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2025 Maryland Cycling Classic Debuts Historic Course for Men's & Women's Races in Baltimore

An All-African Women's Race Team to Compete, Further Expanding International Baltimore's Reach



The 2025 Maryland Cycling Classic returns to Baltimore Saturday, September 6, 2025. The race will debut a brand-new 17.9-mile circuit entirely within Baltimore City but also mark the first time men's and women's professional races will be held on the same day. The race will also include an all-African women's race team. (Left to right): Steven Brunner, KOM Sports; Mayor Brandon Scott; Baltimore First Lady Hanna Scott; and Charima Young, Sr. Director, Kaiser Permanente. (See article on page 8)

Photo: JJ McQueen

Youth Around the Country Mow Lawns Free of Charge Through Innovative Nonprofit

By Andrea Blackstone

Rodney Smith Jr. came to the U.S. from Bermuda when he was 16 years old to attend a school in upstate New York for children with learning disabilities. He later founded a nationwide initiative that encourages youth to give back to their communities through acts of kindness and service.

Raising Men Lawn Care Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2015, and Raising Men and Women Lawn Care Service, founded in 2018 to include women, promote kindness and volunteerism.

“Through it, we inspire kids and teens across the country to give back by mowing lawns for free for the elderly, disabled, single parents, and veterans. It’s about teaching responsibility, leadership, and the importance of service,” said Smith. “Raking leaves and shoveling snow is also included.”

Once a child accepts a 50 Yard Challenge by signing up on Raising Men & Women Lawn Care Service’s website, he or she receives an official t-shirt, safety glasses, and ear protection to get them started. The challenge is self-paced with no deadline.

“As they complete milestones—10, 20, 30, and 40 lawns—they earn new t-shirt colors, each representing their progress. When they reach all 50 lawns, I personally travel to meet them and present them with brand-new lawn care equipment: a mower, weed eater, and blower,” Smith added.

Youth ages 8-17 can sign up to volunteer. They must reside in the U.S. to participate. To date, over 6,000 kids have participated across all 50 states. The majority of program participants begin their volunteering journey by using family equipment. When they



(L-r): Lamar, Ms. Jones and Rodney Smith Jr. Jones’ lawn was mowed by Lamar and Rodney. Photo: Rodney Smith Jr.

complete the 50 Yard Challenge, Smith personally delivers a new lawn mower, weed eater, and blower to them as a reward and tool to keep serving others in need, free of charge.

“All services are 100% free for the elderly, disabled, single parents, and veterans. We believe in giving without expecting anything in return,” Smith confirmed.

Individuals who fit into the nonprofit’s demographic can request service through www.WeAreRaisingMen.com. Smith mentioned that referrals are also provided by various insurance companies.

“Kids from across the country sign up to volunteer and are responsible for finding lawns to mow in their own communities. When someone submits a request on our site and we have a participating child in that area, we forward the request directly to them. We operate nationwide—anywhere in the U.S. where we have kids signed up is eligible,” Smith added.

Smith, who is based in Alabama, mows lawns for free in Huntsville daily. During the summer, local children often join him. Other youth in Smith’s program mow lawns free of charge in



Westin and Ben of Indiana provide free lawn service. Courtesy photo

their own communities.

Smith is not a U.S. citizen yet, but he is working on it.

“I’m currently on an O-1A visa while I wait for my green card,” Smith explained.

He holds a master’s degree in social work, and he earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Alabama A&M University in 2016.

Smith continues to show youth the difference that they can make in someone’s life by showing a simple act of kindness, such as mowing a lawn for free.

“It builds compassion, discipline, and leadership,” Smith stated.

The ambitious do-gooder has authored three children’s books. They promote kindness, service, and making a difference in communities.

Jan Bush, an elderly resident of Huntsville, Alabama, stated that Smith and youth have been mowing her lawn since 2018.

“I’m no longer able to mow my lawn myself, and hiring someone regularly just isn’t in my budget. Their help has taken a big weight off my shoulders and given me peace of mind. It’s also reminded me that there are still good, caring people in the world,” she explained while expressing gratitude.



Dylan recently finished the 50 Yard Challenge program in Abell, Maryland. He received lawn equipment courtesy of Raising Men & Women Lawn Care Service.

Photo: Rodney Smith Jr.

Lamar Knight, a 19-year-old college student from Alabama has been a program participant since 2017.

“Being in the program since 2017 has taught me a lot about giving back, staying committed, and helping others without expecting anything in return. It’s shown me the value of hard work and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference,” he said.

Youth who live in Maryland are encouraged to volunteer and take the 50 Yard Challenge so that local elderly; disabled; single parents; and veterans can receive support through Raising Men & Women Lawn Care Service. Everything Smith and youth volunteers do is possible because of donors. Raising Men and Women Lawn Care Service is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Visit www.WeAreRaisingMen.com to learn more about Raising Men Lawn Care Inc. and <https://weareraisingmen.com/findavolunteer>. Follow Smith on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rodneysmithjr> and Facebook: Raising Men & Women Lawn Care Service: <https://www.facebook.com/raisingmenlawncarehsv>.



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Global Positioning Systems (GPS) Primer Part 1: The Marvel of Location Tracking

By Karen Clay

Clay Technology and Multimedia, L.L.C.

Once upon a time if you lost your keys, you'd spend minutes, maybe even hours, frantically looking for them. Often, you didn't even realize they were misplaced until you were headed out the door, and there you were, frantically scrambling around your home trying to find them. Well, today that scenario might play out differently. Instead of immediately becoming frantic, you might just whip out your smartphone and ping the lost item.

Believe it or not, the technology that enables the example above has its roots in the development of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which began in the 1950s! Scientists at the time, who were studying the Soviet Union's Sputnik satellite in 1957 realized they could determine locations through the Doppler effect of radio signals. This ultimately led to the development and launch by the U.S. Navy in 1960, of the world's first global satellite navigation system. The first GPS tracking devices were invented around 1968 and development progressed through the 60s, 70s, and 80s when commercial GPS technology became a reality.

The technology experienced another "growth spurt" in the 2000s when the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in 2002, mandated location features in mobile phones for emergency services to locate 911 callers. In 2004, Qualcomm successfully completed tests of live assisted GPS on mobile phones, allowing cellular and GPS signals to combine for better location accuracy. By 2015, 64 percent of adult Americans owned a smartphone, up from just 35 percent in early 2011, making location tracking

widely accessible to consumers.

It's now become so ubiquitous that you can find location tracking devices and apps just about everywhere for just about everything. They're in cars, smartphones, wearables, smart home devices and stores. They take the form of trackers, apps, AirTags, and monitors. Familiar examples include Google Maps, Apple Find My, Apple Watch, Fitbit, Garmin, Tile, AirTag, OnStar, FordPass, Alexa, Google Home, RFID tags in retail, asset tracking, and more.

Thanks to this technology, we are becoming more interconnected than ever before. The way we navigate, communicate, and interact with the world around us has totally changed as it has become easier, thanks to continued development in GPS technology. For example, we are now able to support loved ones to live independently longer through elder care monitoring. We can get to places quicker with navigation systems that provide real-time route optimization and turn-by-turn directions. We can monitor our fitness and health to track our steps, routes, and exercise intensity. We can use this technology to help locate missing persons, pets, lost phones, or stolen vehicles.

As location-tracking technology has become more powerful and convenient, it's clear that we're living in a time where finding things—and even people—is easier than ever before. What was once the stuff of science



Over 60% of adult Americans can take advantage of location tracking. Graphic Design by Karen Clay

fiction is now part of our daily lives. Whether it's pinging our keys from our phone, tracking our teenager's whereabouts, or getting turn-by-turn directions to a new restaurant, location tracking has revolutionized how we move through the world. It supports safety and independence for the elderly, helps parents keep an eye on their kids, and gives peace of mind to travelers and commuters alike. Businesses benefit too, using the technology to manage deliveries, track assets, and improve customer experiences. With more devices and apps using location services, the integration of GPS, Bluetooth, cellular signals, and Wi-Fi has created an ecosystem of tools designed to help us live more efficiently and stay connected. There's no denying that location tracking has become an essential part of how we function in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

But for all of its advantages, location-tracking technology isn't without its drawbacks—and those are just as important to consider.



Karen Clay
Clay Technology and Multimedia
Courtesy, Karen Clay

As we embrace the convenience of always knowing where our things and loved ones are, we must also ask: are we sacrificing anything for this convenience? Issues like data privacy, unauthorized surveillance, and over-dependence on technology are increasingly coming to the forefront. There are also concerns about how this technology can be misused—by marketers, hackers, or even individuals with harmful intent. And let's not forget the psychological impact of being constantly "locatable." In Part 2 of this article, we'll explore the potential downsides of location tracking, highlight real-world examples of misuse, and offer practical tips for using this powerful technology wisely and responsibly. Stay tuned!!

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times
2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 410-366-3900
<https://baltimoretimes-online.com/>



'There is strength in unity.'

Historic Partnership Announced Between Black Faith Leaders and Black Media

Nashville, TN — July 25, 2025: In a historic announcement, a coalition of leading Black faith organizations and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) unveiled a strategic partnership and plan aimed at confronting systemic disparities impacting African American communities nationwide.

Dr. Boise Kimber, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC); Dr. Samuel Tolbert, President of the National Baptist Convention of America; and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., veteran civil rights leader and President of the NNPA, are leading this collaboration between the Black church and Black Media.

"There is strength in unity. There is power in our collective voice. There is hope in our actions" said Dr. Boise Kimber.

For generations, African American communities have endured deep-rooted inequities in healthcare, education, criminal justice, economic opportunity, and access to capital. These challenges are not new. The coalition intends to put an end to fragmented responses and speak with one clear, concise and consolidated voice.

The Black Church and Black Media, two institutions that have long anchored and uplifted Black America, are now coming together with renewed focus and purpose.

This partnership is grounded in shared values, spiritual conviction, cultural empowerment, and an unwavering commitment to truth, justice, and progress.



Dr. Boise Kimber, President, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., and Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Civil Rights Leader and Publisher.

The coalition will focus on five core initiatives:

- **Shaping a unified national narrative** that challenges harmful stereotypes and amplifies stories of Black resilience, excellence, and innovation
- **Mobilizing faith-based and media networks** to address community disparities through solutions-focused advocacy and outreach
- **Holding corporate America accountable** by demanding responsible reinvestment in Black communities through sustainable partnerships, economic equity, and community-led development
- **Empowering the next generation** by reclaiming our narratives and creating new pathways for education, leadership, and entrepreneurship
- **Holding elected officials accountable** by spotlighting those whose policies do not align with the interests of the Black community. To earn our votes, they must heed our voices

"This is more than a symbolic gesture, it is a strategic and spiritual alignment." When the Black Church

and Black Media speak as one, we can ignite a movement. When we organize as one, we can shift the narrative. When we act as one, we cannot be ignored or denied," the coalition stated.

The coalition invites all stakeholders, faith leaders, media professionals, community organizers, educators, business leaders, and concerned citizens to join this movement for unity, justice, and progress.

Coalition Leaders,

Dr. Boise Kimber

Dr. Boise Kimber,
President National Baptist
Convention USA, Inc.

J. Drew Sheard

Drew Sheard,
Presiding Bishop Church of God in
Christ

Samuel C. Tolbert Jr.

Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert,
President National Baptist
Convention of America

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President and CEO National
Newspaper Publishers Association
(NNPA) Civil Rights Leader and
Publisher

Heart Failure Survivor Raises Awareness About Organ Donation, Honors Transplant Donor

By Andrea Blackstone

Bill Soloway had been an avid bicyclist since his teenage years until 2013. He regarded bicycling as transportation, exercise and therapy. Two years before his heart transplant, he biked in charity rides for causes such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes and cancer while raising money for them.

"I was always one of these guys who wanted to help people in need. Then, suddenly, I was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. I couldn't walk three steps without getting winded. It was just like climbing Mount Everest. I never dreamt I would ever be back on my bicycle ever again," Soloway recalled.

The heart transplant recipient had been diagnosed with a life-threatening heart arrhythmia known as ventricular tachycardia in 1996. This started his transplant journey, and Soloway's experience with heart issues was not an isolated incident. His brother died at 27 years old from a genetic heart defect, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an abnormal thickening of the heart muscle. Modern medicine helped Soloway in ways that it had not yet been available to his brother in the eighties.

"When I got diagnosed and a cardiologist said, 'Hey, you have the same thing that your brother died from, it was a very sobering thing,'" Soloway explained.

The Pennsylvania resident shared that in 1996, his first defibrillator (also known as an ICD) was implanted in his chest.

"So, that was really the start of my journey," said Soloway.

Soloway's condition was managed by a team of specialists. He was still able to bike and conduct life tasks.



Bill Soloway rides a 56" standard high-wheel bicycle at the National Clustered Spires High Wheel Race.

Photo: Karen Finkelman

"I also took different kinds of heart medication. Then, things got progressively worse as I got closer to my heart transplant in 2013," Soloway added.

Prescribed medications and procedures that Soloway underwent became ineffective. He was then diagnosed with congestive heart failure and would need a heart transplant.

His 10-year heart anniversary was on June 17, 2015. James E. Zimmerman, Jr., a generous heart donor, gave Soloway a second chance at life. He was in the small percentage of organ recipients who found out who donated the organ to him, and Soloway had an opportunity to meet his donor's family members. Soloway penned a letter to the donor's parents, Jim and Charlotte Zimmerman. They elected to connect with him before Charlotte passed away. However, Soloway and Jim remain in touch.



(L-r): Jim Zimmerman (father of James E. Zimmerman, Jr., who was Bill Soloway's heart donor), and Bill Soloway, High Wheel Racer and 10-year heart transplant recipient.

Photo: Sara Marshall

"We actually do things. Jim's a part of my family," Soloway explained. "We get together throughout the year."

Jim continues to cheer on Soloway at bike races and supports things he does as an organ donation ambassador. Soloway's advocacy work for Donate Life also spans to their organ procurement partners. Donate Life Maryland (DLM), the state-authorized nonprofit organization, is responsible for managing the Maryland Donor Registry. DLM saves and enhances lives by registering organ, eye and tissue donors in Maryland. However, Infinite Legacy, the nonprofit organ procurement organization, facilitates organ, eye and tissue donation in Maryland and the Metro DC area.

A part of James Jr. lives in Soloway—a man who honors and respects his donor's legacy. Soloway rides a high-wheel bicycle as a hobby.

"No matter where I go or what I am doing, it also comes up that I am a heart transplant recipient," he added.

Soloway, a member of The Wheelman nonprofit organization, and the state captain for Pennsylvania



Bill Soloway's 10-year heart anniversary was on June 17, 2015.

Photo: Abby Wells

and New Jersey chapters, recently rode atop his high-wheel bike in a Donate Life biker's outfit. He participated in the National Clustered Spires High-Wheel Race on July 12, 2025. Jim Zimmerman attended the race.

"I've been in this [National Clustered Spires] High-Wheel Race in Frederick, Maryland for six years now. The race organizers allowed Infinite Legacy to set up a tent in honor of my tenth-year heart transplant anniversary. I had my bike on display when I was not racing. Infinite Legacy had organ donation trivia and prizes in the tent. People could sign up to become organ donors in Maryland," Soloway stated.

According to Donate Life America, more than 100,000 people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants. Donor Alliance reported that 59% of the adult Maryland population is registered as organ donors although around 40% are not registered.

"The name of the game is to get more people registered to become organ donors," Soloway concluded.

Please visit Donate Life Maryland via <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org> to learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation.



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² Tori Finch, MS, M Cabell Jonas, PhD, Kevin Rubenstein, Eric Watson, BA, Sundee Basra, MPH, Jose Martinez, BS, & Michael Horberg, MD, MAS, FACP (2021). Life Expectancy Trends Among Integrated Health Care System Enrollees, 2014-2017. *The Permanente Journal*, 25(4), 10-17. thepermanentejournal.org/doi/10.7812/TPP/20.286.

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2025 Maryland Cycling Classic Debuts Historic Course for Men's & Women's Races in Baltimore

An All-African Women's Race Team to Compete, Further Expanding International Baltimore's Reach

By Madison Lee

Special to The Baltimore Times

BALTIMORE, MD (July 29, 2025)

— The 2025 Maryland Cycling Classic is gearing up to be one of the most exciting sports events in Baltimore's recent history. Set for Saturday, September 6, 2025, the race will not only debut a brand-new 17.9-mile circuit entirely within Baltimore City but also mark the first time men's and women's professional races will be held on the same day — a momentous occasion— made even more significant by the participation of a groundbreaking all-women's team from Africa.

Accompanied by his wife, First Lady Hana Scott, Mayor Brandon Scott announced the course at a press conference on Wednesday, July 23.

"We're excited to welcome the Maryland Cycling Classic back to our city this September. This year's event is going to be better than ever, not only because it features a new women's race, but because the entire course is officially within Baltimore City limits. It's a special opportunity for folks here in Charm City to see free, world-class racing—and folks all around the world to see our beautiful city. I hope to see everybody out there cheering this fall," stated Mayor Scott.

Adding to the theme of diversity and inclusivity is the arrival of the all-women African team — a bold and inspiring milestone. The team, composed of elite riders from across the continent, embodies the spirit of unity, perseverance, and global sportsmanship.

"This is a significant cultural and athletic moment. To host an all-women's African cycling team on a course that is authentically Baltimore signals something far bigger than just a race. It's a symbol of inclusion, global respect,



Maize Wimbush - Maryland-Based Women's Cycling National Champion

Photo: JJ McQueen

and community celebration," said Kireem Swinton, Interim President and CEO of Visit Baltimore.

Promoting Baltimore's Beauty, Unity, and Community

Race Director Jim Birrell emphasized that the decision to move the race fully into the city was intentional. "Baltimore is a city of great neighborhoods. We wanted to highlight Baltimore's famous and beautiful waterfront while telling the story of the city's rich history. It's blending the old and new of one of America's most diverse cities."

"It's been a team effort working with the mayor's office, Baltimore Police, and city departments to bring this course to life," said Terry Haseltine, President of the Sport & Entertainment Corporation of Maryland. "We believe the new route and the addition of the women's race — especially welcoming an all-women African team — will open up a whole new level of engagement and excitement."

The inclusion of the African team also resonates deeply with Baltimore's own global identity and cultural heritage. Their participation brings international attention and a sense of pride to communities across the city and beyond.

Race Highlights: From Cobblestones to Climbs

The race opens with a bang through the 550-yard granite cobblestones of historic Fells Point — a section known to fracture race fields early. Riders will pass through the neighborhoods of Canton and Mount Vernon, glide by the 1829 Washington Monument, and charge into Patterson Park, one of America's oldest urban parks, before scaling the race's most decisive point, the climb near St. Mary's Seminary.

The final stretch down East Pratt Street—a fast, flat, 1,000-yard sprint—will bring the peloton back to the Harbor, where thousands of fans are expected to witness an electrifying finish.

Fan Engagement, Community Celebration, and People Power

The event organizers are focused not only on athletic excellence but also on community excitement. Several Fan Zones will be set up throughout the course — including Harbor Point, Thames Street, Patterson Park, Mount Vernon, and East Pratt — offering free cowbells, thunder sticks, and live big-screen coverage to pump up the crowd and support the athletes.

Another highlight of this year's event will be an expanded outreach and community celebration presented by Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic. The "In the Community 2025" program will engage area schools, businesses, and civic associations to bring the fun and excitement to people and spaces commonly overlooked by events of this nature. This effort will enable opportunities for greater appreciation of the economic and social impact the race will have on Baltimore's neighborhoods and the region by offering unique on-ramps for participation.

This year, as in 2023, the Maryland Cycling Classic will be supported by hundreds of volunteers. From corporate sponsors to community groups, from teens to older adults, people power will provide the energy that takes this event over the finish line. There are dozens of roles to be filled in a wide range of activities throughout race day and the weeks leading up to August 6, 2025. Volunteers are actively being recruited to lend a hand.

For full event details, maps, course profiles, and schedule updates, and volunteer opportunities, visit MarylandCyclingClassic.us.

Save the date: Sunday, August 3, 2025

Moon's Barbershop's Back to School Backpack Giveaway Returns to Annapolis

By Andrea Blackstone

Moon's Barbershop, located in Annapolis, Maryland, is more than a place where barbers cut hair. The business serves as a community hub and source of positivity. Kayla Adams, a parent of a four-year-old and 11-year-old, looks forward to attending Moon's Barbershop's Back to School Backpack Giveaway on Sunday, August 3, 2025. Moon's Barbershop is a small business known for lending a hand to families and students during a free event.

"Receiving backpacks and school supplies for my children has been a huge help for my family. It ensured that my children started the school year prepared and confident," Adams stated. "Moon's Barbershop and Team Moon have been around for years. I was once a recipient myself, and I remember attending this annual event with my parents for a day of fun to help me prepare for the upcoming school year."

Adams reminisced about the community event while recalling that she noticed the smiles on children's faces who engaged in various activities.

"It's also nice to see everyone coming together as a community so that the children know they have people they can go to," she added.

Moon's Barbershop has been in business since 2002. Colleen Moon and Edward Moon are Annapolis, Maryland residents who continue to support families before school doors open. Having a village-minded mentality, the couple promotes community volunteerism and investment in school-age young people. While attending the Back to School Backpack Giveaway, youth can select necessary school supplies to get their

school year started while having a little summer fun, food and drinks. There are no residency requirements for youth to receive items.

"The only requirement to receive a backpack is that the child must be present," said Colleen.

The owners of Moon's Barbershop will return to Wiley H. Bates Boys & Girls Club, located at 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis on Sunday, August 3, 2025 from noon to 3:00 p.m. to lead the Back to School Backpack Giveaway in partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County and TUWA Temple 228. Four thousand young people have been served through their previous back-to-school events, according to Colleen.

The children who attend the event receive more than just bookbags. "It places the child in the presence of many volunteers with the necessary resources as we build social connections and friendships. This also increases awareness in community engagement and allows the volunteers to see what else is needed in the community. This is more than just a one-day event for Team Moon; we are in local churches, Moon's Barbershop, and the community, engaging and building community resilience."

We have been doing the Back to School event since the summer of 2009. We started hosting the Barbershop location in the parking lot, but we soon outgrew the space in a few years. We are currently partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County and use their big field and parking lot. This larger space has allowed us to provide more activities for the children, such as pony rides; face painting; balloon twists; and a moon bounce."



Lisa Lindsay-Mondoro, chief executive officer of Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Colleen Moon, and Edward Moon.

Photos courtesy of Moon's Barbershop

Team Moon, a group of dedicated volunteers who give effortlessly of their time and connect with children and their families, join the Moons to make a difference and have fun, all while creating a bond with the youngsters to build a stronger community.

"We are always open to receiving more volunteers and sponsors. Our backpack giveaway requires a lot of resources and all hands-on deck," said Colleen.

She further stated that sponsorship donations were received from Team Moon members, TUWA Temple 228, and many other organizations that wish to assist the community children and collaborate to support the annual event.

Colleen and Edward Moon, in addition to Team Moon, lend a helping hand as a labor of love.

"I can't thank Moon's Barbershop for all they have done in the past, and



Mel Brown and Zina Thomas run a raffle prize giveaway during a Moon's Barbershop Back to School Backpack event. Moon's Barbershop's 2025 Back to School Backpack Giveaway will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2025, at the Wiley H. Bates Boys & Girls Club, located at 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis, Maryland from noon- 3 p.m.



Colleen Moon with her grandson, Edward S. Moon Jr. at Moon's Barbershop's 2024 Back to School Backpack Giveaway.

for all of the things they will continue to do, seen and unseen, for our community," said Adams.

Fun Before Summer is Done

Free 2025 Back-to-School Events in and Around Baltimore

Compiled by **Andrea Blackstone**

Before school doors open soon, parents and guardians may want to take students to back-to-school events. Free community events offer chances to save on back-to-school items and have fun spending time with family and friends. Below is a list of Baltimore area events. Check details to confirm times, addresses, and attendance requirements. Many events are first-come, first-served. Registration may be required for some events.

Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., 35 Market Pl, Maryland 21202
Set Sail for School

Embark on an unforgettable voyage at Port Discovery for the annual back-to-school event. Come get school supplies and resources. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family. Read more here: <https://allevents.in/baltimore/set-sail-for-school/200028477298311>.

Saturday, August 9 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Back to School Festival at New Creation Christian Church, 5401 Frankford Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland

Kick off the new school year with fun activities, games, and a special message for students. See

<https://happeningnext.com/event/back-to-school-festival-eid3a0cmm0krd>.

Hug Don't Shoot & Focus Movers 8th Anniversary Back-to-School Giveaway & Teen Summit

Saturday, August 9, 2025 from 2-6 p.m., located at Langston Hughes Resource Center, 5011 Arbutus Avenue.

Friday, August 15, 2025 from 2 - 6 p.m.
Back to School Event 2025, Bon Secours Community Resource Center, 31 South Payson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21223

Receive free backpacks and school

supplies while they last. Receive fresh hair cuts for the new school year. Enjoy cotton candy, popcorn, hot dogs, burgers, snowballs, snacks, a moon bounce and face painting for the kids. A video game party truck will be available along with DJ Co spinning tracks. See: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bon-secours-annual-back-to-school-event-tickets-1395129292269?aff=ebdssbdests>

Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 12:00- 2 p.m.

SRAFC Back to School Bash, Solid Rock Apostolic Faith Church, 523 N. Schroeder Street, Maryland 21223

School bags, arts, crafts and more. Visit <https://allevents.in/baltimore/srafc-back-to-school-bash/200028531868154>.

Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Free Giveaways (Community Outreach) Arised Nation, Crescent Road, 15 Crescent Road Greenbelt, MD 20770

Free school supplies, groceries and essential food items, clothing and shoes and more. This is a free event, but RSVP is required. See <https://allevents.in/greenbelt/free-giveaways-community-outreach-tickets/8000186521704>.

Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
St. Marks Institutional Baptist Church | Baltimore, Maryland

Community Fair

Enjoy games, food, music, connect with your neighbors for a day filled with fun, games, and family excitement. Face painting, games, rides, food, a marching band, back to school giveaways, and more. For more information, call 410-233-6566.

<https://happeningnext.com/event/community-fair-eid1ef0c21rmejr>

Saturday, August 16, 2025, 12:30- 4:30 p.m.

Youth Revival (Back to School)



5301 Harford Rd | Baltimore, Maryland

Prepare to kick off the new school year! Ignite your faith and passion to experience spiritual rejuvenation. Tgbtg Youth Ministry is hosting a back-to-school youth revival filled with a powerful word from the Lord. Following fellowship, food and bookbags will be distributed to children in attendance. Visit <https://happeningnext.com/event/youth-revival-back-to-school-eid1ef0992wqdsr> for details.

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Back to School Kickoff 2025 War Memorial Plaza at City Hall, 100 Holiday Street, Baltimore, Maryland

The Mayor's Back to School Kickoff 2025 offers a fun and free family event. This annual celebration brings together families from across Baltimore City. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious local foods, and a variety of community resources. Students get school supplies and backpacks. Families can also

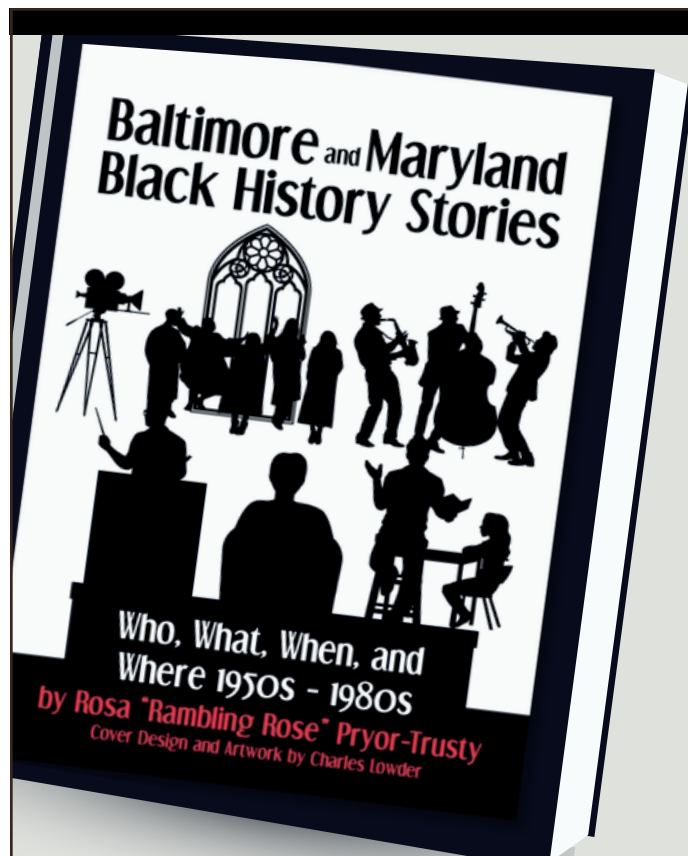


receive resources on-site such as utility, rental, case management assistance, and more. Visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/B2SEvent/> for more information.

Saturday, August 23, 2025, 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Back to School Backpack Giveaway, 7477 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Glen Burnie, Maryland

August Rose Health Center will give away backpacks with supplies for students, plus parent giveaways, music, and Italian Ice while supplies last. See: <https://allevents.in/glen-burnie/back-to-school-backpack-giveaway/100001510869103159>.



**ON SALE
NOW**

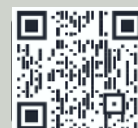
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more - from the 1950's - 1980's

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(JEWELRY, FURNITURE, HOME DECOR, FRAMED ART)
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**1104 W. 36TH ST.
BALTIMORE, MD 21211**



Rambling Rose



By Rosa Pryor

Okay, my friends, this should keep you busy for a while. I would like to see my senior citizens out as well, enjoying themselves. Get out of your building and have fun. I have to go now. I will see you somewhere with my new book. If you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Enjoy the Rest of the Summer with Free Concerts for Family and Friends

Remember to take your lawn chairs and blankets



Summer Concerts at Foundry Row at 10100 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, Maryland. Open to the public every Thursday now through August 14, 2025, 6:30-8 p.m. Take your folding chairs and enjoy live performances from top local bands.



Matinee @ The Royal, outdoor concert presented by the Avenue Bakery, located at 2229 Pennsylvania Avenue and Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor on Saturday, August 2 and Saturday, September 6 from 4-7 p.m. Free, BYOB, food on sale. Bring your folding chairs.



The 3rd Annual Afro Soul Festival in Owings Mills is a Celebration of African, Caribbean, and African American culture through music, art, and food. Bring your tents, your lawn chairs on Saturday, August 2, 12 to 6 p.m. at 11202 Garrison Forest Road in Owings Mills. Hostess April Watts.



Wilson Lambert, Blue Philly Magic show and concert on Saturday, August 10 at West Goshen Park at the intersection of N. Five Point & Fern Hill Road in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Free to the public. Bring your own lawn chairs.



Florine "Peaches" Camphor and Victor Green will be at the Coppin State University Summer Concerts, Thursday, August 21, 6 p.m.



Thousands of local folks support the Coppin State University Summer Concerts. Bring your lawn chairs and drinks on Thursday, August 21 at 6 p.m. Food trucks and vendors will be located at the south quad, (between STC & HHSB) 2500 W. North Avenue.



Ruth M. Kirk Family Fun Festival will be held on Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3, from 12-8 p.m. at Franklin Square Park, 1400 W. Lexington Street. Live entertainment, good food vendors, special games and activities. Take your folding chairs. Free and open to the public.



Taste of North West celebrates Northwest Baltimore as a wonderful place to live, work and play on August 10 at the Pikesville Armory from 2-7 p.m., located at 610 Reisterstown Road in Pikesville, Maryland. It celebrates culture, food, families, and fashion from Park Circle to Pikesville. Free entry and activities. Local food and crafts for purchase. Live entertainment by 8 Ohms Band.

CREATIVELY BLACK

BALTIMORE

Show & Tell SUZETTE ROYSTER

Join us for a captivating presentation showcasing significant works from the artist's portfolio. Discover the intriguing backstory behind their creative process as they share insights and inspirations.



Suzette Royster
Artist



Sunday, August 3
1 PM-2 PM



301 Light Street
Light Street Pavilion, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Show & Tell KAYLEE DARYL

Join us for a captivating presentation showcasing significant works from the artist's portfolio. Discover the intriguing backstory behind their creative process as they share insights and inspirations.



KayLee Daryl
Artist



Sunday, August 3
2 PM-3 PM



301 Light Street
Light Street Pavilion, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Show & Tell YEMONJA SMALLS

Join us for a captivating presentation showcasing significant works from the artist's portfolio. Discover the intriguing backstory behind their creative process as they share insights and inspirations.



Yemonja Smalls
Artist, Author



Saturday, August 2
2 PM-3 PM



301 Light Street
Light Street Pavilion, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Show & Tell TIFFANI SAHARA

Join us for a captivating presentation showcasing significant works from the artist's portfolio. Discover the intriguing backstory behind their creative process as they share insights and inspirations.



Tiffani Sahara
Artist



Saturday, August 2
1 PM-2 PM



301 Light Street
Light Street Pavilion, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Battle Stage Plays Presents A New Gospel Stage Play

Ursula V. Battle's

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES OF THE BIBLE: The OLD, The **Bold**, & The *Beautiful*



FEATURING
D'Atra Hicks

Sat. Aug. 23, 2025; 12 pm & 5 pm
Sun. Aug. 24, 2025; 4 pm

Huber Community LifeCenter

5700 Loch Raven Blvd., Balt., MD 21239
(free parking)

\$25 General Seating (\$30 after Aug. 17th)

\$50 VIP:

(\$60 after Aug. 17th)

VIPTICKET PERKS: PRIORITY ENTRY & PREFERRED SEATING, EARLY ACCESS (30 MINS. BEFORE SHOW), SKIP TICKET LINE, PHOTOS WITH HEADLINER & PLAYWRIGHT, AUTOGRAPHED SHOWBILL & GIFT BAG



Letricia Loftin

Cast also includes

For more information and to purchase tickets:
443-531-4787 | 443-531-5839

www.battlestageplays.com

This show is RATED PG-13. Parental Discretion Advised!



Randy Roberts

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the construction of a portion of the sanitary sewerage facilities for Phase 4 of the Southern Kent Island service area (consisting of the subdivisions of Chesapeake Estates, Sunny Isle of Kent, Matapeake Estates as well as the community of Batts neck/Normans), Queen Anne's County, Maryland will be received from qualified bidders by the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County at the Queen Anne's County Sanitary District, 310 Bateau Drive, Stevensville, Maryland 21666 until 10:00 a.m. local time on **August 26, 2025** at which time they will be opened publicly and read aloud.

This phase is the final of four phases in a failing septic system abatement project which will consist of two construction contracts:

Contract SAN 24-01 – Septic Tank Effluent Pump Installation
Contract SAN 24-02 – Community Sewer Main Installation

The work of this contract, Contract No. SAN 24-01, consists of the installation of approximately 211 Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) assemblies on private property to service existing homes (and a church). **Each property is unique with its own constraints and challenges, the cost of which to address is to be included in the price bid. Bidders are encouraged to review all available information in order to adequately price in the efforts to address these constraints and challenges in their bid.**

Specifically included is the installation of new 1500-gallon concrete tanks, high-head STEP assemblies, electrical work to power the STEP assemblies from the existing homes' electric meter, plumbing work to intercept the existing homes' sewer lateral to the existing septic system and to connect the existing homes to the new STEP assemblies, abandonment of the existing septic tanks, and full restoration of the yards post installation.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained beginning **July 21, 2025**. Contract Documents will be available at no cost in electronic format (only in .pdf format) on Maryland's Ebid Marketplace and on the County Web Site at: <https://emma.maryland.gov/page.aspx/en/usr/login?ReturnUrl=%2fpage.aspx%2fen%2f>

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[buy%2fhomepage
http://qac.org/Bids.aspx](http://buy%2fhomepagehttp://qac.org/Bids.aspx)

Any Addenda issued shall be issued via electronic posting on the ebidmarketplace.com and Queen Anne's County Procurement websites (see links listed above). **However, it is the Bidders responsibility to ensure receipt of all addenda.**

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Southern Kent Island Sanitary Project Office – 9410 Romancoke Road, Stevensville Maryland at 9:00 a.m. local time on August 12th.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with:

1. The President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended by Executive Order 11375. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the Contract Documents.
2. The facilities to be constructed under this Invitation to Bid will include funds from the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund and may include funds from the Maryland Bay Restoration Fund. Bidders will be required to comply with Federal and State requirements pertaining to minority business enterprise and women's business enterprise.
3. The Davis Bacon Act labor standards provisions are applicable to this contract.
4. Use of American Iron and Steel provisions are applicable to this contract.
5. The successful bidder will be required to place both a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract price, and a Maintenance Bond in the amount of 5% of the contract price.

Each Bidder must submit a bid security of five (5) percent with his bid, in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. Bids to remain open for 120 days. No bidder may withdraw his bid within one hundred twenty (120) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

The Owner reserves the right, in the exercise of its sole judgment, to reject any or all Bids, and to re-advertise and award the Contract in the regular manner, or to waive

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any informalities, irregularities, mistakes, errors or omissions in any Bid received and to accept any Bid deemed to be responsive to this invitation and favorable to the interests of the County.

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County CERTIFICATION

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NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for: Queen Anne County, Southern Kent Island Sanitary Project, Phase 4, Septic Tank Effluent Pump Installation. Prevailing wages apply. Bids due in our office 8/21/25. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Excavation, Pipe-laying, Tank Installations, Septic Hauling, Plumbing, Electrical, Pipe, Aggregates, Precast and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709. For more information/ email quotes to: schummerinc@aol.com

Employment

UPS General Services, Co. has the following jobs available in Timonium, MD.
Telecommuting an option:

Sr. Software Development Engineer (req.# 23-137577): Provide input & support for & performs full systems life cycle management activities (e.g., analyses, technical requirements, dsgn, coding, testing, implementation of systems & apps sftwr, production support, etc.). **Up to 60% travel to UPS offices may be required.** Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$151,840 - \$174,616 per annum & standard company benefits.

Sr. Software Development Engineer (req.# 23-145144): Dsgn, dvlp, maintain, test & evaluate Native Mobile apps that provide business capabilities, solutions and/or product suites. **Some travel to UPS offices may be required.** Req's: MS(or equiv.)+2 yrs. exp. Salary: \$124,738 - \$143,034 per annum & standard company benefits.

Submit resume w/ ref. to: (req.#) at: ATTN: UPS, [UPSONLINEJOBPOSTINGS@ups.com](https://www.ups.com/onlinejobpostings).

Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation to Host Annual Celebratory Fundraiser

Event Will Feature Local Best-Selling Author Brigid Kemmerer

(July 21, 2025 – Annapolis, MD) Officials from the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) Foundation announced that tickets are now on sale for their annual fundraising celebration, "For the Love of the Library," set for Friday, September 19 from 6 to 9 pm at the Michel E. Busch Annapolis Library. This event raises vital funds to help our library system continue to be a community connector that fosters life-long learning for all.

The cocktail-style event will feature special guest and local author Brigid Kemmerer, catering by The Palate Pleasers, libations, immersive library-themed activities, a wine and whiskey pull and an auction of unique experiences. Early bird tickets are \$100 and are available through September 8. After this date, ticket prices go up to \$125. Corporate partnership opportunities are also available that offer a range of benefits. Four partnership levels are available: Gold - \$5,000, Silver - \$2,500 and Bronze - \$1,000. Benefits range from a feature in AACPL's quarterly publication, "Library Happenings," to recognition at all our operating branches.

The Anne Arundel County Public Library Foundation's 2024 For the Love of the Library fundraiser raised more than \$150,000 to support the library's greatest needs, including critical programs like kindergarten readiness, teen programming and lifelong learning for adults. This marks an increase over the 2023 event, which raised \$143,000 to enhance a wide range of library programs and services that benefit the entire community.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

www.aacpl.net/foundation/love-of-the-library.

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Learn how to play within your limits at mdlottery.com/playresponsibly.
For help, call 1-800-GAMBLER. Must be 18 years or older to play.