

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 36 No. 20

March 18 - 24, 2022

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Governor Hogan Proclaims 2022 as 'The Year of Harriet Tubman' in Maryland



Governor Larry Hogan has officially proclaimed 2022 as “The Year of Harriet Tubman” in Maryland as the state celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Harriet Tubman. The weekend of March 12, 2022 marked the fifth anniversary of the opening of the [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center](#), which is co-managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. (See the article on page 7) Courtesy Photo/ Office of the Governor

Behind on Your Property Taxes?

Learn About Baltimore City's Tax Sale Exemption Program

By Aja' Mallory

Each year, Baltimore City sells homeowners' unpaid city bills to outside bidders who then charge interest and fees, allowable under state law, to property owners. **The 2022 Tax Sale will take place on May 16.**

An owner-occupied property is eligible for tax sale if the total of its unpaid city bills is \$750 or more. These liens include unpaid real property taxes, special benefits assessments, alley and footway paving bills, streetscape, minor privilege, multi-family dwelling, clean and board, environmental control citations, and residential registration charges and fees. Beginning in 2020, unpaid water bills no longer count toward the \$750 tax sale eligibility threshold for *owner-occupied properties*.

The tax sale process is confusing, incredibly difficult to navigate and all too often homeowners are not properly informed throughout the process. With tax sale approaching in a few months, it's important to know how to make sure your home stays out of the tax sale.

Tax Sale Exemption Program— The Tax Sale Exemption Program is an annual city program managed by the Departments of Finance and Housing and Community Development. Successful applicants have their properties removed from tax sale in the year that they apply. This is the first year that the program is in effect.

The city sets aside funds annually to remove people from tax sale. From that starting balance, the amount of each applicant's liens is deducted from the balance remaining. Once the funds are exhausted, the program closes.

Who is eligible?— To be eligible to participate in this program, homeowners must meet the following criteria:

*The assessed value of their home is \$250,000 or less;

*The homeowner has lived in their home as a primary residence for at least 15 years; and one of the following:

*The homeowner has a total annual



The Baltimore City tax sale process is confusing, incredibly difficult to navigate, and all too often homeowners are not properly informed throughout the process. With tax sale approaching in May, it's important to know how to avoid losing your home to tax sale.

Photo Credit: Avid Photographer from Getty Images

household earned income of \$36,000 or less; or

*The homeowner is at least 65 years old and has an annual earned income of \$75,000 or less; or

*The homeowner is an adult currently receiving disability benefits from the Federal Social Security Disability Insurance Program or the Supplemental Security Income Program and has an annual earned income of \$75,000 or less.

How to apply— Applications will be accepted from February 15 to April 15. Residents must apply every year to exempt qualified properties from the annual tax sale.

The number of properties removed from tax sale through this program is limited, and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is best to apply as early as possible. Eligible homeowners can obtain an application on the DHCD website. Residents may also pick up a paper application at the 1st floor of the Abel Wolman Building and the 11th floor of

417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, 21202.

To submit a paper application, you can mail it or bring it to:

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development at 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 1125 (11th floor) Baltimore, MD 21202.

For more information regarding the application process, please call the Department of Finance at 410-396 3000 or email the Department of Housing & Community Development at dhcd.taxsaleinfo@baltimorecity.gov.

This program does not forgive unpaid bills, and if the accounts are not paid, they may qualify the property for tax sale the following year.

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Other helpful resources:

Baltimore Tax Sale Clinics— Homeowners *may receive free legal consultation and assistance by attending a tax sale clinic*. Homeowners thinking about applying for the Tax Sale Exemption Program can seek a consultation to make sure they're also receiving all potential benefits. Homeowners can call the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland at 443-703-3052 to learn more about the tax sale prevention clinics.

Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit— Homeowners must apply every year for this credit. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2022.

Learn more at <https://dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/Pages/Homeowners%27-Property-Tax-Credit-Program.aspx>, or call 410-767-4433 or 443-961-6220.

Water4All— Water4All is a new water assistance program that provides a monthly discount for water and sewer costs based on a percentage of Baltimore City Residents' income. For the first time, tenants who do not directly pay their water bills are eligible to apply for water payment assistance.

Aja' Mallory is a staff attorney at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (www.mvlslaw.org). Her practice focuses on housing and consumer issues for Marylanders of limited means.

Do you have a question you would like to see addressed in this column? Email ask@mvlslaw.org to submit your question to the Baltimore Times' legal tip column.

The Baltimore Times

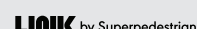
(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233.

Postmaster send address changes to:
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2513 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
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Guest Editorials/Commentary

A Respectable Attitude!

By Vincent L. Hall, *Texas Metro News, iMessenger Media*

It just irks me and rattles me to my bones to watch Black people major in the minors and minor in the majors. We have enough negative stereotypes as it is. But this “attitude” thing just kills me. On social media, in person, or wherever I see it.

Some days, it seems like people are ready for a fight everywhere I go. What’s worse is that the offenders are punching down rather than up. We beat up on underpaid store clerks and wait staff. Too many of us aim straight to fisticuffs without ever considering one another’s feelings or position.

You never know when you are looking square in the eyes of someone who just lost a job, a loved one, or their righteous mind. My “Papa” also had some advice that bears repeating and retelling.

My paternal grandfather, Ed Hall, did not play. No one would ever have to tell you to quit playin’ because it never got started with him. But, as he has passed on so many adages to me, let me share one with you for the sake of those raising children.

Papa would often say, “It’s nice to be nice, but when you can’t, kick ‘em in the ass.”

With no change in either his resonant tenor or in his expression, Papa would make his usual recital, and I was always left wondering what the hell he meant. It took me several years and lots of social and business interactions, but I finally got it. So, quit playin’ and listen!

The concept of “attitude” did not commence with the entrance of any one race of people. I would be personally pleased to remand it to the court of its original ethnicity. Watching TikTok and other social media outlets, has bought my hypothesis to the conclusion that even white folk who want to be like us quickly adopt what they believe to be our main ingredient: an attitude!

When Papa said it’s nice to be nice, he meant that one should carry and respond with a pleasant and courteous demeanor, first and for as long as possible.

However, if your original offer of respect and civility is met with resistance and callousness, then the time has come to fight. Unfortunately, many of our children have an attitude without a cause.

All of this “mean-mugging” and looking tough, as well as the plain disrespect that is obvious in our children, is not in our heritage and new to our culture. My grandmother told me to raise children well enough that someone besides me would like them!

We are a people who have been genetically blessed with the ability for humor and goodwill. Your children should know that a winsome personality makes them fully ready for success, after good health and a trained mind.

The very first words to teach your child are to say “thank you,” each and every time that it is appropriate.

My mama says, if you say thank you well enough, people want to do something else so they can hear you repeat it. Everyone loves an appreciative child, and everyone wants to know that they are appreciated.

Likewise, teach your children when and how to fight. Not just the usual advice that we have always given kids, “If somebody mess with you, pick up whatever you can get your hands on and try to kill ‘em.”

Respect is found on two-way thoroughfares and never on one-way boulevards!

Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist, and an award-winning columnist.

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Community Affairs

Podcast gives platform for Black women to talk about their health, highlights Black women in healthcare for Women’s History Month

By *Josephine Reid*

Newfound wellness, long term health, and protecting kids’ health during the pandemic were the topics of conversation during the two podcast episodes hosted by the Women’s Missionary Society and the *We Can Do This* COVID-19 Public Education Campaign. The mission of the podcasts is simple: elevate the trusted voices of Black women in healthcare having real and raw conversations about health within the Black community and how its current state can be improved.

The Women’s Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WMS-AMEC) is an organization committed to leading in health, economic, peace and justice issues in the Black community.

WMS-AMEC partnered with The Department of Health and Human Services *We Can Do This* campaign, a COVID-19 public education campaign that connects local trusted messengers with hard-to-reach audiences to convey accurate information about COVID vaccines. This partnership brought the *Real Women Talking Real Health* podcast to life and

allowed Black women to reach audiences through the power of conversation.

The women featured in the podcast came from a range of healthcare backgrounds, including Dr. Charis Chambers, an OBGYN whose mission is to educate young women and girls on topics related to their reproductive health to promote greater self-awareness, self-esteem, and self-advocacy (specifically in interactions with medical providers), and Dr. Melanie Crutchfield Whitten, a board-certified general surgeon specializing in breast cancer.

The podcast’s [second episode](#) also honored Black women in the medical field that came, innovated, and paved the way before us, including Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, born in 1831, who was the first Black American woman to obtain a medical degree and the first Black American to publish a medical book, and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, born in 1986, who was a scientist at the National Institutes of Health and worked to develop and produce the COVID-19 vaccine.

The *Real Women Talking Real Health* podcast allows space for women to hear crucial health information and speak with medical professionals who are in their community.

Josephine Reid is a member of the Public Relations Team for Creative Marketing Resources, a strategic marketing agency in Milwaukee.

It's Black Female Entrepreneurs' Time to be at the Driver's Seat

By *Jasmine Simms*

Where I am from, nail salons are a quick, convenient, in-and-out maintenance experience. However, I wanted to create a nail salon experience that could be a cozy, welcoming space for social gatherings. For nearly a decade, I've owned and operated my nail salon, Scrub Nail Boutique, and later opened my hair salon Twist Out Blow Out. My customers come to me for more than just the quality care; they also come for the community. Salons are havens for Black women to congregate and share spaces that feel uniquely ours. The ability to create that atmosphere is simply empowering. But there's another layer to my work that is empowering—my ability to financially support my employees as an entrepreneur.

Being a business owner allowed me to employ incredible Black women and provide jobs to my local community. The more successful I became, the better life was for everyone around me, from

my employees, who are like family to the neighborhood I call home. I was able to help co-found the National Association of Mom Entrepreneurs, a non-profit that helps Black moms start businesses in Sandtown, Baltimore, where I grew up.

Recent research surveyed 1,200 Black women businesses and 86 percent initially financed their business with personal savings. Nearly half put less than \$10K into the business, just as I had to use \$15K of my personal savings and seek additional small business

I needed to take my business to the next level.

Black women entrepreneurs need real investment and resources to close the gap with their white male counterparts. Goldman Sachs' new "One Million Black Women: Black in Businesses" program is a critical step forward, designed to train and invest in Black women sole proprietors, a critical demographic with 96 percent of Black businesses run by sole proprietors, of which 55 percent are women-led. Black women solopreneurs are the foundation of Black entrepreneurship and the key to reducing the racial wealth gap for Black women everywhere.

Black women are resilient, tenacious, and fearless. Without those qualities, I would have never been able to open my salons. But we cannot keep doing it on our own. Small businesses can flourish with the mentorship of other successful black women and easier access to funding. Successful black women need to be celebrated and propelled up, so young Black girls around the country can see that success and wealth aren't reserved for a certain group, but for them too. We need your help year-round. An unstoppable economy starts with Black Women entrepreneurs in charge.

Jasmine Simms is the owner of Scrub Nail Boutique and an alumna of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses.

"Black women are resilient, tenacious, and fearless. Without those qualities, I would have never been able to open my salons. But we cannot keep doing it on our own. Small businesses can flourish with the mentorship of other successful black women and easier access to funding."

However, being a Black woman entrepreneur is not easy and the path here was nothing short of a journey. As we leave Black History Month and look towards Women's History Month, we must reinforce the commitment to Black women, especially Black women entrepreneurs.

Small businesses are the pulleys that keep our economy running. They are also a steppingstone for Americans into the middle class. While 17 percent of small businesses are started by Black women, only three percent survive to become mature businesses. When our businesses are in distress, we struggle to find emergency funding, leading many of us to shutter our doors.

funding to supplement my investment.

Trying to start my nail salon business was backbreaking. Having just become a new mother and losing my home and belongings to a fire just before my due date, this became my fuel to move full steam ahead with turning my dream into a reality. I spent months trying to find a commercial space to rent and despite having great credit, funding, and a business plan, I was turned away by multiple landlords and banks that doubted me. Upon reaching a turning point in my business, I applied to Goldman Sachs "10,000 Small Businesses," which helped me realize the potential of my business, and equipped me with the network and tools

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WSSU's Entienne Thomas is part of small core of female athletic directors in collegiate ranks

By Timothy Cox

Last month at the 2022 CIAA Basketball Tournament in Baltimore, one well-dressed woman stood out from the large crowds along the sidelines at Royal Farms Arena encouraging her participating teams from Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) onto victory.

Not only does Entienne Thomas have a unique first name, she finds herself in a unique role, as one of a minority of women in American colleges and universities who can claim the title of "Athletic Director."

At WSSU, Thomas smiles at the thought of being included in such a smallish sorority of female athletic directors in a work role typically delegated to men. Even at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) the position of director of athletics, is almost always fielded by males.

After earning a political science degree from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina, Thomas, 47, matriculated to the University of Iowa, where she earned a law degree. During her 22 years as a successful college administrator, Thomas has worked in several positions with varying responsibilities throughout the nation.

The Waterloo, Iowa-born, proud mid-westerner, was raised in Hempstead, New York. Her husband of 22 years, Byron Thomas, formerly plied his skills on the gridiron at the University of North Carolina-Chapel



Entienne Thomas is the athletic director at Winston-Salem State University. She is one of a small group of female athletic directors in collegiate sports.

Courtesy Photo/Winston-Salem State University

Hill. The couple has one son, Jermaine; and raised a cousin, Sydney, now 25.

Thomas claims a successful stint with Kansas University's Jayhawks, in a significant role along her path. Two years ago, before arriving at WSSU, she served as athletic director at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, Kentucky. Her past jobs also include her alma mater, NCCU, San Jose State University; Howard University; and St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

As member of the 2022 CIAA Tournament Committee, Thomas says she was impressed with CIAA's first return to Baltimore since 1952.

According to CIAA Committee final statistics, "the 2022 tourney attracted about 66,000 patrons, who watched 22 games during its five-day run— February 22-26, 2022. Championship day games attracted 13,207— easily outnumbering 2019 Championship Day totals in Charlotte by nearly 4,000 attendees."

CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams said the Baltimore return was a "resounding success." Thomas concurred with the commissioner adding "she's anticipating another CIAA celebration in the Charm City next year."

Thomas also proudly noted that her parents, Karl and Cheryl Hollingsworth, were in attendance all-week, loudly supporting WSSU Rams' men's and women's hoop teams, band and cheerleaders.

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Governor Hogan Proclaims 2022 as ‘The Year of Harriet Tubman’ in Maryland

Commemorates 200th Anniversary of Harriet Tubman’s Birth, Fifth Anniversary of Opening of Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan has officially proclaimed 2022 as “The Year of Harriet Tubman” in Maryland as the state celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of the nation’s most renowned freedom fighter. The governor announced the designation at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center in Church Creek as the kick-off to a full weekend of 200th birthday events celebrating the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad.

“I want to encourage all Marylanders to take time this year to come here to visit Dorchester County, to travel the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway, to visit the countless immersive exhibits, which cover every period of Harriet Tubman’s life from slavery to freedom, or to come see the amazing artifacts from the Ben Ross cabin site, which was confirmed just last fall to have been the home of Harriet Tubman’s father,” said Governor Hogan. “It is truly inspiring to think about how we can walk along the same path she did, where she forged her indelible legacy of freedom.”

The weekend of March 12, 2022 marked the fifth anniversary of the opening of the [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center](#), which is co-managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Since opening in 2017, the park has welcomed more than 300,000 guests from nearly 70 countries— despite a lengthy closure and limited capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among those visitors, more than 18,000 youngsters have been sworn in as Harriet Tubman State Park Junior Rangers, following activities that teach about Harriet Tubman’s life and legacy, and the importance of the Underground Railroad.

“This bicentennial year is a perfect time for people to experience Harriet Tubman’s life and legacy by touring the byway and visiting our 17-acre state park and visitors center,” said Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. “Throughout ‘The Year of Harriet Tubman,’ the park will offer programs and immersive experiences about Harriet Tubman’s life, surrounded by the landscape that looks much like it did during her time.”

As the birthplace of Harriet Tubman, Maryland is uniquely positioned to celebrate her lifelong achievements and provide visitors and residents places to learn more about Harriet Tubman, her life, and the Underground Railroad. Her stories are told at destinations across Maryland through attractions, special events, curated exhibits, and driving tours.

“Maryland’s Eastern Shore was named in two prestigious travel magazines— National Geographic World Best Places to Travel in 2022 and Fodor’s Best Places of 2022—because of our history, heritage, and connection with Harriet Tubman,” said Secretary Mike Gill of the Maryland Department of Commerce. “I personally encourage everyone to celebrate Tubman’s extraordinary life by traveling in her footsteps, especially along the Tubman Byway.”

The 125-mile-long [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad All-American Road Scenic Byway](#), which traverses a living land-and-waterscape similar to what Tubman would have experienced in her lifetime, serves as the perfect vehicle for exploration.

Millicent Sparks, playing the role of Harriet Tubman, performs a living history interpretation of the “Freedom Fighter” as part of the opening ceremony.



Governor Larry Hogan signs oversized birthday card commemorating Harriet Tubman’s 200th birthday while First Lady Yumi looks on. Photos: Paris Brown



Dr. Reverend Tamara E. Wilson, Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, brought the official welcome and served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the celebration.



Governor Larry Hogan, and Tina Wyatt, the great, great great niece of Harriet Tubman accepts a proclamation from the Governor Hogan on behalf of the Tubman Family.



Historically Significant Black Beach in Annapolis will Become a City Park

By *Andrea Blackstone*

A city park with historical ties to the Black community and entertainment in Annapolis is officially in the works. On March 14, 2022, the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation (BOCF) and Chesapeake Conservancy issued a joint press release to announce future plans for the remaining parcel of the Black beaches which were once owned by the Carr family of Annapolis. Elktonia Beach happens to be the last part “of the original 180-acre property purchased by Fred Carr in 1902,” according to information provided by (BOCF) and Chesapeake Conservancy. To preserve the rich legacy of the land which is in close proximity to Carr’s Beach and Sparrow’s Beach, the property is being acquired through a private owner. The state of Maryland is playing a major role in making this a reality through contributing financial resources.

To achieve substantial project goals, The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) committed to providing \$3.68 million in grant funding from Program Open Space (POS) Stateside. This will enable supplemental POS Local funds to come from the City of Annapolis and Anne Anne Arundel County. Additionally, Maryland’s “Governor Hogan also committed \$1.2 million in Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure funding to the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation for the Carr property acquisition,” per information provided in the state’s press release.

Within Gov. Hogan’s announcement of “Annapolis Waterfront Park Funding to Preserve Legacy of Historic Carr’s Beach,” a third funding piece was mentioned. U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin secured \$2 million in congressionally directed spending. In an interview with The Baltimore Times and The Annapolis Times newspapers, Vincent Leggett—the founder and president of the BOCF – explained that these funds have been allocated toward the strategy for planning and interpretation of the site. Complete project funds total nearly six million dollars.

Way before the progressive news of Elktonia Beach’s long-term fate was decided, Leggett started with basic goals.



Vincent Leggett, founder of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation – stands at Elktonia Beach. The 5-acre waterfront parcel located on the Chesapeake Bay is the last remnant of the original 180-acre property purchased by Fred Carr in 1902. It will become a city park in Annapolis, Md. Carr’s and Sparrows Beaches were havens for African Americans who wanted to enjoy beaches, entertainment, and family time, during the era of segregation.

Photo: Courtesy of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation.



A family enjoys time at Carr’s Beach.

Photo: The Maryland State Archives

His efforts to preserve the culture of the Chesapeake Bay region’s African American communities through BOCF is achieved in various manners, including through authoring a book called *The Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes* and keeping history alive in a host of ways. A large foundation goal is promoting African American maritime and seafood industry contributions within the Chesapeake Bay region. During Leggett’s journey to preserve this rich heritage and culture, he grew fascinated about extraordinary places where African Americans found leisure, recreation and entertainment during the period of segregation.

“And so beginning 15 years ago, I really began to intensify my efforts, our organization’s efforts of celebrating the history and the legacy of Carr’s and Sparrow’s Beaches through exhibits, public programs, documentary films, news broadcasts or histories and the like. What we’ve been trying to do is to continue to celebrate that aspect of African American life on the Chesapeake Bay,” Leggett said. “I was aware that there was this five-acre parcel of land still existing there, and so what I have been doing for the last 15 years is continue to celebrate the history and the legacy of the beaches to one, keep public awareness, because still today it’s people that I come across that have never heard of Carr’s or Sparrow’s Beaches, nor Elktonia Beach.”

The Annapolitan also explained that while collaborating with others, he attempted to find ways to gain access to Elktonia Beach’s acreage, in addition to keeping stories alive, and educating others, to share more history of African American life that links to the Chesapeake Bay. This is what was in his power to do, since trying to generate the kind of money needed to purchase it was a bigger financial matter of salvaging an extremely significant part of history and culture. Leggett specifically mentioned that Annapolis-based Chesapeake Conservancy, which is an organization dealing with land conservation, was his lead organization in pivoting forward beyond hurdles. Chesapeake Conservancy’s primary roles were seeking project funding and handling governmental relations.



*Sarah Vaughan speaks at Carr's Beach over WANN Radio in front of crowd.
Photos: The Maryland State Archives*



Hopy Adams waves to a crowd at Carr's Beach circa 1960.



Carr's Beach Life Guards



Four women pose in front of Hopy Adams' car at Carr's Beach

The question of why everyone who became involved in rallying to keep the memory of Black beaches alive through Elktonia Beach may cross the minds of some who simply do not know much about a different era when Black-owned resorts and waterfront venues bustled with people who longed to escape discrimination and freely embrace joy. During the interview, Leggett revealed that Elktonia Beach is adjacent to the historic Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach which became known as entertainment meccas. In the days of segregation, when African Americans could not recreate in White establishments, privately-owned and operated beaches in Annapolis filled in the gap. Fred Carr's daughters – Elizabeth Carr Smith and Florence Carr Sparrows— played a large role in providing a 'safe space.' These retreats offered African Americans and their families a place to swim, picnic, bask in

sunshine after cold winters, and enjoy popular entertainers.

When commitments were publicly made to invest in the preservation of Elktonia Beach, Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley also recognized the milestone of merging the past with today's improved social landscape.

"This is a great day for the City of Annapolis," Buckley said in Md.'s press release. "The significance of Carr's Beach to the history of Annapolis can never be overstated. For over three decades, the beach was the place to play. From Sarah Vaughan to James Brown to Stevie Wonder, all the greats came to play on the water and look out at the Chesapeake Bay. We now have an opportunity to preserve this site and get it the national recognition it deserves. This would not have been possible without the governor and lieutenant governor, the state, the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, and the Chesapeake

Conservancy."

Governor Hogan joined Buckley in expressing sentiments about partnering with the City of Annapolis to reclaim the historic and culturally significant beach.

"As a major music venue and beloved gathering place for generations of Black Marylanders, Carr's Beach left an incredible legacy that we will now be able to preserve for posterity," Hogan stated in a press release.

Now that a financial hurdle has been overcome, Leggett can move forward to ultimately enjoy the fruit of teamwork and collective labor someday. Everyone who made saving Elktonia Beach a reality did not do it in vain.

"Well, what is so exciting to me is to just know that this parcel of land is going to be preserved in perpetuity, that worth the conservation easements that will be placed on it, it could never be developed. There will always be an open space. There will always be a public space that

residents and visitors can access, and generations yet born," Leggett said. "So to me, if we don't bang another nail, if we don't hang a flag, if we don't do anything else, that is a major contribution. And to have a part in that working with the federal government, state government, city, county, government and local organizations, local community leaders, it's just a triumphant opportunity."

Please visit www.blacksofthechESApeake.org to learn more about Leggett and the (BOC). Future updates about Elktonia Beach may also be available via Chesapeake Conservancy's website, www.chESApeakeconservancy.org, and Md.'s website, www.maryland.gov.

Rambling Rose

Entertainment has opened up again!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone! Thank you so much for your words and prayers for My “Boo-Boo” “Shorty” and myself. It means so much to us how much you care. Bringing you up to date, my spinal surgery is not until the 29th of March and my husband’s lung surgery has not been scheduled at press deadline, hopefully this month.

I am telling you my friends, it is unbelievable how so many Baltimore venues have opened up again to give our musicians a place to perform again since the COVID-19 has lifted a little bit. Now, remember it has not lifted 100%, so don’t go crazy and start socializing without your mask. Do me a favor, please wear your mask in all clubs, restaurants and any indoors venues unless you are eating or drinking. Stop taking selfies and dancing with a group of people without your mask, stay safe, protect yourself even though others may not.

Okay, let’s talk about where you can hang out in the next couple of weeks. First of all there is this stage play called “Dead and Breathing,” by playwright Chisa Hutchinson. The production stars are J Purnell Hargrove and Valerie Lewis; now honestly I don’t know these people, but I bet that some of my readers do, especially those who go to a lot of plays. It really sounds interesting. Check this out; the play goes like this: “Cranky old Carolyn Whitlock has been in hospice for far too long and just wants to die already. But she’ll have to work harder than she ever has in her privileged life to convince her over-sharing and very Christian nurse to help her end it. Through surprising humor and persistent questioning, “Dead and Breathing” investigates morality, mortality, and the intense tug-of-war between the right to die with dignity and the idea of life as a gift.” So what do you think? Go see it at the Motor House located 120 W. North Avenue March 18 thru March 27. For more information,

call 410-637-8300.

Let me see what else is going on.....Oh! There is still a “Saturday R&B Brunch with live entertainment, food and drinks, free admission at the Olive Branch Italian Grill located 11706 Reisterstown Road in Reisterstown, Maryland right around the corner from me, every Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. Thanks to Carlos Hutchins, he is making sure we have live entertainment in the venues in around Baltimore. Don’t be surprised if in the next weeks to come, I will write to tell you there is live entertainment in Dunkin Donuts, I HOP, POP-EYE’s or Kentucky Fried Chicken. Leave it up to Carlos Hutchins and it will happen. Okay, what else is going on? Don’t forget that every Wednesday from 6-10 p.m. at the Crafty Crab Seafood located 8606 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland they have “Line Dance Happy Hour” thanks to Randy Dennis.

There is a big show and dance at the Forest Park Senior Center, located 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue on Saturday, March 19 from 4-10 p.m. Damn, that’s a long time!!! The show will include dinners on sale and free set-ups, meaning it is BYOB. The show line-up are: “Father and Son,” “CLASS,” Ten Karat Gold, and Mr. Ronnie as the host. For more information, call 410-944-8944.

Now, this should be very nice. The 1st Annual Inspire Gala, hosted by Stacey Carver, a concert dinner with live DJ, open bar and live entertainment featuring Will Downing on Thursday, March 24 from 7-11:30 p.m. at Preston Hall, 25 W. Preston Street in Baltimore and the attire is Black Tie. With a career that spans over 35 years and 25 albums, Will Downing is one of the most versatile and loved voices of our time. His distinctive baritone voice has resonated in the hearts of women world-wide. So I guess to expect a lot of single women at this one. For



Randy “Fruity” Roberts from the Choir Boyz will be one of the lead actors in Ursula v. Battle’s Serenity House stage play on Saturday, March 19, and Sunday March 19 at the Redeemed Christian Church of God Mercy Court, 529 Walker Avenue in Baltimore. For tickets and more information, call 443-531-4787.



Ebban Dorsey and recipient of the “Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship in 2015 has been accepted into NYO Jazz for the summer of 2022. He will have the opportunity to perform with an outstanding group of peers from across the country; learn from world-class faculty; perform on great concert stages, and serve as cultural ambassadors while traveling. We wish him much success!

more information, go to: www.bit.ly/aneveningwithwill.

Okay folks, I got to go, but before I do, I have a question to ask you. I was approached by my boss to think about doing a “Rambling Rose” podcast for the Baltimore Times. Tell me what you think.



Rickey Shackelford and Howard G, Baltimore’s own renowned comedians will host the Comedy Jam Show at Café 12, 5627 Reisterstown Road in Baltimore; Showtime 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. For more information, call 443-226-9157 and tell them “Rambling Rose” told you.



Chisa Hutchinson is an American playwright. Hutchinson teaches creative writing at the University of Delaware. Hutchinson’s play, “Dead and Breathing,” is a Rapid Lemon Productions and the regional premier will be performed at the Baltimore’s Motor House from March 18 thru the 27th. The production stars J Purnell Hargrove and Valerie Lewis and Noah Silas directs.

Email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Or send me a note to: 214 Conewood Avenue, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136. Thank you! Remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS!**

The “Create Cooking Challenge: My Family’s Recipe” Open for Video Auditions

Share your family’s traditional recipes. Five Celebrity Judges will look for the best video and recipe that reflects the heritage and cuisine unique to the home or professional chef’s culture or region of the country.

Boston— Create TV announces the launch of the next Create Cooking Challenge, the fifth of its national video contests designed to seek digital hosts for a lifestyle series. This year, the *Create Cooking Challenge: My Family’s Recipe* is focused upon the rich, diverse heritage of Americans and the foods of their families passed down through generations— often versions of local or regional dishes.

The Grand Prize Winner will host a web series on CreateTV.com. Create is one of the nation’s most-watched multicast channels, airing on 241 public TV stations and reaching more than 40 million viewers annually.

Sponsored by American Public Television (APT), the *Create Cooking Challenge: My Family’s Recipe* runs through April 5, 2022. Entrants must submit online a short (two minutes or less), original video featuring their recipe, a brief narrative about their recipe and cooking interests, a photo of the



finished dish, and the recipe. The contest will be judged by Create staff and a panel of some of public television’s most recognized hosts: Kevin Belton (*Kevin Belton’s Cookin’ Louisiana*), Pati Jinich (*Pati’s Mexican Table*), Diane Kochilas (*My Greek Table*), Nick Stellino (*Storytellers in the Kitchen*), and Martin Yan (*Yan Can Cook!*).

The panel will judge submissions based on an entrant’s demonstrated knowledge, ability to present ideas succinctly, overall telegenic appeal, uniqueness, and production values.

The Grand Prize includes \$4,000 cash and production equipment valued at \$1,000 to complete a 10-episode digital series for CreateTV.com. The Second Prize Winner will receive \$1,000 cash and production equipment valued at \$1,000 to complete a 3-episode digital series for CreateTV.com.



The contest is open to people 18 years of age and older— from home cooks to professional chefs. A total of 18 winners will be named. Sponsored by American Public Television (APT), the Create Cooking Challenge: My Family’s Recipe runs through April 5, 2022.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

The contest is open to people 18 years of age and older— from home cooks to professional chefs. A total of 18 winners will be named.

A complete list of judging criteria, tips for entering, a review copy of the submission form, and the official rules— where interested entrants may access the live submission form— are available at CreateTV.com/challenge.

Since 2016, hundreds of public television viewers, from every state in the country, have entered the Create Challenges, with nearly 80 winners being named. This year’s winners will premiere a new resource on CreateTV.com.

Create’s new *Heritage Recipe Collection* will feature recipes and a photo of each dish. This will be a continuously growing resource, including the winners from this year’s Challenge and other select recipes, including several provided by Create TV’s culinary program hosts.

Sponsored by American Public Television— no purchase necessary and is open to legal residents of the fifty United States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories. Age 18 years or over. For the complete Official Rules, visit: www.CreateTV.com/challenge.

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Druid Park Lake Drive Complete Streets Design Effort



Comment on the
Druid Park Lake Drive
Complete Streets
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[transportation.baltimorecity.gov/
dpldcdesigneffort](http://transportation.baltimorecity.gov/dpldcdesigneffort)

For more information on the Druid Park Lake drive design effort, contact:
William.Ethridge@baltimorecity.gov

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. BCDOT will strive to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate in this public involvement opportunity. Contact Ruth Jackson, Contract Administrator, City of Baltimore, at ruth.jackson@baltimorecity.gov 410-396-6815 for more information. Para información en español, llame al 410-396-6815.

Tax Clinic students offer help, hope during tax season

By Laura Lee

When Mike Kondilas drove past a sign for free tax advice at the North Point Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, he made a U-turn.

Priyanka Shah 2L provides tax advice to a client at a walk-in clinic in Baltimore County.

For weeks he'd been getting the runaround from a previous employer who informed him his tax records were destroyed in a fire. The clock was ticking for him to file his 2022 tax return, and he didn't know where to turn for help.

"My question is what to do when your company fails," said Kondilas as he sat down with University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law tax clinic student Priyanka Shah 2L. Shah got to work gathering information and within 15 minutes Kondilas was smiling and had an IRS phone number to call to help sort out his W-2 problem.

"This worked out way better than I expected," he said, beaming. "They knocked out my questions, and it wasn't too complicated."

Just in time for tax season, student attorneys at the Maryland Carey Law Low Income Tax Clinic (LITC) joined forces with the Baltimore County Public Library system to offer free legal advice to anyone experiencing a tax issue with the IRS or Maryland comptroller.

On Saturday, March 5, 2022, Shah, along with fellow students Alex Kim 3L and Peter Scheffel 2L, working under the supervision of LITC staff attorney Jessica Hutchinson, JD, answered questions about individual tax issues and guided clients to helpful free tax resources including tax preparation,

which they currently don't offer.

Hutchinson said most of the clients she and her students see in the clinic are frustrated by a maze of confusing tax laws.

"They're getting notices they don't understand and when they receive them, they pretend like they don't exist," explained Hutchinson. "When they find there's somebody actually out there to help they feel relieved."

Third-year law student Alex Kim agreed. He joined the LITC in December and although the clinic wasn't a requirement for him as a transfer student, he likes using his legal education to help clients out of difficult tax situations.

"We offer clarity and reassurance," said Kim. "At the end of the day, people come to us because they don't know. Tax law can be confusing and offering that reassurance is gratifying."

It's not just clients that benefit from the clinic. Students gain valuable experience that they can take with them into the real world. "It's important for the students to learn how to interact with clients," Hutchinson said. "Having hands-on experience makes them better lawyers because being a good lawyer is based on your interaction with your clients. You have to communicate, and build trust. They're getting that working with clients here today."

Hands-on experience is what Scheffel was looking for when he joined the Low Income Tax Clinic. The Colorado native is new to Maryland and wanted to get a feel for the community.

"The clinic seemed like a good way to interact with people in Baltimore and collaborate with clients," he said.

Scheffel's dive into tax law has connected him to his surrounding



Supervising staff attorney Jessica Hutchinson with student attorneys Priyanka Shah 2L, Peter Scheffel 2L, and Alex Kim 3L at the Maryland Carey Law Low Income Tax Clinic joined forces with the Baltimore County Public Library system to offer free legal advice to anyone experiencing a tax issue with the IRS or Maryland comptroller.

Courtesy Photo/UMD-Baltimore

community and given him a better understanding of how the complexities of tax law intertwine with everyday life.

"The more I learn about taxes and the law the more I realize how connected it is to people's lives," he noted.

Theresa Byers of Middle River is all too familiar with how taxes can complicate everyday life. She came to the pop-up clinic to get forms and information for her elderly mother who struggles with conducting business online. Shah was able to find the forms on the IRS website and arranged for them to be mailed to Byers' home address.

"Coming to the clinic really saved my mom and me a lot of stress. I even got resources for free tax prep. I feel so relieved," Byers said.

The LITC is offering more free clinics during tax season in collaboration with the Baltimore County Public Library system. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Lansdowne Branch: Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*Loch Raven Branch: Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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Ravens add key free agents on offense and defense

By Tyler Hamilton

The beginning of free agency is typically not a time when the Baltimore Ravens are very active. The Ravens like to sit back and sign free agents, after they are released by other teams, so they don't get dinged in the NFL's compensatory pick formula.

This year has been a little different. Baltimore agreed to terms with multiple players during the first couple of days of free agency. There were needs to be addressed and Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta swiftly found players to fill the void.

The moves became official when the new league year started on March 16, 2022. The biggest move came when Baltimore agreed to terms with safety Marcus Williams on a five-year contract worth \$71 million.

Injuries to Marcus Peters, Marlon Humphrey and Jimmy Smith among others severely decimated Baltimore's secondary. The Ravens pass defense gave up a franchise-worst 31 touchdown passes and intercepted only nine passes.

Adding Williams will help immensely. He is a ball-hawking safety who started 76 games for the New Orleans Saints



The Baltimore Ravens agreed to terms with safety Marcus Williams on a five-year contract worth \$71 million. Williams has 15 career interceptions and 38 passes defended over his five-year career with the New Orleans Saints.

Photo Credit: NewOrleansSaints.com

since the team selected him in the second round of the 2017 draft. He has 15 career interceptions and 38 passes defended over his five-year career.

Entering his sixth season, Williams 26, is considered to be one of the NFL's top free safeties. He joins starting cornerbacks Peters and Humphrey along with safety Chuck Clark to form one of the NFL's top secondaries.

The offensive line was another area for focus during free agency. Last year's starting right tackle Alejandro Villanueva retired leaving the Ravens in need of another tackle.

Even with Villanueva in the lineup, Baltimore gave up 57 sacks, the most in franchise history. It should also be noted that All-Pro starting left tackle Ronnie Stanley was out for most of the season due to injury.

While Stanley is working his way back, DeCosta swooped up nine-year veteran tackle Morgan Moses. Moses agreed to a three-year contract worth \$15 million, which is a bargain for a starting offensive lineman.

The Ravens had four linemen play 60 or more snaps at right tackle in 2021. Adding Moses will provide much-needed stability.

Moses, 31, has started 16 games in seven straight seasons. He was selected in the fifth round by Washington, in the 2014 draft.

Going back to 2015, Moses has played in 113 consecutive games. He spent last season with the New York Jets.

The Ravens are in a much better place now thanks to the additions of Williams and Moses. There's still more moves to make so stay tuned.

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

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. 1002R-Cleaning and Inspection of Sanitary Sewers in Baltimore City-Citywide** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **April 20, 2022**. 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 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **March 18, 2022** 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., 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 Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90106-Digital Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Inspection of Utility Pipes**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$3,000,000.01 to \$4,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via virtual in Microsoft Team Meeting +1 667-228-6519 Passcode: 28630157# on **March 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM**.

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, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Cynthia.Harry@baltimorecity.gov and dp-wbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov
Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Cleaning and inspection of sanitary sewers, manholes, and appurtenance, that include acoustic inspection, televising, cleaning with grease treatment where necessary, bypass pumping at various locations where necessary, manhole locating and television inspection Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) review. The contractor must be able to mobilize multiple work crews

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

APPROVED:
Harpreet Singh
Acting Chief
Office of Asset Management

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with the necessary equipment to perform the work as designated by the Engineer.

The MBE goal is **13%**
The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

W. Michael Mullen
Chief Solicitor
City Hall

Lashella Miller
Chief
Minority and Women's Business
Opportunity Office

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

Harpreet Singh
Acting Chief
Office of Asset Management

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. 1391-Lower Fells Point Water Main Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **April 20, 2022**. 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 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **March 18, 2022** 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., 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 Prequalification

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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 Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 28630157# on **March 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM**.

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, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov
Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Removal and replacement of approximately 7,510 linear feet of existing water mains, fittings, valves, and appurtenances with new 4-inch thru 16-inch ductile iron water main, fittings, valves, and appurtenances; Replacement of existing galvanized water service lines with new copper pipes, replacement of small residential meter settings and meter vaults, roadway paving, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter replacement, erosion and sediment control, and maintenance of traffic as required.

The MBE goal is **13%**
The WBE goal is **3%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

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. 1372-Water Infrastructure Replacement at Various Locations** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **April 20, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in

Legal Notices

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 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **March 18, 2022** 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., 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 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 Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1 667-228-6519 Phone Conference ID: 829 566 630# on **March 23, 2022 at 2:00 PM**.

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, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator
Cynthia.Harry@baltimorecity.gov and dp-wbidopportunities@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, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renewal and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, and roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **16%**
The WBE goal is **7%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

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