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Local Resident Pledges National Service with FEMA Corps



Twenty-nine-year-old Cyan Manuel from Hanover, Maryland has signed on as one of 10 Team Leaders pledging to perform 11 months of national service, as part of the Atlantic Region's FEMA Corps Class 23. FEMA Corps is a track of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program. Manuel and her team will work on a variety of projects focusing on disaster response and recovery efforts. She may also be asked to work with FEMA regional and joint field offices, as well as the Red Cross and other emergency management organizations. (Story on page 10)

Courtesy Photo

Urban League Conference in Baltimore Tackles Police Shootings

By Stacy M. Brown

Marc Morial shook his head in disbelief. A hung jury. An acquittal. Still another acquittal and eventually the announcement by Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby that charges against the remaining officers in the death of Freddie Gray would be dismissed.

"The dismissal of these charges, coupled with the recent wave of violence that has taken so many lives in recent weeks, demonstrates how the nation continues to grapple with issues of racial hostility and injustice," said Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League which kicked off its annual conference on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at the Baltimore Conference Center.

The conference, which has the theme "Save our Cities," has scheduled what Morial called empowering sessions and workshops where political, business and entertainment leaders address topics like the economy, health and justice.

A career and networking fair promises to introduce candidates to potential employment while a young professionals summit will highlight the intricacies of launching one's own business and provide strategies for sustainable wealth.

Among the many topics included in the conference are, "State of Education in Black America," "No Judgment: No Shame: A Dialogue Shifting the Black Sexual Paradigm," "The Color of Money: Culture, Family and Finances," "Juvenile Justice Examining the Criminalization of Youth," and "Baltimore



Marc Morial
President and CEO of the National Urban League
Courtesy Photo

Rising: Making Change in the Aftermath."

Gray's death in police custody last year thrust Baltimore onto the national stage, making it a symbol of what happens when communities feel left out of the American Dream, according to Morial.

"The focus of our conference is to forge a path toward eliminating inequality in income and wealth, academic achievement and opportunity, criminal justice and voting rights," he said.

Speakers at the four-day event will include Congressman Elijah Cummings, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-

Blake, White House Advisor Valerie B. Jarrett, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, BET Chair and CEO Debra Lee, and U.S. Education Secretary John B. King, Jr.

Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, whom Morial said are emerging from one of the most racially charged primary campaigns in

recent history, have been invited to address the Conference.

Questionnaires addressing issues of social and economic opportunity and inequality were distributed to all major-party candidates and all major-party candidates were invited to participate in a civil rights briefing from nine major civil rights organization.

"Clinton and Bernie Sanders each attended the briefings and participated in a substantive discussion of their civil rights and social justice agendas," Morial said.

Also a part of the conference is the Presidential Plenary, a long-standing tradition of the conference, which acknowledges the indispensable relationship between the nation's highest office and its leading civil rights and social justice community, Morial said.

The State of the Urban League Address scheduled for 7 p.m. on August 3 at New Shiloh Baptist Church served as Morial's annual report on the progress and accomplishments of the Urban League movement and as the official kick-off for the conference.

"As we convene in Baltimore to deliberate solutions to the economic and social challenges our cities are facing, it's vital that those contending for the highest office in the land be part of that conversation," he said.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

BLM

By Tom H. Hastings

What does BLM stand for?

If you are involved in the land use/land ownership/treaty rights/fed v state Sagebrush Rebellion dust-ups over the years you know that it refers to the Bureau of Land Management, but we are going to leave that hornets' nest aside for today.

If you are African American or watching the horrific shootings of unarmed black people in U.S. cities, you know that it means the Black Lives Matter movement.

If you are a police officer or otherwise deeply disturbed by the recent spate of cop killings, you argue that it is Blue Lives Matter.

The numbers are terrible. So far, in 2016, a tragic 33 police officers have been shot dead on duty. An ungodly 551 people have been shot dead by cops as of July 31, this year.

Last year, young black males were nine times more likely to be killed by police than any other sector of the U.S. population—1,134 people killed by police in 2015 and although black males between the ages of 15-34 are two percent of the U.S. population, they are 15 percent of those killed by police. While 17 percent of white victims of police killings were unarmed, the rate was 25 percent for young black males.

This is unacceptable to everyone. Dead Americans—cops or citizens—are a profound tragedy.

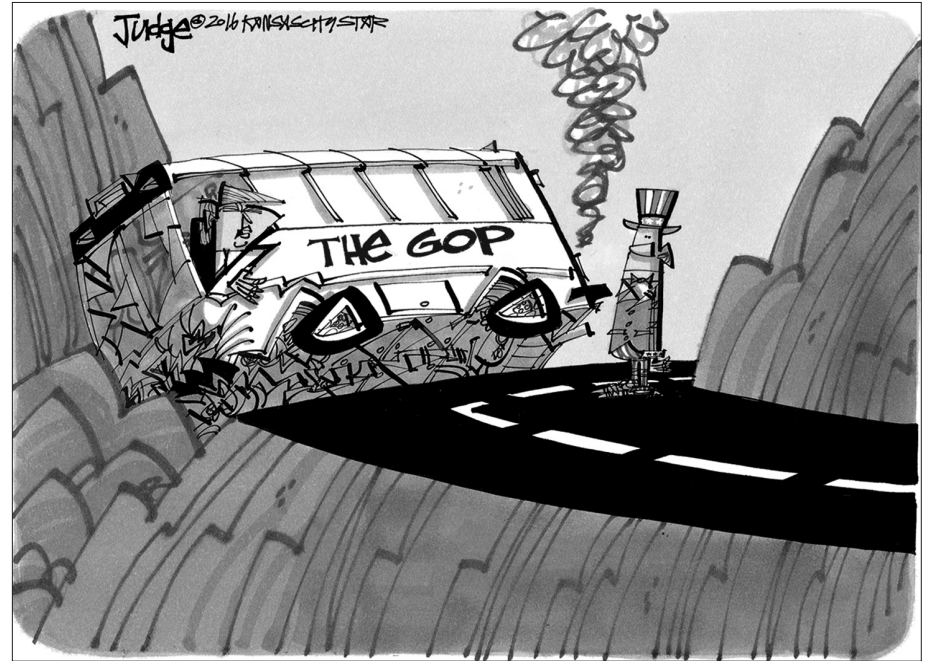
Most black people who shoot at cops don't live to be tried and when they are, they are almost invariably convicted. Most cops who kill black people, armed or unarmed, have utter confidence that they will never be charged, or if they are, they will never be convicted, even when video evidence shows a crystal clear case of an officer shooting a compliant, hands-empty and raised victim or an unarmed, fleeing suspect who committed no violent crime and was no threat to anyone. This should be unacceptable to everyone.

Police boast frequently about their own bravery. Where is that vaunted courage when they witness one of their own obviously murder an unarmed civilian? We see virtually no bold selflessness in those cases. Instead, our "good" cops act more like good Germans, silent in the face of blatant lawbreaking by their brothers in blue.

It is long past time for us to fix all this. At the root are three problems. One, the idea that violence solves conflict, that we must have guns, and that the Second Amendment should continue to allow mass proliferation of these instruments of death. Two, racism. Three, the addition of the return of so many veterans of war only adds to the likelihood that both cops who are war veterans and African Americans who are war veteran—and who are angry about all the black victims of police killings—will ratchet up the violence. The intersection produces what we see.

When we authentically begin to dismantle all three of these massive problems we will see a reversal of the ghastly trends toward state violence and violent insurrection. In Wichita, both BLM movements veered away from violence and toward reconciliation, starting with a picnic. In Dallas, Black Lives Matter activists vigiled in mourning for slain police. Each of us can do our own small but important best to help with one or more of these problems and collectively, we can begin repair and healing. Our attitudes, our actions, our intelligent voting this fall, will all make a difference. Let's fix this!

Tom H. Hastings is Founding Director of PeaceVoice.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

**Re: *This Violence Must End
And Must End Now***

This violence in our communities must end. We are beginning to look and act like a third world country.

Our children who want to succeed are being terrorized and feel that they must arm themselves, not against the police, but against the thugs and murders who roam our communities.

It's not going to be pretty and could give the appearance of something from the past but we cannot allow this carnage to go on.

We are destroying generations of our youth and young adults by not acting.

Once these thugs and murders are brought to justice, then, and only then

can we truly begin the rebuilding of our families, and our communities. What's happening in Baltimore and the nation is sickening.

A young man from my community was stabbed to death, in broad daylight on July 26, 2016. I watched him grow into manhood. And this is not the first young man I have known personally to have died an unnatural and tragic death.

Together we stand as one united people of African ancestry.

Larry C. Smith
President

Look Forward My Brother
Baltimore, MD

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Hillary Clinton looks to build African American base with top staffers

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA News Wire Contributor

As the presidential candidates sprint towards the November 8, 2016 election, the Clinton campaign has turned to seasoned, Black political strategists to boost voter turnout in the African American community.

Last month, the Clinton campaign hired Nadia Garnett to lead strategic efforts as the African-American Vote Director.

“We have a theory,” Garnett said. “You have to meet people where they are. Where they eat, where they play and pray. We want to make sure that the African-American community understands the secretary’s commitment and I don’t think people fully understand her story.”

Garnett has displayed her skills in ways that few have. In addition to serving as national political director for the Center for Community Change, Garnett was also special advisor in the Office of Presidential Personnel at The White House.

She also served as eastern state director for The Atlas Project, a political research and data firm, which works

with electoral and issue advocacy campaigns. There, she coordinated campaign staffers, political consultants, and state experts regarding their role in developing, managing and executing campaign plans in presidential election years, according to her bio.

NBC BLK reported that Tamia Booker will serve as the director of African-American outreach and Zina Pierre will work with pastors and Black churches as the campaign’s African-American faith director. The Clinton campaign tapped Joel Payne to be the director of African-American paid media and LaDavia Drane is the campaign’s deputy director of congressional affairs.

Marlon Marshall, who serves as director of state campaigns and political engagement for Clinton, is as seasoned as any individual in any political camp.

“I’ve been blessed to be a part of this and I’m proud of our team,” said Marshall, 36. “Thirty-seven percent of our team out there, in the states are people of color. We work hard to hire people who look like us.”

The St. Louis-born resident possesses a broad portfolio that includes helping the campaigns of John Kerry and now presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Marshall’s colleague, Garnett is also far from a political novice.

Garnett has worked with pollster Cornell Belcher at his Washington, D.C.-based Brilliant Corners and Garnett once served as a field director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee’s Independent Expenditure.

Together, the new hires could be viewed as the face of the Clinton campaign in the Black community. But, they also do much more in trying to help the former First

Lady and Secretary of State become the nation’s first woman president.

They are Clinton’s eyes and ears and they lead her efforts to make sure her message is known in every state, including where the assumption is that the GOP will ultimately carry that particular territory.

As Kerry’s southern political director, Garnett also helped to establish and strengthen political relationships with Democratic National Committee members, Congress, state and local elected officials and grassroots activists in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Virginia.

Once a key White House aide, Marshall has remained the highest-ranking African-American staffer on any presidential campaign. He organized for John Kerry in 2004, joined Clinton’s campaign in 2007, and then worked on both of Barack Obama’s campaigns.

The St. Louis native also served as the national field director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—the first black person to hold that role.

Marshall joined the White House staff in September 2013.

In a November 2015 CNN profile, several Clinton aides credited Marshall with helping to create a diverse campaign team at the state and upper staff level.

Plugged in staffers have helped Marshall to make sure the campaign is tuned in with what people are talking about.

When, for instance, video surfaced of a black high school student getting yanked from her chair by a school resource officer in South Carolina, a digital staffer flagged the incident and Marshall coordinated the campaign response.

One of his most important tasks is helping the Clinton campaign navigate a cultural and political terrain that includes a

new civil rights movement, viral racial incidents and the waning tenure of the nation’s first Black president.

“I do feel that our message is getting across, especially given that a first-time candidate like [presumptive GOP presidential nominee] Donald Trump is getting so much media attention,” Marshall said. “Trump is temperamentally unfit and he’s divisive. Trump is out for himself and he’s not who Americans want as president of the United States.”

Both Marshall and Garnett said Clinton believes in developing and maintaining a strong economy for all Americans and working with U.S. allies.

When noting Trump’s slogan of “Making America Great Again,” Marshall said it’s just talk.

“Secretary Clinton believes in working together,” he said. “Trump has catchphrases, but he’s unfit and he will not succeed.”

Marshall continued: “She’s fighting to bring back jobs and what’s also important to her, obviously with the horrible things that have with the [police shootings], there’s a huge need for criminal justice reform.”

In part, Clinton wants resources for training police officers. She also has a global view of the future and what needs to be done, he said.

“One reason I’m excited about her is that she gets it,” Marshall said.

It’s also important to recognize that Clinton has previously been elected to office and knows the ins-and-outs of politics and the needs of American citizens, Garnett said.

Garnett added: “You don’t need someone who doesn’t understand these things.”

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NNPA Fellows Report on Challenges and Aspirations of Black America

*By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President, National Newspaper
Publishers Association*

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) commends the dedication, vigilance and vitality of our eight “Discover the Unexpected” NNPA Journalism Fellows: Brandi Montgomery, Brelaun Douglas, Briahanna Brown, McKenzie Marshall, Victoria Jones, Rushawn Walters, Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King.

Over this summer, the NNPA Fellows were in the streets in Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Houston, Cleveland and Philadelphia reporting on the news that will impact the quality of life of African Americans.

Thanks to the academic and professional guidance of the Howard University School of Communications, the NNPA benefited strategically from having this group of talented millennials as the first group of undergraduate student fellows in 2016. This unique fellowship program was made possible by the generous support of Chevrolet.

I witnessed firsthand the diligence of some of the NNPA Fellows at the NNPA National Convention in Houston in June and at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia last week. During both events, I observed the fellows’ thirst and passion for gathering the news and for reporting their insights and perspectives to black America.

Today we are challenged by numerous issues on voting rights, politics, education, healthcare, employment, housing, economic development and criminal justice reform. Yet, the aspirations of black America to push for more progress, justice and equality have not been diminished or reduced. In fact in Cleveland at the Republican National Convention, as well as at the DNC in Philadelphia, the demands of black America for fairness, respect, justice and equal opportunity were well articulated and reported in the



Rushawn Walters (left) and Victoria Jones (right), NNPA/DTU journalism fellows assigned to The Washington Informer conduct research for story assignments at The Washington Informer office in Southeast, Washington, D.C. Walters and Jones are two of the eight NNPA Journalism Fellows from The Howard University School of Journalism selected to work with NNPA member publishers as part of the “Discover The Unexpected” NNPA Journalism Fellows Program.

Photo Credit: Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

Black Press across America. It was inspiring to see young activist journalists, videographers, podcasters, bloggers and photographers do their work with enthusiasm and zeal.

“This new partnership represents the next phase in the relationship between Chevrolet and the NNPA, allowing our Chevrolet brand to help shape and support the next generation of black journalists and publishers,” said Michelle Alexander, General Motor’s Diversity Marketing Manager. “These young, aspiring journalists had the opportunity to get hands-on experience and guidance from the leading publishers in our communities.”

Briahanna Brown affirmed, “I am grateful to both Chevrolet and the NNPA for

my opportunity with DTU, which has enabled me to take lessons from the experience and professionalism of the top minority publishers in the country to tell stories that are often overlooked in the communities I represent.”

Recently in Washington, D.C. NNPA Fellow Victoria Jones reported on the importance of African America iconic leaders to share their success stories and journeys with young emerging activists and leaders in our communities throughout the country. Jones’s news feature title was “Icon Talks’ Event Celebrates African American Success.”

Media mogul Cathy Hughes, civil rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson and actor Omari Hardwick were honored

and saluted at the Icon Talks’ event at the Mead Center for American Theater.

“The performances and conversations.... explored paths to success and provided a platform to engage, entertain, and inspire,” explained Jones.

We look forward to the next phase of the Discover the Unexpected (DTU) Fellowship Program with the NNPA. As we face the future, we are more determined and confident that we will continue to advance the cause of freedom, justice and equality. The Black Press of America will remain at the vanguard of the global movement to change the nation and world into a better place for all.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. —Martin Luther King, Jr.

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DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU

Comcast's Customers get a 'Front Row to Rio'

By Ursula V. Battle

X1 Technology allows customer to define their Olympic TV experience

Commonly known as Rio 2016, the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, mark a historic first time that the Olympics is being held in South America, and only the third time in the Southern Hemisphere.

Comcast will also be making history, by providing exciting new technology that will give customers the ability to personalize their Olympics television experience. They will be able to follow the athletes, teams and nations they care about most and navigate the entire Games with the sound of their voice using the X1 voice remote.

According to Comcast, Front Row to Rio will be the ultimate Olympics destination on X1, and will offer customers a place to easily search, discover and access content.

According to Chad McCauley, director of Product Management for Comcast, the global media and technology giant will combine live television, online streaming and on demand content, athlete profiles, and up-to-the-minute stats—in one integrated NBC Olympics dashboard.

"The thought behind this is to allow personalization," said McCauley. "This positions the content according to the needs of the consumer. No two people watch the Olympics the same way. This is very exciting because it allows people to personalize their viewing."

Customers will also be able to search and explore the latest medal counts, live results, and real-time statistics for events. They will also be able to browse all live and streaming programming schedules, select the specific event live stream they want to view, and watch the latest highlights of their favorite events and athletes on demand.

Customers will be able to access Front Row to Rio from the main menu or Xfinity On Demand sections of the guide, under "TV" and "Sports."

Using the X1 voice remote, customers will be able to access several categories.



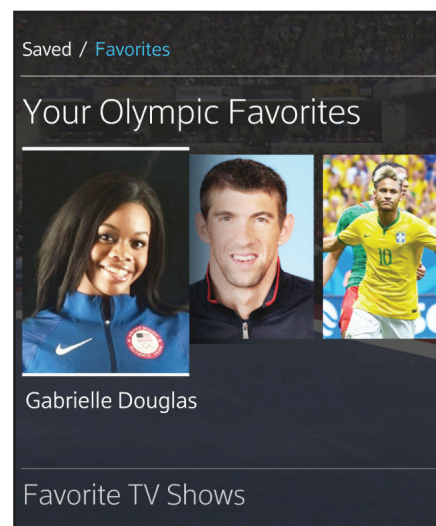
Rio 2016, the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, takes place August 5 to 21, 2016. Comcast is able to provide its customers a "Front Row to Rio." They will be able to follow the athletes, teams and nations they care about most and navigate the entire games with the sound of their voice using the X1 voice remote. Courtesy Photo/Comcast

The categories will include "Favorites," which allows viewers to tag their favorite athletes, teams and nations; "Must See Moments," which provides several tune-in notifications for marquee Olympic events that viewers won't want to miss; and "Gold Zone," which will guide viewers to the best live action happening at a given moment.

"This allows customers to find information with the simplicity of a voice remote and guide," said McCauley. "You can look up and find athlete profiles, and other great information. This technology offers a totally immersive and personalized experience that customers can personalize and define by their own terms. Making the customer experience better, is central to everything that we do. The reviews have been overwhelmingly positive."

Other features include the "X1 Sports App for the Olympics" a groundbreaking Olympics companion TV experience

that will enable users to search and explore the latest medal counts, live results and scores, and real-time stats for all events. "Voice Search" will allow



customers to use the X1 voice remote to quickly and easily search, discover and navigate the entire Olympics experience

with just the sound of their voice.

Spanish language options will allow X1 customers to navigate their entire Olympics experience via the Spanish guide, and to enjoy the event's Opening and Closing.

The X1 platform is a first-of-its-kind entertainment platform that seamlessly merges entertainment with the rest of your life. Utilizing Comcast's extensive technology network, X1 combines customized apps, social media features and traditional video services to deliver a personalized TV entertainment experience.

From August 5 to 21, 2016, over 10,000 elite athletes will represent 206 countries to compete in 42 Olympic sports. Rio 2016 takes place in 32 venues around Rio and in co-host cities Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Manaus, Salvador and São Paulo.

"This opens up future possibilities for not only sporting events, but other events," said McCauley.

Art @ Work in Upton Community

By Deborah Bailey

Upton is looking a little more “artsy” these days, thanks to the hard work and creativity of students from Youthworks, the Baltimore City Summer Employment program.

This summer, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) and Jubilee Arts sponsored Art @ Work: Upton, a five-week mural apprenticeship program that gave dozens of neighborhood youth enrolled in YouthWorks the opportunity to beautify the Upton community.

A community celebration was held on Friday, July 29, 2016 to unveil the new public art projects created as a result of the program. Along with live performances and entertainment, the celebration featured youth-led guided trolley tours of each of the completed murals.

The youth artists did a lot more than simply paint the stunning murals that can be seen along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, Eutaw and Division Streets. Each team worked alongside a professional

artist, while engaging residents of community who live near the mural sites to ensure the murals represented the history and vision of the community.

Terrance Pervis, 15, didn’t know he would spend his summer painting murals, but said the experience has given him a vision for what he can do with art.

“I didn’t choose to work on this project when I got accepted to YouthWorks, but I guess it was meant to be. I will use the skills I learned to go further in art,” Pervis said.

This year’s mural projects are located at the Shake & Bake Family Fun Center; The Avenue Market; Sissy’s Seafood; Lafayette Market; Crazy Beauty Mart; Etting & Wilson Park; Eutaw Marshburn Elementary School; and the 1900 block of Division Street.

Pervis and other students worked with renowned local artists such as Clayworks’ Herb Massie, who spent his childhood in Upton. The students on Massie’s team diverged from the mural



“Miss” Understood, a mural created and painted in the Upton Community by students from YouthWorks, the Baltimore City Summer Employment program. “Art@Work: Upton” was sponsored by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and Jubilee Arts. Courtesy Photo

theme creating mosaics and flowerpots instead.

“I like mosaics because there is something spiritual about bringing the little pieces together and creating a picture or design,” Massie said.

Massie’s inspiration for the flowerpots and murals came from memories of neighbors washing the marble steps outside their front doors and seeing every door brightly painted with a flowerpot to match.

Other professional artists participating in the 2016 Art@work program include: Julie Horton; Ignacio Mariño Larrique; Megan Lewis; Gary Mullen; Iandry Randriamandroso; Mike Thomas; and Ernest Shaw, Jr.

“If ever there was a time for positive youthful engagement in the life of the Upton community and of the Avenue Market in particular, that time is now,” said Robert Thomas, executive director of the Baltimore Public Markets Corp. who coordinated operations at Avenue Market and five other markets throughout Baltimore. “These young artists are developing their talents while learning the more comprehensive soft skills of

community engagement.”

Tracy Baskerville from the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts says the Art@Work program has been an incredible success.

“Art@Work was developed after the unrest of 2015. As the arts council for the city, BOPA wanted to create a program that would create summer jobs for youth, inspire an interest in the arts and use the expertise of the many Baltimore artists working in the city every day,” Baskerville said. “This program accomplished that goal. In addition, we wanted something in which the community can enjoy the results, and they can with beautiful murals that were created in the Sandtown and Upton neighborhoods.”

In addition to the art work created, the youth artists participated in financial literacy classes presented by Baltimore CASH campaign; professional development seminars conducted by HIBRED Workforce Solutions; leadership development workshops supported by the No Boundaries Coalition, Youth As Resources and BUILD, as well as zine (magazine) workshops led by local journalist Jordannah Elizabeth.

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Local Resident Pledges National Service with FEMA Corps

By Stacy M. Brown

Cyan Manuel is well traveled and loves it. The Hanover, Maryland, resident was raised by her military mom who served in the Army for more than 25 years. She attended high school in Germany and went to the University of Texas at Austin before taking a job as an associate with the Casualty Actuarial Society, whose mission is to advance actuarial science through a singular focus on research and education.

Now, Manuel, 29, has signed on as one of 10 Team Leaders pledging to perform 11 months of national service as part of the Atlantic Region's FEMA Corps Class 23. FEMA Corps is a track of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program.

Manuel and her team will work on a variety of projects focusing on disaster response and recovery efforts. She may also be asked to work with FEMA regional and joint field offices, as well as the Red Cross and other emergency management organizations.

"I had a few friends who either joined AmeriCorps after college, or who I met through volunteering with other organizations," Manuel said, when asked how she heard about the program. "I decided to pledge to serve with FEMA Corps earlier this year. I took a sabbatical from my career because I wanted to travel and spend a long period of time volunteering which is something that brings me personal satisfaction."

When asked about her motivation to serve, Manuel said, "My mom was in the U.S. Army while I was growing up. I always felt that being an active part of a community was key to feeling like a new city was my home. As I share what I have with others, I always learn something new. It's a wonderful gift, the exchange of things that can't be bought."

Since the program was founded in 1994, almost one million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

AmeriCorps initiatives focus on spe-



Cyan Manuel took a sabbatical from her career to travel and volunteer hoping for more personal fulfillment. After looking into several service organizations, she signed on with FEMA Corps for an 11-month term. After her tenure, she will graduate with an education award of \$5,775, which can be used to continue education or to pay back student loans. FEMA Corps is a track of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program. Since the program was founded in 1994, almost one million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. Courtesy Photo

cific needs throughout the country and it strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.

In partnership with non-profits—secular and faith based—local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national and state parks, Indian tribes, and schools—members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.

The program is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women between 18 and 24, with one of its five locations in Baltimore.

Manuel says she discovered FEMA Corps after looking into both the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps program and decided that FEMA Corps was the direction she wanted to take.

"National service has been a part of my family as my mother and grandfather have served in the armed forces," Manuel said. "I was always inspired to do more for our country and be an active part of the solution to our country's toughest problems."

Manuel's goal is to prepare team members for what she expects to be a tough but incredibly rewarding experience.

"While working with FEMA, I hope to gain better insight into an organization faced with lots of criticism in the past," Manuel said. "The best way to improve and support an organization is to be a part of it. I never wish for disasters to happen to our people, but when they do happen, I am excited to be part of the organization that is tasked to help our citizens get back on their feet."

After her tenure, Manuel will graduate from FEMA Corps in May 2017 with an education award of \$5,775, which can be used to continue education or pay back student loans.

"I'm most excited to spend time volunteering for almost a year," she said. "After spending seven years in corporate, I am seriously ecstatic that I had enough courage to quit my job to pursue my passion of volunteering and travel. I have zero regrets. This is a great way to share your skills if you are a seasoned professional."

"For those young people looking for something to do during gap year, this is a great program. By joining FEMA Corps, you gain professional experience, earn an educational grant, and most importantly help to those who need it most."

Nine-year-old takes 'hold' of hair accessory market

By Ursula V. Battle

This young lady handles inventory, serves as the lead salesperson at trade shows, speaks to community groups, writes thank you cards to online customers and even helps with sales taxes. She was chosen as a “2015 South Carolina Young Entrepreneur of the Year,” and holds the distinction of being the youngest person to ever receive this honor. And she’s only nine-years-old. Meet Gabrielle Goodwin, president and CEO of GaBBY Bows.

Gabrielle was just five-years-old when she started insisting that she and her mom Rozalynn Goodwin create a barrette that would stay in her hair. They started the company when Gabrielle was seven years old. According to Gabrielle and her mom, The Double-Face Double-Snap Barrette by GaBBY solved the age-old problem of disappearing girls’ hair barrettes, noting that the product won’t slip out of braids, pigtails, or twists.

“I happened to be on Twitter one day with some other women, and we were all discussing that barrettes would not stay in our daughters’ hair,” recalled Goodwin. “We were just venting. It never crossed my mind, that we could be the solution to the problem. My pastor, Herbert Bailey of the Right Direction Church, International in South Carolina also happened to be on Twitter. He tweeted that it sounded like a market you need to break into.”

She added, “I replied that I would get on it, and prayed to God, that if there was an idea there, to show it to me. Gabrielle also stayed on me every day about it. At most, I thought we would come up with an idea, sell it to a hair accessory company, name it after Gabrielle, and then go on with our lives. But God had something else in store.”

Indeed God did. In just two years of operations, more than 13,000 packs of GaBBY Bows have been sold through online sales and in 25 retail stores in the Southeast. The hair accessory also landed Gabrielle and her mom on the national television show, “The Real.” The segment aired Thursday, June 30,



(Left) Nine-year-old Gabrielle Goodwin holding a package of GaBBY Bows in a Walgreens store, one of 25 retail stores which carries the barrettes. (Right) Gabrielle Goodwin and her mother Rozalynn Goodwin on the set of the national television show, “The Real,” discussing the hair accessory during the show’s “Girl Power” segment. The show aired on June 30, 2016. Gabrielle also hosts GaBBY Play Dates to teach girls in children’s shelters about entrepreneurship.

Courtesy Photos

2016, and featured the two on the show’s “Girl Powered” segment discussing their invention.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Gabrielle. “I got to go to L.A., and meet a lot of people.”

The elder Goodwin added, “For me, being on ‘The Real’ was surreal. To have the opportunity to share our story and the invention was outstanding. Gabby’s dad and I were very proud of how she conducted herself on the interview. She came across very bold and confident. After the interview, we had a spike in orders from all over the country.”

Gabrielle also hosts GaBBY Play Dates to teach girls in children’s shelters about entrepreneurship. She discussed how she balances her busy schedule. “It’s a lot of work,” she said. “Sometimes I wake up early and go to bed late. If I have to be someplace, I get picked up early.”

On July 31, 2016, GaBBY Bows also concluded a successful Kickstarter campaign, exceeding its \$25,000 fundraising goal.

“We raised \$28,000 on Kickstarter,” said Goodwin. “The monies raised from Kickstarter will fund two new designs that will expand our market. We want to manufacture new designs and new colors. Our customers wanted a smaller version of the bows for toddlers and infants. They also wanted a bow for braids. Our engineers had the drawings ready—we just needed capital. We also plan on breaking into the boutique market as well.”

GaBBY Bows was recently named a “2016 SCORE and Sam’s Club American Small Business Champion,” and is in the running for the competition’s \$25,000 grand prize award, which will be announced in September.

GaBBY Bows was also one of 14

national finalists for the “2015 U.S. Small Business Administration InnovateHER Business Competition.”

“Some people are afraid of the word ‘no,’ so they never pursue their dreams,” said Goodwin. “But we look at the word ‘no’ as ‘next opportunity.’ You just need one ‘yes’ to get past ‘no.’ Make that first step, and you will be amazed. There are SCORE mentors all over the country, and it’s a free service. There is free help in all of our communities. You just have to take the first step.”

She added, “It’s all a matter of perspective. We don’t sugar coat it. It’s a lot of work. If you want to pursue your dream and passion, it’s worth the sacrifice.”

Gabrielle shared this advice.

“Obstacles will be there, but don’t give up,” said the fourth grader. “Dream and pursue it.”

For more information about GaBBY Bows, visit: www.gabbybows.com.

Summer can trigger painful sickle cell disease crisis

By Stacy M. Brown

Sickle cell disease affects millions worldwide, including an estimated 100,000 people in the United States.

“The only thing that can stop this [sickle cell disease] and let us live to old age is having better treatment options and a wide portfolio of drugs available to us,” said Tosin Ola, a sickle cell sufferer who is a registered nurse and leading patient advocate at the largest online support groups, Sickle Cell Warriors.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells, according to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. Sometimes, these red blood cells become sickle-shaped— or crescent-shaped— and have difficulty passing through small blood vessels.

When sickle-shaped cells block small blood vessels, less blood can reach that part of the body and tissue that does not receive a normal blood flow eventually becomes damaged.

While medical experts are still searching for a cure, those with the illness have said the heat of the summer months— and activities related to the season— also can trigger even more of the pain they experience from the disease.

“During the summer, there are a lot more to stressors on people living with sickle cell disease. The first is the obvious— the heat and dehydration that the season brings,” Ola said. “Secondly, the summer is a time when many families go on vacation. Air travel can be a significant trigger for people living with this condition. Even something as simple as swimming in the pool, lake or ocean can trigger a painful crisis episode.”

Ola says the greatest challenge for people living with sickle cell disease is



Tosin Ola, a sickle cell sufferer who is a registered nurse and leading patient advocate at “Sickle Cell Warriors,” the largest online support group.

Courtesy Photo

adapting to the episodes of pain.

“My advice is to learn to live a life of balance. Know what triggers crisis in order to avoid these situations as best as possible, or make plans around them,” Ola said.

However, summer can still be enjoyable for sickle cell disease sufferers.

Officials from the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America say they support a wide range of innovative research programs to discover and develop new and effective therapies for sickle cell disease.

By harnessing the best minds in science and medicine, the association has made tremendous progress in understanding and treating the disease, and continues to pursue every opportunity that could help people with sickle cell

live longer and healthier lives, according to officials from the Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Abby Roth, a nurse clinician who cares for patients with the illness, says there are precautions that can help when the weather is hot. Staying hydrated, cool, going for a swim, and eating healthy and balanced meals are among the practices Roth advocates.

In a web post, Roth noted that drinking fluids such as water or Gatorade and carrying a bottle of water at all times should be considered.

She pointed out that a sudden change in body temperature may cause a child with sickle cell to have an acute pain episode. It is recommended that children with sickle cell should avoid becoming over-heated during the summer and children should dress in light layers to better accommodate for temperature changes. It is essential to wear a hat and sunscreen when outdoors. Roth also encourages peer relationships.

“Children with sickle cell may feel

alone in their disease or have a difficult time meeting friends due to multiple hospital stays,” she said. “Camp is a great way for children to learn social skills and increase self-confidence. Children with sickle cell should be encouraged to attend camp. If your child is going to attend a camp or retreat, contact your sickle cell team to get a health form that includes your child’s medications. This form will help the camp instructors know how to care for your child when they are away from home.” Ola added that counteracting the pain caused by the disease begins with eating as healthy as possible.

“Having diet rich in root vegetables such as sweet potatoes, beets, carrots, leafy dark green vegetables like kale, spinach,” she said. “Eating well improves your health, and drink as much water as possible,” she said.

For more information about sickle cell disease, summer triggers and more, visit: www.sicklecellwarriors.com or www.sicklecelldisease.org.

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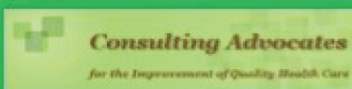
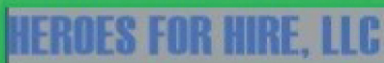


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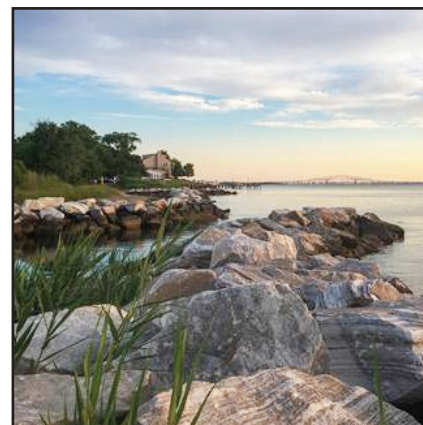
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**“Colors of Summer”
Exhibit in Gallery 90**



“Sunrise on the Bay” by Nicole Caracia is part of the Gallery 90 exhibit, featuring colorful works from Chesapeake Art Center artists, which runs until August 25, 2016. Courtesy Photo

Pasadena, Md.— While you’re out enjoying the shady spots of the nearby B & A Trail or looking for a place to duck in for a little air conditioning, step into Gallery 90 to see new work from Chesapeake Arts Center Gallery artists.

The “Colors of Summer” exhibit is on display until August 25, 2016, in the art gallery that is located throughout the Hospice of the Chesapeake’s administrative building on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus located at 90 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena, Maryland.

Eight gallery artists are featured in the show: Paige Bradley, Keith Burke, Nicole Caracia, Ricky Chenoweth, Emily Forgo, Sidney Jackson, Jay Nauman and Joe Vitek. Each has selected work for this exhibit that is colorful and reflective of different elements of summer.

Gallery 90 was established to realize the vision of creating a harmonious work environment for Hospice of the Chesapeake administrative staff and visiting nurses, caregivers and volunteers who work directly with patients and their families.

For reservations, or to schedule a private tour for your group, contact Kris Carpenter-Zyla at 410-987-2003, Ext. 1328, or email: kcarpenterzyla@hospicechesapeake.org
For more information about the artists or the exhibit, visit: www.chesa-

Black farmer fights to kill death tax

By Avis Thomas-Lester,
Urban News Service

John Wesley Boyd, Jr., lives off the land raising cows, growing soybeans and corn on 400 acres he owns in rural Baskerville, Virginia.

He works alongside his father, John Wesley Boyd, Sr., 75, who farms 117 acres nearby, which he inherited from his own father. Together they have faced drought, fluctuating crop prices and encroaching development. Farming isn't an easy life, Boyd, Jr. said, but it's one that he enjoys and hopes to pass down to his own children.

Unless, he said, his family is forced to sell the farm to pay the estate tax upon his death.

"People work hard to get something and make it grow," said Boyd, 50.

"Then, when they want to pass it on to their families, they owe the government so much in estate tax that the family has to sell the business to pay it. It's not right."

Boyd, founder and president of the National Black Farmers Association, is among a group of small and medium-sized business owners who are lobbying for the repeal of the estate tax, which federally is levied on transferable assets beyond \$5.45 million— double that for married couples. The U.S. Senate soon will consider legislation to rescind the 40-percent federal estate tax. The House of Representatives voted to end it last year.

The estate tax, sometimes called the "death tax," has been widely discussed since the loss of musician Prince Rogers Nelson, aka Prince, 57, who died without a will on April 21, at his Paisley Park Studio complex in Chanhassen, Minnesota. Prince, who died of an opioid overdose, was unmarried, had no children and was preceded in death by his parents.

Under Minnesota law, his sister and five half-siblings will inherit his assets, which are estimated to be worth up to \$300 million. Estate planners believe that Prince's fortune may shrink in half because he departed without directing his assets into charitable donations,



John Wesley Boyd, Sr. and John Wesley Boyd, Jr.
Courtesy Photo

trusts or other tax shelters.

Business owners who oppose the tax say it burdens heirs with generating cash when most of the decedent's assets are tied up in their operations. The federal tax is due nine months after the death, but probate attorneys say the IRS will let heirs pay over several years.

Fifteen states, including: Minnesota and Washington, D.C., also assess estate taxes; and seven states levy inheritance taxes, according to Kiplinger.com. The website says several states have increased their exemptions in recent years, including Maine, thus reducing the number of people subject to estate tax. Tennessee dropped its tax this year.

However Richard Phillips, a senior policy analyst for Citizens for Tax Justice, said the tax only affects two percent of the wealthiest Americans. He challenged claims that the estate tax threatens small businesses.

"The estate tax is a crucial tool for curbing the worrisome growth in wealth inequality over the past couple decades," Phillips said via email. "Rather than hurting small business, the estate tax

helps ensure that we have the public resources that allow such businesses to flourish."

The House passed the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015 that April 16, 240-179. Congressmen Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-Georgia) and Kevin Brady (R-Texas) championed this bill.

"The Death Tax represents all that is unfair and unjust about the tax structure in America because it undermines the life work and life savings of Americans who want only to pass on to their children and their grandchildren the fruits of their labor and the realization of their American Dream," Bishop told Urban News Service via email.

The first estate tax was levied in 1797, to bolster military services in response to a perceived French threat, according to IRS.gov. It re-emerged in 1862, to help fund the Civil War and returned in 1898, to finance the Spanish-American War. It always was repealed. Today's tax was passed in 1916 – 100 years ago — a year before America entered World War I. It has remained ever since.

John Boyd, Jr.'s assets, like those of

many farmers, are tied up in his land and crops, he said. He and his wife Kara, 46, have traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for estate-tax repeal. He said the tax is always a hot topic at the National Black Farmers Association's annual conventions.

The Boyds gained a foothold in the middle class because of land ownership, John, Jr. said. John, Sr. — known as "The Boss" — inherited his acreage from his father, Thomas Boyd, who purchased a large parcel when land ownership eluded many blacks.

Upon Thomas Boyd's death, the property was divided among his 15 children. John Sr., the youngest child, and his brother, Benjamin (who lives in New York) are their generation's last surviving siblings.

"Land is the most powerful thing that we can possess," John Boyd, Jr. said. "Eliminating this tax would directly help a lot of farmers keep their land ... That would help families now and for generations to come."

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING BOARD OF ESTIMATES MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Baltimore intends to increase the charge for water and sewer rates over a three year period. The rates for water would increase by 9.9% on October 11, 2016, 9.9% in FY18 and 9.9% FY19. The rates for sewer would increase by 9% on October 11, 2016, 9% in FY18, and 9% FY19. The City of Baltimore also intends to change its current quarterly billing structure to monthly billing, and increase the charge for miscellaneous water fees. These proposed rates and miscellaneous water fees will become effective October 11, 2016, July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018. A hearing on August 31, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. will be held.

Current charges are calculated on a quarterly consumption basis. Current charges are not structurally comparable to the proposed rate structure. The proposed structure would levy two fixed charges, an account management fee and an infrastructure charge; and a volumetric charge to each unit of water and sewer in a billing period. The account management fee is a flat rate for all customers; the infrastructure charge will vary by meter size. The proposed structure replaces the existing minimum billable quarterly charges. The proposed rate schedules follows:

Baltimore City Water

Fixed Components

	<u>PROPOSED</u> October 11, 2016		<u>PROPOSED</u> July 1, 2017		<u>PROPOSED</u> July 1, 2018	
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer
Account Management Fee	\$2.720		\$2.979		\$3.263	
Meter Size						
5/8"	\$8.150	\$7.070	\$8.957	\$7.706	\$9.844	\$8.400
3/4"	\$14.670	\$12.726	\$16.122	\$13.871	\$17.718	\$15.119
1"	\$32.600	\$28.280	\$35.827	\$30.825	\$39.374	\$33.599
1-1/2"	\$57.050	\$49.490	\$62.698	\$53.944	\$68.905	\$58.799
2"	\$130.400	\$113.120	\$143.310	\$123.301	\$157.498	\$134.398
3"	\$228.200	\$197.960	\$250.792	\$215.776	\$275.620	\$235.196
4"	\$521.600	\$452.480	\$573.238	\$493.203	\$629.989	\$537.591
6"	\$937.250	\$813.050	\$1,030.038	\$886.225	\$1,132.012	\$965.985
8"	\$1,467.000	\$1,272.600	\$1,612.233	\$1,387.134	\$1,771.844	\$1,511.976
10"	\$2,078.250	\$1,802.850	\$2,283.997	\$1,965.107	\$2,510.113	\$2,141.967
12"	\$3,708.250	\$3,216.850	\$4,075.367	\$3,506.367	\$4,478.828	\$3,821.940

Variable Component

	<u>PROPOSED</u> October 11, 2016		<u>PROPOSED</u> July 1, 2017		<u>PROPOSED</u> July 1, 2018	
	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer	Water	Sewer
Volumetric Rate (all Units)	\$2.260	\$6.160	\$2.484	\$6.714	\$2.730	\$7.318

Eligible senior citizen consumers age 65 and older in Baltimore City who apply and whose annual household income does not exceed \$30,000.00 will receive a 43% discount on water and sewer rates. Low-income residents in Baltimore City who apply and whose annual household incomes fall within federal poverty guidelines will receive \$197 in annual credit, up from \$179. It is also recommended that miscellaneous water fees be increased as follows:

Miscellaneous Fees

Fee Type	Current Fees	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
		October 11, 2016	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018
Fire Hydrant Permit	\$175.00	\$180.00	\$185.00	\$191.00
Fire Flow Test	\$750.00	\$773.00	\$796.00	\$820.00
Fire Protection Fee	\$150.00	\$156.00	\$162.00	\$168.00
Meter Testing-2" and Below	\$100.00	\$103.00	\$106.00	\$109.00
Meter Testing-Above 2"	\$100.00	\$103.00	\$106.00	\$109.00
Delinquent Turn-Off	\$95.00	\$98.00	\$101.00	\$104.00
Turn-Off -Request by Owner (small meter)	\$95.00	\$98.00	\$101.00	\$104.00
Turn-On-Request by Owner (small meter)	\$95.00	\$98.99	\$101.00	\$104.00
Turn-Off-Large Meter-Above 2"	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$160.00	\$165.00
Turn-On-Large Meter-Above 2"	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$160.00	\$165.00
Abandonment-1" and Below	\$380.00	\$391.00	\$403.00	\$415.00
Abandonment-1 1/2" and 2"	\$655.00	\$675.00	\$695.00	\$716.00
Reduce 3/4" Meter to 5/8" Meter	\$175.00	\$180.00	\$185.00	\$191.00
Reduce 1" Meter to 3/4" Meter	\$240.00	\$247.00	\$254.00	\$262.00
Reduce 1" Meter to 5/8" Meter	\$240.00	\$247.00	\$254.00	\$262.00
Reduce 2" Meter to 1 1/2" Meter	\$1,140.00	\$1,174.00	\$1,209.00	\$1,245.00
Tampering Fee (1st Offense)	N/A	\$100.00	\$103.00	\$106.00
Tampering Fee (After 1st Offense)	N/A	\$500.00	\$515.00	\$530.00
Access to Asset	N/A	\$100.00	\$103.00	\$106.00

**Legal Notice:
Notice of Hearing,
continued on page 17**

Legal Notices

Legal Notice: Notice of Hearing, continued from page 16

Also, water rate increases for consumers in Howard, Anne Arundel, and Carroll Counties of 9.9% in October 11, 2016, 9.9% in FY18 and 9.9% in FY19 are recommended. Increased cost of water and sewer service will be passed on to Baltimore County through the City-County Agreements. Baltimore County establishes its own rates with City concurrence.

Current rate and proposed rate schedules follow:

	Proposed Water County Rates			
	Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019	
Howard County				
Wholesale Service (all units)	\$2.147	\$2.360	\$2.594	
Anne Arundel County				
Wholesale Service (all units)	\$2.147	\$2.360	\$2.594	
Carroll County				
Raw Water (all Units)	\$0.761	\$0.836	\$0.919	
Anne Arundel County-Water Retail Service				
Quarterly Use Block	Current Rate	Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019
First 50 Unit	\$4.775	\$5.248	\$5.768	\$6.339
Next 450 Units	\$2.789	\$3.065	\$3.368	\$3.701
Over 500 Units	\$1.915	\$2.105	\$2.313	\$2.542

PUBLIC NOTICE
OFFICE OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING AWARDS COMMISSION MEETING
August 10, 2016 – 2:45 P.M.

A meeting of the Architectural & Engineering Awards Commission will be held on Wednesday, August 10 at 2:45 P.M. in Room 215 City Hall (Board of Estimates Chambers).

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting, please contact Michael Augins at (410) 396-6883. The following projects will be considered for award during the meeting:

- 1. PROJECT #1249 – ON-CALL BRIDGE DESIGN SERVICES**
- 2. PROJECT #1251 – VALVE AND FIRE HYDRANT ASSESSMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN WATER SYSTEM**
- 3. PROJECT #1255 - ON CALL MATERIALS TESTING AND INSPECTION SERVICES**

Michael L. Augins
Executive Secretary

VA Maryland Health Care System seeking volunteers who like driving

Do you like to help others? Then VA Maryland Health Care System needs YOU!

The VA Maryland Health Care System is looking for volunteer drivers to drive VA vans to transport Veterans to and from clinic appointments.

To qualify as a volunteer driver, candidates must pass a background check and a physical; hold a current driver's license and private auto insurance; and complete an orientation. Vehicles (DAV Vans) will be provided.

Volunteer drivers are needed throughout the VA Maryland catchment area. For those who can volunteer in Baltimore metro, contact Dallas Renninger at 410-605-7000, ext.5505 or email: dallas.renninger@va.gov.

Also, a volunteer with computer skills is needed to serve as the Veterans Transportation Network (VTN) Coordinator for the Baltimore VA.

This volunteer position manages the VTN office, schedules drivers, does monthly reports, and coordinates transportation appointments for veterans. Anyone interested in volunteering for the VTN Coordinator position should contact Dallas Renninger.

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