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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Towson celebrates over 125 years of tradition at Annual 4th of July Parade



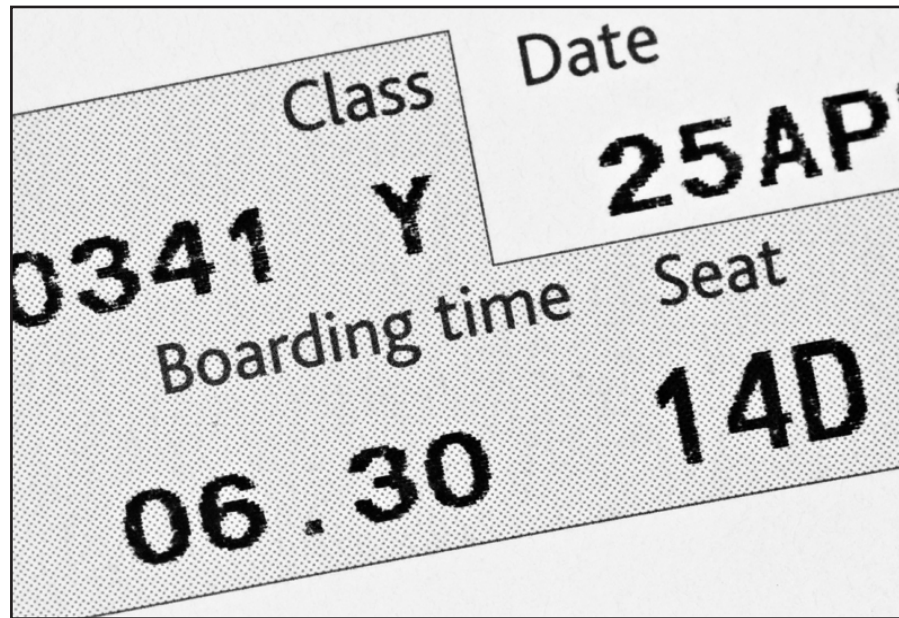
*Before you start your cookout or head on vacation, come celebrate at the best 4th of July Parade in the Baltimore area on Saturday, July 3, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your friends and family and enjoy years of tradition in the heart of Towson. The parade begins at the intersection of Towsontown and Bosley Avenue continues down Bosley, Allegheny and Washington Avenues. For over 125 years, the Towson 4th of July Parade has celebrated the lives of men and women who have bravely served our country who have allowed America to remain the land of the free and the home of the brave. The Towson Chamber of commerce is proud to continue this tradition of community. This year's lineup includes the Fire Brigade Pipes and Drums of Greater Baltimore, White Sabers, Citywide Gold Stars Theme Marching Band, and several others. Local dance groups; marching bands; antique vehicles; floats; military groups; fire trucks; and other parade favorites will also be featured. Many extravagant bands will be returning again this year.*

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

# TSA reminds passengers to remain calm and respectful at security checkpoints

Washington, D.C.— As America continues to recover from the pandemic and vaccination rates rise, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are excited to welcome the traveling public back to the nation's transportation systems. The federal facemask mandate remains in effect on buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Unfortunately, rising rates of unruly passengers, as reported by the FAA, are troubling as TSA reports similar incidents at checkpoints across the country. These incidents needlessly interrupt travel, delaying flights and other transportation operations across the country. TSA, in coordination with our air carrier and airport management partners, as well as the FAA, will not tolerate such actions, and may pursue criminal charges and a civil penalty up to the maximum allowable by law. Transportation Security Officers (TSO) and aviation employees across the system, work to keep the traveling public safe. TSA is urging travelers to be patient as they work to ensure a secure travel experience for all who pass through our nation's checkpoints.



**Violations of TSA requirements may result in criminal charges and civil penalties. If you have any concerns or questions during screening at a TSA checkpoint, or have a disability, medical condition or require additional assistance, ask for a Supervisor or Passenger Support Specialist.**

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

“Passengers do not arrive at an airport or board a plane with the intent of becoming unruly or violent; however, what is an exciting return to travel for some may be a more difficult experience for others, which can lead to unexpected, and unacceptable, behaviors,” said TSA Senior Official Performing the Duties of the

Administrator Darby LaJoye. “We appreciate our continued partnership and coordination with the FAA and stand together in a unified position of zero-tolerance with respect to attacks against our employees.”

Two separate incidents this month have triggered referrals to law enforcement

for passengers in Louisville, KY and Denver, CO. In Louisville, a passenger allegedly assaulted two TSOs while attempting to breach the exit lane and is facing state criminal charges for criminal trespass, fleeing and evading police, misdemeanor assault, and resisting arrest. The Denver incident involved a passenger allegedly biting two TSOs and remains under investigation. Both passengers also face a potential civil penalty of up to \$13,910 for each violation of TSA security requirements.

Passengers with questions about checkpoint procedures and how to prepare for TSA security screening, or who need additional assistance during the security screening process should contact TSA Cares in advance of their travel: 855-787-2227 (Federal Relay 711). Additionally, passengers can submit questions to @AskTSA on Twitter or Facebook Messenger on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on weekends/holidays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET. Information is also available at TSA.gov. If you have any concerns or questions during screening at a TSA checkpoint, or have a disability, medical condition or require additional assistance, ask for a Supervisor or Passenger Support Specialist.

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## A pandemic silver lining: transformed health care delivery

By Annette Bakker

COVID-19 transformed how Americans get health care. Before the pandemic, when people felt sick, they went through a familiar drill— make an appointment, drive to the doctor's, and all too often, wait. But as health-care providers reduced in-person visits during the pandemic all that changed. By May 2020, nearly 50 percent of patients sought care remotely via phone or video appointments with their doctors, up from just 11 percent in 2019. Almost 80 percent of Americans now say they're interested in virtual visits, according to a survey by McKinsey & Company.

The transformation goes beyond telehealth, though, to include more use of online portals, digital medical devices, and in-home treatment. Collectively, these changes are accelerating a shift towards "patient-directed care." Previously, doctors acted as the final arbiters of what patients needed— but now doctors and patients collaborate to make decisions. It's up to lawmakers, regulators, healthcare professionals, and patients themselves to ensure these positive changes last long after COVID-19 recedes.

The potential ramifications of this shift are enormous.

In a 2018 survey published in JMIR Medical Informatics, 88 percent of patients said telehealth had saved them at least one hour per appointment, and 41 percent said it saved more than three hours. Telehealth is also considerably less expensive. An in-person doctor's visit costs \$146, on average, while the average phone or video consultation costs \$79.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 has ramped up the use of digital monitoring technology, for instance, by using cell phone data on patient whereabouts, provided with permission, to better understand the disease. The need to stay home has also encouraged patients to use online portals for tasks like ordering prescriptions and reviewing their own lab results.

For example, the University of Southern California's Keck Medicine ran a pilot study in which it provided lung transplant patients with a tablet and a bluetooth-enabled device that detects signs of organ rejection. The device measured stats on blood pressure, heart rate, and lung health, which were shared with doctors in real time. Patients with the monitoring kit had 44 percent fewer hospital readmissions than a control group, and spent 54 fewer days in the hospital when they were readmitted.

Covid-19 has also sped up a trend towards not just diagnosis, but actual treatment outside of traditional settings. Spurred on by the pandemic, the non-profit healthcare system Intermountain Healthcare is now launching an at-home bone marrow transplant program.

Patients can only benefit from these exciting developments if we make sure they last. When the pandemic first started, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services relaxed restrictions on telehealth.

These rule changes were originally only meant to last through the pandemic. But patients, providers, and advocacy organizations are asking officials to make them permanent. And CMS is already making some changes permanent.

And now that patients are in the driver's seat, we'll need to make sure they have the right directions. Because of hospital restrictions due to COVID-19, patients are struggling to meet the requirements for accessing treatment. Organizations such as the Children's Tumor Foundation would like to assist by telling patients exactly what they need to do before they can get a drug— whether that's simply getting their blood pressure checked or undergoing more complicated exams.

Covid-19 has taken a terrible toll, but it's also bringing the future closer, empowering patients to take greater control of their care. We are all ready to bid the virus farewell, but should embrace the positive change it has brought.

Annette Bakker, PhD., is president of the Children's Tumor Foundation.

## ONE STEP FORWARD...



## Community Affairs

### Sha'Carri Richardson bolts into history and Tokyo Olympics

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia

With lightning-like quickness and a will to dominate, Sha'Carri Richardson is on her way to the Olympics in Tokyo.

The 21-year-old native of Dallas, Texas, won the women's 100-meter final during the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials.

Richardson's victory came in just 10.86 seconds— amazingly, it was an eyelash slower than her head-spinning performance in the semifinal heat, where she crossed the finish line in just 10.64 seconds.

Many are comparing the Olympic-bound track and field star to greats like Florence Griffith-Joyner and Gail Devers.

Richardson has remained humble, and she credits her grandmother, Betty Harp, for much of her success.

"My grandmother is my heart, my superwoman," Richardson told Runners World. "To have her here at the biggest meet of my life, it's just amazing. That probably felt better than winning the races, just being able to hold her after becoming an Olympian."

Already turning heads in and around the sport, Richardson further raised eyebrows when she dominated the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Team Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

Jumping out to a fast start, Richardson appeared to purposely slow down toward the end of the race and point toward the clock, which registered her dramatic timing.

"Nobody knows what I go through," Richardson said in a post-race interview with ABC. "Everybody has struggles, and I understand that. But y'all see me on this track, and y'all see the poker face I put on. But nobody but [my family] and my coach know what I go through... and I'm highly grateful to them. Without them, there would be no me."

Stay up-to-date on positive news in the community! Sign up for The Baltimore Times weekly newsletter at <https://bit.ly/2E5NuM5>

## Book called “boy.” gives voice to mothers of Black sons

*By Norma Adams-Wade, Founding Member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Texas Metro News Columnist*

Eric Garner’s mother Gwen Carr knows paralyzing grief first-hand. Other Black mothers across the nation say they share a similar mind-numbing foreboding: the possibility of fear or hatred of Black people by police or racists killing their Black sons.

This palpable emotion—ranging from distress to defiance—is expressed in 48 personal letters from Black mothers to America that comprise the book “boy,” also known as “Defending Our Black Sons’ Identity in America.” The book also is commonly referred to as “The Boy Book.”

Compiling author Sherilyn Bennett, who collected the mothers’ letters, is an entrepreneur, consultant in graphic design, branding and corporate diversity, ordained minister, and mother of two

adult sons—both school football coaches. She was born in Ocala, Florida and lives in Charlotte, N.C.

Images of watching media reports of the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer would not allow her to rest until she

or racist encounters.

Gwen Carr, Eric Garner’s mother wrote the book’s Foreword. Some of Garner’s last words, “I can’t breathe,” became a national rallying cry after the 43-year-old, 6-foot-3, 350-pound, great-grandfather [cq of six died July 17,

ordeal transformed her. She now pushes for legislation beyond street protests.

“I chose to be a catalyst for change because I refused to be a culprit of complacency,” Carr wrote in the Foreword. “I transitioned from mourning to movement and from sorrow to strategy! ...Eric’s name is one of too many names belonging to Black males that have been murdered by police officers who were acquitted.”

Rhonda Willis of Fort Worth wrote one of the letters. Her husband Fred Willis is helping promote the book. She tells of their son Joshua, now 11, earlier in grade school when a White classmate told her son that he (the White student) was better than her Black son.

When her son shared the story, she said she and her husband immediately began to regularly affirm their son’s worth to counteract any possible damage to his self-esteem.

“I used to think that racism didn’t start until boys were teenagers or young men but this really opened by eyes...,” she wrote in her letter.

Besides the book signing, the book is also available through Amazon and at some major retail book departments including walmart.com. To learn more, visit: [www.boybooknation.com](http://www.boybooknation.com).

*Norma Adams-Wade, is a proud Dallas native, University of Texas at Austin journalism graduate and retired Dallas Morning News senior staff writer. She is a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists and was its first southwest regional director. She became The News’ first Black full-time reporter in 1974. To contact Adams-Wade, email: [norma\\_adams\\_wade@yahoo.com](mailto:norma_adams_wade@yahoo.com).*

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***“Bennett, Eric Garner’s mother Gwen Carr, and a couple of the mothers who wrote essay letters were in Dallas in June for a book signing, meet and greet, and to encourage other mothers who have experienced or are experiencing similar traumas of losing sons in police or racist encounters.”***

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completed the “boy.” book that she views as a catalyst for change in America.

The book also includes chapters about (a) what your rights are and how to act if stopped by police, (b) a historical perspective about treatment of Black men and women by police, and (c) a licensed mental health counselor’s assessment of lingering trauma from police brutality and/or racist treatment in various settings.

“We must recognize that not all fights against racial inequality happen in the streets,” Bennett said in a promotional piece.

Bennett, Eric Garner’s mother Gwen Carr, and a couple of the mothers who wrote essay letters were in Dallas in June for a book signing, meet and greet, and to encourage other mothers who have experienced or are experiencing similar traumas of losing sons in police

2014. He had several existing health problems including severe asthma.

Video recordings show that Garner repeated “I can’t breathe” 11 times while Daniel Pantaleo, a White New York police officer, used a chokehold, already illegal at the time, while arresting Garner. Authorities say the police suspected Garner was selling cigarettes illegally on the street in Staten Island. The medical examiner ruled the death a homicide, but a Richmond County grand jury refused to indict the officer who was acquitted.

New York City later reached a \$5.9 million out-of-court settlement with Garner’s family. Five years later, the Justice Department refused to bring criminal charges against the officer but under a New York Police Department disciplinary hearing, Officer Pantaleo finally was fired in August 2019. Garner’s mother said the five-year

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# Local NFL star leads wellness and safety seminar for Amazon employees

By *Demetrius Dillard*

In an ongoing effort to emphasize wellness and safety, Amazon fulfillment center BWI2 in Canton brought Baltimore Ravens player Anthony Levine Sr. in to lead a WorkingWell class for its employees on June 11, 2021.

Amazon's recently launched WorkingWell program is part of the company's investment of more than \$300 million into safety projects in 2021 and its mission to be Earth's Safest Place to Work.

Levine, a safety, has a deep-rooted passion for fitness and wellness which made him an ideal fit to lead Amazon's employees in the special stretching and exercise routine that features some of the company's latest safety and health programming.

To begin, Levine introduced himself, explained the importance of stretching and expressed his devotion toward health, wellness and fitness before leading the group of about 30 employees on a series of stretching exercises for them to do before, during and after their shifts to reduce the likelihood of injury.

The assortment of stretches included wrist rotations; 20 hand squeezes to loosen hands and fingers; shoulder and lat stretch; neck stretches; lower back twists; ankle rotations - clockwise and counterclockwise; and quad stretches.

Suffering a broken arm, foot and collar bone over the course of his career taught him the importance of stretching. The process of going through recovery, rehabilitation and working vigorously to improve physical condition were valuable learning experiences, he said. "Every injury that I've had, it kind of



**Baltimore Ravens safety Anthony Levine stopped by Southeast Baltimore's Amazon fulfillment center to lead a "WorkingWell" stretch and exercise routine for the company's employees on June 11, 2021. Photo Credit: Demetrius Dillard**

helped me in a sense," said Levine, a nine-year veteran who will be returning with the Ravens this upcoming season on a one-year contract. "It helped me realize the importance of each injury and each part of my body so now I'm a lot better."

Levine added that he would have loved if something similar to WorkingWell was around during his younger days

when he worked with Sam's Club.

To conclude the 20-minute routine, Levine and Amazon employees also did forward, back and side lunges, squats, arm raises and calf stretches, as he went on to highlight the importance of blood circulation, the core and other body groups.

Following the WorkingWell huddle, Levine gave autographs and took pictures with employees. He felt that

Amazon's new safety and wellness initiative was a superb idea.

"It might encourage people to want to exercise more, to want to work on their body, to want to get going," said Levine, a native of Louisiana. "So this right here, this might be the fire that they needed to get them going, to get them exercising, to get them thinking about a healthy lifestyle outside of [healthy] eating."

Various aspects of the WorkingWell program commenced in the U.S. in 2019, and has since expanded to 859,000 associates at 350 sites in North America and Europe, according to Amazon.

By the end of the year, WorkingWell aims to extend its scope, covering all of Amazon's operations network in the nation with the aim of cutting recordable incident rates by 50 percent by 2025. The health and safety initiative also emphasizes healthy eating along with mental activities proven to help associates recharge and re-energize, according to Amazon.

Robert Taylor was one of the 30 Amazon associates who participated in the WorkingWell routine with Levine. He said it was an enjoyable experience.

"I really enjoyed this. It was great meeting an NFL player from the Ravens and it gave us more of a reason to workout and exercise before, and after, and during our shift," said Taylor, who is approaching his sixth year with the company. "It shows that Amazon does care about our safety. They want us to leave in the same condition that we came to work in, and make sure we don't get hurt while we're delivering smiles to our customers."

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## 'Cooking Up Success'

# Baltimorean Receives Julia Child Award

By Ursula V. Battle

TV host, writer and editor Toni Tipton-Martin was among groups of people invited to the White House by former First Lady Michelle Obama, not once but twice. The recipient of "Southern Foodways Alliance John Egerton Prize," she is the author award-winning books *Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African American Cooking* and *The Jemima Code: Two Centuries of African American Cookbooks*.

A native of Los Angeles, California who now resides in Baltimore, the multi-talented author is the recipient of a long list of impressive honors, awards, and appearances. Tipton-Martin continues to "cook up" success. She is the recipient of the seventh annual "Julia Child Award."

Created by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts, the award is given to an individual or team who has made a profound and significant difference in the way America cooks, eats, and drinks.

"It's an exhilarating acknowledgement of the work that I have spent years building," said Tipton-Martin. "I have been trying to draw attention to African Americans in the food industry, and to change the image and expression of folks and what we think about them. So, this is an enormous, and important acknowledgement of that work."

Tipton-Martin will receive the award on November 4, 2021, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.— the home of Julia Child's kitchen. The award is accompanied by a \$50,000 grant from the Foundation, which is one of the leading grant-giving private foundations solely dedicated to supporting the field of gastronomy and the culinary arts.

Each year, the recipient receives a uniquely designed award engraved with his/he name and year of honor, along with the \$50,000 grant, which benefits the food-related non-profit of the recipient's choosing.

"Growing up in Los Angeles was



***Renowned food writer and Baltimore resident, Toni Tipton-Martin is the recipient of the seventh annual "Julia Child Award." Created by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts, the award is given to an individual or team who has made a profound and significant difference in the way America cooks, eats and drinks.***

**Courtesy Photo/The Julia Child Foundation**

wonderful," she said. "I developed my appreciation for diversity and inquisitiveness, the community that I grew up in, and I was part of the first group of kids to be bused out of our neighborhoods and sent to other communities beyond our own. All those things had a great influence on my work. It was also where I became interested in Journalism."

Tipton-Martin is the Editor-in-Chief of *Cook's Country* magazine and will soon be a host on the PBS show. She has published in Best Food Writing of 2016.

"I will continue to take my message to bigger and bigger audiences and now through PBS, I will be able to share my message on another level. I'm really excited," she said.

In 2008, Tipton-Martin founded The SANDE Youth Project as a grassroots outreach to improve the lives of vulnerable families. SANDE presented an after-school cooking program for elementary school age kids and invited high school culinary students to cook at the James Beard House. She will use the \$50,000 grant that accompanies the Julia

Child Award to focus its mentoring and training activities on the next generation food writers.

"The role of food writing is an important one that has been dismissed or treated dismissively over the years," she said. "Hopefully, this Award, and the level of acknowledgement will open eyes to journalism programs, Black journalists and other journalists and organizations representing people of color, and that journalists have an important role in excavating and uncovering stories."

Tipton-Martin, 62, has also appeared as a guest judge on Bravo's *Top Chef* and was featured on CBS Sunday Morning's annual Food Show. She has been a featured speaker at the Library of Congress, and many universities.

In 2005, she published a historic reprint of an early 20th century cookbook, *The Blue Grass Cook Book*, by Minnie C. Fox, containing the first known photographs of African American cooks. She is also co-author of *A Taste of Heritage: New African American Cuisine*.

"The stories that I uncovered in my books, were languishing in scholarship," she said. "It's not like I have written something new. I utilized Journalism, one-on-one skills, and spent a lot of time in research, looking for the voices of real people to tell a different story about who our people have been, as a means of inspiring the next generation. We have kids that are lost and have few options because we've narrowly defined what success looks like in our community."

"And yet people right here in Baltimore, people have obtained their independence by being vendors and arabbers, and those are valuable careers that aren't in vogue, popular, or whatever the trendy terminology is today. We haven't shown real careers respect and we haven't treated Food Writing as a career with dignity. This award touches so many opportunities beyond getting young people motivated in careers in the food world that don't necessarily involve service and cooking."

To learn more about the Julia Child Award, visit [juliachildaward.com](http://juliachildaward.com).

# Rambling Rose

Happy July 4<sup>th</sup> — Be Happy & Safe!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Yes! Yes! Yes! Baltimore is opening up again—a little at a time, THANK GOD! But in some places you still have to stay social distanced and wear a mask and that is okay. I respect that. No need to rush things.

I am going to tell you about some dynamite places you can go to and enjoy yourself over the weekend as well as the weekend after that. Folks, please if you have not had your vaccine yet, please do so. If you don't care about yourself, think about your family and friends. We don't want to start this damn thing up again. Okay let's Party!!!!!!!!!!!!

On Sunday, July 4, 2021 there will be a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ Bash at Little Market Café in their outdoor courtyard located 3731 Hamilton Street in Ellicott City, Maryland. With an all-you-can-eat BBQ and music from Mallow Hill, the event includes burgers; hot dogs; corn on the cob; potato & pasta salads; baked beans; watermelon; snowballs; soft drinks; and so much more. There will be a cash bar with beer, wine, spirits of your choice and spiked snowballs. WOW! Spiked Snowballs? "I want to try that one."

Saturday, July 10, 2021 is Jazz Night at 101 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Baltimore City hosted by Scotty P and "The Love From Above Band." They are offering a warm summer evening with good food and smooth live jazz, the perfect combination all in their new location, The Jerk Garden. They are planning to give us "Jazzy Nights" featuring top-notch live music on the second Saturday each month from now through September at their majestic outdoor pavilion under the stars. Photo ID is required and no children allowed! Their line-up looks like this: July 10 — "Scott P & the Love from Above"; August 14 — "On Kee Jazz Band" and September 11 — "Mare Evans

Live." I have never heard of any of them, but that doesn't necessary mean that they're not good—they may turn out to be the best I have ever heard. Check them out and let me know what you think.

Catonsville Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Fridays" Free at 15 Mellor Avenue in Catonsville, Maryland on July 9; Friday, July 16; and Friday, July 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This sounds very exciting! The event is open to the public and as I said earlier—it's free!

Okay, let's talk about a "Party Boat." Kick off the holiday weekend starting on Friday, July 2 at 8 p.m. at the "Glow In The Dark Boat Party" on the Maryland Party Boat. Boarding starts at 7:30 p.m. and the boat sets sail at 8 p.m. The DJ will be playing the hottest dance music and your first round is on the house. So wear your hottest glow in the dark outfits and have fun. For more information and tickets, visit: MarylandPartyBoat.com.

Well my dear friend, enjoy your holiday and if you haven't planned anything, meet me and my boo-boo, "Shorty," at the American Legion Post 122 located at 4422 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills, Maryland, our new hang out spot where I will be tasting this new drink that bartender, George Fuller turned me on to called, "Peanut Butter Whisky." I am still in shock, I never heard of such a drink but honey child—it's delicious!

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



The Maryland Party Boat kicks off celebrations for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend with The Glow In The Dark Party on Friday July 2, 2021 at 8 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit: [MarylandPartyBoat.com](http://MarylandPartyBoat.com).



Gerald Albright will perform in concert at the Lake Arbor, South Pointe at the National Harbor on Friday, July 9, 2021.



DJ Mike Jones is back! The first Wednesday every month starting Wednesday, July 7, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the City View Bar & Grill located at 6700 Security Blvd.



The Todd Marcus Quartet will perform at Boordy Vineyards located at 10820 Long Green Pike in Hydes, Md. along with the Wayne Johnson Ensemble on Saturday, July 3 from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 443-606-3821.



George Fuller, dynamite bartender at American Legion Post 122 at 4422 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills, Md.



# Ravens Rashod Bateman buys his mom a house

By Tyler Hamilton

The road to the NFL is a long, arduous journey for a lot of players. Far too many of them have a tough story of overcoming adversity. Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Rashod Bateman is no different.

Bateman's adversity was hearing his mother, Lashonda Cromer, being physically abused by his stepfather because he and his two older brothers Monjharvis and Travian were just a room away. Bateman had to call 911 multiple times to save his mother.

Football was the ultimate coping mechanism for Bateman. He used to sleep with a football every night and get lost in football games on television. It was the only time he was able to escape the reality of what was happening in the house.

Years later, Bateman is able to use football as a way to reward his mother for all that she endured by buying her a house. The 2021 Ravens first-round pick knew exactly what he wanted to do with his first NFL paycheck.

While other rookies told Ravens.com in an interview that they'd like to buy a car, a dog or invest, Bateman's response was different: "I'd definitely buy my mom a house first," Bateman said.

It's no wonder he was the first Ravens rookie to sign his contract—a four-year deal worth \$12.6 million.

Growing up in Tifton, Georgia was no easy experience. Bateman's mother had to work multiple jobs to make ends meet. They moved from house to



**Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Rashod Bateman has bought his mother Lashonda Cromer a house. When they were growing up they moved from house to house while his mother worked multiple jobs to support her three sons after divorcing her abusive husband.**

Photo Credit: Mitchell Layton/USA TODAY Sports

house while Cromer was stuck having to support her three sons after divorcing her abusive husband.

Being able to reward his mother with a permanent home that she can call her own is the experience for Bateman. He undoubtedly spent countless nights trying to think of a way to make life better for his mother as she went through so much.

Bateman posted a picture of the house he bought his

mother on Instagram along with a special message.

"Dreams to reality," Bateman wrote. "Welcome home mama, I love you."

Bateman and his family are in a good place now and are not likely to have to struggle again. His mother sacrificed a lot and now he gets to repay her by buying her a house.

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<sup>4</sup>Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of February 2021.

## Legal Notices

### FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND and

313233 South Villa LLC

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-9-201 of the Baltimore County Code, as amended, notice is hereby given that Baltimore County, Maryland, is reviewing an application by 313233 South Villa LLC for a non-exclusive franchise, for property in rights of way of certain roads in Baltimore County, Maryland 21221, the proposed route starting at a point on the intersection of Poplar Road and Riverside Road and routing to the end of Poplar Road.

Franchisee seeks an approximate 250 foot non-exclusive franchise for the purpose of installing a water and sewer lines thereafter maintaining the improvements.

The Initial Term of the Franchise Agreement and associated franchise shall be thirty-five (35) years. Thereafter, the County shall have the option of extending the Franchise Agreement and associated franchise for two (2) successive terms of not more than twenty-five (25) years each.

As Base Compensation for the Initial Term, Franchisee shall pay the County Five Hundred Sixty Two Dollars and 00 Cents (\$562.50), which shall be subject to revaluation no more than once every five (5) years after the date of execution of the Franchise Agreement, and any renewal thereof, in accordance with the provisions of the Baltimore County Code, as amended.

A complete statement of the terms and conditions of the Franchise Agreement may be obtained from Baltimore County Real Estate Compliance, County Office Building, 111 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD 21204.

Any persons having specific objections to the proposed Franchise Agreement must file said objections, in writing, with the Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections, 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204. The Director must receive any written objections no later than **July 28, 2021**. The County Administrative Officer or his designee shall schedule a time and place for hearing any valid objections filed.

Franchisee contact name and business address:  
Wilder Carrera  
313233 South Villa LLC  
21820 Jarvis Square  
Ashburn, VA 20147

## Legal Notices

### 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. 1284-Brewers Hill Neighborhood Water Main Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **August 4, 2021**. 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 Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (410) 396-4041 as of **July 2, 2021** 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 City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 via virtual in Microsoft Team Meeting. A Vendor can either call 1 667-228-6519 PASSCODE 214 785 629# on July 7, 2021 at 1:00 PM.**

## Legal Notices

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:  
[https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dp-w-construction-projects-notice-letting\\_For\\_further\\_inquiries\\_about\\_purchasing\\_bid\\_documents](https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dp-w-construction-projects-notice-letting_For_further_inquiries_about_purchasing_bid_documents), please contact the assigned **Contract Administrator**  
[Torrton.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Torrton.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov)

#### **Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:**

Abandonment and/or removal of existing water mains and installation of various sized new ductile iron pipes, valves, fittings, and appurtenances, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, renew and replacement of existing water services, replacement of small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, temporary bypass piping, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**  
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Jason W. Mitchell  
Acting Director  
Department of Public Works

W. Michael Mullen  
Chief Solicitor  
City Hall

Azzam Ahmad  
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## US Department of Labor announces Request for Information regarding reporting on pharmacy benefits and prescription drug costs

Washington, D.C.– The U.S. Department of Labor along with the Department of the Treasury, Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced a Request for Information seeking public input on the implementation of a new law requiring the collection and publication of data on pharmacy benefits and prescription drug costs, including input on the data elements to be collected and the associated impact on health plans and issuers.

Specifically, the RFI seeks input on how group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage may report pharmacy benefits and prescription drug costs under the transparency provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Public input will inform the departments' and OPM's implementation through rulemaking and establishment of processes to receive the information that must be reported.

Using the information ultimately obtained in the information reporting, the departments and OPM will analyze trends in overall spending on prescription drugs and other healthcare services by plans and issuers. They will then publish the analysis in a format that will enable plans and issuers to negotiate fairer rates, and ultimately lower costs for participants, beneficiaries and enrollees. Section 204 of Title II of Division BB of the CAA requires this information collection on benefits and costs.

Submit comments in response to the request for 30 days from its publication at <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

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