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VERSE OF THE WEEK -
 Luke 6:37 *Forgive and you will be forgiven.*

Look for the 2017 CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN in this issue!



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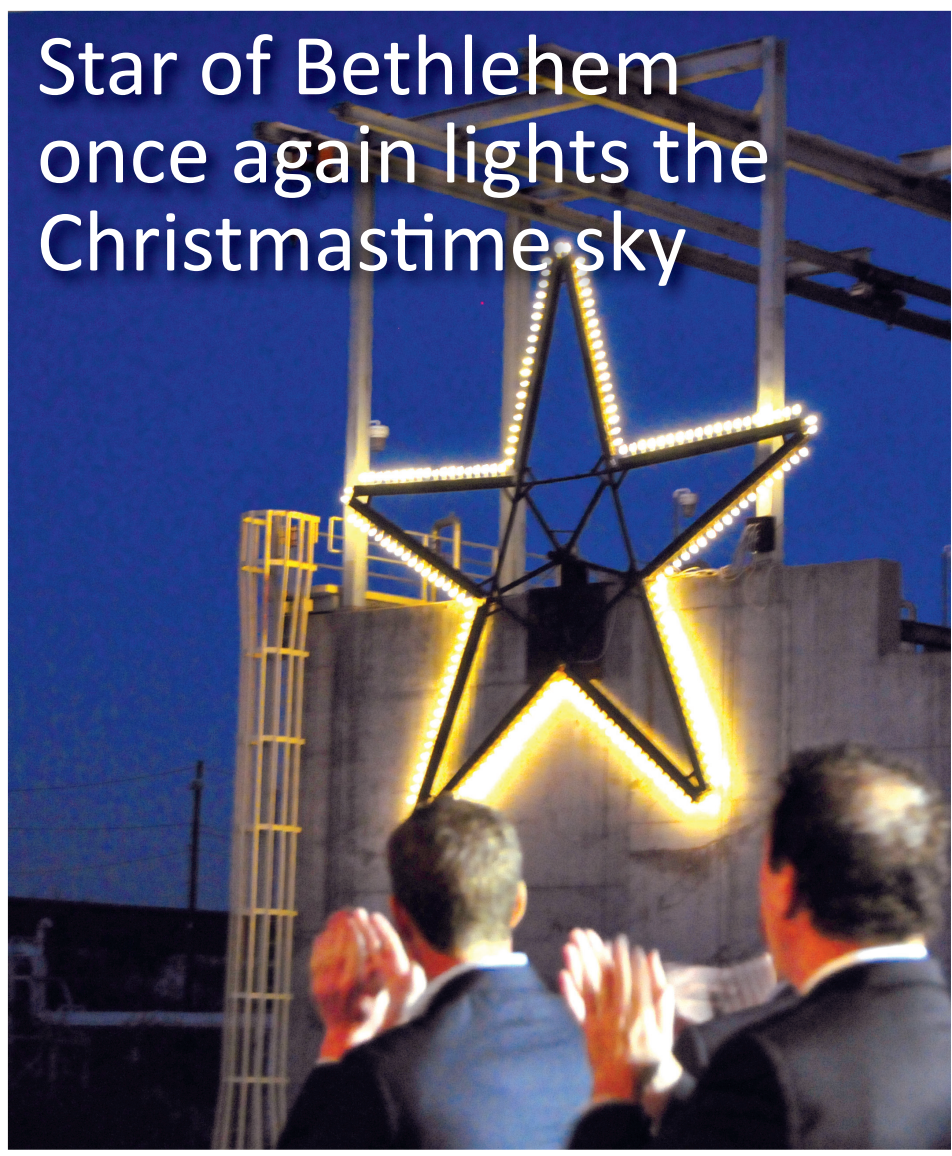
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Star of Bethlehem once again lights the Christmastime sky

Local elected leaders, as well as officials from Tradepoint Atlantic and members of the general public applauded as the giant beacon of Christmas spirit was again lit for all to see on the Sparrows Point campus. Photo by Marge Neal.

- By Marge Neal -

Placing the star atop a family's Christmas tree comes with mixed emotions. There is the poignancy of the moment, when the chosen family member delicately places the decoration in its place of honor. But there is usually some trepidation as well - that momentary fear that one wrong move will topple the carefully decorated tree.

As you're carrying out that task this

year, just be grateful your star is not 28 feet tall and doesn't weigh in at more than 1.5 tons.

That is the size of the Star of Bethlehem, an iconic symbol with multiple meanings that graced the L-Blast furnace at Bethlehem Steel for decades.

The star was crafted to honor the steelmaking industry, Bethlehem Steel's hometown of Bethlehem, Pa., and the birthplace of Jesus Christ.

Saved from the recycle pile by Tradepoint Atlantic employees, the much-loved star once again shines over the Greater Dundalk area, even if it is from a temporary home on the side wall of the former steel plant's wastewater treatment building.

More than 100 area residents joined elected leaders and Tradepoint officials on Nov. 29, when the star was brought to life for the third time under TPA's ownership.

"This star at Bethlehem Steel was for decades a source of community pride during the holiday season," Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz said during the brief ceremony. "And as we know in 2012, that star dimmed with the closing of RG Steel and we lost 2,000 jobs."

He thanked Tradepoint officials for their investment in Baltimore County and for ensuring that the Star of Bethlehem once again shines brightly over the Sparrows Point peninsula.

Aaron Tomarchio, Tradepoint's vice president of corporate affairs, called the star a "hand-crafted symbol of the Bethlehem Steel workers" and thanked the TPA employees responsible for its resurrection.

The behemoth decoration that is illuminated by 196 bulbs symbolizes the "strength and tradition and community" of the plant that provided jobs for multiple generations.

Noting that the star is in a temporary location - its perch atop the L-Blast furnace was much higher and could be seen from greater distances - Tomarchio said the star is still visible to many, including Francis Scott Key Bridge travelers.

After a countdown from 10, the switch was thrown, all 196 bulbs came to life and folks began taking selfies with the iconic star shining brightly in the background.

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Cowenton apartments to move forward despite councilwoman's action

- By Devin Crum -

Although County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins moved in May to delay a planned development at a busy intersection in White Marsh, the project will now move ahead as scheduled after Baltimore County determined the project is vested.

Cowenton South, consisting of 325 for-rent apartments on Cowenton Avenue at MD-7/Philadelphia Road, was hit with a road block back on May 1 when Bevins, who represents the area, changed the county's Basic Services Map to label the intersection as "failing" by traffic standards.

The intersection sees an average of 16,000 vehicles per day, according to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) - which controls the intersection because it is a state road - and traffic backs up on eastbound Philadelphia Road and westbound Ebenezer Road approaching the intersection beginning around 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Because the developer for Cowenton South, Keelty Homes, had not yet applied for their building permits at the time, Bevins' action served to freeze the project until traffic improvements could be made to the intersection.

However, the county's Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections (PAI) determined that the project is vested, meaning the developer had already completed enough work on the project to make it identifiable to the public by the time Bevins changed the intersection's

grade. Although the intersection is still labeled as failing, the project can now move forward.

PAI Director Arnold Jablon told the *East County Times* that the developer had done grading and installed the necessary utilities and roads on the property, and the project has actually been vested since 2009 or 2010.

"As far as the county's perspective, the project was vested a long time ago," Jablon said. "The plan that they have is protected."

The director said when determining whether or not a project is vested, the county has to look at what kind of work has been done.

"There has to be sufficient work to be able to tell the public, according to the Court of Appeals, what's going in," he said. "When you put roads in and you do utilities and you do grading, that's obviously giving notice to the public of what's coming."

Following her action in May, Bevins said she met with representatives of Keelty to discuss the issue and possible solutions since the added traffic will make problems there worse, and children living in the apartment complex will add to already-overcrowded schools in the area.

Despite being able to continue building, Keelty has promised to build only the first phase of the project - 185 units - and its community center until improvements are made to the intersection, according to the councilwoman. The developer has



The intersection's major issue is that traffic backs up heavily in the evenings approaching the intersection from eastbound MD-7/Philadelphia Road. SHA says light cycle adjustments and an added through lane could help solve the problem. File photo.

also agreed to contribute to the pot of money needed to fund the necessary traffic improvements, she said, which will incentivize the state to fix the intersection.

"The last meeting I had with them, they said they would make it a priority," Bevins said of the SHA. "And I'm hoping that they do."

SHA spokesman Charlie Gischlar affirmed that the proper solution to traffic congestion at the intersection would be the addition of a through lane on eastbound Philadelphia Road to get more vehicles through during each light cycle.

"But this is a long-term improvement which is not yet funded for construction," he said. However, the agency did add the intersection to its list of congested intersections to address as funding be-

comes available, he added.

In the meantime, SHA has recommended changing the traffic light phasing there to allow eastbound Philadelphia Road traffic to turn left onto westbound Cowenton Avenue after yielding to on-coming through traffic, while eastbound through traffic continues on Philadelphia. Currently, the left-turn and through lights are independent of one another.

"This will help ease the delay time and level of service for the side street traffic, as well as improve overall intersection operations," Gischlar said. "With this interim improvement, we should be able to roughly reduce the overall total intersection delay by about 20 seconds."

He said SHA is reviewing the proposal and, if approved, the signal upgrade could be scheduled for installation by summer or fall of 2018.

Gischlar did not specify a cost for the long-term improvements to the intersection, but Bevins said the through lane would cost "millions of dollars" and that seven properties would need to give up land on the road frontage for the state right of way to complete it.

She said she planned to appeal to all of the other developers with planned projects in the area to see if they too will contribute funds for the intersection's needed improvements.

It will take two years for Keelty to build Cowenton South's first phase, Bevins said, and she is hoping the improvements can be completed by then.



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Crandell wants answers regarding Fort Howard environmental status

- By Devin Crum -

Baltimore County Councilman Todd Crandell (R-7) on Tuesday, Dec. 5, called on the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and any other relevant government agencies to explain the status of documented hazardous waste sites on the North Point peninsula at Fort Howard.

ProPublica on Nov. 30 published the first comprehensive map of sites across the nation, one of which is Fort Howard, that have been contaminated with toxic waste and explosives due to military use. The publication identifies four sites on the peninsula - two active and two inactive - where contamination has been found, all of which are within the county-owned Fort Howard Park.

The inactive sites - one a landfill and the other a site where contaminated fill was used - are those where military cleanup actions are complete, according to DOD records, which indicate the final cleanup actions were completed in September of 1998 and 1999, respectively.

The active sites are identified as "Multi-Use Range Complex No. 1," a water site and a land site. Together, they represent a total estimated cleanup cost of \$7.66 million, and the USACE estimates the cleanup to be complete in September of 2034 and 2035, respectively.

The sites, which are part of the USACE Military Munitions Response Program, are contaminated with heavy metals, including antimony, nickel, copper, zinc and lead, and are listed as a "medium" risk. However, the DOD and USACE have placed no limits on public access of those areas.

"This information, I don't know if anybody knew about this," Crandell told the *East County Times*.

"I am not an alarmist, but if this information is accurate, it is of serious concern," he said in a statement.

Crandell noted that his office had contacted Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger's office with a request that the environmental concerns be addressed so the community is as informed as possible on the potential future of Fort Howard.

The land making up the park was transferred to Baltimore County from the federal government in 1977, according to county tax records. The portion of the peninsula that is still owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is slated for future residential development, potentially including senior housing.

Crandell said the developer is nowhere close to having a plan in place for development of the VA property. But "if the site is contaminated or environmentally unsafe, I'm not even going to think about putting housing or senior housing there."

The councilman also pointed to a recommendation from the Maryland Department of the Environment in 2010 that "the three landfill areas be further evaluated due to the pending planned use of the facility."

"We know that MDE recommended further evaluation of the property as far back as 2010," his statement read, "and if there is substantial remediation to be done, the Department of Defense is on the hook for that."

Although the identified sites are all within the pub-
- see **CONTAMINATION** on page 8 -

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Officials take first step toward possible TIF for Tradepoint Atlantic

- By Virginia Terhune -

Baltimore County Council members unanimously passed a resolution on Monday, Dec. 4, that could lead to helping Tradepoint Atlantic pay for needed upgrades to roads, bridges, water and sewer lines and other public infrastructure at Sparrows Point.

At the request of Tradepoint and County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Resolution 109-17 designates the boundaries of a new development district to encompass the 3,100-acre former steel mill site that Tradepoint is redeveloping with distribution centers, manufacturing operations and port upgrades to handle bulk commodities.

It also enables the possible funding of upgrades through tax-increment financing (TIF), which typically involves the borrowing of money by issuing bonds, then paying the money back out of the higher taxes collected on higher assessments due to new construction.

If implemented, Tradepoint would continue paying property taxes to the county based on 2016 assessments with the added tax revenue from redevelopment being used to pay off bonds.

"The resolution establishes a development district which locks in the 2016 land values for the project," wrote Aaron Tomarchio, senior vice president of administration and corporate affairs for Tradepoint, in an email.

With demand for industrial land currently high, Tradepoint argues that public help now to complete the upgrades will help it to better compete with other East Coast locations to attract employers and the resulting jobs that will benefit Maryland.

"Having the necessary infrastructure in place will allow TPA to attract marquee tenants and employers that value shovel-ready sites when evaluating where to locate," Tomarchio wrote.

Councilman Todd Crandell, who represents Sparrows Point, Dundalk and Essex, said Monday that the Tradepoint redevelopment promises to be "transformational" in reversing the loss of jobs following the demise of Bethlehem Steel.

He said the Monday vote sets the development district boundary but does not obligate the county to necessarily adopt a TIF. A lot of number crunching and a thorough cost-benefit analysis will need to be done before the county decides whether or not to get involved, according to the councilman.

"We're a long way from doing a TIF," Crandell said about a study period that is likely months away from starting. "We don't yet have the information about the mechanics or dollar amounts."

However, TIFs typically mean that the increase in tax revenue tied to higher assessments goes toward paying down the bond debt instead of going toward

the county's regular spending on public services and projects such as roads, senior centers and parks.

Councilman Wade Kach, who represents northern Baltimore County, said Sparrows Point will continue to develop with or without a TIF and that if a TIF is implemented, it will mean less money for the general fund.

"It's going to mean that revenue in the near future is lost to Baltimore County. You miss that income," he said.

Kach said he is also concerned that the county's debt service is expected to rise in the next five years, and that repaying TIF funds would only add to the burden.

Meanwhile, the possibility of a TIF is not the only option for Tradepoint, which is also researching other options.

"We are also looking at EB-5 financing, Private Activity Bonds and other potential federal grants that could assist in the massive infrastructure requirements needed to realize the full buildout of a multi-modal global center of commerce," he wrote.

Under the federal EB-5 program, foreigners receive visas if they invest at least \$500,000 in American projects that employ 10 or more workers. Private activity bonds are another way to raise money for a private company.

Tomarchio said if Baltimore County were to support a TIF, the Maryland

Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), a private corporation set up by the state to raise money for capital projects, would issue the bonds.

"The county would only pledge future property tax revenues generated by the increasing value of TPA to MEDCO to pay off any bonds issued for key infrastructure like roads, water, sewer, etc.," he wrote.

Establishing base value

Determining the added value created by new construction at Sparrows Point is made clear by including in the resolution the base value of the development as of a certain date, in this case as of Jan. 1, 2016.

"This solidifies the increment potential and places the project already on sound footing for bond repayment," Tomarchio wrote. "Again, this just preserves the option at this point in time."

Tradepoint purchased the land in 2014 and spent several years on demolition and cleanup. It only recently began work on the building of large distribution centers for Fed Ex, Under Armour and Amazon that will result in significantly higher assessed values and tax revenues.

For example, the only parcel of seven listed with the resolution that shows new construction and higher assessments so far according to state tax records is an industrial parcel totaling 66 acres.

- see **TRADEPOINT** on page 8 -



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Swimmer Long kicks off world championships with three gold medals

- By Marge Neal -

The World Para Swimming Championships kicked off about two months later than they were supposed to, but the delay apparently did not phase former Middle River resident Jessica Long.

The four-time Paralympian won three gold medals on Sunday, Dec. 3, her first day of competition.

The meet in Mexico City was originally scheduled for September but was postponed because of a major earthquake in central Mexico on Sept. 19. The delay caused some last-minute adjustments in training schedules, to say nothing of the logistics of canceling and rescheduling transportation and lodging arrangements. But the team took it in stride and hit the pool Saturday ready to compete, as evidenced by its medal haul over the weekend.

When the dust had settled on the first day of competition, held at the Francisco Marquez Olympic Swimming Pool on Saturday, Dec. 2, the U.S. team found itself atop the medal leaders board with nine medals overall, including three golds.

Long, a double below-the-knee amputee, and Tucker Dupree, a swimmer from North Carolina, were named captains of the team. Longtime disabled swimming presence and Atlanta resident Curtis Lovejoy was selected as the team's flag bearer in the opening ceremony.

When she hit the pool on Sunday to begin her competition, Long did not look back. At the end of the day, she had made three trips to the top of the awards podium, claiming gold medals in the SB7 (disability classification) 100-meter breaststroke, the S8 100-meter freestyle and the 4x100 34-point freestyle relay.



Long with a medal and bouquet next to the swimming event sign. Courtesy photo.

Long, the daughter of Middle River residents Steve and Beth Long, posted a picture on her Facebook page Sunday night of herself wearing one of her medals.

"First day of racing done," she wrote. "I am off tomorrow but back at it Tuesday. So, so happy with my races tonight. Three gold medals and lots of fun."

Her sustained success no longer surprises family members and friends who witness her devotion to her sport.

"I expected Jess to perform well at World Championships because she expects to win and she works hard to make it happen," Steve Long told the *East County Times*.

Once considered the baby of the swim team, Long at 25 is now the grande dame of the successful group that has made its mark in all levels of international competition. Her Paralympic career began when, as a 12-year-old, she was named to the team that represented the U.S. in Athens in 2004. She also competed in Beijing, London and Rio de Janeiro and has her eyes set on Tokyo in 2020.

Though she set off for Athens as an unknown entity in international competition, she returned home as a swim sensation, with three gold medals in her

suitcase. She has been a force to be reckoned with ever since.

She now owns 23 Paralympic medals, with 13 of them gold. She has also enjoyed abundant success in previous world championships, most notably when she won nine gold medals at the International Paralympic Committee Swimming World Championships, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2006.

Her longevity in the sport, her work ethic and her dedication to the team all have combined to make her a role model for younger athletes, as evidenced by comments made by a fellow team member to USOC officials after she finished third

in the S8 freestyle on Sunday.

"It feels really good," team member Julia Gaffney said when asked to describe the experience of winning two medals in her world championship debut. "I'm really honored to swim on Team USA... It's always been my dream to race against Jessica Long and now it's amazing to share a podium with her."

Through Monday night, Team USA remained the leader in the overall medal count with 23. Long and McKenzie Coan lead the team with three gold medals each.

Long was scheduled to race on Tuesday in the 100-meter backstroke and the 4x100 medley relay. The meet ends Dec. 7.

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Metzgar hosts church security conference in wake of Texas massacre

- Article by Patrick Taylor -

On Monday night, Dec. 4, approximately 75 pastors from Baltimore County, Baltimore City and elsewhere around the state gathered at the Eastern Assembly of God (EAG) in Dundalk. They were not there to discuss the teachings of Jesus, but rather to take part in a conference regarding how to respond to an active shooter situation.

"It's really sad that it's come to this," Delegate Ric Metzgar (R-6), the event's sponsor, told the *East County Times* before the event. "I never thought we would come to a day, come to a point, that we would have to have a church security conference... I'd rather be proactive than reactive."

Metzgar cited the recent church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas as his motivation for holding the conference. The shooting, which occurred on Nov. 5, ended with 26 dead and 20 injured.

"I was flying on that Sunday, but by that Tuesday

afternoon I had called the pastors, the Lord told me in my heart to prepare his people," said Metzgar.

The delegate assembled a panel comprised of current and former law enforcement officers, as well as private security personnel, and reached out to EAG's Pastor Ed Michael about hosting the event.

The two-hour conference kicked off with Maryland State Police (MSP) Master Trooper Michelle Workman giving a lengthy presentation on how to respond to an active shooter situation, using the guidelines designed in 2002 in the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program at Texas State University. The program - which has become the standard since its creation - lays out a strategy called ADD, which stands for Avoid, Deny, Defend.

The program notes that people should avoid active shooter situations by taking in their surroundings, noting emergency exits and moving away from the source as fast as possible. If you cannot avoid the danger, according to Workman, you should try to put space and barriers between you and the danger. That includes turning off the lights, barricading doors and trying to keep hidden against walls to avoid being seen. If all else fails, defend yourself. That includes using uncommon tactics like throwing shoes and other objects at the attacker.

Most importantly, someone needs to take the lead.

"More often than not our first response is to deny that anything is wrong," said Workman. "We continue to go about what we're doing because we're in a state of denial. You really need someone to stand up and take charge in these types of situations."

Workman showed the crowd a clip from The Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island that occurred in 2003, which killed 100 and injured 230. The video included a timer to show that people only started reacting to the fire 30 seconds after it started. By that time it had already begun spreading and concertgoers proceeded to make for the exit. Only, instead of using all of the exits, most tried to exit the same way they came in. That led to a jam in the exits and kept people inside, many of whom lost their lives.

"Not only do you need to take note of the other exits, but you also have to realize that in those types

of situations you need to look for unorthodox escapes," she said. "In this instance, there was a whole row of windows that people could have broken and jumped out of. In other cases we've heard of people punching their way through drywall. You just need to find a way out."

After Workman's presentation, she was joined on stage by Sergeant Fred Shiflett of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, Christopher Boggs of Dignitary Security and Nick Paros, a retired major from the MSP.

Quite a few of the pastors in attendance told the panel they had parishioners working as security, but Paros advised against that. He noted that doing so puts a lot of liability on the church, and that the best course of action is to hire private security. Shiflett and Workman advised the crowd to reach out to local law enforcement to see what they could do.

When asked what to do about the elderly or disabled during an active shooter situation, Shiflett proposed coming up with a plan ahead of time.

"The way my church works, we have an area that most of the handicap people will get set up, right by the exit where there's a ramp," said Shiflett.

At one point, Paros stated that the most important aspect of keeping people safe from a shooter was keeping a potential shooter out.

"What you need to think about is how you're going to mitigate that from getting inside, and that starts outside the front door," said Paros.

The former MSP officer told the audience to try to take note of changes in the lives of others, whether it is relationship or employment related or anything else. He also recommended keeping the doors locked when possible. But when that is not a possibility, private security is the way to go.

"I know since you all represent churches you're in the business of keeping your doors open," he joked. "And if you are going to do that you need to make sure you're protected in other ways."

For information about church safety or to find out about upcoming active shooter conferences in the Baltimore County area, feel free to reach out to Del. Ric Metzgar at 410-622-5232.

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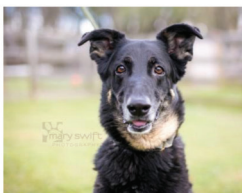
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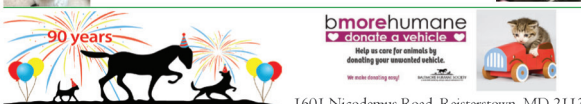
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- **I will begin a county-wide audit and an inspection of all existing Section 8 units to determine if they are in compliance with laws and regulations. Those that fail will be eliminated from the system.**
- **A citizen's group will be created to investigate the "cash flow" and financial picture related to contracts for Section 8 housing to determine if there is any special treatment in contract rewards or excessive profiteering.**
- **There will be an independent and aggressive inspection task force designed to respond to neighborhood complaints about Section 8 housing properties that disturb the neighbors, create a public nuisance or impact the quality of life in the community.**

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DELEGATE PAT McDONOUGH

As we stand together as neighbors united to oppose the reckless assault on our neighborhoods, the advocates of big government and social engineering will label us as "mean-spirited" and even "racist." This predictable, personal attack is **phony and misleading.**

I do not fear the name-calling and the character assassination. I hope you stand with me on the **side of truth.** It is our families, our neighborhoods and our county **that are the victims.** All fair-minded Americans believe the disadvantaged and those experiencing a tough time deserve practical assistance. That is why the Fair Housing Act, public housing and 22 trillion dollars on poverty policies were created. They all have expanded **far beyond their original mission.** A mother said to me the other day, "I would like to live in a mansion and own a luxury vehicle, but I cannot afford that life style. **I do not expect my fellow citizens to pay for my dreams.**"

Please join us **The Neighbors United** to become part of the campaign supporting Delegate Pat McDonough for Baltimore County Executive and **"Putting People First."**

Thank you, Delegate Pat McDonough



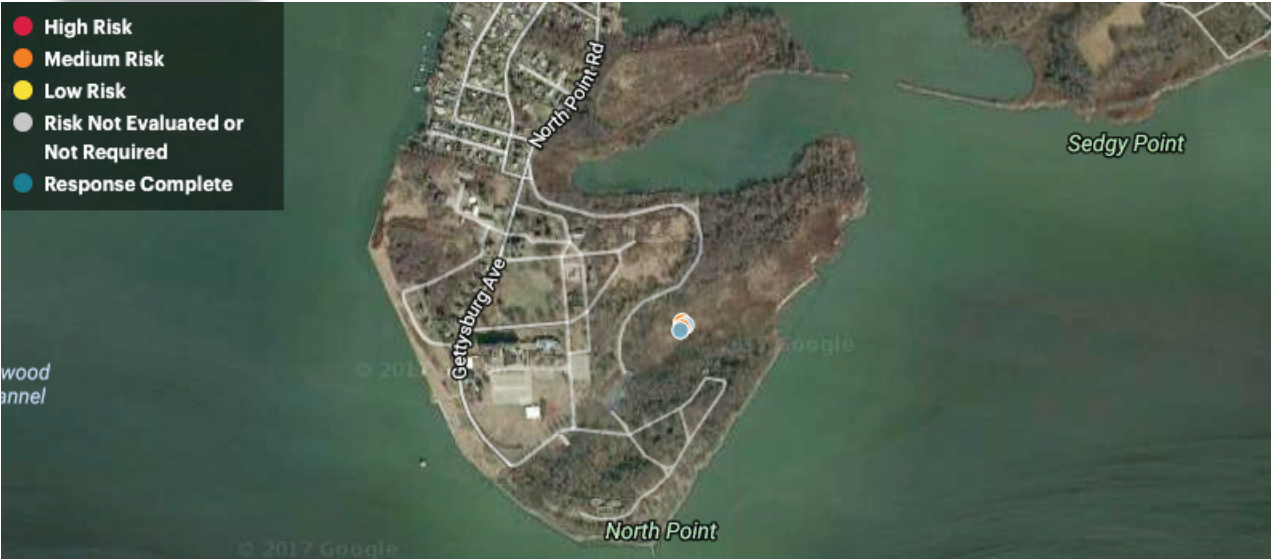
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NEWS



The dots shown on the map indicate the sites where contamination has been documented with regard to Fort Howard. The orange dots are the active, "medium risk" sites and the blue dots are the inactive sites. Image courtesy of ProPublica.

CONTAMINATION

- continued from page 3 -

lic park portion of the peninsula, Crandell took the stance that they could have implications for the rest of the peninsula.

"It's still close enough to the VA property to cause concern, especially when MDE suggested years ago that further evaluation of the sites be undertaken due to the fact that housing was planned there," he said.

Additionally, he has concerns about public exposure to the contaminants by nature of visiting the park.

"I'm going to err on the side of caution here because I'm not sure the public is aware that this munitions cleanup is even planned or occurring," Crandell said.

"I just need the answers. I need to know the environmental status of the sites.

"I want the DOD and the VA to be straight with us and address the concern," his statement read. "I would love to be told this is not as serious as it looks and why, but until we get answers I will be on guard for the safety of the public."

Crandell noted that sites in or near eastern Baltimore County such as Pooles Island and Aberdeen Proving Ground - some of which includes Carroll Island, as well as Battery Point near Gunpowder Falls State Park - are off limits to the public because munitions are or are suspected to be buried there.

"Until I'm told by the appropriate agencies and given assurance that it is safe for people to be around it and that we're not contaminated or [have] the possibility of live munitions on the site, you've got to question people potentially living there, and now at this point, the safety of the park," Crandell told the Times.

"At the very least, this is worthy of investigation," he said, "which is why we asked Dutch's office to look into it."

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New homes in pipeline for Perry Hall

- By Virginia Terhune -

A plan for 49 single-family houses in a residential area of north Perry Hall is working its way through the county's development process.

Called Klausmeier Manor, the project near Gunpowder Elementary School will provide access from Klausmier Road and from a planned extension of Farmdale Avenue running west from Holiday Manor Road to Millner Road.

The 16-acre project includes an unbuildable environmentally sensitive area and room for open space that will also be available for use by non-residents.

County reviewers discussed the plan on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and the next step is to schedule a community input meeting to solicit public comment.

The CIM will be followed by a public hearing before a county administrative law judge on a more refined development plan.

TRADEPOINT

- continued from page 4 -

For the tax year ending June 30, 2018, the assessed value on the parcel is \$8.8 million, with \$96,530 paid to the county in taxes. The assessed value for new construction in the third quarter is much higher at \$58.2 million with \$480,290 paid to the county in taxes.

Kach asked about postponing a vote on the resolution until the county has more information, but Tradepoint and the other officials want to at least set a possible option in place now.

Voting on the resolution in 2017 automatically sets the base value as of Jan. 1, 2016, according to state law, officials said.

Debate in the coming year over the pros and cons of a possible TIF will likely include a broader discussion of spending priorities for the county, said some Council members.

A TIF approved by Baltimore City for Under Armour's redevelopment of Port Covington also included public involvement.

"A TIF is going to take a lot of work and time," said Council Chairman Tom Quirk, who represents Catonsville and Arbutus.

"This is just the first step," he said about the resolution.

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Four charged for robbing northeast area businesses

The Baltimore County Police Department has arrested and charged two men and two juveniles, who have been charged as adults, for their involvement in several robberies targeting Baltimore area business owners. These suspects are responsible for eight robberies in Baltimore County.

"The closure of these cases is a clear example of the work performed by the men and women of the Baltimore County Police Department on a daily basis," said Baltimore County Police Chief Terrence B. Sheridan.

Starting in September of this year, police began to receive reports from business owners who were followed by the suspect from their places of business to their homes in Baltimore County. In total, the group robbed five Parkville businesses, two Perry Hall businesses and one Rosedale business.

The same victims were targeted by the suspects on Sept. 15 and Nov. 21. In both incidents, the victims were returning home after closing their restaurant. The suspects approached the victims in front of their home and threatened them with a handgun. One of the victims was able to produce his own weapon during the Nov. 21 robbery, causing the suspects to flee.

During the Nov. 16 robbery at Pelham Wood Road, the suspects did fire several rounds from handguns at one of the victims. Fortunately, neither of the victims were injured during the incident. The suspects did steal money and belongings from the victims before fleeing from the area.

Just after 4 p.m. on Nov. 27 the suspects approached a victim while the man was standing at his mailbox. The victim was assaulted and suffered serious head injuries. During the robbery, the suspects used the victim's keys to steal his vehicle. On the same date at 6 p.m., police responded to the unit block of Miceli Court in Parkville for an armed robbery. The victims told police that they were approached by several suspects holding handguns, after returning home from work. During the robbery, the suspects used keys

stolen from the victims to steal two more additional cars. All of the cars stolen during these robberies were later recovered.

Criminal Investigations Bureau detectives received information from investigators from the Towson and Parkville Precincts in addition to information gained from a police contact with the suspects during the time frame of the robberies which led to the identification of the suspects. Detectives - working in conjunction with multiple units in the department - also recovered a handgun and other weapons that were used during the robberies.

According to Colonel Steven M. Hlavach, Commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, "These cases were solved due to the collaboration between our precinct personnel, detectives, and support units."

The suspects have been identified as:

- Anthony Milton King, Jr., 31, of the 2900 block of Woodland Avenue in Pikesville. King was arrested on Nov. 27 and charged with two counts each of armed robbery, armed carjacking, robbery, use of a handgun in a crime of violence, first-degree assault, theft and one count of carjacking.

- Antonio Larry, Jr., 30, of the 1600 block of Riggs Avenue in Baltimore City. Larry was arrested on Nov. 28 and charged with three counts of accessory after the fact, three counts of fraud, and numerous credit card and theft offenses.

- Brekwan Kareem McFadden, 16, of the 700 block of Wyanoak Avenue in Baltimore City, was arrested on Nov. 27. McFadden has been charged with two counts each of armed robbery, robbery, first-degree assault, theft, use of a firearm to commit a crime of violence, and three counts armed carjacking.

- Melvin Norong Thompson, 17, of the 700 block of Wyanoke Avenue in Baltimore City, was also arrested on Nov. 27. He has been charged with two counts each of armed robbery, robbery, first-degree assault, theft, and three counts of armed carjacking.

Police investigate shooting in Middle River

Baltimore County Police responded to the 100 block of Carroll Island Road in Middle River at around 8:56 p.m. on Nov. 27 for a call of a subject suffering from a gunshot wound.

When officers arrived they found a 33-year-old man laying down in a parking lot with a gunshot wound to his lower body. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment but is expected to survive his injuries. The suspect fled the scene prior to police arrival, but they believe this was a targeted crime and continue to investigate.

Anyone who may have information regarding this incident is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020. This incident remains under investigation by the Baltimore County Police Violent Crimes Unit.

Precinct 12/Dundalk

Second Degree Burglary: On Dec. 3, officers from the Dundalk precinct responded to a burglary call in the 6700 block of Holabird Avenue. At 8:50 a.m., the known suspect pried open the front door and lock at Squires Restaurant, then entered. Once inside, the suspect opened the cash register and stole cash.

Robbery: Shortly after 1 a.m. on Dec. 3, Baltimore County police were called to the 7500 block of Lange Street. At 1:12 a.m., the suspect approached the victim as he walked to his front door. The suspect pointed a gun at the victim and demanded money. The victim entered his apartment building and a neighbor called 911. The suspect was arrested and a BB gun was found at the scene.

Second Degree Burglary: Officers from the Dundalk precinct received a burglary call on Dec. 1 just after 7 p.m. Police responded to the 7800 block of St. Gregory Drive after an unknown suspect entered the victim's yard, then entered the shed using a flashlight. The suspect stole a bicycle, then rode it up the alley.

First Degree Burglary: On Dec. 1, Baltimore County police were called to the 7800 block of St. Clare Lane. Between 3:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., an unknown suspect entered the victim's home, moved various objects, then stole a small black heater. There was no forced entry.

Precinct 9/White Marsh

First Degree Assault: On Dec. 3, officers were called to the 5700 block of Daybreak Terrace in Overlea. At 1:10 p.m., the victim was seated in his vehicle when he was approached by four unknown suspects. They asked the victim if he had a cell phone to use while pointing a gun at him. The suspects then fled after being startled by some noise.

Attempted First Degree Burglary: Shortly before 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 3, Baltimore County police were called to the 8800 block of Fontana Lane in Rosedale. Sometime between 5:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., an unknown suspect attempted to gain entry into the victim's residence by prying on the front window screen and the front entrance door. No entry was gained to the residence.

Robbery: Officers from the White Marsh precinct responded to a robbery call at the intersection of Philadelphia Road and Longview Avenue in Rosedale on Dec. 1. At 1:40 p.m., an unknown suspect approached the victim, grabbed her purse from her arm and fled in a vehicle. The suspect was dropped off and then the driver of the vehicle was stopped and arrested.

Current crime trends

- On Nov. 20, there were two commercial burglaries targeting ATM machines in the Cockeysville and Essex precincts. There has been no new activity since November 20.

- Since Nov. 1, there have been seven robberies of food delivery drivers within the Essex Precinct. Cases occurred on various days between 3:30 and 9 p.m. Weapons were displayed or implied in three cases, and physical force was used in four cases.

- Since Oct. 26, there have been six motor vehicle thefts and two attempted thefts in the Cockeysville, Essex and Dundalk precincts that appear to be related. All cases occurred during night hours. In three cases, glass was broken or windows were removed. In two cases, the ignition was tampered with. Methods are unknown in the other cases.

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Battling muscle soreness? Employ these tactics to avoid it

Muscle soreness can affect people from all walks of life. While exercise enthusiasts who work out several times per week may feel like they should be immune to muscle soreness, this potentially painful condition that can adversely affect quality of life can fell even the most ardent fitness fanatic.

Those who find themselves routinely battling muscle soreness can employ the following tactics to feel better and enjoy the fruits of their labors in the gym.

- Listen to your body. Daily exercise can greatly

benefit long-term health, but it's important that men and women listen to their bodies, paying attention to any signs that it might be time for a break. Each person is different, but exercise aficionados who recognize any abnormal signs such as unexplained fatigue or cramps may need to take a day off. Bodies need time to recover after a workout.

- Get adequate sleep. Getting enough sleep provides recovery time. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that adults between the ages of 18 and 64 years

of age get between seven and nine hours of sleep per night. The NSF recommends adults 65 and older get between seven and eight hours of sleep per night.

- Don't overdo it. Pushing a body too hard increases a person's risk of injury or illness. Muscles that are overtaxed will very likely begin to feel a type of pain known as delayed onset muscle soreness, or DOMS. The American College of Sports Medicine notes that any type of activity that places unaccustomed loads on muscle may lead to DOMS, but activities such as strength training exercises, walking down hills, jogging, step aerobics, and jumping are known examples of contributors to DOMS. Such activities should not necessarily be avoided, but it's important that men and women not push themselves to the point of overexertion when performing them.
- Stay hydrated. Muscle soreness may appear if men and women are not drinking enough water before, during or after their workouts. A dehydrated body's muscles do not have enough electrolytes, and that can be contributing to the feelings of soreness some exercise enthusiasts feel. Drink lots of water throughout the day, and don't forget to bring a water bottle along to the gym when working out.

Muscle soreness can be painful and difficult to deal with. But the solution to address such soreness is oftentimes very simple.

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How aging adults can maintain their mental acuity

Aging is associated with or linked to a host of mental and physical side effects. For example, many adults expect their vision to deteriorate as they grow older. Such a side effect can be combatted with routine eye examinations that may indicate a need for a stronger eyeglass prescription, a relatively simple solution that won't impact adults' daily lives much at all.

While physical side effects like diminished vision might not strike much fear in the hearts of aging men and women, those same people may be concerned and/or frightened by the notion of age-related

cognitive decline. Some immediately associate such decline with Alzheimer's disease, an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys memory and cognitive skills, ultimately compromising a person's ability to perform even the simplest of

tasks. But age-related cognitive decline is not always symptomatic of Alzheimer's disease. Learning about Alzheimer's and how to maintain mental acuity can help aging men and women better understand the

- see **MENTAL ACUITY** on page 12 -

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- *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine 2008*

With chiropractic care, patients had "significant improvement in perceived comfort and function, nerve conduction and finger sensation overall." - *JMPT 1998*

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MENTAL ACUITY —

- continued from page 11 -
changes their brains might be under-
going as they near or pass retirement
age.

The National Institute on Aging
notes that only a very rare form of
Alzheimer’s disease is inherited. Early-
onset familial Alzheimer’s disease, or
FAD, is caused by mutations in certain
genes. If these genes are passed down
from parent to child, then the child is
likely, but not certain, to get FAD. So
while many adults may be concerned
about Alzheimer’s because one of their
parents had the disease, the NIA notes
that the majority of Alzheimer’s cases
are late-onset, which has no obvious
family pattern.

Studies of Alzheimer’s disease are on-
going, but to date there is no definitive
way to prevent the onset of the disease.

Researchers have not yet determined
a way to prevent Alzheimer’s disease,
but adults can take certain steps to main-
tain their mental acuity into retirement.

- Exercise regularly. Routine exercise
may be most associated with physical
benefits, but the NIA notes that such
activity has been linked to benefits for
the brain as well. For example, a 2011
study published in the journal Pro-
ceedings of the National Academy of
Sciences of the United States of Ameri-
ca found that aerobic exercise training
increases the size of the hippocampus,
leading to improvements in spatial

memory. The NIA also notes that one
study indicated exercise stimulated the
brain’s ability to maintain old network
connections and make new ones vital
to cognitive health.

- Read more. Avid readers may be
happy to learn that one of their favorite
pastimes can improve the efficiency of
their cognitive systems while delaying
such systems’ decline. A 2013 study
published in the journal Neurology by
researchers at Chicago’s Rush Univer-
sity Medical Center found that mental-
ly active lifestyles may not prevent the
formations of plaques and tangles as-
sociated with Alzheimer’s disease, but
such lifestyles decreases the likelihood
that the presence of plaques or tangles
will impair cognitive function.

- Stay socially connected. Maintain-
ing social connections with family,
friends and community members also
can help women prevent cognitive de-
cline. Epidemiologist Bryan James of
the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center
studied how social activity affected
cognitive decline, ultimately noting
that the rate of cognitive decline was
considerably lower among men and
women who maintained social contact
than it was among those with low lev-
els of social activity.

The idea of age-related cognitive de-
cline strikes fear in the hearts of many
men and women, but there are ways
for adults to maintain their mental
acuity well into their golden years.

Flu fighting tips to keep you healthy

Sniffles, sore throat, fever, and aches
and pains may accompany a number
of illnesses, but during the wintertime
such symptoms are typically indicative
of influenza.

Throughout much of North Ameri-
ca, flu season peaks between December
and February. But flu season can oc-
cur anywhere from October to March,
advises the U.S. Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention. The flu is con-
tagious and can sideline people for ex-
tended periods of time. The CDC says
that each year one in five Americans
gets the flu.

Taking steps to fend off the flu can
help men and women and the people
they routinely come in contact with.

Foods

Food can be used to fend of the
flu. Common foods that many people
already have in their pantries can be
powerful flu-fighters. Garlic, for ex-
ample, contains compounds that have
direct antiviral effects and may help
destroy the flu before it affects the
body. Raw garlic is best. In addition to
garlic, citrus fruits, ginger, yogurt, and
dark leafy greens can boost immunity
and fight the flu, according to Mother
Nature’s Network. The British Journal
of Nutrition notes that dark chocolate
supports T-helper cells, which increase
the immune system’s ability to defend
against infection.

A study published in the Ameri-
can Journal of Therapeutics showed
that carnosine, a compound found in
chicken soup, can help strengthen the
body’s immune system and help fight
off the flu in its early stages.

Flu shot and medications

Annual flu shots administered in
advance of flu season can help protect
people and their families from getting
the flu. The U.S. Food and Drug Ad-
ministration says that, in select situ-
ations, antiviral medications - which
are usually prescribed to treat the flu
and lessen symptoms - can reduce the
chance of illness in people exposed to
influenza.

Many over-the-counter medicines
can alleviate symptoms of the flu, but
cannot fend it off.

Stop germ proliferation

Germs can be spread easily between
persons through direct contact and
indirect contact with surfaces sick in-
dividuals have touched. Doctors rec-
ommend staying home for at least 24
hours after a flu-induced fever has dis-
sipated. Well individuals should avoid
contact with sick people.

Frequent hand-washing with soap
and water can stop germs from spread-
ing. When soap and water is not avail-
able, alcohol-based hand sanitizers can
help. People also should avoid touch-
ing their eyes, noses and mouths after
being in public places or around some-
one who is ill.

Rest and restore

Those who feel symptoms coming
on should begin drinking more liq-
uids to keep the respiratory system
hydrated and make mucus less vis-
cous. Remember to get adequate sleep,
as a tired body cannot effectively fight
the flu virus.

People of all ages should take steps
to protect themselves from the flu.

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Fowble, George Vernon

On Nov. 21, George "Vernon" Fowble, beloved husband of Shirley G. Fowble (nee Seifert), and the late Barbara Fowble; devoted father of Marsha Resch and her dear friend Craig, Douglas Fowble and his wife Esther, Cheryl Watkins and her husband Dean, Jan Pursel and her husband Todd; dear stepfather of Dana Kuzma and her husband Chad, Edward Troy Seifert and his wife Hiromi, Tawanda Seifert and Tracy; dear grandfather of Cheryl Metallo and her husband Derek, David Chapman Jr., Brandon Ruble and his wife Brooke, Ridge Watkins and Kristin Pursel; dear stepgrandfather of Alex and Bryan Seifert, Jordan, Dustin and Kallie Kuzma, Ethan and Colin Seifert; dear great-grandfather of Samantha and MacKenzie White and Derek Metallo Jr., Rylee and Olivia Ruble; dear brother of the late Marguerite Schorr and loving foster father of the late Ann Thorne; also survived by many loving family members and dear friends.

Services provided by the Connelly Funeral Home of Essex. Interment at Parkwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in "Vernon Fowble's" name to his church, Back River United Methodist, 544-B Back River Neck Road, Essex, MD 21221.

Atkinson, Bridget Ann

On Nov. 29, Bridget Ann Atkinson (Bradley), of Rosedale, passed away. She was the daughter of Juanita (Wilcox) Morris and Roy Amos Bradley Sr.; beloved wife of Robert Atkinson; devoted mother of Bridget Ann Atkinson II, stepmother of Robert S. Atkinson Jr. and Melinda Ann McCray (Atkinson); dear sister of Brenda Miler, Johnny Bradley, Walter Smelser and the late Roy Bradley Jr.; dear grandmother of Na'Ziyah Green and close friend of Na'Ziyah's father Anthony Charles Green; stepgrandmother of Jason Weinberger, Steven Rowland, Kristopher Rowland, and Trey Atkinson.

She loved butterflies, motorcycles and lady bugs and was known for her Donald Duck voice, especially as a cafeteria aid for many years at Red House Run Elementary School, and was loved dearly by the kids and many more. Open visitation will be Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2 - 4 p.m. & 6 - 8 p.m. at the Cvach/Rosedale Funeral Home, located at 1211 Chesaco Avenue. A memorial service will be held at Rosedale EC Church shortly after, at the request of the family.

Whaley, Doris Mary

On Nov. 27, Doris Mary Whaley passed away. She was the beloved daughter of the late Mirrel and Florence Whaley; dear sister of Carol M. Abbott and her late husband Loren "Jeff", and the late Marvel A. Whaley and his wife Betty, and James A. Whaley, Sr.; loving aunt of Robin Hall, Mary Darr, Sue Glass and her husband Don, Gary Whaley and his wife Susie, Sandy Mintz, Carol Whaley, James Whaley, Jr., and Dana Whaley. Also survived by many loving great-nieces and nephews.

Services and interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol's name to the Child Help Organization, 4350 E. Camelback Rd., Bldg. F250, Phoenix, AZ 85018

Obituary Correction Policy

No newspaper blunder is more certain to upset someone than a mistake in a loved one's obituary. Unless an error made it difficult for readers to identify the deceased, no obituary will run twice in full; however, a corrected version of a flawed obituary will be mailed promptly if requested by any immediate family member.

All published obituary corrections will be as brief as possible.



Davidson, Mary Lou

On Dec. 4, Mary Lou Davidson (nee LaRosa) passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late James Davidson; devoted mother of Jamie R. Deal-Busch; loving grandmother of Lauren D. Helmick and her husband Gary, and David R. Deal; cherished great-grandmother of Lily Deal, and Gavin and Carter Helmick. Mary Lou was predeceased by two sisters and one brother.

Services and interment will be private. If desired, memorial contributions may be made in Mary Lou's name to Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc., 14412 Old York Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131.

Boltralik, Henry F.

Henry F. Boltralik (born 1923) passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 1, surrounded by family. Henry was the beloved husband of Stella Boltralik, to whom he had been married for 64 years. He was a devoted father and will be greatly missed by his sons and their wives, Robert Boltralik and Janet Carlton, and James and Zona Boltralik.

Henry grew up in Mount Carmel, PA. When he was 14, his father passed away, and Henry assumed the role of head of household, caring for his mother and four younger siblings, all of whom have pre-deceased him. He was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army and later retired from Teledyne Energy Systems where he had been a mechanical engineer, manufacturing foreman and 1975 Employee of the Year. In retirement, Henry became a skilled and creative wood worker and was active in the Knights of Columbus and his church.

Services provided by Cvach Funeral Home of Rosedale. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Henry's memory to St. Clement Mary Hofbauer Church or the American Heart Association, both of which were favorite charities of his.

Myers, Robert

On Nov. 26, Robert Elsworth Myers, beloved husband of Florence D. (nee Schrack), devoted father of Karen Myers, Bridget Ebaugh, Timothy Snyder and the late Christopher Snyder; cherished grandfather of five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Also survived by his dear sister Shirley Wood. Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk.

Ostendorf, Agnes P.

On Nov. 26, Agnes P. Ostendorf (nee Pitura), beloved wife of the late William L. Ostendorf; loving daughter of the late Joseph and Julianna Pitura; devoted sister of Anthony Pitura, Bernice Adamski, Angie Mack, and the late Mary Rychwalski, Leo Pitura, Carolyn Wolf, and Julia Campbell. Agnes is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



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Cain, Diane

On Nov. 28, Diane L. Cain, beloved wife of the late Robert Cain Sr.; devoted mother of Tonya L. Cain and her partner Angel, Samantha M. Ross and her husband Eric Sr., Susan D. Stone and her husband Brandon, Sabrina A. Cain; loving stepmother of Robert Cain Jr., and the late Richard C. Cain. Also survived by five grandchildren.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her name to the American Cancer Society.

Mason, Geraldine Elizabeth

On Nov. 29, Geraldine Elizabeth Mason (nee Hoffmaster), beloved wife of the late Richard C. Mason Sr.; devoted mother of Richard C. Mason, Jr. and his wife Phyllis and Patricia Clarke; loving grandmother of Brandy Mason, Christopher Yazvac, Stacy Yazvac, Jesse Mason and the late Kenny Mason. Also survived by her three great-grandchildren and her sister Jane Sykes.

Services provided by Bruzdinski Funeral Home.

Kashen, Edward

On Nov. 29, Edward Alfred Kashen, beloved husband of the late Catherine Kashen (nee Barbernitz); devoted father of John Kashen and his wife Barb, Peter Kashen and his wife Sue, Mary Kashen and her husband Mark, Kathleen Kashen and Fr. David Kashen, OFM Conv; dear brother of Joseph Kashen; dear grandfather of Stephanie, Jennifer, Laura, and Katie and great-grandfather of Joey, Jamie, Dominic and Gunnar.

Services provided by Cvach Funeral Home.

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COMMUNITY

GRASP Meeting

Grief Recovery After Substance Passing First Maryland Chapter meetings will be held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Camp Chapel United Methodist Church, 5000 E. Joppa Road in Perry Hall. Please pre-register by contacting Toni at 443-554-6150.

Volunteers Needed

Brightview White Marsh assisted living, 8100 Rossville Blvd., is in need of volunteers to help with things like Rosary, cooking, short stories, games, discussions and visiting for their residents. For more information, contact Diane Gibson at 410-668-1588.

Alumni Holiday Concert

Dec. 7, 5 - 7 p.m., at CCBC Dundalk, 7200 Sollers Point Road in Dundalk, College Community Center, Upper Lobby. Listen to festive holiday music with performances by Mzz B Productions, CCBC Single Step, pianist Nancy Smith and singer Kim Fink. Attendees are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items for the CCBC Dundalk Student Life Pantry. Free and open to the public. RSVP to alumni@ccbcmd.edu or 443-840-3129.

Toys Wanted

Please consider donating any usable toys, games, puzzles, books, etc., to St. John's Lutheran Church, 518 Franklin Ave. in Essex. Donations can be dropped off at the church office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. All toys are given away free at our annual toy giveaway on Dec. 9. Help to make a Christmas for less fortunate children. For more info., or directions, call 410-687-4621.

Music of the Holidays

Join Camp Chapel United Methodist Church, 5000 E. Joppa Road in Perry Hall, for an afternoon of vocal and instrumental holiday music performed by Camp Chapel musicians beginning at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. The event will include a special visit from someone and his wife, plus door prizes. Admission is free.

Small Business Counseling

From 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dec. 13, bring your questions to a one hour appoint with an adviser from the Small Business Resource Center at the Rosedale library, 6105 Kenwood Ave. Appointment times are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon or 1 p.m. Contact the branch at 410-887-0512 to register.

Food Pantry

Dundalk Church of the Nazarene, 1626 Lynch Road, has a food pantry with non-perishable food items. If you are in need or are interested in donating, please call the church at 410-288-5136.

Food and Toy Drive

Henry Chiropractic Center will hold our 22nd annual food and toy drive to benefit the Family Crisis Center of Dundalk. Donations of non-perishable foods and unwrapped toys and gifts may be brought to our office in Eastpoint Office Park, 1103 North Point Blvd. Suite 404 in Dundalk, through Dec. 20 during business hours. Gift cards and monetary donations are also appreciated. For more info., call 410-285-2600.

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Pictured: Stand Up To Cancer Ambassador, Bradley Cooper along with American Airlines team members currently fighting, surviving and co-surviving cancer.

Stand Up To Cancer

American Airlines

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'Three Billboards' should be plastered all over awards season

- By Teddy Durgin -

"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri" is one of the most uncomfortably great films I've seen in recent years. It's uncomfortable in that it's legitimately funny - I laughed out loud probably more times than during the last three legitimate comedies I've seen - but it also deals with such heavy things as murder, rape, police corruption, racism, homophobia and more. A lot is thrown at the screen here, and most of it sticks. Boy, does it stick... stick in the mind and the memory afterwards. I really admired it.

Frances McDormand has her best role since "Fargo," starring as Mildred, a woman who's daughter was brutally murdered in the small town of Ebbing. That was months ago, and her assailant has yet to be caught. So, Mildred does something drastic. She buys three billboards on the outskirts of town and uses them to publicly challenge the local law enforcement. One billboard reads: "Raped While Dying." The second reads: "And Still No Arrests." While the third asks, "How Come, Chief Willoughby?"

Not exactly the message the local tourism board hopes to impart, huh?

Willoughby is played by Woody Harrelson, who brings a lot of charm and intelligence to the part. It's one of the more surprising and fully realized supporting performances of 2017, actually, and I hope the Woodman gets some real recognition for his work here. One of the film's strengths is in its view that Willoughby and the cops aren't all bad, and Mildred isn't all good. There is a rich texture to the film that comes mostly as the result of how everyone reacts to what Mildred does - everyone from a local priest to Mildred's dentist, to her ex-husband, to the manager of the advertising firm where Mildred bought the billboards, has wildly varying reactions.

The film is written and directed by Martin McDonagh of "In Bruges" fame. I love how nuanced and complex he makes his characters in his films. And under his watch, "Three Billboards" is perfectly cast. In addition to McDormand and Harrelson, I really have to give some praise also to a longtime favorite of mine, Sam Rockwell. The star of such past favorites as "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" and "The Way, Way Back," he is terrific here as the thuggish Deputy Dixon, who is a loose cannon in both the best and worst possible ways.

The film is surprisingly topical in ways McDonagh

and Co. probably didn't plan when they were filming this months and months ago. The violence mixed with dark humor - a certain pistol-whipping comes to mind, as I write this review - will also have viewers at once recoiling in their seats... and yet strangely compelled to keep following the twisted narrative, because you're always aware you are in such capable hands.

I like that even the studio doesn't know quite what to do with this flick. Have you seen the commercials? The announcer guy can't even bring himself to say the full title. At the end, he just goes, "Three Billboards... rated R."

If you are more into conventional movies, there's nothing wrong with that. There are certainly plenty such flicks playing at the local multiplex. But if you want to take a real chance on a film, then plop your money down at the box office and proudly say, "One ticket for 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri!'"

Filled with stars, 'The Star' shines

- By Teddy Durgin -

I'm a touch late to the party on this one, dear readers. But I finally saw "The Star" and was really quite charmed by it. It's not a movie for cynics. It's definitely a flick for Christians, of which I am one. "The Star" will certainly appeal to believers during this holiday season, especially those with small children.

There have been numerous big- and small-screen tellings and re-tellings of The Nativity story. But never an animated one told mostly from the perspective of animals. If that causes you to roll your eyes a bit... yeah, OK, you can stop reading now. But for the rest of us, talking critters providing side commentary on King Herod, the Immaculate Conception and the Birth of Christ is actually a pretty clever idea. Sure, I'm not a wise man. But the material here was at least clever enough to entice the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Ving Rhames, Kristen Chenoweth, Christopher Plummer and more. The diverse vocal talents are the film's biggest strength.

The center of the story is Boaz (Steven Yuen), a mill donkey who dreams of bigger things... possibly even being the mount for a great ruler one day. He will, of course. Just not the king he (or the rest of the world) expected. Through a series of events both Biblical and made up, Bo will find himself away in that manger.

Yuen is quite winning in the lead part, and I also

liked Zachary Levi (how's that for a Biblical name) as Joseph and Gina Rodriguez as Mary. Keegan-Michael Key (one-half of the great Key and Peele comedy team) also has some funny moments as Bo's de facto sidekick, Dave the Dove. But my favorite bits of casting were the voices assigned to the camels carrying the Three Wise Men. Oprah, Tyler Perry and Tracy Morgan have a blast playing off each other. I don't know if the director was able to have them all together in the sound booth at the same time. But it sure sounds like it.

The film's pop tunes are serviceable, mostly variations on established carols and hymns that will provide filler for XM satellite radio's holiday channels for years to come. I guess when you have the likes of Chenoweth, Mariah Carey and Kelly Clarkson at your disposal, you have 'em sing.

It's a musical-comedy, with an emphasis on the comedy here. There is quite a bit of slapstick in the film to keep the kiddies engaged. And as a grown-up I enjoyed the film's more cheeky side, like the film opening with the title card "Nazareth... Nine Months BC."

Does the film preach to the converted? Yeah, yeah. Is it about the safest, most innocuous flick in theaters right now? For sure. But it's designed to do and be both of those things, and I am not going to penalize it.

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SPOTLIGHT

Breakfast with Santa

Middle River Recreation Council will hold Breakfast with Santa from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Victory Villa Community Center, 404 Compass Road. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. Santa Claus will be available for photos. The event will also include arts and crafts, games, giveaways and music, and will include a celebration marking the 75th anniversary of the community center. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for children ages 2-12. Children younger than 2 eat for free. Tickets can be ordered online at www.middle-riverrec.com or at the center from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5. Info: 410-887-0234.

SHM Christmas Bazaar

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will hold its annual Christmas bazaar from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The event will include Christmas music, crafts, games of chance, raffles, homemade Polish foods and other snacks and sweets. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be available for photos. Info: 410-633-2828.

Reconciliation at SHM

Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 6736 Youngstown Ave. in Dundalk, will hold the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. Two priests will be available to hear confessions. Area Catholics are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to reconcile with the Lord before Christmas. For more information, call 410-633-2828.

'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'

The Sky is the Limit Community Theatre, in residence at the North Point Government Center, 7701 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, will present "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for senior citizens and children 12 and younger. Tickets will be sold at the door. For more information, call 410-887-5370.

Breakfast with Santa

The Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, 214 Wise Ave. in Dundalk, will hold Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, milk, soda and juice boxes for the kids. Tickets \$6; children under 3 eat free.

Christmas Bazaar

Christian Fellowship Church, 12909 Eastern Ave. in Chase, will hold a Christmas bazaar from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. The event will feature a variety of vendors and baked goods. Tables spaces cost \$10 each. Info: Sharon, 443-904-7998.

Chamber Singers in Concert

The CCBC Chamber Singers will offer a concert of varied classical and popular musical selections, including holiday arrangements, at 12:20 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. The concert will be held in the recital hall in the Arts and Humanities Building on the CCBC Essex campus, 7201 Rossville Blvd. in Rosedale. The concert is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

Dundalk UMC Concert

Dundalk United Methodist Church, 6903 Mornington Road in Dundalk, will host the Maryland Military Band at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, in the sanctuary (use the Dunran Road entrance). The all-volunteer band is under the direction of retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Yari Villanueva, whose military band résumé includes being a bugler at Arlington National Cemetery. All are welcome to attend the holiday concert and enjoy free refreshments in the social hall afterward. The performance is free but donations will be accepted during the concert.

Karaoke/Line Dancing

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave. in Essex, Music Solution with Ricko and Bo from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Dec. 8; Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and Wild Bill from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 9; and For the Good Times Karaoke with Percy and Fred from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Line dancing with The Dude is held from 7 to 11 p.m. Fridays in the hall. For info., call 410-686-2353.

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ESP Karate Promotion



Edgemere-Sparrows Point Recreation Council Tae Kwon Do student Noah Janowski recently mastered all the requirements to be promoted to the rank of advanced white belt. Pictured with him are (back row, from left) instructors Andy Banting, Debbie Smith and Jennifer Metzler.

'Scrooge!' at CCBC

The Children's Playhouse of Maryland, in residence at the Community College of Baltimore County's Essex campus, 7201 Rossville Blvd. in Rosedale, will present "Scrooge!" at 1 p.m. Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17; 4:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17; and 7 p.m. Dec. 9, in the Administration Building's lecture hall. "Scrooge!" tells the classic story of an old miser who is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Tickets cost \$10. To reserve seats, call the CCBC box office, 443-840-2787.

'Holiday Harmonies'

The Chorus of the Chesapeake will hold its Holiday Harmonies concert and dinner Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge, 7721 Old Battle Grove Road in Dundalk. Doors will open at 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:30 and the show will begin at 7:45. The concert will feature the entire chorus as well as chapter quartets. The meal, catered by Squire's Restaurant, will include baked lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Beer, wine and soft drinks are included. Tickets cost \$30 each for all ages. Tickets must be purchased in advance. To reserve tickets, call Larry Deiss, 410-375-6724.

Middle River Concert Band

The Middle River Concert Band will perform at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Hall, 900 Bowleys Quarters Road in Middle River. The concert is free but attendees are asked to bring nonperishable food donations for the St. Matthew Lutheran Church food pantry. The event is cosponsored by the Bowleys Quarters Community Association and the BQVFC.

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Obtain for me also a perfect resignation to the sufferings it may please God to send me, so that, imitating our crucified Saviour and His sorrowful Mother, I may merit eternal glory in Heaven. Amen.

St. Peregrine, pray for us.
L.P.K.

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2040
PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF: SALAY NATASHA THOMAS FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO SALAY NATASHA SINGH-DAVE BY AND THROUGH HIS/HER MOTHER/FATHER/GUARDIAN: SUBRINA KERRY SINGH

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Civil No.: 03-C-16-11062

NOTICE (Minor) (DOM REL 65)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name in which he/she seeks to change the name of a minor child from Salay Natasha Thomas to Salay Natasha Singh-Dave. The petitioner is seeking this name change for the child for the following reasons: Father is not in minor's life, consistency of name of rest of siblings, adoption.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 7th day of January, 2018. The objection must be supported by an affidavit and served upon the Petitioner in accordance with Maryland Rule 1-321. Failure to file an objection or affidavit within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought.

A copy of this notice shall be published one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the county/city at least fifteen (15) days before the deadline to file an objection.

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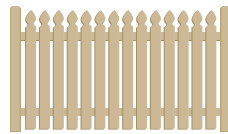
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6043
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6043
HOMES/
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Open House

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HAMILTON

Lovely 3BR 2BA Colonial Features updated Modern Amenities! Hardwood Floors, Granite Countertops, Stainless Steel Appliances, Updated Baths, Fully Finished Lower Level, Large Lot and Deck. (BE-03)



ROSEDALE

Beautiful 4BR 2BA Single Family Home offers 4 Levels, Updated Kitchen cabinets, Glass Enclosed Porch, Refinished wood floors in BRs, Living rm & dining rm, Lower Level and Garage. (CH-07)



PARKVILLE

Original Owner of this 3BR Brick Single Family Home features 2BRs and bath on main level, Large BR on 2nd level, Wood Burning Fireplace in LR, Corner Lot with Driveway. (CH-06)



MIRAMAR LANDING

Well-Maintained 3BR 2.5BA End of Group Townhome offers Master BR w/ Bath, Sliders off Family room w/ wet bar, Fireplace, Fully Finished Lower Level, Garage. (DE-97)



MAPLE RIDGE

Gorgeous 3BR Cape Cod features Kitchen Cabinets, new appliances and granite countertops, Updated BA on main level, New HVAC System, New carpet and Freshly Painted, Fully Finished Lower Level. Large level rear yard & deck. (GL-11)



BRIGHTON BY THE BAY

Wonderful 4BR 1.5BA TWHM Features Gorgeous Remodeled Kitchen, Backs to Open Field! Priced to Sell!! (NE-25)



NORTH POINT VILLAGE

Fabulous 3BR 1.5BA End of Group TWHM offers Kitchen updates, All replacement windows, newer roof, Central air and more, Finished Lower Level, Covered Rear Deck overlooking spacious fenced-in yard w/parking pad. (ST-40)



PERRY HALL

Spectacular 3BR 2.5BA Split foyer Features Master BR w/walk-out deck overlooking rear yard, Kitchen w/Breakfast bar and Granite Countertops, Marble floor, Crown Molding & Chair Rail in LR & DR, Sliders to rear Patio, Fully Finished Lower Level, Landscaped. (LO-09)

Call for a Free Market Analysis!

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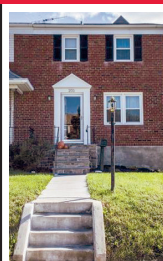
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OPEN HOUSE • Saturday, December 9 • 12-2pm



713 RIVERSIDE DR., ESSEX, MD 21221
Amazing rehab! New siding & deck, ss appliances. Refinished orig hwd flrs! Built-in pool! New architectural roof w/lifetime warranty! Spacious master BR w/sliders to walk-out deck! New screened-in porch, 2 car garage w/ high ceilings. Over 175 front footage of water! Granite countertops and crown molding!

LINOVER



201 LYNDAL AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21236

3BR/2BA corner lot duplex with 2 car drwy. This well-kept home offers new AC, water heater, porch, windows & doors. Come check out this beauty before it's gone... Wood floors under carpet on 1st/2nd floors.

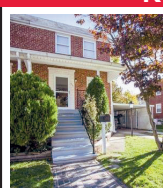
KENWOODS CHOICE



226 STEMMERS RUN RD. ESSEX, MD 21221

Well maintained 3BR Split Foyer, Freshly painted and ready to go. Lower level offers so many options with plenty of room for 4th BR and .400 sq ft Family Room. New Refrigerator coming soon. Come see!

KEN KNOLL



7121 GREENWOOD AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Beautifully maintained 2BR 1.5BA duplex with many updates. Gleaming hwdw thru-out, Newly renovated kitchen, BAs, and fully finished bsmt. Front and rear porch where you can sit and enjoy the quiet of this desirable neighborhood. Call today for your private tour! *Shed as-is

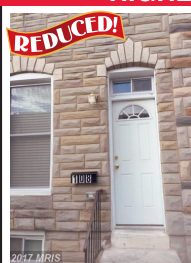
BALTIMORE



5125 FREDERICK AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21229

Lovely 3BR 1.5BA home w/finished LL. New kitchen, new BA, beautiful hardwood floors, 1 car garage and 1 car parking pad.

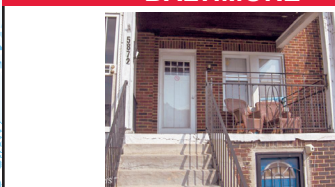
HIGHLANDTOWN



108 CLINTON ST. BALTIMORE, MD 21224

Remodel 3BR with possible 4th BR in lower level or Den. New roof, new HVAC system, granite countertops, skylight, ceramic tile bath. This is a must see!

BALTIMORE



5872 BELAIR RD., BALTIMORE, MD 21206

This is a lovely home currently being sold as an investment property.

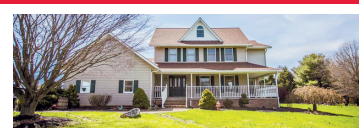
HAMPTON RIDGE



1218 DULWICH LN. BEL AIR, MD 21014

4BR (poss 5th in LL), 2BA, 2 half BA home with open rear yard, kitchen boasts granite counters with ss appliances, Ravens fans will love their own personal Ravens Roost in LL. We are a Short Sale, so selling "as is" with needed 3rd party approval, close to schools, shopping and 95.

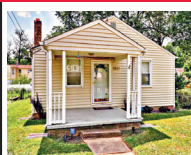
HAMPSTEAD



18608 FALLS RD., HAMPSTEAD, MD 21074

Beautiful Craftsman Style home on 2 acres. Updated kitchen & BAs, lrg fam rm and fully finished bsmt. Geothermal Heating and Cooling, as well as heated floors! Deck, hot tub, pool and lrg grassy yard!

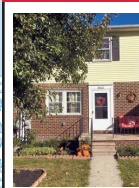
WINDSOR TERRACE



5521 CLIFTON AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21207

BRING ALL OFFERS!! This cozy single floor home is well-maintained with stylish upgrades, 2BR/1BA, back deck and a large yard. Close to major routes and shopping conveniences. This charming home still has lots of potential and would be perfect for an investor or as a starter home! Sold As-Is.

DOUBLE ROCK



3642 DOUBLE ROCK LANE BALTO., MD 21234

Large TWHM located in a quiet neighborhood. House backs to woods for extra privacy. Large living room opens into a spacious dining room and kitchen combo with a large island and new floors thru-out! Fully finished walk-out level bsmt with 4th BR and a half BA. Master BR with a private full BA.



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2016 F150
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P2300

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J635A

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 SUPER CAB V8
CERTIFIED*



H2184A

\$34,971

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 200 TOURING SEDAN
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H2116A

\$10,999

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 SUV V6
CERTIFIED*



H1467A

\$17,988

2015 VW JETTA
 GTI 2.0T SE
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J567A

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 EX SUV
CERTIFIED*



H1635B

\$14,838

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J559A

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2015 SORENTO
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J604B

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