture on the Baltimore Branch by Professor Prudence Cumberbatch and conclude with a film screening of Mr. Civil Rights: Thurgood Marshall & The NAACP; NAACP artifacts and panels covering 97 years of Maryland history will be on view.

Well, my dear friends, I am now ending my column this week with a surprise. I have started my third book, naming it "Black History in Baltimore & Maryland; Who, What, When & Where, 1950s-1980s," that means I am looking for pictures. That's right! I want photos of you and your family in and around your home, neighborhood, your community; I want photos of your family and



Amy Davis, author of "Flickering Treasure: Rediscovering Baltimore's Forgotten Movie Theaters" and Baltimore Sun Photographer will discuss her book and show her exhibit and Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor-Trusty, also author of two books and noted Entertainment Columnist for the Baltimore Times and the Afro-American Newspaper will share her perspective on The Avenue's Entertainment History. Both will be doing book signings on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Avenue Bakery. For more information, call 443-280-2702.



Melba Moore will make a special guest appearance and will sing "Lean on Me" at the Arena Players when they host the Broadway play "Purlie" in celebration of the Musicals "50th" Broadway Anniversary on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 8 p.m. at the Arena Players, 801 McCulloh Street. Renowned musician, David Bunn will be presenting a special presentation. For more information, call 410-728-6500.



Lou Fields will host a Black History Program honoring Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Leon Day just to name a few on Saturday, February 15, 2020 beginning at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland and at the Vulcan Blazers Firefighters Hall. For more information, call 443-983-7974.

get the idea. Now, remember every photo must have the following information: names, place and year. Please send to my email.

If you need me call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosaporyor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

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Ravens Ozzie Newsome can't shake scouting habit

By Tyler Hamilton

As the rain started to fall to the ground at the University of South Alabama's practice facility, a black Mercedes Benz pulled into a parking spot across the roadway. After taking a couple of minutes to gather some of his things, former Baltimore Ravens GM Ozzie Newsome emerged from the black sedan.

The annual trip to the Reese's Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama to watch college football's top prospects is a ritual of Newsome since the 1990s and continued unto 2002 when he became the first black GM in NFL history. Newsome has since retired so his long-term assistant GM Eric DeCosta could take over.

The 63-year-old Newsome is a life long football guy. Newsome's age and extensive history with football showed as he made his way from his car to the football facility for the South team's final practice before game day. Newsome seemed right at home in Alabama.

Born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Newsome's ties to Alabama are extensive. He was named the Alabama Player of the Decades in the 1970s. His allegiance remains with the Crimson Tide as shown by the many Alabama players he has selected over the years as the Ravens GM.

Perhaps that's the reason the big smile appeared on his face when he saw Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts after practice. Newsome watched the prospects practice with the same keen eye that he used to help build a Ravens team that won two Super Bowls, six AFC North Championships and appeared in 12 postseasons since 2000.

"He's made the Ravens who they are," Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said after Newsome's retirement. "He's the greatest GM in the history of football."

That's no slight to DeCosta whose first draft class yielded key contributors in wide receiver Marquise Brown (seven



Former Ravens GM Newsome's final draft class included All-Pro tight end Mark Andrews and 2019 NFL MVP Lamar Jackson.

Photo Credit: Patrick Semansky/AP

receiving touchdowns) and outside linebacker Jaylon Ferguson (14 starts). Brown was the perfect complement to Newsome's final draft class which included All-Pro tight end Mark Andrews and 2019 NFL MVP Lamar Jackson. It's safe to say that Newsome went out with a bang.

Evaluating players is a habit that Newsome can't shake. He remains with the Ravens personnel department as a scout. Newsome joked that his role is similar to the one that DeCosta once served for him.

Newsome remains in the press box on game day and still watches practices like he used to when he was the GM. The disappointment was evident on his face as he walked down the steps from the press box after Baltimore's loss to the Tennessee Titans in the Divisional Round of the playoffs at M&T Bank Stadium in January.

The Ravens had a first-round bye and finished with a 14-2 record. That's the best record in franchise history. Unfortunately for Newsome and the Ravens it was back to the drawing board after the undesired results. Although he is no longer the head person in charge, Newsome was ready to kick off his 18th offseason in hopes of helping to put together a team that can bring Baltimore their third Super Bowl Championship.

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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 **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 949R-Stony Run Wastewater Pumping Station Upgrade** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **March 11, 2020**. 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 **February 7, 2020** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$90.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 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 Pre-

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qualification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003-Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$2,000,000.01 to \$3,000,000**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted in the **3rd Floor Large Conference Room of the Office of Engineering & Construction, Abel Wolman Municipal Building on February 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM**. All questions by bidders must be submitted by **March 3, 2020**.

Principal items of work for include, but are not limited to the following:

Provision on new pumping units, relocation of existing grinders, valves, and gates, station bypass, replacement of the sump pump, replacement of the spray water system and increase in line size for the water service, upgrades to the process controls, automation of the station, reconfiguration of the suction and discharge piping, contingencies to refurbish the existing grinders and slide gates, miscellaneous work as shown on the Contract Documents.

The overall MBE goal is **18%**
The WBE goal is **4%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Matthew W. Garbark
Acting Director,
Department of Public Works

The Y in Central Maryland hosts workshops to teach parents how to keep their kids safe online



Baltimore— In celebration of Safer Internet Day (SID), The Y in Central Maryland will host 13 Google Be Internet Awesome workshops across central Maryland on February 11, 2020 to teach parents how to instill healthy and responsible Internet habits in their children.

The workshops will feature discussion-based, parent-to-parent conversations about how to help children be safe, smart and positive online. Families will learn to teach their children how to communicate responsibly, understand real from fake in the face of phishing and

scams, build strong passwords, be positive and kind online, and how to discuss questionable content as a family. Parents will receive free bilingual resources, answers to questions about online safety and digital citizenship, and tools and information to help facilitate discussions at home.

For a full list of workshop locations and start times, see ymaryland.org/events.

All events are free and open to the public. Some workshops will be presented in English and Spanish. Many locations will provide on-site childcare during the workshop.

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