


The Annapolis Times

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“Intersection” Exhibition highlights four corners in Baltimore history



The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) presents “Intersection,” an exhibition showcasing the layered stories of people, places and moments in history that have shaped the identity of one of Baltimore City’s popular intersections, North Avenue and Charles Street in the Station North neighborhood. The exhibition features MICA’s Film and Video Chair and video installation artist Nadia Hironaka, photographer Reuben “Dubscience” Greene, graphic designer Tiffany Small ’14 (Graphic Design Post Baccalaureate), multimedia artist and educator Ada Pinkston ’13 (Community Arts M.F.A.), filmmaker Ras Tre Subira and performance artist Olu Butterfly Woods. (Above): Ras Tre Subira, co-director of Afrikan Youth Alchemy, working with students during Griot’s Eye Program. (See article on page 12) Courtesy Photos

As Labor Day approaches businesses push for minimum wage hike

By Stacy M. Brown

Hundreds of businesses and organizations—including many in Baltimore—are signing the online petition, “Business for a Fair Minimum Wage statement” and actively pushing for increases locally and nationally.

Just ahead of Labor Day—the holiday that celebrates American workers and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of employees—polls show that a majority of small business owners want a federal minimum wage increase, according to Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, a conglomerate of business owners who are seeking a minimum wage increase to \$12 per hour by 2020.

“Local businesses like ours thrive and grow when customers have money to spend,” said Ned Atwater, the owner of Atwater’s, a Charm City-based maker of traditional foods.

Atwater’s has more than 145 employees in and around Baltimore and the establishment earned Baltimore Magazine’s 2015 Best of Baltimore awards.

“Raising the minimum wage will increase consumer spending and strengthen the economy,” Atwater said. “I supported Maryland’s minimum wage increase and I support raising the federal minimum wage, which has been stuck at \$7.25 an hour for six years.”

Holly Sklar, CEO of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage, said the organization’s members include national companies like Ben & Jerry’s and New Belgium Brewing, and Baltimore businesses like Atwater’s and the Canton, Federal Hill and Waverly Ace Hardware stores.



Holly Sklar, CEO
Business For a Fair Minimum Wage
Courtesy Photo

Sklar says they support a gradual increase in the federal minimum wage to at least \$12 an hour by 2020 in part because the federal minimum wage was last raised in July 2009 to \$7.25 an hour or just \$15,080 a year for full-time work. “It has less buying power today than it had in 1950, and a third less than in 1968, adjusted for inflation. That’s bad for business and our economy,” Sklar said.

Additionally, raising the minimum wage makes good business sense because workers are also customers and increases would boost sales at local shops as workers buy goods and services they

could not otherwise afford.

“And nothing drives job creation more than consumer demand,” she said. “Businesses also see cost savings from lower employee turnover and benefit from increased productivity, and product quality and customer satisfaction.”

More than 35 million workers would see increased wages if the federal minimum wage were raised to \$12 by 2020, according to Business For a Fair Minimum Wage. The average affected worker would earn about \$2,300 more a year and businesses and the economy

would benefit from that increased consumer buying power.

“The most rigorous studies of the impact of actual minimum wage increases show they do not cause job loss,” Sklar said, debunking claims of opponents who contend that raising the minimum wage would force businesses to cut staff.

The efforts of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage and others working to raise the minimum wage have already resulted in positive action, according to officials.

The group has engaged businesses across Maryland to push for passage of the recent increase in the state minimum wage—reaching \$10.10 in 2018. They have also supported numerous state and local minimum wage increases around the country including Nebraska, which passed a minimum wage increase through a ballot measure in 2014, and Massachusetts, which is scheduled to have the nation’s highest state minimum wage when it reaches \$11 in 2017.

President Barack Obama has also now established a \$10.10 minimum wage for federal contractors through an Executive Order.

Twenty-nine states including Maryland and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than the federal level of \$7.25.

“A federal minimum wage increase is long overdue,” Sklar said. “We are working to assure that growing business support for a minimum wage raise speeds up federal action.”

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Sending your children off to 'Safe Spaces' in college

By Robert J. Gould

This is the time of year when many parents are sending their children off to college with the hope that they will learn, mature, become independent, have a great collegiate experience, but most of all, with the hope that their children will be safe. There are always the usual parent worries that their dorm-bound children will not eat healthy foods, not get enough sleep, or over-party, but one of their worst worries is that their children will be attacked sexually, or be urged on to attack others sexually. Sadly, college surveys show that these kinds of attacks are all too frequent. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 20 and 25 percent of women will experience a completed and/or attempted rape during their college career.

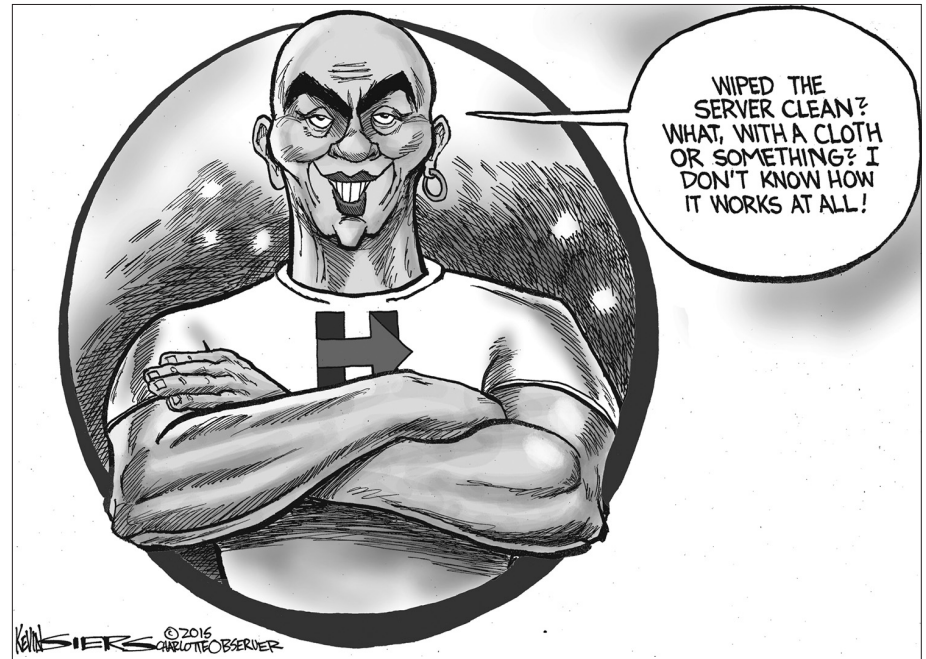
Young women are urged by peers to go to parties, drink and can find themselves cornered with sex foisted onto them. Young men are also urged by some peers to party, drink, and corner young women and "score"—including the grotesque logic that a girl who allows herself to be cornered is operating with consent. For some students, these occurrences may have already happened in high school or neighborhood parties. It is a sad fact that in this "enlightened age" boys and young men are still, to some extent, expected to be dominant socially and sexually, and that girls and young women are still, to some extent, expected to be compliant socially and sexually. Even in the classroom this dominance/compliance pattern frequently plays out between boys and girls, men and women, teachers and students. Fortunately, many college campuses are addressing these problems vigorously, so that parents can feel more secure sending their children to a reasonably safe higher education experience.

Given that students need the safest environment in college, we are hearing criticisms by "Safe-Space," a largely student-led movement. Some believe that students' concerns amount to censorship and unreasonable over-protection; that students should be tough enough to withstand classroom instances of micro-aggression, traumatic written or visual material, or the triggering of traumas that have not fully healed. Some students are certainly tough enough and some students are certainly not tough enough—for whatever reasons—their sensitivities are raw. Maybe some are immature. Maybe some have joined a cult of victimhood but who gets to be the judge of these things? Certainly not the teachers, administrators, or staff people—other than psychotherapists, who are trained to work with micro-aggression, trauma, triggering, immaturity, and unreasonable retreats into a victim identity.

I teach at a university that has a strong "Safe-Space" movement, an exemplary student mental health facility, an accessible women's resource center, a male anti-rape group, and a campus security deployment that works 24/7 to keep our students safe in everything that they do. I also teach in a conflict resolution program that is committed to setting ground rules, so that every student feels safe. At the beginning of each course, ground rules are created by the students, so that respectful discourse is maintained by both the teacher and students, and that students can opt out of classroom experiences that go beyond mere intellectual discomfort into triggered, remembered, trauma. This practice does not coddle students; rather it makes learning a positive experience for every student. No student's sensibility is expendable.

If you are a parent sending your child off to college this fall, you might check to see that your student is going to be attending an institution of higher learning that embraces many ways of helping your child have a safe and enriching experience.

Robert J. Gould, Ph.D., is an ethicist, who writes for PeaceVoice. He co-founded the Conflict Resolution Program at Portland State University.



Letters to the Editor

Editor

Re: Ebony Magazine

The July 2015 article titled "Give Me Bawwdy" is a travesty. Showing overweight and obese black women in bathing suits only encourages other overweight and obese black women to pursue an unhealthy lifestyle.

Being overweight contributes to heart attacks, diabetes and high blood pressure. Ebony should be a magazine that encourages a healthy lifestyle. Fat is fat no matter how you color it.

Elie Parker
San Leandro, CA

Editor:

Re: Trump The Loose Cannon

Donald Trump should not be a candidate for President of the United States. He is a volatile "loose cannon" who is out of control and I am not referring to

the immigration issue, which has to be addressed by more logical minds.

Trump is the personification of a global bully who would try to bully our potential adversaries into submission, and he could end up initiating major conflicts in the world. My concern is he will "shoot from the hip" and blunder into a nuclear war with Russia or China.

I have been voting as a conservative for various candidates from both parties since 1960 and I do not recall a presidential candidate who is so "off the wall" as Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump is not presidential material and he could be a threat to the security of this country and the world. We need to trump all of his cards and return him to his casinos.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information. Please send your letter by regular mail to: Letters to the Editor, The Annapolis Times, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218 email: btimes@btimes.com

Jimmy Carter: America's Best Former President

By Lekan Oguntoyinbo
NNPA Columnist

I became an admirer of Jimmy Carter shortly after he took office as the nation's 39th president. I was 12 years old at the time. I felt differently about Carter than his predecessors. I actually felt a personal connection, like I could relate to him.

Like me, he was Baptist and like many of my relatives, he taught Sunday school. Unlike Richard Nixon, who left office in disgrace and who seemed to struggle with a host of demons, and unlike Gerald Ford, whose administration supported the apartheid South African regime's efforts to suppress liberation movements in Angola and Mozambique, he seemed well intentioned and decent.

So like millions of Africans, I was elated when in 1978 he became the first American president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt to make an official visit to the continent. FDR's visit to Liberia in 1943 was just a brief stopover on his way to Tehran. He needed some-

thing. It was in the midst of World War II and he wanted to implore Liberian President Edwin Barclay to end his country's neutrality and expel German expatriates. However, Carter was different. He seemed genuinely interested. He visited Liberia before heading to Nigeria, where he hung out for a few days. For those few days, our eyes were glued to the television as we watched him, his wife, Rosalynn; youngest daughter,

we were saddened when his political career was cut short at the polls by Ronald Reagan, a man many blacks around the world considered insensitive at best.

Over the decades, we watched delightfully as Carter reinvented himself as a statesman, laborer for Habitat for Humanity, peacemaker, champion of democracy, human rights activist and warrior in the battle against diseases

At home, he is not been afraid to take on the most controversial issues. He has been quick to point out that much of the malicious criticism against President Obama is motivated by racism.

It has been an unlikely path for this farm boy from the nation's most conservative region, this relative of slave owners who fled to Brazil after the Civil War because slavery was still legal in that South American country, and yet refused to be defined by his culture or his heritage. Like Lyndon B. Johnson, another southerner, Carter has earned a place in the pantheon of America's most progressive presidents on the issue of race.

Now, the world is watching nervously as he fights the biggest battle of his life—brain cancer. Since making his diagnosis public, he has handled himself with grace, courage and dignity. He seems to be at peace with himself. He even taught Sunday school at his home church in Plains, Georgia, a few days after undergoing the first in a series of radiation treatments for the disease.

Historians have not judged Carter's presidency kindly. In truth, his presidency was hobbled by a weak economy, the Iranian hostage crisis, the pitiful failed attempt to rescue the hostages and Carter's lack of savvy in navigating the nation's capital. I suspect the evaluation of presidential historians won't change much in the coming decades and the moniker he was tagged with decades ago—America's best former president—won't change, either.

In both roles, he tried to do the right thing. He just did the job so much better after he left the White House.

Lekan Oguntoyinbo is a Dallas-based independent journalist. To contact him, email: oguntoyinbo@gmail.com.

“Over the decades, we watched delightfully as Carter reinvented himself as a statesman, laborer for Habitat for Humanity, peacemaker, champion of democracy, human rights activist and warrior in the battle against diseases such as guinea worm. His efforts abroad, earned him a well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. He has been persistent in holding Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti and other countries accountable on human rights issues.”

Amy, and their entourage of more than 400 tour Lagos, Nigeria's commercial (and at the time its political) capital.

My personal connection soared on the Sunday of his visit when he worshipped at First Baptist Church Lagos, my grandparents' and parents' home church, and a congregation where my late grandmother, Comfort Okekunle Oguntoyinbo, was ordained a deaconess in 1946, becoming the first woman from our ancestral village to hold such a position.

We loved his seeming approachability and openness. We applauded his decision to place African Americans, including Andrew Young, in high profile positions. We saluted his efforts to help end white minority rule in Rhodesia and

such as guinea worm. His efforts abroad, earned him a well-deserved Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. He has been persistent in holding Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti and other countries accountable on human rights issues. He has served as an election observer in dozens of countries. He has complimented authorities in countries when the elections were free and fair. He has been outspoken when they weren't. He has been fearlessly outspoken about Israel's reckless disregard of the rights of Palestinians.

Jimmy Carter has been a relentless peacemaker who has championed the plight of Haitians. He was probably the first ex-president to call for re-thinking the misguided Cuban embargo.

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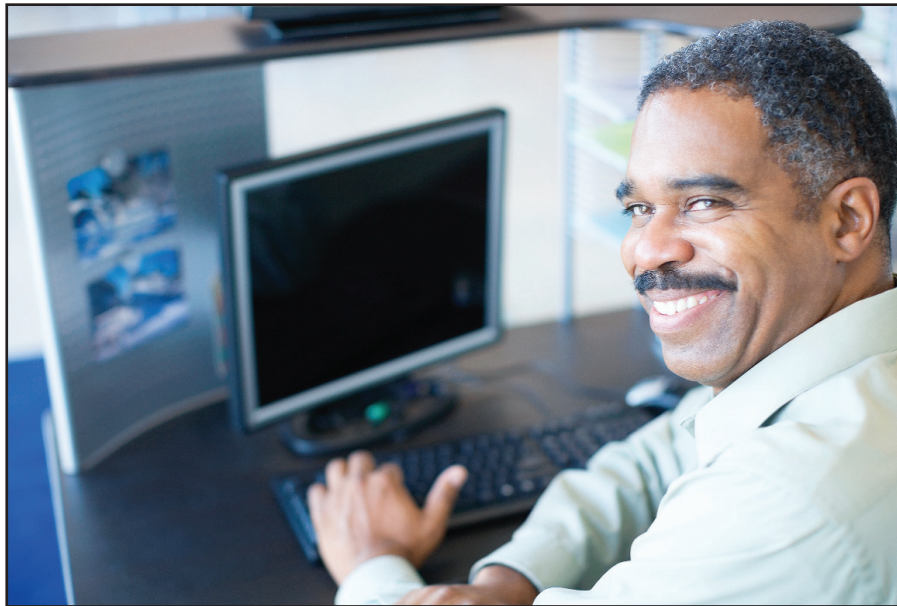
September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Washington— Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in males with one in seven men diagnosed in their lifetime, and an even higher incident rate among certain populations including African American men.

In the U.S.A., there are almost 2.8 million men living with prostate cancer, about 220,000 men are diagnosed each year, and almost 30,000 die from it. Early detection is the key to successful treatment. Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and the organizations and associations that support it, are responsible for saving an untold number of men's lives by encouraging them to have a discussion with their healthcare provider about prostate cancer and early detection.

"I have the conversation with all men over the age of 40 that screening for prostate cancer saves lives," said Rob Rhodes, MD, FAAFP. "Then we have a discussion and make a plan based on mutual decision making that is right for that individual. I believe that preventative medicine, especially in men, is vital to survivorship and being a better pillar in our society."

In preparation for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Men's Health Network (MHN) encourages men to know their risk as early detection is the best predictor of survival. MHN urges men at high risk for prostate cancer to talk with their health care provider about getting a yearly screening starting at age 40, with other men beginning at age 50. The



In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the Men's Health Network has developed a new website: www.prostatehealthguide.org. The site provides information about prostate cancer; BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia); prostatitis; and more.
Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

group also emphasizes the role that women can play by encouraging their husbands or partners to speak to their health care provider about being screened for prostate cancer, including a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test and a digital rectal exam (DRE).

"I am a retired Urologist who screened, diagnosed and treated thousands of men with prostate cancer for 25 years, never expecting to be diagnosed with prostate cancer myself in 2002," said David M. Parrack, DO, FACOS. "I

had always believed in the value of PSA screening and that is how mine was

found. My recheck PSA is this week and at this point I am grateful for two things: PSA testing and the wisdom and honesty of my treating physicians along our journey; and a deep faith in our GOD that has carried my wife and I through the times when it seemed no one had a definitive idea of what should be done."

In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Men's Health Network has also developed a new website: www.prostatehealthguide.org. This website provides information about prostate cancer; BPH (benign prostatic hyperplasia); prostatitis; and more. Men can use this site to understand their individual risk and to prepare for their next doctor's appointment. The site also has valuable information for loved ones of men who are dealing with these conditions. The Prostate Health Guide was developed with support from Augmenix, Genomic Health, and Bayer.

To learn more about prostate cancer, visit the Men's Health Resource Center at: www.MensHealthResourceCenter.com.

Family Fun-n-Fit Day in Joseph Lee Park

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in collaboration with Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, Docs in the Park and Friends of Joseph Lee Park present Family Fun-n-Fit Day in Joseph Lee Park Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Joseph Lee Park is located between Johns Hopkins Bayview and Patterson High School at 5900 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore.

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**this is a
story
you
helped
write, but
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Olivia was a 4th grader. She loved to read, but didn't have any books at home. So if she was given a book in class, she would read it cover to cover, again and again, until she had to give it back. One day Mrs. Kolish, her teacher, handed out brand-new copies of Charlotte's Web.

As usual, Olivia read it cover to cover, again and again. She reluctantly went to give it back, but this time was different. Mrs. Kolish wouldn't accept the book because Charlotte's Web was Olivia's to keep. You see, Olivia didn't know that **every time you shopped at Target, you were giving to education. And each time you did, you helped raise one billion dollars for supplies and books** for students like Olivia.

So when Olivia said thanks a billion to Mrs. Kolish for the first book she could call her own, she was saying thanks a billion to you, too.



Versatility increases Asa Jackson's chance to secure Ravens spot

By Turrón Davenport

NFL teams are facing the difficult task of cutting their rosters down from 90 players to 53 in the coming days. Every team has players on the roster bubble.

There are some who believe that cornerback and return man Asa Jackson is one of the players that could be in danger of not making the final 53-man roster. Jackson is showing his versatility, which is making a strong case for him to earn a roster spot.

Versatility is an attribute that the Ravens look for in their players. Jackson gives the team a player that is able to bump inside and cover slot receivers as well as line up outside. Winning on the outside is something that Jackson has focused on doing over the last couple of years. Going against the taller receivers in the NFL can be a tough task for the 5' 10" corner. Jackson said that he wanted to be more physical on the outside especially in press coverage.

The Ravens also have Jackson as an option in the return game. He is capable of returning both punts and kickoffs. Finding another opportunity to help the team win is something that Jackson cherishes.

"Being able to play on defense and being a returner on special teams, it's something that has been my dream since I was eight years old," Jackson said. "Anything that I can do to be a part of it; especially here in



Ravens kickoff returner Asa Jackson #27 gets ready to field a kickoff during the Ravens third preseason game against the Washington Redskins at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.

Photo by Turrón Davenport

Baltimore is what I want to do and what I am overjoyed to do."

Jackson showed what he can contribute in the game against the Washington Redskins. Jackson returned a kickoff 103 yards. The return came on one of the few times the opposing kicker didn't force a touchback. Unfortunately, he ran out of

gas at the end of the play and couldn't get into the end zone. Regardless, he put the Ravens in a great position to score.

There was a play that Jackson would surely like to take back. The error came when he was back to receive a punt. It had a good amount of hang time, which allowed the coverage to get to him as soon as he caught the punt. He didn't signal fair catch and fumbled the punt after he got hit as soon as he caught the ball.

Jackson says that he would have done things differently the next time.

"I absolutely would have called fair catch. When a ball is hanging like that and wasn't kicked super deep, I had to fair catch it," Jackson said. "There wasn't any play that could be made but I was trying to make a play for my team. I should have just played smart. It's a learning process for me."

A fair catch in that situation would have been ideal. He was pressing to make something happen but the best play to make was to signal fair catch and field the ball cleanly. That's a part of situational football, which is something

Jackson says that he is working to improve by studying film study. He also says that he is learning the game more with a focus on the tendencies of opposing offenses and specifically the wide receivers that he has to cover.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh once described Jackson as a "squirrely player." He is a smaller defensive back but makes up for it with his feisty play. Jackson's footwork is remarkable. It allows him to mirror receivers and is especially valuable when he covers slot receivers. He said that he has played football for as long as he can remember and gets plenty of joy from it.

Jackson has enjoyed his time in Baltimore and really wants to continue his career with the team that selected him in the fifth round of the 2012 NFL Draft. He has been able to stay with the team because of his ability to fill multiple duties with one roster spot. It remains to be seen whether or not he will be on the roster when the Ravens travel to Denver to face the Broncos in the season opener.

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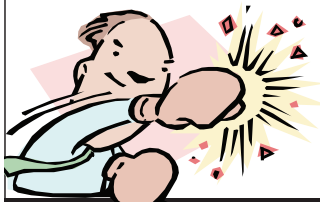
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'Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City' launched at Oriole Park at Camden Yards

Baltimore— Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford was joined by Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake at the launch of the "Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City," a \$3 million program to build stronger communities in Baltimore through homeownership at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

Using \$2 million from the state and \$1 million from the city, Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City will help an estimated 400 homebuyers increase their purchasing power through the Maryland Mortgage Program, the state's premier home loan product.

"Maryland Grand Slam is exactly the kind of initiative we need in Baltimore," said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. "This program will provide families with the opportunity to create a lasting financial legacy for their children and their children's children."

"Innovative programs like this will make it easier for families to buy homes and grow with Baltimore. This milestone collaboration will be unique in the way it combines state incentives with our already successful Baltimore Homeownership Incentive Program to ensure that more people put their roots down right here in Baltimore and strengthen our diverse neighborhoods," Mayor Rawlings-Blake said.

The program is modeled after DHCD's highly successful "MMP TriplePlay Initiative in Prince George's County," which sold out a few months after it was launched last year and resulted in more than 400 new home owners in the county, 87 of whom moved from outside of Prince George's through the program.

However, where the TriplePlay initiative offered prospective homebuyers three incentives to purchase in Prince George's County, the Grand Slam initiative features four incentives for those seeking a home in Baltimore, including \$7,500 in down payment assistance grants. The four benefits of Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City are:

- *\$5,000 for down payment assistance in the form of an outright grant from the state. The Hogan administration has allocated \$2 million from Maryland's rainy day fund for this initiative.

- *\$2,500 for additional down payment assistance from the City of Baltimore, also in the form of a grant.

- *A federal tax credit through the Maryland HomeCredit program that can save the homeowner tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. In addition, Maryland is waiving its usual fee for a savings of as much as \$450.

- *A 0.25 percent discount on the already low Maryland Mortgage Program interest rate.

For more information about Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City and other Maryland Mortgage Program products, visit <http://mmp.maryland.gov>.



(Left to right) Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford; Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; and DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt officially announced the "Maryland Grand Slam in Baltimore City" initiative at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

Courtesy Photo/DHCD

A community garden grows in Pigtown

By Stacy M. Brown

It takes a village to raise a child, according to an ancient proverb and for two local, civic-minded individuals, it takes a good garden to help feed a family and to keep a neighborhood growing.

Bill McLennan, the executive director of the nonprofit Paul's Place; and Darrin Fiorrini, manager of the Cockeysville Home Depot have joined together to build a vegetable garden that will be run by the South Baltimore-based "Pigtown Food For Thought," a community group that strives to improve access to healthy food and raise consciousness about food injustices.

"Darrin expressed great interest in getting involved with Paul's Place as he grew up in the Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhood and has a connection to the community," said Adrienne Peres, vice president of Abel Communications and a spokesperson for the vegetable garden project. "Darrin came down to Paul's Place for a tour a few weeks ago and he was very impressed by the work that Paul's Place does in the community and he was able to donate several items from Home Depot that would support the garden."

On Friday, August 28, 2015, officials from Home Depot and Paul's Place started the work they hope will prove to be both healthy and refreshing for a community largely starved for good food.

The project began with several volunteers working feverishly to build shelves for a gardening shed. The volunteers then performed tasks like weeding; before they began to develop a much-needed composting system that will help grow the vegetable garden which officials say will provide fresh produce for Pigtown residents.

In an earlier interview, McLennan said Paul's Place has two core competencies—serving to help families respond to crisis and strengthening families and youth to become self-sufficient.



On Friday, August 28, 2015, Paul's Place and Home Depot joined together to build a vegetable garden that will be run by "Pigtown Food For Thought," a community group that strives to improve access to healthy food and raise consciousness about food injustices. The volunteers and Home Depot employees built shelves for a gardening shed, weeded and developed a composting system. The vegetable garden will provide fresh produce for Pigtown residents, since the neighborhood is considered as a food desert. Paul's Place provides programs, services, and support that strengthen individuals and families in the Washington Village/Pigtown neighborhood. (Left to right) Dave Jedorski; Clark Matthews (glasses); Glenn Johnson (green shirt); Jim Bishop; Bill Reckford; Antoine (attends the after school program); Darrin Fiorini; Jackie Steele; Rich Garcia (black shirt); and Brian Dyer from "Pigtown Food For Thought."

Courtesy Photo/Paul's Place

McLennan says the greatest success of Paul's Place—an organization that also provides programs and support geared toward fostering hope, personal dignity and growth—is its ability to connect people from different backgrounds while channeling that energy into improving Southwest Baltimore.

"We focus on our mission and develop strong collaborative partnerships," McLennan said.

The vegetable garden will assist in bringing healthy food to the area and

help to bring residents together, Home Depot and Paul's Place officials said in a joint statement.

For residents of Pigtown, fresh vegetables haven't been easy to come by—at least not within a suitable distance—since Safeway Supermarket vacated the area five years ago relegating the neighborhood to the status of food desert.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a food desert as an urban or rural neighborhood that lacks easy access to fresh, healthy and affordable food.

Health officials have noted that those who live in such areas usually have higher levels of diabetes and obesity.

"Home Depot and Paul's Place decided to partner to do some larger projects," Peres said. "Home Depot is extremely enthusiastic about the project, and everyone is very excited to share the story about the good work that Home Depot and Paul's Place are doing in the community."

"Don't underestimate the power of your vision to change the world. Whether that world is your office, your community, an industry or a global movement, you need to have a core belief that what you contribute can fundamentally change the paradigm or way of thinking about problems." —Leroy Hood

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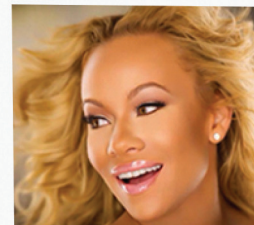
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“Intersection” Exhibition highlights four corners in Baltimore history

Exhibition explores historical, present-day and future development of North Avenue and Charles Street, Sept. 1–20

Baltimore— The M.F.A. in Curatorial Practice program at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) presents “Intersection,” an exhibition showcasing the layered stories of people, places and moments in history that have shaped the identity of one of Baltimore City’s popular intersections, North Avenue and Charles Street in the Station North neighborhood. The exhibition, which highlights four corners and four eras in history within the past 100 years, will take place Tuesday, Sept. 1–Sunday, Sept. 20, in the Sheila & Richard Riggs and Leidy galleries inside the Fred Lazarus IV Center (131 W. North Ave.). A reception will take place on Friday, Sept. 4, 5–7 p.m.

“Intersection,” is a curated selection of newly commissioned work and pieces from personal collections, including painting, photography, projection artistry, site-specific installation and performance art. The exhibition is a visual experience creating an opportunity for artists to discover the city’s history, offering viewers the chance to look at the many layers of the historic crossroad of North Avenue and Charles Street. Viewers will be able to explore the geography, social relationships and cultural landscape of Baltimore’s rapidly changing urban center.

“At the four corners of North Avenue and Charles Street, we see the past, present and future of Baltimore,” said Margaret MacDonald, M.F.A. in Curatorial Practice candidate and co-curator. “There, we find Pearson’s Florist, a family-owned business for more than 30 years; an abandoned 1928 limestone bank building; the rehabilitated Ynot Lot, a site for community events and programming; and the recently renovated Station North Chicken Box, a performance and gallery space to Station North.”

Charles Street and North Avenue, a major crossroad that carries the flow of people and things east and west, as well as north and south through Baltimore,



Ras Tre Subira, Griot’s Eye Program, Waverly Elementary/Middle School.



Ada Pinkston ’13 (Community Arts M.F.A.), This Bridge Called My Back or the never-ending labor of creating space to move past the isms, painted fabric, broom, paper, charcoal, book, projection, and live performer, 2015.

act as a focal point for artistic expression— a lens to view and speak to a variety of cultures, races and identities. The exhibition will point to pivotal, historic moments and movements in the U.S., such as the Great Depression, Great Migration, Civil Rights Movement and present day, while capturing a keen sense of the importance of urban life and its many cultural shifts.

“The intersection of North and Charles has been an important hub for



Photo credit: Reuben “Dubsience” Greene

culture and activity throughout the past 100 years,” said Kibibi Ajanku, M.F.A. in Curatorial Practice candidate and co-curator. “We are thrilled to have artists respond to the rich history to show where we, as a city, have been, where we are now and, through them, where we might go.”

The exhibition features MICA’s Film and Video Chair and video installation artist Nadia Hironaka, photographer Reuben “Dubsience” Greene, graphic

designer Tiffany Small ’14 (Graphic Design Post Baccalaureate), multimedia artist and educator Ada Pinkston ’13 (Community Arts M.F.A.), filmmaker Ras Tre Subira and performance artist Olu Butterfly Woods.

Hours for MICA’s galleries, which are free and open to the public, are Mondays–Saturdays, 10 a.m. –5 p.m., and Sundays, noon–5 p.m., except on major holidays.

Battle Stage Plays Launches Kickstarter Campaign

Baltimore-based company seeks to raise developmental funds to tour plays

Baltimore-based production company Battle Stage Plays officially launched its Kickstarter Campaign on September 1, 2015. Through the campaign, Battle Stage Plays seeks to raise funds to cover developmental costs to move closer towards touring its dynamic hit stage plays. Battle Stage Plays has set an initial funding goal of \$5,000, which it must reach in 35 days in order for the Kickstarter Campaign to be successful.

Battle Stage Plays presents original stage play productions written by Ursula V. Battle, who is also the Project Creator for the Battle Stage Plays Kickstarter Campaign. The name of the exciting campaign is "Play a Supporting Role in Kickstarting a Battle Stage Plays National Tour." The campaign is included under Kickstarter's "Theater" category.

In the wake of the Freddie Gray riots, the campaign also highlights that Baltimore City is home to many talented African-American youths, with several having appeared in the company's stage plays.

Most recently, Ursula V. Battle's DisChord in The Choir played before sell-out audiences at Johns Hopkins' Turner Auditorium. Other hit stage play productions include Ursula V. Battle's The Teachers' Lounge, which also played before sell-out audiences.

On December 19-20, 2015, her highly anticipated production, Ursula V. Battle's My Big Phat Ghetto FABULE\$\$ Wedding will debut at Turner Auditorium, under the directorship of Battle Stage Plays Volunteer, Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, who is also director of Unified Voices (UV) of Johns Hopkins.

Battle Stage Plays' Kickstarter "Backers" can pledge anywhere from \$1 to \$10,000 with the pledge amount deter-



(Left) Playwright Ursula V. Battle (right) Baltimore-based production company Battle Stage Plays seeks to raise developmental funds to tour its dynamic hit stage plays with the launch of a Kickstarter Campaign on Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

Courtesy Photos

mining which great "Award" they will receive. Awards include show tickets for My Big Phat Ghetto FABULE\$\$ Wedding, t-shirts, and a walk-on appearance during one of the shows. Early Backers can also take advantage of a limited number of "Early Bird Specials."

"We have people who travel from Washington, D.C., California, and other areas to see our productions," said Playwright Battle. "There is a growing demand to take our plays on the road. Kickstarter provides a wonderful opportunity for us to do just that. We are hoping to exceed our initial \$5,000 goal. The more we raise, the more we can do. This includes booking our shows at major theatrical venues and hiring needed personnel. We are asking everyone to support this campaign to help move us closer to turning our tour dreams into a reality."

Kickstarter is a global crowdfunding platform for creative projects. Kickstarter ideas are brought to life through

the direct support of others. Funding on Kickstarter is all-or-nothing.

Battle Stage Plays' official Kickstarter

Link is <http://kck.st/1hRANp>. For more information call 443-531-4787 or visit www.battlestageplays.com.

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War Horse Program hopes to inspire and engage local teachers

By Stacy M. Brown

A 1,574-square-foot wellness center equipped with treadmills, exercise machines, bikes, a rowing machine and more opened at the Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School in Locust Point on Thursday, August 27, 2015. The first of its kind center is part of a public-private partnership that school officials say they are simply delighted about.

Scott Plank, founder of the real estate and philanthropy company War Horse, was the driving force behind the center, which he says is an effort designed to foster health and fitness among teachers whom students view as role models.

“A lot of the lion’s share of the resources goes to the kids, as it should be,” Plank said. “But, we thought we could deliver the same kinds of resources to teachers.”

Plank joined Baltimore City Public Schools CEO Dr. Gregory E. Thornton, American Federation of Teachers Secretary and Treasurer Dr. Loretta Johnson, FX Well CEO Nate Costa and others to celebrate the grand opening of the Teachers Wellness Center, which was funded by the J.S. Plank & D.M. DiCarlo Family Foundation as part of a multi-year commitment to the school.

Over the past three years, Plank has funded the redesign and renovations of the student cafeteria and teacher collaboration spaces, modeled after private sector designs.

The new center is an integrated model of health and wellness based on the philosophy that by caring for teachers, “We can better care for our children,” Plank said, citing research studies he said clearly indicate that on-site wellness programs have the potential to attract qualified employees and to positively affect productivity and efficiency.

Participation in employee health promotion programs reduces absenteeism related to health issues such as stress, obesity and cardiovascular disease, according to officials. Besides the health benefits, wellness programs can have a positive effect on teamwork, morale, and teacher effectiveness.

“We believe that collaboration through



(Left to right) Wes Simms, Executive Vice President, FX Well, Nate Costa, CEO FX Well, FSK teachers Bethany Davis, Brad Rutherford, Mickelli Dunn, Principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School, Dr. Gregory E. Thornton, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, Dana DiCarlo, War Horse, Scott Plank, Founder, War Horse, Dr. Lorretta Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Teachers, FSK teacher Lauren Diresta, Eric Costello, Baltimore City Councilman, 11th District.

our philanthropic investment in facilities and innovative programming which encourages and supports healthy lifestyle for our public servants is a key formula for improving our communities,” Plank said. “The Teacher Wellness Center is an extension of this philosophy and it complements our previous work at FSK.”

“Through our efforts in real estate, hospitality, and philanthropy projects such as Anthem House, Belvedere Square, our police fitness and training centers, and now this Teacher Wellness Center, we are investing in our hometown and demonstrating our commitment to Baltimore everyday,” he said.

Thornton said the center is a welcome addition.

“Our teachers are critical in advancing student achievement, so anything we can do to support them is important. The American Federation of Teachers look forward to working with the district, the community and local businesses to create more opportunities similar to the new center, Johnson said.

“To continue to improve the quality and academic achievement of Baltimore’s students, we must also improve the quality of life, the health and the productivity of teachers and school-related staff,” she said.

Also, FX Well, which aims to optimize organizational health and wellness by connecting and engaging employees and teammates, is working closely with War Horse and the Institute of Integrative Health to develop customized baseline testing procedures for a FSK Wellness Program, according to Costa.

“The Teacher Wellness Center model is an approach to health that we see often in the private sector, but is underrepresented in school systems, an area with high burnout rates and high stress,” Costa said.

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Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival back after two-year break

Festival takes place Saturday, September 26, 2015

By Andrea Blackstone

After a two-year hiatus, the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival will return for the 26th year. The free festival featuring cultural heritage of African Americans, Africans and Caribbean people of African descent will be held at Susan Campbell Park, at the Annapolis City Dock on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The event incorporates the legacy of Kunta Kinte—a slave introduced to the world in Alex Haley’s novel, “Roots: The Saga of an American Family.”

In 1767, Kunta Kinte was reportedly captured in Africa and brought aboard the Lord Ligonier ship, which traveled to the Annapolis City Dock to sell slaves. Haley’s well-known ancestor represents the struggle of all ethnic groups to preserve their cultural identity, and the desire to find their own roots.

The nonprofit, Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc. sponsors the festival. Renee Spears, the new chair of the festival’s planning committee, said that she thinks people are getting excited about the event’s return to Annapolis, Maryland.

“All of the entertainers who I have talked to are very excited to be able to come back. I think it’s really going to be a good one [festival],” Spears said. “They [attendees] can expect wonderful entertainment, great vendors, authentic food, and just a wonderful family day for all of the family to get together and come.”

Highlights include a procession by the Annapolis Drum and Bugle Corps; musical performances by KARMA Showcase Band; Clones of Funk; Michael McHenry Tribe; DiVine of Annapolis; and Remnant. The Chesapeake Children’s Museum will sponsor The Children’s Activity Tent that will include: storytelling; dress up; and arts and crafts. Capoeira Social Project of Baltimore; Keur Khaleyi African Dance Company; and Carr’s Beach Hand Dance Club will present dance performances. Lauren Kelly-Washington of BliS* Moves™ is scheduled to give an



The 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival will be held at Susan Campbell Park at the Annapolis City Dock, on Saturday September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The admission is free and Free parking will be available at the Calvert Street Garage, located at 19 St. John Street in Annapolis. Courtesy Photos

African dance demonstration. World cuisine, arts and crafts, African jewelry and clothing will also be sold.

Spears, who was previously in charge of the festival’s entertainment before serving as chair, explained that she is committed to keeping the festival for all ages running. A February fundraiser called “African Threads” that was held at ADEK Productions on West Street helped to pay some of the old festival bills. Spears says addressing the task was extremely important to her. She credited Jan Lee— Co-Chair of the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival planning committee— as being instrumental in helping to resolve the issue. Spears noted that the family-friendly event has been volunteer-driven since the inception of the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival.

Recent support has grown, although additional volunteers are still needed to set up tents and break them down. The City of Annapolis partnered to help

make the upcoming event successful, in addition to Wendell Williams of Koons Toyota in Annapolis, Domino Sugar, the Annapolis chapter of Delicados, Inc., Whole Foods of Annapolis and The Annapolis Times newspaper. The Anne Arundel County Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) will provide on-site support at the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival.

“What I really want to focus on at the festival is the fact that we need to continue our heritage, and we need for our children to see heritage, and understand how important it is for us to keep that family structure,” Spears said. “Family is everything, and I think that Kunta Kinte really kind of made us all think about how we should continue to embrace our ancestors.”

Interested volunteers may sign up to help with the festival by visiting <http://vols.pt/D5q1dg>. Vendor applications will be accepted through Septem-



ber 18, 2015. For more information, visit: www.kuntakinte.org for more information.

McDonald's® celebrates educators with "Teacher Tuesdays" in Greater Baltimore area

Baltimore— Starting Tuesday, September 8, 2015, McDonald's® Family Restaurants of Greater Baltimore will again be saying "Thank You" to local educators with "Teacher Tuesdays" by offering complimentary any size McCafé Drip Coffee or Tea (hot or iced) every Tuesday throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

The launch of Teacher Tuesdays is a recent addition to the Greater Baltimore McDonald's® proud legacy of supporting local education in the communities they serve. The program began last year in the Greater Baltimore area and during the 2014-2015 school year when local McDonald's restaurants gave more than 56,000 free beverages to local educators with Teacher Tuesdays!

"We recognize the importance of our local educators and the invaluable contributions they provide to Greater Baltimore area families as both mentors and role models," said Jim Bower, McDonald's® Owner/Operator and Vice President of the McDonald's® Family Restaurants of Greater Baltimore. "Our Teacher Tuesdays program gives us an opportunity to continue to say 'thank you' to educators throughout the entire school year at McDonald's."

McDonald's has made supporting education a top priority, believing that it is important to recognize leaders who serve their communities and make a positive difference in the lives of Greater Baltimore's youth.

The McDonald's Family Restaurants of Greater Baltimore has a history of working closely with community schools to support education, scholastic fundraising efforts, and partnering with PTA organizations. Events such as "McTeacher's Nights" support local schools so students can continue to thrive, learn and be active.

To receive a complimentary any size McCafé Drip Coffee or Tea (hot or iced), educators, faculty and staff must show valid school identification prior to placing their order. One free coffee per person per visit to McDonald's. No purchase is necessary. The offer is available in-restaurant or drive-thru every Tuesday between September 8, 2015 and June 28, 2016 at all participating McDonald's® restaurants located in the following Counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Carroll, Cecil, Harford and Howard Counties.



BCCC receives grant from NASA to expand STEM programs

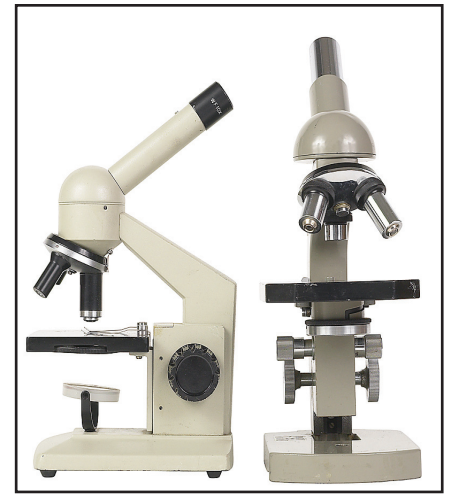
BCCC will use the NASA Minority University Research and Education Project grant to increase student success and workforce development.

Baltimore— Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) is proud to announce a recently awarded three-year, \$750,000 NASA Minority University Research and Education Project Community College Curriculum Improvement grant. BCCC was among four two-year institutions in the country to receive this prestigious award.

The goal of the grant is to increase the number of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) classes available at minority-serving community colleges and to provide STEM educator training. BCCC will use its \$750,000 to launch a new project called "Improving and Expanding the STEM Programs at BCCC to Attract, Retain and Support the Success of Diverse Students."

"This new BCCC STEM initiative will focus on increasing the success rate and workforce development of underrepresented students, such as women, African Americans, and disadvantaged veterans in BCCC's engineering-related programs," said BCCC President and CEO Dr. Gordon F. May. "This is another example of how BCCC programs align with community needs."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014), employment in STEM occupations will grow by 18.7 percent until 2020, compared to 14.3 percent for



all occupations. Approximately 59 percent of the projected increase will be in science and engineering jobs in the computer and mathematical science occupations. These occupations also have the largest growth rate at 23 percent.

To further increase student success rate and workforce development, BCCC is partnering with several organizations, including NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Morgan State University, Capitol Technology University, Coppin State University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore City Public School System, Lockheed Martin, JLL/Amazon, Berry Plastics, AMTEK Company, Juxtopia, National Society of Black Engineers, Career Communication Groups, Pearson Education, Maryland Center for Veteran Education and Training, and the United States Postal Service.

Dr. Yun Liu, professor of mathematics and robotics, will spearhead the project on behalf of BCCC. Dr. Liu and BCCC Grant Development Director, Dr. Michele Towson, led the NASA grant development team.

For more information about BCCC's grant award from NASA, contact Dr. Yun Liu at 410-462-8324 or email: yliu@bcc.edu.

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Healthy School Food Maryland Needs Volunteers

Healthy School Food Maryland is a coalition of organizations and individuals in Maryland working for whole, real, local and safe foods for children in Maryland school cafeterias. Volunteers passionate about nutritious public school foods are needed to help the organization in a variety of ways, including outreach efforts supporting its mission. For more information contact Executive Director Lindsey Parsons at 301-202-4812 or info@healthyschoolfoodmd.org. or visit: www.healthyschoolfoodmd.org.

Annapolis program connects future leaders with mentors

By Andrea Blackstone

Darius A. Stanton is a 45-year-old entrepreneur and community leader who knows that creating positive change requires action. During an annual community day breakfast last winter he presented a call to action— 50 Men for 50 Years of Service Campaign— while recognizing the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Malcom X. Born in Annapolis, Stanton wanted to create a succession of leadership in Anne Arundel County and offer support to the community at large.

“The goal was to bring us together and to take action, not just to walk and march,” Stanton said.

Although Stanton aimed to locate 50 men in Anne Arundel County who were willing to volunteer to mentor youth in the summer and throughout the school year, 65 men from Anne Arundel County, Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia responded. Women also stepped up to support the initiative. The Annapolis Arts, Sports and Leadership Academy (AASaLA) was born. Volunteers range from a retired Navy vice admiral to elected officials and business owners. Stanton’s call to action also led to the formation of the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center Basketball League and the launch of a new chapter of Men Aiming Higher Inc. (MAH) in Annapolis. MAH is a Prince George’s County based nonprofit supporting the positive development of at-risk young men, founded by entrepreneur and Delegate Darryl Barnes.

From June through August, 80 youth ages eight to 14 participated in an arts, academic and basketball program at the Roger “Pip” Moyer Recreation Center in Annapolis.

“We wanted leadership to be the driving force, but academics was also a major goal of ours, to be able to give them (youth) some confidence over the summer,” Stanton said.

Children who could not afford the \$50 participation fee were awarded scholarships. Contributors such as the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center helped to pay for basketball uniforms, trophies and food. Teddy Watson provided support, in addition to the Annapolis Housing Authority; Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency; the Annapolis Police Department, the Board of Education Annapolis High feeder school cluster, Comcast Internet Essentials, the City of Annapolis Cable Access Channel; Sandy Springs Bank; Shoppers Food & Pharmacy; the Recreation and Parks Department for the City of Annapolis; Hutton Trucking and Moon’s Barbershop.



Darius A. Stanton (front left) is the creator of the “50 Men for 50 Years of Service” Campaign, which is designed to mentor emerging leaders. The campaign led to the formation of the Annapolis Arts, Sports and Leadership Academy (AASaLA) and the launch of a new Men Aiming Higher Inc. Annapolis Chapter.

Photos: Andrea Blackstone



Darius A. Stanton (left) pins a Men Aiming Higher pin on his son’s lapel. Darius A. Stanton II (right) is a member of the newly launched Men Aiming Higher Inc. Annapolis chapter. The graduate student and entrepreneur was the keynote speaker at the first awards program for the Annapolis Arts, Sports and Leadership Academy and the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center Basketball League on August 21, 2015

The first awards program held at the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center on Aug. 21, 2015 celebrated men who united to uplift community youth.

Vincent Leggett, Chairman of the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, and the executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis, embraced Stanton’s idea.

“When Darius and his team approached me and the board of the Legacy Center to partner, we got right on this idea. We want to do things to lift up the legacy of Mr. Bates, lift up young people, lift up their parents, guardians, grandparents and all, so we thought this was an excellent partnership,” Leggett said.

Darius A. Stanton II was the program’s guest speaker who offered youth advice about leadership, goal-setting and educational achievement. The entrepreneur and student is pursuing a master’s degree in environmental management at Duke University.

“As black people, we have zero time to slow down. You have to continue to create different avenues for yourself,” Darius A. Stanton II said. “The people that lost their lives, they are counting on you to continue their legacy.”

During closing remarks, his father—Darius A. Stanton—announced that volunteers will continue to work with students who participated in the summer program.

“We will work with them in their schools, and we will have a once a month leadership academy that will take place. Secondly, we will start a tour of the city schools—the elementary, junior high and Annapolis High School. We will be recruiting additional young people to participate in the Leadership Academy,” Darius A. Stanton said.

The Annapolis chapter of Men Aiming Higher is currently recruiting volunteers. For more information, visit: www.menaiminghigher.org. Parents who would like to inquire about AASaLA can email Darius A. Stanton at DStanton@MenAimingHigher.org.

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Marylanders reminded to 'Act Now, Pay Now' during Tax Amnesty

Annapolis— Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot reminds delinquent taxpayers that they have until October 30, 2015 to take advantage of Maryland's "Act Now, Pay Now" amnesty period.

The Tax Amnesty program, enacted by the General Assembly, gives delinquent taxpayers one final opportunity to pay their Maryland tax liability with only half of the interest owed. Tax Amnesty applications will be accepted beginning September 1, 2015 until October 30, 2015.

"Tax Amnesty is a limited and rare opportunity for tax delinquents to settle any outstanding liabilities," said Comptroller Franchot. "It's vital for all Marylanders to do the right thing and pay their taxes which support important public services benefitting everyone in our great state."

Taxpayers who failed to file a required return or pay a tax imposed on or before December 31, 2014, may file an application with the Comptroller requesting a waiver of all civil penalties (except for previously assessed fraud penalties) and one-half interest due. The waivers will be granted for all taxpayers who file their applications on time and meet the terms of the program. Payments made prior to September 1 are not eligible for the tax amnesty program.

The following taxes are eligible for amnesty: Personal income tax; Fiduciary income tax; Pass-through entity nonresident income tax; Corporate income tax; Employer withholding tax; Sales and use tax; and Admissions and amusement tax.

Taxpayers who submit an application may either pay their outstanding debts in full with their application or include 10 percent of the amnesty amount due with their application, and set up a payment plan before October 30, 2015. Taxpayers, who choose the payment plan, must complete the terms of the agreement on or before December 31, 2016.



During the amnesty period, a taxpayer may not be charged with a criminal tax offense arising out of any return filed and tax paid, so long as the taxpayer does not have any pending criminal charges in the state courts and is not currently under investigation by the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the State Prosecutor and the Office of the State's Attorney or any office with Constitutional authority.

Anyone who took advantage of two previous amnesty programs in 2001 and 2009 are not eligible for the new pro

gram. Those who participated in or were eligible to participate in the Delaware Holding Company settlement established by Chapter 577 of 2004 for tax periods prior to tax year 2003 also are not eligible.

The amnesty application form is accessible at www.marylandtaxes.com, or taxpayers will be able to request a form by calling 1-800-MDTAXES or 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland. Email requests may be sent to:

amnesty@comp.state.md.us or by regular mail to: Maryland Tax Amnesty, Comptroller of Maryland, P.O. Box

2031, Annapolis, MD 21404-2031.

Completed applications can also be sent to this address or dropped off at any of the 12 local Comptroller offices.

An interactive tax amnesty calculator is available online to help taxpayers determine the amount of tax owed. Taxpayers with an outstanding liability can determine their amnesty liability through the agency's Amnesty BillPay application by using the notice number on bills up to six months old. For more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.marylandtaxes.com.

Volunteers Needed for 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival

Volunteer opportunities are available to help with the 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival being held at Annapolis City Dock. The annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival, coordinated by Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc., celebrates the cultural heritage of people of African descent and raises awareness to the challenges encountered by all ethnic groups striving to preserve their culture. The festival will be held at the Susan Campbell Park at Annapolis City Dock, Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteer opportunities are available for: set up, selling refreshments, clean up, children's activities tent, greeters and more. Volunteer sign-up is available online at the following VolunteerSpot webpage <http://vols.pt/D5q1dg>. For more information contact KuntaKinteCelebrations@gmail.com or visit www.kuntakinte.org.

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