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Alleen Coleman, director and founder of Point of Excellence Beauty Academy, stands next to the sign that informs the public about her new venture. Point of Excellence Beauty Academy is located at 3616 Marriotts Lane in Windsor Mill, Maryland. Coleman said that it is the first known African-American owned cosmetology school in Windsor Mill. Point of Excellence Beauty Academy welcomes the first incoming class in early October 2023. (See article on page 10) Photo credit: Yuri Aureus

Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival Draws Near, Additions Scheduled

By Andrea Blackstone

The countdown to the 33rd Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival (KKHF) is underway. The tradition of holding the free, cultural celebration will continue in Annapolis, Maryland.

“When I hear the positive stories about how being at the festival made people feel, the connections they have made at the festival, old and new, and the economic impact for our vendors, it must continue. And not only to continue, but grow,” said Jan F. Lee, the festival chair and board president.

Lee added, “The Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival is such an amazing opportunity for people of all backgrounds to learn and experience the rich culture, the food and the music of the African diaspora. And when you see people of the African diaspora come together in peace and love, smiling the biggest smiles, feeling safe among family and friends, feeling empowered about who they are, you know it must continue.”

Kunta Kinte’s journey of being brought to Annapolis aboard the ship Lord Ligonier, reportedly dates to 1767. The late author Alex Haley introduced him to the public, after digging for his family’s roots. The festival’s inspiration hinges on Kunta Kinte’s legacy.

Lee stated that over 10,000 people attended the KKHF last year. Lee, Danielle Young— the chair of Arts & Crafts and festival co-chair, along with other volunteers have remained committed to keeping the festival’s tradition alive. Lee believes that new leadership will be forthcoming in 2024.

The KKHF will continue its family-oriented appeal on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., at Susan Campbell Park at Annapolis City Dock. Over 100



Ni Dembaya African Drum & Dance Ensemble’s dancers perform on the Main Stage during last year’s Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival in Annapolis, Maryland.

Christian Smooth, Smooth House

vendors are expected to participate.

“We have four outstanding young entrepreneurs, who are aged between 7-16, that we are looking forward to having showcase their businesses,” Lee said.

Jewelry, fine arts, authentic African wares, graphic t-shirts, waist beads, henna and natural skin and hair products are some expected item offerings. Soul food, seafood, Caribbean cuisine, pineapple drinks, snowballs and assorted desserts will also be available for sale. Civic organizations Community will attend. Voter registration will be provided by the NAACP.

Youth performers will participate on all three performance stages. This year’s adult headliners include The All-Star Purple Party featuring Junie Henderson with special guest Sugar Bear, both of EU.

“The festival has something for everyone, and it is really a family-friendly event. The Children’s Activity Tent is hosted by Chesapeake Children’s Museum and Sankofa Children’s Museum of African Cultures. A special feature will be Tattered Hatters,” Lee



(L-R) Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival planning committee members Shemeka ‘Meke’ Cole, Enid Collison-Lee, Jan F. Lee, Herb Lee and Keith Rowel with festival host Terrell Freeman. Christian Smooth, Smooth House Productions

said, noting that they will help people make an African-print hat, for free.

Lee added, “The Community Stage has many great features for everyone: a mental health talk about social media; family yoga; African dance demonstration; and a healthy cooking demonstration. The main stage will have all kinds of music— go-go, reggae, funk and an African dance group all the way from the Gambia (Gambia Zimba Cultural Group), sponsored by the African Tourism Union.”

Curtis Sarraqui Smith, founder and CEO of the African Tourism Union stated his Severn, Maryland-based marketing and consulting company works with African countries to promote tourism and investment in Africa.

“The African Union works with African tourism boards [17 and growing] to get them to pool their resources and come together to market Africa as a whole,” Smith said. “We do this to show the diversity in cultures, history and activities that are on the African continent. We also look to dispel the myths that Africa is unsafe, underdeveloped and unwelcoming to African Americans.”

Queen Mother Dr. Delores Blakely

will introduce the dance troupe, Zimba, that is scheduled to perform at the KKHF. The African Tourism Union has more other contributions in store.

“We also brought in African Ancestry [a company tracing African lineages using genetics] to do two reveals of KKHF board members revealing what ethnic group in Africa they descend from. Finally, we are giving away a trip for two to the Gambia and Senegal for 10 days,” Smith said.

He added that the board members already submitted their DNA swabs. They will receive their results during the festival. Also, festival-goers may enter the raffle for the trip by finding African Tourism Union’s booth to sign up for it.

Smith also agreed with Lee that it is important to keep the festival going.

“This festival represents our collective history. It is the bridge between us and the motherland. This is a living history lesson for our children to remind them that our ancestors were unbreakable,” Smith said.

Visit <https://www.kuntakinte.org> to obtain more details about the KKHF and www.africantourismunion.com to learn additional information about the African Tourism Union.

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³Additional information about the Down Payment program: Down Payment program is available with one mortgage product. Program funds can be applied toward down payment only. Borrowers cannot receive program funds as cash back in excess of earnest money deposits. Down Payment Grant program may be considered taxable income, a 1099-MISC will be issued, consult with your tax advisor. May be combined with other offers. The Bank of America Down Payment Grant program may only be applied once to an eligible mortgage/property, regardless of the number of applicants. Homebuyer education is required.

⁴Maximum income and loan amount limits apply. Fixed-rate mortgages (no cash out refinances), primary residences only. Certain property types are ineligible. Maximum loan-to-value ("LTV") is 97%, and maximum combined LTV is 105%. For LTV >95%, any secondary financing must be from an approved Community Second Program. Homebuyer education may be required. Other restrictions apply.

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10 Things to Know About Your Health and Cannabis

By Jayne Hopson

First, the legalized sale of medical marijuana is a big business in Maryland. According to the Marijuana Policy Project 102,459 or nearly two percent of Marylanders have received a so called "cannabis card" issued by the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission's (MMCC) patient registry. For nearly 10 years these cards were required to legally purchase marijuana for medicinal purposes from a cannabis dispensary licensed by the state.

On July 1, 2023, in a major, much-publicized shift in drug policy Gov. Wes Moore enacted The Cannabis Reform Bill, making Maryland the latest state to legalize adult possession of limited amounts of marijuana for recreational use. Unlike medical use cannabis, which continues to be non-taxable, recreational marijuana is subject to a nine percent tax on each dollar spent.

The Cannabis Reform Bill was put to a vote by the citizens of Maryland. The people's choice was clear: residents, 21 and over wanted the right to legally purchase marijuana for recreational use. The state has a significant financial interest in the sale of recreational cannabis. Last year Marylanders spent 600 million tax free dollars on medical cannabis. This represents a 54-million-dollar loss in tax revenue. Clearly, the state hopes to recoup those funds, and more by taxing the sale of recreational marijuana.

Second, the term "marijuana" became widely used in the United States around the same time Blacks and Mexicans were thought to be cannabis' biggest users. The word took on a negative connotation, popularized by the media, who were anxious to mirror public sentiment and show support for stigmatization and criminalization of cannabis.

Cannabis has been used for medicinal, spiritual and recreational purposes for thousands of years. In the U.S. cannabis was initially grown and used for industrial

purposes, such as the production of fiber for clothing, paper and hemp ropes. However, attitudes about "weed" began to change in the early 20th century. Concerns about its effects on public health and safety fueled the first prohibition of cannabis.

These laws were primarily aimed at restricting its increasing use by Mexican immigrants and African Americans, which points to a non-medical benefit of decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana deemed for personal use. It is no secret that historically young African Americans have been disproportionately caught and charged with possession of weed. A marijuana possession charge can make an individual ineligible for employment and limit career opportunities.

The Baltimore Times has a podcast on its website that offers helpful tips on how to expunge your record if you were charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana prior to its legalization for recreational use.

Third, although cannabis has potential health benefits, including pain relief and reducing anxiety, it can also have negative side effects, such as impaired coordination and memory, and it can be addictive for some individuals. It is important to know that cannabis can interact with various medications, potentially altering their effects.

There are potential risks associated with long-term cannabis use. It's essential to understand that the effects of cannabis can vary widely depending on the individual, the frequency of use, the potency of the cannabis and other factors. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers potential dangers and concerns related to chronic, long-term use of cannabis:

1. Mental Health: Some studies suggest a link between frequent cannabis use and increased risk of psychosis or schizophrenia, especially if there's a family history of the disorder or if used during teenage years.

2. Anxiety and Depression: While some people use cannabis as a treatment for anxiety and depression, chronic use might exacerbate these conditions for others.

3. Cognitive Impairments: Regular cannabis use, especially starting in the teenage years, may impact cognitive functions, leading to memory issues, decreased attention span and impaired learning abilities.

4. Dependency: While cannabis is often considered less addictive than substances like alcohol or opioids, regular use can lead to cannabis use disorder, characterized by cravings, increased tolerance, and withdrawal symptoms like irritability, insomnia and loss of appetite.

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6. Cognitive Impairments: Regular cannabis use, especially starting in the teenage years, may impact cognitive functions, leading to memory issues, decreased attention span, and impaired learning abilities.

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8. Lung Health: Smoking cannabis can lead to respiratory problems, similar to those caused by smoking tobacco, including chronic bronchitis and lung infections. There's ongoing debate about whether smoking cannabis increases the risk of lung cancer.

9. Cardiovascular Concerns: Some reports suggest that cannabis can increase heart rate and blood pressure, which might be a concern for individuals with heart conditions.

10. Impaired Driving: Cannabis can impair motor coordination and reaction time. Driving under the influence increases the risk of accidents.



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Car Buying in 2023 - How to Prepare

For decades, most people followed a simple formula when they were ready to purchase a new vehicle. Visit a dealership in person, negotiate a price, complete the purchase and drive the car off the lot.

Today, there's a myriad of car buying options available, and whether you're a first-time or a veteran car buyer, the ever-evolving landscape of the auto industry can leave consumers with a lot of questions. Renée Horne, Chief Marketing and Customer Experience Officer at Chase Auto, offers five tips to help consumers prepare for their next car shopping experience.

Set your budget, and stick to it

There are a variety of different expenses that come with getting a car – the purchase cost, insurance, maintenance and fuel being a few of them. Knowing how much you can afford, especially if you plan to pay for it over time, is key to avoiding a car bill that stretches your finances. Chase has a variety of different budgeting tools and tips to help you save for your purchase.

Look for the best deals

Like many other items, vehicles have a price cycle; the end of the month and end of the model or calendar years tend to be when you can find a better deal, as dealers may need to meet quotas or clear out inventory. New models generally hit lots in the fall, so instead of buying a 2024 model in September, consider the 2023 model. Generally, make sure you are considering multiple vehicles and shopping around at several dealerships to get the best price.

Test drive the vehicle to make sure it fits your needs

This is your time to see how the

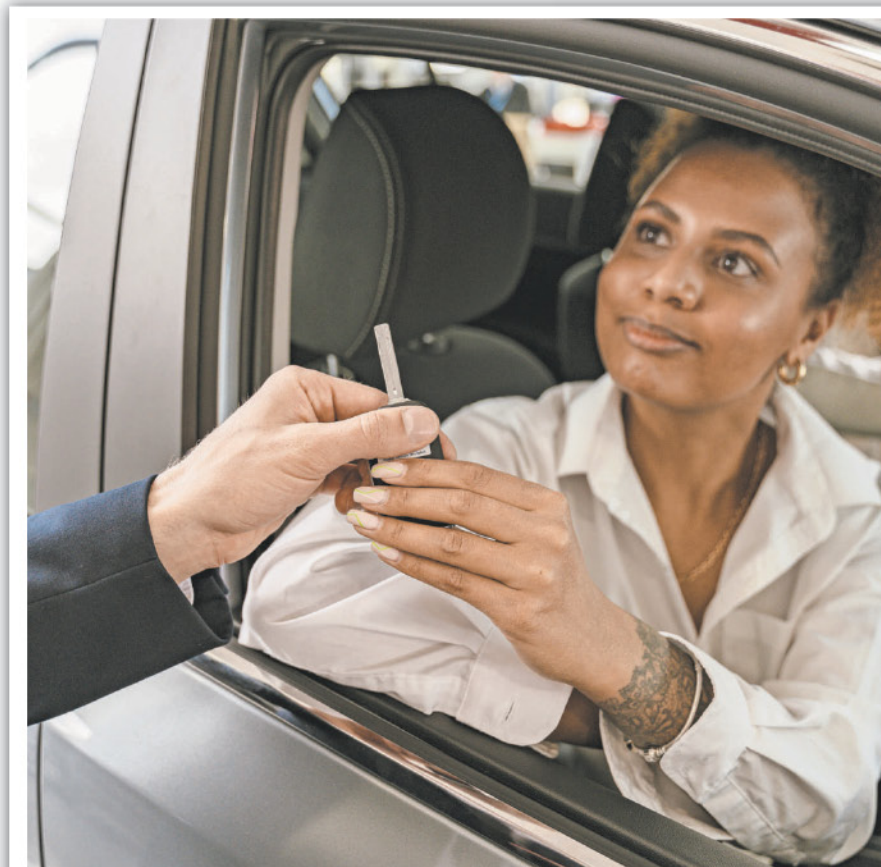


Photo courtesy of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

vehicle looks and feels, try out the interior systems and figure out if the vehicle fits your needs. Schedule test drive appointments to ensure the car you want is still available, ideally a few in the same day or week to keep your impressions fresh in your mind. It's also helpful to simulate your daily driving conditions as much as possible, such as bringing any car seats or equipment you may have in your car daily. After your test drive, you can ask about the car's warranty and fuel and maintenance requirements, as well as the possibility of getting an extended test drive or bringing the car to your own mechanic for a second opinion.

Determine whether you are financing or leasing

There are benefits of both a lease and a loan. With a loan, there is no mileage limit and you are free to customize and change the car as you see fit. After completing your finance payments, you own it. Leases typically have lower upfront costs than loan payments, and at the end of the term you can return, purchase or trade the vehicle in. But keep in mind that most leases have a mileage limit, so it might not be the best option if you travel often.

How to know if an electric vehicle is right for you

With so many major manufacturers

building EVs, there are more options than ever before. However, cost, maintenance, range and charging logistics are all key factors to consider. On average, it costs about half as much to fuel a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar vehicle that runs on gasoline, according to Marketwatch. But just as gas prices vary, so do electricity costs – based on your location, your driving style and the size of your battery. And the cost of an EV itself may be higher than a traditional gas vehicle, although there are options to help offset the cost like federal and local tax incentives.

When it comes to maintenance, EVs typically require less maintenance than traditional cars. EV batteries tend to be covered by 8-10 year warranties (outlasting the amount of time most people own their cars) but EV tires degrade faster due to the weight of the battery.

The median range of an EV with a fully charged battery is roughly 250 miles, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, but that number depends on the make and model as well as other factors like weather, traffic conditions and driving style. And when it comes to charging infrastructure, some cities and states may have more charging stations than others. Make sure to plan your trip ahead of time and map your route.

My advice to customers? Be open to the different options in the market. Do your research and discover all the resources available to help you understand what kind of car and financing will be best for you and your family.

For more information about the online car shopping, financing and education that Chase offers, visit autofinance.chase.com.



ALL-ELECTRIC ESCALADE IQ

Preproduction model shown throughout. Actual production model may vary. Available late 2024.

Light of Truth Founder Vaile Leonard 31 Years 'Clean' and Still Counting

By Ursula V. Battle

Reflecting on the years she struggled with heroin and alcohol addiction, the Rev. Vaile Leonard recalled the transformative moment in her life when she decided enough was enough.

"I was so disoriented that I couldn't find my way home," recalled Rev. Leonard. "At the time, I was only four blocks away from where I lived."

Today, Rev. Leonard is 31 years clean and counting. She is also an ordained minister, and founder of Light of Truth (LTC), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe and supportive housing in an environment conducive to recovery, transition and restoration for women recovering from addictions.

"I am in long-term recovery and the basis of recovery are the principles—surrender, hope, faith, courage, self-integrity, willingness, humility, brotherly love, perseverance and service," said Rev. Leonard. "Those are the principles in which I live my life and built Light of Truth."

LTC will hold its 24th Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, September 30, 2023, 7 p.m. at One God One Thought Center located at 3605 Coronado Road. Titled "Recovery, a Divine Gift," the event will feature Russell Thompkins, Jr. & The New Stylistics.

LTC purposefully chose to hold the event during National Recovery Month. A national observance, this special time of the year is held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, and highlight the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery possible.

"First, we are celebrating 24 years of serving women seeking recovery



Vaile Leonard stands on the corner in her former neighborhood where she once 'copped' her drugs. Photo courtesy of LTC

and the recovery community," said Rev. Leonard. "Second, September is Recovery Month and we are celebrating recovery, the Divine Gift."

LTC has five buildings located in West Baltimore and East Baltimore – four are recovery residences and one is a testing and training site. One of the buildings in West Baltimore is deeply engraved in Rev. Leonard's life. She grew up in the home. Later, she would be introduced to drugs from attending parties. Her childhood home would become a place where she used drugs purchased from neighborhood dope pushers. That is – until she lost her way to her home, but found her way to recovery.

"I truly thank my 'higher power' for directing me to the information I needed to recover," said Rev. Leonard. "Thank goodness for learning that addiction is not a moral dilemma, it is not a moral failing. Once I learned that addiction or substance use disorder is a neuro-adaptive disorder and I learned

how the body and brain works, I was able to maintain my recovery from that day to this day."

LTC's sites are often former dilapidated homes in need of major renovations. But like its founder, the residences represent renovation, rebirth and renewal. The homes are beautiful residences, and in some cases are staffed by some of the very women who once came through the organization's doors for help. Women living at LTC work on a self-improvement plan while living as a family unit to support their own and each other's recovery process.

LTC has been credited with helping dozens of women overcome drug addiction.

"The program is successful because it is a program built by women in recovery for women in recovery," said Rev. Leonard. "LTC is different by design and not default. Everyone who serves here serves with a true desire to be of maximum service to the women



The Rev. Vaile Leonard, founder of Light of Truth Center (LTC), stands on the steps of the home where she grew up and abused drugs.

Photo courtesy of LTC

we serve. The program is individualized per participant. It is not a cookie cutter program."

Leonard is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Baltimore Times' Positive People Awards and is a New Thought Walden Awards Honoree.

"If you want to heal a person, you can't put them in the same environment they came out of," said Leonard. "Some feel they would be grateful to live in any condition. That is unacceptable to my soul."

For more information about LTC or its upcoming fundraiser, visit www.lightoftruthcenter.org

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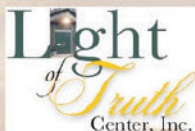
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- Karter Jaymes
- Carolyn Victorian
- Sandy Jenkins

with Mistress of Ceremony - Paulette Lucas

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African-American-Owned Cosmetology School Kicks Off in Windsor Mill

By Andrea Blackstone

Alleen Coleman, owner and founder of Point of Excellence Beauty Academy, LLC (POEBA), launched a cosmetology school, located at 3616 Marriotts Lane in Windsor Mill, Maryland on August 25, 2023.

“The academy will open its doors on October 9, 2023, to welcome the first incoming class. I am so excited,” Coleman said.

Coleman has worked as a hair stylist for 44 years and a salon owner at the academy’s current location for 43 years.

“My academy sits on a one acre, tree-lined campus. The students will feel like they are coming to a place of peace,” Coleman said.

Coleman is a passionate business owner who is making more industry strides.

“Point of Excellence Beauty Academy is African-American-owned,” Coleman said. “It is the first known African-American-owned cosmetology school in Windsor Mill.”

POEBA’s mission is to assist the students in achieving educational success. Integral training parts include successfully completing a 1500 Clock Hour Program; passing the cosmetologist exam; and becoming the proud owner of the title “licensed cosmetologist.”

Coleman also mentioned the desire to equip students with skills to develop a pragmatic competency in the field of cosmetology; encourage them to become lifelong learners; embrace professionalism; honesty and integrity through training. Lastly, students should always look for an opportunity to give back, according to Coleman.

Training is not geared to a specific student type or clientele.

“Various types and textures of hair can be found in every ethnicity,”



A partial, interior view of Point of Excellence Beauty Academy, LLC located at 3616 Marriotts Lane in Windsor Mill, Maryland. Yuri Aureus

Coleman said.

The cosmetology curriculum will encompass everything from general anatomy to hair care, hair cutting, hair styling, hair coloring, hair designing, nail care and more.

Coleman added, “One of the reasons that I wanted to open an African-American-owned school of cosmetology is because some of the African American stylists that I have hired to work in my salon over the past 43 years were trained in schools owned by other than African-Americans. These incoming stylists were licensed, but I had to teach some of them techniques that provided successful results for the African-American client.”

The business owner also mentioned that her entire staff’s focus will be giving back to young people to support their journey.

Coleman wants to provide an environment of equal access to opportunities, but her ambitious endeavor has not been simple.



(L-R) Michael Settles, project manager for the Point of Excellence Beauty Academy; Alleen Coleman, Point of Excellence Beauty Academy, director and founder; and Reverend Kevin Wiggins, Coleman’s son, participate in grand opening festivities on August 25, 2023. Yuri Aureus

“This has been a 25-year journey to gain approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to open my academy,” Coleman said. “I never gave up on this

assignment given to me by God to share my wealth of knowledge and experiences to young adults. To encourage and to motivate are my strengths.”

Coleman further noted that Point of Excellence is currently seeking creative people who are unemployed, underemployed or who want a change in careers to improve their position in life. They must be 17 years of age or older with a valid Maryland drivers’ license or a U.S. government-issued photo ID.

Incoming students must maintain a 75% attendance rate and 75% theory and practical grade. Additionally, classroom hours must be completed. Students will service clients in the student salon while being monitored by an instructor, when providing services to the public.

“The student clinic should be open to the public early 2024,” Coleman said.

Coleman stated that her senior cosmetologist license allows her to be an instructor. She will be available to teach if one of the instructors needs her to fill in.

Alithea Robinson, a licensed stylist for 30 years, is a senior cosmetologist who is on board with Coleman’s mission.

“I will be teaching students the current curriculum for state board cosmetology, helping to ensure students are ready and proficient to become professional stylists in the state of Maryland. I am also hoping to get the opportunity to teach students how to have longevity and sustain a successful career as they move forward,” Robinson said.

Robinson mentioned that working at Point of Excellence Beauty Academy will be her first time teaching outside of an apprenticeship. After finding out about Coleman’s school, she immediately reached out to inquire about joining her movement.

Robinson further stated that she chose to participate in the venture because she recalls graduating from beauty school at the age of 18, believing nothing would be more rewarding than to become successful and one day give back.

“I could not be more elated. I feel my career is coming full circle and this is my next big accomplishment,” Robinson said.

Prospective students may visit <http://www.pointofexcellence.org> to learn more about POEBA, or to complete a short application.

Brother and Sister Duo from Baltimore Launch Vending Business

By Andrea Blackstone

What does a seven-year-old and a twelve-year-old know about running a vending business? Tristan Winston, 7, and his big sister, Kayla Winston, 12, can tell you a thing or two about building one from the ground up. They are the proud co-owners of Endless Wins Vending, LLC.

“My brother and I wanted to start a snack business. We love snacks and wanted to show the world you can do anything you put your mind to,” Kayla said, mentioning another reason their business was created.

The business was legally established in late July of 2023, partly because the snack lovers wanted to earn their own money.

To help run Endless Wins Vending, LLC, Kayla pounds the pavement alongside her brother and mother, Chantell Williams, handing out business cards while inquiring about potential opportunities to collaborate with different establishments. Behind the scenes, Kayla filled the small business’ candy machine to prepare for delivery to their first client.

The entrepreneurs are excited about setting up the machine at Samuel Cain, Sr.’s business called Junior’s Barbershop, located in Essex, Maryland on September 16, 2023. He owns and runs a barber shop and beauty salon.

Cain mentioned that he found out about Endless Wins Vending, LLC when the brother and sister duo walked into his place of business. He ultimately decided to offer an opportunity for Winston and Kayla to get the start that they needed.

“I will support them by offering their services to my clientele in hopes that it becomes a successful business venture for them,” Cain said.

The entrepreneur could relate to early beginnings in business. According to



Tristan Winston (left) and his sister, Kayla Winston co-own Endless Wins Vending, LLC. The business owners reside in Baltimore County. Chantell Williams

Cain, he was given a start in business at an early age. He has been a successful business owner for many years.

“I wish the same for them, and will help them to achieve just that by setting up their vending machine at my place of business and hope that my clientele utilizes their products,” Cain said.

Endless Wins Vending, LLC can provide more than candy machines. Williams noted that Endless Wins Vending, LLC is able to sell snacks, candy, beverages and pretty much anything that a business owner may request through their vending enterprise.

She added, “We are accepting inquiries about having machines and locations.”

Williams noted that the entrepreneurs can service the Baltimore area and Anne Arundel County.

Tristan and Kayla’s journey would have been impossible without Williams’ sacrifices that required extra time and resources. The ambitious mother feels that helping her children to start a business is worth her efforts. She stepped up to become the business’ manager.

“As a mom, I want to make sure that



Kayla Winston (left) pours candy into a machine with Tristan Winston. Chantell Williams

I am continuously paving a way for their future and to support them and their dreams,” Williams said.

The devoted mother has been driving her kidpreneurs around to purchase supplies for their grand delivery that will kick off landing a first win, but the Endless Wins Vending, LLC team is not sitting still.

They are in the midst of searching for additional prospective machine locations where clients or customers wait more than a 10 to 15 minutes period. Williams stated that after inquiries are made, she sets up a meeting with the decision maker of an establishment to enable the Endless Wins Vending, LLC team to introduce their business services. The company’s proposal book provides information about a variety of vending machines with him or her. The Endless Wins Vending, LLC trio finds out more about potential the customer’s needs, then proceeds accordingly.

Both Kayla and Tristan feel good about showing other children that becoming business owners at a young age is possible. However, the pair already

knows that marketing is a challenge of business ownership.

“The hardest part about starting a business as a child is getting the word, and your city, to know that your business exists,” Tristan said.

When Kayla is older, she would like to become an executive chef and own her own restaurant. She felt that having a snack business would jumpstart her career in owning a business, while allowing her to learn financial responsibility.

“The most rewarding part of establishing Endless Wins Vending, LLC is to see what you put your mind to, you’re able to do at any age. We hope to show the world that whatever you want to do, you can do it, no matter how young you are, no matter how old you are,” Kayla and Tristan Winston said.

Kayla, Tristan and their mother welcome more inquiries about Endless Wins Vending, LLC. Call Williams at 443-916-5458. Follow the brother and sister’s new entrepreneurial journey via https://www.instagram.com/endlesswinsvending_llc/.



By Rosa Pryor

Hello, my dear friends,

I am feeling much better this week, but it has been a long, long road for me to get here. I thank those of you who sent prayers and good wishes. I have had two spinal surgeries and some other complications, but God is good, and I am back on the road again.

This month, it looks like the 27th Annual Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival will be the highlight event again. The featured headline artist is Musiq Soulchild. The other entertainers are Aaron Hill Trio featuring vocalists Ama Chandra and Micha Smith (I am not too familiar with this act), also Clarence Ward & Dat Feel Good and Jumpstreet Band. The event also includes a Gospel stage; Youth Entertainment Pavilion; a Health & Wellness Pavilion; a Youth Entrepreneurship Zone; a Historical Village; and so much more. The location of the festival is 400 Washington Avenue, located in Towson, Maryland.

It seems like quite a few festivals are coming up this month on my calendar. The 21st Annual Jazz Preservation Festival will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from noon to 7 p.m. at Westminster Church, located at 400 I Street SW in Washington, D.C. All jazz lovers and musicians are welcome. Enjoy free outside music venues with food for sale. Arts and crafts vendors will be there, too.

Another upcoming one is called the Trifecta Food Truck & Music Festival. This festival will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the Timonium Fairgrounds in Maryland. It opens at

27th ANNUAL BALTIMORE COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND



Clarence Ward & Dat Feel Good Band will be performing at the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival on Saturday, September 16 in Towson.

11 a.m. Approximately 11 bands and singers will be featured, in addition to 35 food trucks and about 50 vendors.

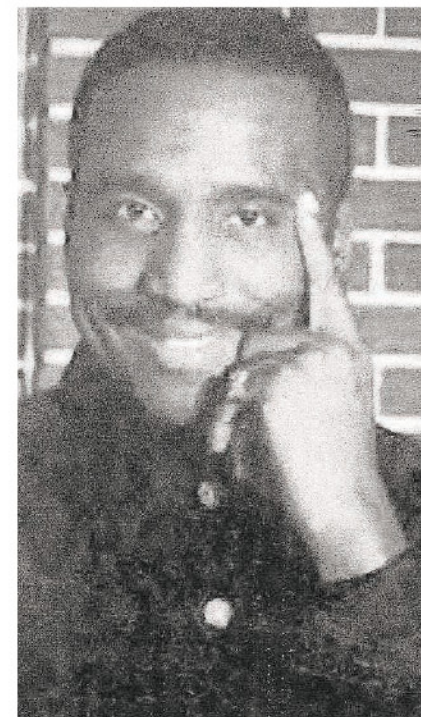
The Maryland Wine Festival comes up on Saturday, September 16, 2023. It will be open from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Enthusiasts of local wines, and fans of great local festivals, are invited to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Farm Museum. They can explore delicious, local wine while shopping from juried artisans and dancing to live music. This festival is located at the Carroll County Farm Museum. The address is 500 S. Center Street in Westminster, Maryland.

Changing the subject, my buddy, comedian Howard G, will have a comedy roast on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Café 12, located at 5627 Reisterstown Road. Doors open at 7 p.m. The comedy roast show will be hosted by comedian Rickey



Jumpstreet Band will be performing at the 27th Annual Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival, on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 400 Washington Avenue, Towson, Maryland. The festival opens at 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Shackleford. Other comedians who will participate in the show are Whooda, Queen Jackie, Queen Towanda, Kei Kei, Crazy Eddie, Myra Washington, Tanya Watty, Renee Sharp and RockMell-Hip Hop Artist. They are all



Howard G "Kiss My Bumper!" Comedy Roast is happening at Café 12, 5627 Reisterstown Road from 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 16. Hosted by Rickey Shackleford. For more information, call 443-226-9157.

going to have fun roasting comedian Howard Gaskins (the "Kiss My Bumper Man").

Well, my dear friends, I have to go now. I hope to see you real soon at one of these events. Remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Coco Gauff Makes History

Youngest U.S. Open Champion Since Serena Williams in 1999

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National

Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

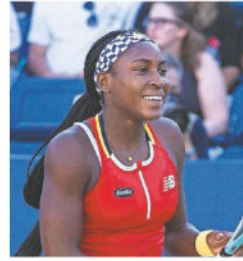
Coco Gauff has etched her name in tennis history as she clinched the U.S. Open singles title, becoming the youngest player since Serena Williams' historic victory in 1999 when she was just 17 years old. Gauff's remarkable triumph came after an intense three-set battle against Aryna Sabalenka, with a final score of 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Amidst the crowd's roar and the flashbulbs of countless cameras, Gauff stood on the iconic Arthur Ashe Stadium, her trophy shining brightly and her victory speech filled with a sense of readiness for the fame that will undoubtedly come her way. "I'm ready," Gauff proclaimed, her

youthful confidence evident. "I embrace it. I know how to keep my peace but also embrace all of this around me."

As Gauff accepted her winner's check of \$3 million, she took a moment to graciously thank tennis legend Billie Jean King, who stood alongside her on the stage. The gesture highlighted Gauff's perspective, humor, and charm that has set the stage for American sports' next global superstar. "She is so humble," said Pere Riba, Gauff's coach, in the post-match interview. "Her work ethic is so strong, so professional, and she has very good manners. Put all of that together, and she will only get better. She can handle it all."

Gauff has long been earmarked as one of tennis' next superstars. Her maturity on



and off the court, intelligence, and ability to articulate herself have endeared her to the American public and the global tennis community.

Even prominent figures in the political arena couldn't contain their excitement.

President Joe Biden took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to congratulate the young champion. "Congrats to U.S. Open Champion Coco Gauff," he tweeted. "You electrified Arthur Ashe stadium and the entire nation – the first of more to come and proof that anything is possible if you never give up and always believe. You've made America so proud."

Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama, who cheered Gauff during her first-round match

against Laura Siegmund, also extended congratulations. "We couldn't be prouder of you on and off the court – and we know the best is yet to come," Barack Obama wrote. The former First Lady paid tribute to Gauff's "hard work and grit" and shared a cherished photo of their meeting after that memorable first-round match.

Former President Bill Clinton joined the chorus of praise, describing Gauff's victory as "incredible" and expressing optimism for the future of American tennis. Serena Williams, whom Gauff credits for inspiring her dreams, shared her excitement on Instagram, writing, "Ahhhhh!!!! Amazing!!!!"

Gauff reflected proudly on her victory. "My dad took me to this tournament, sitting right there, watching Venus and Serena compete, so it's really incredible to be here on this stage," she stated.

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Ravens Turn to Committee After J.K. Dobbins Injury

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens got the season off to a good start with a 25-9 win over the Houston Texans last Sunday at M&T Bank Stadium, but the win was a costly one as they've lost running back J.K. Dobbins for the year due to a significant injury.

"J.K. [Dobbins] has torn Achilles, unfortunately," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "So, that's going to end his season. I just feel bad for him. It's not the way we expected this to go, and he's worked really hard, but J.K. is a strong-minded individual, and he has a big heart [and] a very large spirit. So, he's going to bounce back from this as well."

Dobbins was recovering from a knee injury during training camp and was placed on the Physically Unable to Perform (PUP) list. The fourth year running back was reportedly angry about not getting a new contract while entering the final year of his rookie deal that pays him a \$1.4 million salary in 2023.

The Ravens activated Dobbins in time for the season and he was the starting running back against Houston. Dobbins was off to a decent start having carried the ball eight times for 22 yards and a touchdown. Then, disaster struck when he caught a short pass in the flat and got yanked to the ground by Texans safety M.J. Stewart. The loss was devastating to Dobbins' teammates.

"That's very unfortunate," quarterback Lamar Jackson said. "I feel like J.K. has been busting his behind to get back on that field and just show the world what he's capable of and to help us out along the way."

Ravens receiver Odell Beckham Jr. said knowing Dobbins will miss the season made him sick to his stomach, but encouraged the team to have a next



Gus Edwards (35) and Justice Hill (43) Nick Cammett/Diamond Images via Getty Images

man up mentality and challenged them to play for Dobbins.

The next man up will be a committee that consists of Justice Hill and Gus Edwards. Hill had eight carries for nine yards, although two of them were for touchdowns. Edwards also had nine carries but he gained 32 yards. Hill and Justice along with former Raven Kenyan Drake filled in for Dobbins last

season when he injured his knee. Drake is currently a free agent.

The Ravens added veteran running back Melvin Gordon to the practice squad in July. Gordon ran 17 times for 59 yards in the preseason. Gordon becomes the third part of the group that will be the next men up for the Ravens.

"I think that we're good," Harbaugh

said. "I like the guys we've got. Melvin, he's here for a reason. Certainly didn't expect it to be this quick, but that's why he's here. That's why he wanted to stay here, I think, because he likes it here. He likes the offense and he likes the environment. He's a heck of a talented guy. You saw him in the preseason. He's a proven back, so I'm very, very glad that he's here."

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Parents' Newborn Shed Light on Neonatal Research

By Andrea Blackstone

Part II of II

An anencephaly diagnosis of one of Christina and Shawn Byrum's twins robbed them of a joyous parental experience. Eli and Christopher Byrum were born on April 25, 2015. Christopher's life was short-lived.

"Anencephaly is a developmental abnormality when a baby is born without parts of the brain and skull," said Dr. Howard Popkin, an obstetrics and gynecology specialist from Bay Women's Health in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

Christopher survived just 90 minutes outside of the womb.

Christina said that after Christopher's passing, the doctor nodded to signal her to prepare his siblings for his departure from the room for special surgery.

She added, "It was a moment we had dreaded since receiving his diagnosis, but in that moment, peace that surpasses all understanding blanketed the room. It was literally a supernatural feeling that only could have come from the Divine."

The Byrum's previously enrolled in two programs to enable Christopher's life to be celebrated by utilizing educational research options through Duke University and Infinite Legacy. Prior to January 1, 2023, Infinite Legacy was named The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland. The nonprofit organization facilitates organ, eye and tissue donation in the state of Maryland, D.C., and Virginia.

Christina explained that mid-pregnancy, a perinatal hospice specialist at Johns Hopkins Hospital and members from Infinite Legacy helped with enrollment in the anencephaly research study at Duke University.

Christina added, "Infinite Legacy played an important role in us being able to complete the requirements for the Duke study."



(L-R) Eli Byrum, Shawn Byrum and Christina Byrum promote organ donor awareness at the Convention Center at the Ocean City Spring Trade Expo in April of 2017. Photo courtesy of Matthew Page



Shawn Byrum kisses his son, Christopher Byrum. Photo courtesy of Sarah Michelle Photography

The study required completion of medical family history and blood samples from the twin's parents and the twins cord blood at birth. Since Shawn was not a patient, Christina's nurses could not draw his blood.

"Karen Kennedy, a registered nurse who works at Infinite Legacy, graciously stepped in and drew my husband's blood, packaged all samples for transport and made sure those samples reached their destination on time," Christina said.

Kennedy, vice president of external affairs and education, explained that the nonprofit works with donors of all ages and their families. This can sometimes include neonatal and infant patients.

When working with infant patients there is a special set of supplies and equipment utilized during these types of donations. These supplies and equipment aid "in the speed and efficiency of the infant liver procurement process and were fondly referred to as Christopher's Pack," per information provided by Infinite Legacy.

"While it is tragic to lose a child, that child may be able to give the gift of life to another child waiting for a lifesaving

organ transplant. While Christopher was unfortunately too small to donate his organs, our staff gained valuable insight into developing and refining the processes and equipment needed to facilitate the gift for patients of this age in the future," Kennedy said.

Kennedy also explained that opportunities for neonatal organ and tissue donations are extremely rare. "Christina was presented with the opportunity to have Christopher undergo a research recovery procedure that would assist our organization in learning more about recovering organs from small neonatal donors," Kennedy said.

She added that Christopher's donation allowed both the clinical recovery and family services teams at Infinite Legacy to learn a great deal about the necessary processes and procedures to make this type of donation happen, as well as how to approach families in difficult times such as this.

The Byrum family has supported Infinite Legacy in several ways. In 2017, they hosted an organ donation awareness booth at the Ocean City Convention Center. Then in 2019, they hosted an organ donor awareness

seminar for local homeschoolers at the Glen Burnie Library.

Other acts of volunteerism include distributing Donate Life brochures along with cards sharing Christopher's story. The baby's uncle, David Adkins, became involved with Organ Donation through his nephew's journey.

"In the past five years, he tirelessly transported numerous organs with teams of transplant doctors for Nationwide Organ Recovery-Transport Alliance (NORA), according to Christina.

Christina further noted, "Participating in the Duke anencephaly study helped keep focus that something good was able to occupy a very distressing time."

Kennedy stated that "Infinite Legacy is touched and humbled by the Byrum family's generous gift."

She added, "Get the facts about organ, eye and tissue donation and register your decision to be a donor at www.donatelifemaryland.org or in your iPhone health app, or the next time you visit the MVA to renew your license."

Donate Life Maryland is the nonprofit organization managing the Maryland Donor Registry.

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PROJECT NO. 1372R - ER 4137 LOWER STONY RUN REACH 3 REPAIR DESIGN AND POST AWARD SERVICES

The City of Baltimore Office of Boards and Commissions has been authorized to advertise Project No. 1372R – ER 4137 Lower Stony Run Reach 3 Repair Design and Post Award Services, requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW), Office of Engineering & Construction, to advertise for Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms to perform the selected services of stream restoration design and post-award services. One design firm will be selected to perform design services of assessments at various locations along streams inside Baltimore City limits under the City's MS4 Permit Program. The assessment covers approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream. The work will involve but not be limited to the design of Stream Restoration and Best Management Practices (BMP) within Jones Falls Watershed. The recommended project has deadlines and there are stipulated penalties associated with these projects.

The firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate and document:

1. Ability to complete the design of urban BMPs for large drainage areas.
2. Experience in a cost/benefit analysis of potential alternative technologies identified in the feasibility study, including but not limited to, facility construction, operation, and maintenance.
3. Experience in hydrogeomorphological stream assessments, fluvial geomorphology, river and stream restoration using natural channel design approach and bioengineering techniques.
4. Experience in the preparation of reports, detailed cost estimates, and contractual documents as required by the City including processing all permits and approvals from regulatory authorities required for the design, construction and operation of the facility, rights of way, easements, and related items necessary for the procurement of construction. Also, have the ability to provide project management and contract administration services.

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5. Experience in reviewing shop drawings, preparing operation and maintenance manuals, and evaluating potential change orders during construction.
6. Experience in using geographical information systems (GIS) and database management.
7. Experience in geotechnical services for utility investigations and designs.
8. Experience in invasive species control, forest stand delineation, and forest conservation plan.
9. Geotech assessment and structural design for culvert rehab, retaining wall, slope stabilization, and outfall stabilization.
10. Experience in identifying dynamic stormwater modeling software and methodologies that are applicable to urban drainage and that other stormwater owners/operators have implemented and have been accepted by Federal, State, and Local regulators.
11. Expertise and experience in gathering and reviewing the various information sources and data sets needed for building stormwater models.
12. Experience in building an integrated and dynamic model of the hydrologic and hydraulic components of the stormwater drainage system.
13. Expertise in stormwater model calibration and verification of industry standards.
14. Expertise in stormwater drainage system characterization and analyzing deficiencies based on discrete synthetic storms and multi-year continuous simulations model runs. Analysis to include but not limited to:
 - *Hydraulic performance of the 2D overland flow and the 1D sewer pipe drainage systems,
 - *Interactions of the above-ground and the below-ground drainage systems,
 - *Hydraulic limitations in drainage pipes, inlets, culverts, as well as overland flooding areas, and
 - *Sensitivity and resiliency analyses of the impact of higher flood frequency events, storm surges, or sea level rise.
15. Experience in developing comprehensive reports documenting:
 - *Data collection and gap analysis,
 - *The stormwater model development, calibration, and verifications,
 - *Findings from system characterization and project recommendations, and
 - *Plan to develop the overall stormwater drainage system model extrapolated from

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- resources, time, lessons learned, and costs associated with generating the pilot sub-watershed model.
16. Experience in conducting and evaluating all subsurface investigations, such as soil characterization.
 17. Expertise and capacity to provide storm drain inspection services to:
 - *Perform condition assessment of the stormwater drainage system utilizing electronic and multi sensor technologies including, but not limited to, visual, CCTV, sonar and laser, and
 - *Develop maintenance and rehabilitation plans.
 18. Ability to provide appropriate skilled personnel and resources to ensure effective performance and delivery.
 19. Experience in the coordination of a multi-disciplined team including Minority and Women Business Enterprises and demonstrated manpower availability to complete the project on schedule and within budget.
 20. Experience in developing knowledge management processes, City staff training and project repositories.
 21. Experience in using drone technology for environmental engineering projects.
- The Office of Engineering and Construction reserves the right to have a second interview with eligible consulting firms.
- The City intends to select the service of one (1) firm for a period of five (5) years at an estimated fee not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, with an option to extend for one (1) year additional term.
- DPW encourages consulting firms that have the experience and capacity to work on this scope submit their proposals. All firms must demonstrate and document their capacity and resources to deliver the required services on time.
- Should you have any questions regarding the scope of the project, please contact Ms. Kirastin Spence via phone at (410) 396-3440 or via email at Kirastin.Spence@baltimorecity.gov
- All City of Baltimore Construction Projects comply with the standard 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highways, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental

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Structures". City personnel will utilize these specifications for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Each prime consultant submitting a proposal for this Project will be required to complete and submit an **original** Federal Standard Form 255, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Prequalification Requirement

All firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project **must** be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline *at time of submittal* for this Project. *A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package.* Information regarding the prequalification process can be obtained by calling the Office of Boards and Commissions on 410.396.6883.

Submittal Process

Each consultant responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP) Project # 1372R is required to complete and submit an **original** Federal Form 255 unless otherwise specified in this RFP, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions on or prior to October 27, 2023 by NOON. Submittals *will not* be accepted after this deadline.

The Federal Form 255 *cannot* be supplemented with additional pages any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appropriate pages. Applications should not be bound; should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal for this Project, shall address a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202 or you may email : OBC.consultants@baltimorecity.gov. Letters of Interest will be utilized to assist small minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners and

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should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The Letter of Interest must provide the name and number of your firm's contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Only individual firms (including, for example, individuals, sole proprietorships, corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, and general partnerships) or formal Joint Venture (JV) may apply. Two firms may not apply jointly unless they have formed a joint venture.

MBE/WBE Requirements

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 30 %
The WBE goal is 15 %

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

The firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

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Non-Affiliation

A firm submitting a proposal may not use an MBE or WBE to meet a contract goal if:

1. The firm has a financial interest in the MBE or WBE
2. The firm has an interest in the ownership or control of the MBE or WBE
3. The firm is significantly involved in the operation of the MBE or WBE (Article 5, Subtitle 2841).

Insurance Requirements

The consultant selected for the award of this project shall provide professional liability, auto liability, and general liability and workers' compensation insurances as required by the City of Baltimore.

Local Law Hiring

Article 5, Subtitle 27 of the Baltimore City Code, as amended (the "Local Hiring Law") and its rules and regulations apply to contracts and agreements executed by the City on or after the Local Hiring Law's effective date of December 23, 2013 which is applicable to all vendors. The Local Hiring Law applies to every contract for more than \$300,000 made by the City, or on its behalf, with any person. It also applies to every agreement authorizing assistance valued at more than \$5,000,000 to a City-subsidized project. Please visit www.oedworks.com for details on the requirements of the law.

Additional Information

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE firms, must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

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A principal is any individual owning 5% or more of the outstanding stock of an entity, a partner of a partnership, a 5% or more shareholder of a sub-chapter 'S' Corporation, or an individual owner.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

Firms will not be considered for a specific project if they apply as both a sub-consultant and prime consultant.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Deena Joyce, AEAC Executive Secretary
Chief Office of Boards and Commissions

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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 **ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACT NO. 4130RR-Environmental Restoration Project 15** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **November 1, 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 **Charm TV's cable channel (Channel 25/1085HD); charmtvbalTIMORE.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 **September 8, 2023** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification

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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 **D02800 Landscaping and F02200 Earthwork and Site Preparation**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call **1 667-228-6519 PASSCODE: 748 024 503# on September 21, 2023 at 1:00 PM.**

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:

<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator **Doreen.Diamond@baltimorecity.gov** and **dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov**

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

Construction of Tier II structural BMPs using environmental site design (ESD) measures including: stormwater bump-outs, containing bioswales or micro-bioretenion, open-space bioswale, bioretention, micro-bioretenion, and tree pits (a micro-bioretenion) to attenuate peak runoff discharges and improve water quality.

This is a State Funded Project:

The MBE goal is **22%**
The WBE goal is **16%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Richard J. Luna
Interim Director

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposal for the **TR-23015, URGENT NEED CONTRACT, CITYWIDE**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until **October 4, 2023**, at 11:00 A.M. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. As of **September 8, 2023**, the Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting Brenda Simmons at brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or (443) 865-4423 to arrange for a copy of the bid book labeled "**NOT FOR BIDDING PURPOSES**" to be emailed to you. Anyone who desires to purchase a bid book to be used for bidding purposes must do so in person and by contacting Brenda Simmons at the email address or phone number above. The non-refundable cost is **SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75.00)** to be paid at the Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 made payable to the Director of Finance. **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 S. 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 Pre-qualification Categories required for bidding on this project are **A02602 (Bituminous Paving) and D02620 (Curbs, Gutters & Sidewalk)**. Cost Qualification Range for this project will be from **\$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams on **September 22, 2023**, at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the

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Department of Transportation. All Bidders must email your contact information to include your name, company name, phone number and email address to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting). Principle Items of work for this project are: **Super-pave Asphalt 12.5MM and 19.0MM and Various Mix 3,100 Tons; Curbs, Curbs & Gutters 2,000 LF and Sidewalk 5,000 SF**. The MBE Goal is **17%**; The WBE Goal is **9%**. APPROVED: Celeste Amato, Clerk-Board of Estimates

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 35 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740 will receive bids from qualified, responsible contractors until 2:00PM current time, Thursday, September 28, 2023, for the Potomac Towers Sliding Glass Door Replacements Project at 11 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Potomac Towers is a 14-story, high-rise building, housing 326 residential units. Anticipate award of contract to successful contractor by mid-October 2023. Construction period will be discussed once the contract is awarded. The actual construction start date will be established by mutual agreement between the owner and the contractor. Davis-Bacon wages for Washington County, Maryland and Liquidated Damages apply to this solicitation.

Electronic drawings and specifications are available upon request. Contact Dawn Bragunier, Modernization Coordinator, at telephone 301-733-6911 Ext. 168 or email: dbragunier@hagerstownha.com for bid documents.

Sean Griffith
Contract Officer

E.E.O.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 35 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740 will receive bids from qualified, responsible contractors until 1:00PM current time, Thursday, September 28, 2023, for the Deck and Railing Replacement Project, 11-12 Walnut Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Walnut Towers is a two-building high rise apartment complex. The "A" Building has 102 apartments and the three story "B" Building has 48 apartments. Anticipate award of contract to successful contractor by mid-October, 2023. Construction period will be discussed once the contract is awarded. The actual construction start date will be established by mutual agreement between the owner and the contractor. Davis-Bacon wages for Washington County, Maryland and Liquidated Damages apply to this solicitation.

Electronic drawings and specifications are available upon request. Contact Dawn Bragunier, Modernization Coordinator, at telephone 301-733-6911 Ext. 168 or email: dbragunier@hagerstownha.com for bid documents.

Sean Griffith
Contract Officer

E.E.O.

Employment

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Programmer Full Performance – Baltimore, MD: develop & maintain Hilltop's Medicaid (MMIS), Medicare, LTSS assessment, nursing home assessment (federal Minimum Data Set, or MDS) data, & inpatient & outpatient hospital discharge data. Req's Bachelor's in Comp Sci, IT, or closely rldt fld +4 yrs exp with SAS, SQL &/or ETL apps OR Master's in Comp Sci, IT, or closely rldt fld +2 yrs exp with SAS, SQL &/or ETL apps. P/t telecommuting authorized. TO APPLY: Send resume identifying job code UMBC101 to resume@hilltop.umbc.edu. No calls.

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

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture 2023

Join the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical & Translational Research in honoring the legacy of Henrietta Lacks at the 13th Anniversary of the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture. The winner of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute 2023 Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award will be announced. If you are interested in receiving this award, we encourage you to keep a look out for the next **HLMA call for applications** and consider applying next year. **For more information and to register: ictr.johnshopkins.edu/lackslecture**

Date: October 7, 2023

Time: Check-in at 9 AM. Program starts at 10 AM.

Location: Turner Auditorium on the Johns Hopkins East Baltimore Campus

Free parking is available in the Washington Street garage, located at 701 N. Washington Street, Baltimore 21205.

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