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Howard University Hosts Black Press Week



During Black Press Week 2024, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) members tour the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) to learn about the MSRC Black Press Archives Digitization Project on Howard University's campus in Washington, D.C. NNPA is the trade association of more than 250 African American-owned newspapers and media companies that comprise the Black Press of America. The Black Press Archives Digitization Project began as a collaboration between NNPA and MSRC in 1973. (See article on page 2)

Photo credit: Mark Mahoney

Howard University Hosts Black Press Week

By Sabrina McCrear

Intern, The Baltimore Times

Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) celebrated Black Press Week by honoring the 197th anniversary of the Freedom's Journal founding and the Black Press Archives Digitization Project.

Freedom's Journal is the first Black-owned publication founded in the U.S. by John Brown Russworm and Samuel Eli Cornish. "We are reminded about the enormous game-changing happening back on March 16, 1827 in New York City with the courage, the intellect, and sheer self-determination of John Brown Russworm and Samuel Eli Cornish," stated Dr. Benjamin Chavis Jr., NNPA CEO and President.

On March 14, 2024, Howard University MSRC and NNPA hosted a ceremony, luncheon, and tour of the MSRC Black Press Archives Digitization Project. The project began as a collaboration between NNPA and MSRC in 1973. MSRC is housed in Howard's Founders Library.

NNPA Chair Bobby R. Henry Sr. said, "NNPA filled the need to have our newspapers archived and to highlight our publishers from a Black perspective and have a Black university, an HBCU to tell our story."

"The Moorland Spingarn Library is the number one library in all of the world for the deposit of Black history and Black literature," Dr. Chavis said.

Opening remarks on the first day of Black Press Week March 14 were given by Dr. Chavis followed by MSRC Director, Dr. Benjamin Talton.

The day concluded with a tour of the MSRC. In celebration of 197 years of the Black Press and Howard



Dr. Benjamin Chavis Jr., NNPA CEO/President gives an address during Black Press Week in Washington, D.C.

Photo credit: Mark Mahoney

University's Hilltop Newspaper, the oldest continuously printed HBCU publication, NNPA members also participated in the enshrinement of Zora Neale Hurston into the distinguished gallery of Black Publishers at MSRC. Zora Neale Hurston co-founded the Hilltop 100 years ago.

The following day, NNPA hosted its annual luncheon titled "The State of the Black Press: Getting Out the Black Vote" at The National Press Club in Washington D.C. The luncheon began with a film that coincided with this year's theme, "Getting Out the Black Vote." Clips of the Black Lives Matter protests accompanied a speech given by the late John Lewis at the March on

Washington for Jobs and Freedom held on August 28, 1963.

After giving tribute to the first Black-owned newspaper in America (Freedom's Journal), Dr. Chavis gave a brief history of Black injustices and our fight for freedom.

Dr. Chavis spoke with emotion and pride: "Fighting for freedom... it's about trying to articulate and lift up a vision that's inspired by the knowledge and the affirmation that we're all created equally in the image of God. Our cause is to speak truth and power. We will not bow down to the reappearance of the flags of the Confederacy or the flags of Nazism, racism or anti-Semitism."

The Black Press Archives Digitization Project began as a collaboration project

between NNPA and MSRC in 1973. NNPA Chair Bobby R. Henry Sr. said, "NNPA filled the need to have our newspapers archived and to highlight our publishers from a Black perspective and have a Black university, an HBCU to tell our story."

Howard's candidacy for the project included their proximity to NNPA headquarters, The National Press Club, and the generous donation they received in 2021 from The Jonathan Logan Family Foundation. Dr. Talton said, "[It] provided the seed for the project," and that, "It was a '\$2 million grant that laid the foundation for what we do."

Furthermore, "Under the guidelines from the Jonathan Logan Family, we



Publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) toured the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center (MSRC) and the Howard University (HU) Black Press Archives where all Black media publications are currently being digitized. In 1973, the NNPA and Howard partnered to establish the Black Press Archives. In celebration of 197 years of the Black Press and Howard University's Hilltop Newspaper, the oldest continuously printed HBCU publication, NNPA members participate in the enshrinement of Zora Neale Hurston into the distinguished gallery of Black Publishers at MSRC. Hurston co-founded the Hilltop 100 years ago. Photo credit: Mark Mahoney

actually [have to] make available 60 percent of our collection on an online platform,” said Senior Project Manager, Brandon Nightingale. “So, at the end of our project, everything will be on a website, particularly an HU website to [which] anyone from across the world can go and access the collection.”

The funding allowed MSRC to equip its program with the necessary tools to digitize the Black Press archives. Nightingale said he decided to work with Crowley: Digital Preservation Solutions. He said, “If we’re gonna do a digitization project here at Howard University, if we’re gonna set the standard, we want to make sure that it’s top quality.”

During his presentation, Nightingale added, “We currently have in our inventory over ten thousand microfilm reels ranging from any kind of material on the African American press.”

Since beginning the project in 2021,

“We have about 250 reels scanned and...we have about 500 individual issues scanned,” Nightingale said. “There can be anywhere from a year’s worth of newspaper issues all the way up to maybe 10 years of newspaper issues, all on a single microfilm reel.”

Dr. Talton assured members that although they “[stood] at the 8 percent digitization mark, it [looks] like we’re not making progress but we’re making very good progress.”

Dr. Chavis Jr. reminded publishers of the founding virtues of the Black Press by quoting the front page of the first edition of Freedom’s Journal: “We must plead our own cause! We must plead our own cause!”

To learn more about the Black Press Archives Digitization Project, visit <https://msrc.howard.edu/black-press-archive>.

Sabrina McCrear is a Howard University student (Class of 2025).



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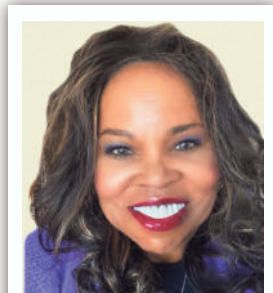
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The Pandemic Could Happen Again: The Urgent Call for Continued Vigilance and Hygiene Practices

By Jayne Hopson



Jayne Hopson
Courtesy Photo

A few weeks shy of spring 2020, the coronavirus sent health agencies around the world a message: this rapidly spreading,

highly infectious disease is far more dangerous than the seasonal flu. The COVID-19 virus quickly ignited a global public health crisis not seen since the 1918 influenza pandemic claimed 21 million lives around the world.

Originating as a viral outbreak in Wuhan, China, COVID-19 dropped a metaphorical bomb on the world. Healthcare systems were overwhelmed, with millions of the usual casualties of war, albeit an undeclared war on the world.

Economies tumbled as lockdowns and restrictions were imposed to curb the virus's spread, leading to massive job losses, business closures, and economic instability. Social isolation became a norm, impacting mental health and exacerbating loneliness and depression.

Furthermore, the pandemic highlighted deep-seated inequalities, with marginalized communities suffering the most due to disparities in healthcare access and socioeconomic stability. The rapid development of vaccines offered hope, yet misinformation and vaccine hesitancy posed significant challenges.

As the world continues its return to the new normal, the pandemic must not be forgotten. We must be aware

of new, deadlier viruses. The threat is still with us.

In retrospect, the pandemic was a precursor to how world wars might be fought in the future. COVID-19 brought the world to its knees. Embedding itself into a biological bomb, the virus packed all the grotesque death and destruction of a nuclear warhead. Perhaps it was a dry run, testing a virus's capacity for igniting and winning a world war. Only time will tell.

In the meantime, as the day-to-day inconveniences of the pandemic fade from memory we cannot allow ourselves to forget about practicing basic infectious disease measures. In February, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reminded the public that although the pandemic has officially ended, "COVID-19 still poses a public health threat".

At the height of the pandemic, society and institutions offered a variety of methods designed to stop the spread of the virus. The most effective public health safeguards are basic precautions such as frequent handwashing and covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing.

In a perfect world, these precautions would become lifelong habits, not just health crisis management tactics. Nevertheless, even a casual observation of post-pandemic behavior in public places will show people drifting back to poor hygiene habits, creating an environment where infectious disease is easily spread.

This is a cause for concern. Despite the ongoing vaccination efforts and the recent declaration that the pandemic has ended, the virus continues to circulate, leading to hospitalizations and fatalities.

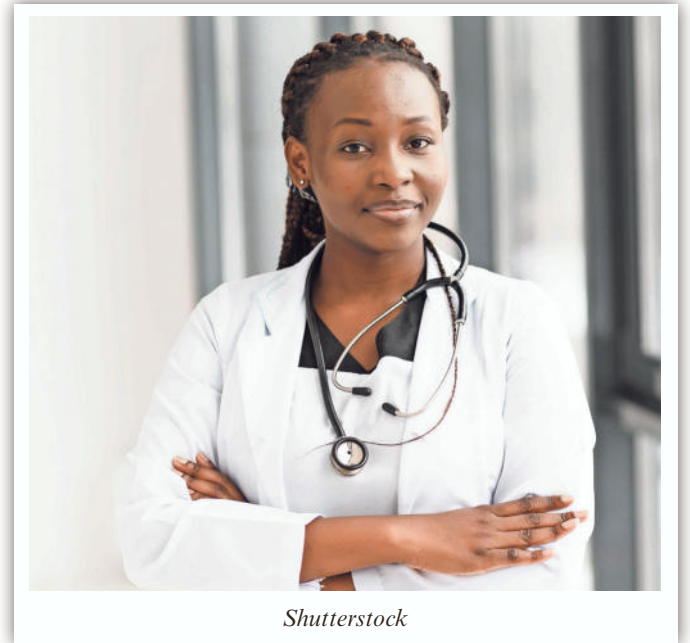
The Baltimore Times is a community

advocate for maintaining and practicing good hygiene to promote wellness. Following basic routines such as frequent handwashing is the best, most cost-effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Here's why *health matters*:

The first and perhaps most compelling reason to continue these practices is their proven effectiveness in reducing the transmission of viruses and bacteria. Regular handwashing with soap, for instance, has been shown to decrease the incidence of respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases by a significant margin.

The simple act of washing hands can remove pathogens that can be acquired by touching contaminated surfaces or direct contact with infected individuals. Similarly, covering one's mouth when coughing or sneezing can significantly reduce the dispersion of respiratory droplets, which are a primary transmission mode of COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses.

Maintaining these habits is also essential for protecting vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions. While healthy individuals may experience mild symptoms from infections like COVID-19, these groups are at a higher risk of severe illness and death.



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Although the perceived threat of COVID-19 has diminished, it is a concern to see sanitizing stations disappearing from high-traffic public places like supermarkets, sports venues, and places of worship.

According to the CDC, relaxing hygiene practices as the pandemic wanes could lead to a resurgence of not only COVID-19 but also other infectious diseases that were previously under control, such as the flu and measles. The lessons learned during the pandemic underscore the need for a proactive approach to disease prevention.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges, it has also presented an opportunity to reevaluate and improve our hygiene practices. Maintaining these habits is critical not only in the ongoing fight against COVID-19 but also serves as a foundation for preventing the spread of future infectious diseases.

Dissecting Diagnosis and the Patient-Doctor Relationship

By Andrea Blackstone



Dr. Bernadette Anderson
Photo credit:
Stephanie Matthews

How can patients increase their chances of receiving better medical care? Patient education that entails a better understanding of how doctors and medical professionals diagnose medical conditions is an empowering approach.

The starting point of treating patients begins with a provisional diagnosis. This initial assessment is made by a health care provider about what might be wrong with a patient, based on symptoms and medical history, according to Bernadette Anderson, MD, MPH a family physician and creator of Life in Harmony, an innovative action-oriented approach to well-being.

“It’s an educated guess,” Dr. Anderson explained.

Dr. Anderson mentioned another key phase in unpacking what may be rooted in a patient’s medical concerns.

“A differential diagnosis is when a healthcare professional identifies possible diseases or conditions that could be causing a patient’s symptoms and narrows the list down based on further evaluation, tests and observations,” said Dr. Anderson.

However, in straightforward cases such as urinary tract infections when patients experience frequent urination and burning sensation during urination, the differential diagnosis process may not be as extensive as in more complex conditions with overlapping symptoms.

A final diagnosis is the conclusion reached about what is making someone sick.

“It is made after a thorough examination, assessment, diagnostic tests and labs. All available information is carefully considered. The final diagnosis is used to prescribe treatment,” said Dr. Anderson.

It is critical for a patient to accurately convey a clear and detailed list of symptoms to their healthcare provider.

“Without it, there can be delays in diagnosis and treatment, potentially leading to worsening health conditions,” said Dr. Anderson.

“This reduces the chance of misinterpretation or oversight, ultimately preventing misdiagnosis.”

Dr. Anderson shared examples of steps that are taken by medical professionals to rule out conditions that share symptoms. They include taking a detailed medical history from the patient, including past illnesses, family history, and any relevant lifestyle factors; conducting a thorough physical examination of the patient to identify specific signs and symptoms related to the patient’s condition; and diagnostic tests, such as blood tests, imaging or biopsies to gather objective data about the patient’s health and rule out potential conditions. In some cases, patients may be referred to specialists for further evaluation or specialized tests to help confirm or rule out specific conditions. Dr. Anderson explained that depending on the initial findings and test results, healthcare providers may schedule follow-up evaluations to monitor the patient’s progress or conduct additional tests as needed.

When patients are unsatisfied with his or her doctor’s or medical provider’s explanation about a condition, he or she should remain proactive by not hesitating to ask questions, including why a particular diagnosis was made, what other possibilities exist and what further steps can be taken to confirm or rule out potential diagnoses, according to Dr. Anderson. Seeking second opinions from other healthcare providers can also provide additional perspectives and insights into their condition. Patients may request additional diagnostic tests or evaluations to further investigate their symptoms and help reach a conclusive diagnosis with other specialists. Dr. Anderson recommends that patients

should keep detailed records of their symptoms, medical history, test results and any interactions with healthcare providers.

“This information can be valuable in facilitating communication with their current provider or [for] seeking a second opinion,” she said.

Finally, patients should actively advocate for their own health by expressing their concerns, sharing relevant information, and participating in decision-making discussions with their healthcare team.

When a patient does not feel that his or her healthcare provider or doctor is taking their unimproved symptoms seriously, Dr. Anderson recommends openly communicating their concerns to their healthcare provider.

“Patients should express their dissatisfaction with the lack of improvement in their symptoms and the need for further evaluation or intervention.”

Dr. Anderson further suggests that patients may also seek a second opinion from another healthcare provider, request a referral to a specialist who may have more expertise in managing their particular condition, or transfer care to another physician who can provide a fresh perspective on their condition and potentially explore alternative treatment options.

Receiving effective healthcare delivery of services requires that both parties should work together to achieve the best possible outcomes.

“By fostering open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making, the collaborative relationship between patients and healthcare providers promotes better health outcomes and patient satisfaction,” Dr. Anderson reminds.

The medical expert authored “Fulfilled: 52 Prescriptions for Healing, Health, and Happiness.” Visit www.Fulfilled52prescriptions.com to learn more about the book.

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Monica Mitchell: Proactive Leader Makes Impact Through Business, Civic Causes



Monica Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Executive Director of Strategic Programs Wells Fargo Foundation.

Photo courtesy of Monica Mitchell

This year, Women's History Month marks a time to recognize women in communities across the United States who advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion.

"May we recognize the long, storied history of great women helping to realize our Nation's founding promise and highest aspirations. May we all continue working to build a world worthy of the dreams and goals of all women and girls," said President Joe Biden in his Women's History Month 2024 Proclamation.

Monica Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Executive Director of Strategic Programs Wells Fargo Foundation, is a diverse business and community leader who lends her voice and talents to her profession, betterment of young adults and improvement in the lives of diverse populations.

"My heart for service started with my family. My mother, my grandmother, my grandfather have always instilled in me that service is the rent that you pay for being on this earth," Mitchell said. "I have always approached my professional work with the lens of 'How can I weave in my love for service and my love for people

into the day-to-day work that I'm doing?"

"Wells Fargo Foundation is national in scope. We are a foundation that last year granted over \$300 million in the space of philanthropy, making us one of the largest corporate philanthropists in the country," Mitchell said.

She explained that her role includes examining and leading relationships that are intersectional across the focus areas of Wells Fargo Foundation. Coordinating a response to organizations, programs and institutions is a part of the process.

Mitchell added that focus areas are inclusive of housing access and affordability, small business growth, financial health and sustainability.

She further stated, "One of the important things to realize is that the mission of our foundation is seeking to strengthen historically marginalized communities, by investing in pathways to economic advancement and generational wealth. So, that is what the focus is of our \$300 million investments year over year."

Mitchell dove deeper into Wells Fargo Foundation's key focus areas, including small business growth.

"In the small business growth space, we strengthen communities to help them create local jobs by investing in underserved small business owners, and we fund nonprofits that provide capital and technical assistance and support to entrepreneurs, including programs and partnerships that work to remove barriers to economic mobility and that produce data-driven outcomes," Mitchell added.

She reminded that most employers in this country are small businesses.

Mitchell believes that identifying and lifting up talent to enable other people to shine helps a leader's light shine brighter.



Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School students

Photo courtesy of Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School

"It helps you get big things done—things that seem out of reach when you build a coalition of talented people around you. It makes those big things more possible," Mitchell said, also mentioning the importance of listening and sharing a platform with others.

Mitchell pointed out that Wells Fargo Foundation works with a portion of HBCUs and their students, providing paid summer internship and fellowship programs and financial training with nonprofits that are focused on community development issues.

"Wells Fargo worked in partnership with HomeFree-USA and [the late] Congressman Elijah Cummings office to create this Wells Fargo Fellows Program with Morgan State University. I'm really proud to say the program is now in its fifth year of running. It was started at Morgan State, but it's been expanded to other HBCUs within the state, including Bowie State University, as well as other HBCUs out of state, as well, under Home-Free USA's umbrella," said Mitchell.

The University of Maryland alumna earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Mitchell, who was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, later received a Master of Liberal Arts from Harvard University in Nonprofit Management.

Her deep ties to Baltimore are long-lasting. Mitchell, an active mentor, is the founder and president of Lillie May Carroll Jackson (LMCJ) Charter School located in Baltimore. The all-girls middle school serves girls in the 5-8th grades.

Additionally, Mitchell serves as a commissioner of the Baltimore Women's Commission. She is an eclectic pioneer who displays passion and purpose while making an impact.

"We're not here for a long time. We're here for a good and meaningful time. I live life firmly believing that the days are long, but the years are short. I want to be able to look back on my life and see that I've not only had meaning, but I've given meaning to others," Mitchell said.

Woman of Purpose, Woman of Passion

Showing Up to Be the Person You Needed When You Were Younger

By Andrea Blackstone

Patricia Johnson-Harris, a Parkville, Maryland resident, migrated from the Bronx, New York on a mission to build a better life for her two boys 28 years ago. The single mother aspired to give them a better childhood experience than her own. She accomplished this goal and plenty more.

Growing up, Johnson-Harris' life as a young person was dissimilar and speckled with parental loss.

"My dad passed away when I was eight. Then, my mom passed away when I was 12," she said. "That's the time when children normally bond with their parents."

The youngest of seven children recalls not having after-school activities or programs to turn to even when her mother was alive. Her hardworking parent did the best she could managing limited resources and time. Following her mother's death, Johnson-Harris recalls showing up to school just sitting in class. She bounced around between sisters who helped to rear her. A caring teacher helped a grieving little girl through a difficult season.

Johnson-Harris evolved into the kind of community leader and person she could have been mentored by outside of school when she was younger. She cheerfully spends considerable effort pouring into young people, despite still working a full-time job and supporting her husband with his entertainment company, Charm City Jazz.

Johnson-Harris started a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in 2012 called Youth Writer's Challenge. It is held annually at venues such as Mondawmin Mall and Security Square Mall. "It came about because I was hosting the annual African American Authors and Empowerment Expo, which was a platform for local authors to display their books. When I found that more and more children



*Patricia Johnson-Harris,
founder of Youth Writer's Rock
Aisha Butler Photography*

were coming to the Expo, I wanted to create a platform for them as well. Youth Writer's Challenge is an avenue to give students the opportunity to express their thoughts, ideas and showcase their talents."

They are challenged to showcase their gifts such as poetry or music in a non-competitive environment.

Additionally, Youth Writer's Rock is a Baltimore-based program under the Youth Writer's Challenge that blossomed when Johnson-Harris had a light bulb moment. She thought it would be great to add a writing program.

"Youth Writer's Rock is a six-month writing program that also gives students the opportunity to creatively express their thoughts and ideas on paper. We take those thoughts and ideas, put them up together on a wall, then help them turn it into a book."

To date, five books have been published through the nonprofit. More are in progress.

Johnson-Harris added that "Mixed Paths," a 17-chapter book, will be available for sale at the end of March. The book will also be adapted into a stage play.



*Youth Writer's Rock's inaugural graduate program class
Courtesy photo*

"Not only will the authors be published authors, but they're also going to be playwrights," she said.

Participating authors ages 12-16 wrote the book that explores challenges in character's lives.

Johnson-Harris is currently looking around for venues where the play can be held. Throughout the duration of the Saturday program, parents have not had to pay for a child's participation. Donors and sponsors help cover program costs that include graduation, awards, book printing and publishing.

"It's always worked out that we have enough money before the end of the program in May," Johnson-Harris said, adding that the program starts each January. "I move in faith until a grant comes that's going to cover us for a couple of years."

A fundraiser was recently held with the Gordon Center for Performing Arts. A sold-out concert allowed community youth to benefit from support.

Johnson-Harris tirelessly contributes to equity issues linked to literacy, writing and building youth confidence.

"Students show up on time on a Saturday when normally kids are sleeping in late or watching TV," she said.

Boys and girls learn to tap into their creativity; project their voices while speaking; build social skills; utilize vocabulary; work as "buddies;" and nurture people skills. Published books have become a conversation guide for real life discussions such as bullying and outreach activities.

"I know that the program is impactful because I'm getting phone calls and emails from the parents thanking me that their children are doing so much better in school."

These days, Youth Writer's Rock has been meeting at a YWCA in Towson.

"I would like for us to have a home location," Johnson-Harris said, looking towards the future.

Johnson-Harris uses volunteers to serve students. She welcomes additional helping hands ranging from retired teachers and skilled writers to people who can assist with social media.

"This is not about me. It's bigger than me," Johnson-Harris said.

Registration for the next group of youth writers will open in July for 2025's cohort.

Visit www.youthwriterschallenge.org to learn more about the books and programs.

This Women's History Month, Regional Philanthropist Leader Talks Career, Finances and Motivation

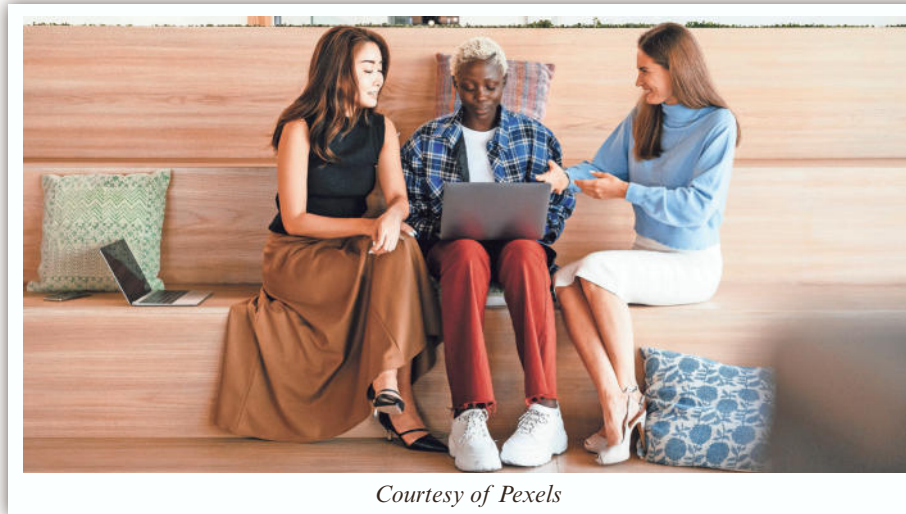
Women's History Month is a time to come together to celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions of women throughout the years. For this Women's History Month, we sat down with Alicia Wilson, Head of Regional Philanthropy for North America at JPMorgan Chase to learn about her career journey, what motivates the work she does and how you can take charge of your career and finances.

• 1) What has been key to your success throughout your career?

• *God. Trusting him to direct my career has been central to my success. This has allowed me to focus on not just doing the best job I can do, but to help make a significant impact to those I've been able to touch in my more than two decades in the workplace. Growing up in Baltimore I've always wanted my career to impact my community, so I'm conscious of how I can use my platform, position and the opportunities around me to help make a difference.*

• 2) Looking back, what is one thing you wish you knew when you were first starting out in your career?

• *I wish I knew that your career journey is about taking advantage of every single opportunity, and that no experience in your journey – good or bad – is a waste. Today, I try to take everything with a grain of salt and lean into any opportunity that is presented to me to learn and grow, even if it may seem scary. With a bit of dedication and hard work anything can be possible.*



Courtesy of Pexels

• 3) What are some tips for women to take charge of their career and finances?

My three tips are:

• *Start wherever you are and take charge of your finances and career. Do not think it's about lost time, or what you could've done when you were in your 20s. You're the only person that can drive your growth and success.*

• *Get advice from people that are doing well financially and career-wise. While we might want to go to our "comfort circle" to get advice, it's actually about going to the "circle of discomfort" – the people that are going to be critical advisors and help you move your career and finances forward.*

• *Be willing to take risks in your career. The people who are willing to take risks ultimately have the sort of career that they've been wanting and working towards. So start now!*

• 4) How has your local community shaped you?

• *Everything about who I am,*

how I lead, and what I do is inspired from the rich upbringing that I had in Baltimore. I still live in the same neighborhood I grew up in, and that's by choice. Baltimore is a city of grit, passion, brilliance and authenticity, and this is what I try to bring to everything I do. Every single investment that I get to be part of and help craft, I'm reminded of what communities are in need of on a day-to-day basis. When I talk about philanthropy and impacting communities, I talk from a sense of felt-need versus observed-need because I've witnessed the challenges and it gives me a lot of joy to be a part of the solution.

What woman organization has inspired you and your career?

• *My community has been a lifelong collective network, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a historically African American sorority, founded by college-educated women dedicated to public service with an emphasis on programs*

that assist the African American community. This organization has been a positive, motivating force in my life. I've been blessed to meet so many women that I can call on daily to get encouragement, council, advice and uplifted, and that I know are of service and scholarship who care deeply about the community.

• 5) How can people get involved to celebrate and support women at work?

• *I regularly participate in the JPMorgan Chase's internal employee Business Resource Groups, Women on the Move, Black Organization for Leadership Development and Black Executive forum which enable employees to share ideas, grow professionally and connect with colleagues who have similar interests. These employee initiatives are very powerful tools to helping people not feel alone but supported at work and beyond. If your company has a similar program I encourage you to get involved.*

For more inspiration, whether it's to help advance your own career or support women in your field, explore JPMorgan Chase's Women on the Move initiative by visiting jpmorganchase.com/impact/people/women-on-the-move.

Alicia Wilson manages JPMorgan Chase's local Philanthropic plans across more than 40 markets in North America. She works with senior leaders in corporate responsibility to ensure the firm's footprint is creating meaningful impact in Canada and the United States, and is based out of Washington D.C. and lives in Baltimore, Maryland.



By Rosa Pryor

Hello, my friends,
I just want to say it has been a rough week for me, but God is good. I am doing better this week and looking forward to having some fun at these upcoming events that I will share with you. I am hoping that my column as you read it finds you in good health or feeling better this week than you did last week. This week, I will tell you about a lot of fun things to do and to go to. I hope to see you around.

Don't forget to check out the information under the photos on this page and take notes.

- The Rising Sun First Baptist Church, Usher Ministry is having a "Good Friday Fish Fry" on Friday, March 29, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. located 211 St. Lukes Lane in Baltimore. Rev. Engel Burns is the Pastor.

- What's happening at the Eubie Blake Center located 847 N. Howard Street? They will be hosting Billie Holiday Center for Liberation Arts's touring exhibition centering on Holiday's girlhood in Baltimore and the early 20th century jazz scene in the city. Open to view, Tuesday-Saturday from 1-6 p.m. It's a free exhibition and will run through March.

- Saxophone legend Billy Harper celebrates his 81st birthday on Saturday, March 23, 2024 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., featuring Freddie Hendrix on trumpet; Billy Harper on tenor saxophone; Francesca Tanksley on piano; Michael Bowie on bass; and Aaron Scott on drums at An die

Baltimore Calendar of Fun Events is Coming Your Way



Our dear friend and probably yours, Eleanor Janey, is in Kernan Hospital, (now University of Maryland), located 2200 Kernan Drive. Eleanor is a well-known jazz promoter, and hostess at the Sportsman Lounge for many years. It was located on Gwynn Oak Avenue, and she was also the booking agent for the jazz shows at Caton Castle for many years. Keep her in your prayers and visit her or send a card.

Musik Live, located 409 N. Charles Street. Call 410-385-2638 for more information.

- Are you hungry? Well, the United House of Prayer for All People, 3401 Edgewood Road in Baltimore is having their Annual Good Friday Fish Fry on Friday, March 29, 2024 from noon-7 p.m. Dine in or carry out! Call 410-929-8320.

- The Allendale Community Association presents its Annual Easter Party. All families are welcome to attend on Friday, March 29, 2024 from 4-8 p.m. at Mary E. Rodman Elementary School, located 3910 W. Mulberry Street in Baltimore. There will be arts & crafts, music, food, snacks, beverages, grab bags, contests, egg coloring and so much more. For more information,



Meet & Greet special guest, Lee Michaels, from Grace & Glory will attend American Legion Post 122's Local Business Showcase Event on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community groups, marketing, clothing, handmade crafts, healthcare screening and much more. William Beverly, Commander. For more information, call 410-929-1641.



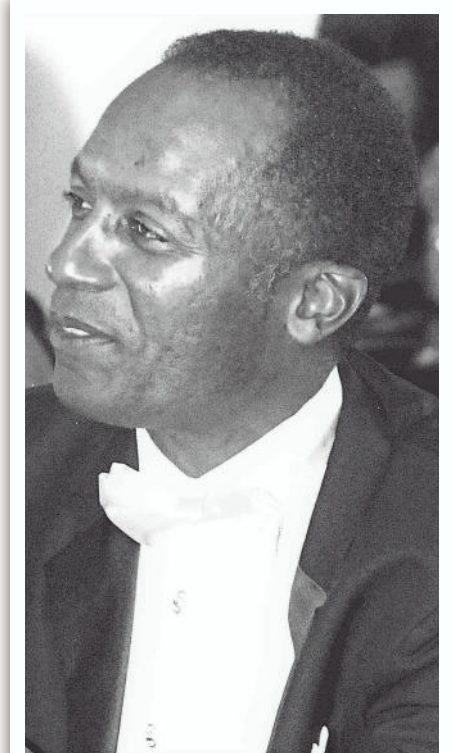
The Slagz Band will be headlining Carlos Hutchins Pre-Easter Day Party on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 4-8 p.m. at the American Legion Liberty Post #122, 4424 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills. For more information, call 443-963-5711. I will be there.

call 443-827-1693.

- Join "Peaches" Camphor, for a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the musical stage production, "Daniel" on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at "Sights and Sounds." The price includes lunch. The bus will leave from the Park and Ride on Security Rte. 70. Departure time is 8 a.m. Call "Peaches" at 410-521-3439.

"My Lands of Mercy!! I believe I am out of space. It is just wonderful to write my column and not have to mention that someone who is popular in the community has passed away.

So, my dear friends, I've got to go. I am out of space. If you have something you want me to talk about, please send it to me by



Michael Haynie and the Maryland Chapter Alzheimer's Association is hosting "Memory Ball Dancing with the Stars" Fundraiser on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel. See Mr. Haynie ballroom dance. The Black Tie event will be held from 6-11 p.m. For more information, call 410-561-9099. I'll see you there.

email to, rosapryor@aol.com or you can call me at 410-833-9474. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**

Ravens Feel They Have Their Man in Derrick Henry

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens may have added the key missing piece when they signed free agent running back Derrick Henry to a two-year, \$16 million deal that can be worth up to \$20 million. Henry is coming off a season in which he finished second in the NFL in rushing with 1,167 yards.

Henry has a history of destroying the Ravens. His 195 yards fueled the Tennessee Titans to a shocking win over the Ravens in the 2019 Divisional Round of the playoffs. Henry's 29-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter of a Week 6 game against the Ravens sealed the Titans 30-24 win the following year.

"I'll tell you, in 2019, we played that [AFC Divisional Round against the Titans], and it was just a gut-wrenching performance," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said at Henry's introductory press conference.

The Ravens got tired of Henry bullying them so they pounced on the opportunity to add him to the roster.

"The offensive coaches are pretty fired up, but the defensive coaches, they don't have to tackle this guy anymore. So, it's just great for our team," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said.

Henry's time in Tennessee had run its course after eight years with the team. He finished his time in Nashville having accumulated the second most (9,502) career rushing yards. Henry is currently tied with Hall of Famers Eric Dickerson and Curtis Martin for 13th All Time with 90 career rushing touchdowns.

The match with the Ravens was one that everyone knew was coming. It's a natural fit.



Derrick Henry

Photo credit: Will Newton/Getty Images

"It really was a no-brainer for me," Henry said. "This is where I knew where I wanted to be. I love the style [and] the physicality that they play with on all three phases. I feel like it fits my style of play as well. And it really was a no-brainer – [we were] just trying to figure out the business side of things. [I'm] glad we were able to get it figured out."

Henry said he's looking forward to playing with a dynamic quarterback like Lamar Jackson. He should be. With Jackson on the field, opposing defenses have to account for his playmaking ability so that takes an extra defender out of the mix. In essence, it'll make Henry's job somewhat easier.

There are questions about whether

or not the 30-year-old running back has anything left in the tank. Henry showed flashes of his old self in London last season when he broke a 64-yard run against the Ravens. Henry's final game last season was a 153-yard rushing performance that included a 53-yard run where he was clocked at 21 mph according to Next Gen Stats.

When asked about having productive football left in his tank, Henry's response was one of confidence.

"Tell them to keep watching," Henry said. "People are always going to have something to say. They're always going to have opinions. I'm just here ready to work, ready to get things started, [and] do my best to help this organization."

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EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION
EASTON, MARYLAND
 FTTH Mainline Construction Project
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the **FTTH Mainline Construction** project will be received, by **EASTON UTILITIES**, at their offices at **201 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601** until **2:00 pm** local time on **Monday, April 17, 2024**, at which time the Bids received will be **publicly** opened and read. **The Project consists of installing owner provided materials to provide the required underground construction of conduit, fiber optic cabling, vaults, etc. as shown in the provided engineering design documents.**

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a unit price basis.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: **Easton Utilities, 201 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601**. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of **8:30AM and 4:00PM**, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from **Easton Utilities' website under the link Construction Details, located under the Resources tab. Please note that the documents online are password protected. Necessary access information can be obtained by contacting Easton Utilities Commission through email at FT-THRFP@eucmail.com using the subject line: "FTTH Mainline Construction"**.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM** at the Easton Utilities office at 201 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601 in the second floor conference room.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders shall submit proof of qualifications to perform the Work as described in the Instructions to Bidders.

Owner: **EASTON UTILITIES**
 By: **Mr. Theodore L. Book**
 Title: **Vice President of Easton Velocity**
 Date: **March 13, 2024**

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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 **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1399-Water Infrastructure Replacement at Various Locations** will be at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **April 17, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; 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 **March 22, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **100.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02551 – Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 1-667-228-6519, Phone Conference ID: 708-959-865# on March 27, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. Contractor questions shall be submitted via email to Doreen Diamond at doreen.diamond@baltimorecity.gov and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov by April 5, 2024, at 4:30 P.M. Questions submitted after the deadline may not be responded to and Contractors will be required to submit their bids based on the available information.

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

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

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

Cleaning and mortar lining of existing water mains and/or replacement of existing water mains with new ductile iron pipes of various sizes, replacement/installation of valves, fittings, and appurtenances, replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renewal and replacement of existing water services, restoration of sidewalk, curb and gutter, roadway paving, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Khalil Zaied
Acting Director

Legal Notices

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 **SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 982-Eastern Avenue Pumping Station Rehabilitation** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M on **May 1, 2024**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on CharmTV's cable channel 25/1085HD; 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

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South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **March 22, 2024** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **50.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13003-Water and/or Sewer Treatment Plants and Pumping Stations**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$40,000,000.01 to \$50,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Vendors can call 1 667-228-6519 Passcode: 805 253 761# on **Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM**.

A site visit to Eastern Avenue Pumping Station will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024** at 10:00 AM. For any Pre-bid questions please contact Mr. Kevin Cookley at kevin.cookley@baltimorecity.gov Contractor questions shall be submitted (In Writing Only) by **Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM**.

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

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

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

Demolition of pumping systems (1 through 6) and associated existing piping and appurtenances; demolition of existing seal water pump and vacuum prime pumping systems; demolition of existing cone valves; demolition of existing wastewater screening systems; demolition of existing pump power

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supply and control systems; demolition of miscellaneous power supply and control systems; demolition of miscellaneous HVAC and plumbing systems.

Provision and installation of new pumping systems and associated piping and appurtenances; provision and installation of new seal water pump and vacuum prime pumping systems; provision and installation of new pump discharge check valves; provision and installation of new magnetic flow meters; provision and installation of new wastewater screening systems; provision and installation of new pump power supply and control systems; provision and installation of miscellaneous power supply and control systems; provision and installation of miscellaneous new HVAC and plumbing systems.

Miscellaneous architectural and structural improvements.

Flood protection measures at select doors and outdoor structures.

The MBE goal is **17%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Khalil Zaied
Acting Director

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

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