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VERSE OF THE WEEK -
2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

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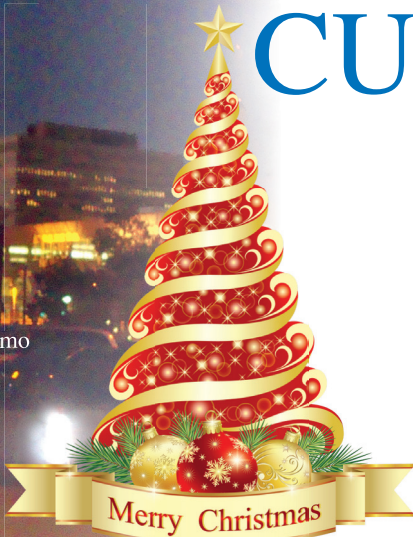


For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,
 who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you:
 You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.
Luke 2:11-12



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Tradepoint Atlantic introduces dredging project to public, hears concerns

- By Devin Crum -

Interested members of the community heard Tradepoint Atlantic's plan Thursday night, Dec. 14, to open up and revitalize their marine terminal through an extensive "maintenance dredging" project.

TA is seeking authorization from several government agencies, currently via a tidal wetlands permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment, to mechanically or hydraulically dredge the Sparrows Point Terminal access channels and turning basin, according to Andrew May, chief of MDE's Tidal Wetlands Division.

Under the project guidelines, May said, TA would dredge a 48.1-acre area within the turning basin and a 29.6-acre area in the approach channel each to a depth of 42 feet. They would dredge a 53.6-acre area to a depth of 47 feet around the

finger pier and its approach channel. A maximum of 1 million cubic yards of material would be dredged and deposited at facilities around the Baltimore harbor over a period of up to 10 years.

The company would also remove an existing 704-foot-long timber pier, conduct up to 100 offshore soil borings and replace a 2,200-line-foot bulkhead as part of the project.

Although Tradepoint, which is in the process of redeveloping the Sparrows Point former steel mill site, has been touting their plan since at least September as vital to their goals for an intermodal logistics park, Thursday's meeting was the first opportunity for some to give their feedback about the project proposal.

Peter Haid, TA's environmental director, called the dredging project a "key component" to the company's commitment to revitalize Sparrows Point and maintain the facility in a responsible manner. He said previous owners neglected their responsibility to maintain the port in particular.

"They've allowed the channel going into the port to shoal up," Haid said. "They allowed sediment from throughout the harbor to settle into the channel."

Haid stressed that dredging would be done "specifically and strictly" within the existing channels and would only go down to previously attained depths.

"The purpose of this project is simply to maintain port viability and to stay in business," he said.

Criticism of or opposition to the project

centered largely around fears that buried contaminants in the sediments could be stirred up by the dredging to then migrate around the area and the Chesapeake Bay in a much larger pollution event.

"The characteristics of the sediment surrounding the Sparrows Point peninsula are already heavily documented across 30 years as hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste....," said area resident and Southeast Communities Against Pollution member Russell Donnelly. "I have to take exception; I can't believe that [this] one magical spot is clean."

Angela Haren, Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper and director of advocacy with Blue Water Baltimore, was also concerned about the re-release of old contaminants buried in the sediments.

"Due to the close proximity of the Coke Point area to the proposed dredging for this project, in our minds, it stands to reason that elevated levels of these contaminants may also be present," she said.

But Haid said models showed any sediment stirred up in the water column would settle back down within 700 feet of the dredge point, and they will monitor for turbidity throughout the project.

He also noted that sediments would

have to travel a full mile east or west to round the tips of Sparrows Point and make their way into the nearest waterways of Old Road Bay/Jones Creek or Bear Creek.

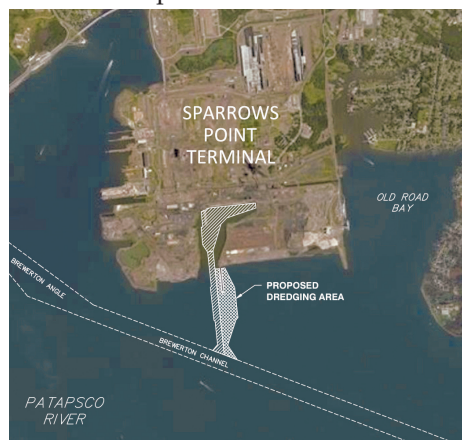
"The scale of the area in which this dredging project will be taking place is fairly enclosed by Sparrows Point's property itself," he said.

Haid said TA will take some samples of sediment material from channel areas east of the finger pier to see if sloughing of material from outside the channel may have happened. He admitted that they do not have a lot of information on the water and sediments east of the channel, but do have wells inland on the property to sample ground water and soil that could migrate to that area.

"Those wells are relatively clean," Haid said. "They don't have contaminants that you would expect to be mobile that would impact the water [there]."

Doug Meyers, a senior scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, stressed that it is unknown what pollution may be present in the dredge material unless there is sampling of the sediments within the channels.

- see DREDGING on page 10 -



This image shows the footprint of the proposed dredging project. Image courtesy of Tradepoint Atlantic.

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Delegate Robin Grammer, Kathy and Little Robin wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

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Clark Griswold alive and well and living in Oliver Beach

- Article and photo by Marge Neal -

Professionally, Marc Smith is a respected, award-winning scenic, lighting and sound designer, known internationally for his prowess in technical theater as witnessed by his 38-year career at the Community College of Baltimore County.

But in his Oliver Beach neighborhood, he is known as the Christmas guy - a Clark Griswold of sorts, with a house that when decorated, generates an electrical bill nearly three times the normal cost.

The "Christmas House," as it is referred to by many local residents, has pretty much every square inch of lawn, roof, exterior walls and shrubbery covered with every kind of light and decoration imaginable. Not even the boat parked at the back of the driveway escapes the Christmas treatment - lights line the vessel and an inflatable Snoopy stands guard at the stern.

And the cozy home's interior gets pretty much the same treatment.

"Literally, everything in the house gets put away so the Christmas stuff can come out," Smith said with a laugh. "Curtains, comforters, sheets, everything."

On a tour of the house with Smith and Debbie Goetzinger, his life partner of nearly 20 years, the evidence of that statement becomes apparent. The living room, kitchen, office, bedroom, guest room and even the bathroom serve as temporary galleries for all things Christmas.

The hallway has so many lights lining it that it resembles a runway. Snowman

valances grace the kitchen windows, while sheets and pillow cases adorned with images of strings of lights and a comforter featuring snowmen dress the bed.

In curio cabinets, on shelves, cabinet and table tops and hanging from doorways and walls, the Christmas collection that has taken more than four decades to amass is displayed.

"I don't have many ornaments from when I was a kid, but I do have some of the stuff from the train garden that I built with my father," Smith said. "I still have a bunch of small cottages that he made from beer cartons."

Smith vividly remembers the crafting of the small houses, from creating them out of cardboard to painting them and sprinkling them with mica to give the perception of snow on the roofs.

The exterior's decoration collection carries an equal number of stories. The center piece of the front lawn is a large red sleigh being driven by none other than Santa Claus.

"I built that and used it in a Christmas show at the college," Smith said. "And when the show was over, I thought I'd hang on to that."

Three large wooden wreaths that adorn the front wall were made by the multi-talented artist, again for a theater production, and became part of the Oliver Beach display after retiring from the stage.

The now over-the-top display started innocently enough in 1998. The first effort involved garlands and lights, along with some handcrafted wooden elves he

designed and made.

"We added on each year until we basically couldn't add any more," Smith said. "It doesn't grow now, it just changes from year to year so we can use stuff that didn't get used the previous year."

Smith is one of those Christmas people that can irk others who like to hold on to warm weather as long as they can. On social media, he reminds people that the big holiday is a mere six months away and counts down from there.

As a more visible reminder, at precisely 1 a.m. on Sept. 16 of each year, he installs a Christmas countdown clock on a pole in his front yard to remind his neighbors that Christmas is a mere 99 days away.

Why 1 a.m.?

"The first year I installed it, I went out front right before midnight on Christmas Eve to watch it count down to zero, and it told me there was still an hour to go," he recalled with a laugh. "I forgot to factor in the fall time change."

Now the sign is an hour off before the time changes back to standard time, but is accurate when it really counts, he said.

Neither Goetzinger nor Smith will admit to have a favorite decoration, but rather cherish the memories and stories behind most of the individual pieces.

"When we bring the stuff out each year, we remember where we got something, or think about the person who gave us a certain piece," Goetzinger said.

While they do not claim any favoritism, Goetzinger admits to a special fondness for snowmen and Smith seems to treasure

trains of all sizes.

Snowmen are well represented throughout the house, with curtains, bedding, moving and stationary figurines and ornaments adorned with the snowy creatures.

In the train department, there's one on the front porch, one that circles the wood-burning stove, various others around the house and still others unused and spending the year in storage.

He also has quite a collection of vintage ceramic lighted Christmas trees. A tree that was going to be discarded by a friend now sits on the couple's dining room table, being "renovated." And he made it a point to show off the first one he made in 1973.

Smith takes pride in buying quality decorations and tries hard to avoid "tacky." But even he succumbs to the occasional inflatable, as witnessed by this year's acquisition of a blowup Olaf.

He originally balked at the \$150 price tag but ended up buying it for one reason: "I knew the kids in the neighborhood would love it so I bought it," he said.

As if on cue, during a recent visit to the house, a man was walking his two dogs along the street.

"Great display, as always," he said to Smith. "And my kids love Olaf."

Their final goal is to have the exterior of the house resemble a fairy tale gingerbread house, but it's already on its way. The roof is lined with large illuminated gumdrops, as are the railings. Lighted

- see **GRISWOLD** on page 9 -



GREETINGS of the SEASON

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Edgemere Christmas spirit gives man and daughter a lift

- By Marge Neal -

How appropriate it is at Christmastime that a little town rallied to take care of some strangers to make their lives just a little bit easier.

Edgemere became a modern-day version of Bethlehem this week when residents presented not a stable in a barn, but transportation gift cards to a father doing his best to take advantage of educational opportunities for his oldest daughter.

This story of caring began with a Dec. 13 Facebook post by Amy Schaeffer, in which she asked Edgemere residents to look out for a man and his daughter who each morning walk quite a distance to Sparrows Point High School.

Because she had given Jay, the father, a ride the previous day, she knew a little bit of the Colgate family's story. Jay's oldest daughter is a student in the environmental science magnet program at SPSHS.

While it is a proud moment to be accepted by an academically rigorous magnet program, such selections can create hardships because parents are responsible for getting their children to what is usually an out-of-home-district school if the limited system-provided bus offerings do not work out.

Jay, who asked that his last name not be published, and his daughter Zibreyea, known more simply as Z, catch a bus in Colgate each school morning and take it to the end of the line at Wise Avenue and North Point Boulevard, near Pop's Tavern. They walk from there to the high school, and then Jay turns around and

walks back to Pop's where he catches a bus to go to work.

The school system does provide bus transportation from the original home school of magnet students, but in Z's case, the timing does not work out, according to her father.

The bus that picks up kids in Colgate arrives at Dundalk High at about 7:15 a.m., according to Jay. The magnet bus that transports students from there to Sparrows Point leaves Dundalk High at 7 a.m.

"It just made more sense to take the MTA bus as far as we can and then walk from there," he said in a phone interview.

The system they have worked out puts Z at Sparrows Point at about 7:20 a.m., according to Jay, which gives her plenty of time to "meet and greet" friends.

Last week, Schaeffer was moved watching the two brave the elements as the temperatures dropped for the first time to more winter-like conditions.

"He's a very, very humble man and he's not looking for a handout," Schaeffer said. "He was even reluctant to accept a ride; he's full of optimism and said he enjoys the time he gets to spend with his daughter on these walks."

After giving Jay that first ride, Schaeffer put out her plea for help via The Edgemere Page on Facebook. In short order, nearly 200 people reacted or responded to the original comment.

Rikki Wozniak, a cousin of Schaeffer's, picked up the pair that morning. Subsequent conversation on the original

Facebook thread included suggestions of starting a gofundme.com account for the man to help him buy a car before residents settled on collecting donations to buy Uber gift cards so Jay and his daughter could use the on-demand car service in severe weather.

Edgemere residents are known for passionately reacting to help someone with a need, and this situation was no different. Folks volunteered to help and the fundraising effort was underway.

Donations were collected at two restaurants in Edgemere on Dec. 16 and 17, which Wozniak collected and used to buy \$325 in Uber gift cards. Three individuals each contributed \$25 cards.

A Facebook post on Sunday evening informed residents that \$400 had been collected and would be given to Jay on Monday morning.

But the giving did not stop there, according to Schaeffer. So many additional people reached out later on Sunday that she was able to buy another \$240 in gift cards before she picked up Jay and Z on Monday morning.

"I think he was a little startled when I gave him the cards," Schaeffer told the *East County Times* on Monday. "And I was worried that he was a little offended, but I think it was just a little much for him to take in at the time."

It is not often, Schaeffer said with a laugh, that a stranger walks up to another person and hands him \$600.

"I was very surprised," Jay said of the unexpected gift. "I wouldn't think anyone

would pay us any mind."

Wozniak said she too was struck by Jay's humility and emphasized that he did not ask for or seek out assistance.

"He's just doing what he needs to do to take care of his family; he doesn't want to be a burden and he doesn't expect anything from anyone," Wozniak said. "He said he considers it a privilege that his daughter got accepted into the magnet program and he's just doing what he needs to do for her to be there."

Wozniak played down the role she had in pulling off the gift card caper, wanting to focus on the community and the family.

"I just played a very small role; many others donated, collected money, and Amy really got all this going," she said. "People just wanted to help and they made it happen."

Jay said he is "very grateful" for the gift and wants to assure the community that he will not abuse the thoughtful act.

"I will still walk Z to school on nice days, because we make it fun and that gives me good time with her to talk and enjoy each other's company," he said. "But I did talk to my wife and these gift cards will make it much easier to go shopping at Sam's Club... it sure will beat trying to load our little carts on a bus going home."

As far as Schaeffer, Wozniak and many Facebook followers believe, their generous act is just another example of Edgemere doing what it does best - taking care of each other.

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Politicians outline legislative agendas at Chamber breakfast

- By Patrick Taylor -

With the 2018 legislative session set to begin in a matter of weeks, local officials gathered at By the Docks in Middle River on Wednesday, Dec. 13, to talk to business leaders about likely legislative efforts, with most of the time focused on the opioid crisis.

Hosted by the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce, the annual breakfast usually draws strong numbers. But this year was a bit down due to extremely cold weather and committee hearings taking place in Annapolis. Only five local officials showed up, including State Senators Kathy Klausmeier (D-8) and Johnny Ray Salling (R-6), as well as Delegates Pat McDonough (R-7), Rick Impallaria (R-7) and Robin Grammer (R-6).

Klausmeier, the only Democrat in attendance, stated that one of her main focuses would be combatting the opioid problem that has gripped the county and state. She stated she is working with the Department of Health and local schools to try to bring awareness to the opioid problem. Besides meeting with the expected groups, Klausmeier also noted she was meeting with veterinarians.

"People are harming their animals and taking them to veterinarians to get [pain killers]," said Klausmeier, noting that she was working on a solution.

Those sentiments were shared by Impallaria, who noted that he recently

spoke with the Harford County Sheriff's office about giving more realistic anti-drug talks. He told the gathered crowd that instead of showing kids a successful story about someone beating addiction that they need to be shown the opposite. He went on to contend that the problem is under-reported in the county, and added that the per-capita deaths in the county are higher than the murder rate in Baltimore.

"These are our homes, these are our children that are dying," said Impallaria. "We need to protect the next generation and make it cool not to do drugs."

McDonough saw fit to note that it was "Mexican heroin" coming into the county, and promised to do what he could to curb the problem. He said it was a three-pronged issue, with education, health and law enforcement efforts all needing to be revamped.

While the individual agendas were different, all of the Republicans gathered asserted that there would be a lot of politically motivated legislation this session with an election on the horizon. Impallaria noted that the Democrat-led General Assembly will likely look to continue challenging President Trump's agenda, while Grammer (R-6) predicted marijuana legalization would pick up steam through the session and end up being put on next year's ballot as a way to increase voter turnout to unseat

Governor Larry Hogan.

Salling spent his time talking about improving education at all levels, as well as improvements to the Tradepoint Atlantic property. Salling acknowledged that not all of the jobs coming into the property will be high-paying jobs, but that there will be a lot of jobs and opportunity. He touted the return of industry to the old Bethlehem Steel property as a win.

McDonough views Tradepoint along the same lines and contended that more needed to be done to draw in businesses. He proposed marketing the deepwater access to different nations, with the goal

being getting those nations to bring jobs to the Sparrows Point property.

Grammer ended the morning laying out his thoughts, including the imminent passing of paid sick leave. "If you're a business owner, be prepared," he warned. The young Republican also told the audience he plans to press for more economic redevelopment in Essex and Middle River to revitalize that part of his district.

"This is not going to be something that happens this year, or even next," Grammer conceded. "This is something that will take 10 or 20 years."

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Wreaths laid at Lamky, Luther, Whitehead Memorial

- Article & photo by Patrick Taylor -

on the third Saturday of December every year. This year the service coincided with the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, adding extra gravitas to an already somber occasion.

"As I observed the hallowed grounds at Holly Hill, the masses of people, and bones of the hallowed trees, I realized how deep are the roots in this area for veterans and their families that have fought for our freedom," said Delegate

Ric Metzgar, who gave the opening prayer to start the event.

After a short program led by the Civil Air Patrol, representatives from each branch of the armed forces, including the marines, navy, air force, coast guard and merchant marines laid wreaths on the memorial. Two more wreaths were placed at the foot of the memorial as well, one honoring prisoners of war and the other honoring those missing in action.

As the wreaths for each of the branches was laid, active servicemen and women, as well as veterans, took their place at attention to pay their respects.

"Really it was just a beautiful service," said Joe McBride, a Korean War veteran who recently moved to Middle River. "It really makes me proud to have served my country."

The event ended with a plea from the Civil Air Patrol to learn about the local heroes who fought.

"We could quote the statistics of individuals buried around the country, but all you would have is a bunch of numbers," said a Civil Air Patrol representative. "Instead we ask you to take a moment and visit a gravesite... they are and were more than a statistic."



Commander Craig Jones of the Merchant Marines pays his respects at the memorial.

A time to rejoice, reflect, and renew.

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year to everyone!*

From Todd and the entire staff.
Doug Anderson, Ron Metzger, Katie Taylor, & Cleo Everd

TODD CRANDELL
COUNTY COUNCIL



GRISWOLD

- continued from page 3 -

candy canes line the driveway and sidewalk and more gumdrop lights hang from the deck.

Smith laughs when he remembers buying the first few gumdrops. He went home to hang them and discovered he needed a "few" more, but the few he bought did not create the illusion he was hoping for.

"I ended up buying about 15 more," he said.

He also told the story of finding garlands of beads that he really liked at Boscov's. He bought some, took them home and really liked the image they created. He went back to get more, only to find the store did not have as many as he wanted.

"I went to five other Boscov's, including two in Pennsylvania, and bought all they had," he said.

The couple has a lot of money tied up in the extensive collection that spends about 10 months of the year closed up in plastic storage bins in the basement.

But the personal enjoyment they get out of seeing a few of their favorite things at their favorite time of

year, coupled with the appreciation they receive from neighbors, makes it all worthwhile.

During the interview for this story, Smith got up from the dining room table, took something off of the refrigerator and came back to the table beaming.

"The little girl next door gave us this last year," he said, holding a laminated piece of paper.

"Congratulations!" it proclaimed in a child's scrawling handwriting. "You have earned an award for best Christmas house!"

The treasure hangs along side a more professional-looking certificate for Christmas Lights 2007 Best in Show presented by the Oliver Beach Improvement Association.

But the award from little Ava holds a place in the couple's hearts, and it means a lot to them when kids stop by to "ooh" and "aah" and thank them for

their efforts.

And those simple little gestures make the work - the careful unpacking, packing and storage of loved possessions, the danger of roof-climbing and the sky-high electric bills - all worth the effort.



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Dr. Keller is a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

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DREDGING

- continued from page 2 -

"I think it's a matter of getting the information from the soil borings first," he said, and limiting the scope of the project for the time being to doing that instead of dredging.

Haid explained that TA dredged 80,000 cubic yards of material from the same channels in 2015 as part of another maintenance dredge.

"During that event, we observed no adverse environmental impacts," he said.

Donnelly, Haren and Meyers each also questioned the description of the project as a maintenance dredge given its scale, and the latter two each maintained that more information is needed before a permit is granted.

Donnelly noted that when maintenance dredging is done biannually for the entire Baltimore harbor, it results in 1.25 million cubic yards of material. He said 1 million cubic yards from TA alone cannot be considered simple maintenance.

Meyers echoed that sentiment noting,

"This is not a channel that has been active all along and it's had a little bit of sloughing from year to year as it's being actively used."

Haren said BWB has both procedural and substantive comments and concerns about the project, but cannot express a position in support of or opposition to the plan due to the lack of information.

"We all need more information," she said. "The public needs more information, and we believe the agencies, including MDE, need more information before you can make an informed decision."

Aside from TA representatives, the only attendee to speak in favor of the project was Rupert Denney, who works for C. Steinweg Group, a fellow marine terminal operator in Locust Point. He said he was also informally representing the roughly 33 remaining private-sector terminals around the Port of Baltimore.

Denney admitted that his company uses TA's facilities and has an interest in seeing them improved, and he said he was not there to talk about science or impacts to the community, but the "bigger picture."

"The reason why the private terminals would support [granting] the wetlands license is the more ships that come into Baltimore, the more prosperous the whole port community becomes," he said.

Denney noted it is 158 miles from the Francis Scott Key bridge to the mouth of the bay, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Maryland are tasked with keeping those channels navigable.

"The more ships we bring into the Port of Baltimore..., the more compelling argument the state can make to the feds that Baltimore is worth investing a lot of money in to keep those channels open," he said. He added that with more ship traffic also comes more vendors to serve them, creating a larger economic impact for the region overall.

Francis Taylor, chair of Maryland's Dredge Material Management Program Citizens Advisory Committee and president of the North Point Peninsula Council community group, took a more reserved approach while noting that both complacency and alarmism are counter-productive in this instance.

He said, though, that it is a well-documented fact that river sediment contamination is not as concentrated in areas where past dredging has occurred, such as in the Sparrows Point Terminal.

"The top layers of affected river bottom containing legacy metals, PCBs [polychlorinated biphenyls] and so forth, have already been removed," Taylor said.

He said he and other groups will advocate for communities to ensure that human health and the environment are protected, that there is economic benefit to surrounding communities and that there is adequate monitoring and enforcement as part of the project.

MDE will accept public comments on the project until 5 p.m. Dec. 29, after which the agency will make its recommendation to the state's Board of Public Works. The board will then make the final determination on the permit.



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Patapsco loses two on the trot after opening game win

- Article & photo by Patrick Taylor -

After kicking off the season with an emphatic 59 - 34 win over Sparrows Point, the Patapsco boys' basketball team has struggled over the last two games, falling in matchups against New Town and Towson.

Against Towson on Monday night, Dec. 18, a game the Patriots lost 68 - 57, the boys struggled to get much going offensively during the first half of the game. On the defensive side, Towson's size simply caused too much trouble for the Patriots to deal with.

Halfway through the first quarter, things were looking alright for Patapsco. They were down 6 - 4 after a 4:39 Joe Cepero tip in, but then the buckets dried up, with Patapsco not scoring a point from the 4:49 mark in the first quarter through the halfway point of the second quarter. During that time, Towson went on a 14 - 0 run.

A free throw finally broke the drought for Patapsco before they added another bucket, cutting Towson's lead to 13. And that was the closest things would get for the rest of the half.

As the first half

stretched on, Towson would eventually build a 22-point lead before Cepero ended the half with a big and-one play to bring the deficit back into the teens.

In the third quarter, Towson continued to use their length and quickness to build up an insurmountable lead. Patapsco improved offensively, but after a disastrous first half and the game out of reach, the second half was predominantly about shaking off the rust.

In the first half, Patapsco really struggled with turnovers. While the opening minutes of a game tend to be a bit erratic with adrenaline pumping, the Patriots never really evened out. They struggled to break the full-court press Towson was operating, and too often their offense devolved into a player driving into traffic. And on occasions when Patapsco players drew contact and got

to the line, they failed to make Towson pay. Towson fell into the penalty early and it did not take long for them to fall into double bonus territory, but the Patriots could not find the net.

Against Sparrows Point, the Patriots looked a lot smoother. Towson is definitely a solid squad this year, but Patapsco just let the game slip away early due to poor decision making and poor shooting.

That said, this is a young team with a lot of potential. Their second-half play showed they have the ability to hang tight with good teams, they just have to put together four consistent quarters. Beyond that, when they struggle offensively they cannot afford to let the opposing team's lead balloon.

Around the league

The Dundalk Owls have been on a tear to start the season, going undefeated in their first three games. Their last win came on Dec. 11 against Joppatowne, when the Owls used a 22 - 8 fourth quarter to come up with a 66 - 64 win. Down by 17 points in the third, the Owls rallied back, with a batch of late free throws by Nathan Bellman, Jaylon Johnson and Michael Johnson pushing Dundalk into the lead. The Owls will play Chesapeake on Dec. 28 in the Dundalk Holiday Tournament.

Elsewhere, the Parkville Knights bounced back from a tough loss to

Kenwood last week with a 92 - 55 victory over Eastern Tech on Dec. 13. The Knights dominated from the opening tip and now finish their opening swing of Essex opponents with two wins (Tech, Chesapeake) and a loss (Kenwood). The Knights have a lengthy break until they take on Catonsville on Jan. 3.

The Perry Hall Gators fell to Poly in a matchup of top-ranked teams in the Baltimore area last week, with the Gators falling with a score of 72 - 63. The contest was a battle of defending state champions, with Poly winning the 3A title last year and Perry Hall taking home the 4A title. Senior forward Laquill Hardnett put up 14 points for the Gators and junior forward Anthony Walker put up 15. Anthony Higgs had a relatively quiet night with nine points.

The Gators had no answer for Poly guard Demetrius Mims. Mims, who is widely considered to be one of the area's top guards, torched Perry Hall for 29 points, including nine in the final quarter. Perry Hall actually started the fourth with a 52 - 49 lead, but Poly went on a 9 - 0 run to start the final quarter. Perry Hall eventually cut the lead to five, but Mims put to rest any hopes of the Gators. Perry Hall will look to regroup against Dulaney on Jan. 3.



Patapsco forward Dontay Blanding fights for a rebound.

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IN YOUR WORDS

Take Pride in Your Neighborhood

There is a meeting of the Sussex Community Association on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in Sussex Elementary School, 515 S. Woodward Drive in Essex. Please plan to attend - bring your compliments and complaints to be addressed by the association. They do a fantastic job of making improvements in this area.

Do yourself a favor - revive the area around your property. Discuss needs of improvement with neighbors - be thankful for suggestions. Perhaps they will see an improvement need that you don't. You know the old adage of not seeing the forest for the trees!

Take a walk around your neighborhood. Admire what your neighbors have done to make their property attractive and you will feel pride to be living in Essex - soon to be the envy of other areas of Baltimore County.

Explain to your children the advantage of a well-cared-for neighborhood. Take a bag with you on your walk and pick up trash and recyclable debris on the street and sidewalk; it makes a big difference in the appearance of your area.

Take a pad and pencil to make notes of improvements needed. Don't hesitate to report any discrepancy. It

may take a few weeks, but you will get results.

Another highlight to a good walk is that it is conducive to good health and offers the psychological benefits of contact with neighbors in your area with interest in making Essex a desirable place to live.

Howard Sheckells
Essex

The Wonder of Christmas

The heavenly host looked down from above
While the decision was being made
Who would descend down to Earth
So these lost souls could be saved.

The son of God, filled with love
Said, "Father, I will go
And teach these people all they should know
To save each and every soul."

The angels cried as they bid farewell
And Jesus came to Earth;
The wonder of Christmas would begin
With the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Over 2,000 years have passed since then
As Jesus fulfilled God's plan
And brought the gift of salvation
To every child, woman and man.

So as you celebrate Christmas Day
Remember our savior, Jesus,
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And the wonder of Christmas.

Have a blessed Christmas.

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DUI crashes on the rise as holiday season kicks in

As the holiday season kicks into high gear, Maryland State Police respond to an increased number of alcohol related crashes this weekend throughout the state.

From Friday, Dec. 15 through the early morning hours of Dec. 18, Maryland State Police responded to eighteen crashes involving alcohol across the state. Last year at the same time, Maryland State Police responded to thirteen alcohol related crashes throughout Maryland.

Six crashes occurred on Friday, Dec. 15, two of which occurred in Prince George's County. The other four occurred in Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's and Prince George's Counties.

Eight crashes occurred on Saturday, Dec. 16, including two in Baltimore County, two in Frederick County, two in Cecil County, and one in Prince George's County and one in Howard County. Three crashes occurred on Dec. 17 in three different counties including Cecil, Frederick and Harford. One crash occurred at 12:45 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 18 in Carroll County.

Troopers from each of the 23 Maryland State Police barracks who patrol every county will continue to focus enforcement efforts on impaired driving, aggressive driving, speeding, distracted driving and other violations that often contribute to highway tragedies, especially during the holiday season. Additional troopers will be working overtime assignments funded by highway safety grants from the Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office.

Extra holiday traffic this week through New Year's includes additional Maryland state troopers who will be using a variety of patrol initiatives to keep traffic moving, respond quickly to highway incidents and take appropriate enforcement action when violations are observed that threaten the safety of travelers.

Troopers urge motorists to avoid impaired driving and plan for a designated driver or a sober ride home. Help us keep Maryland highways safe throughout this holiday season.

Precinct 9/White Marsh

Attempted First Degree Burglary: Officers from the White Marsh precinct were called to the 4300 block of Bedrock Circle in Nottingham on Dec. 17. At 6:35 a.m., the suspect caused a false fire alarm and attempted to gain entry to an unoccupied apartment at the Southfield Apartments. The suspect was arrested.

Robbery: Baltimore County Police responded to a robbery call on Dec. 16 in the 8600 block of Philadelphia Road in Rosedale. At 10:24 p.m., the victim was approached by an unknown suspect in a parking lot. At gunpoint, the suspect demanded the victim's wallet, took cash from the wallet and then fled on foot. Anyone with information should contact the police.

Police seek assistance locating missing Essex man

Baltimore County Police continue to search for clues in the disappearance of Wade Ricky Dickens.

Wade Ricky Dickens, 34, of the 900 block of Ashbridge Drive in Essex, was last seen at work on Wednesday, Nov. 1, in the 11000 block of Guilford Road in Jessup. A driver by trade, he was last seen operating a black 1990 Ford F-150 truck, Maryland registration '77284CD', with a gray tool box in the bed of the truck. He left work that evening and has not been seen or heard from since that time. Calls to his cell phone go unanswered.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Wade Dickens or his Ford truck is asked to contact police at 410-307-2020 or dial 9-1-1. The Baltimore County Police Homicide/Missing Persons Unit is continuing to investigate this man's disappearance.

Stolen car found with 6-month-old baby on board

A car that was stolen on Monday morning with a 6-month-old baby in the backseat was recovered in the Pratt Monroe neighborhood of Baltimore later that afternoon.

According to *The Sun*, officers from Baltimore's Southern District spotted the car and stopped it in the 300 block of S. Payson Street. The woman driving the car was arrested and is currently being held at Baltimore County Central Booking. The baby was unharmed and was returned to the mother.

The mother, whose name is not being released at this time, told authorities she ran into the 7-Eleven store at the corner of Eastern Boulevard and Marlyn Avenue in Essex at around 10:30 a.m. on Monday. She left the car running while she ran into the store and an acquaintance whom she had been giving a ride to jumped into the driver's seat and drove off.

Police investigating fatal pedestrian crash in Dundalk

On Dec. 17, just after 7:00 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Dundalk Avenue and Bayship Road in Dundalk for a crash involving a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 56-year-old man was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The man was struck by a 2012 Honda Accord. The driver of the Honda remained at the scene of the crash. Police are investigating the details that led up to the collision at this time. Anyone with information regarding this incident should contact the police.

Attorney, G. Randolph Rice, Jr.

(Former Assistant State's Attorney)

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Beware of Craigslist buys

Craigslist is a place to find great deals and to sell household items you no longer want. It's also a great place to find and provide honest services. However, as Craigslist has grown in popularity, it has also attracted all kinds of criminals.

Below are tips to keep you safe when selling and buying online items, especially during the holiday season.

- Trust your instincts. If you don't feel right about something, then pass it up.

- Designate a meeting location. Never meet someone alone. Take someone else with you and meet during the day in plain sight. This will not always deter an assailant from attacking or robbing you, but it does give you an edge and can potentially discourage a robbery.

- Paying for the purchase. Be cautious if you bring currency for a transaction. It would be better to accept cash than checks or money orders.

- Get a callback number. Make sure you have a phone number to contact the seller or buyer. Having a phone number doesn't mean you still can't be a victim. Having a phone number gives you a starting point in case something does go wrong.

- Is it too good to be true? If something really is too good to be true, then it usually is and could be a problem. You should shop for a bargain, but watch out for those steals.

- Tell someone where you are going. Always let a friend, family member or co-worker know about your plans to visit a Craigslist buyer or seller. Make sure they have all the information you wrote down including phone numbers, location, date and time.

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 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 10:00pm Mass at night

Christmas Day
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St. Luke 7517 North Point Road

Christmas Eve
 4:00pm Children's Mass
 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 12:00am Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day
 10:00am

CHRISTMASTIME MASS SCHEDULE:

~ HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ~
 408 S. Chester St., Baltimore, MD 21231
 410-732-3960

**Regular Mass Mon-Thurs - 6:30pm
 and Fri - 3pm & 7:00pm**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
 8:30am English / 10:30am Polish
 12:30pm English / 5:00pm English Vigil
 Kolędy Christmas Carols 11:30pm
 Pasterka Polish & English Midnight

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
 8:30am English / 10:30am Polish / 12:30pm English

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 ST. STEPHEN FEAST DAY
 6:30pm English / 7:30pm Polish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
 NEW YEAR'S EVE**
 8:30am English
 10:30am Polish / 12:30pm English

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018
 NEW YEAR'S DAY
 SOLEMNITY OF MARY
 the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
 8:30am English / 10:30am Polish
 12:30pm English

www.holyrosarypl.org

BACK RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrate Christmas, Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 10:30AM - Family Service
 8:00PM - Candlelight Service

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 (near the intersection of Turkey Point Rd. & Rt. 702)
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CHRISTMAS EVE
 Candlelight & Communion 4pm & 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY 10am

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2120 Dundalk Avenue, Dundalk, MD
 410-284-6840 / www.newlightdundalk.com

Chase UMC Food Drive

Chase United Methodist Church, 6601 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, is partnering with the *East County Times* for a food drive through Dec. 31. Non-perishable food donations, such as canned vegetables, soups and meats (tuna and chicken, for example), boxed pasta and peanut butter, can be dropped off at ECT's office, 513 Eastern Blvd. in Essex, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Grocery store gifts cards, which can be used to buy turkeys and fresh foods, would also be appreciated.

Donate Blood at Bayview

It's the holiday season! It's a busy time for most people, but no matter the season, many patients still need the gift of blood. In fact, the Red Cross must collect 14,000 blood donations per day to meet on-going patient need.

Make a difference in someone's life - and their holidays - by participating in Johns Hopkins Bayview's blood drive, scheduled for Dec. 21 - 22, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Knott Conference Center. All participants will receive a meal coupon, parking pass and special gift from the Medical Center.

Eligible donors can make twice the difference by scheduling a "power red" donation. During this type of donation, a machine separates the red blood cells from other blood components and returns the remaining components back to the donor. By doing this, the machine is able to double the amount of red cells it would normally collect in a standard blood donation. Donors are actually donating two units of blood, instead of one, and saving twice the number of lives.

To schedule a donation, call 410-550-0289.

Sacred Heart Young Adults

Come visit the Young Adults (ages 18-35) for those who want to grow in their spirituality, help our community, and develop a stronger relationship with God. We have group discussions, testimonies, music, food and planning for community service and socials like BBQs and ice skating. We meet in the parish center at 6727 Duluth Ave. in Dundalk, every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, contact SacredHeartYA@gmail.com or the parish office at 410-633-2828.

Soup Kitchen

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7834 Eastern Ave. across from Eastpoint Mall, operates its soup kitchen on the last Saturday of every month from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info., call 410-288-0537.

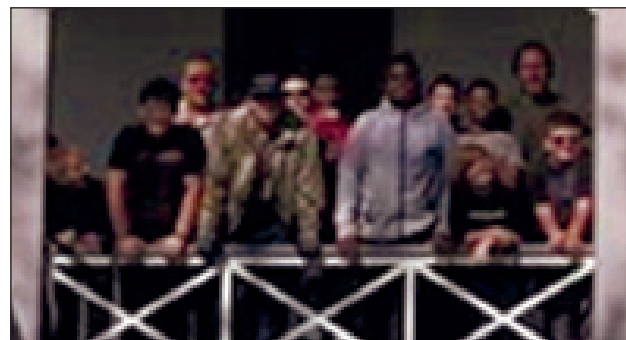
Free Home-Cooked Meals

Essex United Methodist Church, 524 Maryland Ave., will offer free, hot home-cooked meals for anyone in the community every Wednesday from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Anyone who wishes to may sit down and eat, no questions asked.

Baltimore Cancer Support Group

The Baltimore Cancer Support Group was founded to help those dealing with cancer and their caregivers. Shortly thereafter a grief support group was added. We have programs to support these two groups; a group for cancer survivors and caregivers and a healing journey group for those who have lost a loved one. Meetings are held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 7910 Belair Road in Nottingham, on Thursdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Scouts Visit Todd's Inheritance



Boy Scout Troop 745 went on a camping trip to Todd's Inheritance Historic Site in Edgemere. The ten scouts and three adult leaders enjoyed a two-night camp-out and a tour of the historic homestead that played a vital role in the Battle of North Point during the War of 1812. The boys carried out a community service project by cleaning out the upper floors of the house and enjoyed a visit to the Haunted Dungeons at the conclusion of the camping trip.

Grocery Assistance Needed

The Meals on Wheels Grocery Assistance Program is looking for volunteers! Do you have three hours a month to help a home-bound individual? Do you like to shop? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity with flexible hours? Then we need your help! Our Grocery Assistance Program pairs volunteers with a client in need, and with their shopping list in hand the volunteer goes to the store on the client's behalf. You don't spend any of your own money and may make a friend for life! If you're interested, contact Meals on Wheels at 443-573-0933 or jones@mowcm.org.



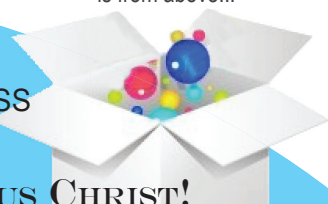
Keep Christ in Christmas

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

When asked what we got for Christmas, let us not speak reluctantly or timidly, but with confidence and faith proclaim to them: Baby Jesus | Love | Hope | Faith | Forgiveness | Grace | Strength | Healing | Thankfulness | My Savior | Lord Jesus Christ!!!

Holy Spirit
Love
Hope
Faith
FORGIVENESS
GRACE
Salvation
LORD JESUS CHRIST!

Every good and perfect gift is from above...



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Schedule

Service of Advent, Carols & Communion - 9:30 AM

Candlelight Family Celebration - 7:00 PM

Candlelight Traditional Celebration - 11:00 PM

1901 Middleborough Rd., Essex, MD 21221

410-686-7587

www.HopeELCA.org

We are Handicap Accessible.

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

Traditional Service - 9:00 AM

Family Blended Service - 10:30 AM

All services with Communion

Come Share the Joy of the Birth of Our Savior

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

7834 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

Vicar: Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles

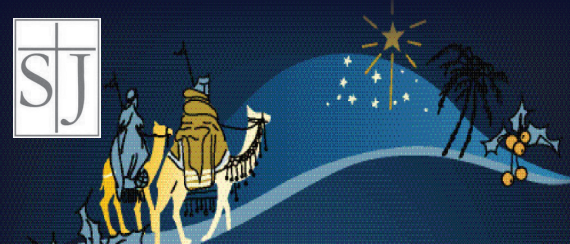


CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

10am - Family Service

7pm - Candlelight Service

All Are Welcome



St. Joseph Fullerton Roman Catholic Church

Pastor Fr. Jesse L. Bolger

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410-256-1630

www.stjoefullerton.org

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES SUNDAY, DEC. 24th

Church: 4PM Contemporary Music

6PM - Children's Youth Choir

8PM - Adult Choir & Instruments

10:30PM - Schola with Instruments

Choir / Music - 1/2 hr. before each Mass

Perry Hall High School:

4PM on Christmas Eve Only

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

MONDAY, DEC 25th

8AM, 10AM, 12PM

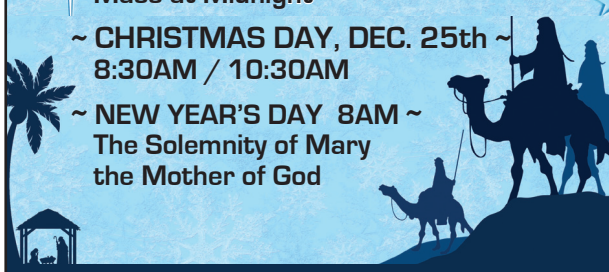
**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!!!**

SACRED HEART OF MARY

~ CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24th ~
4PM, 6PM Masses
Mass at Midnight

~ CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25th ~
8:30AM / 10:30AM

~ NEW YEAR'S DAY 8AM ~
The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God



6736 Youngstown Ave., Dundalk, MD 21222

Please Join Us For

Christmas Eve

-TWO SERVICES-

10am Regular Worship Service

(with special activities for the kids)

and 5pm Family Candlelight Service



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OBITUARIES

Kaminsky, Michael J., MD

On Dec. 17, Michael Jerome Kaminsky, MD, beloved husband of Barbara Ellen Kaminsky (nee Wienola); devoted father of Joshua Kaminsky and Zachary Kaminsky and his wife Sarah; loving grandfather to Daisen and Dorian Kaminsky; dear brother of Neil and Roy Kaminsky.

Memorial service to be held at a later date.

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Mackey, Doris J.

On Dec. 15, Doris J. Mackey (nee Jones), beloved wife of the late William P. Mackey; devoted mother of Theresa Mackey and her husband Bryan Maser and Elizabeth Mackey and her husband Bob Snow and the late James Mackey; dear sister of the late Charles Jones, Jr. and his surviving wife Helene, and Larry Donald "Mike" Jones and his surviving wife Phyllis. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment at Sacred Heart of Mary Cemetery.

Koermer, Evelyn D.

On Dec. 16, Evelyn Doris Koermer (nee Johnson), beloved wife of the late George J. Koermer; devoted mother of Linda D. Heinlein and her husband Herman and the late Lois V. Zampini; loving grandmother of Scott Heinlein, Kristen Risner, Tracey Doyle and R.J. Zampini; also survived by many great-grandchildren.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in the name of Mrs. Koermer at www.jdrf.org.

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June 22, 1930 - Feb. 9, 2014

Glenda Lee Goodrich-Bell

October 4, 1956 - July 15, 2011

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We love you. Everyday you are in our prayers and thoughts. The memory of your laughter and just being in your presence puts a smile on our faces.

Pictured are daughters Glenda and Gale at Howard's 80th birthday. Great times. We should be sharing Christmas with you. Loving you forever,



'Til we meet again down by the water.
XOXOXO
Loving You Always,
Mommie (Jackie),
Gerrie, Gale and Rusty
XOXOXO

Paine, Mary Catherine

On Dec. 16, Mary Catherine Paine, beloved wife of Arthur R. Paine; dear sister of Patrick E., Brian, Cornelius and William O'Donnell, Florence Brown and Christine Aydelotte. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Mary was a retired Baltimore County school teacher who taught at Berkshire, Pine Grove, Carney and Seven Oaks Elementary.

Services provided by Schimunek Funeral Home of Nottingham. Interment at St. Joseph Church Cemetery.

Pitts, Virginia

On Dec. 15, Virginia Irene Pitts, beloved mother of Steven Johnson, Hope Strain, Star Johnson and the late Charles Johnson Jr. and Robert Johnson. Also survived by seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Services provided by Duda-Ruck Funeral Home of Dundalk. Interment at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens.

Matheny, Harry J.

On Dec. 14, Harry Jerome Matheny, beloved husband of the late Dorothy C. Matheny (nee Vitek); beloved brother of Mary Waters and the late Ora Lee Matheny, Helen Crawford, Robert Matheny, Charlotte Nowicki, Evelyn Seagraves and Annie Wiest; loving uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Services provided by Cvach Funeral Home of Rosedale. Interment at Gardens of Faith Cemetery.

Merry Christmas

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'Last Jedi' feels the Force

- By Teddy Durgin -

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" wore me out, dear readers. And it wasn't just because I saw it on opening night at the 9:30 p.m. screening with all of the crazies. "Episode VIII" is, by far, the most intense "Star Wars" film of the nine total features that have been made thus far. It's relentless. There's never a point in the film where any of the characters are truly safe. Even sleeping in one's bed, half a galaxy away, on a remote island on the most "unfindable" planet in the cosmos... a Sith Lord wannabe can still Force mind-meld with you and tempt you with all of the answers to your questions as the first steps on your possible journey to the Dark Side.

But that's just the mystical aspect of the film, which writer-director Rian Johnson nails. I love what he does with the Force in this film, the new powers he's able to assign those powerful enough to wield them. He goes back to the idea that the Force penetrates all life and binds everything together, no matter if it's a pile of rocks right in front of you or a distant battlefield many solar systems away. The Force has no limits, and that's what makes it beautiful and frightening.

But back to the relentless part. Our surviving heroes from the first film are driven from their base in "The Force Awakens" and pursued by "The First Order" literally for the entire movie in

"The Last Jedi." The First Order, this time around, has a particular Nazis at Dunkirk-like viciousness. Rather than annihilate them in one blitzkrieg move, General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) and Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) sadistically toy with the ragtag fleeing fleet, picking the ships off one-by-one, two-by-two and more as they run dangerously low on fuel. This sets into motion all sorts of power struggles within the Resistance involving hotshot squadron leader Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), General Leia (the late Carrie Fisher) and Vice Admiral Holdo (Laura Dern). Meanwhile, Finn (John Boyega) teams up with a new friend, spunky Resistance mechanic Rose (Kelly Marie Tran) to undertake a secret mission to hopefully save all of them.

"The Last Jedi" feels like a true "passing of the torch" movie. I'm not spoiling anything by writing that, believe me. It's not so much about death and survival, as maturity and evolution. Poe has to learn to be a responsible military leader. Rey has to learn to be a Jedi and try to avoid the temptations of the Dark Side. Finn has to stop running and fully believe in a cause this time. Along the way, they each have mentors. Poe's clashes with Leia and Holdo are some of the best moments of the movie. Luke, as Rey's reluctant teacher, shows her that the Force is bigger than any one single individual. Rose shows Finn the importance of sacrifice and heroism.



"The Last Jedi" is the first of the new "Star Wars" films to feel completely in the grip of a single filmmaker, and Johnson pushes the saga into often uncomfortable places some fans might not be ready to go into. Defeat is very much a real possibility on multiple occasions. And, yes, a number of name characters meet their end in this film. But he also recognizes the importance of broad humor in the "Star Wars" mythos. Some of my favorite bits in the film (and I'll be vague here) are Poe's "phone call" to Hux, Chewie trying to sit down and have a meal and BB-8 being mistaken for a... well, I won't spoil it.

I am a mix of emotions as I write this only hours after seeing "The Last Jedi." The saga will truly never be the same after this one. It was necessary to push the envelope, though, and I recognize that. There certainly were at least two big choices in this film that were made without any thought of future box office returns. As always, I do have ideas about where "Star Wars" is headed from here. And if the very final scene of "The Last Jedi" is any indication, the Force will be very much with us for generations to come.

"The Last Jedi" is rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action.

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Defenders of Animal Rights, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating cruelty to all animals. Our shelter is proud to have an adoption rate of about 97%. Donations are tax deductible. Financial info. is available upon request. Write: Defenders of Animal Rights, 14412 Old York Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131, 410-527-1466. Or, for cost of copying/postage, contact MD Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 or the VA Division of Consumer Affairs. FL residents: Reg/Financial info. obtained from Div. of Consumer Services, toll free 800-435-7352 within state. Reg. does not imply endorsement, approval or rec. by the state. FL Reg. CH 961.

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'Ferdinand' is fun for family audiences...and that's no bull!

- By *Teddy Durgin* -

At age 46, I can feel myself slipping just a bit away from the pop-culture mainstream, which is rightfully geared largely towards kids, teens and the millennial generation. So, it's surprising when a flick like "Ferdinand" comes around and I read different reviewers and columnists refer to the "beloved, timeless 1936 children's book" on which it is based. Written by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson, "Ferdinand the Bull" has apparently enchanted young boys and girls since before World War II.

Uh, I'd never heard of it. But then again, I was mostly into "Star Wars" comics, Mad Libs and Charlie Brown books when I was a youngster. I've even heard some people talk about how great the 1938 eight-minute, Oscar-winning animated short was. And, really, that's just people being elitists. Y'all haven't seen it. I honestly had never heard the story of a young Spanish bull named Ferdinand (voiced here by pro-wrestling legend John Cena) who escapes a Spanish ranch at a very young age and is raised by Nina



(Lily Day), the daughter of a flower farmer who treats the huge animal as a member of the family. Ferdinand grows up not to be a snarling beast in the ring looking to gore dudes - he's a pacifist. So when he inadvertently thrashes a small town's spring festival after encountering a random bee, he is cast out and sent back to the ranch from which he originally escaped. There, he is a misfit among the other bulls who all dream of being chosen to fight inside a Madrid arena against a bloodthirsty matador. Escape seems like his only option. "Ferdinand" is a generally good-hearted and fun flick that also has some positive anti-bullying messages. The best thing going for the film is its endearing title character, and Cena does a surprisingly good job lending him not only a voice but a soul. I wish the other characterizations were as strong or memorable. The film credits six different writers with the script, and it shows in spots. A chatty goat named Lupe is surprisingly annoying, considering the creature is voiced by "Saturday Night

Live" standout Kate McKinnon. More could have also been done with the trio of hedgehogs performed by Gina Rodriguez, Gabriel Iglesias and Daveed Diggs. And, uh, Peyton Manning as a rival bull to Ferdinand... why... just why? But where the writing comes up short or is just a bit pedestrian, director Carlos Saldanha - of "Rio" and "Ice Age" fame - certainly knows how to visually tell a story to the point where you and your littlest ones won't be bored. "Ferdinand" lacks the artistry of Pixar's current "Coco" and probably could have gone even further with its Spanish settings and traditions. Some may find the animation a bit hyperactive. But, without a child to see this with, it kept me conscious. "Ferdinand" looks to melt cynical hearts more than anything. And there is just enough warming of the ventricles and aorta here for me to give this a mild recommend for families... after they see "The Last Jedi," of course. "Ferdinand" is rated PG for some rude humor, action and thematic elements.

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CCBC earns 'Military Times' honor for veteran services

The Community College of Baltimore County has again been named one of the *Military Times'* best colleges for the academic year ending in 2018. CCBC previously won the honor in 2014 and 2017.

The *Times*, an editorially-independent, military-related news project, ranks two- and four-year colleges through a comprehensive annual survey that assesses veteran and military student services and rates of academic achievement, according to a statement from CCBC.

"CCBC is proud to be ranked as a *Military Times* Best College for 2018," college President Sandra Kurtinitis said in the statement. "Through our Veterans Services department, we are working hard to ensure that those who have served our country are assisted with a successful transition back to civilian life through positive connections to academic, military and social resources."

For the third time, CCBC has been lauded for its excellence in providing a variety of educational and other services for veterans, including access to Veterans Resource centers on three campuses (Catonsville, Dundalk and Essex), affordable tuition and rigorous academic programs that utilize veterans' existing knowledge while preparing the for career advancement, according to the statement. This year more than 600 colleges took part in the survey.

Final day to vote for new northeast elementary name Dec. 22

Baltimore County's newest elementary school needs a new name, and the public is invited to weigh in by Dec. 22.

Two names - Honeygo Elementary and Honeygo Run Elementary - emerged as frontrunners after a three-week nomination period. Members of the community submitted 1,871 names for contention for the school, which is located at 4816 Joppa Road near the intersection with Honeygo Boulevard in Perry Hall.

"The closer we get to opening our new school, the more the excitement is building," said Charlene Behnke, principal of the new school. "The naming process is one more way to welcome the community into our journey."

The public is invited to vote online for one of the finalist names - Honeygo Elementary or Honeygo Run Elementary - through Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, at 4:45 p.m. All BCPS stakeholders, including BCPS staff, students, parents and community members, are encouraged to cast a ballot; only one ballot per person may be submitted.

The results are scheduled to be reported to the Board of Education during its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, for a first reading, on Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2018, for a second reading with public comment, and

on Apr. 17, 2018, for a third reading and vote.

The \$49 million school, which is scheduled to open to students for the 2018 - 2019 school year, will have a state-rated capacity of 725 seats and is planned to meet the silver LEED environmentally-friendly building standards. Perry Hall's history dates back to the 1700s with several prominent families responsible for its founding and growth over hundreds of years. The Honeygo Run, a local stream, flows adjacent to the school site and extends toward White Marsh Mall.

Kenwood vs. Chesapeake tickets

On Jan. 17, Chesapeake will host Kenwood in boys' basketball. JV will start at 4 p.m., varsity at 5:30 p.m. The gym doors will open at 3:15 p.m.

No tickets will be sold at the door. All tickets will be sold in advance at Chesapeake and Kenwood from Tuesday, Jan. 2 through Friday, Jan. 12, 2018. Students must have BCPS IDs to purchase tickets. Adult and Senior Citizens can purchase their tickets from Rod McMillion, Chesapeake Athletic Director, 410-687-5242.

Cost of the tickets: students with BCPS ID will pay \$3; senior citizens \$3 and adults \$5.

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SPOTLIGHT

Martinville Train Garden

The 4th annual Martinville Christmas Train Garden at the Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum at Martin State Airport, 701 Wilson Point Road in Middle River, is now open. The holiday display of miniature planes and trains will be open during museum hours (11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday), through Jan. 13, 2018. The train exhibit is included in the museum admission of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. For more info., call 410-682-6122.



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Start with our fabulous **SUNDAY BRUNCH**, 9am-2pm, \$17 adults / \$8 children / Under 3 Free!

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Membership Open

The Baltimore County Genealogical Society is accepting new members for 2018. Membership includes publications, participation in all meetings, activities, the Eastern Europe and computer interest groups, guidance and assistance with research, and use of the lending library, data bases, computer programs and microfilm reader. Individual memberships cost \$15 and family plans cost \$20. Make checks payable to BCGS and mail to P.O. Box 10085, Towson, MD 21285. The society is at 8601 Harford Road, Room 308, in Parkville.

IT'S PARTY TIME @ THE ISLANDER INN

New Year's Eve DINNER SPECIALS 5-9PM
Pan Seared Scallops / Stuffed Scallops
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SOAR Meeting Notice

The Senior Organization of Active Retirees Local 9477 (SOAR) will not meet during December because of the Christmas holiday. The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 1010 S. Oldham St. For more information, call Don Kellner, 410-227-8462.

Gunpowder VFW Karaoke

Gunpowder VFW Post 10067, 6309 Ebenezer Road in Middle River, will host its Christmas party with Fun Time Karaoke with Annette and Wild Bill from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22. Info: 410-335-8933.

Karaoke/Line Dancing

Essex American Legion Post 148, 20 S. Marlyn Ave. in Essex, will host Karaoke with Jimmy and Judy D from 8 p.m. to midnight Friday, Dec. 22, and Karaoke with Lightning Rod from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 23. Line dancing with The Dude will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday in the hall. The post will be closed Sunday, Dec. 24. For more information, call 410-686-2353.

New Year's Eve Party

Knights of Columbus Bethlehem Council 2605, 7401 Bay Front Road in Edgemere, will hold its annual New Year's Eve party from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31. The event will include a buffet, beer, wine, coffee, soda and a whiskey sour bar. A champagne toast and pickled herring will be offered at midnight. Entertainment provided by the Lenny Adams Band. Tickets cost \$30. To reserve seats, call 410-477-5225.

Luminaria Night

The Dundalk-Patapsco Neck Historical Society and Museum will hold its annual Luminaria Night beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22. The event originated several years ago when museum volunteers placed votive candles in small paper bags weighted with sand around its building at 4 Center Place in Old Dundalk and along the perimeter of the neighboring Veterans Park. Since then, the event has expanded to include churches and other organizations in Old Dundalk, St. Helena and portions of Merritt Boulevard. In addition to the luminarias, the museum's train garden will be open, seasonal music will be broadcast outdoors in the Dundalk Village Shopping Center area and Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to visit. For more info., call 410-284-2331.



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- SUNDAY SPECIALS** - Fillet of Haddock w/1 Side \$7.99
1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$10.99
- MONDAY SPECIALS** - 49¢ Jumbo Wings Min. 10, Eat-in Only
2 Treasure Chops w/1 Side \$7.99
- TUESDAY SPECIALS** - 12 oz. New York Strip w/1 Side \$10.99
12 oz. Ribeye Steak w/1 Side \$11.99
Large Caesar or Large Garden Salad \$3.99 / Chef Salad \$5.99
- WEDNESDAY SPECIALS** - Soft Crab Wrap \$9.99
Cheesesteak and Fries \$6.99
- THURSDAY SPECIALS** - Jumbo Crab Pretzel \$12.99
Steak & Cake Platter w/1 Side \$19.99
1 lb. Steamed Shrimp (with or without onions) \$10.99
49¢ Jumbo Wings Min. 10, Eat-in Only
- FRIDAY SPECIALS** - Crab Cake Platter w/1 Side \$19.99
6 oz. Crab Cake & 5 Butterfly Shrimp w/1 Side \$13.99
10 Butterfly Shrimp w/1 Side \$7.99
- SATURDAY SPECIALS** -
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- Crab Imperial \$29
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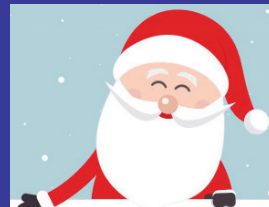
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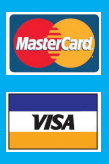
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 Obtain for me also a perfect resignation to the sufferings it may please God to send me, so that, imitating our crucified Saviour and His sorrowful Mother, I may merit eternal glory in Heaven. Amen.
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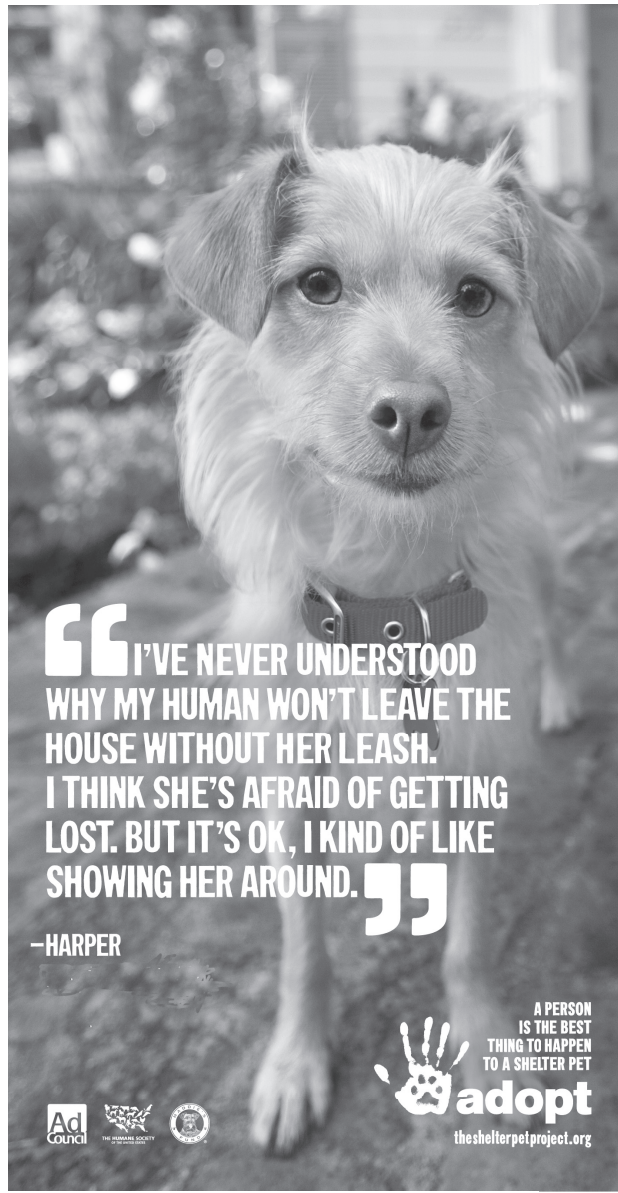
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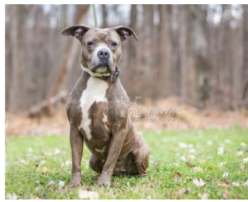
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Baltimore Humane Society's PETS OF THE WEEK



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8 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Traditional Worship
9:30 Contemporary
9:30 Sunday School

TAMIL SERVICE - 2ND SAT. OF THE MONTH

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2040 PUBLIC NOTICE

2040 PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Article 16, Subtitle 2 of the Commercial Law Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, Equity LifeStyle Properties, Williams Estates and Peppermint Woods Mobile Home Park, exercises its right to establish and foreclose upon a landlord's lien on the following mobile homes, located within Williams Estates and Peppermint Woods Mobile Home Park, through public auction on **January 5, 2018** beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the location of each mobile home in the order listed below starting at 128 Trailways Road. Questions should be directed to the community office at 112 Whistle Stop Road, Baltimore, MD 21220, 410-686-0077. Equity LifeStyle Properties reserves the right to cancel a sale at any time for any reason.

Terms of Sale: Money Order/Certified Funds Only. Must be community approved. Pick up terms and application at Community Office before auction date.

- 1.) 128 Trailways Road, 1975, GUARDIAN, TL, G, VIN# PAX570123K016640
- 2.) 125 Trailways Road, 1973, BROA, TL, G, VIN# 64S3425
- 3.) 3522 Wagon Train Road, 1975, SYLVAN, TL, G, VIN# SP9228

Merry Christmas!

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A RESPONSE ACTION PLAN AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING TRUCKING TERMINAL

The property located at 7100 Quad Avenue in Rosedale, Maryland has been accepted into Maryland's Voluntary Cleanup Program. A proposed Response Action Plan (RAP) has been submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for approval. Lead impacted soil was identified within a limited portion of the site. The impacted soil will be addressed through soil excavation and offsite disposal.

This RAP is based upon future use of the property for industrial purposes.

Participant:	VCR Properties 1 Estates Drive Doylestown, PA 18902
Contact:	Michael Anzalone (215) 262-2718
Eligible Property:	Trucking Terminal 7100 Quad Avenue Rosedale, MD 21237
Public Information Meeting:	January 16, 2018 at 5:30pm Rosedale Branch Public Library 6105 Kenwood Avenue Rosedale, MD 21237

Any person wishing to request further information or make comments regarding the proposed RAP must do so in writing. Comments or requests should be submitted to the attention of the Voluntary Cleanup Program project manager, Irena Rybak, at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 625, Baltimore, MD 21230; telephone 410-537-3493.

All comments and requests must be received by the Department in writing no later than January 21, 2018.

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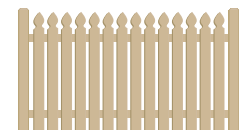
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6035
APARTMENTS/CONDOS

DUNDALK (Yorkway) - 1 BR, 1st floor. \$700/mo. Avail. 1/1/18. Call Susinn for showing 443-250-4707

ESSEX - 1 BR, 1st floor apt., walk-in storage closet. Off-street parking for 2 cars. Small outside deck \$1000/mo. includes utilities. Call 443-621-8744

ESSEX - 1 BR, 2nd floor apt. in SFH, semi-furn, \$850/mo. includes utilities. Senior discount. Call 443-621-8744

ESSEX 1 BR apt. all utilities included. \$800/mo. Call 410-391-4883

5048
WANTED TO BUY

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Nintendo™ & SEGA™
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5049
WANTED

WANTED DIABETIC TEST STRIPS - Top dollar Paid. We are now paying more for One Touch Ultra, Verio, Free Style Lite, Accu-Check. Un-opened, CASH ON THE SPOT. Will pick up. Please call Debbie 410-820-6540/410-279-3342

RENTALS



6035
APARTMENTS/CONDOS

ROSEDALE APT. - 2 BR, full kitchen, central air. NO PETS! \$800/mo. + utilities. Call 443-373-8772

ROSEDALE - 1 Bedroom, private entrance with deck. Non-smoker. No pets. \$775/mo. includes utilities. + \$700 S.D. (Add'l APT also avail \$880/mo.) Please leave voice mail. 410-682-2262

WATERFRONT APT. ON BEAR CREEK off Wise Ave. in Dundalk. Beautiful, newly remodeled, 1BR Apt., 1st floor, private entrance. Must have proof of income. Call 443-992-3276



Thank you for not driving buzzed last night. You saved my life.

Liz Osaki

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BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.

Ad Council U.S. Department of Transportation

Rents starting at \$745
Including ALL utilities
One Bedroom



Essex Village-Marlyn Gardens Apartments

846 Brunswick Road, Essex
410-686-5952
Credit approval required.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

6035
**APARTMENTS/
CONDOS**

6035
**APARTMENTS/
CONDOS**

6053
ROOM FOR RENT

MIDDLE RIVER - FURN. ROOM, ALL UTILITIES, W/ CABLE. \$500/MO. + S.D. CALL 410-218-1232

MIDDLE RIVER- FURN. ROOM, ALL UTILITIES, W/ CABLE. \$565/MO. + S.D. CALL 410-218-1232

ROSEDALE/PULASKI HWY. ELDERLY GENTLEMAN PREFERRED NEAR BUSLINE - NON-SMOKER \$120-130/WK. 410.252.7448 JLOLLI4@MSN.COM

ROSEDALE - ROOM FOR RENT IN SINGLE HOME. ACCESS TO KITCHEN, DINING, AND LIVING ROOMS. WASHER/DRYER, ELECTRIC AND WATER INCLUDED IN RENT. LARGE YARD. CALL 443-629-1645.

6061
WANTED TO RENT

WANTED TO RENT

RENTAL NEEDED 2BR HOUSE UNDER \$1000/mo. Essex Area. Call 410-652-3772

WANTED TO RENT

WANTED 1 BR APARTMENT FOR ELDERLY MAN ON SS WITH VOUCHER CALL 410-760-2409

6101
COMMERCIAL PROP. FOR LEASE OR RENT

BUILDING AND LOT FOR LEASE - available early 2018. 2100 sq. ft. w/bathroom and parking for 20+ cars. Zoned BR. Call 443-506-2273

REAL ESTATE


6123
REAL ESTATE

DELAWARE NEW MOVE-IN READY HOMES! LOW TAXES! CLOSE TO BEACHES, GATED, OLYMPIC POOL. NEW HOMES FROM LOW \$100'S. NO HOA FEES. BROCHURES AVAILABLE. 1-866-629-0770 OR WWW.COOLBRANCH.COM.

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TIRED OF RENTING A ROOM?

TRY OUR **STUDIO APARTMENT RENTS STARTING AT \$500**

ALL utilities Included

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Credit approval required.

CLASSIFIEDS
small ads **BIG** deals

6041
HOME SHARING

BOWLEYS QTRS. WATERFRONT - PRIVATE 1 BR, W/SITTING ROOM ON SECOND FLOOR. SHARED KITCHEN & LAUNDRY ROOM. \$800/MO. + S.D./\$800 INCLUDES UTILITIES, CABLE & WIFI. CALL 410-335-6079

SEEKING FEMALE HOUSEMATE - NON-SMOKING, \$600/MO. + S.D., ALL UTILITIES + CABLE INCLUDED. CALL 443-992-3560

6043
HOMES/TOWNHOMES

DUNDALK/ESSEX 2 & 3 BR townhouses. Reasonable rent. All nice areas, fresh paint. Rent from \$1100 to \$1250. Call 410-288-8333

EDGEMERE/SPARROWS POINT RD. - 3 BR Duplex, Gas Heat, refrigerator, gas range, microwave, W/W, W/D, No pets, . Section 8 welcome. \$1,295/mo. + utilities \$1000 S.D. Call 443-691-4744

6053
ROOM FOR RENT

DUNDALK - Furnished room for rent, near public transportation. All utilities & cable included. \$575/mo. or two rooms for \$750. Call 443-791-2790

REAL ESTATE


6123
REAL ESTATE



EQUAL HOUSING

All Real Estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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TOP IN LISTINGS TOP IN SALES



Matt Malczewski
443-386-6119



Becky Martin
410-236-5001

TOPS IN NOVEMBER

ESSEX

NEW 215 VIRGINIA AVE., BALTO., MD 21221
Terrific waterfront house with a bonus guest house! Main house features 3BRs and 2 full BAs and the guest house is 3BRs and 1 full BA with full kitchen and living rm. Guest house is also a rancher. Great for an in-law suite! Main house will be freshly painted and has recently replaced HVAC. Guest house has new carpet. LOTS of living space!

WEST INVERNESS

NEW 1922 QUENTIN RD. BALTO., MD 21222
Lovely 3BR 2 full BA home with pergo floors, washer / dryer. Lower level has a bar. Ceramic tile in BAs, this home is a must see!

RIDGELEIGH

1757 JOAN AVE. BALTO., MD 21234
Centrally located within minutes of dining, shopping and the highway. Quiet and matured neighborhood. It has 3BR w/ 2 full BA! The bsmt is partially finished with a large utility/workshop area. Brand new hvac and hot water heater installed in 2017. New sump pump in late 2016. Move-in worry free!

SNYDER

2313 RUTH AVE. BALTO., MD 21219
Beautiful 3BR, 3.5BA home in sought after Sparrows Point. UL features large master w/ en suite & walk-in closet w/ add'l 2BR/1BA and a laundry rm. ML boasts open concept, dining, kitchen, family & living rm, hdwd flrs, SS appliances, granite countertops. Finished bsmt has large open area, 4th BR and full BA. The large fenced backyard backs to State Park.

LOCUST POINT

1331 CLEMENT ST. E, BALTIMORE, MD 21230
Brick end of group townhouse in Locust Point, ss appliances, 2BR, 2 full BAs, possible 3rd BR in finished lower level. Close to shopping, I-95 and local taverns/restaurants, fully fenced yard with outside access. Move-in ready. Bring all offers!

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!

BALTIMORE

REDUCED 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.

PARKVILLE

3034 WOODRING AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21234
An incredible opportunity to own an INSTANT INCOME PRODUCING 2-unit property. Either rent both units or live in one and allow the other unit to pay your mortgage! Located in a peaceful, sought after neighborhood. Currently, there is one unit occupied with rents at \$750 & \$650 with the ability to easily increase.

LINOVER

201 LYNDAL AVE. BALTIMORE, MD 21236
3BR/2BA corner lot duplex with 2 car drvw. 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.

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.

ESSEX

713 RIVERSIDE DR. ESSEX, MD 21221
Amazing rehab! New siding & deck, ss appliances. Refinished orig hdwd 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!

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.

STILL THE #1 COMPANY IN DUNDALK SINCE 2006
Now Interviewing New & Experienced Agents
NO DESK FEES! CALL PHIL TIRABASSI!



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F7175
2017 Fiesta
Was \$14,535
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\$249/mo
NO MONEY DOWN! 10 TO CHOOSE FROM



2018 Escape S
Was \$24,845
NOW \$18,799

\$175/mo
NO MONEY DOWN!



F7469
2017 Focus
Was \$18,745
NOW \$12,699

\$344/mo
NO MONEY DOWN!



F7282
2017 Ford Explorer XLT
Was \$40,845
NOW \$32,999

DEMOS SPECIAL

2017 Ford Explorer Sport

F6907



Was \$52,685
NOW \$43,550

2018 F150 XLT Premium 4x4

F7361



Was \$54,565
NOW \$42,683

MANAGER SPECIAL

2017 Fusion Energi Platinum

TOP OF THE LINE!
42 MPG



F6055
Was \$41,405
NOW \$31,995

2017 Mustang GT Convertible V8

F7045



Was \$50,755
NOW \$42,399

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SPECIALS

F5519



2018 F150 Regular Cab
Was \$29,020 **NOW \$21,995**
\$350/mo. NO MONEY DOWN!!!

2018 Transit 250 Mid Roof

Was \$37,415

NOW \$30,899



F7664

*All prices and payments include all rebates. Tax, tags, processing (\$299) and Destination (\$875-1195) not included. Discount up to \$13,026 on in stock 2017 XLT F150 with luxury package and moonroof. Payments based on 39 month 10,500 mile/year lease except for Fiesta stk # F5951 which is 3.9 for 84 months. Tax and Tags extra, with approved credit. Special event price, payments and APR through dealer designated lender. KBB trade value determined at "Fair" condition less reconditioning cost. All offers expire 01/02/18.