

# *The Annapolis Times*

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## **‘Key to the City’ Presented to Visionary Hairstylist to the Stars**

*Hairstylist to the stars, Kendall Dorsey (left) was honored by the City of Annapolis Mayor’s Office on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at Maryland Hall in Annapolis, Maryland. Mayor Gavin Buckley presented Dorsey with a Key to the City to honor the Annapolitan’s triumph and success in working as a celebrity hairstylist in the entertainment and fashion industry. Dorsey, born and raised in Annapolis, attended and graduated from Anne Arundel County Public Schools, including Annapolis Middle and Annapolis High. The highly accomplished stylist connected with youth and local hair stylists while he was in town during Black History Month. (See article on page 7) Photo credit: Randy White*



# Timeless Legend, Roberta Flack Dies at 88, Leaves Incomparable Musical Legacy

By **Andrea Blackstone**

Roberta Flack, 88, internationally known as one of the greatest songstresses of our time, died Monday, February 24, 2025, at home in New York just ahead of Women's History Month in March.

"We are heartbroken that the glorious Roberta Flack passed away this morning, February 24, 2025," publicist Elaine Schock said in a statement. "She died peacefully surrounded by her family. Roberta broke boundaries and records. She was also a proud educator."

The Grammy-winning singer and pianist told stories that integrated love, culture and politics through her broad landscape of music. Flack could no longer sing, due to Lou Gehrig's disease. Although Flack retired from touring in 2018, Flack received a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

"She is the only solo artist to win the GRAMMY Award Record of the Year for two (2) consecutive years: 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' won the 1973 GRAMMY and 'Killing Me Softly with His Song' won the 1974 GRAMMY," according to RobertaFlack.com.

Flack was a classically trained pianist from an early age. The then 15-year-old earned a music scholarship to attend Howard University. Les McCann, a jazz musician, reportedly discovered the songstress who sang at the Washington, DC nightclub, Mr. Henry's.

"She was immediately signed to Atlantic Records," according to RobertaFlack.com.

"Where Is the Love" (a duet with former Howard University classmate Donny Hathaway); "Feel Like Makin' Love," "The Closer I Get to You,"

"Tonight I Celebrate My Love," are other well-known songs that are a part of Flack's musical repertoire.

Flack was also a humanitarian who founded the Roberta Flack School of Music at the Hyde Leadership Charter School, located in the Bronx. It provided a music education program to underprivileged students free of charge. Additionally, Flack founded The Roberta Flack Foundation in 2010 to support animal welfare and music education.

Flack's rich legacy transcended race, cultures, and generations. Sean Lennon and Julian Lennon, who are John Lennon's children, used social media to express his condolences about Flack's passing.

Sean provided a YouTube link to Roberta Flack singing "Goodbye Sadness" with her smooth, relaxing voice.

Julian added, "Roberta Flack was a neighbor of Dad's in New York City, and a dear friend of our family. Very sad to hear of her passing. Deepest condolences to all who loved her," Julian Lennon also wrote on X.

Kevin Gore, President, Global Catalog, Warner Music Group also weighed in on Flack's musical contributions and death.

"Roberta Flack was a milestone artist in the history of Atlantic Records and Warner Music. An unparalleled and truly original song stylist and arranger, she bridged multiple genres with grace, intelligence, and sophistication. A four-time Grammy Award winner, 14-time Grammy nominee, and the only solo artist ever to win two consecutive Grammy Awards for Record of the Year, she received the Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. Roberta was one of the most popular, honored, and beloved



**Roberta Flack in 1971**  
Photo: CMS-Creative Management Associates/John Levy (management) / public domain



**Roberta Flack, 2008**  
Photo by annulla, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

artists of her time, possessing a one-of-a-kind voice that was both majestic and intimate, whether in moving ballads or deep grooves. Today is a sad day for her family, friends, and countless fans around the world. She will be deeply missed, but her music and her influence will certainly endure. All of us in the Warner Music family are proud to be a part of Roberta's extraordinary legacy," Gore stated.

Luther Vandross once sang background for Flack.

"She more than anybody encouraged me to make my own record and have my own career, and I owe her a lot," someone posted on the late Vandross' X account.

A clip showed him singing "Killing Me Softly with His Song." Then, Vandross's voice played as highlights displaying his affection for her.

Vandross' public display mentioning the songstress underscored Flack's encouraging spirit that extends beyond what she sang. Flack, once an ambitious teacher who moonlighted

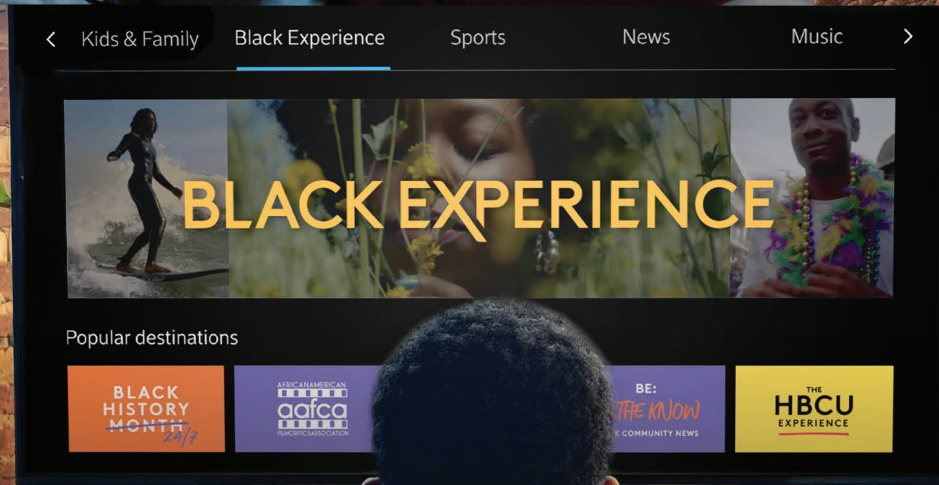
as a nightclub singer in Washington, D.C. had dreams of her own that were interrupted.

"Flack graduated from Howard with dreams of becoming an opera singer. Discouragement from a vocal coach led her to reconsider and turn toward music education as a career and popular music as an avocation. She taught in rural North Carolina and at several Washington, D.C.- area schools, eventually establishing herself as a nightclub performer on the side," according to NPR.

Flack ended up becoming a "sensation at Capitol Hill's Mr. Henry's, where she played up the classical elements in folk revival ballads and Motown hits."

NPR also reported that Flack reflected on her career in an emailed statement.

"I always say that 'love is a song' — meaning that music reaches beyond age, race, nationality and religion to touch our hearts," she once said.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS FOR ALL OF US.

The genius, pride, wisdom, and truth of Black stories are what continue to inspire more than just Black audiences – they touch us all. This Black History Month, everyone can enjoy a rich variety of curated movies, series, documentaries, and specials on the Black Experience on Xfinity.

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## Staying Diligent During This Tax Season

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

Well, it's that time of year again – tax season! By now you should have received any tax forms concerning your income, representing another opportunity to keep cybersecurity in mind and minimize fraudulent actors' attempts to separate you from any refunds you may be expecting.

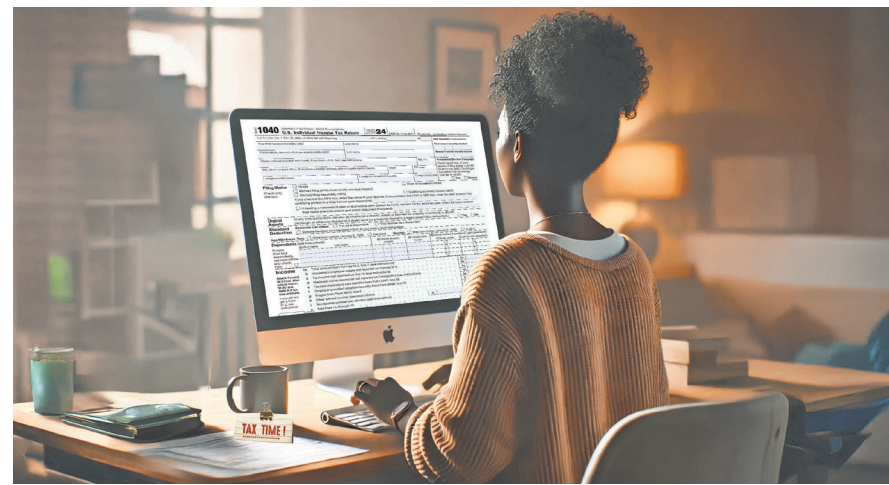
### File Early

If you prepare and submit your taxes early, good for you! If you don't, you may want to try filing early because according to cybersecurity experts and the IRS, doing so reduces the risk of tax fraud. A known scam is for criminals to try to submit fraudulent tax returns using stolen Social Security numbers to claim refunds. If a criminal files before you do, reclaiming your refund is a lengthy and stressful process.

Here are some other ways to reduce the probability of experiencing a tax scam:

**1. Tax preparation and other bogus scams:** Unscrupulous tax preparers often manipulate tax filings for inflated refunds, leaving you liable for errors. They also promote false claims, such as bogus fuel tax credit requests. They offer to help you set up your online IRS accounts with the aim of stealing your personal information. Additionally, scammers may encourage you to invent income and withholding information to secure larger refunds. Such claims can result in penalties and repayment obligations.

**2. Misinformation on social media:** Validate what you read or hear on social media, especially concerning W-2 schemes or misleading tax deductions, which can encourage you to submit false information in the hope of getting a refund. You should be careful who you



*Resolve to file early this tax season.*

*Graphic Design by Karen Clay*

follow on social media for tax advice. Unlike hacks to fix a leaky kitchen sink, relying on social media to boost your refund is a bad idea and can lead to penalties.

**3. Phishing, smishing and identity theft:** As noted in previous articles, you also can be targeted through phishing emails and smishing text messages that pretend to be from the IRS. These messages try to trick you into revealing personal or financial information. Similarly, these fraudsters will impersonate IRS representatives to “help” you set up online accounts, only to hijack the process and steal your sensitive data.

**4. Fake charities and taxpayer exploitation:** In times of crisis, scammers set up fraudulent charities to exploit generous taxpayers. These fake organizations often lack IRS tax-exempt status, meaning donations may not be tax-deductible.

### Minimizing Your Risk

Along with filing your tax returns early, if you routinely watch out for bogus emails and text messages, you are already taking steps in the right

direction. If you routinely enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) for online accounts you've set up, you further protect your IRS filings, and accounts with your financial institutions. This additional verification step makes it much harder for hackers to gain access to your account—even if they have your password. Below are some additional steps you can take.

**1. Secure your return with an IRS IP PIN:** The IRS offers an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN). This six-digit code prevents unauthorized tax filings using your Social Security number. You can apply for an IP PIN through the IRS website. While we recommend that everyone signs up for an IP PIN, this is especially true if your SSN has been exposed to a data breach. Once issued, this number should be kept private and used only when filing your return.

**2. Ask about your tax preparer's cybersecurity practices:** If you use a tax professional, ensure they take cybersecurity seriously. Ask these critical questions and take note of their responses: How do you protect client data? Do you use encrypted portals



*Karen Clay,  
Clay Technology and Multimedia  
Courtesy, Karen Clay*

for document sharing? Who has access to my information within your firm? How do you back up sensitive tax records? How long do you store tax records? Encryption for protecting data, documents, and communications is critical, and you want them to limit who can access your records. You also want a tax service that uses encrypted, secure backup systems and only stores your records for three to seven years.

**3. Safely exchange tax documents:** Avoid emailing tax documents as regular attachments. Instead, use encrypted email services or a secure file-sharing portal your tax preparer provides. If mailing documents, send them through a trusted courier service with tracking options.

**4. Back up your tax records:** Make digital and physical backups of your tax documents. Store electronic copies in an encrypted cloud storage service or an external hard drive (or both!), and keep printed copies in a secure location. The IRS generally recommends retaining tax records for three years, but depending on your situation, you may need to keep them longer.

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## Morgan State University Opts into House v. NCAA Settlement

By Morgan State University

**BALTIMORE** — Morgan State University’s Board of Regents has approved the University’s decision to opt into the House v. NCAA settlement, a landmark resolution addressing past restrictions on student-athlete compensation. By opting in, Morgan joins other institutions committed to a more sustainable and equitable model for collegiate athletics while securing protections from future litigation related to name, image, and likeness (NIL) restrictions.

The House v. NCAA settlement, valued at over \$2.7 billion, is designed to compensate former and current college athletes who were denied NIL opportunities before the NCAA changed its policies in 2021. The settlement also establishes a revenue-sharing framework, allowing institutions to allocate resources directly to student-athletes while maintaining competitive and compliant athletic programs.

“Morgan’s decision to opt into the House v. NCAA settlement reflects our unwavering commitment to student-athlete success and our proactive approach to navigating the evolving landscape of collegiate athletics,” said David K. Wilson, president of Morgan State University. “With the full support of our Board of Regents, we believe this decision is in the best interest of our institution, ensuring compliance, stability, and new opportunities for our student-athletes moving forward.”

As part of the settlement, Morgan will contribute an estimated \$231,227 to the payout fund and adhere to the new roster and scholarship limits. While adjustments will be made to team sizes—including reducing the

football roster from 130 to 105 players—the University will have the flexibility to expand opportunities in Olympic sports under Title IX compliance. Additionally, Morgan will have institutional control over NIL revenue-sharing and access to alternative funding sources, such as foundation and university-driven revenue initiatives, to enhance student-athlete support. Other team sports to experience roster limits include men’s and women’s basketball and tennis teams.

“Opting in ensures that we remain competitive while continuing to prioritize the well-being and success of our student-athletes,” said Dena Freeman-Patton, vice president and director for Intercollegiate Athletics at Morgan. “This decision allows us to leverage institutional resources strategically, invest in our programs, and create pathways for financial support beyond traditional NIL opportunities. Ultimately, this strengthens our ability to recruit, retain, and support the next generation of Morgan Bear athletes.”

Under the settlement’s provisions, Power Five conference schools were automatically included, while other Division I institutions had until March

1 to opt in individually or through their athletic conferences. Morgan, a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) member, made the independent decision to opt in, recognizing the opportunity to maintain compliance, strengthen athletic programs, and invest in the overall student-athlete experience.

As collegiate athletics continue to evolve, Morgan remains committed to fostering a transformative student-athlete experience, prioritizing compliance, and ensuring long-term program viability. For more information on Morgan Athletics, visit [www.morganstatebears.com](http://www.morganstatebears.com).



*David K. Wilson, MSU President and Dena Freeman-Patton, Vice President/Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. Photo courtesy of MSU*

## Roadside Marker Near Maryland Native Frederick Douglass' Birthplace Honors His Memory

By Andrea Blackstone

A new roadside historical marker commemorating Frederick Douglass' birth in Talbot County, self-liberation from slavery, and his work as a slavery abolitionist, orator and human rights advocate was unveiled on February 20, 2025, at the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton, Maryland.

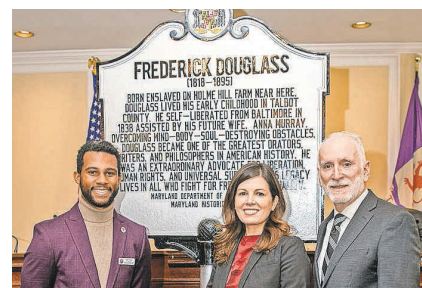
Douglass traveled the country delivering powerful speeches on liberation and human rights. He was known for giving a local speech, "Self-Made Men" at the courthouse in a main courtroom on November 25, 1878, to a segregated audience, per details provided by [visitmaryland.org](http://visitmaryland.org). Additionally, the famous abolitionist was born enslaved on Maryland's Eastern Shore at Holme Hill Farm in Talbot County on February 14, 1818. He died on February 20, 1895.

Douglass self-liberated in 1838 with the help of his future wife, Anna Murray Douglass. He disguised himself in a sailor's uniform, carried forged freedom papers in his pocket, then traveled by foot, train and steamboat from Baltimore to New York City.

"Frederick Douglass is a timeless historical figure who encourages us to stand strong in the face of adversity and insurmountable obstacles in our life. He will always be part of Maryland's identity and will continue to inspire generations to come," said Dr. Julie Schablitsky, The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT's) head of Cultural Resources.

As a part of her role, Dr. Schablitsky directs archaeological projects located along the Underground Railroad with a transportation connection, including the birthplace of Harriet Tubman. She also directs and manages Maryland's Roadside Historical Marker Program.

MDOT partnered with the Maryland Historical Trust to hold the unveiling



*(L-r): Jaelon T. Moaney, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; Dr. Julie Schablitsky, MDOT Chief of Cultural Resources; and Maryland Transportation Paul J. Wiedefeld.*

ceremony during Black History Month and Douglass' birth month. The new roadside marker is part of the effort to increase the number of markers that highlight Maryland's untold stories.

The historical marker was installed at the intersection of Tapper's Corner Road and MD 303, which is near the location of Frederick Douglass' birthplace.

"The Maryland Historical Trust has been partnering with the state highway administration on historical markers for decades," Dr. Schablitsky added.

Maryland Roadside Historical Markers consist of a pole, cast metal shield painted silver with black lettering across the shield body, and the Great Seal of Maryland. MDOT SHA, then the Maryland State Roads Commission, established a formal, statewide Roadside Historical Marker program in 1933, according to Maryland.gov. It included assistance from the Maryland Historical Society (MHS), a private non-profit. This partnership continued until 1985 when the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) managed the program with assistance and funding from MDOT SHA. Today, MDOT directs the program with a focus on updating the existing historical markers along Maryland roadways. Maryland helped to educate the public about historical matters by



*State Highway Administration State-Wide Sign Team employees John Markline and Josh Thompson erect a historic road marker commemorating the birthplace of Frederick Douglass.*

installing approximately 800 cast metal historical markers along state roads since 1930.

"The popularity of the automobile, along with a renewed interest in history during the early 20th century, stimulated state agencies to form partnerships to fund this marker program," according to Maryland.gov.

Douglass' relatives and descendants from across the country attended the recent ceremony, in addition to Lt. Governor Aruna Miller; Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld; members of the community; the town of Easton officials; and other Talbot County elected leaders.

"Today, more than ever, it's important to spotlight the unique history of the Eastern Shore and the cultural giants it produced, like Frederick Douglass," said Tarence Bailey Sr., a Bailey-Douglass relative and president of Operation Frederick Douglass on The Hill.

Kenneth B. Morris Jr., the great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass and President of the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, stated that "as we mark the 130th anniversary of my great-great-great-grandfather Frederick Douglass's passing, it is both historic and incredibly



*Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., great-great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass. Photos: David Trozzo, MDOT*

moving to see a new marker placed near his birthplace."

He also pointed out that the recent recognition ensures that his journey from slavery to a life of purpose and transformative impact will never be forgotten.

"My family and I are grateful to the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Historical Trust for honoring his legacy in this way. May this marker commemorate where his story began and inspire all who pass by to carry forward his fight for justice and equality," Morris Jr. also stated.

"Frederick Douglass' life and legacy continues to inspire all of us who work every day to protect our freedoms and fight for equality," said Lt. Governor Miller. "I am honored to help unveil this historical marker which proudly displays where the great Maryland-born leader first started his journey."

Visit <https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/87318efedd984d989c3c8f3a65897c55> to learn more about the locations of other Maryland roadside historical markers. Learn more about Douglass' life by taking self-guided driving tours via <https://www.visitmaryland.org/driving-tours/following-his-footsteps-marylands-frederick-douglass-driving-tour>.

## 'Key to the City' Presented to Visionary Hairstylist to the Stars

By Andrea Blackstone

Hairstylist to the stars, Kendall Dorsey was honored by the City of Annapolis Mayor's Office on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at Maryland Hall in Annapolis, Maryland. Dorsey was formally recognized during "Crown Affair," the Key to the City Award Ceremony.

Mayor Gavin Buckley presented Dorsey with a Key to the City to honor the Annapolitan's triumph and success in working as a celebrity hairstylist in the entertainment and fashion industry.

In an interview with ESSENCE, Dorsey explained that he was drawn to experimenting with hair at a young age.

"This included pinning up his dolls' synthetic wigs and cutting and coloring his own softly-textured curls. He intrinsically knew his calling as a hairstylist; however, growing up in a small town, the stylist feared his skills wouldn't be accepted."

Back then, Dorsey's pure curiosity was a springboard to embrace his passion to learn about how to care for hair and create striking styles. Staying true to his aptitude, Dorsey became a highly sought-after stylist whose clients include Cardi B; Lizzo; Nicki Minaj; Rihanna; and other celebrities.

The hair expert, who was born and raised in Annapolis has 20 years of experience as a hairstylist under his belt. His achievements came full circle in the town where he grew up and later returned to receive the Key to the City. The presentation served as an artistic and cultural celebration of the history and strength of "Black Hair."

"We were so happy to present the Key to the City to Kendall, who has risen to the highest levels of his field after coming from humble beginnings here in Annapolis," said Mayor

Gavin Buckley. "I was impressed by his willingness to give back to the community while he was here, with visits to Annapolis Middle and Annapolis High Schools as well as visits and workshops with local hair stylists. I was also touched by how moved and honored he was to be recognized by his hometown. Seeing that smile on his face and the faces of those in the audience made it all worthwhile."

Dorsey graduated from Annapolis High School before his pursuit of hair design led him to work professionally in cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and abroad. Dorsey's work has been featured in "New York Fashion Week"; "Good Morning America"; "Vogue Magazine"; "Essence"; and more. He also serves as a Dark and Lovely celebrity brand ambassador, and a Curl Wow/ Color Wow celebrity brand ambassador.

Before Dorsey was booked to work with glammed-up celebrities, Dorsey worked with individuals such as Francine Smith, Yvette Ford, Lisa DeJesus and Makisha Stevens.

"Those were the Annapolis goats in hair when I was coming up," he declared.

Dorsey, who currently resides in Los Angeles, further stated that the named women inspired him to become a hairstylist.

He also revealed that some of the challenges that he encountered while embarking upon his professional journey included making it through beauty school with no money, then moving to New York City with no experience or clients and only having "just a dream." The dreamer and doer never gave up.

From red carpets, beauty shoots and editorial work to working at Fashion



*Kendall Dorsey, hairstylist to the stars. Photos: Randy White*



*Kendall Dorsey holds his City of Annapolis proclamation and the Key to the City.*

Week or creating hair visuals to match the message of albums, Dorsey studied his craft, then put in work to build a star-studded reputation.

Dorsey's passion to learn about hair also led him to the education space in his field.

"Simply love what you do and the rest will shine through. Making men and women feel good about themselves is my purpose and educating myself daily on new trends and techniques is my passion," Dorsey shared in an interview with colorwowhair.com.

While visiting his hometown of Annapolis, Dorsey participated in a series of events meant to inspire and connect with youth at schools and local hair stylists at their establishments. He

visited five local Annapolis salons and shared experience and knowledge with local stylists and shop owners.

Dorsey said that he felt that local and up-and-coming stylists learned that prayer and determination supersedes life's obstacles and situations. Reflecting upon his achievement of overcoming adversity, Dorsey felt rewarded by receiving the Key to the City of Annapolis.

He represents the hope that no matter where a person comes from or where they start, even if it is in public housing in a small town— "the sky's the limit."

"God will never change! Stay faithful to his promise," Dorsey once said on his Facebook page.

# Alexandre Dumas, père, Grandson of a Slave: Author of The Three Musketeers

By Ursula V. Battle

The 2025 Black History Month theme is “African Americans and Labor.” The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) notes that the theme sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work. In recognition of this theme, The Baltimore Times will publish articles highlighting key individuals in labor who have wax figures in their likeness at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum (NGBIW).

“The Three Musketeers” and “The Count of Monte Cristo” are classics and are considered by many to be among the greatest literary works ever written. The man who authored the words to these famous works is French novelist and playwright Alexandre Dumas, père – the grandson of a French nobleman and a slave.

Dumas’s father was Thomas-Alexandre Davy de La Pailleterie, the son of the Marquis de La Pailleterie and Marie Cessette Dumas, a Black slave of Santo Domingo. Dumas’s mixed heritage came with discrimination and other challenges, but did not prevent him from becoming one of the most prolific writers of all time.

Dumas, born July 24, 1802, is credited with writing more than 40 novels, which have been adapted into nearly 200 films and translated into more than 100 languages. Dumas’s labor lives on through his many written works. A tribute to his literary ingenuity is also immortalized through a likeness at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum (NGBIW).

Located at 1601-1603 E. North Avenue, NGBIW was established in 1983 by Dr. Joanne Martin and her late husband, Dr. Elmer Martin.



A wax figure of Alexandre Dumas, père (third from left) is on display at the Fashion Centre in Pentagon City. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the mall. Photos: Randy White

“People know ‘The Count of Monte Cristo,’ and they know ‘The Three Musketeers’ movie,” said Dr. Martin. “They might know the name Alexandre Dumas but it’s a shock to people that we’re talking about a Black man. He also wrote ‘The Man in the Iron Mask.’ A lot of work went into his productions and books which were extraordinary.”

Dumas reportedly could pass as white due to his light skin, but he faced racism throughout his life.

“Some portray Dumas as a white man, but when you see him, you will see a Black man,” said Dr. Martin. “It was important to Elmer to have a wax figure of Dumas that truly reflected his heritage, and that was a wax figure to us. At Great Blacks and Wax, that is our uniqueness.”

Dumas’ wax likeness is among 10 of the museum’s figures currently on display at the Fashion Centre in Pentagon City. The figures are exhibited on the second floor of the mall in observance of Black History Month.

According to Britannica, Dumas worked initially as a notary and then as

a Secretary to the Duke of Orleans, who later became French King Louis Philippe. Dumas immersed himself in literature and literary circles and started writing plays. His theatrical pieces consisted of both comedies and dramas. He also began writing for magazines and authored a collection of travel books and cookbooks. His writing career began to flourish, and he expanded to novels and other works.

Britannica notes Dumas’ memoirs, which, with a mixture of candor, mendacity, and boastfulness, recount the events of his extraordinary life, and also provide a unique insight into French literary life during the Romantic period.

Dumas père (French for “father”) was the father of the dramatist and novelist Alexandre Dumas, fils (French for “son”). Dumas fils’ works include “La Dame aux camélias,” adapting the story into a play known in English as “Camille.”

The elder Dumas died December 5, 1870 with Britannica describing his memories as “a treasure trove for those seeking a deeper understanding of



Alexandre Dumas, père, the grandson of a French nobleman and a slave, wrote *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*, two of literary history’s most famous pieces.

French literary life during the Romantic period, illuminating the passions and controversies that shaped his era.”

“There is so little known about Alexandre Dumas, Sr.,” said Dr. Martin. “He was such a brilliant writer. He authored fictional books and plays that had a real-life basis and are such an important part of history.”

For more information about this year’s Black History Month theme, visit <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>. To learn more about Alexandre Dumas, père visit

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexandre-Dumas-pere>. NGBIW hours, exhibits, and other information can be found on <https://www.greatblacksinwax.org/>.





By Rosa Pryor

Hello, my dear friends, we are almost there; I am talking about the weather. It is getting warmer, and we can start coming out to enjoy the good music and events that our musicians are trying so hard to present to us. Do you remember the jazz jam sessions we used to have at the Sportsmen Lounge on Monday nights and at the Bird Cage in East Baltimore? It may be coming back, thanks to so many of our young generations of musicians. I'm talking about the sons and daughters of the deceased, and local musicians who are ready to retire. They have taught them well.

Every Monday Clarence Ward III hosts a Jazz Session every Monday at La Familla Sound Stage, located 836 Guilford Avenue in Baltimore. No cover charge. Just tip the band. I would appreciate it if you would go out and support them.

On Sunday, March 16 starting at 7 p.m., Charm City Jazz will present at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts, located 3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue in Owings Mills, Maryland. There will be a 70s Soul Jam Tribute Concert featuring "4The Road" along with a production of the best singers and musicians in the DMV. If interested, call 410-356-show.

On the last Sunday of the month, "The Syndicate" with Craig Alston will be at "Who Know'z Restaurant & Lounge featuring Craig Alston, Cory Baker, Spyda and Rodney Kelly Jr. will be jumping up and down doing the "JAMES BROWN" celebrating Who Know'z Restaurant & Lounge's fifth anniversary.

Oh, my Goodness! Check this out! Have you ever been to the National

## Baltimore Local Musicians are Jumping Up and Down with Live Entertainment

R&B Music Day celebration? They call it "National R&B Day. Well, Honey Child, you must check it out this year. It will be out of sight! Check this out! This will be Saturday, March 1, from 4-8 p.m. at the Crab Tavern, 201 Macdade Blvd. in Darby, Pennsylvania. Baltimore's own J'KAR and their managers Larry Winkler and Carlos Hutchins are being honored along with Philadelphia's finest legends; "Khalil Khan"; "Dan Ramsey"; "DJ Philly"; "DJ Wells;" "The Phyllies Intruders;" Tribute to the "Legends"; BTS Tribute to "The Dramatics"; and others.

Girlfriend! I am not finished! Aaron Hill will be doing a tribute to Bill Withers on Friday February 28; Wild! That is today, if you get your paper in time. It will be at An Die Musik Live, located at 409 N. Charles Street. So, check it out and let me know how you liked it.

There will be a senior fashion show on March 8 presented by Baltimore County Leaders and Citizens of Goodis Cherubs School, Inc., while they celebrate their second annual event on Saturday, March 8. By the way, P&T Models Management is looking for male and female models for their senior fashion show, which will be one of their highlights of the day. If you are interested, call 443-622-6278. All of this will be held at the War Memorial Building, 101 N. Gay Street in Baltimore.

If you like line dancing, there is a "Line Dance Day Party" on Saturday, March 1 from 1-5 p.m. at the American Legion Post 122; 4424 Painters Mill Road with Randy Dennis. Bling Tees by Tanya will be there and Culinary Cuisine by Chef Artie will provide the food. For more information, call 410-655-1114.

I will see you all soon, now that the weather is getting a little warmer. I want all of my friends and followers to mark your calendars for my shows at the



*Clarence Ward III hosts a "Jazz Jam Session" every Monday from 7-10 p.m. at La Familia Sound Stage, 836 Guilford Avenue in Baltimore.*



*Rodney Kelly II, aka "Keyboards Kelly" is the new Middle School Music Instructor for Baltimore City Public Schools. He is shown above with his father, Rodney Kelly, Sr., Baltimore's own guitarist.*



*Mrs. Shay will perform at City View, 6700 Security Blvd., on March 7, from 6-10 p.m.*



*J'KAR is being honored and a tribute to the Dramatics will be held on National R&B Day on Saturday March 1, at Crab Tavern, 201 Macdade Blvd. in Darby, Pennsylvania from 4-8.*

Avenue Bakery on Pennsylvania Avenue and Baker Street. My first show will be the first Saturday in May from 4-7 p.m. featuring John Lamkin. More about that later.

I have to go now, but remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or you can email me at rosapryor@aol.com. No! I do not text or any of that other stuff you do on your phone. You can also send me your mail to 214 Conewood Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136.

I would appreciate it if you wanted me to write about your event. Please

send the information to me directly by email or post office mail. Please do not expect me to get the information from Facebook and expect it to be in my column because stuff you see on Facebook may not be true. So, I take no chances of putting the wrong information in my column. So, contact me directly. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**

## Ravens Discuss Justin Tucker at the Combine

By Tyler Hamilton

By now, everyone knows about the accusations that Baltimore Ravens kicker Justin Tucker is facing. The Ravens addressed the issue for the first time directly at the Combine.

A total of 16 massage therapists have come forward accusing Tucker of inappropriate sexual behavior.

“The biggest thing that we have to do, first of all, is look at every single case differently,” Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said on Tuesday. “There are no absolutes. In this case, we’re still awaiting as much information as possible. Again, we’re fortunate that the league has come down to Baltimore. I met with the League. I believe the League is meeting with other people in Baltimore as well. We’ll wait for the details of that investigation, and we’ll make a decision based on that.”

Harbaugh said he met with Tucker since the incident but he kept the comments for their conversation to himself. According to DeCosta, the Ravens were first made aware of the allegations when The Baltimore Banner gave them a heads up on a story they were doing on the situation.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said he called Tucker after hearing of the allegations. Harbaugh wanted to talk to Tucker about it to get a better perspective and see how he was handling the situation.

“It’s not what you want to wake up and read. You don’t want to read about it. It’s not something you want to see,” Harbaugh said on Tuesday. The NFL is looking into it. They’re going to review it, they’re going to try to gather all the facts, and I’m sure we’ll have an understanding of it at that time, but once there’s an understanding of it, then you have a chance to make some



*Justin Tucker*

*Photo courtesy of NFL.com*

decisions and determinations and things like that, and that’s where we’re at right now.”

Tucker holds the NFL record for longest field goal at 66 yards and career field goal percentage at 89.1%. He has also been named to seven Pro Bowls and five first-team All-Pros. Tucker was a member of the Ravens team that won Super Bowl XLVII.

He finished the 2024 season,

converting 60 of 62 extra points and 22 of 30 field goal attempts. Tucker’s 73.3% field goal rate is the lowest of his career.

Paired with the seriousness of the current allegations, Tucker’s decline could cause reason for the Ravens to look for a new kicker.

“Every position is important; we’re going to look at every single position,” Harbaugh said when asked about

potentially looking at kickers this season. “We’re looking at kickers; we’re looking at a lot of positions. We’re looking at every position, but I’d say the kicker position would have been a priority no matter what because Justin [Tucker] is our kicker. We love him, and I always would have expected him to keep going forever, but nobody goes forever. So, we have to look at every position like we do.”

## Legal Notice

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES  
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 **PRJ0002063– Park Heights Library and CC Jackson Park Addition**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids.

Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. Bid opening proceedings can be also viewed live at <https://www.charmtvbaltimore.com/live-stream> at 12:00 noon. Bid tabulation sheets detailing the bids received will be publicly posted to the Comptroller’s website by COB on the date of bid opening.

The Contract Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$200.00** by contacting Lauren Hoover at [lauren.hoover@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:lauren.hoover@baltimorecity.gov) as of **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025**.

**Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.**

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture (“JV”), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13001 – THREE STORY AND UNDER**.

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$15,000,000.01 to \$20,000,000.00**

A “Pre-Bidding information” session will be conducted at **the site: 4910 Park Heights Ave and 3200 Woodland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215 on TUESDAY, March 04, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Principal Items of work for this project are:**

**New Library Branch - Building Structure, Sitework, Utilities  
New Parking Lot  
Park Renovation – Site Development & Improvements, Lighting, and Site Equipment**

The MBE goal is **27%**

The WBE goal is **10%**

**CONTRACT NO. PRJ002063**

APPROVED:

M. Celeste Amato

Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED

Berke Attila

Director, Department of  
General Services

## Legal Notice

## Legal Notice

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS  
BY PUBLICATION AMENDED COM-  
PLAINT FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE  
GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DIS-  
TRICT COURT DIVISION

FILE: #24CVD040441-590

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

STACIE ABRAHAM-JOINES,

Plaintiff,

v.

SADE KENNEDY,

Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Plaintiff Stacie Abraham-Joines is seeking absolute divorce from Defendant Sade Kennedy.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days after February 1, 2025, 2024 and upon failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2025.

/s/ Shelby Hansen

Shelby Hansen

Attorney for the Plaintiffs

Law Office of Kelli Y. Allen,

PLLC

10150 Mallard Creek Rd Suite

105

Charlotte, NC 28262

Phone: 704-727-4900

Email: [Shelby@kyalaw.com](mailto:Shelby@kyalaw.com)

## Legal Notice

The Upton Planning Committee is leading the restoration of historic Parren Mitchell House at Lafayette Square, Baltimore. This project is funded in part by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Please reach out to Wanda Best, Executive Director, [wgbest@verizon.net](mailto:wgbest@verizon.net), with questions or concerns.

To place  
Legal Notices  
email: [legals@btimes.com](mailto:legals@btimes.com)  
[dwane@btimes.com](mailto:dwane@btimes.com)

## Anne Arundel County To Open County Buildings on Tuesday, February 25, 2025

*Telework policies in effect; emergency and essential employees must report at usual times*

**Annapolis, MD (February 24, 2025)** – As the county continues to investigate a cyber incident of external origin impacting some public services, county buildings will open on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

While buildings will be open to the public, residents are encouraged to contact departments to determine their operation status before visiting as some services may be limited.

Telework-eligible employees are encouraged, due to potential internet connectivity issues, to continue to work remotely using Google or internet-based systems. Emergency and essential employees must report for work at their usual times in consultation with their supervisors. All employees should consult with their supervisors to determine appropriate work assignments based on IT systems availability.

Senior Activity Centers will be open. All Department of Recreation and Parks amenities, including regional parks, will be open.

Additionally, county recycling centers and the landfill will be open. Normal curbside collections will continue as scheduled.

Please note that the county is still taking precautionary measures to ensure the safety of our systems and will continue to update the public as more information becomes available.

For more information on department contacts, please visit [aacounty.org/departments](http://aacounty.org/departments).

1601-03 East North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21213

Ph. 410-563-3404 | [greatblacksinwax.org](http://greatblacksinwax.org)



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