

It Takes a Village to Raise a Brown Girl



Over 100 young women from Baltimore converged upon the Inner Harbor's Four Seasons Hotel on Saturday, May 21, 2016 to attend the Brown Girl Village Retreat (BGV). Sharon Page, and BGV co-founders Shelonda Stokes, and Michelle Huff believe that the village approach to raising children still works and has put the old adage to action with the development of the Brown Girls Village Retreat, an initiative that aims to empower young women of color to serve, innovate and lead. Singer, songwriter and actress China McCain of Tyler Perry's *House of Pain* and Disney Channel's *"Ant Farm;"* singer and R&B Diva Brave Williams; and Cyrene Tankard of Bravo's *"Thicker than Water"* television show were the featured guests. (See article on page 10)

Courtesy Photo/Brown Girl Village

Young entrepreneur 'sneakin' his way up ladder of success

By Ursula V. Battle

Chase Reed, 18, recalled when he borrowed money from his father and handed over a pair of his tennis shoes.

"I have always loved tennis," said Reed. "I needed to borrow some money from my father, and gave him a pair of my tennis shoes. The tennis shoes were an incentive for me to pay the money back so I could get my sneakers back. At the time, we were working on opening up a sneaker store, and thinking about unique ideas and names that would make it different."

He added, "We were watching a program on television one day about pawn shops. We said, 'we should open up a sneaker pawn shop.'"

Thus Sneaker Pawn was born. Sneaker Pawn is located at 292 Lenox Avenue (125th Street) in New York, NY. Reed, and his father Troy Reed run the store, which he says is the first sneaker pawnshop in the world to his knowledge. Sneaker Pawn buys and sells new and used sneakers, consigns and pawns sneakers.

Their stock includes exclusive new releases, limited edition and retro sneakers.

The father and son opened the store in 2014. At the time, the younger Reed was just 16.

"We sell brand new and used tennis," said Reed. "Not too many stores sell used tennis shoes. A pair of \$ 600 tennis shoes can be sold for \$160 just because they are used. We also buy a lot of tennis shoes, so we can sell a brand new tennis shoe valued at \$600 for about \$300. We are one of few stores that actually buy sneakers and pay cash for brand new and used tennis."

He added, "We try to give people as many options as possible whether they need money and want to sell their sneakers, or want to buy sneakers. Business has been good. When I think back on when we started, things happened very fast. We were able to do this in less than two years."

Reed is a native New Yorker and just turned 18 in February. He has been featured in numerous publications including The New York Post, Kids Sports



Chase Reed, 18 of Sneaker Pawn located in New York City. Reed says Sneaker Pawn is the only store of its kind in the world.

Courtesy Photo

Illustrated online; The Root, Dime, Sportswear International and Source magazines. He has appeared on CBS World News; Bloomberg TV; CNBC; Teen Nick; and The Steve Harvey Show.

"A variety of different people come to Sneaker Pawn to purchase tennis," said Reed. "A lot of tourists who saw me on The Steve Harvey Show also come here to buy tennis. We also attract people from all over New York of every generation, every race, and all ages looking for all kinds of tennis shoes. Some want retro styles [and] others want new styles.

Some people come in wanting to buy the updated version of their sneakers."

Reed is the recipient of the Black Wall Street award and recently was listed on Forbes' 2015 '30 under 30' and Crain's '20 under 20.' As an ambitious, young entrepreneur and trendsetter, he continues to explore new opportunities to expand his brand globally in the sneaker and fashion industries. He shared this advice to aspiring entrepreneurs.

"You have to be consistent, and do something that you like doing. If you don't like doing something, you're not going to put forth as much effort. I also advise people to open doors of opportunity. You never know what doors will open for the next opportunity. We did a media interview, and that opportunity turned into a hundred other interviews. Take all opportunities that are positive and will benefit you."

Reed shared his future plans.

"Right now, we are working on opening another store and launching an online store," he said. "I want to be as successful as possible and to own as much as possible. I also want to supply jobs and employ as many people as possible. Right now, we employ about 10 people, but I would like to see that turn into 1,000 people and then 10,000 people in New York, and all across the country. I want to supply jobs, and a way for people to like what they are doing."

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Bernie and Donald two sides of same angry, white coin

By Julianne Malveaux, NNPA News Wire Columnist

For all their dueling ideologies, Senator Bernie Sanders and “presumptive Republican nominee” Donald Trump are two sides of the same coin. Both of them are angry, so intensely so, that they are inciting a destructive anger among their followers. When Republicans brawled and pushed and shoved at Trump rallies, I never anticipated the flip side—the fisticuffs and rhetoric at the Nevada state Democratic convention, the likes of which might have put Trump terrorists to shame. Both the Chump Trumps and the Burning Bernies are being led by whining, angry, entitled white men, separated by ideology, but joined by both outrage and naiveté.

I don’t think either Bernie or “Duh” Donald planned to get as far along in the presidential process as they have so far. Senator Sanders proudly carries the redistributionist flag with rousing rhetoric about social and economic justice. His agenda seems to have been to raise these issues aggressively and he did. His presence in the campaign pushed Hillary hard to the left and made her engage with constituencies she might otherwise have ignored. For all his success, I don’t think Sanders expected to have more than 1500 delegates to his credit. And now that he has them he doesn’t know what to do with them. Both he and “Duh” Donald are publicly floundering, signaling that they never had a winning, or graceful losing, plan.

Secretary Clinton and her followers shouldn’t be so hard on Bernie, though. While they should not demand that he get out of the race, he is well advised to tone is rhetoric down. I sat with women at the 2008 campaign who sobbed their way through then-Senator Clinton’s concession speech and appeal for party unity. I debated a PUMA (Party Unity My “Hind Parts”) activist who swore she would not support nominee Obama. In 2008, Hillary devotees were as passionate as Bernie devotees are now. The kumbayaa moment comes in July in Philly, not just yet. It reflects poorly on the Hillary camp to dismiss or ignore those who are passionate about Senator Sanders.

At the same time, it is important to note that extreme anger is a unique privilege of white men. Imagine then-nominee Obama raging at Hillary in the way that Bernie has. His temperament would have been sliced and diced and parsed and inspected and he would have been so damaged by the conversation that it might have affected his electoral results. If Secretary Clinton ever managed to get her voice to Bernie’s decibel or if she ever managed to project such rage, she would be written off as a crazy lady and peripheralized. However when the angry, white men yell and scream and whine and lie, they are celebrated not condemned. That sounds like a double standard to me.

Both Bernie and “Duh” Donald are whining about rules they say are rigged against them, but the rules may have favored them. Donald Trump has garnered a greater percentage of delegates than votes because of the way some states have chosen to award delegates. He wants more, but he failed to invest as much time learning the rules as some of his competitors did. Senator Sanders says he should have more delegates, but if he had to play under republican rules, he’d have fewer. Democrats are more likely to award delegates on a proportional basis, which means that a close race might give each candidate nearly the same amount of delegates. Sanders, has no standing to call the system rigged. He has kept his distance from the Democratic Party for most of his career, never participating in the rules process. If he wanted to write his own rules, he should have run for president as an independent.

Sanders and Trump have positioned themselves as outsiders, but they want insiders to roll out the red carpet for them, because they jumped into a game they haven’t mastered. They haven’t worked at establishing a foundation, but they are demanding the keys to the house. They aren’t willing to put the work into reforming our flawed, two-party system. Instead, they are finding unfairness when none is there, whining when work might make a difference, and leveraging their angry, white maleness into voter approval.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C.

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Community Affairs

Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program’s medicines list expands to help more clients

Baltimore— The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau is expanding the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program (MADAP) formulary to include medications for hepatitis C. This action enables MADAP clients to access treatments known to cure hepatitis C in as little as 12-24 weeks.

“We are pleased to be able to include medications to the list of treatments available to Maryland residents co-infected with HIV and HCV who are enrolled in our MADAP program,” said Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services Dr. Howard Haft.

Hepatitis C medications added to the formulary as of April 2016 include Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir), Viekira Pak, Sovaldi (sofosbuvir), Ribavirin and Zepatier. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 25 percent of people living with HIV are

co-infected with HCV. Co-infection of HIV and HCV increases the risk for liver disease, liver failure and liver-related death.

“The Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau is committed to working to ensure that Marylanders co-infected with HIV and HCV have access to medications that enable them to prevent life-threatening complications,” said Bureau Director Jeffrey Hitt. Marylanders with HIV are encouraged to call 410-767-6535 or 1-800-205-6308 to learn more about the MADAP Program.

The department urges baby boomers—persons between 1945 through 1965—to get an HCV test. Although anyone can contract HCV, 75 percent of adults infected with the virus are baby boomers. Health and Mental Hygiene’s Maryland Community-Based Programs to Test and Cure Hepatitis C, a CDC-sponsored initiative, is a collaboration between public health, primary care and specialty care to provide access to quality HCV screening and treatment.

For the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program (MADAP) Formulary, visit: <http://goo.gl/tDUzkz>.

Veterans, military families most at-risk for deceptive debt collectors

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA News Wire Columnist

When it comes to consumer concerns, debt collection remains the top complaint most often reported to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Two newly released CFPB reports reveal which consumers are most at risk and the businesses most often identified in debt collection issues.

As of March 1, CFPB found that California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Texas account for more than 40 percent of all complaints received since July 2011. Further, in Florida, nearly 60 percent of the state's entire complaints came from just three metro areas—Miami, Orlando and Tampa Bay.

Still, military members and their families remain the most at-risk in debt collections, even when compared to the general population. Among all complaints received from the military community, debt collection represents almost half—46 percent—of all military complaints filed. By comparison, all debt collection complaints CFPB received

during the reporting period amounted to approximately 26 percent.

Mortgage complaints from military families, was the second ranked lending issue, at 15 percent. Service members returning home from deployment or to temporary duty stations also frequently reported fraudulent activity on their credit report and/or identity theft.

San Diego-based Encore Capital Group and Portfolio Recovery Associates

Commenting on the disproportionate number of military complaints with debt collections, Holly Petraeus, Assistant Director for CFPB's Office of Service Member Affairs said, "While this could be due to a variety of factors, one issue which we have highlighted in the past is the concern that unpaid debts can threaten a military career. Because of this, we encourage all service members to diligently check their credit reports

or credit \$2.28 million to service members and other consumers who were harmed by the firm. In addition, SNAAC was also assessed a \$1 million penalty, and ordered in a separate district court action to stop using aggressive tactics to coerce service members into making payments.

Though fewer in number but perhaps with higher financial stakes, mortgage complaints by veterans and military members are another major concern. Disabled veterans, for example, have been charged a funding fee associated with the Veterans Administration (VA) Home Loan program—even though they are exempted from paying the fee that can range from 1.25 percent to over three percent of the total home loan.

Once such disabled veterans wrote CFPB, "As a 100 percent disabled US combat veteran, I am informed by VA that the terms of my VA mortgage entitle me to a refund of the funding fee the mortgage provider received when I took out the loan... Now [company], despite numerous phone calls and requests for update, as well as an in-person meeting and referrals to VA contacts, has not returned this funding fee to me. I need help with [this company] which [is] in my view taking money from veterans in order to further their own gains."

Anyone needing assistance to resolve problems with a financial service or product can file an online complaint with CFPB at: <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/>.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. Crowell can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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(PRA) Group based in Virginia are two of the largest debt collectors in the country have been identified the most often in CFPB's complaints. Each firm averaged over 100 complaints per month to the Bureau from October through December 2015.

Last fall, CFPB also took respective enforcement actions against the firms for their deceptive tactics involving both debt buying and debt collection. PRA was assessed an \$8 million fine, ordered to refund \$19 million to consumers and to stop collection efforts on other debts valued at \$3 million. Similarly, Encore Capital was ordered to stop collection efforts on \$125 million in debts, refund consumers \$19 million and pay a \$10 million fine.

and proactively protect their credit files while they are away from home."

The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 makes it illegal for businesses to:

- Contact service members' commanding officers regarding unpaid debt;
- Disclose service members' debts to commanding officers; or
- Characterize debt delinquencies as military violations subject to service members' disciplinary actions.

Despite these legal protections, egregious problems persist. CFPB has brought actions over the past year against businesses that continue to violate its rules. For example, the Ohio-based auto lender, Security National Automotive Acceptance Company (SNAAC) was ordered in 2015 to refund

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Edmondson-Westside High School Holds 'College Decision Day'

By Ursula V. Battle

College bound seniors and their chosen schools highlighted

College bound Edmondson-Westside High School seniors had the opportunity to showcase their higher education choices during 'College Decision Day,' a special program held at the school on Monday, May 23, 2016. Principal Muriel Cole-Webber was joined by Congressman Elijah Cummings, members of the school's faculty, college representatives, 92Q FM, the Baltimore City Health Department, and hundreds of the school's freshman, sophomores, and juniors.

The seniors proudly held signs, which included Bowie State University, Coppin State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State University, and Arundel Community College. This is the first year for the event, which took place in the school's gymnasium. Edmondson-Westside High School is located at 501 N. Athol Avenue.

"The goal of the event was to really showcase the graduating seniors' college choices, and to encourage the other grade levels to get excited about making their college choices, said Principal Cole-Webber, who is an alumnus of Morgan State University.

During the program, each of the participating seniors took photos with a representative from their chosen school, along with Cole-Webber and other Edmondson-Westside High School staff. The students also received a 'care package,' which included school supplies, snacks, toiletries, and other items.

"We have approximately 128 students who have committed to a school," said Cole-Webber. "We wanted to put together something memorable for them."



Congressman Elijah Cummings (center back row); Edmondson Westside High School principal Muriel Cole-Webber, Delanee-Alexis Coley, a sophomore at North Carolina A&T, Phyllis Coley, counselor, Edmondson Westside High School (center second row); Edmondson-Westside High School seniors, and other representatives during 'College Decision Day,' which was held on Monday, May 23, 2016. One hundred and twenty-eight students have committed to a school to date.

Photo by Ursula V. Battle

The day of the event fell on the same day that Officer Edward Nero was acquitted of all charges in the 2015 death of Freddie Gray.

"This program is an opportunity to show the city and the state that Baltimore City has a lot of positive things going on," said Principal Cole-Webber. "A lot of focus has been put on the Nero trial and Freddie Gray, but Baltimore City is not about that one negative thing. If we spend more time investing in the schools, and the students, we can get away from the negative. We have to uplift our kids, and our mindset has to always be that they are our future."

Principal Cole-Webber also highlighted the accomplishments of

Edmondson-Westside High School Valedictorian Shawn Barnes, who will be attending Hood College, and Salutatorian, Marvin Watts who will be attending Susquehanna University.

"Many times the females are highlighted for their academic achievements," she said. "But this year, we have two males who are graduating with the top honors."

The busy day included lunch, and workshop sessions. Topics included: Healthy Me & Making Healthy Decisions for Your Body, conducted by Stacey Dennis of the Baltimore City Health Department. The workshops also included Collegiate Life 101: The Real Deal presented by Pure Potential Enter-

prises' 'Collegiate Dream Team.' Pure Potential Enterprises is a nonprofit organization made up of three divisions: Clear Vision, Le Pearls, and Collegiate and Career Counseling. The organization was founded by Phyllis Coley, a counselor at Edmondson-Westside High School.

"This event is all about sowing seeds into the next generation of greatness," said Coley, noting that 90 percent of the students are first-generation college students. "This event provided them with an opportunity to tell the world they have made their college decision, and to showcase the next chapter in their lives. This was a great event."

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A photograph of a man and a young boy hugging on a couch. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and the boy is on the right, wearing a grey and orange striped shirt. They are both looking down and smiling. The couch is a textured, light-colored fabric. In the top right corner, there is a red square with the text "WELLS FARGO" in yellow.

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Bon Secours Launches Re-Entry Program

By Stacy M. Brown

The transition from inmate back into the community can be tough on the ex-offender, families and the neighborhood itself.

With 458 individuals from the Sandtown-Winchester Harlem Park neighborhood of West Baltimore currently serving time and accounting for one of the highest incarceration rates in Baltimore, officials at Bon Secours Baltimore Health System decided to spring into action and become proactive in helping the transition.

The health organization, which assists the West Baltimore Community with a comprehensive array of services that include a 72-bed acute care hospital and comprehensive behavioral health care, has launched a re-entry program for returning citizens to that area of Charm City.

“The division of corrections releases approximately 9,000 inmates annually from their system who return to Baltimore City. After statistics revealed this incredible number of ex-offenders returning home, we learned that 59 percent return to the city and, more specifically, 30 percent of those return to just six zip codes which surround Bon Secours Community Works and the hospital,” said Anees Abdul-Rahim, Bon Secours Community Works Re-entry Coordinator. “Therefore, it just makes sense to have programs in place to assist this population with their reintegration back into society. Something had to be done and Bon Secours stepped up.”

Funded by the Bon Secours Health System Mission Fund, the Bon Secours Community Works “Re-Entry Success” program is a 12-week training course that addresses the challenges of reintegration and teaches various life skills in what officials said takes place in a positive, collaborative environment.

The program emphasizes character building to ensure participants are ready to fully integrate back into society.

“Our executive director, Talib Horne, CEO Dr. Sam Ross and his staff at the hospital are all committed to the success of the program,” Abdul-Rahim said.



Bon Secours Baltimore Health System recently launched a re-entry program, “Re-Entry Success” for returning citizens to West Baltimore. The 12-week training course addresses the challenges of reintegration and teaches an array of life skills in a positive, collaborative environment using the evidenced-based TYRO model created by The Ridge Project in Ohio. (Left to right) Herman Cooper (Mentor); Anees Abdul-Rahim (Program Manager-TYRO); Steven Khasif (TYRO graduate); Anthony Abdul-Wali (TYRO graduate); Anwar Muhammad (TYRO graduate); and Delvin Fuller (TYRO Graduate).

Courtesy Photo/Bon Secours

Following the 12-week training, graduates receive a year of comprehensive follow-up services by the Career Development Program team that include individual, personalized coaching for motivation; help with real-life issues and tasks like transportation, child care and support, mental health and substance abuse concerns; mentoring; peer support; and job placement assistance.

The program also offers certification and occupational training for careers such as construction and urban landscaping.

Traditional education classes such as GED classes, community college courses, online classes in our computer lab with reading and math tutoring are also offered.

Additionally, services such as housing assistance, credit repair, childcare, tax

preparation, parenting classes and expungement assistance are available for program participants through the Community Works program.

“As an ex-offender, who was released in 1989 after serving a lengthy sentence, I did not have services to assist me with integrating back into society,” Abdul-Rahim said. “Ironically, as the two attached letters from division commissioner will bear witness, I had more support on the inside, than what was available upon returning to my community and it was hard for me. However, I forged ahead and I persevered. I made a determination to help others coming behind me.”

To be accepted into the program, an individual should simply call Bon Secours and make an appointment. No one is turned away because of the crime

they’ve committed and the requirement is that participants must have a willingness to change their lives, according to Abdul-Rahim.

“The most important thing they should know is incarceration affects you very deeply emotionally and psychologically. Institutionalization during the prison experience that hinders the progress of imprisonment long past their release from prison,” he said. “Without the help of professionals who really understand its impact on the offender and his family, there is very little hope for success. There are many well-meaning folks who desire to help; they just do not know how to help.”

For more information about the program, visit <http://baltimore.bonsecours.com/community-works-career-development.html>.



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It Takes A Village to Raise a Brown Girl

By Tiffany Mason

So many girls of color live in fear of their own beauty and potential because of the labels and limitations society imposes upon them. From social media posts of cat fights gone viral to “Love & Hip Hop’s” glorification of silicon injections to attract men and success, brown girls are encouraged--even expected-- to be any and everyone except for who they are.

Having struggled with insecurities about her skin tone growing up, Sharon Page, founder of the Brown Girl Village (BGV) movement, understands how self-hatred gone unchecked can defer dreams and dim hope for the future. She also understands that a little exposure can change the way a girls sees herself and the world.

“I was a little brown girl, but my mother exposed me to things like theater, ballet, traveling and the opera when I was younger, and that exposure just opened my eyes to all the possibilities of who I could be and where I could go,” said Page, a Turner Station native. “But, I realized that a lot of inner city girls are not awarded the same experiences as I had when I grew up because they lack the economic resources to take advantage of opportunities that may help them find their purpose in life.”

Given all that has transpired in Charm City this past year, Page, and BGV co-founders Shelonda Stokes, and Michelle Huff believe that the village approach to raising children still works and has put the old adage to action with the development of the Brown Girls Village Retreat, an initiative that aims to empower young women of color to serve, innovate and lead.

Over 100 young women from all corners of the “Charmed City” converged upon the Inner Harbor’s Four Seasons Hotel on Saturday, May 21, 2016 for a day of empowerment, education, and girl talk with a host of seasoned black women who have met with success because of their courage to walk courageously in their brownness with no apologies.

“I think African American women are just so incredibly fly. I like that we can



Baltimore's own R & B artist Brave Williams and Bravo Television's Cyrene Tankard were just two of the many speakers at the Brown Girls Village event. The two women can be seen here pictured with some of the young ladies that attended the event that was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Harbor East on May 21, 2016.
Photo: Renita Clarke

be who we want to be at any time,” Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake shared with attendees during a segment entitled “Used To Be You.”

“We can dress down and be fly. We can dress up and be fly. I just feel like as an African American woman we are the ultimate and the most fabulous chameleons. And I think it’s silly when [females] want to tear each other down when we can learn so much from one another. Instead of looking for ways to bring others down, we should look for ways to build ourselves up.”

Youth advocate and community organizer Erika Alston, founder of the Safe Kids Zone, was also among presenters at the conference. Her message to young women touched on practicing empathy toward one another by breaking down the definition of a “hater” as a wounded individual who has yet to realize their own potential.

Young women were given a taste of charm school with a lesson in fine dining etiquette over a three course meal by Joi Thomas, director of media relations at The New Psalmist Baptist Church and host of WEAA’s Gospel Grace.

“One thing I want you to always remember: If you were invited to a nice restaurant where the tables are set like this, don’t be intimidated. You are there because you deserve to be there,” said Thomas.

Over the course of the retreat, presenters imparted wisdom on topics from financial literacy and social networking etiquette to natural hair care and entrepreneurship, including Senator Catherine Pugh; singer, songwriter and actress China McCain of Tyler Perry’s House of Pain and Disney Channel’s “Ant Farm;” and singer and R&B Diva Brave Williams.

“The most important part of your body are your eyes,” said Brave, a Baltimore native. “They hold your vision. You can be whatever you want to be if you protect your vision.”

Moving forward, The Brown Girl Village Retreat is slated to be an annual event in Baltimore and other major cities.

“Our hope is that this experience will also inspire and empower our brown girls to continue to dream, no matter what their current situation,” said Page.

“Brown Girl Village will help our young women to realize that anything is possible with hard work, dedication and determination and open their eyes to new possibilities.”



Brave poses with Brown Girls.
Photo: Tiffany Mason



*L-r: China McClain, Sharon Page, Maria Wills, and Shelonda Stokes
Courtesy Photos/Brown Girl Village*



A Brown Girl shows off her book bag



Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake



Christina Johnson, Restoration Diva



Surprise! It's China



China McClain



Co-founder Michelle Huff addresses Brown Girls attendees



Cyrene Tankard and State Senator Catherine Pugh



Sharon Page and Brown Girl

PBS honors men, women in uniform with National Memorial Day Concert

Washington, D.C.— The National Memorial Day Concert will be broadcast live on PBS, on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 8 p.m. The free concert takes place right on the Capitol's West Lawn.

During the concert, local Bowie, Maryland resident and hero, Jack Farley's story of service and sacrifice will be featured.

At the height of the Vietnam War, 1st Lt. Jack Farley (Class of '64) found himself serving his country halfway around the world in a foreign land. Farley was one of 1.7 million U.S. servicemen drafted and sent to Vietnam between 1965 and 1973. Farley and his platoon were engaged in search and destroy missions, hunting an elusive enemy through thick jungles and sodden rice paddies. On January 10, 1969, Viet Cong forces unexpectedly began to shell Farley's fire support base with mortar fire. One of the shells exploded next to him, sending shrapnel into his body. For Farley, his toughest battle would be in the months and years ahead. His right leg was amputated above the knee, but he refused to let that injury define him for the rest of his life. He would go on to help a future generation of wounded veterans.

For almost three decades, PBS has inspired viewers with the annual broadcast of the multi-award-winning National Memorial Day Concert dedicated to the men and women in uniform, their families at home and all those who have given their lives for our country. The night of remembrance will honor the over 400,000 valiant men and women who are laid to rest in the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and



chronicle the experiences of the millions of American veterans who still suffer from the seen and unseen wounds of war.

Hosted by Joe Mantegna (*Criminal Minds*) and Gary Sinise (*Criminal Minds: Without Borders*), the program also features distinguished American leader General Colin L. Powell USA (Ret.); world-renowned four-time Grammy Award-winning classical superstar Renée Fleming; iconic music legends The Beach Boys; gifted actress and singer Katharine McPhee (*Scorpion*); country music star and Grammy-nominated member of the Grand Ol Opry Trace Adkins; Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG Award-winning actress S. Epatha Merkerson (*Chicago Med*, *Law & Order*); Award-winning actor Esai Morales (*Mozart in the Jungle*); plus Tony Award-



winning sensation Alfie Boe, who has just joined the Broadway cast of the smash hit *Finding Neverland*; and marking the end of an era, Trent Harmon, the final winner of *American Idol*, in performance with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of top pops conductor Jack Everly. Also participating are the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff with The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, The U.S. Army Chorus, The Soldiers' Chorus of the U.S. Army Field Band, The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters, The U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants and the Armed Forces Color Guard and Service Color Teams provided by the Military District of Washington, D.C.

For more information about the National Memorial Day Concert, visit: www.pbs.org/national-memorial-day-concert.

“Last Full Measure of Devotion” at Monocacy National Battlefield

Frederick, Md.— Over Memorial Day weekend, an impressive display of 2,200 flags will blanket the front field of the visitor center at Monocacy National Battlefield. Each flag honors a casualty of the Battle of Monocacy. The park has hosted this impressive display for the past eight years to pay tribute to the individual sacrifices of those soldiers who gave the “last full measure of devotion” in service to their country.

On Saturday, May 28, 2016 at 9 a.m., the public is invited to volunteer to place flags in the ground. Meet park staff at the visitor center to fill out volunteer forms and get started.

Memorial Day programs:

May 28 & 29 – 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

May 30 – 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. At the 3:00 p.m. program, the park will participate in a National Moment of Remembrance. Park staff and visitors will pause for one minute of silence to pay tribute to the men and women who have died in service to our country.



For more information, visit the park's website: www.nps.gov/mono, see us on Facebook, or call the visitor center at 301-662-3515. The visitor center is located at 5201 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD 21704. Operating hours are daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 pm.



Memorial Day Ceremony; Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens

Local Participants Comprise Hometown Ceremony

The public is invited to Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens' annual Memorial Day celebration, which salutes the men and women of the armed forces who have paid the highest price in defense of the United States of America on Monday, May 30, 2016 at 10 a.m. The traditional patriotic ceremony will feature a slate of local participants and honor those fighting the battles of today, as well as to those who gave their lives in Korea, Vietnam and World War II.

Airman 1st Class Nathaniel H. McDavitt of Severna Park, Maryland, who was killed on April 15, 2016 in Jordan by the Islamic State, will be honored on Memorial Day 2017.

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, Circle of the Immortals is located at 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, MD 21093. For more information: 410-666-0490 or www.dulaneyvalley.com

Speakers

·**Memorial Address:** Brigadier General Sean M. Casey, Director of the Joint Staff Maryland National Guard

·**Memorial Address:** Congressman C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, III

·**Keynote speaker:** Captain Christian Maisel, Commander of the 231st Chemical Company, Maryland Army National Guard

·**Memorial Address:** Vincent Krepps, Korean War Veteran

·Colonel William Sean Lee, State Area Command Chaplain, Maryland National Guard

·**Emcee:** Alan Walden, American Flag Foundation, Inc; Patriots of Fort McHenry

Music and Pageantry

·**Color guard units:** Maryland National Guard, Patriot Guard Riders, Elkridge Young Marines, Historic Honor Guard

·229th Maryland Army National Guard Band

·4th Combat Engineer Battalion, United States Marine Corps Reserve



Monument at the Circle of the Immortals

Courtesy Photos

·US Marine Corps will lay wreaths at the WWII/Korean War Memorial, Children of Liberty Memorial
·Glee Club of Edenwald Retirement Community and Boy Scout Troop# 340 Lutherville will recite the Pledge of Allegiance

·Glee Club of Edenwald to perform medley of classic military songs

·Maryland Sings, Directed by Bill Myers

·Military memorabilia, vehicles and uniforms courtesy of Butch Maisel and the Boys' Latin Center for Military History (slated to open in Fall, 2016)

·Robert McCurdy, Bagpiper

History of Memorial Day at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens

The Memorial Day Ceremony is held in Dulaney Valley's Circle of Immortals, an area dedicated in 1967 and reserved for Marylanders killed in action. Twenty-six men who died in Vietnam are buried within the Circle. The area is also home to the official Baltimore County World War II/Korean War Memorial, dedicated

in 1998; and The Children of Liberty Memorial, which was added to the Circle in 1990 and is dedicated to Maryland servicemen and women who died at the hands of terrorists. It includes a plaque dedicated to the seven Maryland servicemen who lost their lives in the 1991 Liberation of Kuwait, the names of the three Maryland servicemen killed in 2000 aboard the USS Cole and the names of the servicemen killed in the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens is a legacy of the former owners, the Armiger Family, who felt the public was losing sight of the meaning of Memorial Day. Since purchasing the cemetery in 2007, John O. Mitchell III and John O. (Jack) Mitchell IV, owners of the Mitchell-Wiedefeld Funeral Home, Inc. in Towson, MD have been committed to continuing the tradition of honoring those who serve our country and they welcome the community to pay tribute to these dedicated men and women.

Fort McHenry on Memorial Day (May 30):

Schedule of Events

9:30 a.m. Inside the Star Fort National Park Service rangers will give a special talk on the origin of Memorial Day and hoist a Civil War era replica flag to half-staff in honor of the day.

11:30 a.m. Baltimore Author Dan Toomey, dressed as a Civil War Union Veteran, will give an engaging presentation highlighting the origins of Memorial Day followed by a flag-raising ceremony in the Star Fort. Flag will be changed from half-staff to full-mast. A large 30 x 42-foot replica of the Star-Spangled Banner

will be hoisted (weather permitting) followed by a wreath-laying.

2:00 p.m. Baltimore Author Dan Toomey will again give an engaging presentation highlighting the origins of Memorial Day from ceremonies honoring those killed during the American Civil War. Discover why Marylanders commemorate two Memorial Day observances!

2:30 p.m. – Recreation of Historic 1880 Memorial Day



observance includes a speech delivered at Fort McHenry's cemetery, Oliver Wendell Holmes' historic Memorial Day address, and talk on origin of the holiday. Bugler will play "Taps" at 3:00 p.m. and a wreath-laying as part of The National Moment of Remembrance.

Park Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Star Fort: 9 a.m. to 4:45 P.M. daily

Admission to Star Fort: \$10 per adult (Children 15 years and under are free). Grounds are free. National Park Passes are honored here. Free Parking, Restrooms, Water Fountain, Visitor Center Exhibits, Picnic Tables, and introductory movie.

Hopkins Clinic Offering Relief, Cure for Hepatitis C

By Stacy M. Brown

In Greater Baltimore, Hepatitis C affects African Americans more than any other group, according to Joseph Cooke, a senior outreach worker at the Blalock 319 Hepatitis Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

If left untreated, hepatitis C can lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis which is why treatment and awareness should be a priority in local communities where conversations should be held in churches, barber shops and other local gathering spots, Cooke said.

“It is now a very exciting time in hepatitis C treatment and new oral regimens have extremely high cure rates,” he said. “However, we still face challenges as individuals must first know that they are infected and then be linked to hepatitis C care.”

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that was highlighted earlier this month by the U.S. National Library of Medicine revealed that the number of hepatitis C-linked deaths in the United States reached a record high in 2014, and the virus now kills more Americans than any other infectious disease.

There were 19,659 hepatitis C-related deaths in 2014, according to preliminary data from the CDC.

“Why are so many Americans dying of this preventable, curable disease? Once hepatitis C testing and treatment are as routine as they are for high cholesterol and colon cancer, we will see people living the long, healthy lives they deserve,” Dr. Jonathan Mermin said in an agency news release.

Mermin directs the CDC’s National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

If not diagnosed and treated, people with hepatitis C are at increased risk for liver cancer and other life-threatening diseases. They may also unknowingly infect others.

The new CDC study found that the number of hepatitis C-related deaths in 2013 exceeded the combined number of deaths from 60 other infectious diseases,



Joseph Cooke (middle), senior outreach worker at the Blalock 319 Hepatitis Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital with two patients at the National Hepatitis Testing Day on Thursday, May 19, 2016. Johns Hopkins officials also celebrated the curing of 1,000 individuals who had hepatitis C at the event.

Courtesy Photo

including HIV and tuberculosis.

The numbers might even be higher because the new statistics are based on data from death certificates, which often underreport hepatitis C.

Most cases of hepatitis C are among baby boomers—those born between 1945 and 1965, according to the National Library of Medicine. Many were infected during medical procedures such as injections and blood transfusions when these procedures were not as safe as they are now. Many hepatitis C-infected “boomers” may even have lived with the disease for many years without knowing it, according to the report. On Thursday, May 19, 2016, Johns Hopkins held a National Hepatitis Testing Day at the William H. Welch Medical Library where providers, clinic staff and patients networked and where free testing was offered.

Johns Hopkins officials also celebrated the curing of 1,000 individuals who had hepatitis C.

“We are seeing a huge surge in youth because of the rise in drug use and tattoos,” said Nancy Haselhuhn, a nurse practitioner at Johns Hopkins. Normally, blood work that could detect the virus isn’t ordered for young people and insurance companies usually won’t authorize such procedures unless there’s already a serious health problem, Haselhuhn said.

What’s more, deaths due to hepatitis C-related illness tops HIV and tuberculosis which is alarming, Haselhuhn said.

“Often it takes several years to realize damage but once the liver shows scarring you’re now at risk for cirrhosis. I tell people that if you’re feeling sick, it’s probably late, your liver is already infected,” she said, adding that some symptoms could include nausea, vomiting and the yellowing of the eyes.

The most common complaint is feeling tired, Haselhuhn said. “A lot of people are quick to blame getting older for feeling tired,” she said.

For more information, visit www.hopkinsmedicine.org.

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Terra's Kitchen partners with Ed Reed Foundation

Healthy Meal-Kit Delivery Service Announces Philanthropic Partnership to Benefit Baltimore's Friends of Great Kids Farm Initiative

Baltimore— Terra's Kitchen, the Baltimore-based, innovative meal-kit delivery service, which helps families and friends connect in the kitchen and around the table announced a partnership with the Ed Reed Foundation, led by Ed Reed, former Baltimore Raven Super Bowl Champion and Future Hall of Famer.

The Ed Reed Foundation is a non-profit public charity focused on improving the lives of youth and expanding the opportunities available to them. In launching this partnership, Terra's Kitchen is offering an exclusive code, REED20, to consumers for \$20 off their first order, and will subsequently make a donation of \$20 to the Ed Reed Foundation, with proceeds going directly to Friends of Great Kids Farm. Great Kids Farm is a working farm that educates Baltimore students of all ages about



Terra's Kitchen is offering an exclusive code, REED20, to consumers for \$20 off their first order, and will subsequently make a donation of \$20 to the Ed Reed Foundation, with proceeds going directly to Friends of Great Kids Farm. For more information about the Terra's Kitchen and Ed Reed partnership, visit: <http://offers.terraskitchen.com/reed20>.

Courtesy Photo

healthy eating, sustainable agriculture, and the natural sciences.

"Ed Reed and his foundation's emphasis on improving the lives of local youth goes hand-in-hand with Terra's Kitchen brand mission— it all comes down to fostering family, community and healthy living," shared Michael McDevitt, Chief Executive Officer of Terra's Kitchen. "As we continue to build and develop Terra's Kitchen, we are proud to support Friends of Great Kids Farm through the Ed Reed Foundation and contribute to efforts to ensure Baltimore students have the opportunity for healthy and nutritious lunches, while learning more about the food they eat and where it comes from."

"The Ed Reed Foundation is grateful to have supporters like Terra's Kitchen that champion and share our goals, specifically our work in supporting local Baltimore kids," said Ed Reed, Founder of the Ed Reed Foundation. "For kids, being healthy starts with education and family life in the home, and as a community we will continue to support this message and cause."

Reed and Terra's Kitchen share a belief in the importance of the three pillars to a successful and healthy lifestyle: nutrition education, family and clean eating. For more information about the Terra's Kitchen and Ed Reed partnership benefiting the Ed Reed Foundation and Friends of Great Kids Farm, including videos off the All-Pro Safety giving his thoughts on nutrition, family and how to conveniently eat healthy, visit <http://offers.terraskitchen.com/reed20>.

"We're very excited to be partnering with two organizations, in the Ed Reed Foundation and Terra's Kitchen, that are passionate about healthy eating and educating the children of Baltimore about food and farming," said Jessie Lehson, Executive Director of Friends of Great Kids Farm. "Together we can move closer to ensuring that all children in Baltimore have access to healthy food and an opportunity to learn about where that food comes from."

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Crash demonstration highlights need for seat belt use in all seats

Martin State Airport, Md.— Overlooking an isolated stretch of runway at Martin State Airport, officials from the Maryland Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Baltimore County Police and safety advocates witnessed a sudden and violent impact between two cars on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. The T-bone crash simulation effectively showed the devastating consequences of unbelted occupants during a typical car crash and demonstrated the need to wear seat belts in every seat during every ride. Officials specifically focused on the need for backseat passengers to wear seat belts to avoid becoming human projectiles in a crash and killing others in the vehicle, including those who did the right thing by buckling up.

“Our message is simple: buckle up in every seat, every time, day and night,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn. “The most effective way to save your life—and the lives of others—is to wear your seat belt.”

On average, about 120 people who died in traffic crashes each year in Maryland were not wearing their seat belts. Over the past five years, 59 percent of all backseat passengers who died in Maryland were unbelted.

“Seat belts prevent ejection during rollovers, and they stop back seat passengers from becoming projectiles dur-



ing a crash,” said Dr. Beth Baker, Region 3 Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. “No matter how short or far you’re traveling, buckle up.”

In 2015, Maryland’s seat belt usage rate was 93 percent, an increase from the 2014 rate of 92.1 percent. Despite the increase, the number of traffic fatalities in Maryland went from 443 in 2014, the lowest number since 1948, to a preliminary number of 521 in 2015. Thirty six percent of people who died in Maryland motor vehicle crashes last year were unbelted. Not wearing a seat belt continued to be a leading cause of death on Maryland roads last year. If Maryland could reach a 100 percent seat belt usage, about 54 more lives could be saved each year.

“The tragic increase in traffic deaths

on our roads last year is unacceptable,” said Motor Vehicle Administrator Christine E. Nizer. “Maryland’s efforts to reach zero traffic deaths must include more people wearing this simple, life-saving device.”

“As a police officer, there is nothing worse than notifying a family that they have lost a loved one and knowing that the loss could have been prevented if they had simply buckled their seat belt,” stated Baltimore County Police Chief James W. Johnson.

“As drivers and as passengers, we all have choices to make each and every time we get into a vehicle,” said Suzanne Elzey, founder of the CruiseSafe Foundation, a nonprofit driving safety organization. “Whether you realize it or not, the choices you make at that time, will impact hundreds of people for


the rest of their lives. So make safe, smart choices— buckle up, drive the speed limit and avoid distractions— as a driver or a passenger.”

Suzanne founded CruiseSafe after a horrific crash claimed the lives of her teenage son and his three best friends on Kent Island in April of 2013. Suzanne shared her personal story and spoke about the choices people make as drivers and passengers, and the long-term impact those choices have on family, friends and communities.

The crash demonstration marks the start of the national Click It or Ticket media campaign aimed at increasing seat belt use across Maryland and the country. The campaign features a television spot, which was designed specifically to address the issue of unbelted back seat occupants. The spot, which was developed using federal highway safety funding, can be seen here. The campaign also features radio advertisements and digital media, as well as grassroots partnerships with local radio stations and Uber.

Buckling up in every seat is the law in Maryland. Every person who is not buckled faces the possibility of an \$83 ticket. Along with not wearing seat belts, officials highlighted areas that have historically been leading causes of deaths on Maryland’s roads, including: impaired driving; speeding; distracted driving; and not using crosswalks.

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High-tech mosquitoes could combat Zika virus

By Josh Peterson
Urban News Service

Genetically modified mosquitoes could mean curtains for the Zika virus. New U.S. cases of Zika virus infections are continually being discovered, as the Food and Drug Administration looks to these high-tech mosquitos as a possible solution.

Zika's potential to spring from mosquito "nurseries" in the American South could hammer poor minority communities as summer heats up. Atlanta has the nation's worst mosquito problem, according to Orkin, the pest control company. Mosquitoes only need standing water to spawn.

Scientists believe Zika spreads when a female mosquito feeds off of an infected person and later bites a new victim. Harmless male mosquitoes feed on flower nectar. Zika also can be transmitted through sexual intercourse with an infected partner. Symptoms, while rare, can last for a week and range from a mild fever to muscle and joint pain.

Concerns rocketed after last year's discovery that Brazilian babies with unusually small skulls and brains were born to mothers who contracted the virus while pregnant. Brazil's Zika woes continue as athletes, fans, journalists and others from around the globe prepare to converge on Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Fulton County, which includes Atlanta, is battling potential local Zika infections. The *Aedes aegypti*, which lives in the Deep South, is one of several mosquitoes that scientists believe spread the virus.



Specialists with Fulton County's Department of Health and Wellness, according to the agency, are working with Georgia's Department of Public Health and the Atlanta-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor outbreaks and educate the community.

"The mosquitoes that spread Zika virus will bite four or five people before they are satisfied," said Nancy Nydam, spokeswoman for Georgia's health department.

She said people should use insect repellent, eliminate standing water around their homes and stay indoors during dawn and dusk, when mosquitos are most active.

An \$85-million fund is available to states, cities and territories at risk of Zika outbreaks, the CDC announced on May 13, 2016. The money would finance Zika-prevention efforts only temporarily, said Dr. Stephen C. Redd, a director at the agency. More money from Congress is needed, he said.

The CDC reported that between January 1, 2015 and May 18, 2016, all of the 544 U.S. Zika cases are travel-associated, meaning the virus was originally contracted abroad. To date, 157 pregnant women in the U.S. have reported symptoms.

New York logged 114 travel-related cases, the highest number in America. Florida was second with 109, and California's 44 cases put it in third. Texas was fourth, with 35 reported infections. These states all have high black and Hispanic populations, foreshadowing what this disease could do to these communities.

Among 836 Zika cases in U.S. territories, 832 were contracted locally. These include 803 infected people in Puerto Rico, 15 in the Virgin Islands, and 14 in American Samoa.

Oxitec, a British biotechnology company, is testing its genetically modified male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Key Haven, Florida. Oxitec's male mosquitoes mate with wild female *Aedes aegypti*, producing offspring that "have a very high probability of dying before they reach adulthood," according to its website.

Mosquitoes generally live about two weeks. The company's experiments "have resulted in reduction of the wild population by more than 90 percent," said Oxitec spokesman Matthew Warren. "Existing methods to control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, such as insecticides, are only 30 to 50 percent effective, at best."

More than 150 million Oxitec mosquitos have been released, Warren said, with no reported adverse effects. Oxitec's mosquitos were one possible approach within a larger program, said FDA spokeswoman Theresa Eisenman. "However, it is too early to say with any certainty whether such an approach would be successful."

The agency approves and regulates biotechnology treatments, including vaccines.

"The FDA is acting responsibly with its mosquito pilot approach, and we're glad to see that the CDC has activated the resources to respond," said Adolph Falcon, executive vice president for the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Oxitec's solution, however, only targets one mosquito species. Also, pesticides no longer could be used against the insects, since they would kill both the dangerous female mosquitoes and the modified males. Mosquito breeding habits show Zika disproportionately could affect poor countries and communities with inadequate sanitation.

A still-undiscovered Zika vaccine and improved sanitation would be more effective solutions, said Jaydee Hanson, senior policy analyst for the Center for Food Safety.

"People like magic," said Hanson. "We want easy answers and we like technology. I'm a big fan of technology, but it needs to be assessed for what it can do."

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Indoor Soccer: Futsal League Registration

Team registrations are being accepted through June 18, 2016 for the Central Maryland Soccer Association's Indoor Soccer - Futsal League. Separate Saturday and Sunday leagues. All games will be played at the Coppermine Field House at Cross Keys on a turf field with no dasher boards. Separate leagues will be offered for girls and boys travel and CYO teams for ages U8 through U18. For league information; visit: www.cmsasoccer.com; or email: scorenews@aol.com with any questions.

SEED School of Maryland names Baltimore campus for Ruth and Norman Rales

By Andrea Blackstone

Maryland's only public, college-preparatory boarding school, The Seed School of Maryland located at 200 Font Hill Avenue in Baltimore has named its campus for late philanthropists Ruth and Norman Rales.

The couple began their lives under humble circumstances. However, Norman became a businessman who eventually established the Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation. Three Rales brothers— Mitchell, Steven and Joshua— attended the ceremony with their families in Baltimore on April 22, 2016. After Mitchell provided generous gifts to both The SEED School of Washington, D.C. and to SEED Maryland, he elected to name both campuses after his late parents. The capital gift reportedly allowed for the renovation of SEED Maryland.

Jon Tucker, head of school at The SEED School of Maryland, remarked that Ruth and Norman began an amazing legacy of giving back to support young people and education. Their children continue to provide assistance and encouragement.

"They (The Rales' children) just carried it on from the giving of their time and their resources, but also giving back just that same spirit in their words today, and their message to our kids about continuing to give back once they graduate and get their college degrees, Tucker said, after the program.

Attendees had an opportunity to hear firsthand accounts about extensive efforts that were made by SEED School founders, Eric Adler and Rajiv Vinakota, to bring their educational model to fruition. SEED Maryland opened in 2008, welcoming its first class of sixth graders. Students from across the state are admitted to the five-day-a-week boarding school through a lottery process. SEED Maryland students must be from a family whose gross income is 200 percent below the federal poverty guidelines and meet designated at-risk criteria. The school's leadership believes that every student who enrolls can earn a college degree and achieve at the highest levels, regardless of barriers he or she



Maryland's only public, college-preparatory boarding school, The Seed School of Maryland named the Baltimore Campus located at 200 Font Hill Avenue for late philanthropists Ruth and Norman Rales in a ceremony on April 22, 2016. In 2015, all of SEED Maryland's first graduating class were accepted into a four-year college. Photo by Andrea Blackstone

may face. Performance on standardized tests is not considered. In 2015, 100 percent of SEED Maryland's graduating first class was accepted into a four-year college. The third SEED School campus is located in Miami, Florida.

Additionally, the ceremony also honored the commitment of other people who also believed in SEED Maryland's students enough to help start the school. Guests who attended the ceremony included Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman John Sarbanes, Maryland Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith, and Dr. Gregory E. Thornton, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools. The effectiveness of SEED's school model was exemplified by student emcee, Maia Fulton. The member of SEED Maryland's first inaugural graduating class currently attends Towson State University.

"With the help and support from SEED and the College Transition & Success Team, I was able to overcome obstacles standing in my way of a college degree," Fulton said.

Cheers and applause erupted after Afnan Laghei, the second student emcee,

reminded the audience that Ruth and Norman believed that everyone, regardless of background, is entitled to an excellent education. Afnan added that naming SEED Maryland's campus after them



Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) who was a close friend of Ruth and Norman Rales delivered a keynote speech at the ceremony. Photo by Andrea Blackstone

would serve as a reminder of their belief. Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) was a close friend of Ruth and Norman. During his keynote address at SEED

Maryland, he revealed the roots of their generosity.

"Norman Rales knew what it was like to grow up without the promise of opportunity. Raised in an orphanage, he began his adult life with nothing more than five dollars, a toothbrush, and the clothes on his back," he said. "And his beloved Ruth was the daughter of immigrants who had survived the pogroms and came to this country with nothing but their dreams to build a better life for their daughter. Their difficult early experiences shaped their belief that personal success brings with it a responsibility to lift others up."

Hoyer encouraged students who attend SEED Maryland to excel in their studies and challenged them to make the principle of repairing the world a part of their lives. While reminiscing about Norman and Ruth, he asked the students to act whenever witnessing injustice, need or despair.

"Just as others have planted seeds to help you grow, you have an opportunity and a responsibility to be seed-sowers yourselves," Hoyer said.

Scholarship for First-in-Family-to-College Student named after local Mentor

A mentee inspired to be a mentor provides scholarship in honor of her mentor, Yevola S. Peters

Annapolis, Md.— The Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Scholarship Trust is pleased to announce Ke'Asia Edwards, a North County High School senior, as the winner of The Yevola S. Peters Scholarship. The scholarship will be funded by the Annapolis Trust board of directors and Johnelka W. Stafford, a resident of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County employee and professor at Anne Arundel Community College. Stafford recently was part of the Annapolis Trust scholarship review committee for another scholarship and was impressed with one of the applicants, Ke'Asia.

“One of the main reasons I was able to achieve an MBA as a first-generation-to-college student was because of the support I received from my mentor, Yevola S. Peters. When I met Ke'Asia, I knew I had to find a way to help her financially and with my own experience. Although I know I'll never be able to repay Mrs. Peters for her countless words of wisdom, and constant encouragement, I pray my efforts to pay it forward, starting with Ke'Asia, will show her I've been listening,” Stafford explained.

Yevola Peters is known throughout Annapolis and Anne Arundel County for her work as an educator and advocate for individuals and families with the Community Action Agency, Anne Arundel County government and St Philip's Episcopal Church's Family Life Center. Peters has been honored as a recipient of various service awards including the William Schaefer Helping People Award and she even has a street in Annapolis named for her.

Ke'Asia Edwards will be attending Hampton University in Virginia in the fall to major in African American studies. Her grandfather has been influential in her education and encouraged her since she was a small child to study history. She will be the first in her family to



(Left to right) Linda Mundy, Annapolis Trust; Ke'Asia Edwards, North County High School and Scholarship Recipient; and Yevola S. Peters at the North County High School Senior Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

Photo Credit: Aristotle Ford

complete a college degree.

“The Annapolis Trust's biggest differentiator as a scholarship organization is our mentoring program. We are delighted this named scholarship will honor an esteemed mentor from the community and exemplifies the importance of the mentee/mentor relationship in achieving college graduation,” said Reginald Broddie, co-founder of the organization.

The Sponsor-A-Trust-Scholar program provides a scholarship and mentoring

for students over their four-year college career. A sponsor can name the scholarship and even specify certain criteria such as areas of study, community involvement or a specific school. The Annapolis Trust can manage the entire process including program setup, applications, selection, renewal and tracking. The scholarship recipient will be provided with a one-to-one mentor and career network of mentors to help them enter their profession after graduation.

The Annapolis & Anne Arundel

County Scholarship Trust is a non profit organization whose mission is to work with the community to provide the inspiration, mentoring and scholarships for first-in-family college students to complete a higher education. Currently, the organization's students have an 70% graduation rate. For more information about the Sponsor-A-Trust-Scholar program and more, please visit: [www. AnnapolisTrust.org](http://www.AnnapolisTrust.org) or contact Linda Mundy, Vice President at 443-995-4769.

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Healthy and Safe Swimming Week: Maryland promotes safe fun in the water

Baltimore— The Secretaries of Health and Mental Hygiene, Environment, and Natural Resources remind all Marylanders that National Healthy and Safe Swimming Week is the week before Memorial Day, from May 23-29, 2016. This year, the three Departments are focusing on simple steps that swimmers and pool operators can take to so that everyone has a safe and healthy swimming experience.

“We’re approaching the kickoff of the summer season, which means fun in the water for many residents,” said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Van T. Mitchell. “We want everyone to know how to prevent illness around the water— whether in pools, hot tubs, lakes, rivers or oceans.”

Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles listed the Maryland Healthy Beaches website and smartphone app as examples.

“From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Maryland Healthy Beaches website and app delivers updated information on conditions at the nearly 200 monitored beaches in Maryland, and it provides the dos and don'ts for swimmers to stay healthy and waters to keep clean,” said Secretary Grumbles.

“With Memorial Day weekend and the start of summer right around the corner, the department urges everyone to practice water safety— only swim in guarded areas, and keep an eye on children and non-swimmers,” Department of Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. “It’s critical that swimmers, anglers, boaters and paddlers remain safe, smart and aware when enjoying Maryland waters. Please remember to wear a life jacket.”

Swimming is one of Maryland’s most popular sporting and leisure activities.



This year’s campaign will increase awareness of the simple things people can do to prevent the most common and serious health and safety risks associated with recreational water activities— drownings and injuries, sunburns and potential infections:

- *Never swim alone.
- *Be vigilant about small children’s activities and whereabouts.
- *Use swim vests on all children at the beach, and for weaker swimmers in pools.
- *Don’t swallow pool or beach water.
- *Change children’s diapers often, to minimize the risk of contaminating water.
- *Don’t swim when you have diarrhea.
- *Follow the package directions when using pool chemicals.
- *Stay out of the water if it has a strange color.
- *Reapply sunscreen frequently throughout the day.
- *Drink plenty of fluids.

*Use bug/mosquito spray as needed— especially as Maryland takes steps to guard against the Zika virus.

*Learn how to avoid and to escape rip currents.

*Save contact information for emergency personnel in your cell phone.

*It is easy to stay safe and healthy while enjoying the water. Keep your family healthy and safe this summer season, and enjoy all that Maryland’s recreational waters have to offer.

For more information, contact the Health and Mental Hygiene’s Environmental Health Bureau toll-free at 1-866-703-3266, or email dhmh.enhealth@maryland.gov. You also can find current information on Maryland’s beaches on the Healthy Beaches website, at <http://www.marylandhealthybeaches.org>. Health and Mental Hygiene’s site on safe and healthy swimming is <http://goo.gl/OhSyNO>.

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