



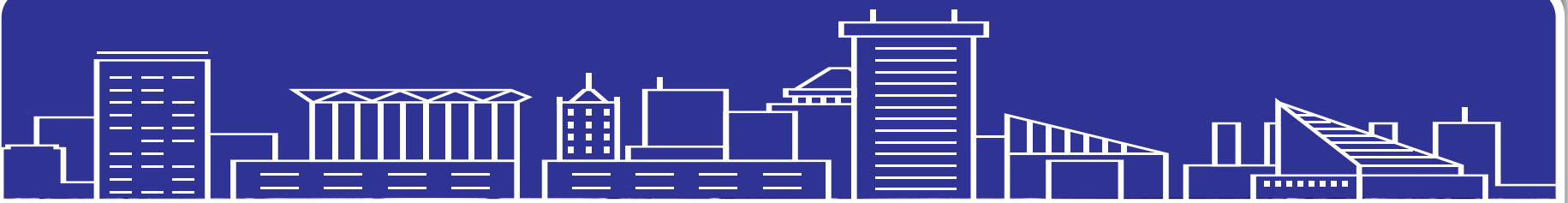
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Downtown Partnership of Baltimore Unveils Second Cohort of BOOST Businesses



Shelonda Stokes, DPOB President, and Mayor Brandon Scott cut the ribbon at the Downtown Partnership's announcement of Downtown BOOST's Second Cohort. (See article on page 8) Courtesy Photo: Downtown Partnership

Tips to Combat Summer Learning Loss in Youth at Home

By **Andrea Blackstone**

When school doors are shuttered, summer learning loss may occur.

“This learning loss is called the “summer slide,” and happens when children do not engage in educational activities during the summer months,” according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Tyronda Boone, a teacher who has worked as an educator for 22 years, instructs youth in the District of Columbia. She also possesses experience as a financial literacy educator, arts integration teacher and author of “Zoey and Zander’s Guide to Success.”

Boone provided insight and suggestions about preventing students from losing information that they learned during the previous school year.

She explained that some parents may feel that their child or children worked hard while school was in session, so they permit them to unwind and have fun during the summer. Other parents view the summertime as a prime opportunity to help their child or children catch up academically or master other skills that they may be introduced to in the next school year.

Either way, Boone believes that students should invest some time in a summer learning regiment.

“I do think that it’s important to make sure that your young person is engaged in some sort of academic activity, be it directly or indirectly,” Boone said, noting that even reading daily for enjoyment can be beneficial if children are building their fluency.

The National Center on Improving Literacy reported that “fluency is the ability to read words, phrases, sentences, and stories accurately, with enough speed, and expression.”

Fluency is regarded as “a critical gateway to comprehension.”

Boone explained that catching up two or three grade levels is harder for students to accomplish during the school year. When teachers must manage a larger class size or manage different levels of learners, getting up to speed can become even more challenging.

While combating learning loss when school is out, a variety of classes may be located online after conducting a bit of research. Students can still learn the same types of information away from a traditional classroom, according to Boone.

“So, you just really have to find out what motivates your child, explore what your child really enjoys doing and determine if there is a program that fits your child’s desires and their wants and their needs,” Boone said.

She noted that Outschool.com, an innovative education platform that offers a variety of group classes online, offers a variety of options that young people like such as a Super Mario multiplication class. Boone added that parents who are concerned about costly online learning programs can research scholarship opportunities that may be offered.

Helping a child to learn at home, even for busy or single parents, may also be as simple as turning to free resources online such as YouTube.

The Internet can serve as an educational resource, not just an entertainment hub. Too much relaxing and freedom to watch content such as TikTok videos to learn a dance craze should come with limits for youth. Young people should also be cautious about trying to follow friends who may not have to work on academics in the summer.

“If you want to get better at something, if you want your journey to be easier, you have to practice,” Boone said.

The veteran teacher also recommended establishing some rules and setting goals, while keeping the maturity level in mind. Positive reinforcement can be tied to the completion of realistic goals. Parents should not set expectations too high, especially when his or her child is trying to improve by catching up grade levels.

When it comes to having discipline to do schoolwork, some children need more support than others since adolescents do not yet have fully developed brains. If you know that your older child needs more parental

achieve a positive response by connecting wants to learning tasks.

In other cases, challenging young people academically is important, even at home. Boone added that tackling difficult subject matter should grow along with a child’s grade level.

Despite having good intentions that connect with summer learning, parents should not overwhelm themselves or set their child up for failure.

“So, with our young people and teenagers, we have to set realistic goals for them and help them to reach their goals because they’re still our children,” Boone said.



*Tyronda Boone, educator and author
Photo Credit: Creative Captures by Kecia*

support, it can be given to them in a way that still requires them to have a level of maturity. Privileges such as utilizing a vehicle or receiving an allowance are two examples to

To learn more about Boone and her future endeavors, visit www.instagram.com/zoeyandzanders1.



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What the 'Exceptional Negro' Can Teach the Model (Asian) Minority: Pages from the 'Divide and Conquer' Playbook

By **Dr. Joanne Martin**, cofounder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum



Dr. Joanne Martin, Courtesy photo

Strangely enough, the notion of the “Exceptional Negro” and the “Model (Asian) Minority” can best be understood by examining how Italian immigrants went from the status of racially inferior, despised, and outcast group in the 19th century to being accepted as white, thus becoming fully assimilated and enjoying the privileges of being white.

Italians from Northern Italy saw their darker skinned counterpart—particularly those from Sicily—as “an uncivilized and racially inferior people too obviously African to be part of Europe.” Arriving as newcomers to the American shores, they encountered waves of books, magazines, and newspapers filled with descriptions of Italians as “swarthy, kinky haired members of a criminal race.”

A key role in the demonization of Italian immigrants was played by the Northern press. As Southern newspapers were justifying the lynching of African Americans by labeling them

as brutes, fiends out to defile the purity and virtue of white women, the Northern newspapers began to call for and justify the lynching of Italians by linking Blacks and Italians together as being innately criminal.

The recognition by many ethnic, formerly marginalized groups that white is not something that you are but something that you become set the Italians on the path of becoming white. In large part, it would be the creation of a federal holiday honoring the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus that would provide the Italians an avenue of acceptance and ultimately help them become fully identified as white.

To solve the question of who would or would not be permitted to be white, the term “people of color (POC)” was created. Historically, this has meant people who are non-white or not of European descent and generally has included African Americans and Latinos. Perhaps only with the COVID-19 backlash did Asian Americans begin to be classified in any substantive way as POC. Until then, they were viewed externally and often internally as the “Model Minority,” not like and certainly better than, the other minorities.

This sentiment explains why Edward Blum, the conservative, right wing influencer behind the push to end affirmative action, eventually reached out to a group of Asian Americans to aid him in his quest by convincing them to become the plaintiffs in the affirmative action suit against Harvard University. The result was the striking down of affirmative action by the Supreme Court. Asian Americans would suddenly be standing in as proxies for white students and pitting Asian Americans against Black and Latino communities.

But what else is new? This is exactly what the concepts of Exceptional Negro and Model Minority were intended to do. For African Americans, the Exceptional Negro issue has been

whether to accept white America’s view of a Michael Jordan or Frederick Douglass or Oprah Winfrey as “not like those other Blacks.”

When the middle class, educated and accomplished African Americans have been willing to embrace the exceptionality label, they then have been more prone to looking down on and ostracizing themselves from “the others,” that is those poor and uneducated Blacks who do not share their qualities, social status, or achievements.

For Asian Americans, the danger arises when they buy into the Model Minority myth. The strategy by the white power elite, which includes today’s conservative right wing, has long been to make Asian Americans forget the “chink” racial slur; the incarceration of Japanese Americans in concentration camps right here in the United States; additionally, the Lum v. Rice Act of 1927 ruled that Chinese are colored and would be admitted to schools designated as “colored.”

The danger of the Model Minority myth is that it glosses over anti-Asian American racism and the effect it has on people’s mental well-being; it depicts Asian Americans as a monolithic group and as high earning and well educated. Thus, it makes it possible to ignore Asian poverty, or economic disparity, or illiteracy, or any other way that people can be harmed by the world’s most affluent nation.

Most dangerously, in my estimation, it advances the argument that racism and inequity are not relevant, that centuries of racism, enslavement, lynching, Jim Crow, and

discrimination can be overcome by hard work and strong family values.

How tragic it is that this very group of people of color, once legally classified as “colored” would provide cover for a white racist agenda. Yet, the Model Minority myth has been weaponized to end affirmative action policies that have played an important role in securing minority access to higher education, including for Asian Americans.

Could it be that the time is now to scrap the divide and conquer playbook, to concede that the majority of students, whatever their race or color, will not be attending Ivy League schools like Harvard? Could it be time to make the discourse about making schools better, making education more accessible and affordable, paying teachers a living wage, investing in public institutions of higher learning, in HBCU’s, in universal Pre-K, in apprenticeships, and making the world just and livable?

Stay tuned!

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Editorial

Most Non-Fatal Shootings and Gun Murders Likely Fueled by Baltimore Drug Trade

By Regi Taylor, Editorial Page Editor

The recent mass shooting of thirty people in the Brooklyn Homes neighborhood is a stark reminder of how many shootings happen almost daily in Baltimore City that are non-fatal. While every murder is a tragedy, the terrible loss of life in Baltimore from gun violence overshadows the grim statistic of the number of Baltimoreans maimed but not killed by gun fire.

In the case of Brooklyn Homes, the 28 gunshot victims who were not killed represent less than 10% of non-fatal shootings in Baltimore as of July 2, 2023, the date of the South Baltimore attack. By then, the city had experienced more than 130 homicides and roughly 300 non-fatal shootings. Statistics for the last five calendar years reveal that for every murder in Baltimore City, there are two non-fatal shootings.

From January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2022, Baltimore saw 1,662 murders, an average of 332 killings per year. Within that same timeframe, there were 3,295 gunshot survivors, averaging 659 victims per year. With the emphasis on murders, are we losing sight of the total extent of gun violence plaguing Baltimore?

Think about it, Baltimore. Non-fatal shootings on our streets are happening at a rate of one gun assault every 13 hours around the clock. Factor in shootings resulting in death and Baltimoreans are victims of gun violence every eight hours and 53 minutes, 24/7. A recent Baltimore Times editorial identified ten neighborhoods responsible for 67% of all murders in the city. Those same communities, in most cases, are among the most impoverished and least resourced.

As we have previously concluded, Baltimore neighborhoods that are bereft of employment and community services tend to inherit the illicit drug trade as the

default economy and suffer the intense violence that comes with it. Guns are the enforcement method for dealers seeking to control and expand their turf and further gun violence results from addicts seeking to finance their opium and cocaine habits.

A report by the U.S. Department of Justice explains it this way: “In specific inner-city territories, Baltimore gangs control drug distribution from street-level consumption to bulk wholesale. A gang leader seeks to dominate territory and



expand the gang’s geographic control. After the base of operation is secured, a gang focuses on optimizing the territory for the sale of street-grade heroin and cocaine. The gang leader maintains dominance over the membership by a mixture of rewards and violence, with an emphasis on the latter.”

The toll taken on Baltimore City resulting from the illicit drug industry and out of control gun violence is nearly incalculable. For starters, the cost to Baltimoreans to police the violence in the city costs residents more than 25% of the municipal budget, approximately five-hundred-fifty-million dollars—\$550,000,000.

In a city with one-in-four of the population living below the poverty threshold, funding the Baltimore City Police Department costs residents an average of \$840 per year each, one-in-four of every dollar spent to finance the

city’s operations. A 2017 study by Johns Hopkins University entitled, “The Annual Cost of Gun Violence in America—\$2.8 billion in Emergency Room, Inpatient Charges,” offers a stunning statistic on the cost to treat urban gunshot victims, many of whom are uninsured.

According to Hopkins, “the average emergency department and inpatient charges annually were \$5,254 and \$95,887, respectively,” totaling \$101,141. This average medical expense to treat Baltimore’s annual 659 non-fatal shooting victims comes with a price tag of approximately sixty-six-million, six-hundred-fifty-thousand, nine-hundred-nineteen dollars—\$66,651,919.

Moreover, this calculation does not consider the cost for physical therapy and rehabilitation for gunshot victims, many of whom require lifetime care and medications resulting from bullet-inflicted spinal cord injuries. Have you noticed the increasing numbers of wheelchair-bound young men in inner city Baltimore?

Besides these readily apparent costs, those convicted of gun violence and gun-related crime continue to feed the mass incarceration machine, resulting in one-in-nine black children having an incarcerated parent. Also, many neighborhoods of color that lack sufficient community-based employment, decent housing, retail stores and entertainment and recreation outlets, are due to conditions being so threatening from crime and violence that the private resources required to uplift those neighborhoods are repelled from investing.

How and when will the conditions that foment rampant violence, drug use and social dysfunction in inner city Baltimore be repaired? If there is an answer to Baltimore’s woes, it will come from the city’s children who are about to inherit the conditions we’ve described. When and how will we prepare our children who are currently 7% proficient in math and 16% proficient in reading?



Childhood Asthma: A Parent's Blueprint for a Long and Healthy Life

By Jayne Hopson



Jayne Hopson
Courtesy Photo

It was 1967 when news of Howard Marshall's death was first heard. Initially it was thought to be a cruel hoax, the kind of mean-spirited prank middle schoolers play. Sadly, it was true, confirmed the next day by his principal over the public address system.

Howard was a well-spoken boy from a prominent Baltimore family. Although he didn't play sports, he good naturedly assisted his classmates, keeping track of uniforms and equipment. Known for his intelligence and quick wit, he could make kids laugh and not get caught for bringing a bit of levity to Sunday School.

For many of his Garrison, Lemmel and Pimlico junior high school friends, it was the first time they had lost a peer. Hardly anyone knew Howard had asthma. It was said at his memorial service that he disliked using his inhaler, the way some kids don't want to be seen wearing glasses.

To this day, Howard's death still haunts those who knew him. In his close-knit community the seriousness

of asthma became clearly understood. However, today the prognosis for asthma does not have to be bleak. With the right information and proactive measures, parents can effectively manage this chronic condition, helping their child lead a long and healthy life.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines asthma as "a chronic respiratory condition that causes inflammation and narrowing of the airways, making it difficult for your child to breathe. Common triggers include allergens (such as dust mites, pollen, and pet dander), respiratory infections, cold air, exercise, and certain medications."

"Recognizing the signs and symptoms is crucial for early intervention. Typical asthma symptoms include wheezing, coughing (especially at night or during physical activity), shortness of breath, and chest tightness," says the CDC.

Joelle Pace, whose asthmatic son Chase recently turned four, says there are exceptions to the direct connection between physical activity and asthma attacks. "People think asthma is always triggered by the child's behavior. Sometimes an asthma flare up is caused by an activity. But other times I have found Chase's asthma attacks are due to seasonal changes and allergies."

Collaborating with healthcare professionals is vital to manage a child's asthma effectively. The CDC recommends consulting a pediatrician or an allergist who specializes in asthma to establish an asthma action plan. The plan should outline the steps to be taken for prevention, daily management, and emergency situations.

It is essential that parents fully understand the plan and follow it meticulously. Regular check-ups and open communication with a child's healthcare team will help monitor their progress and make necessary adjustments to the treatment plan.

Identifying and minimizing exposure to triggers plays another crucial role in managing asthma. Chase's mom takes note of any factors that worsen her son's symptoms and tries to eliminate or reduce his exposure to them.

According to the CDC, common triggers include tobacco smoke, strong odors, dust, mold, and pollen, saying the house should be kept clean, dust-free and well-ventilated. It also recommends that parents invest in allergen-proof mattress and pillow covers, and regularly wash bedding in hot water to eliminate dust mites.

Asthma treatment may include medication to control symptoms and prevent flare-ups. As with all pharmaceutical intervention, parents should make sure they understand the purpose, correct usage and potential

side effects of each prescribed medication.

It is important to follow the prescribed dosage and schedule strictly, even if the child's symptoms improve. Educate your child on how to use their inhaler properly and encourage them to carry it at all times. Regularly check the expiration dates of medications and replenish supplies as needed.

Encouraging a healthy lifestyle can greatly benefit children with asthma. Joelle plans activities that include regular exercise to strengthen Chase's lungs and improve his overall respiratory health. She is also careful to select and prepare a nutritious diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains designed to support his immune system and reduce the risk of respiratory infections.

Asthma can be emotionally challenging for children. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) advises parents to offer their child emotional support and help them understand their condition without instilling fear.

Despite taking preventative measures, asthma attacks can still occur. It is crucial to be prepared for emergencies. Joelle keeps important contacts readily available, including Chase's healthcare provider's name and number.

Managing asthma in children requires a comprehensive approach involving medical management, trigger identification, and a supportive environment. By understanding asthma, working closely with healthcare professionals, and implementing preventive measures, all parents can help their child live a long and fulfilling life.



Chase Pace with Joelle Pace
Photo Credit: Joelle Pace

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Downtown Partnership of Baltimore Unveils Second Cohort of BOOST Businesses

Baltimore, MD – July 13, 2023

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) announced the winning businesses of the second cohort of the Black Owned and Operated Storefront Tenancy (BOOST) Program: Bmore Empowered, From Baltimore With Love™ (FBWL), Decorelle, Sacred House, and Smith Co.



Shelonda Stokes, DPOB President, poses with Bmore Empowered - a winner of the Downtown BOOST Program - at the Downtown BOOST event announcing the Second Cohort of businesses.



Shelonda Stokes, DPOB President, and Mayor Brandon Scott, pose with Brian Dawkins, founder of From Baltimore with Love (FBWL) at the Downtown BOOST event announcing the Second Cohort of businesses. FBWL is a Downtown BOOST recipient and a member of the Second Cohort.

- **Bmore Empowered:** Bmore Empowered operates with the mission to create programming for Black girls and women in Baltimore City that provides them with the tools to live empowered lives through leadership, entrepreneurship, and holistic wellness. At the helm of Bmore Empowered are Kieta Iriarte-Amin, Nazaahah Amin, and Hana Pugh; their future storefront location is 5 N Howard St.
- **Decorelle (no picture):** Decorelle is a luxury interior design firm that retails home furniture and decor coupled with the offering of luxury staging services. Decorelle was created by Elle and Yvette Odoi to fill a gap in the interior design market that often fails to capture the middle-income person. Decorelle's future storefront location is 305 N Howard St.
- **Sacred House (Pictured to the right):** Sacred House's second storefront location will provide high-quality herbal products and services to support the health and well-being of the community. Morgan Stokes will sell organic bulk herbs, herbal teas, tinctures, and health products while offering wellness consultations and events. Sacred House's future storefront location is 417 N Howard St.
- **From Baltimore with Love:** FBWL is an apparel brand created by Brian Dawkins as a declaration to encourage a positive outlook on the city of Baltimore and its residents. FBWL allows customers to represent their city and communicate and offer intentional love. FBWL's future storefront location is 7 N Howard St.



Shelonda Stokes, President of Downtown Partnership, and Mayor Brandon Scott pose with Sacred House founder Morgan Stokes. Stokes is a Downtown BOOST recipient and a member of the Second Cohort.

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore



Smith Co. founders, Von Vargas and Qwishuna Vargas, pose at their table at the Downtown BOOST event announcing the Second Cohort of businesses. Smith Co. is a Downtown BOOST recipient.

- **Smith Co:** Smith Co, led by Qwishuna and Von Smith, is a fashion, music, and lifestyle retail space home of Lobe' Dangle & Pastels Goods and Co. With its roots in the intersection of music and fashion, Smith Co offers an exclusive range of premium products and services. Smith Co's future storefront location is 100 W Lexington St.

A new aspect of the BOOST Program for 2023 is the preselected storefronts for the cohort to choose from. The strategic location of these storefronts was to establish a sense of community between the future tenants while adding vibrancy specifically to the Bromo Arts District along the Howard Street corridor. Additionally, in partnership with The Cube Cowork, DPOB has revamped its ongoing coaching through the BOOST Accelerator to ensure that businesses have a more robust network of support to help them scale up.

“The impetus of BOOST is to level the playing field for Black entrepreneurs who have historically had significantly less access to capital and funding, as well as to fill the gaps of Downtown retail which has been downward trending since before COVID-19,” stated Shelonda Stokes, President of Downtown Partnership of Baltimore. “On the heels of the success of our first cohort, we’re proudly and confidently welcoming the newest Downtown Baltimore tenants into their very own brick-and-mortar retail spaces. Each of these businesses possesses the

heart, grit, and passion to ignite change, further their mission, and create jobs in the core of our City. I believe the best is yet to come for them and for our Downtown.”

The Downtown BOOST Program provides up to \$50,000 in grants to support build-out and operations for each BOOST business, including a \$20,000 BGE Energizing Small Business Grant. In addition to access to funding, the 2023 BOOST Cohort will open physical retail locations in Downtown Baltimore at affordable prices. The program also connects businesses to a robust cohort of experts for technical, legal, accounting, and marketing services.

The 2023 BOOST headlining sponsor is Guinness Open Gate Brewery and is also supported by BGE. It is also supported by Baltimore Community Lending, Gross Mendelsohn, Real

Projectives, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP, Maryland Small Business Development Center, the Small Business Resource Center, and Trout Daniel & Associates.

“Guinness Open Gate Brewery proudly supports the innovative and impactful Downtown BOOST Program created and carried out by the visionaries of Downtown Partnership of Baltimore,” added Michael Donilon. “Giving back is in Guinness’ DNA, and we’re honored to be able to support such a worthy and strategic initiative in the fight for equity right here in our American backyard.”

For more information about the BOOST 2023 Cohort and DPOB’s equitable initiatives and programming, visit GoDowntownBaltimore.com.



Shelonda Stokes, President of Downtown Partnership, and Mayor Brandon Scott pose with Ryan Wagner, Guinness Brewery Ambassador, and Todd Perkins, Brewer and Marketing Manager. Guinness Open Gate Brewery is the headlining sponsor for the Second BOOST Cohort.

MCAAHC Welcomes New Chair and Vice Chair

Annapolis, MD – The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is pleased to announce the newly elected leadership of Chair Dr. Edwin T. Johnson and Vice Chair Maya Davis effective July 1, 2023.



*Dr. Edwin T. Johnson
Courtesy Photo*

Dr. Edwin T. Johnson is a son of Maryland— a product of the Prince George’s County Public School system and Maryland’s public higher education system with degrees from Morgan State and Towson State Universities. Johnson was appointed to the MCAAHC by Governor Larry Hogan in March 2016 and has served representing Baltimore City since that time, which includes his election to Vice Chair of the Commission in July 2022.

Vice Chair Maya Davis, representing Prince George’s County, was appointed to the Commission in 2017 by Governor Larry Hogan. Davis is currently the Director of the Riversdale House Museum in Riverdale Park, MD and brings twenty years of public history experience to the commission.

Chair Johnson plans to build upon the legacies of his immediate predecessors, Rev. Dr. Tamara E. Wilson and Professor Dale Green, who developed the African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) grant into a national model. In the 2022 legislative session, the Commission

successfully petitioned the state government to increase the funding for the grant program to \$5 million up from \$1 million. The AAHPP was established under the leadership of Chair Emeritus Theodore “Ted” Mack in 2010.

In light of recent challenges to the legitimacy of African American Studies as an academic discipline, Chair Johnson endeavors to establish the Commission as a state-wide resource for educators, organizations, agencies, and generally interested individuals to be effectively equipped to teach African American History.

“As race relations in America have become increasingly polarizing, we want to ensure that the Commission remains true to its mission of preserving, protecting, defending, and illuminating the history of people of color in the state of Maryland”, said Chair Johnson. Among his administration’s priorities, Chair Johnson aims to address the omission of women from the landscape of Maryland’s African American history. “The Honorable Verda Freeman Welcome, who co-founded both the Commission and the Museum, is largely unknown and that needs to change,” said Chair Johnson.

Professionally, Johnson serves as Special Assistant to the Provost, and University Historian at Morgan State University. He is also an adjunct professor at Stevenson University and the University of Maryland Global Campus, where he teaches African American Studies. Johnson is the fourth Morgan Historian to chair the Commission. He follows in the legendary footsteps of Commission Co-founder, the late Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles, the late Dr. Roland C. McConnell, and Prof. Dale Glenwood Green. As a three-time Morgan graduate and one of the last doctoral students of the late Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Johnson understands the historic relationship between the Commission, Morgan State University, and the stewardship of African American History in the state of Maryland.

Join Us

at a **REDLINE** Open House!

Want to learn more about the relaunched Red Line project and offer feedback? Join us at one of the many upcoming Open House meetings:

July 26, 2023

4:00 - 6:00 pm

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July 27, 2023

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Baltimore War Memorial

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LocalLink 67, 76, 78, 80, 105, 150, 160;

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July 29, 2023

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

University of Maryland Biopark

Transit Accessible:

CityLink Orange, Purple,

LocalLink 78

July 31, 2023

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Woodlawn High School

Transit Accessible:

CityLink Blue,

LocalLink 31, 37, and 79

August 1, 2023

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Hampstead Hill Academy

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Please visit the project website for more information and details:

www.redlinemaryland.com

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Newly Launched HBCU Journals Showcase HBCU Pride, Love

By Andrea Blackstone

Alumni and future HBCU graduates can pay homage to the culture of HBCUs without trekking to a college campus bookstore that has traditionally served as a one-stop shop. Fan gear has increased over the years. Add author B.M. Hardin's new product line of HBCU notebooks to the list.

Hardin stated, "I'm a Black woman and I love all things black. I wanted to create something for current Black college students, alumni and future HBCU students. Representation matters!"



B.M. Hardin, author and entrepreneur
Photo courtesy of B.M. Hardin

The composition style notebooks are made with college ruled pages. Hardin stated that she launched them just a few weeks ago on Amazon.com.

Since writing is Hardin's "first love," and creating pretty items is her second, Hardin "decided to create and sell journals and coloring books in between book releases."

Books and More By Author B.M. Hardin was founded in 2015. To date, she has penned African American suspense, thrillers, romance and

children's books, in addition to creating journals and coloring books for sale. The bestselling author attended Gaston College and graduated from University of Phoenix. Hardin said that her children's books, planners and journals are primarily geared to African Americans.

"The why is simple for me. Black people are brilliant. Black people are growing. Black people are thriving, and we deserve to see our faces on any and everything that matters," Hardin said. "I intend to make sure this generation, and the generations to come, are able to look at journals, coloring books and books and see people who look like them."

Ghostwriting, journal creation services, a journal creation course and author services are also offered by the entrepreneur.

But Hardin's approach to creating HBCU themed products is timely, considering the Supreme Court's recent ruling that affirmative action in college admissions is now deemed unconstitutional. Following the decision, a federal civil rights complaint was filed against Harvard College by The Chica Project, the African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE) and the Greater Boston Latino Network (GBLN).

Harvard's "discriminatory practice of giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to applicants with familial ties to wealthy donors and alumni ("legacy applicants") is being challenged, according to a press release that was issued by Lawyers for Civil Rights.

However, an uptick in HBCU enrollment and renewed interest in these institutions of higher learning was underway, during the pandemic.

"Although the data reported are small, Historically Black Colleges and Universities' undergraduate enrollment grew 2.5% this fall, which reversed declines of 1.7% in fall 2021. This growth was driven by a 6.6% increase in freshmen enrolling at HBCUs," according to the National Student Clearinghouse in 2022.

The report also concluded that "undergraduate enrollment continued to



HBCU themed notebooks.
Photo courtesy of B.M. Hardin

decline by 1.1% in fall 2022 compared to 2021," although the decline slowed to pre-pandemic rates.

Gallup's "Grads of Historically Black Colleges Have Well-Being Edge," authored by Sean Seymour and Julie Ray, found that HBCUs are struggling in a variety of areas. Nevertheless, "their overall success in providing black graduates with a better college experience than they would receive at non-HBCUs needs to be examined more closely and potentially modeled at other institutions."

HBCU graduates were reported as "feeling better prepared for life" after college. While every college-bound African American person may not choose to attend an HBCU, their value remains, although HBCUs were started at a time when Blacks were barred from enrolling in established colleges and universities. HBCUs also have a reputation for educating a mixture of underserved and underrepresented populations of all races, middle-class individuals and wealthy students.

Hardin addressed another fact in her business endeavors. Black people have been less represented in the publishing and product sectors. An uphill climb to provide more diverse books to read and products such as coloring books left a

niche market open for creative people like Hardin to create their own solutions.

Hardin, who has always loved to color, recalls growing up without having coloring books with brown faces on them.

"I wanted to change that," Hardin said. "The No-No Book" teaches Black children to say no to things that are uncomfortable. It also helps to teach them about boundaries, according to Hardin, the Suthor.

Hardin starts with young audiences and works her way up to include adults while promoting diverse products and books that integrate inclusion, self-love and pride. Feeling included is an important part of life. Hardin's notebooks and books drive the point home.

"I'm aiming to inspire, and I won't stop until I do," Hardin said.

Please visit Hardin's website via www.authorbmhardin.com to find out more about her.

Find the notebooks through Amazon: <https://amzn.to/43ejtRk>.

Rambling Rose

CABARETS, CONCERTS, FESTIVALS, AND SHOWS ARE HERE



By Rosa Pryor

Hello my dear friends,

I am happy to let you know that I am doing well, for those of you who asked about my spinal surgery last week. I am ready to jump up and down and do the “James Brown” with you. Most of all, I can still keep you informed on what’s going on in Baltimore. The only thing missing is, I cannot find out where they are selling fried soft-shell crabs anywhere in the Baltimore, Pikesville, Randallstown or Owings Mills area. If you know where I can get some, please call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. I truly would appreciate it.

Okay, let’s get down to some fun. We will start off with DJ Mike Jones and Randy Dennis’ First Sundays Cabaret. It will be held on the first Sunday in August at the Diamondz Event & Catering Hall, located at 9980 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland from 4-8 p.m. It is BYOB and BYOF. There will be free setups and a whole lot of dancing going on. For more information, call 410-525-5016 or 443-506-8398 for more information.

HONEY CHILD, this will be the BLAST! Check out Jamaica’s Independence Weekend in Poolesville, Maryland for the Trinity Fest. Feel the power of the Trinity Fest Wine, Jerk & Reggae Festival in a spectacular fashion on Saturday August 5, 2023 from noon until 8 p.m. at Potomac Polo Arena Muldoon’s Farm, located at 18905 Beallsville Road in Poolesville, Maryland. They will have free wine tasting, food vendors, arts and craft vendors and live performances by international and local bands. For more information, send an email to triofestmd@gmail.com.

Here is something else that is free to the public. The 20th Annual Poets in the Park Festival will be held on August 13, 2023 from 1-8 p.m. in Gwynn Oak Park, located at 5010 Gwynn Oak Avenue in Gwynn Oak, Maryland. For more information, call 410-298-0661 or 720-229-9191.

Don’t forget every Friday, there are live concerts at the City View, located at 6700 Security Blvd. and it is free show time from 6-10 p.m. This Friday and next Friday, the Palovation will be performing. If you can’t make it there, you can catch them at the Randallstown Community Center, located at 3505 Resource Dr. in Randallstown, Maryland on Saturday, August 5th at 1 p.m. and have dinner while you are there. Starting August 4, 2023 and every Friday in August, Shay and Company will be performing. Your hostess is the one and only Ms. Maybelle.

Oh, my goodness! My jazz lovers, I got something for you. Check out Charles McPherson Quintet with Javon Jackson, Amy Shook, Jeb Patton and Billy Drummond, Thursday through Sunday, July 27- July 30,, 2023 at Keystone Korner Baltimore Jazz Restaurant. I believe the showtime is at 6 p.m. Give them a call and check it out.

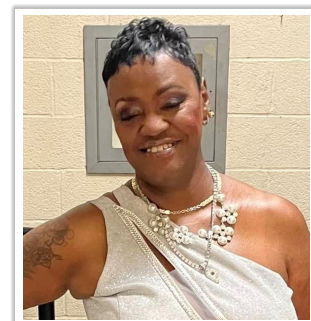
A Summer Jazz Series featuring Marcus Johnson and Eddie Baccus, Jr. is happening on Saturday, July 22, 2023 starting at 6 p.m. at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts, located at 3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue in Owings Mills, Maryland. For more information, call 443-858-9781. I believe it will be an incredible evening of smooth jazz. Mark your calendar. One of my favorite artists, Kim Waters, is coming to the center on August 24, 2023.

Well, my dear friends, I try to bring you the best of the best when it comes to live entertainment information, so I look forward to seeing you somewhere, some place where the music and the entertainment are jumping. Until then, I wish you and your family much love. Remember, if you need me, I am only a phone call away. You can call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Walter Carr will hold a book release party for his new book, “Laughin’ Lyin’ & Signifyin” on Friday, July 28, 2023 at Colin’s Seafood & Grill, located at 1728 E. Northern Parkway in Baltimore. It is a mixture of political and regular gag cartoons that you can relate to.

The one and only Ms. Maybelle is doing it again. “The Roast of Ms. Maybelle 2” should be a barrel of laughs. The event will take place on Sunday, July 23, 2023 from 5-9 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, located at 4805 Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland. The event will be cabaret style, BYOB and BYOF. It will be hosted by Susan “The Dutchess.” The roasters will be comedians: Big Shorty; Yoyo; Howard G; Lorraine Davis; DLO; Rickey Shackelford; and Baltimore Times Entertainment Columnist, “Rambling Rose.” For ticket information, call 443-226-8895.



Isaac Parham and Assata Storm will be performing at the Ruth Kirk Festival on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at the Franklin Square Park, located at 1300 W. Fayette Street. The free festival will be held from noon until 8 p.m. Bring your folding chairs, festival gear and enjoy.



Free live entertainment and a concert will feature Symphony Black Jazz Band at the Avenue Bakery Courtyard, located at 2229 Pennsylvania Avenue, on the corner of Baker Street, Saturday, August 5, 2023. Bring your folding chairs and friends. Free and open to the public. Vendors are needed. This event will be hosted by Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor from 4-7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Get there early and get your homemade rolls and pastries.



Legal Notice

Legal Notice

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Legal Notice

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. 1354-Ashburton Washwater Lake Dredging** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **September 6, 2023**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmstvbaltime.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from 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 **July 21, 2023** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **150.00**. **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 **G90013 Dredging**. 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 Teams. Vendor can call 1 667-401-2804 Phone Conference ID: 718 495 566# or Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 228 839 593 175 Passcode: Nf8qpp on **July 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM**. Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to doreen.diamond@baltimorecity.gov and farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov by **August 17, 2023**. A site visit to the Ashburton Washwater Lake will be conducted on **August 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM**.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov>. For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Doreen.diamond@baltimorecity.gov

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:
Mobilization and furnishing of all labor, material, equipment, and incidentals necessary for the removal of alum sludge and filter backwash solids from the Washwater Lake and final disposal of the sludge and filter backwash solids in an approved disposal site. The solids will need to be removed from the Washwater Lake, dewatered on site to reduce the amount of water to be hauled and disposed, and trucked to a final disposal site. After the work is completed, site restoration of all disturbed areas will be performed.

The MBE goal is **14%**

The WBE goal is **8%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna
Interim 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. 1397-Montebello Filter Controls Upgrade** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **September 6, 2023**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; charmstvbaltime.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from 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 **July 21, 2023** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **150.00**. **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 **E13003 – Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Station**. 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 Virtually. Vendor can access this Microsoft Terms virtual meeting on **July 25, 2023 at 10:00 am** by utilizing the following ID and Passcode: Meeting ID: 264 981 615 18 Passcode: R9fqfs. A site visit to Montebello Filtration Plant 1 & 2 will be conducted on **August 2, 2023 at 10:00 am**. For any Pre-bid questions, please contact Mr. Farid Sikander at farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov. **Deadline for contractor questions shall be submitted (in writing only) by August 14, 2023.** Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to torron.coleman@baltimorecity.gov and farid.sikander@baltimorecity.gov.

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting-and-dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov>. For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Torron.Coleman@baltimorecity.gov

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:
Replacement of the filter control consoles including electrical and network upgrades at the Montebello Filtration Plants 1 and 2.

The MBE goal is **11%**

The WBE goal is **6%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director
Department of Public Works

To place Legal Notices, call:
410-366-3900
email: legals@btimes.com

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held by competitive bid on www.storageauctions.net on 08/03/2023 at 11:00am to satisfy the lien on the property stored at Store Here Self Storage at 7120 Old Waterloo RD, Elkridge, MD 21075 in the units listed. Tenants may have notated the inventories listed at the time of rental. Landlord makes no Representation or warranty that the units contain said inventory.

0160=Anthony Tadeo-Misc. Household Goods/Personal Effects. 0391=Albert Whiting-Misc. Household Goods/Personal Effects.

All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Credit Card payment accepted if the transaction is over \$100. No checks accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed by 5:00 p.m. on the day following the sale. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for Dorchester County, McKeil Point BIP #1 On-site Sewage System Removal. Prevailing wages apply. Bids due in our office August 14, 2023. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Directional Drilling, Grinder Pumps, Electrical, Pipe, Aggregates, Septic Hauling, and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709 or email: schummerinc@aol.com For more information and contract documents call 410-956-8080.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for: 24-003 Landfill Leachate Pump Station and Forcmain Project, Charles County, MD. Prevailing wages apply. Bids due in our office August 4, 2023. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Pre-cast, Fiberglass Valve Vault, Package Pump Station, Jack & Bore, Pipe, Electrical, Excavation, Paving, Pipelaying, Plumbing, Aggregates, and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709 or email: schummerinc@aol.com For more information call 410-956-8080.




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| 24 TWENTY FOUR | 15 FIFTEEN | 08 EIGHT | 08 EIGHT | 16 SIXTEEN | 06 SIX | 35 THIRTY FIVE | 28 TWENTY EIGHT |
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| 43 FORTY THREE | 26 TWENTY SIX | 11 ELEVEN | 05 FIVE | 36 THIRTY SIX | 13 THIRTEEN | 17 SEVENTEEN | 37 THIRTY SEVEN |
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