



Vol. 24 No. 37 July 8 - 14, 2016

# The Annapolis Times

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

## Local AKAs Create ‘Little Dresses for Africa’



*Members of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority gather at the Ivy Support Center each weekend to create dresses from pillowcases in support of Little Dresses for Africa. They will take their creations to the AKA's 67th Boule, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia July 9 -16, 2016. More than 20,000 members of AKA are expected to attend the biennial conference which will focus on service projects, such as Little Dresses for Africa. (Above): Jan Carter and Ann Barnes Mobley work on their creations. (See article on page 12)*

Courtesy Photo

# Baltimore Resident Honored by The Arc

By Stacy M. Brown

As a member of The Arc Baltimore, Erica Vince has supported a crew of three women working at the Chatsworth School cafeteria, helping children and cleaning up after meals in the lunchroom for the past decade.

Vince, who grew up and still lives in Forest Park, has been lauded by the non-profit as a steady influence who is depended upon by supervisors and crew members to keep things moving smoothly even on the most chaotic of days.

As a result, officials say, she and the crew have become an integral part of the Chatsworth school family. Also, Vince has been presented with the Arc Baltimore's Excellence in Direct Support Award.

The honor is given each year to a direct support professional whom officials said demonstrates excellence in job performance.

"It was a great honor for me, especially knowing that the family of one of the

ladies I support nominated me," Vince said. "I'm so happy knowing I'm having a positive impact on her and the family. That's what it's all about. That's why I'm here."

The Arc Baltimore supports more than 6,000 adults and children with intellectual and development disabilities and their families. In a news release, officials say Vince is greatly valued by the families of the women she supports.

Arc officials cited one individual named Julia who is a crew member along with Vince. They said when Julia's brother was hospitalized and their mother needed to be there, Vince stepped in and stepped up.

The Chatsworth cafeteria employee took Julia's mother out, keeping her company during the family's hard time. Vince also dropped off dinners and provided emotional assistance to the family and she is credited with helping Julia to "come out of her shell," and even helped plan outings to places like Six Flags Amusement Park, according to Arc officials.



**Erica Vince**  
Courtesy Photo

Still, Vince says the recognition caught her off guard.

"I was totally surprised. I opened the letter [the Arc sent informing of the award] and I started yelling and jumping around," said Vince, who views her work and support of others as fun.

"It's fun, fun and more fun. I love working with my three ladies," she said. "I always try to have a positive attitude and help the ladies I work with to also

have a great attitude in their work at the school."

She says Julia is usually very quiet and she has worked to assist and inspire her.

"I've bonded with her family too. They are beautiful people," Vince said.

Each year, The Arc Baltimore holds its annual meeting which provides a unique opportunity to recognize members of The Arc's family—from individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members to staff, supporters and area businesses—whose work is instrumental to The Arc's continued success in serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, the executive director of The Arc Baltimore, Stephen H. Morgan said in a statement.

This year proved to be no exception as The Arc Baltimore presented awards for volunteer service, school inclusion, and excellence in direct support, foster care excellence, and employee of the year, among others.

"The Arc is a special place. I met someone who has worked here for 40 years and she inspired me. Now I've been here 15 years," Vince said. "I wasn't planning on staying in [this] kind of work, but maybe this is my calling. It's special to know that I have an impact on the individuals we serve. I'm not going to get rich doing this work but I'm rich in other ways."



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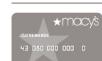


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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Gleaners launch ‘Hunger Free Summer’ Campaign

By Sidnee King, NNPA/DTU Journalism Fellow, Michigan Chronicle



Gleaners Community Food Bank, a non-profit group based in Detroit, Michigan, which distributes 79,000 meals per day, recently launched the 2016 “Hunger Free Summer” campaign.

According to the USDA, more than 20 million children rely on free or reduced-price school lunches. The campaign is one of the food bank’s efforts to ensure that no child goes without food this summer.

The “Hunger Free Summer” campaign is tackling what many say is a big problem in Southeast Michigan. According to a 2016 report from Kids Count in Michigan, 46 percent of Michigan students are eligible for reduced-price or free meals in school. The report also stated that 42 percent of those children that receive reduced-price or free school lunches live in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland or Wayne County. That means that an estimated 300,000 children that live in southeast Michigan qualify for the program.

When schools close for the summer, many of these students lose guaranteed meals. Gleaners hopes to provide stability for these students by distributing eight truckloads of food to its school and community programs every week for the next 12 weeks.

Gleaners programs supported by Hunger Free Summer include its School-Based Mobile Pantry, Summer Lunch program and the new Michigan Food Bank Access to Nutrition program. Each of these programs reaches thousands of children with high-needs and their families every month.

Volunteers rose early to help pack food and learn from the Gerry Brisson, the president of Gleaners, about the importance of the “Hunger Free Summer” program.

“The meals we raise through ‘Hunger Free Summer’ offer immediate and much-needed relief and stability to those families, so their children can return to school healthy and ready to learn,” Brisson said. “I’m grateful to Citizens and all of our match partners for making this possible.”

The Citizens Bank and Ford Motor Company are partners in the campaign. Both companies will match every dollar donated to the campaign.

Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief charity, and the Food Bank Council of Michigan, collects food and money for Michigan food banks, has also partnered with the campaign.

*Sidnee King is a 2016 NNPA “Discover The Unexpected” (DTU) journalism fellow at the Michigan Chronicle. The DTU journalism fellowship program is sponsored by Chevrolet. Check out more stories by the fellows by following the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about the program at nnpa.org/dtu.*



## Community Affairs

### New Leadership, New Vision, Same Mission!

*Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland installs an all-star executive board*

Annapolis— The members of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland (LBCM) voted to elect an all-star Executive Board featuring Delegate Cheryl D. Glenn (Economic Matters) as Chair, Delegate Darryl Barnes (Ways and Means) as 1st Vice Chair, Delegate Edith J. Patterson (Ways and Means) as 2nd Vice Chair, Delegate Benjamin Brooks, Sr. (Economic Matters) as Treasurer, and Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes (Health and Government Operations) as Secretary to lead the caucus for the next two years.

“The political necessity that spurred the foundation of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland is still present today, with as much fervor— just a different form,” said Delegate Cheryl D. Glenn, Chair of the Legislative Black

Caucus, when asked why she ran for Chair. The new Executive Board plans to go above and beyond what is expected of the Caucus. With an amplified focus on community outreach, the Black Caucus plans to bolster relationships with black community leaders across the state to improve the quality of life for black citizens.

“We are uniquely positioned to influence change and improve the quality of life of black citizens no matter where they live. That’s exactly what we intend to do,” stated Delegate Darryl Barnes, 1st Vice Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, when asked what was new this time around.

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. was established in 1970 to serve as a legislative body for the black communities across the state of Maryland, advocating policies that promote black progress. The Black Caucus drafts and sponsors legislation that improve the lives of black Marylanders while examining all bills and their impact on the black communities around the state.

# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## The difference between Jesse Williams' BET speech and what comes next

By James Clingman  
NNPA News Wire Columnist

More than a couple of million folks have responded to the words spoken by Jesse Williams, which points out the fact that many black people are mesmerized by words that excite us and stimulate our emotions. Rather than initiating practical and appropriate actions as a result of words that make us feel good, we usually end up celebrating, espousing, regurgitating and discussing, ad nauseam, those words instead of implementing strategies that make us "do good."

The speech by Williams was important and relevant, especially to black people. I appreciate his words and his willingness to make his statements on such a widely viewed stage. He used his fame and the very popular BET Awards Show to put forth a message that has been spoken and written by others before him, but also one that we need to hear over and over. Seems to me that when someone famous says the same things other non-famous folks have said, it takes hold quicker and our light bulbs come on

faster. Questions: "How long will the message last, and will we act upon it?

Jesse Williams' background, political affiliations and motivations notwithstanding, his message was more important than the messenger. However, since we are so attuned with what our celebrities say, he had instant credibility with many young and older folks alike. This is not to suggest that we discriminate against a message because of its messenger. A moron can bring a valid message. Suppose Clarence Thomas had said the same thing Williams said. Would we reject that message?

"Do for Self." I chose to hear some of those words in Williams' speech, and I give him credit for speaking on the subject. It's on Mr. Williams now to show us what he meant by putting his words into action; and it's up to the rest of us to develop strategies and initiatives that will move our people forward.

Jesse Williams spoke on issues that I have written articles about as far back as 1994, more specifically, one titled, "The Young and the Relentless," in which I described how many young Blacks were becoming entrepreneurs. Rather than falling for the okey-doke of buying and

Nike. Now in 2016, Alicia Keys is featured in a commercial for Levis jeans, in which she says, all women are "Badass," so I guess it still sells.

But I digress. Will Jesse Williams' comments simply become last month's shining moment for black folks, or will his message finally be transformed into real economic progress for our people? Will his two minutes of enlightenment and in-your-face rejoinder to our plight make their way into the pantheon of speeches by our learned elders, or will they drift off into oblivion never having gained traction or made a significant difference in our lives?

Will Jesse Williams' one shining moment become activated within us to the degree that we begin to coalesce and collaborate to build an economic foundation from which we can truly have an impact on public policy? Fiery rhetoric, overwhelming applause, and two million "hits" and "tweets" are not enough to get the job done. We must have action. We must have a critical mass of black people who are willing and able to work to make our economic and political empowerment a reality.

Yes, we had yet another shining moment when Williams took the stage to accept his award. Will its sheer fade to black, or will that moment turn into momentum for black progress? Remember: A moment is not a movement, but a moment can start a movement.

*James Clingman is the nation's most prolific writer about economic empowerment for black people. His latest book, "Black Dollars Matter! Teach your dollars how to make more sense," is available on his website: [www.Blackeconomics.com](http://www.Blackeconomics.com).*

***"My point is that black folks should be able to discern a positive message that comes from any messenger, so that we can know 'why' the message is being promulgated and be able to respond appropriately to that message.***

***Emotional catchwords and phrases are fleeting and seldom cause any improvement in our wellbeing."***

My point is that black folks should be able to discern a positive message that comes from any messenger, so that we can know "why" the message is being promulgated and be able to respond appropriately to that message. Emotional catchwords and phrases are fleeting and seldom cause any improvement in our wellbeing. Remember: "I have a dream!" "Down with dope – Up with hope!" "No justice, no peace!" "Yes we can!" and all the other words we have heard and chanted millions of times?

I'd rather we follow words from Richard Allen, "To Seek for Ourselves," Marcus Garvey, "One God, One Aim, One Destiny!" and Elijah Muhammad,

wearing someone else's brand, they were developing, marketing, and selling their own brands. Unfortunately, as the article also cited, many of our young entertainers had succumbed to the lure of "OPS" (Other People's Stuff) e.g. Adidas, Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, etc. rather than "OPM" (Other People's Money).

It is ironic that in April 1997, Forbes Magazine featured a front-page article titled, "Badass Sells," by Joshua Levine, which aptly illustrated much of the tremendous economic potential within the younger segment of black America. It also described how the hip-hop culture had been co-opted by designers such as Hilfiger and manufacturing giants like

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# Hollywood stylist dresses Baltimore woman

By Stacy M. Brown

Sierra Daniels is a young Baltimore mother of four and an aspiring singer who escaped an abusive relationship. Los Angeles resident Christine Pechera and Angela Williams, a 40-year-old single mother of four living in Detroit, are separated by a couple of thousand miles and two time zones, but the pair, like Daniels were recently the mutual beneficiaries of the largesse of a Hollywood celebrity stylist.

A fortuitous twist of fate brought these ladies the surprise of a lifetime: \$10,000 worth of designer clothes each, courtesy of celebrity stylist and Silver Spring resident Sam Russell and his Giving Closet. Each faced life-threatening illnesses and survived. When they were finally deemed healthy enough by their doctors to rejoin the workforce, however, all they had to wear were the old, ratty clothes they'd worn at the hospital. Neither of them had the financial means to shop for professional clothes to wear on their interviews until Russell stepped in. To Russell, the Giving Closet is a labor of love.

In 2011, Russell, a renowned image maker, took an unexpected detour from working with stars like Sophia Bush, Stevie Wonder, Colin Farrell and Chuck Lorre to image everyday people. His USA-based passion project searches for unique stories of women that persevere and he surprises them with a wardrobe upgrade usually reserved for the stars.

"I didn't really have a game plan. It's all been organic and I never set out to be a household name," Russell said. "This just felt right and I had the resources and I knew how to do it. I was being



**Baltimore mother of four and aspiring singer, Sierra Daniels who escaped an abusive relationship is one of three women to each receive \$10,000 worth of designer clothes courtesy of celebrity stylist and Silver Spring resident Sam Russell and his Giving Closet.**

Courtesy Photo

hounded by celebrities and girlfriends of celebrities for free stuff, free shoes, free whatever and I thought, 'What would that do for a single mom in Detroit or a single mom in Atlanta fighting cancer.'"

Russell set out to make sure that the designer clothes, shoe wear and the eye-catching handbags and other accessories that he dressed superstars in would be used for a greater cause.

So far, he's surprised 14 individuals around the country with \$10,000 wardrobes, a total of \$140,000 worth of needed goods.

"It helps to empower them, to instill the confidence in them that they may

have lost," Russell said. After all, he too had received a break in life that has propelled him into a prominent stylist to the stars. Among his credentials is being the supervising stylist for TLC's "Ten Years Younger," and his regular work with stars like Farrell, Lorre and Wonder, whom he accompanied in January 2009 to the White House for President Barack Obama's historic inauguration.

"I try to share some of my good luck. If I can share that with anyone else who's come from a place that's dark, then I have a reason to live," Russell said.

A former model, Russell calls his Giving Closet his passion project.

"I try to celebrate every day women as much as we celebrate those celebrities in Hollywood," he said. "That single mom with four kids in Detroit who are all on the honor roll and are ages 8 to 17, that's who I celebrate. We put our celebrities on pedestals, but the woman around the corner, the woman in the church, those are the people who are really doing the amazing things."

Each year, Russell works with about three to four women, taking about one month of preparation time with each. He does as much work as he can afford, noting that the expenditures are entirely out of pocket.

"I will get a picture of what the individual looks like and then I will use my experience as a stylist and then I'll go to a publicist and tell them that I have a mother who has an amazing story and this is her size and I can use your help," Russell said.

None of it is about ego, he pointed out.

"The universe has come along and helped me for so long so I have to share that and pass it along," Russell said. "Giving heals. That dark place that could be in my heart because of all my dark experiences are overwhelmed when I get to see how this benefits these women and when I watch them nail their next job interview it fills my spirit," Russell said. "When you give to someone who was once hungry, it fills you up."

For more information about the Giving Closet visit <http://wardrobedept.com/the-giving-closet/> or [www.givingcloset.net](http://www.givingcloset.net).

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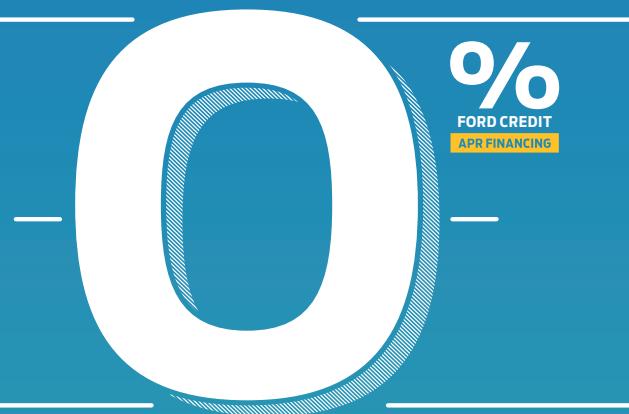
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## FDA Launches Nutrition Facts Label Online: Web-based guide for reading labels

Silver Spring, Md.—The Nutrition Facts label found on packaged foods and beverages, can serve as your daily guide for comparing foods and making healthy choices. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is making it even easier to explore and interpret the wealth of information on the Nutrition Facts label with the Nutrition Facts Label Online tool.

The online tool from FDA provides an overview of the Nutrition Facts label that consumers see now and an in-depth look at specific nutrients and their role in your daily diet. Action tips are also provided throughout, simplifying FDA's advice for using the label to make informed choices and manage specific nutrients you may wish to get "more of" or "less of." Here's what you'll find:

**What's on the Label:** Tour the various sections of the label, and then focus on the nutrients you're most interested in. For each nutrient, you'll learn what it is, where it's found, what it does, and how it relates to your daily diet.

**Ingredient List:** Find tips for using the Ingredient List, which is also found on food and beverage packaging (often below the Nutrition Facts label). The Ingredient List is a helpful source for identifying whole grain ingredients, saturated fats, and added sugars.

**Nutrition Glossary:** See common nutrition-related terms organized in al-



phabetical order with simple definitions.

**Resources:** Explore helpful links to additional information from FDA and other government partners. Use them for further research on nutrition-related topics.

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# 2016 will be pivotal season for John Harbaugh and Ravens

By Turron Davenport

The 2016 NFL season will be a pivotal one for John Harbaugh and the Baltimore Ravens. Their 5 - 11 record in 2015 was the worst finish of the Harbaugh era.

The Ravens were plagued by injuries last season. Terrell Suggs went down in the season opener and was lost for the season. Steve Smith Sr. was also lost for the year during the season.

Perhaps, the most significant injury was the loss of Joe Flacco. Before the 2015 season, Harbaugh had never coached a game without Flacco.

Harbaugh will need to find the success that he experienced over the first seven years of his career. He is among the top three coaches in regular season wins as well as playoff wins since 2008, his first year as a head coach.

Team owner Steve Bisciotti has not said Harbaugh's job is in jeopardy, but he has made it clear he expects to win.

The Ravens front office has taken steps to bolster their roster. They signed free agent safety Eric Weddle to shore up the secondary.

Mike Wallace was brought in to give the offense a much-needed explosive wide receiver that can stretch the field vertically. The Ravens also used their first-round pick (No. 6 overall) on left tackle Ronnie Stanley.

Eugene Monroe never seemed to gel with the Ravens locker room and was released to make room for Stanley to take over as the starter.

Many analysts say the Ravens had a top five roster before last season. The



Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh celebrates after a play during the 2015 season.  
Courtesy Photo/nfl.com

roster has only gotten better this year.

Cornerback Jimmy Smith says he is finally able to move around without feeling any pain in his foot. He was never able to play at 100 percent last season.

The secondary will benefit from a healthy Smith at corner next season. Shareece Wright will be with the team for a full season after resigning with the Ravens during the offseason. He was an in-season free agent acquisition last year.

There are going to be some question marks heading into the season. Flacco will be attempting to return from his first injury. He is not expected to be back

until sometime during training camp.

Smith Sr. is still working his way back from a major Achilles injury. It will take

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MTA invites you to learn more about the BaltimoreLink transit network plan and to be involved in planning the final draft of the plan. Twenty (20) public workshops will be hosted in July, August, and September. Each location will provide the same information and offer the same opportunities to participate. An introductory presentation, informational handouts, and exhibits will be provided as well as comment forms to submit your input. Comments will be accepted through September 30, 2016. Workshops will be conducted open house style with project staff available to answer your questions. Feel free to visit when convenient for you.

For additional information, the dates of all 20 workshops, and to submit comments online visit [BaltimoreLink.com](http://BaltimoreLink.com) or call 410-539-5000.

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855 Sulphur Spring Road  
Arbutus, Maryland 21227

**Transit to this location:** Local Bus Nos. 35 and 77

### Tuesday, July 12, 2016 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm

White Marsh Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library  
8133 Sandpiper Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21236

**Transit to this location:** Local Bus Nos. 35 and 58

### Thursday, July 14, 2016 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Medstar Harbor Hospital  
The Baum Conference Center  
3001 South Hanover Street  
Baltimore, MD 21225

**Transit to this location:** Local Bus Nos. 14, 27, 54 and 64

### Monday, July 18, 2016 • 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Waverly Branch  
400 East 33rd Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Use of library meeting space does not constitute endorsement of this organization, this program or its content by the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

**Transit to this location:** Local Bus Nos. 3, 8, 12, and 22

Other ways to be involved:

Join the discussion board at [mtmaryland.mysidewalk.com](http://mtmaryland.mysidewalk.com)

Leave a message on the BaltimoreLink hotline at 410-454-1998

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the department listed below to make arrangements for: special assistance or additional accommodations; printed material in an alternate format or translated; hearing impaired persons; and persons requesting an interpreter. All requests must be received one week in advance.

Los sitios tienen acceso para personas con discapacidades. Por favor comuníquese con el departamento listado a continuación para concertar arreglos para: ayuda especial o adaptaciones adicionales; material impreso en un formato alternativo o traducido; personas sordas y personas que solicitan un(a) intérprete. Todas las solicitudes deben ser recibidas con una semana de antelación.

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# Life in Baltimore: Aging advisory board hosts seminar on memory loss

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

In connection with Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Memory and Aging Community Advisory Board (MACAB) held its 10th Annual Holistic Health Seminar on Memory Loss at the Randallstown Community Center. The theme, "Healthy Living in 2016 and Beyond: Mind, Body and Spirit," was captured in the well designed agenda which included informative speakers, exhibitors and spirited audience participation.

The speakers were Marilyn Albert, Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Department Research Center, Dr. Ann Morrison, Katherine Marx, Ph.D., and Tyrone Qualls, a lifestyle coach with the American Diabetes Association Ambassador.

To actively involve the audience, an uplifting spirited performance with drums and song was led by Dorothy Holley, Ph.D., LCSW-C and the Nyami Nti Cultural Healing Arts Therapy.

Ernestine Shepard, the world's oldest female body builder, who was celebrating her 80th birthday, spoke on her life's mantra, "Determination, Dedication and Discipline." She received the 2016 Trail Blazer Award.

Sylvia Mackay, Alzheimer's advocate and former caregiver for her husband John Mackay, gave a heart-warming talk on caregivers and received the 2016 Outreach Leadership Award.

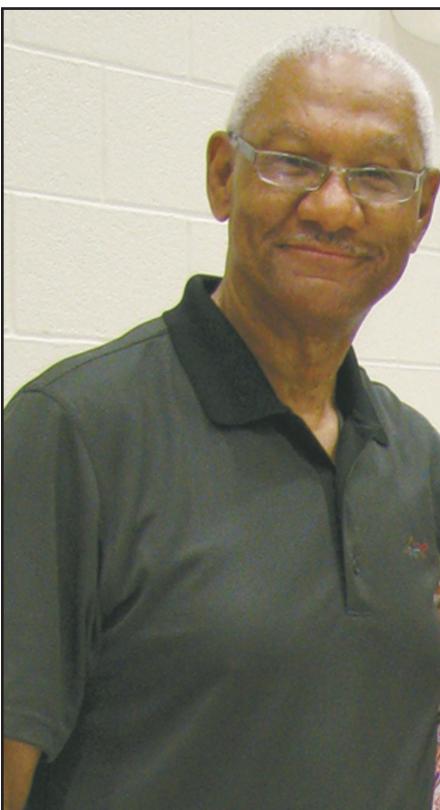
MACAB is a group of dedicated people whose overall concern is the physical, mental and social well-being of the senior community of Greater Baltimore. The MACAB was formed in 2004 and is comprised of community leaders, health professionals and families who have been touched by dementia. This group works with the Johns Hopkins Memory Center and various groups to help increase community access to healthcare, knowledge and research opportunities related to Alzheimer's disease, memory loss and senior health.

The conference exhibitors were the Alzheimer's Association, American Diabetes Association; Ayana Wellness Spa and Education Resource; Baltimore County Department of Aging; Baltimore City Health Department of Aging and Care Services; Comforcare Home Services; COPD Project; Dementia Behavioral Study; Easter Seals; Johns Hopkins ADRC; Maryland Society for Sight; and United Medical Care.

Officers and committee members of MACAB are Tyrone Qualls, chairman; Henrietta Wallace, co-chair; Ernestine Jones Jolivet, board development chairperson; Valerie Richardson, community education chairperson; Corinne Pettigrew, research chairperson; and Octavia Byrd, secretary. The committee also includes Thomasine Baskerville, Peggy Jackson, Shelley Jennings, Deborah Peaks Coleman, Marcia Gray Bowie and the Johns Hopkins Research Center.



(Left): Ernestine Shepherd, age 80, World's Oldest Female Body Builder received the 2016 Trail Blazer Award.  
(Right): Ernestine Jones Jolivet, MACAB Development Chair. Courtesy Photos



Tyrone Qualls, MACAB Chairman



(L-R): Roger Clark, Sylvia Mackay, 2016 Outreach Leadership Award winner; and Ernestine Jones Jolivet

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## Baltimore sailor keeps Navy Wing flying

By Navy Office of Community Outreach Public Affairs

"Petty Officer Jackson is one example of a selfless servant of our nation."



**Petty Officer 2nd Class Tavon Jackson**  
Courtesy Photo/Navy Office of Community Outreach Public Affairs

A 2009 Warwick High School graduate and Baltimore native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the largest base in the Southeast Region and third largest in the nation.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tavon Jackson is an intelligence specialist serving with Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11. As an intelligence specialist, he is responsible for intelligence and combat support.

"What I enjoy most about my job is having the opportunity to expand my skill set outside the range of my community," said Jackson.

According to Navy officials, Wing 11's history and reputation remain unparalleled since being commissioned on August 15, 1942. Throughout the decades, Wing 11 has continued to fly combat missions in direct support of the troops on the ground and delivered traditional maritime capabilities, real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"The U.S. Navy sometimes asks the impossible of our people. It is sailors that make the impossible possible," said Capt. Anthony Corapi, Commodore, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11.

These heroes ask for very little recognition and perform their daily job with pride and professionalism defending freedom and our way of life around the world. Each member of the Navy's combat team is crucial to our success. I am very proud to have Petty Officer Jackson on our team!"

Jackson is part of a crew that began a transition to the P-8A Poseidon in 2014. Earlier this year, squadron VP-45 entered the Inter-Deployment Readiness Cycle in preparation for their first deployment as a P-8A squadron.

"What I enjoy most about this command is the cohesiveness and camaraderie I share amongst my fellow sailors and other patrol squadrons here on base," said Jackson.

According to Navy officials, the Navy continues to meet milestone after milestone on this world-class mission and is providing an aircraft with superior capabilities to the men and women in uniform that will have a lasting legacy promoting a global maritime strategy.

"Serving in the Navy has not only made me more mature but I've gained a skill set as well," said Jacskson. "I also love having the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures."

# Local AKAs Create ‘Little Dresses for Africa’

*Sorors to Take 325+ dresses made from pillowcases to conference*

*By Ursula V. Battle*

Each weekend, members of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority gather at the Ivy Support Center located at 3515 Dolfield Road from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. for The Sewing Circle. The goal of The Sewing Circle is to create dresses from pillowcases in support of Little Dresses for Africa.

They will be taking their creations to the AKA’s 67th Boule, which will be held in Atlanta, GA July 9 -16, 2016. AKA is the world’s largest and oldest sorority for predominantly African-American college-educated women.

More than 20,000 members of AKA are expected to attend the biennial conference which will focus on service projects, such as Little Dresses for Africa. A non-profit 501c3 Christian organization, Little Dresses for Africa provides relief to vulnerable children throughout the continent of Africa and beyond. Volunteers from all over the world join together to make little dresses out of pillowcases or other simple patterns.

“We hope every little girl gets a beautiful dress to call her own,” said Ann Barnes-Mobley, who is chairing the effort for Epsilon Omega, a Baltimore Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. “Every little girl deserves a nice, beautiful dress. We have discovered that we have many sorors who love to sew. The national goal is to collect 29,000 dresses to bring to the Boule. The goal of our local chapter was to create 300 dresses, but we have surpassed that. During the Sewing Circle, sewing machines are set-up, refreshments are served, and we sew the dresses.”

According to Barnes-Mobley, other supporters of the endeavor included Digital Harbor High School and Target.

“We started working on the dresses in April,” she said. “To date we have about 325 dresses. Some people donated money, while others donated material. It is truly a chapter effort. We are also elated that we will also able to purchase 60 pairs of shorts for little boys in Africa.”

According to Barnes-Mobley, the items will be sent to villages in Tanzania, South Africa, and Liberia. Claudette Egerton-Swain is also a member of the Epsilon Omega Chapter.

“To see these dresses come from a pillowcase, and devised into a wonderful dress takes you back to your childhood,” said Egerton-Swain who is a retired educator. “To work with the ties and buttons reminds me of the simple things in life. Our parents and grandparents made us little things. A lot of them made used extra



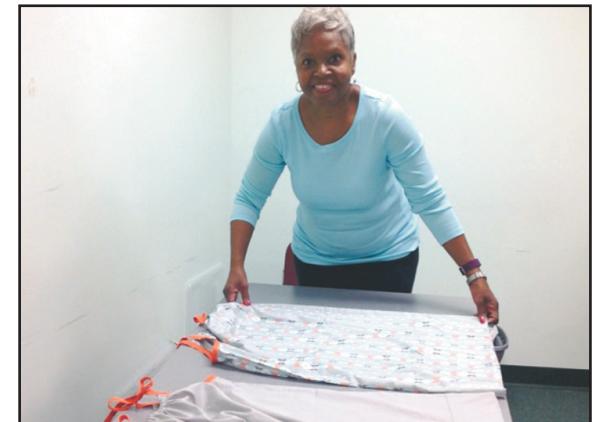
*The Sewing Circle of Epsilon Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*



*Claudette Egerton-Swain holds up one of the chapter's creations. Courtesy Photos*



*Jan Carter and Pinkie Daniel*



*Epsilon Omega Chapter President E. Francine Stokes-McElveen prepare the dresses for packing.*

# Happy Farm Botanicals Provides Products to Homeless at Sarah's House

By Stacy M. Brown

Happy Farm Botanicals, a company that produces high quality and all natural products for many of the beauty industry's top brands, has been busy making those who might be less fortunate happy.

The Odenton-based company has been working with Sarah's House, a supportive housing program that offers emergency and transitional housing for homeless families in Anne Arundel County.

"Due to our business structure and regulations, we are required to do some repetition. We have to go through a scale up and verification process and once we go through it, instead of throwing products away, we donate it to Sarah's House to support our local community," said Hamed Alaghebandian, Happy Farm Botanicals owner.

The company discovered an opportunity to give back when they learned about Sarah's House after Happy Farms opened in 2013.

Sarah's House, a Catholic Charities organization, serves around 600 individuals each year, including children. These families can stay anywhere from days to up to a year, according to officials.

In addition to housing, each resident also receives expert help from Sarah's House staff to get back on their feet. Happy Farm Botanicals provides premium personal care products to the organization for these families to use during their stay.

Alaghebandian says that since the summer of 2014, Happy Farm Botanicals has donated close to \$8,000 worth of products to the residents of Sarah's House ranging from shampoo to eye cream.

The company is one of the few businesses that donates products to the housing program and makes an effort to do so regularly—Sarah's House receives shipments twice a year, according to a news release.

"We don't do this for the glory of saying we give to Sarah's House or other charities," Alaghebandian said. "We don't want the products to go to waste and if there are people who can use



Hamed Alaghebandian, Happy Farm Botanicals owner.

---

them, it only makes sense to contribute all you can to them. I know that there are others we give to as well," he said.

Recently profiled in local and other business publications, Happy Farm Botanicals manufactures cosmetics, skin care products, hair care products, household goods and other items.

The company's clients range from small independently held companies to multinational conglomerates who have their products on sale at some of the largest retailers including Urban Outfitters and Target.com.

"Our story really isn't a romantic

story," Alaghebandian said. "I was approached by one of my attorneys with an opportunity to procure a failing cosmetic lab, its assets and a few of its clients. Given my background in the agro-manufacturing industry he thought I'd be interested in the opportunity and I was," he said.

Alaghebandian said growth and innovation helps his company stay above the competition in what's become a globally competitive industry.

"We're in a unique time in the beauty industry where it is becoming more evident that our clients are expecting more

than they were before," he said.

"It has to do with the way information flows. Now when I present a formula to a client, they can google every single ingredient and find out about it and they can also get a list with other ingredients and what they can be substituted with," Alaghebandian said.

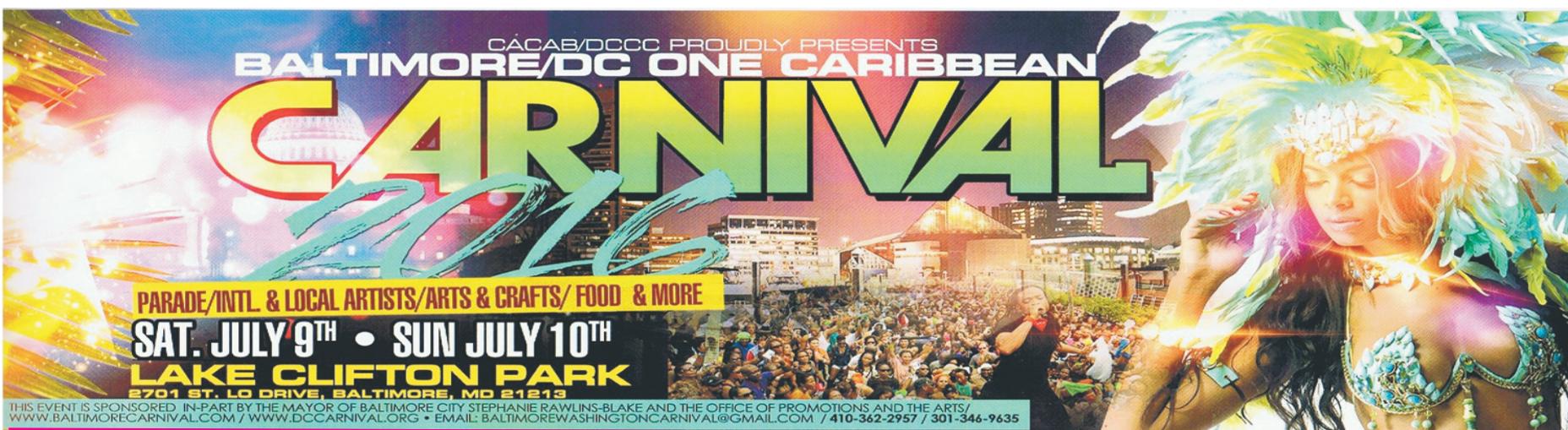
"The clients are more educated and it's more and more difficult to do the same old thing so we have to be innovative and provide fresher ingredients. More cutting edge ingredients."

# Around & About Baltimore and Annapolis

## Paint It! Ellicott City Event and Exhibition

Ellicott City, Md.—Artists from around the region—as far away as Fort Collins, Colorado!—will gather in Historic Ellicott City the weekend of July 8–10 to participate in Paint It! Ellicott City, an annual plein air painting event. The Howard County Arts Council (HCAC), Howard County Tourism, the Historic Ellicott City Partnership, and Howard County Public Schools are presenting this paint-out weekend culminating in an exhibit of 25-juried artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts.

*Communities in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. link up for two days to celebrate a Trinidad-style parade and carnival. Take in the gorgeous costumes, dance until you sweat, and indulge in delicious Caribbean food. Parade at noon-5 p.m. on Saturday, carnival 5-10 p.m. Saturday and noon-9 p.m. Sunday, Lake Clifton Park, 2701 St. Lo Drive, (410) 362-2957, baltimorecarnival.com, \$10-\$15.*



The guest juror for Paint It! Ellicott City 2016 is Plein Air magazine editor M. Stephen Doherty, who selected 25 artists for the juried exhibit.



On Saturday, July 9 from 10am–12pm, Paint Down Main, a quick draw competition presented by Mat About You Gallery, returns for its second year, with artists competing for cash prizes as they take a painting from start to finish in just two hours. A subsequent pop-up exhibit and sale of work completed during the Quick Draw offers fun for spectators and artists alike.

Prize: 2016 Finalists Exhibition will be on view at The Baltimore Museum of Art's Thalheimer galleries from Wednesday, June 22 to Sunday, July 31, 2016.

The Sondheim Artscape Prize is a \$25,000 fellowship awarded each year to visual artists living and working in the Greater Baltimore region. M&T Bank has partnered with BOPA to establish the M&T Bank Sondheim Finalists' Awards, which provide a \$2,500 honorarium for each of the remaining finalists not selected for the fellowship.

The winner of the \$25,000 Sondheim Prize will be announced at a special ceremony and reception at The Baltimore Museum of Art on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at 7 p.m. The Baltimore Museum of Art is located at 10 Art Museum Drive



Registration is required for those wishing to be included in the Open Paint-Out exhibits. Registration forms are available at the Arts Council, the Howard County Welcome Center, and online on the 'Exhibits' page at hocoarts.org before or during the event.

## Sondheim Artscape Prize 2016 Finalists Exhibition at Baltimore Museum of Art

Baltimore—Organized by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPAA) in conjunction with Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, the Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape

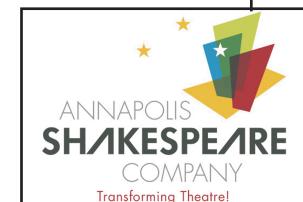
## Eastport Oyster Boys Appearing July 7 at Tides & Tunes

The Annapolis Maritime Museum Tides & Tunes concerts are Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 pm. This week's concert is July 7 and features the Eastport Oyster Boys with sound of folk, island rhythms, and traditional rock. Beer, wine and mixed drinks and food will be available for purchase. Money raised supports the Museum Education Center's environmental programs. No coolers or outside alcohol permitted. Guests are recommended to bring a blanket or lawn chairs for seating during the concert. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held inside the Museum at 723 Second Street, Annapolis. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Info and directions at [www.amaritime.org](http://www.amaritime.org) or call the museum at 410-295-0104, x4.



## Shakespeare in the Garden: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Opens July 8

The Annapolis Shakespeare Company will perform six shows of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" during weekends from July 8 to 17—with a few twists. Instead of following the show's traditional setting, ASC's version will take place at the gardens of the Charles Carroll House, 107 Duke of Gloucester Street in Annapolis. Some of the slight changes the show will undergo to match the shift in time period include giving the fairies a nautical theme, a nod to the maritime roots of Annapolis, and using the Carroll House as the home of Theseus, the Duke of Athens in the play. Shows are July 8, 9, and 10, then again July 15, 16 and 17. Gates open at 6:30 pm with the performance starting at 7:30 pm. T



## Children's Animal Tour at Hammond-Harwood House July 9

Did you know that the King Charles Spaniel was originally owned by royalty or that parrots were used as a symbol of wealth? In this family-friendly event at the Hammond-Harwood House on Saturday, July 9, participants will enjoy an exploratory tour of the house searching for creatures in the paintings, chairs and every day objects. Admission is \$15 per person, \$10 for members, and parents are free. To reserve, call curator Rachel Lovett at 410-263-4683 x 12 or e-mail [Rachel@hammondharwoodhouse.org](mailto:Rachel@hammondharwoodhouse.org). The Hammond-Harwood house is located at 19 Maryland Avenue.



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## Red Cross issues emergency call for blood and platelet donations to address significant shortage

Baltimore—The American Red Cross has issued an emergency call for blood and platelets, urging all eligible donors to give now to replenish an extremely low summer blood supply.

Blood donations have fallen short of hospital needs for the past few months, resulting in about 39,000 fewer donations than what's needed, as well as a significant draw down of the overall Red Cross blood supply. In addition, the Independence Day holiday may have caused many regular donors to postpone donations due to vacation plans. A recent Red Cross poll revealed that more than 75 percent of donors surveyed indicated vacation plans this summer, many of them occurring the weeks before and after July 4.

"Right now, blood products are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in, which is why we are making this emergency request for donations," said Nick Gehrig, communications director, Red Cross Blood Services. "Donations are urgently needed now to meet the needs of hospital patients in the coming days and weeks. If you've thought about giving blood and helping to save lives, now is the time to do it. It's the blood donations on the shelves that help save lives when an emergency occurs."

To schedule an appointment to donate, use the free Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). The Red Cross is extending hours at many donation sites to allow for more donors to make an appointment to give. Donation appointments and completion of a RapidPass online health history questionnaire are encouraged to avoid longer wait times. Donors with all blood types are needed.

For more information about making a donation or volunteering, visit: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

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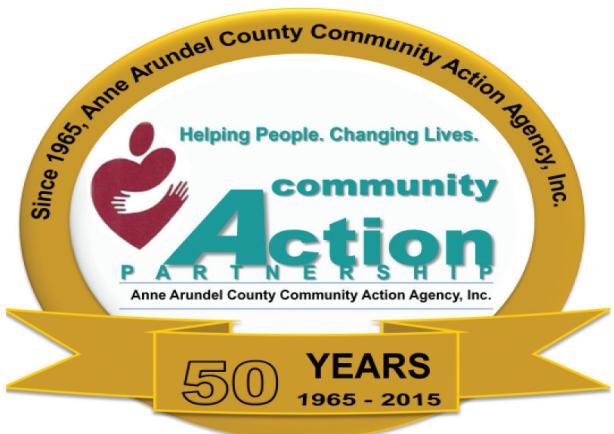
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email address: ematthews@aaccaa.org)

**Hosted by: Anne Arundel County  
Community Action Agency (CAA)**



## **Smokey Robinson named next recipient of Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song**

Washington, D.C.—Acting Librarian of Congress David Mao announced that Smokey Robinson is the next recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song.

A rhythm and blues icon whose career has spanned more than 50 years, Robinson is considered the poet laureate of soul. His velvet falsetto and incomparable mastery of lyrical verse have created a tapestry of hits that have transcended generations and become a mainstay in American pop music. As a producer, record executive and visionary, Robinson helped lead a musical revolution called the Motown sound.

Robinson will receive the prize in November in Washington, D.C. The Gershwin Prize honors a living musical artist's lifetime achievement in promoting the genre of song as a vehicle of cultural understanding; entertaining and informing audiences; and inspiring new generations. Previous recipients are Paul Simon; Stevie Wonder; Sir Paul McCartney; songwriting duo Burt Bacharach and the late Hal David; Carole King; Billy Joel; and Willie Nelson.

"As a singer, songwriter, producer and record executive, Smokey Robinson is a musical legend," said Acting Librarian of Congress David S. Mao. "His rich melodies are works of art—enduring, meaningful and powerful. And he is a master at crafting lyrics that speak to the heart and soul, expressing ordinary themes in an extraordinary way. It is that quality in his music that makes him one of the greatest poetic songwriters of our time."

"It gives me such joy and gratitude to be included among the past recipients of this most prestigious songwriting award," Robinson said.

The Grammy Award winner has released dozens of Top-40 hits and added more than 4,000 songs to his legacy songbook. His music reads like a playlist of Motown's greatest hits—"Mickey's Monkey" (1963), "Going to a Go-Go" (1966), "You've Really Got a Hold on Me" (1963), "Ooo Baby Baby"



**Music icon Smokey Robinson was named the next recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. He will receive the prize in November in Washington, D.C.**

Courtesy Photo/Smokey Robinson

(1965), "The Tracks of My Tears" (1965), "More Love" (1967), "I Second That Emotion" (1967), "Baby, Baby Don't Cry" (1969), "The Tears of a Clown" (co-written with Stevie Wonder, 1970), "Cruisin'" (1979), "Being With You" (1981), "Just to See Her" and "One Heartbeat" (1987).

"The Tracks of My Tears," was named to the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2007 as one Born in Detroit in 1940, Robinson

founded the Matadors in 1954 when he was in high school. Three years later the group added a female voice and became

The Miracles. Berry Gordy's first vocal group, The Miracles released the single "Shop Around" in 1960, which became Motown's first million-selling hit.

Robinson's collaboration with Gordy from day one of the Motown record label grew into a musical dynasty. Producer, talent scout and songwriter for Motown, Robinson also served as vice president of the label for nearly three decades.

The Miracles was the pre-eminent R&B group in the 1960s through the early 1970s until Smokey retired from the group in 1972. He returned as a solo performer a year later and continued to create beloved popular classics. His 1975 album, "A Quiet Storm," was critically acclaimed and in 1987 he won a Grammy for best R&B vocal performance for his single, "Just to See Her," from his album, "One Heartbeat."

His accomplishments are many. He has received the Grammy Living Legend Award, NARAS Lifetime Achievement Award, Kennedy Center Honors, the presidential National Medal of Arts Award and the BET Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song honors living musical artists whose lifetime contributions in the field of popular song exemplify the standard of excellence associated with George and Ira Gershwin, by promoting the genre of song as a vehicle of cultural understanding; entertaining and informing audiences; and inspiring new generations.

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# BMoreFit hosts Baltimore's 2nd Annual 'DanceWalk'

Baltimore—BMoreFit will host Baltimore's second annual 'DanceWalk' in collaboration with Artscape 2016 on Saturday, July 16, 2016. The event encourages friends and family to get active and dance the "musical mile," as they help raise money to fund the not-for-profit organization, BMoreFit.

The groovy initiative invites participants of all ages to, "Pop and Lock, Boogie, Salsa, and JAM," with prizes, music, t-shirts, dancing, and fun, for a registration fee of \$20/person. Dance Walk takes place within Artscape, America's largest free arts festival, in the neighborhoods of Bolton Hill, Mt. Royal, and Charles Street at 10 a.m.

"We need to B-More Fit now more than ever," said Program Director, Vicki Marcus, who noted the importance of the timing of this campaign for the city of Baltimore.

This event is intended to help perpetuate BMoreFit's goal to reintroduce a daily regimen of fitness and physical activity into the lives of underserved



students within Baltimore city public elementary schools. Founded in 2009, the organization maintains a mission of improving the health and academic performance of school-aged children, having served approximately 2,000 school students in the 2015-2016 academic year.

The revolution of "Dance Walking Fitness" was created in 2012 by NBC producer, Ben Aaron, and has since turned into an international phenomenon. It is only fitting to bring this exercise craze to Baltimore through the city's largest weekend event, Artscape (July 15-17). The annual arts festival is produced by

the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts and will feature 150+ fine artists, exhibitions, live concerts, international food, and family activities.

To join the 2016 DanceWalk, become a sponsor and learn more, visit: [www.classy.org/dancewalk2016](http://www.classy.org/dancewalk2016).

  
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# BGE Readies for Summer Heat, Potential Severe Storms

*Company has more than \$8 million invested in system upgrades and new technology*

Baltimore— With a potentially higher number of severe storms predicted this summer, BGE has been hard at work to ensure safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy and energy services for customers all summer long. The company has invested more than \$8 million in critical distribution projects and new technologies to prepare for heat and storms this summer, including upgraded wires, installation of substation and feeder capacitors, execution of switching only load transfers, and the installation of a new substation and feeder.

"We work hard to provide safe and reliable service to our customers and preparations for severe, damaging weather occur all year long," said Stephen J. Woerner, BGE president and COO. "BGE's uses of innovative technology like smart meters, enhanced communication tools and changes to scheduling and dispatching practices are critical to improving customer reliability."

This work is part of the approximately \$500 million invested each year in the company's systems, part of more than \$6 billion invested in gas and electric system upgrades since 2002. These include ongoing investments in natural gas pipes, utility poles, overhead power lines, underground cable and other equipment. An additional \$4 billion will be invested during the next five years. System upgrades and expansions are expected to lead to fewer outages and faster restoration when outages occur.

BGE completes hundreds of tasks to prepare for the summer season, including system work, testing and drills. BGE employees across the region are ready to respond to severe summer storms or emergencies if needed and as part of the Exelon family of companies, BGE now can draw on resources from sister utilities in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Illinois to restore power quicker after major storms.

As BGE prepares, customers should



prepare as well. Before severe weather hits, customers should:

- \*Have a supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods available.

- \*Charge cell phones and mobile devices.

- \*Have a flashlight with fresh batteries on each floor of your home.

- \*Visit [bge.com/alerts](http://bge.com/alerts) to choose how to receive information, via text, email or phone, including when power is out in their area, when service is expected to be restored, or when power is restored.

- \*Text "ADDOOUTAGE" to MYBGE (69243), to enroll in our two-way texting program to report outages and check the status of their outage.

If severe storms hit, visit BGE's enhanced outage map at [bge.com/outagemap](http://bge.com/outagemap) for information on general locations of outages in BGE's service territory. Customers also can report or view the status of an electric outage through a mobile device at [bge.com](http://bge.com).

Higher temperatures can lead to higher energy bills, and BGE provides a variety of programs to help customers save energy and money. For example, BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program®, the company's full suite of energy efficiency programs, helps residential, 24business, government and non-profit

customers save energy and money. For more ways to save energy, visit [www.bgesmartenergy.com](http://www.bgesmartenergy.com).

In addition, customers can save energy and lower their bills this summer by following a few simple tips:

- \*Turn it off: Turn off all unnecessary lighting and devices.

- \*Manage your thermostat: Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level when at home. Raise the thermostat setting for days of extreme heat to save even more. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.

- \*Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed: About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply closing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat in your home.

- \*Use ceiling fans to circulate air: For those without air conditioning, use ceiling fans or portable fans with the windows partially open to circulate fresh air into your home. For those with air conditioning, fans can be used to evenly distribute cool air.

- \*Use appliances wisely: Run appliances that produce heat (like clothes dryers, ovens and dishwashers) at night when it is cooler.

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