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New Program Seals are Source of Pride for Maryland's Small, Minority, Women & Veteran-owned Businesses



The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs recently launched program seals for vendors to display their certification status on print and digital materials. The seals represent all three of the state's socioeconomic procurement programs: the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program, the Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program, and the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Program. They are intended to be used by vendors who hold certification from one of Maryland's socioeconomic procurement programs.

Navigating Divorce?

Discover How Maryland's New Law Could Transform Your Future

By Nancy Grimm, Esq.

Significant changes to Maryland divorce law went into effect October 1, 2023. The new legislation repeals the entire section of the law that permits an individual to obtain a limited divorce and alters the grounds for absolute divorce in the state.

Limited Divorce

Prior to the new legislation, Maryland recognized two types of divorce – limited and absolute. A limited divorce provided a basis for temporary relief for persons unsure about permanently ending their marriage. It also allowed parties access to the courts to resolve alimony, child custody and support issues. However, decisions on the distribution or termination of properties or assets could not be made. Contrary to an absolute

divorce, the granting of a limited divorce did not terminate the marriage. Therefore, remarriage was not permitted.

The parties could amend the limited divorce at any time to an absolute divorce to end the marriage or continue indefinitely with waiting out the 12 months of separation under the limited divorce if grounds were not established.

With the new legislation, the ability to obtain a limited divorce is repealed in its entirety and will no longer be available under Maryland law, leaving absolute divorce as the only viable option.

Absolute Divorce

While absolute divorce remains available to couples seeking a divorce, there have been considerable changes. Prior to the new law, parties could obtain an absolute divorce based on the following grounds:

- Adultery
 - Desertion
 - Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor with incarceration
 - 12-month separation
 - Insanity
 - Cruelty or vicious conduct toward a spouse and/or minor child
- These grounds have now been repealed under the new law and replaced with the following:
- Six-month separation: If the parties have lived separate and apart for six months without interruption before the filing of the application for divorce even if the parties are living under the same roof or if separation is in accordance with a court order.
 - Irreconcilable differences: These are based on reasons stated by the complainant for the permanent termination of the marriage; the bill specifies that parties who have pursued separate lives must be deemed to have lived separate and apart for purposes of the six-month separation even if the parties reside under the same roof or the separation is in accordance with a court order.
 - Permanent legal incapacity: If a party permanently lacks the capacity to make decisions. Previously, a court could grant an absolute divorce on the grounds of mutual consent. The new law does not alter provisions regarding an absolute divorce based on this ground. In some cases, the court even may grant a divorce based on the permanent legal incapacity of a spouse to make decisions. Click here for more information.

Impact of New Legislation

The new legislation will have a significant impact on those who wish to obtain a divorce and the attorneys who represent them. Some advantages to the new law are:

- Obtaining a divorce will be easier and quicker as the time required to do so is significantly lessened.
- Parties may remain in their shared

home and live under the same roof during the six-month separation period provided the parties live separate and apart.

- Conflicts and stress between the parties and the effects on the children are potentially reduced and hopefully will allow for an easier transition for families.
- While the original grounds for absolute divorce have been repealed, those former grounds still may be considered as factors when deciding child, alimony and other divorce-related issues.

While the advantages to the legislation are quite appealing there are still some questions left to be answered such as:

- How will the courts handle limited and absolute divorces that were filed before October 1, 2023?
- Will clients feel disadvantaged without the “legal crutch” of the limited divorce when uncertain whether to permanently end their marriage?
- How will Maryland define irreconcilable differences? Will misbehavior on the part of a spouse remain relevant for support and monetary determinations?
- How will the court deal with domestic violence cases with regards to safety, given the provision that parties may be considered separated even if under the same roof?

Over the next few months, we will await the court recommendations and move forward toward what is expected to be a more efficient, expeditious and less stressful process for obtaining a divorce for both clients and attorneys.

Get Legal Help

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is the largest pro bono services organization in Maryland and provides free legal services for eligible individuals. To learn more or find out how MVLS can help, visit mvls.org.
Nancy Grimm, Esq., family law attorney for Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.



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Business Owners, Volunteer Stand with Victims of Domestic Violence

By Andrea Blackstone



Sam Tawiah

Cynthia Tawiah, founder of Diva Day Spa and Healing Center and creator of Diva By Cindy hair care products supports an important cause— domestic violence awareness. A percentage of the natural, alcohol-free hair care product sales (from Diva By Cindy) are used to assist women in crisis. The busy Baltimore County-based entrepreneur makes time to give back to women in need.

“Sunshine Promises Inc., our 501(c)(3) nonprofit was founded to help host beauty and empowerment workshops and makeovers to raise awareness about domestic violence and to support domestic violence survivors,” Tawiah stated, noting that her “Diva Project” was founded in 2004. “We have been supporting homeless women and victims of domestic violence for 19 years.”

The Baltimore County resident, who also serves as the project manager of the Diva Project, remains passionate about supporting domestic violence survivors. Tawiah said that she once was a victim of domestic violence.

“I desired to help, restore self-esteem and self-worth, and pour into women who have been through this plight. I am a former registered nurse, and discovered that while I worked as a

nurse, I was unable to take time to nurture and sit with women who have been through domestic violence,” Tawiah said. “When I opened my first salon, my husband suggested that we begin pouring into homeless women and victims of domestic violence. He understood that I always had a heart to heal and wanted to do something about the situation.”

When Tawiah hosts a Diva Project event, a program is outlined for participating ladies. They are served breakfast and receive various spa and beauty services.

“After they are served lunch, we go into the empowerment part of our program,” Tawiah said.

The women hear a motivational presentation and are encouraged to share their stories if they desire.

Tawiah added, “You can’t heal what you don’t reveal.”

She also said that participants are given personal care items to continue taking care of themselves.

Since October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is an ideal time to be an ally for women who are survivors of abuse. This year, Tawiah will be serving the women From TurnAround, Inc. in Baltimore city through her Diva Day Spa.

“The woman from TurnAround are victims of domestic violence and sexual violence,” Tawiah said, also explaining that some women are also human trafficking survivors.

On October 29, 2023, at least ten women will be treated to massage therapy, makeovers by makeup artists as well as motivational messages shared by guest speakers.

“Volunteers have been a major source of support. These are women who are passionate about women’s issues and uplifting women and want to help. All the women come together,



Shameka Williams (left) and Cynthia Tawiah stand near personal hygiene products that will be donated to women on October 29, 2023 at an annual Diva Day For Homeless Women And Victims of Domestic Violence at The Diva Day Spa, located in Upperco, Maryland. Williams and Tawiah are still seeking volunteers, transportation for participants and donations.

Sam Tawiah

and everyone donates their talents to make it a successful day,” Tawiah said.

Shameka Williams is one of Tawiah’s volunteers. She is a grief coach and business owner who resides in Baltimore, Maryland. Williams has been serving as chair of the “Diva Project” for several months. The pair’s immediate tasks included locating reputable service providers and vendors that would like to assist with their cause.

Williams can relate to needing a hand from personal experience. She candidly shared that she has experienced homelessness and domestic violence.

“I understand what it feels like to feel hopeless during these times. You often do not know how much of yourself you have neglected by just trying to survive. I want the ladies to know that life can and does get better if they continue to walk through their journeys,” Williams said. “They are not

alone and they need to know that!”

Tawiah and Williams are seeking more supporters for their upcoming event.

“We would love fellow business owners to support us in this initiative by donating either personal care items or a monetary donation. Our goal is to obtain transportation to bring the women to our location,” Tawiah said.

She added, “The community can support us by going on [sunshinepromises.org](https://www.sunshinepromises.org) and by either making a donation of \$5, \$10 or \$20, or by signing up to volunteer and sharing the Diva Project in their networks to create awareness about domestic violence.”

Tawiah can be reached by calling 410-429-4729, or by emailing Cindy@divabycindy.com. Visit <https://www.thedivaproject.org>, <https://www.divabycindy.com>, <https://www.divadayspamd.com> and to learn more about Tawiah and her endeavors.

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Demystifying HIPAA: Empowering Patients through Health Literacy



Jayne Hopson
Courtesy Photo

By Jayne Hopson

HIPAA which stands for “The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,” is an acronym that is often mentioned without explanation of the full scope of its mandated patient privacy protections. In recognition of Health Literacy Month, HealthBeat clarifies the intent and benefits of HIPAA, a crucial health literacy tool for patients and their caregivers.

In an era where data breaches and privacy concerns dominate headlines, there is one U.S. federal law that has long stood as a guardian of sensitive health information: the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, commonly known as HIPAA. While many have encountered the term when filling out medical paperwork, fewer understand its vital role in shaping the health care landscape.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) and the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) are directly responsible for enforcing HIPAA’s rules. According to the HHS, HIPAA was created to offer patients the following:

- **Privacy Protections:** One of the main benefits of HIPAA is that it sets strict standards to protect the privacy of patients’ health information. Covered entities like doctors, hospitals, and health insurers are required to implement measures to protect patient data and provide training to staff about how to

handle this information.

- **Security of Electronic Records:** HIPAA’s Security Rule specifically focuses on safeguarding electronic protected health information (e-PHI). This means health care providers, health plans, and others covered by HIPAA must ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of all e-PHI.

- **Rights Over Your Health Information:** HIPAA gives patients the right to access their own medical records, get copies of them and request corrections if they see errors. This ensures that patients can have control over their personal information.

- **Notification of Breaches:** If there’s a breach of your unsecured health information, HIPAA ensures that you’ll be notified. This helps patients take protective measures if needed.

- **Control Over Sharing:** HIPAA requires that health care providers and others get your permission before they share your health information for certain purposes, like for marketing.

- **Limitations on Use:** Under HIPAA, the use and disclosure of an individual’s health information is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the purpose of the use or disclosure.

- **Addressing Misuse:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can enforce penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information.

- **Ensures Continuity:** One part of HIPAA, the Portability Rule, ensures that people can get and keep health insurance, even if they change jobs or have pre-existing health conditions. This is vital in helping patients avoid interruptions in their health coverage.

- **Clear Communication:** HIPAA mandates that covered entities must provide individuals with a notice about their privacy practices, which educates patients on how their information might be used and their rights concerning those uses.

- **Complaint System:** If individuals believe their rights under HIPAA have been violated, they can file a complaint with

the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in HHS.

Overall, HIPAA is a comprehensive framework designed to protect the sensitive information of patients while also ensuring that necessary medical data can flow freely between providers to support high-quality health care.

HIPAA’s initial design was to address the multifaceted nature of health care, targeting both the portability of health insurance and the pivotal concern of health information’s security and privacy. This law’s impact reaches the desks of health care providers, insurance companies and various entities involved in any touchpoint of patient data.

Why HIPAA Matters?

It is a standard bearer of privacy: The bedrock of HIPAA lies in the Privacy Rule, which has set nationwide standards to protect individual medical records and other pertinent health information. Under this shield, entities bound by HIPAA, termed “covered entities,” bear the responsibility of safeguarding the privacy sanctum of patients’ health information.

It serves as an electronic bastion of protection: As our world becomes increasingly digitized, the Security Rule of HIPAA emerges as an essential stronghold. This rule rigorously mandates the protection of electronic health data, ensuring that electronic patient records and their accompanying billing details are secured against breaches.

It offers health care consistency: In the labyrinth of health care transactions, HIPAA introduced standards for electronic health exchanges. This step aimed to iron out the complexities involved in the electronic interchange of health details, pushing for a universal consistency across the broad spectrum of the health care sector.

The perils of unauthorized access to health data are manifold. From the alarming threats of identity theft to potential discrimination or deep personal embarrassments, the ramifications of data breaches can be deeply scarring. HIPAA, in essence, acts as a defense against these hazards.

Protecting Your Family in the Digital Era

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

October is Cybersecurity month. The practice of having a month dedicated to the topic of digital security began in 2004 when George W. Bush, the President of the United States, and Congress declared this month to be dedicated to raise awareness across public and private sectors, about the importance of cybersecurity. Now nearing its 20th year of existence, it has grown into a national and global awareness campaign on ways to reduce corporate, organizational, and personal online risk and exposure.

Since that time, the use of technology has become more ubiquitous. Social media has matured and become mainstream as a means of communication and sharing. Technology has become deeply embedded into the very fabric of family dynamics, home management, and day-to-day lifestyles. It is reshaping how families interact, learn, entertain, and grow together. This year's theme, "It's Easy to Stay Safe Online," is a great way to begin conversations with your family and friends about the responsibility of engaging in safe security practices.

With all the advances in technology, we have witnessed increases in the ability of cyber criminals to steal our identity and our money. This means we must be vigilant and educated as a family about online safety and the responsible use of technology. At the most basic level, you can begin by reviewing these four basic steps. Ask yourself whether you are currently doing them and if not, what steps you will take to implement them for yourself and your family.

Use Strong Passwords and a Password Manager. Strong passwords are crucial to protecting data in this digital age. Using long, random,

and unique passwords that include uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols will go a long way toward securing your accounts. Strong passwords act as a first line of defense against unauthorized access. The longer your password, the harder it will be for it to be hacked. Weak passwords can be easily cracked using automated software, granting hackers access to your personal and/or financial information.

Refrain from using the same password across multiple accounts because if one account gets compromised, that can create a domino effect and lead to multiple accounts being hacked. If maintaining multiple passwords seems difficult, use a password manager. Password managers are ideal for generating and storing strong passwords. This will help ensure every account has a unique and strong password, making it easier for you to manage them.

Use multifactor authentication (MFA). Multifactor authentication is generally something you know (a password), something you have (Smartphone to receive an SMS one-time PIN) and something you are (facial recognition). The most significant advantage of MFA is the added layer of protection. Even if a malicious actor acquires your password, they will still need the second (or third) factor to gain access. This combination of identity verification protects your accounts and reduces your chances of getting hacked. This feature is especially helpful for social media, email, and finance accounts.

Recognize and report phishing. Phishing is when a bad actor sends you an email that looks like it came from a known source. It tricks you into either clicking on a link, opening an attachment, providing sensitive information, or transferring money.

The attacker uses your actions to gain access to information that they use to steal your identity, engage in financial fraud, or access your home/work network. One way to determine if the sending email address is legitimate is to hover over the email address and see if the email really is coming from the source that is indicated in the "from" section. If in doubt, do not act on the email. Also, if it is too good to be true, it is not!

Update your software. This includes

your operating system as well as any productivity or other software you have installed on your computer and/or smart device. Software updates often include patches for security vulnerabilities that have been discovered since the last version. Updates often include bug fixes and improved security features that can better fend off various types of attacks.

With these four steps implemented, you and your family will have progressed a long way toward securing your vital information and ensuring that you are as safe as possible when it comes to your digital identity.

USING CHATGPT HARDWARE TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2023

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
8	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	1 secs
9	Instantly	Instantly	4 secs	21 secs	1 mins
10	Instantly	Instantly	4 mins	22 mins	1 hours
11	Instantly	6 secs	3 hours	22 hours	4 days
12	Instantly	2 mins	7 days	2 months	8 months
13	Instantly	1 hours	12 months	10 years	47 years
14	Instantly	1 days	52 years	608 years	3k years
15	2 secs	4 weeks	2k years	37k years	232k years
16	15 secs	2 years	140k years	2m years	16m years
17	3 mins	56 years	7m years	144m years	1bn years
18	26 mins	1k years	378m years	8bn years	79bn years



> Learn how we made this table at [hivesystems.io/password](https://www.hivesystems.io/password)

This table shows how long it takes hardware strong enough to run ChatGPT to crack your password based on how strong it is. Today, the ideal password will be at least 15 characters long using a combination of upper and lowercase letters.

Courtesy of HIVE Systems - (<https://www.hivesystems.io/password>)



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New Program Seals are Source of Pride for Maryland's Small, Minority, Women & Veteran-owned Businesses

By Alison Tavik

Director of Communications & Outreach
Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women
Business Affairs

Certification in Maryland's three socioeconomic procurement programs is a source of pride for small, minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses. The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs recently launched program seals for vendors to display their certification status on print and digital materials.

What is a program seal?

Program seals help certified vendors clearly identify their participation in these programs. The seals represent all three of the state's socioeconomic procurement programs: the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program, the Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program, and the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Program.

How were they developed?

The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs proposed the concept to Governor Wes Moore's office. All three seals work together cohesively, yet have distinct colorations, giving each seal its own identity. The strong Maryland presence in the design conveys that these are state programs and helps distinguish them from similar programs at the federal and county levels.

Are the seals significant to this administration and why?

The seals are significant because they represent the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to building an economy that is more inclusive, more dynamic, more innovative, and more competitive.

Maryland is currently celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the MBE Program which went into effect July 1, 1978.

What prompted the recent rollout?

The Governor's Office of Small, Minority

& Women Business Affairs hosts events to engage the vendor community and celebrate Maryland's diversity throughout the year. October is recognized as National Women's Small Business Month. Governor Wes Moore issued a proclamation declaring October 2023 as Maryland Women's Small Business Month. It was presented during the Maryland Women's Small Business 2023 Celebration, hosted on October 10 in Crownsville, by the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs. This was a perfect time to share the MBE and SBR program seals with over 125 entrepreneurs, many of whom are certified MBE vendors. The VSBE Program seal will launch in November.

Were the seals born out of a request?

Certified vendors have been asking for a way to visually represent their participation in the state's socioeconomic programs for many years. The seals eliminate the need for vendors to create their own images.

Will there be guidelines governing use?

The seals are intended to be used by vendors who hold certification from one of Maryland's socioeconomic procurement programs. Upon earning certification, vendors will be directed to the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs website to download the appropriate seal(s).

How will businesses use the seals?

The seals are suitable for digital and print. We envision certified firms will use the seals on business cards, capability statements, signage, and websites.

What types of businesses will recognize the seal?

Public and private contractors seeking to build relationships with certified small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

Can the same business use multiple seals?

Yes. Vendors are encouraged to use the seals for each program in which they have certification.



THE BALTIMORE TIMES

PRESENTS

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MMG
MERIDIAN MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

Two-time Breast Cancer Survivor Founds Nonprofit, Helps Young Women

By Andrea Blackstone

Shay Sharpe, 45, founder and president of Shay Sharpe's Pink Wishes (SSPW), leads her 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Baltimore, Maryland, with a compassionate touch that begins with her own breast cancer experience.

"I was diagnosed with stage 3 ER/PR+ breast cancer at age 26 in August 2004," Sharpe said.

Sharpe explained that while preparing for a party one evening, she began scratching herself because of nonstop itching. She eventually noticed a small pea sized mass in her left breast.

"That little pea sized lump ended up being stage 3 breast cancer," Sharpe said. "My entire cancer diagnosis was unusual, as 26-year-old women aren't supposed to be diagnosed with breast cancer. I personally had no idea that young women could be diagnosed with breast cancer. I have never seen a young woman on a breast cancer ad, commercial or pamphlet. I also had no family history of breast cancer."

Sharpe also remarked that "doctors often assume that women under 40 are too young for breast cancer, especially if they don't have a family history of breast cancer."

After being diagnosed with breast cancer, Sharpe fought for her life. Her mother had just lost a son six months prior to her diagnosis. Sharpe also was the mother of a then 9-year-old daughter. Sharpe explained that she felt compelled to do all that she could to help ensure that she would be around for both of her loved ones.

Her treatment included undergoing three months of chemotherapy; seven weeks of daily radiation; breast

removal (a mastectomy); getting tissue expanders and hormone therapy via tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is a drug used to treat some types of breast cancer in men and women. Sharpe was confirmed to have no evidence of disease (NED) in February of 2005.

Then, cancer returned in August of 2014.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer again, on the same side, even though I had both breasts removed and underwent all recommended cancer treatments. So many people believe that you can't get breast cancer after a mastectomy. You can," Sharpe said.

Although she underwent chemotherapy during her 2004 diagnosis, Sharpe did not have to do so during her breast cancer recurrence in 2014. In 2004 and 2014, she also underwent radiation and hormone therapy to treat her breast cancer.

"My second round of cancer was removed in 2014," Sharpe said. Her advice is to tell young women to know their bodies. Sharpe added, "If you feel something, please say something."

The breast cancer survivor noticed a void in services provided for young women. She founded Shay Sharpe's

Shay Sharpe, a two-time breast cancer survivor who had a double mastectomy, founded Shay Sharpe's Pink Wishes. Sharpe will speak on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Ja'Nai McKinney's "Pretty In Pink Networking and Empowerment Brunch" at RYMKS, located 819 East Pratt Street in Baltimore. The networking brunch will be held from 1-5 p.m.

Kyle Pompey



Pink Wishes in 2011. SSPW assists women across the globe through advocacy, education, scholarships and grants.

“SSPW receives gift referrals via hospitals and social workers. We are also asked by all girls’ schools and sororities to come in and educate the girls on breast cancer and the importance of knowing their bodies,” Sharpe said.

Additionally, SSPW grants Christmas wishes to children whose mothers are undergoing breast cancer treatment during the holidays to children whose mothers have passed away from metastatic breast cancer.

“SSPW also grants wishes for women who have a terminal breast cancer diagnosis,” Sharpe said.

Myka Gray, vice president of Shay Sharpe’s Pink Wishes, said that Sharpe is a breath of fresh air who provides all women who are served through the nonprofit with the information, love and support that bigger organizations will not do.

Gray added, “Shay makes it her way to go above and beyond to help all the girls who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Shay has been to appointments even when she is not well; has sent food; has sent words of encouragement; has sat beside and watched so many take their last breath; and been Santa Clause to the kids.”

Gray shared that Sharpe has also granted final wishes to women who have been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, and assisted with transportation and other needs.

On October 15, 2023, Sharpe will speak at Ja’Nai McKinney’s “Pretty In Pink Networking and Empowerment Brunch” at RYMKS, located 819 East Pratt Street in Baltimore. The brunch will be held from 1-5 p.m. Women should bring business cards and come prepared to network. The theme is “Mind, Body, and Spirit.” The free entry event only requires food and drink purchases.

“We want to bring awareness to Breast Cancer Awareness Month by having speakers provide knowledge about living a healthy lifestyle,” McKinney said.

Details about McKinney’s public event are available via <https://Prettyinpinkpt3.eventbrite.com>. Additionally, SSPW will host their 12th annual black-tie gala on Sunday, December 3, 2023. Tickets can be purchased via www.ShaySharpesPinkWishes.org.

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A Long Career in Public Service

Devoted Anne Arundel County Native Recognized for 36 Years of Work

By Andrea Blackstone

Deborah Scott Robinson celebrated her 73rd birthday with over 100 family, friends and former coworkers at the Stanton Community Center located in Annapolis, Maryland on September 30, 2023.

Born on September 26, 1950, Scott Robinson grew up in Arnold, Maryland. The mother of two, who now resides in Springdale, Maryland, enjoyed an opportunity to fellowship with people she knows and danced the night away in late September.

Scott Robinson gave the public a special gift of service. She retired as a dispatcher while working for the Anne Arundel Police Department, providing 36 years of help to others before retiring in 2023.

“Everyone’s not made to serve the public, but I think it is what my parents instilled in me and my siblings growing up,” she told Wanda Blake, her great niece.

Many of us take 911 operators and emergency dispatchers for granted while expecting them to quickly answer our emergency pleas for help. They are skilled at coordinating with other police dispatchers in emergency situations. Although dispatchers are less visible, they are the first to record and document calls, actions and reported incidents while coordinating proper response personnel who provide follow-up in emergencies.

During her party, Scott Robinson received a much-deserved City of Annapolis City Citation in recognition of her retirement from public service.

“After graduating from Severna Park High School, you worked as a medical transport driver and school bus driver before becoming a communications officer for Anne Arundel County Police, which also serves Annapolis for dispatch. After serving 36 years with AAPD, you are taking a well-deserved retirement,” the citation said.



Deborah Scott Robinson received a City of Annapolis City Citation in recognition of her retirement from public service.

Sweet Love Photography



(L-R) Yvette Lipscomb, Deborah Scott Robinson, Idella Gregory, Allison Williams, Leo Coleman, Iris Harley and Robert Harley share memorable times at Scott Robinson's birthday party. Her former coworkers served the public with her in Anne Arundel County.

Sweet Love Photography

“We know you believe your greatest accomplishments are your successful children, but we know the people of Anne Arundel County and Annapolis are the beneficiaries of your hard work and dedication.”

Blake added that her great aunt retired from the Millersville Police Department. Blake and Scott Robinson’s children threw the party for Scott Robinson.

“I felt as though she worked so hard all of her life, and is always doing for and helping others, that it was time to show her how much she is appreciated by all,” Blake said.

Idella Gregory attended Scott Robinson’s party.

“Debbie was a great co-worker. She enjoyed her job very much. She worked a lot of overtime, especially when we were shorthanded. She was a very important part of the communications family,” Gregory said.

During some of Scott Robinson’s down time, the sports fan enjoys watching the Orioles play baseball and the Ravens play football, according to Blake. Scott Robinson offered her voice

in praise and worship with numerous churches, including the Mt. Calvary Inspirational Choir, The Upper Room Prayer Garden, New Psalmist Choir, Gambrells Gospel Singers and Christian Joy. Scott Robinson made her debut album with The Queen Sisters.

Workers like Scott Robinson’s willingness to help others has often been less publicized, but Blake wanted to share the value of matriarchs and public servants. Dispatchers must remain calm while exhibiting grace under pressure. They correspond with policemen, firefighters and medics on duty to send help to people who need it.

In recent years, a national school bus driver staffing shortage added to pandemic stress. Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman and the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC) crafted a retention and new hire bonus plan for contracted school bus drivers and aides as a local approach to solving the national driver shortage in 2021. School bus drivers received \$5,000 retention or new hire bonuses. Aides received \$2,000 retention or new hire bonuses,

according to a press release.

Scott Robinson is from an era of public servants who provided valuable services to the community, despite challenges. The pandemic reminded the world how important service professions remain to be—from grocery workers and post office workers to school bus drivers and dispatchers.

While Scott Robinson’s dedication shines the light on unsung workers, loving matriarchs hold important positions in many Black families. They contribute to the general well-being of others, often providing motivation, direction, advice and insight into local and family history.

“My aunt is the matriarch of our family. She’s the glue that holds us together. She’s our go to, whether it be day or night, she’s always available for our family. When we’re wrong, she doesn’t hesitate to let us know and when we’re right or make an accomplishment she’s right there to lift us up,” Blake said. “She doesn’t sugarcoat things with us. So as the family matriarch, we give her the utmost respect.”



A silver Cadillac Escalade IQ SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view, parked on a wet, reflective surface. The background features a modern building with a large overhang and a city skyline under a dramatic, cloudy sky at dusk or dawn.

ALL-ELECTRIC ESCALADE IQ

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



By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone,
I hope that you are healthy and enjoying life. For those of you who recently have lost someone dear to you, I am so sorry. You and your family are in my prayers. Think happy thoughts and try to remember the good times.

The Baltimore Jazz Alliance Annual Fundraiser, “A Kind of Blue Gala” is coming up with an incredible night of fun on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Redwood Exchange, located at 233 East Redwood Street in Baltimore. Get ready to tap your feet and groove to the mesmerizing tunes of talented jazz musicians that they have lined up for you. The dress attire should be blue and semi-formal. Hmmmm. With all the guests in different shades of blue twirling around on the dance floor, that should be a pretty picture. Look folks, Jazz Alliance needs your support. There will be a lot of music, dancing cocktails and gourmet food. Well, my friends, I am not too sure about their gourmet food. You might want to take a sandwich in your pocketbook or a bag, you know, just in case. You know everyone doesn’t like fancy dabs of stuff on a plate where you twirl it around for five minutes trying to determine what the hell it is before you put it in your mouth. Now if you serve some down-home fried chicken with some mashed potatoes and greens, everyone knows what that is. Well, this is just a thought I had. Go and support this fine organization. For ticket information, go to www.baltimorejazz.com. Remember this is a non-profit organization.

Oh, my goodness! You’ve got to check

BALTIMORE JAZZ ALLIANCE’S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

out the Baltimore Farmers’ Market on Sunday and every Sunday from now through the end of December. The Farmers’ Market is underneath the Jones Falls Expressway. Believe me—it is a lot of fun. Go and enjoy the experience. Check it out for yourself. All the food vendors have fresh produce, and other vendors have unique, handmade creations, or you can go to the cook food vendor and have a cup of coffee or breakfast, take a seat, and enjoy the music while you shop and eat. It is every Sunday from 7 a.m. to noon. Oh, by the way. If you are selling whatever, and are a vendor, the Baltimore Farmers’ Market is looking for you. Go and apply.

Motown Explosion is what they are calling an event on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill, located at 1160 MD-3, Gambrill, Maryland. Doors open at 5 p.m. The show starts at 6 p.m. Help celebrate Jimi Smooth’s Birthday. For more information, call Earl at 240-551-8247, or TC at 301-736-0554. Tell them “Rambling Rose” told you.

Forest Park Senior Center’s 43rd Anniversary Banquet is Friday, October 20, 2023 from 3-7 p.m. at 4805 Liberty Heights Avenue. Dinner is included, but it is BYOB. For more information, call Tessa Hill at 410-466-2124.

This is a reminder that Rasheed & Sons is hosting their Soul Marathon Cabaret at the 5th Regiment Amory on Saturday, November 18, 2023. The deadline (to submit?) for your ads in their souvenir journal is October 21, 2023, so give Karen Hatcher-Alston a call at 443-562-1023 for more information.

Allendale Community Association and Children of Promise & Partners are presenting their Annual Fall Harvest Festival. Come enjoy free food, children’s games, arts and crafts and a lot more on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from



Enjoy the musical sounds of the Craig Alston Syndicate at the Baltimore Jazz Alliance’s “A Kind of Blue” Gala. The annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Redwood Exchange, 233 E. Redwood Street in Baltimore.



Juanita Thomas Brown has passed away. Many of you know her as Bob Haynes’ partner in ownership of the Sportsmen Lounge on Gwynn Oak Avenue. Her memorial services will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 1 p.m. at March Funeral Home, located at 5616 Old Court Road in Windsor Mill, Maryland. She will always be remembered. I send condolences to her family and husband.



American Legion Liberty Post 122, located at 4424 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills, Maryland is having their Chillin’ & Grillin’ Fall Cookout on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from noon -5 p.m.

noon to 4 p.m. at the Mary E. Rodman Rec Field, located at 3600 W. Mulberry Street in Baltimore. All are welcome to participate. Invite your neighbors, friends and family and enjoy.

All right my dear friends, I have to go now, but not for long. I will see you in a couple of weeks or at one of the events

that I mentioned in my column. In the meantime, stay safe, healthy and happy. Remember, if you need me, I am only a phone call away. Just dial 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

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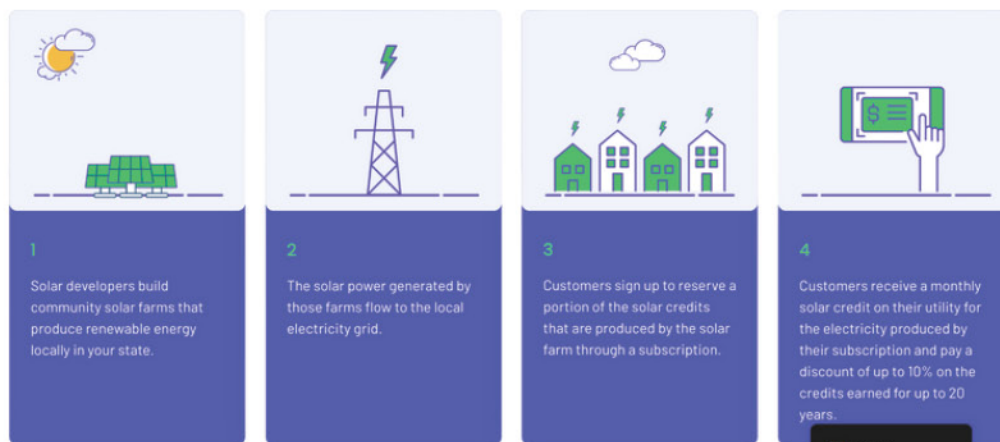
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Now, combine the power of community solar with the initiative of Think Energy, and you have a recipe for both environmental and economic success. Think Energy's proposition is simple and enticing: save up to 10% on your electric bill for up to 20 years. The cherry on top? Signing up is a breeze. In under three minutes, by simply entering a zip code, Maryland residents can discover the range of community solar offers available to them. A potential 10% savings over two decades is no small matter. For families, it could mean more funds for education, vacations, or investing in their future. For businesses, it signifies a reduction in operational costs. And for everyone, it represents freedom from unpredictable energy price hikes.

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Ravens Turn to London After Steelers Loss

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens had the game in their hands before losing to the Pittsburgh Steelers last week. The Ravens will next turn their attention to London where they'll face the Tennessee Titans.

But Baltimore will have to shake off a rough 17-10 loss to the Steelers first. The Ravens seemed to be in the driver seat after Kevon Seymour recovered a fumbled punt deep in Pittsburgh territory. Two plays later, Steelers cornerback Joey Porter Jr. intercepted a Lamar Jackson pass in the end zone when the Ravens were trying to add to their lead. That was the turning point leading to a Kenny Pickett to George Pickens touchdown to take the lead.

The Ravens squandered an opportunity to go 3-0 in the division with all three wins coming on the road. Now, it's on to the next opponent.

"At the end of the day, we're 3-2 and 2-1 in the division," linebacker Roquan Smith said. "This Pittsburgh game, it sucks at the end of the day, but we just have to look at it as a learning experience. Take the positives from it and build off the negatives, and that's all we can do. We just look forward to getting over to London, learning from this and moving on to the Titans."

Baltimore decided to travel across the pond on Monday to get a head start on the week. This marks the earliest arrival for any of the teams playing in London this year. The Ravens went to London six years ago and suffered a bad 44-7 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars. Multiple players said they were fatigued after arriving in London the Thursday before their 2017 game.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh is looking to avoid that this time around. "Hopefully, by the time the game



Lamar Jackson

AP Photo/Mark Zaleski

comes around we will have slept there six nights," Harbaugh said. "You'd like to think we'll be pretty well ready to go. I think that's probably a big part of the decision to try and do it this way. Other teams go in there and say, 'OK, we're not going to mess with it. We'll just stay on our own clock and play at 9:30 [British time] and

we'll get in and out. We don't have to deal with it. It's just kind of two schools of thought."

The Ravens have moved their whole operation to London for the week. They'll train at the Tottenham Hot Spur facility before the game. The Titans haven't played in London since 2018 when they lost a close 20-19 game

to the Los Angeles Chargers. Tennessee flew to London Thursday night.

Baltimore expects a physical game on Sunday. The Ravens beat the Titans on the road in the 2021 Wild Card playoffs the last time they played each other. Tennessee gave the Ravens a stinging loss at M&T Bank Stadium in the divisional round of the 2020 playoffs.

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