

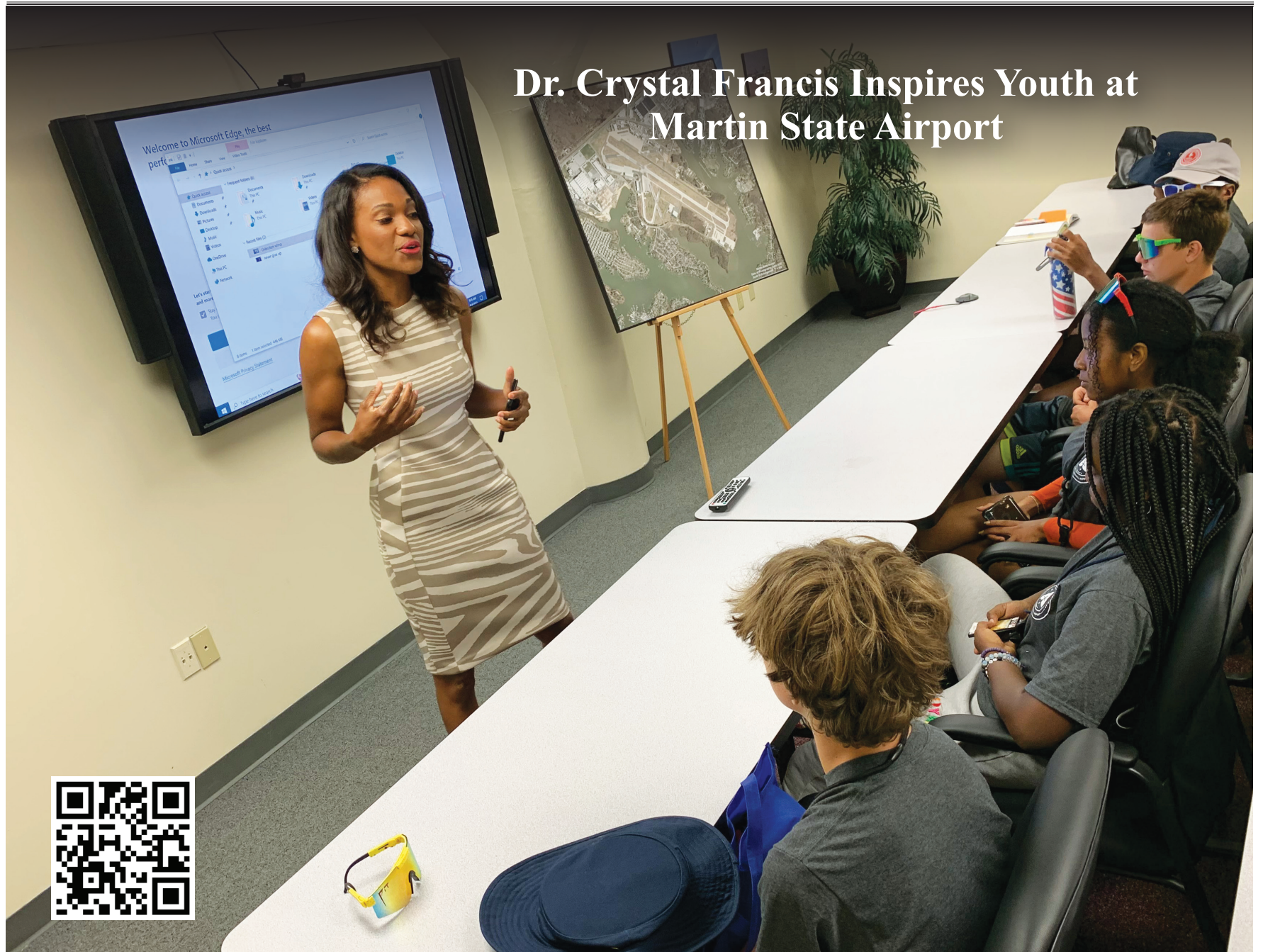
# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Dr. Crystal Francis Inspires Youth at Martin State Airport



*Dr. Crystal Francis served as the facilitator and speaker as a part of the BWI Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative on August 4, 2022, at Martin State Airport. While youth visited the airport, Francis helped youth to explore their strengths, interests, and related career opportunities. The mentor who grew up in Baltimore used education to elevate herself. Francis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (pre-law) from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She later pursued a Master of Science degree from Towson University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Walden University.*

Photo credit: Phillip Blackwell (See more on page 8)

# Comptroller Urges Marylanders to Apply for Student Loan

## Debt Relief Tax Credit by Sept. 15

**More than 40,000 students, graduates have received credit since 2017**

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 23, 2022)** - Comptroller Peter Franchot urges eligible Marylanders to act fast and apply for the [Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit Program](#) for Tax Year 2022. [Applications must be submitted](#) by September 15.

“Going to college may seem out of reach for many Marylanders given the huge expense, but tax credits like these help make it possible. I urge everyone to apply now before time runs out,” Comptroller Franchot said. “Any way to bring down the cost of higher education is a big benefit.”

The program, which is administered by the [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) (MHEC), provides an income tax credit for Maryland residents making eligible undergraduate and/or graduate education payments on loans from an accredited college or university.

To be eligible, you must claim Maryland residency for the 2022 tax year, file 2022 Maryland state income taxes, have incurred at least \$20,000 in undergraduate and/or graduate student loan debt and have at least \$5,000 in outstanding student loan debt upon applying for the tax credit.

MHEC will prioritize tax credit recipients and dollar amounts based on applicants who have higher debt burden to income ratios, graduated from an institution of higher education located in Maryland, did not receive a tax credit in a prior year and were eligible for in-state tuition.

Students who do not attend an in-state institution are still eligible for the tax credit, but may not receive as large a tax credit as those who go to school in Maryland. You do not have to be a college graduate to qualify.

Selected recipients will be asked to prove that they used the full amount of



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the tax credit for the repayment of eligible student loans. Otherwise, recipients may have to repay the credit.

More than 40,000 Marylanders have benefited from the tax credit since it was introduced in 2017, with more than \$40 million distributed through the program. In 2021, 9,155 Maryland residents received the [Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit](#). Those who attended in-state in-

stitutions received \$1,067 in tax credits, while eligible applicants who attended out-of-state institutions received \$875 in tax credits.

For more information or if you have additional questions, contact the Maryland Higher Education Commission at 410-767-3300 or 1-800-974-0203 or visit <https://mhec.maryland.gov/>



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## WHO wants name change for 'Monkeypox' virus, calling it 'discriminatory and stigmatizing'

(TriceEdneyWire.com/Global Information Network) — The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced plans to find a new name for the viral disease informally known as 'monkeypox' which, says the world body, is "discriminatory and stigmatizing."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a briefing on the matter, said the virus is no longer behaving as it did in the past and therefore should be renamed.

But a public narrative persists in suggesting the current outbreak is linked to Africa, West Africa or Nigeria, noted a group of 29 biologists and other researchers. That builds on an existing stigma, although the virus has been detected without a clear link to Africa.

The majority – 84 percent—of confirmed cases are from the European region, followed by the Americas, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean region and Western Pacific region.

"The most obvious manifestation of this is the use of photos of African patients to depict the pox lesions in mainstream media in the global north," the researchers said.

Ahmed Ogwell, deputy director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than a dozen infectious disease experts in the U.S. and Europe are soliciting suggestions for a new name using the website virological.org.

"We are removing the distinction between endemic and non-endemic countries, reporting on countries together where possible, to reflect the unified response that is needed," the WHO said in its outbreak situation update sent out on July 23.

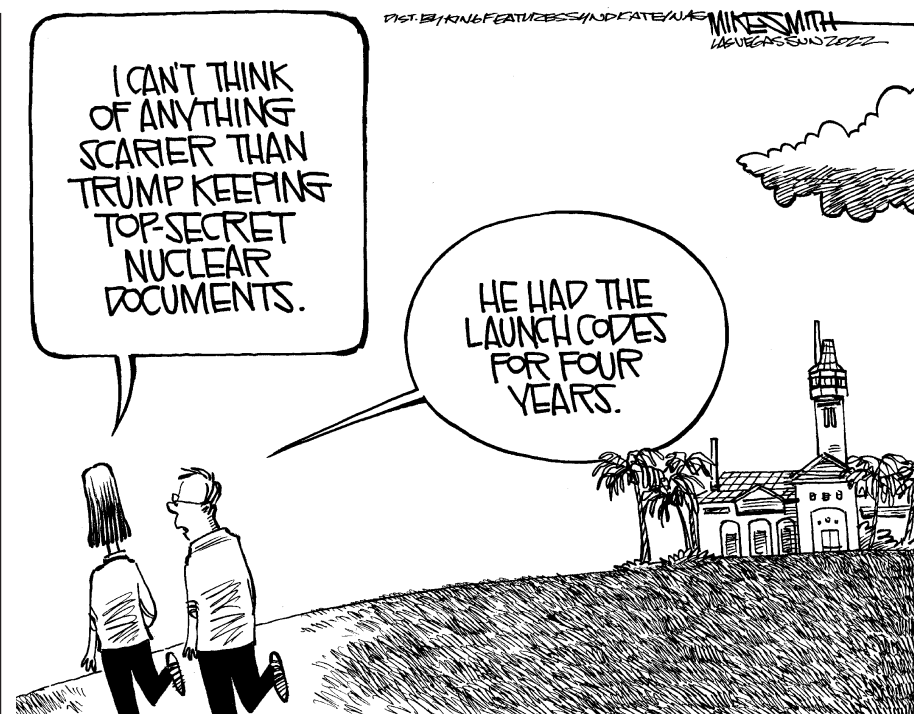
As for what the virus should be called, the scientists suggest starting with hMPXV, to denote the human version of the monkeypox virus. Rather than geographic locations, they say, letters and numbers should be used, based on order of discovery. In that system, the lineage behind the current international outbreak would be dubbed B.1.

It has been reported in 39 countries so far in 2022, and most of them are having their first-ever cases of the disease, according to the WHO. Worldwide, it says, there are around 3,100 confirmed or suspected cases, including 72 deaths. The normal initial symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a blistering chickenpox-like rash.

Between January 1 and June 15, 2,103 confirmed cases, a probable case and one death have been reported to the WHO in 42 countries, it said.

Global Information Network creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa.

*This article originally appeared in [The Louisiana Weekly](#).*



## Community Affairs

### Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church Hosts Vacation Bible School

*Children, Teenagers & Adults Invited to Week of Learning, Food, Fun and Fellowship*

Baltimore, MD (August 15, 2022) – Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church has announced a week of planned activities for its Vacation Bible School from Monday, August 22 to Sunday, August 28, 2022. With a series of fun and exciting activities designed for children, teenagers, young adults and older adults, the program provides classes, food, fun and fellowship. Most of the programming will be held at the church located at 1128 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Vacation Bible School classes will be held from Monday to Thursday and include a nightly meal from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Scripture classes follow with fun activities for each age group. Friday, August 26 is designated as Movie Night from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Pizza, popcorn, a popular movie and more will be offered outdoors on the church's green space.

An offsite bus trip to Adventure Park, USA is planned for Saturday, August 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided to the Monrovia, MD park that provides fun activities, including bowling, laser tag, arcade, bumper cars, mini golf, thrill rides, XD theater and more. Only those who have attended Vacation Bible School will be invited to go to Adventure Park. The park entry fee is \$46.95; however, a limited number of free passes will be available for Vacation Bible School attendees who are unable to pay the fee.

The closing event for Vacation Bible School will take place on Sunday, August 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Activities will be held outdoors on the green space and include Praise & Worship, music, a community cook-out with free food, distribution of backpacks and back-to-school supplies.

For further information on the Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church's Vacation Bible School offerings, please contact Ms. Deborah Stallings at 240-401-7737

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# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## Biden Deserves Credit Not Complacency

*By Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC), House Majority Whip*

We all have heard the popular expression, “give credit where credit is due.” After hearing numerous critics over the past 18 months, it is refreshing to see President Joe Biden finally getting the credit he deserves for what is one of the most productive starts to a presidential term in recent history.

The Financial Times’ Associate Editor Ed Luce recently wrote an opinion piece entitled, “The unexpected triumph of Joe Biden: Recent legislative successes suggest a good political system in good working order, but complacency is misplaced.”

Mr. Luce made the case for why President Biden’s star is rising, but warned that despite his impressive legislative record, voters may not give him the credit he deserves because too many people respond more to style than substance. I agree with Mr. Luce’s assess-



*Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC), House Majority Whip*

ment. Our media-driven culture seems to rate words and deeds that generate headlines over those that make headway. Joe Biden, and those of us who support him, prefer putting people over politics.

When President Biden took office, the country was in the grip of a global pandemic. Businesses were shuttering, schools were closing, and people were dying. The country needed leadership. Unfortunately, we had a showman at the helm when a statesman was needed. Forty-five was pre-occupied with scoring political points and securing media hits. And when voters were given a chance to express themselves, by a margin of nearly seven million votes, they chose statesmanship over showmanship.

Joe Biden was sworn in on January 20, 2021. On that day, the country’s unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. COVID-19 was infecting 193,030 Americans a day and people were dying at a rate of 3,167 a day. From day one, Biden focused on shoring up the shaky foundation left by the previous Administration.

On March 11, 2021, less than two months after he took office, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) into law. It accelerated the American economic recovery by putting money in people’s pockets, getting children back in school and lifting nearly half of them out of poverty.

The ARP also prevented evictions and foreclosures for millions of America’s families, kept hundreds of large businesses open and reopened thousands of small businesses. It helped stem the deadly rampage of COVID-19 by expanding testing and access to vaccines. Republicans put their politics over people’s needs and voted unanimously against this legislation. Democrats put people over politics and started building a foundation for the country’s recovery.

The second corner of Biden’s foundation came on November 15, 2021, when he signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This legislation made historic investments in our crumbling and outdated infrastructure. It invested in high-speed internet, clean drinking water, a resilient electric grid, replacing lead pipes, making a down payment on clean energy transmission, and charging stations for electric vehicles. These infrastructure investments are creating jobs and strengthening critical links in our supply chain.

During all of this, President Biden nominated the first Black woman to the United States Supreme Court, a Black woman to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, and 26 other Black women to various federal courts, more than the combined total of all previous Presidents. President Biden continued working, away from public view, to help get the final two corners of his foundation solidified, and on August 9, he signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law. This third corner of his platform restores America’s standing as a global science and technology leader by providing the resources and tools needed to make more products like semiconductor chips

here at home. It will create good-paying jobs, invest in building a more diverse workforce, and bolster our supply chains.

The fourth and final corner of the Biden platform, the Inflation Reduction Act, passed the Congress with every Democrat voting for it, and every Republican voting against it. Under this new law, signed by President Biden on August 16, Medicare recipients will see their out-of-pocket prescription drugs capped at \$2,000 annually and their cost of insulin capped at \$35 monthly. It reduces the cost of health care for 13 million Americans by extending the Affordable Care Act subsidies for more than three years with an average savings of \$800 per year. The new law includes provisions to increase taxes on corporations, address climate change, and decrease the prices of prescription drugs.

The IRA will help cut climate pollution by 40 percent by 2030, while building a new, clean energy economy and creating nine million new jobs. It invests in environmental justice by cleaning up legacy pollution most often found in communities of color and provides tax credits to ensure nuclear energy producers can continue to provide clean energy for consumers. The IRA will require corporations to pay a minimum tax of 15 percent and reduce the deficit by \$300 billion over the next decade.

As Mr. Luce warns us, “complacency is misplaced.” Voters should see this “good political system in good working order” as motivation to go to the polls to support more positive progress. President Biden is finally getting some of the credit he is due. And, he and my fellow Democrats will continue putting the American people over partisan politics.

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# A Husband-and-Wife Team in Hampton, Virginia are Black Innkeepers

By Andrea Blackstone

National Black Business Month is celebrated each August across the nation. According to Black Enterprise, Frederick E. Jordan and John William Templeton created it in 2004 to draw attention to Black-owned businesses to encourage individuals to do business with them while helping them to grow.

The Magnolia House Inn, located in Hampton, Virginia is one of many examples of Black-owned businesses that are nestled in the cracks of small and large towns across America.

Word of mouth is often extremely important. These small establishments greatly benefit from customers providing online reviews and sharing information about them with friends and family. Some of them aim to remain top-of-mind in a world where big businesses can drown out their presence and voices.

The Magnolia House Inn, founded by Lankford and Joyce Blair, is a small business with big appeal. The Blairs have been married for over 10 years. The couple opened the business in 2004 after a lack of representation inspired their entrepreneurial leap.

“We enjoyed staying in bed and breakfast inns when we traveled and noticed we never saw Black innkeepers. After becoming certified lodging managers through a program at Norfolk State University, and joining the Virginia Bed & Breakfast Association, we searched for a property for our inn,” Joyce said.

The Blairs now manage the charming establishment where historic magnolia trees stand on the front lawn. A blend of antiques and modern conveniences such as a private spa tub room, cable television, luxury linens, and a full gourmet breakfast accommodating dietary requests are a part of the Magnolia House Inn’s experience.

Retiring from healthcare careers led the Blairs to explore a new venture



Joyce Blair, front, and Lankford Blair, rear, are proprietors of the Magnolia House Inn and The Wedding Chapel. Photo credit: Luke & Ashley Photography

that attracts travelers from near and far. Joyce spent a 34-year career as a registered nurse. Lankford worked as a program administrator in the Department of Behavioral Health for the state of Virginia. Guests typically find the Magnolia House Inn online through Google listings, Expedia.com or Booking.com. Reservations are made online. The Blair’s guests come from all 50 states, in addition to other countries such as the United Kingdom; China; Switzerland; Austria; Italy; and Canada.

Amid Airbnb options that offer everything from lake house rentals to entire homes for a wide range of vacation rentals, the Magnolia House Inn offers a personal touch beyond a home sharing website.

“Our guests prefer a smaller, more personable lodging experience with concierge services and a full gourmet breakfast,” Joyce said.

One special feature of the Magnolia House Inn is that the property is listed as the Scott House/Magnolia House on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Additionally, themed rooms provide something extra special

for anyone who may want to take a weekend road trip, someone who is celebrating special occasion, or a couple seeking a romantic getaway.

“The Ellington Suite is a homage to the late Duke Ellington. It is a premier suite with a king bedroom, full, private bathroom, sitting room, and spa tub room,” Joyce said.

A minimum stay is required for holidays and special event periods such as graduations, jazz festivals, conferences. Otherwise, single-night stays are permitted.

Joyce mentioned that the best part of owning and managing their business is the constant flow of new friends and associates, daily learning opportunities, and flexible scheduling. However, any business owner can encounter bumps in the road.

“We have all the challenges that any small business would have including marketing, staffing,

and staying up with trends for our industry to remain competitive,” Joyce said.

Another twist in the innkeeper’s journey is that The Wedding Chapel is a second year-round business that accommodates marriage ceremonies. While 20 guests can be invited to the Magnolia House Inn, up to 100 guests are appropriate for The Wedding Chapel at The LaCrosse Sanctuary. Joyce explained that it is a church site where an indoor sanctuary wedding or a garden wedding is planned.

“Our wedding services are quite popular, as we service all branches of the military that are within 15 miles of the Inn and attract statewide and out of state couples, as our rates are affordable and the packages offered are complete with amenities,” Joyce said.

The Magnolia House Inn and The Wedding Chapel are located at 232 S. Armistead Ave. in Hampton, Va. Military and AAA discounts are offered on guest room stays. Visit [www.MagHouseHampton.com](http://www.MagHouseHampton.com) to learn more about the Magnolia House Inn. Direct booking can be made through the website, or by calling 757-722-2888. Learn more about the wedding chapel via [www.VirginiaWeddingChapel.com](http://www.VirginiaWeddingChapel.com).



Guests who come to stay at the Magnolia House Inn can simply relax or get married in The Wedding Chapel. Photo credit: Luke & Ashley Photography

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# Dr. Crystal Francis Inspires Youth at Martin State Airport

By Andrea Blackstone

Dr. Crystal Francis grew up in Baltimore County in a community where she could have been influenced by observing people who chose a wrong path in life, but having access to mentors and people outside of her community guided her toward a successful outcome. Courtney Speed was a community leader in Turner Station who gave Francis her first job at Speed's small, local food store. She also helped Francis to open her first bank account and taught her the importance of saving money.

Although Francis made good grades, both of her parents served in the military. Her mother was a disabled veteran. Her family could not afford to live in the best neighborhood. When Francis thought that she would not be able to attend college because her parents could not afford to send her, Speed stepped up to create a plan for Francis to attend college while dropping little gems of wisdom. Francis became a first-generation college student in her family by earning a scholarship.

Francis earned "a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, Pre-Law from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, a Master of Science degree in Homeland Security Management from Towson University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University," according to information provided via [https://crystalfrancis.com/meet\\_crystal](https://crystalfrancis.com/meet_crystal).

Today, Francis reaches back to inspire youth as a mentor not losing sight of how it was once done for her. She served as a BWI Marshall Airport Summer Youth Initiative facilitator and speaker on August 4, 2022. During the week, youth were taken to Martin State Airport and Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport to expose them to



*Dr. Crystal Francis works in the public policy and prisoner reentry field.*

*Photo Courtesy of Dr. Crystal Francis*

aviation and transportation industry careers.

"A lot of our children don't have anyone to turn to," Francis said, mentioning why she gives back to youth participants annually.

Francis was able to use her education to pull her family out of poverty. Her story of success is relatable to a population of youth who grow up in Baltimore. Five different groups rotated to interact with Francis at Martin State Airport. She opened

her sessions with a motivational video about never giving up before engaging in a "fireside chat," when she walked through how youth can prepare themselves to explore career opportunities at a young age.

"I shared two nuggets of wisdom that I learned along the way in my career. First, to figure out how they're going to define their own success, because a lot of people use success in a very different way. Some people view success as waking up every day

happy doing what they love; other people view success by their status. So, that kind of guides folks in their career journey," Francis said.

Francis also mentioned that she told youth about the manner in which some successful professionals say, "Follow your heart."

"Your heart has a funny way of leading you down the path where you are really supposed to be. And a lot of times you'll hear noise along the way, or people telling you 'No, that's not the way to go,'" Francis said.

She warned about putting your dreams to the side because somebody else cannot see what you see. Francis spent a 14-year-career with the federal government before landing a job at Georgetown University, teaching people returning from prison how to become entrepreneurs.

"So I was able to use my life as an example," Francis said. "In the workshop that I tend to facilitate is more so a career exploration where I help the youth kind of open up their mind before they get ready to explore the aeronautical space of the airport," Francis said.

Phillip Blackwell—a Baltimore City Recreation and Parks recreation center director for the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center—chaperoned kids to participate in BWI Marshall Airport's Summer Youth Initiative throughout the week. It was his fourth time taking youth.

Blackwell felt that his group was impressed by hearing Francis because she was relatable and motivating. He said that Francis reiterated many things he tells the youth he works with at the recreation center.

"I had an exit interview, which is what I called it, at the end of this week, and I interviewed each kid individually," Blackwell said. "They loved that part with the doctor because it kind of gave them confirmation that they were doing stuff right.



# Nigerian Dentist Creates Environmentally Friendly Dental Hygiene Products

As parents begin to send their children back to school, the importance of scheduling a trip to the dentist can become buried in long to-do lists. Practicing good oral health and hygiene consist of more than buying a new toothbrush every three to four months, using a soft one when it is time to brush twice a day, and flossing at least once a day, although these are several steps that a dentist named Dr. Onaedo Achebe recommends that people implement to help to keep their smiles in shape.

Seeing the dentist every six months is another must-do. However, Achebe created a line of environmentally-friendly dental hygiene products called Minti Oral Care. There are no harsh chemicals in the Nigerian, female dentist's product line. Remineralizing and whitening toothpaste tablets that are made to be chewed before brushing, bamboo toothbrushes, and biodegradable corn fiber floss in a refillable bamboo case blend sustainability, personal responsibility to take better care of the earth, and healthy smiles. Achebe shared information about how she is breaking barriers in the oral care space while reminding parents about the importance of caring for their children's teeth, in addition to their own.



*Dr. Onaedo Achebe is a dentist who created a line of environmentally friendly dental hygiene products called Minti Oral Care. In her home country of Nigeria, plastics are rarely used just once. After moving to the United States, Achebe was shocked to observe so much reckless waste and little acknowledgment of the vast environmental impact plastic has, so she took action to come up with an innovative, good-for-you product line that also cares for the planet. Photos courtesy of Dr. Onaedo Achebe*

**Q: What inspired you to earn a dental degree from New York University? What other training do you have as a dentist?**

A: I have wanted to be a dentist since I was a child, partly because of my own dental issues. I had impacted canines and was very insecure until I got braces. My orthodontist was a woman, and up until that point, I had never had a female dentist. This inspired my fascination with the profession.

**Q: In your work as a dentist, have you noticed that adults and children have fallen behind in dental exams, during the pandemic?**

A: Definitely! And the stress of the pandemic has led to people neglecting their oral care due to depression or grinding their teeth, due to the pandemic. This has made things even worse.

**Q: How harmful is drinking sodas when children have them?**

A: It is one of the worst things you can give your child due to the sugar content and erosive properties.

**Q: In your opinion, what age is too young for children to drink soda or sugary drinks? Also, how about eating very sugary candy?**

A: This is going to sound harsh, but there is no right age. They have

no nutritional value and only cause problems. Give them some infused water and fresh fruit. They may be upset at the moment, but they will thank you later.

**Q: What is the length of time you recommend for dental checkups and cleanings?**

A: Every six months is ideal. Every three to four months if you have active gum disease.

**Q: What are a few tips that parents can use to encourage younger children to brush their teeth more?**

A: Explain to them in language they can understand. For example, you can tell them that the bugs in their mouth will eat up their food and poop, and the poop will cause cavities or "holes."



*Minti Oral Care's toothbrush handles are crafted from 100% compostable Mao bamboo. The soft bristles are charcoal infused.*

**Q: What are a few reasons tooth decay occurs in children?**

A: Diet and hygiene. Parents should brush their kids' teeth until they have the dexterity to use a fork and knife without help, and even after that, they should be supervised.

**Q: Your toothpaste tablets contain Hydroxyapatite. What exactly is that and how does it help our teeth?**

A: Hydroxyapatite is found in our toothpaste tablets because it helps remineralize our teeth. When you brush with our hydroxyapatite toothpaste tabs, the hydroxyapatite binds to the surface of your teeth builds lost enamel back up and therefore forms a barrier between your teeth and acids in food or drinks. It is the gold standard for cavity prevention in Japan and several peer reviewed studies have shown that it is just as effective as fluoride in cavity prevention. It has the advantage of being biocompatible and naturally occurring in our bodies.

**Q: How can people overcome the fear of taking trips to the dentist?**

A: Find a dentist that cares about you and listens to you. Take in some headphones if you're frightened by the sound. You can also ask for nitrous oxide gas if this will help you relax. In extreme cases of dental anxiety, your dentist may prescribe you some medications to help ease your stress before the visit. In cases of extreme phobia, you may need to be sedated.

**Q: What are any tips you can give to people who are concerned about the expense of needing specialized dental care? Is there a way to cut expenses?**

A: I always say prevention is better than cure. Keep up with your home care and see the dentist every six months. This will prevent you from having more expensive needs in the future. I also recommend taking advantage of any dental plans offered by your job.

Choose a good PPO (preferred provider organization plan) if you can afford it.

Visit <https://mintioralcare.com/> to learn more about Minti Oral Care.

# The Relevancy of Organ and Tissue Donation in the Black Community

By Andrea Blackstone

The Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (OMH) reported that “in 2018, non-Hispanic blacks were twice as likely as non-Hispanic whites to die from diabetes.” Statistics presented by OMH also included findings from the previous year: “Non-Hispanic blacks were 3.2 times more likely to face a be diagnosed with end stage renal disease diagnoses as compared to non-Hispanic whites” in 2017.

Additionally, information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) online mentioned that “diagnosed cases of type 1 and type 2 diabetes are surging among youth in the United States. From 2001 to 2017, the number of people under age 20 living with type 1 diabetes increased by 45%, and the number living with type 2 diabetes grew by 95%.”

Type 1 diabetes is also known as “juvenile diabetes.” Individuals who are diagnosed with the chronic autoimmune condition have challenges with their pancreas. It produces little or no insulin.

More facts provided by the CDC mentioned that diabetes can lead to organ failure. Since “many people don’t realize they have chronic kidney disease until it’s advanced and they need dialysis (a treatment that filters the blood) or a kidney transplant to survive,” the demand for organ and tissue donation becomes increasingly important. Organ donation can support management and cures of conditions such as type 1 diabetes.

Cassandra Bazile, Ph.D. is a New York-based scientist who works for The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the leading global researcher of type 1 diabetes cure and treatment research. From day-to-day, Bazile’s number one role is to scout research that can shift forward JDRF’s mission which entails cure of



***Cassandra Bazile, Ph.D. is a scientist who works in the disease-modifying therapies project area at JDRF, which is recognized as the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. She earned her B.S. in Biology from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. Bazile later attended graduate school at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, where she earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology. Bazile explained the importance of organ and tissue donation, even for research purposes. Courtesy of Cassandra Bazile, Ph.D.***

the disease and improving the lives of people with type 1 diabetes. She is an immunologist who studies the immune system.

“Organ donation can go two ways, especially as it pertains to disease. It can either be used to directly impact the patient for transplantation purposes, such as the kidneys, the pancreas, retinal transplantation, or it can go towards research, which I’m heavily involved with,” Bazile said, while mentioning JDRF’s program. “The nPOD program [sic] stands for The Network for Pancreatic Organ donors with Diabetes. Through pancreatic donations through the

nPOD Program, we’re able to pretty much determine how type 1 diabetes arises [and] how to prevent type 1 diabetes. We’re able to make some of those discoveries.”

JDRF started the pancreatic donations program several years ago in partnership with Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Bazile also explained that type 1 diabetes occurs when there is beta cell destruction in the pancreas. Beta cells are the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. Insulin’s primary goal is to bring down blood sugar. When insulin is not being produced, the blood sugar cannot be maintained at a healthy level for the body. If blood sugar is too high, it can cause damage to several organs, including the heart and the kidneys.

Eyesight can also suffer because of diabetes. According to the CDC, “diabetic retinopathy occurs when high blood sugar damages the blood vessels below the retina.”

The CDC stated that diabetic retinopathy can develop in people who have long lasting type 1 or type 2 diabetes. A corneal donation could help someone in need to regain sight, or researchers, who seek the quality of life for people who need their vision restored.

Bazile mentioned that high blood pressure is also linked to kidney disease. She also explained that there is a 20% increase of type 1 diabetes incidence in the African American community.



“That increase of diagnosis will translate down the line to needing more organ donations. It might not be today, but 20 years from now when these people are aging, we’re going to need to have more organ donations of matched donors. What a matched donor means is that they’re matched immunologically, which means sometimes the race does matter, so we would like to see more people donate who look like us,” Bazile said.

JDRF has a huge initiative to diversify the samples of people who donate their organs for research because it can help to lead to the next groundbreaking discovery. And in the case of Marylanders who want to positively impact the research climate, or support people who need to enhance their lives, Donate Life Maryland is the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Maryland Donor Registry. It remains on a mission to save and enhance lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors. Please visit <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org/> to learn more about it.

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# Ravens Get WR Help in Demarcus Robinson

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have dedicated plenty of resources to the wide receiver position over the last few years. Some have worked out, some have not.

Ravens general manager traded 2019 first-round pick Marquis Brown to the Arizona Cardinals for the 23rd overall pick in the 2022 NFL draft which they used for center Tyler Linderbaum. The Cardinals quickly picked up the fifth-year option on Brown, something the Ravens had not committed to doing up to that point.

Given the uptick in wide receiver contracts during the offseason, it made sense for the Ravens to move on from Brown and get some kind of return on their investment.

Baltimore has mostly relied on the tight ends for production in the passing game, specifically Mark Andrews who led the team with 107 catches for 1,361 yards and nine touchdowns last season.

The Ravens added tight-end Isaiah Likely in the fourth round. He has already impressed and will be a key player for quarterback Lamar Jackson.

However, the Ravens need a contribution from their receivers. The current depth chart has Rashod Bateman, Devin Duvernay and James Proche II listed as the starting receivers.

Bateman was a first-round pick (27th overall). He finished his rookie season with 46 receptions for 515 yards and a touchdown in 12 games. He figures to be the No. 1 receiver for the Ravens this season.

Tylan Wallace was a promising prospect coming out of Oklahoma State. The 2021 fourth-rounder started just one game last season recording two catches for 23 yards.

As a group, the Ravens receivers don't have a lot of experience.



**Demarcus Robinson**  
Photo credit: Getty Images

That's where recent signing Demarcus Robinson can help. The Ravens signed Robinson to a one-year deal with \$1.035 million that includes \$895,000 in fully guaranteed money according Aaron Wilson of Pro Football Network.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh was asked about Robinson after his first practice with the team.

"We've played against him all of these years," Harbaugh. "He's a big, strong receiver, very strong hands, catch radius. You didn't see it when you guys went in, but he caught a really nice seam route off an RPO [rin-pass-option], and just went up and got it. [He's] learning the offense. He couldn't be in there too much today, because he's learning the plays still, but he'll pick them up quick. [I] expect him to play out there on Saturday and get going. So, we're happy to have him."

At 6-foot-1, 203 pounds, Robinson is a seven-year NFL veteran. He was a fourth-round selection by the Kansas City Chiefs in 2016 and was on their Super Bowl LIV winning

team in 2019.

The Chiefs signed him to two consecutive one-year deals in 2020

and 2021. His role was scaled back with the Chiefs in 2021. He finished with just 25 catches for 364 yards and three touchdowns and didn't get a free agent offer from Kansas City.

The Las Vegas Raiders signed Robinson in March before releasing him on August 16.

Baltimore pounced on the opportunity to sign Robinson a week later. Robinson gives Ravens receiver coach Tee Martin a veteran player that should contribute to the current group of pass catchers. He has 145 receptions for 1,679 yards and 14 touchdowns in 81 career games.

Baltimore has Robinson listed behind Duvernay on the depth chart. The Ravens expect Robinson to make his debut for the team in the preseason finale against the Washington Commanders. He'll challenge Duvernay and Proche for the No. 2 receiver spot.

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After a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby is proud to announce the **16th Annual Victim's Fund Run 5K and One Mile Run/Walk** is scheduled for Saturday October 1st.

In 2016, State's Attorney Mosby reinstated the popular Victims' Emergency Fund Run/Walk to support the victims and witnesses of crime in Baltimore. This event is part of the SAO's effort to prioritize the needs of victims and witnesses of crime that occur in Baltimore. The fund provides financial support to crime victims for immediate needs, from paying the cost to replace a robbery victim's state issued identification, to covering the cost of prescription drugs for a sexual assault victim who does not have medical insurance. Over 200 individuals have braved the elements to race over 3.2 miles through Baltimore and raise more than \$20,000 to benefit victims and witnesses of crime.

**Where:** Rash Field - Inner Harbor  
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**When:** Saturday, October 1, 2022  
**7:30 a.m. - Registration**

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### CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS 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 **BALTIMORE CITY NO. RP21808 Walter P. Carter Pool and Bathroom** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **November 2, 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 proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Dept. of Rec & Parks at 2600 Madison Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21217 by appointment only on Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm by emailing [benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov) as of **August 26, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$200.00. 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 the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004 Rehabilitation of Structures or E13001 Three-story and under**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$1,800,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams at **9:30 A.M. on September 7, 2022**. Email your contact information to [raymond.nyakoe@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:raymond.nyakoe@baltimorecity.gov) to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team(video conference meeting) no later than **September 6, 2022** at 12:00pm. Principal Items of work for this project are Construction of a new family pool, lap pool, bathhouse & pump room. The MBE goal is **6%** and WBE goal is **3%**.

**APPROVED: M. Celeste Amato, Clerk, Board of Estimates**

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