THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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Kaiser Permanente and Bon Secours partnership paying off in West Baltimore

(Front row, left to right) Councilman Leon Pinkett; Councilman Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer; Baltimore City Council President Bernard "Jack" Young; Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh; Director, Stakeholder Relations, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlandtic States, Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, Ph.D.; Councilman John Bullock; and Councilman Robert Stokes. (Back row left to right) Dr. Samuel Ross, President & CEO, Bon Secours Baltimore Health System; and Talib Horne, Executive Director, Bon Secours Community Works at the Future Baltimore event on December 13, 2017 at the Center Club in Baltimore. *(Story on page 7)* **Courtesy Photo**

Four ways parents should comfort their kids after a tragedy

News & Experts— In an ever-dangerous world reported on by round-the-clock media, the emotional effects of major tragic events transcend local boundaries. They trouble the national psyche, bringing sadness, anger, fear and anxiety throughout the country, and they can make a particularly heavy impact on children and teens.

Two of the five deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history occurred in a recent five-week span— the killing rampage on November 5, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, that left 26 dead, which followed the murder of 58 at the Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas. Such horrific news, for which there are no easy answers, often prompts questions from kids to their parents. Parenting experts say that while these tragedies are difficult to explain, it is vital that parents be especially tuned in to their kids and help them through a period that can be confusing, scary and traumatic.

"All parents want to protect their children from pain, including emotional pain," said Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio (www.greengateleadership.com), a family therapist and author of Simple Habits of Exceptional (But Not Perfect) Parents. "These crimes frighten and confuse all of us, regardless of age and whether or not the latest one happened near where we live. We want our kids to know that we're right there with them, and that we'll help them get through the mess of feelings they must be having."

Dolan-Del Vecchio gives four tips to help parents comfort their kids in the wake of national tragedies:

•Listen. Children need a sounding board for their questions. "It would be great if there were magic words to take away their upset feelings, but there are none," Dolan-Del Vecchio says. "There is a certain degree of

magic, however, in just listening and reassuring our child that their feelings of shock, fear and anger are normal. And when they ask questions about why people do such terrible things, we can let them know that we wrestle with the very same questions."

•Be real, be calm. Sometimes the best reassurance is two-fold: Acknowledging that there is danger in the world and, also, reminding our child that their school and neighborhood do everything possible to keep everyone safe. "Our calm demeanor, honesty and reassurance demonstrate courage, put the news in perspective, and help our kids manage their fears," Dolan-Del Vecchio says.

•Limit exposure to graphic details and images. Exposure to the constant news stream or repetitive, graphic images can be damaging. "This is an event they'll long remember," Dolan-Del Vecchio said. "Over-exposure to the news unnecessarily heightens their fears and anxieties. It reinforces the traumatic impact."

•Observe them closely. Engaged parents pay attention to their child's emotional health "and seek assistance if needed, just as they would for any other health concern," Dolan-Del Vecchio says. "They recognize when their child feels emotional distress." Parents should watch for any dramatic changes in behavior or a dip in school performance.

"Our kids are always watching us. Everything we do teaches them something about how to live," Dolan-Del Vecchio says. "In times of national tragedy, we can reinforce their safety and teach them not to live in fear."

Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio is an author, speaker, family therapist and leadership and life skills consultant. His books include Simple Habits of Exceptional (But Not Perfect) Parents, The Pet Loss Companion: Healing Advice from Family Therapists Who Lead Pet Loss Groups, and Making Love, Playing Power: Men, Women, and the Rewards of Intimate Justice.

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Herman LeVern Jones'

TheatreSouth

&

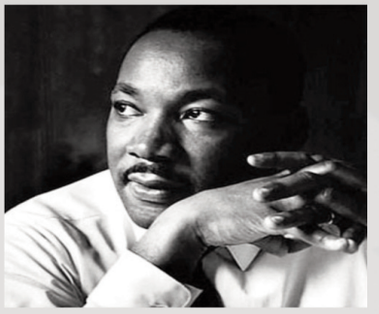
Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Anne Arundel County Maryland

"I HAVE A DREAM" -THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Written by: Josh Greenfeld

Directed by: Herman LeVern Jones

A gospel musical on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement from December 1, 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a White person up to the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968. This depiction of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement gives tremendous insight into Dr. King's love of his family, his sense of humor, and the incredible challenge that America faced in obtaining basic human rights for its own African American citizens. The singing, dancing, music and historical images of the Civil Rights Movement has captivated audiences of all ages in cities all over the world.



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Relocating U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem a Bad Move

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Newswire Columnist

I wasn't really surprised by Trump's willingness to threaten the world for daring to stand up to his aggressive move of the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; hearing U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley suggest that the U.S. was taking names, made this entire scenario something close to comical. If Palestinian lives were not at stake it would, indeed, be the making of a comedy.

What is noteworthy is that the Trump Administration is not even going through the pretense of attempting to lead the world. Instead, their approach has been one of crass bullying. Do what the U.S. wants, or else. While most of the world has been used to one or another version of this, e.g., gunboat diplomacy in the global South, what is different here is that this foreign policy-by-intimidation is targeted at the traditionally close allies of the United States.

Most of the world immediately recognized that Trump's commitment to shift the embassy to Jerusalem was a cynical move to appease his base. What seemed to have astounded international observers is that Trump and his advisors seemed to have little to no sense of the global ramifications of this move. Interestingly, Trump and his team sincerely seemed to be believe that their theoretical peace proposal for the Israelis and Palestinians could still go forward. Fat chance.

Instead of attempting to build global coalitions among partners, Trump is following the tried and true antics of the schoolyard bully: Make life difficult for those around them and intimidate those who you wish to be on your side. This does not amount to the makings of a stable and healthy alliance. At best, it is a situation of the sheep and the shepherd.

Many in the foreign policy realm of the U.S. establishment are feeling the emergence of a leadership void among the so-called developed countries. Trump may believe that he is leading, but bullying others and attempting to reverse every Obama initiative does not make for leadership. Instead it looks, to much of the planet, like acting out. Other global powers including Germany, Russia, France and China are stepping forward, competing to build their respective alliances, sometimes overlapping one another. And while this happens Trump, seems more comfortable sitting back and relaxing, or perhaps savoring in a moment in which he seems to be more concerned with enriching the super-rich rather than even going through the motions of advancing a productive foreign policy agenda.

This upcoming year will certainly be a year of struggle, both domestically and internationally, against this insanity.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @BillFletcherJr, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

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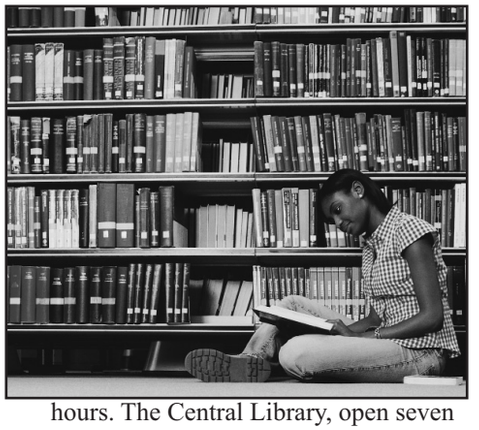
Community Affairs

Pratt Library Announces Historic Expansion of Hours



Baltimore— The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to announce an historic increase in service hours at library branches across the city. The extended hours are thanks to funding approved by both the Maryland General Assembly and the Baltimore City Council.

"We are very grateful to state and city leaders for helping the Pratt expand services across the city," said Pratt Library President & CEO Heidi Daniel. "We believe this more than 30 percent increase in hours will be a game changer for Baltimore."

Starting January 8, 2018, all neighborhood branches will move to a universal schedule opening at 10 a.m. six days a week, rather than the staggered schedule currently in place.

The Southeast Anchor and Pennsylvania Avenue libraries will serve as community anchors on the East and West sides of the city, with added evening hours. The Central Library, open seven days a week, will also increase evening hours. The Pratt Bookmobile, Book Buggy and Mobile Job Center will spend more time on the roads serving the community.

"From now on, you'll never have to wonder when your library is open," said Daniel. "This means more free school readiness classes for children, free job training, free computer classes and so much more."

The state has committed $3 million each year for five years to increase library, operating hours. The city has pledged $750,000 annually over that time period to help the library hire additional staff.

Page Opposite/Commentaries

The importance of diversity in media ownership

By Armstrong Williams
NNPA Newswire Columnist

As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, the necessity for that diversity to be reflected in business becomes all the more important.

As one of only three African American owned TV station licensees in the country, I recently wrote the FCC voicing strong support for the advancement of minority ownership and diversity. I saw the pending Tribune-Sinclair merger as presenting a historic opportunity for the FCC and Justice Department to advance minority ownership within the context of the divestiture requirements the government would require for regulatory approval.

The government generally, and the FCC specifically, has acknowledged the need to enhance minority ownership for 40 years. Congress also has recognized the poor state of minority ownership. The 1996 Telecommunications Act contains language aimed at increasing female and minority ownership of broadcast licenses (and other important communications mediums), and requires the FCC to limit and remove "market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses" and to do so by "favoring diversity of media voices."

As the U.S. becomes increasingly diverse, the necessity for that diversity to be reflected in business becomes all the more important. Congress and the public both have an obligation to help the Department of justice understand the importance of minority ownership in broadcast television in a diversifying landscape. Diversity of thought, culture, and ideas should be equally represented.

Giving more minorities access and opportunity to ownership will foster the right environment to do just that.

So, imagine my deep concern when I heard the Justice Department was wavering in its decision to allow station divestitures to my African American owned companies, where the transaction included joint sales agreements (JSA), shared service agreements (SSA), and loan guarantee agreements. Such arrangements were routine for the FCC until it hastily implemented television Joint Sales Agreement attribution rules in 2014, under the previous administration's chairman, Tom Wheeler. Those rules, however, were reversed and eliminated on November 20, 2017. The Department of Justice should respect that decision. For example, broadcast ownership has permitted Howard Stirk Holdings to create an incubator for African American journalism students by providing tuition scholarships, while providing field experience outside of the classroom. If we were not broadcast owners, I am sure none of that would have been possible.

It also gives us the opportunity to cover the stories that others are not covering, for whatever reason. We tell the stories of everyday people that are often overlooked.

As part of our public interest obligation, we vow to continue doing this with our live town halls across our regional affiliates where we discuss family, community and other critical cultural issues.

Our town halls provide a unique platform for the long form discussion of key issues that are important to many American communities—both black and white.

We have covered in depth the water crisis in Flint, the Charleston church terrorist attack, the Las Vegas terrorist attack, the Manchester terrorist attack live from Europe, the moral challenges facing America, and many other topical issues. We need more of these forums and not less. This is critically important to African American communities, especially as media voices they identify with are diminishing daily.

Armstrong Williams is the manager/sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online Magazine. Watch our "Right Side Forum" every Saturday Live Newschannel 8 TV 28 in DC, 10:30 am - 11:00 am and repeats 6:30 pm EST. Follow Armstrong Williams on Twitter @arightside.

"As the U.S. becomes increasingly diverse, the necessity for that diversity to be reflected in business becomes all the more important. Congress and the public both have an obligation to help the Department of justice understand the importance of minority ownership in broadcast television in a diversifying landscape."

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Local teacher helps boys dress for success, gain critical life skills

By Andrea Blackstone

Da'Nall T. Wilmer, founder of BOYS in the GOOD, a mentoring and youth leadership program for boys at Randallstown Elementary School received a 2017 Outstanding Community Service award from the nonprofit community service organization We Are One Community Services, Inc. on November 11, 2017. The fifth grade teacher developed the after school club, which offers mentoring, community service opportunities, monthly guest speakers, field trips to college campuses, and even bonding time at bowling alleys. (Above) Willmer with his students at the awards ceremony at Best Western Plus Towson Baltimore North in Towson. **Courtesy Photo**

While reflecting on 2017, it's an ideal time to acknowledge caring teachers who make a difference in our communities. For example, Da'Nall Wilmer, a Baltimore County Public Schools' educator, who goes the extra mile to inspire student achievement and personal growth.

The fifth grade math teacher at Randallstown Elementary School offers mentoring, community service opportunities, monthly guest speakers, field trips to college campuses, and even bonding time at bowling alleys, through an after school club called BOYS in the GOOD.

"Basically, I refer to BOYS in the GOOD as a mentoring program and a youth leadership program, so I act as a mentor for the boys in grades three, four and five. I also established a program to encourage them to be positive and influential leaders, in the school, and in the community as well," Wilmer said. "I've always felt as though teaching is not necessarily just a career, or a job but more so a responsibility. I've been called to make a difference in the lives of kids."

Wilmer's program began to evolve approximately four years ago, after he asked 12 boys to come to school wearing a necktie for class picture day. Many boys informed Wilmer that they did not own neckties, or they did not know how to tie them. After brainstorming, the dedicated educator was determined to implement a solution.

"So at that point I had to do something, because I understood that they (the boys) didn't have (neck) ties and everything, but I felt as though every young boy needs to have a tie. Every young boy needs to know how to present [himself] in a certain manner, and learn how to tie a tie, so I was able to fundraise and get ties donated to the boys," Wilmer said. "The more I was doing that, the more attention that it got, and so I was able to provide not just ties for the boys in my class, but ties for all the boys in my school. And by the end of the school year, I taught about 500 boys how to tie ties."

After a student suggested that the young men should dress up weekly, wearing neckties and looking professional every Tuesday for 'GQ Tuesdays' at Randallstown Elementary School became a pivotal step beyond Wilmer's initial goal of providing neckties. He also wanted to ensure the boys' behavior reflected how they were dressed. Thereafter, BOYS in the GOOD was created to inspire the boys to reach their fullest potential.

"So BOYS in the GOOD, the 'GOOD' part actually breaks down our aims, which are Giving (through community service); Optimism (showing gentlemanly qualities); Originality, (being responsible leaders); and Determination (setting high goals to be college and career ready)," Wilmer said, while explaining the acronym's meaning. "What made me want to keep going with this (after school club) is the change that I would see in these young boys. It was just amazing to me to see that these young boys were actually eager and excited to wear a tie and to dress up, and not necessarily worry about the latest fashion trends, but they've learned what it took in order to be a gentleman."

BOYS in the GOOD is making an impact and garnering accolades.

Wilmer noticed boys who participated in the club improved their behavior, attendance, and social and academic skills. Wilmer's movement to empower youth has led other schools to contact him for guidance. Parents of boys who attend other schools are inquiring to find out of they can join Wilmer's program.

On November 11, 2017, a nonprofit community service organization called We Are One Community Services, Inc. presented a 2017 Outstanding Community Service Award to Wilmer. Additionally, Baltimore-based New Psalmist Baptist Church fully funded the BOYS in the GOOD program for the 2017-2018 school year.

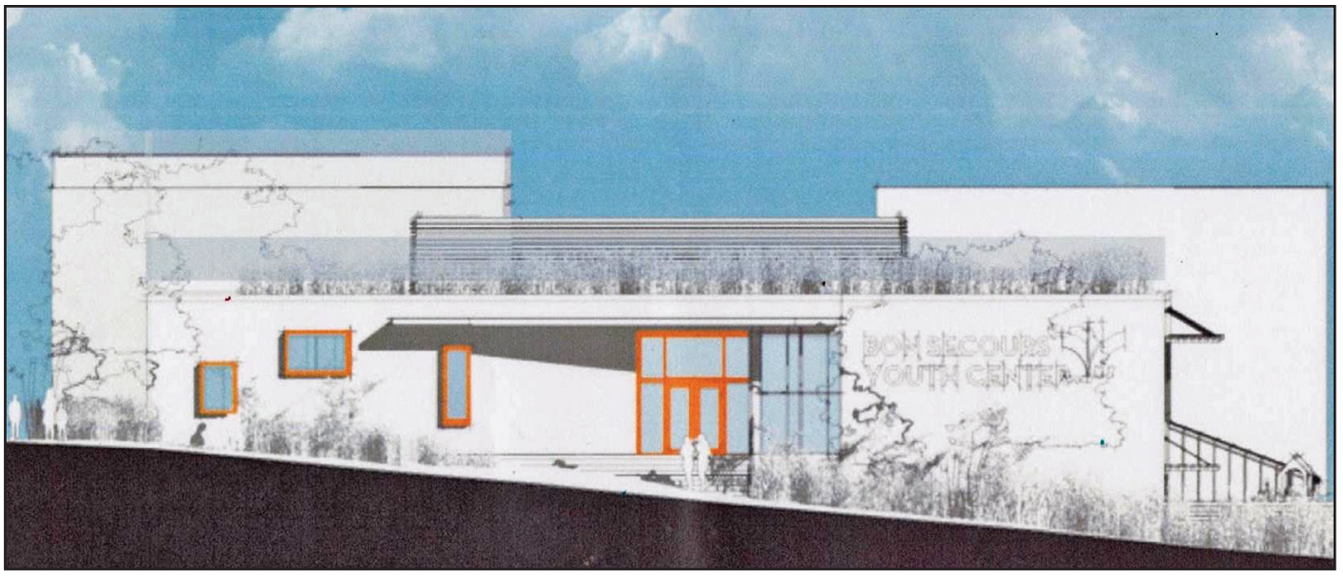
BOYS in the GOOD, has positively impacted elementary and middle school students like 11-year-old Deshaun Butler. Even though the sixth grader has moved on to middle school, he returns to Randallstown Elementary School as a former BOYS in the GOOD member to help with meetings and any other way that he can.

"I've learned how to be a gentleman and how to dress myself properly, and I learned how to take care of myself, and I've learned a lot of life lessons," Deshaun said, noting that being a participant in the mentoring program will help prepare him for things he wants to do in the future. "It (the program) does help a lot because it shows how you can inspire other people and it shows how much it affects you, because you're teaching younger people how to become better."

To learn more about Wilmer's BOYS in the GOOD program, visit: www.boysinthegood.com.

Kaiser Permanente and Bon Secours partnership paying off in West Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown



A key component of Future Baltimore is the construction of a community resource center that will serve youth and adults with economic, health and social services, supported by an array of local partners. The Future Baltimore project is said to be the first of its kind in West Baltimore and will serve as a model for community health and development projects across the region and the country and for anchor institutions as agents of community revitalization. (Above) An artist's rendition of the proposed community resource center in West Baltimore. **Courtesy Photo/Future Baltimore Project**

They came, they saw and they celebrated— Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh; Baltimore City Council President Jack Young; Bon Secours Community Works Board Member Dale McArdle; Brightview Senior Living President Marilyn Duker; Bon Secours Chair of Medicine Arsalan Sheikh; Bon Secours Health System President and CEO Dr. Samuel L. Ross; and Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States Director, Stakeholder Relations, Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, Ph.D. were among the dozens of local dignitaries, entrepreneurs and leaders who gathered at the Center Club to help ring in the holiday season with key stakeholders of Future Baltimore.

The program is the flagship partnership between Bon Secours and Kaiser Permanente, which was formed earlier in the year to help three of West Baltimore's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Held on December 13, 2017, the celebration followed Kaiser Permanente and Bon Secours' 1.7 million commitment to launch Future Baltimore, a partnership that officials say will advance health equity and economic opportunity in West Baltimore.

Building on previous planning grants to Bon Secours Community Works of $140,000, the combined investment of more than $1.8 million cements a long-term partnership between Kaiser Permanente, Bon Secours and several communities in the 21223 ZIP code, according to a news release.

A key component of Future Baltimore is the construction of a community resource center that will serve youth and adults with economic, health and social services, supported by an array of local partners. The goal of the partnership between Kaiser Permanente and Bon Secours is to support the establishment of new businesses in the area that will help eradicate unemployment and to increase the availability of new mental health services for residents in the area within five years.

"Kaiser Permanente is eager to partner with Bon Secours to work toward making Baltimore City one of the healthiest cities in America," said Kim Horn, the president of Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States. "Economic security has a tremendous impact on the health of individuals and communities. This partnership will create comprehensive support for this community, going far beyond what either of us could do alone."

The Future Baltimore project is said to be the first of its kind in West Baltimore and will serve as a model for community health and development projects across the region and the country and for anchor institutions as agents of community revitalization, according to officials.

"Bon Secours is excited about the partnership with Kaiser Permanente and is truly grateful for the faith and trust they have placed in us," said Dr. Ross, President and CEO, Bon Secours Health System. "We are committed to the long-term partnership that supports revitalization of West Baltimore."

Residents of West Baltimore face significant societal barriers to health and wellbeing, identified in the recent community health needs assessments of both Kaiser Permanente and Bon Secours.

In West Baltimore, which includes the neighborhoods of Boyd-Booth, Fayette Outreach and Franklin Square, life expectancy is 68.3 years— a full 11 years lower than the statewide average.

As Kaiser Permanente's presence in Baltimore grows, a commitment to addressing core drivers of health— comprehensive health care, supports for mental health and economic opportunity— is a top priority.

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MLK Jr. Awards Dinner Friday, Jan. 12

Ten Local Civil and Human Rights Activists to be Honored

Annapolis— The milestone 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards Reception and Dinner will be held Friday, January 12, 2017 at 5 p.m. The largest celebration of Dr. King's birthday in Anne Arundel County will be held at La Fountaine Bleue in Glen Burnie.

Serving as the keynote address will be a performance of a scene from the Broadway musical, "I Have a Dream," written by Josh Greenfield and directed by veteran actor Herman LeVern Jones of TheatreSouth Atlanta. A full performance of the musical, performed by Broadway stars and community actors, will be held Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Francis Scott Key Auditorium at St. John's College in Annapolis.

I Have a Dream is a gospel musical on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that chronicles the major events of the Civil Rights Movement, giving insight into Dr. King's love of his family, his sense of humor, and the incredible sacrifices Americans made in the fight for racial equality.

Among the 10 honorees acknowledged at the event are: Capt. Robert Dews, Jr., for his mentorship to at-risk children in the Annapolis area; Andre Atkins, for his efforts in decreasing violence in Annapolis' Harbor House area; Phil Hunter for his dedication to the Civil Rights movement during the historic march in Alabama; Earl "Tom" Schubert, for his efforts conceiving and building the Afrocentric-curriculum-based Sojourner-Douglass College in Edgewater, Md.; and J.T. "Kim" Sharps, for his dedication to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee.

The winner of the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dream Keeper's Award will be announced at the dinner. Tickets for the dinner are $60-100, and may be purchased online at www.mlkcskmd.org, by phone at 410.760.4115; or by mail to MLK Jr. Committee, PO Box 371, Annapolis, Md. 21404. For more information, call 301-538-6353. Saturday-night theater tickets are $35 for general public and $20 for students and seniors. For ticket information, call 305.924.3003 or 301.904.3690.

The Broadway musical, I Have a Dream, first debuted in 1976 with Billy Dee Williams. The play portrays the speeches of Dr. King and important moments of the civil rights movement through song and dance. The production, which has toured internationally, is a compilation of 28 gospel songs from the Civil Rights Movement, including the famous songs "We Shall Overcome" and "We Shall Not Be Moved." The late Coretta Scott King saw the production in 1984, and the courageous Rosa Parks saw the performance in 1987.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards Dinner in Anne Arundel County was founded in 1988 by then Alderman Carl Snowden. Designed to pay homage to the memory of Dr. King, the dinner honors those whose deeds, words, and actions have helped keep his legacy alive.

Members of the TheatreSouth Atlanta group perform the Broadway musical, I Have A Dream, inspired by the speeches and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A scene from the play will be performed at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee's annual awards dinner on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. to honor civil rights and community activists in Anne Arundel County. **Photo Credit: TheatreSouth Atlanta**

Moris H. Blum Humanitarian Award

Janice Hayes-Williams ***was born in Annapolis, Hayes-Williams is a descendant of enslaved Africans who arrived in the Anne Arundel County area as early as 1760. Hayes-Williams' passion for African American historical research has shed light on the stories and history of slaves in the Annapolis region. Hayes-Williams was one of three historians assigned to the $27 million redevelopment of the Wiley H. Bates High School, the first African American high school in Anne Arundel County. Today Hayes-Williams serves as the Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Chris Trumbauer, representing the Sixth District of Anne Arundel County.***

Courageous Leadership Award

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk ***was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New York City, she now represents Maryland Legislative District 21, where she has sponsored more than 50 bills enacted into law. She is now a member of the House Health and Government Operations Committee, chairs the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee, and serves on several other committees. Peña-Melnyk is also the House Chair of the Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Commission. Peña-Melnyk concurrently is a member of the Anne Arundel County Delegation. She is an active member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Maryland Military Installation Caucus, and the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus.***

Drum Major Award

Capt. Robert A Dews, Jr., *is recognized for his mentorship and diversity advocacy in the Annapolis community. Dews has served in the U.S. Navy for 29 years and is currently the director of Safety for the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). Among other volunteer organizations, he served as a Big Brother in Big Brothers of Maryland, a mentor in the Junior Achievement program, and a Red Cross volunteer/board member.*

Drum Major Award

J.T. "Kim" Sharps, *a native of Annapolis, is presented with this award for work raising funds to pay off the debt incurred in the building of the March on Washington Foot Soldiers Memorial, the first Civil Rights Memorial in Maryland. The memorial is located at the Whitmore Park in Annapolis. Sharps is an active member of the MLK Committee and Caucus of African American Leaders of Anne Arundel County.*

Drum Major Award

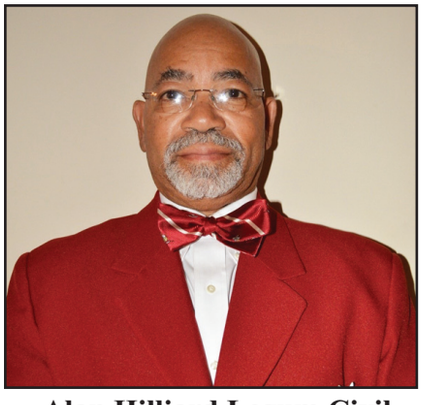
Dr. Andree Mountain *is dedicated to caring for the homeless in the Anne Arundel region through her church's mission work and her extensive volunteerism. Mountain is an associate minister at New Hope Baptist Church in Bel Air, Md., where she is active in the church's youth and women's ministries, She is also a longtime advocate for the homeless and victims of domestic violence.*

Dream Keepers Award

Sgt. Randy Williams *was instrumental in working with the Caucus of African-American Leaders and the NAACP. He also worked with the ACLU to help make major recommendations to the Annapolis Police Department's General Orders, which led to the City of Annapolis adopting body cameras for its entire police department.*

Alan Hilliard Legum Civil Rights Award

Earl "Tom" Schubert *is honored for his efforts in rebuilding and maintaining historical sites in the Annapolis region. He was a driving force in conceiving and building Sojourner-Douglass College in Edgewater, Md. Despite numerous obstacles, the college opened in 2005. A graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Schubert was an engineer on supertankers before moving to Annapolis in 1975, where he found a niche restoring old homes in downtown Annapolis.*



Alan Hilliard Legum Civil Rights Award

Phillip I. Hunter, Esq. *is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal for his participation in the 1965 Voting Right's March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Alongside thousands of other marchers, Hunter's participation in the march facilitated the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Hunter is a retired captain in the U.S. Army. He held a private practice in Kentucky and practiced litigation counsel for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Cabinet for Human Resources in the early 1980s.*

Peace Maker Award

Reverend Stephen A. Tillett *is a native Washingtonian, Tillett was nominated for his faith-based community and military service. Tillett is the pastor of Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church (UMC) in Annapolis, and concurrently serves as the president of the Annapolis Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Anne Arundel County Branch of the NAACP. Tillett was assigned as senior IMA chaplain at Arlington National Cemetery, where he served until his retirement on in January 2017.*

We Share the Dream Award

Andre Atkins *is recognized for his community activism, including advocating for the improvement public housing for residents in the Annapolis neighborhoods. Born in Philadelphia, Atkins moved to Annapolis in 1963 where he attended Bates High School, a historically black school. In the mid-1990s, Atkins moved into public housing with his wife, and quickly saw the need to get involved and advocate for better public housing for the residents. For the last three years, Atkins has served as president of the Harbour House/Eastport Terrace Tenants Assoc.*

Warner Bros, DC Entertainment bringing world of comics to D.C.

By Stacy M. Brown

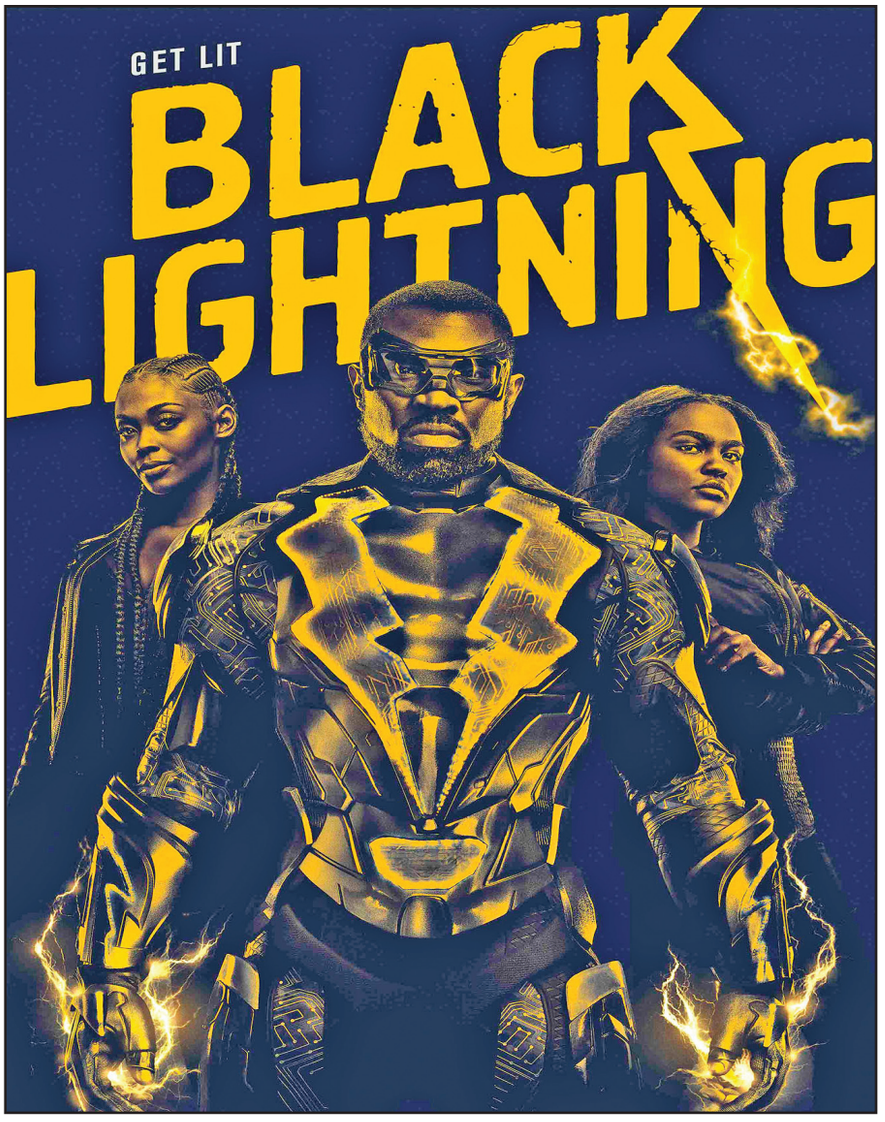
Warner Bros. Animation and DC Entertainment plan to provide a new take on Batman as a steampunk Dark Knight hunts Jack the Ripper through the shadows of turn of the century Gotham City in an all-new animated feature available from Warner Bros. Home Entertainment on January 23, 2018. The new Batman also has a Digital release— Blue-ray and DVD— scheduled for February 6, 2018.

Locally, fans will get an inside look during a "DC in D.C." event scheduled during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend when Warner Bros. Television Group, DC Entertainment and Warner Bros. Home Entertainment will team up for a landmark pop culture event that officials said brings together the worlds of entertainment and public service to illuminate the story of America and current issues through the lens of comics and Super Heroes.

The event will take place Friday, January 12 and Saturday, January 13, 2017 at the Newseum, and culminates with the world premiere screening of the upcoming DC series Black Lightning, which is based on the first African-American DC Super Hero to have his own stand-alone comic title in the Warner Bros. Theater at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. A party will follow at the museum.

The two-day extravaganza will include public panel discussions and appearances by stars and producers from Arrow, DC's Legends of Tomorrow, The Flash, Gotham, Supergirl, and Freedom Fighters.

Invited guests from publishing, politics, government service and academia are also expected with a major attraction being the premiere screening of DC Universe's animated movie, "Batman: Gotham By Gaslight."



(Left to right) Nafessa Williams as Anissa Pierce, Cress Williams as Black Lightning and China Anne McClain as Jennifer Pierce.
For more information and tickets, visit: www.DCinDC2018
Photo Credit: Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

"'DC in D.C.' brings together stars and producers from Warner Bros. Television's DCTV series, as well as comic book writers and artists from DC Entertainment, who will join invited guests from politics, government service, entertainment, business, academia and more," Warner Bros. spokesman Robert Pietranton said in a news release.

"The event will explore the intersection of comic books, culture, entertainment and enlightenment through a series of panel discussions open to the public," Pietranton said.

Additionally, "DC in D.C." will present the premiere screening of the DC Universe animated movie Batman: Gotham By Gaslight, which is for ages 18 and older, at the Newseum.

Among the participants scheduled at the event are the stars of Black Lightning, Cress Williams, China Anne McClain, Nafessa Williams, Christine Adams, Marvin "Krondon" Jones III, Damon Gupton and James Remar.

Executive producers Salim Akil and Mara Brock Akil are also expected at the event.

Also scheduled are DC comic book writers and artists such as DC Entertainment's Jim Lee, Julie Benson, Shawna Benson, Shea Fontana, Agnes Garbowska, Tom King, Steve Orlando, Alice Randall, Oscar-winning screenwriter John Ridley, Mark Russell, Mariko Tamaki and DC Entertainment's Geoff Johns, the best-selling author of Rebirth and Doomsday Clock.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the event, which will include five public panels, visit: www.DCinDC2018.com.

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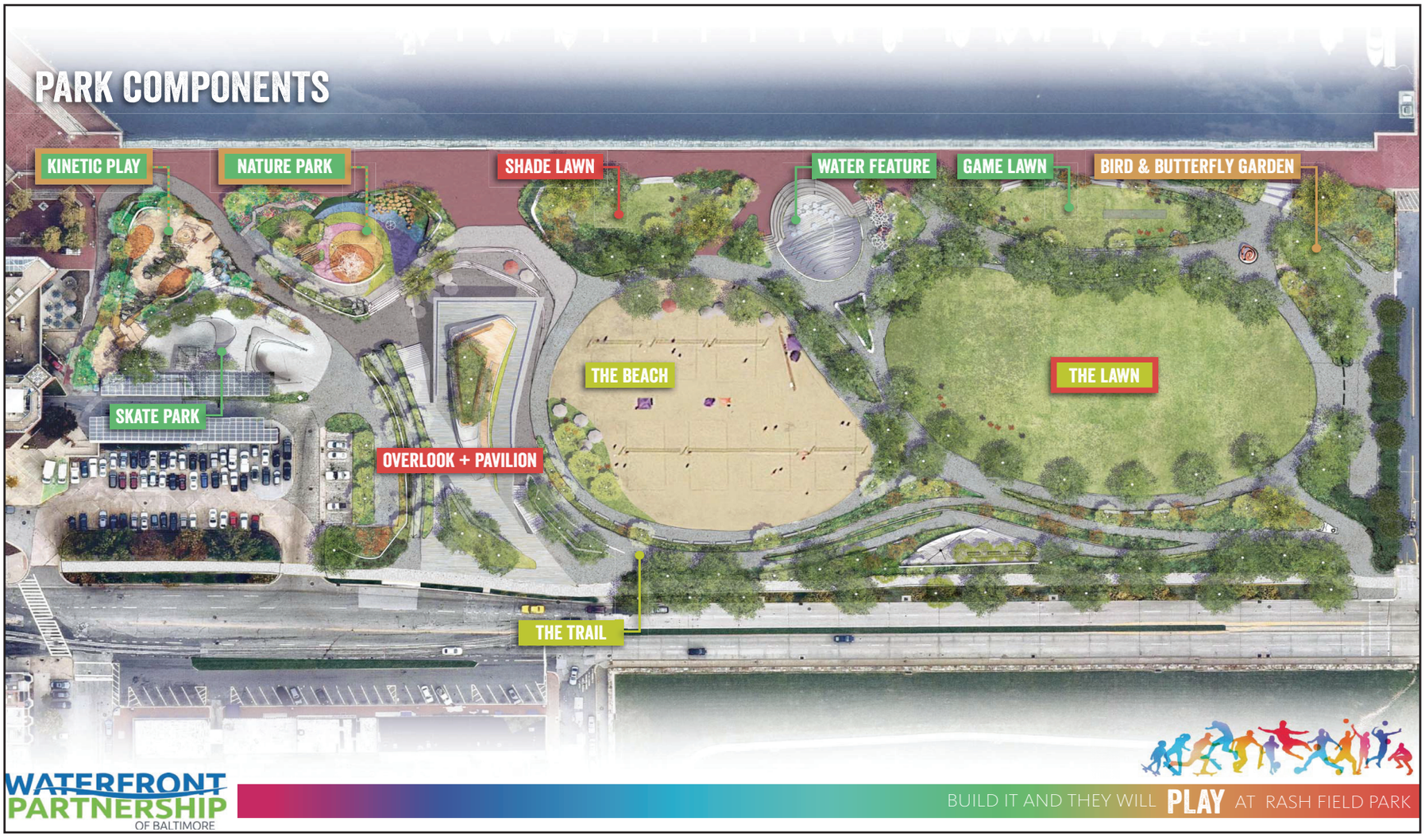
World premiere of skateboarding movie to benefit Jake's Skatepark



Proceeds from the premiere of Joey Jett's new skateboarding film, "The Dream: The Art of Skateboarding" will support fundraising efforts for Jake's Skatepark at Rash Field, which is located on the south side of the Inner Harbor. Tickets are $10. To purchase tickets, visit http://theartofskateboarding.eventbrite. (Above) An artist's rendition of the proposed redesign of Rash Field into an active and attractive park space that will serve a diverse user base through added amenities and increased programming.

Courtesy Photo/Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Baltimore— To support Jake's Skatepark at Rash Field, Key Brewing Company, along with Skatepark of Baltimore, Street Plant, Bustin' Boards, and Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, is throwing a fundraiser with the help of professional skaters Joey Jett and Mike Vallely at Bustin' Boards in City Garage on January 13, 2018 from 6 to 10 p.m.

The event will feature the world premiere of Joey Jett's new skateboarding film, "The Dream: The Art of Skateboarding." Event attendees will get to meet Jett and Vallely and enjoy the film that Jett shot on their skating world tour together and includes amazing behind-the-scenes skating footage.

Attendees will also enjoy local beer and food, live music, skate demos by Bustin' Boards and both a silent and live auction with amazing items including a unique Mike Vallely hand-painted, autographed board, as well as sold-out first-run Joey Jett boards, a one-of-a-kind Bustin' Board and original photos from numerous skate photographers and artists.

Proceeds from the event will go towards Jake's Skatepark, named in memory of Jake Owen, an avid skater and sports lover, who was killed when he was five-years-old by a cell phone-distracted driver in 2011.

"Our family is excited and honored to have the skatepark named after Jake," said Spike Owen, Jake's father and a partner at Key Brewing. "This fundraiser especially is a way to celebrate his life and his love for skateboarding."

Jake's Skatepark will be located on the west side of the park within the first phase of the project, and will provide a dedicated space for the skateboarding community that will be accessible for skaters of all ages and abilities. Waterfront Partnership is partnering with Skatepark of Baltimore, Grindline and Mahan Rykiel to design the skatepark.

"There has been a lot of enthusiasm for Jake's Skatepark at Rash Field since our initial announcement this past September," said Laurie Schwartz, president of Waterfront Partnership. "Skateboarding at Jake's Skatepark is something we believe people of all ages will enjoy, and to be able to honor Jake in this way is incredibly special."

Rash Field, located on the south side of the Inner Harbor will be redesigned into an active and attractive park space that will serve a diverse user base through added amenities and increased programming. To learn more about Rash Field and to donate to Jake's Skatepark, visit: www.rashfield.org.

Tickets are $10. To purchase tickets for the event, visit http://theartofskateboarding.eventbrite.com.

Preparation and safety tips as extreme cold continues

Baltimore— Maryland is seeing bitter cold across the state, with wind chill and winter storm advisories and watches issues by the National Weather Service for many counties. While some areas of the state are not currently included in these advisories, the Maryland Department of Health is cautioning residents to guard against frostbite, hypothermia, and other related issues during these cold conditions.

The Department of Health monitors temperature conditions and incidences of cold-related illnesses and deaths. The department began issuing weekly reports November 22, 2017. The reports provide guidance and information about deaths and illness caused by extreme cold in the region. To see the reports, visit the Extreme Cold Resources page found here. The site also includes the department's Extreme Cold Emergency Plan and fact sheets on cold weather health issues, carbon monoxide, driving tips for extreme cold weather and the warning signs of a heart attack.

"With the severe cold Maryland has experienced over the past week, it is important for residents to dress warmly and to have a cold weather emergency kit at home and in their vehicle," said Public Health Services Deputy Secretary Dr. Howard Haft. "Knowing how to prepare can help keep Marylanders healthy and safe."

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature falls below 95ºF. In the 2016-2017 winter season, there were 34 cold-related deaths in Maryland. Frostbite is the freezing and subsequent destruction of body tissue that is likely to occur any time skin temperature gets much below 32ºF. The body parts most likely to freeze are toes, fingers, ears, cheeks, and the tip of the nose.

The Department of Health offers these safety tips:

•Cover your head. You lose as much as 50 percent of your body heat through your head. Also cover your mouth with a scarf to protect lungs from direct cold air, as well as your ears and lower part of your face.

•Wear several layers of lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. The air between the layers acts as insulation to keep you warmer.

•Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves. The close contact of fingers helps keep your hands warm.

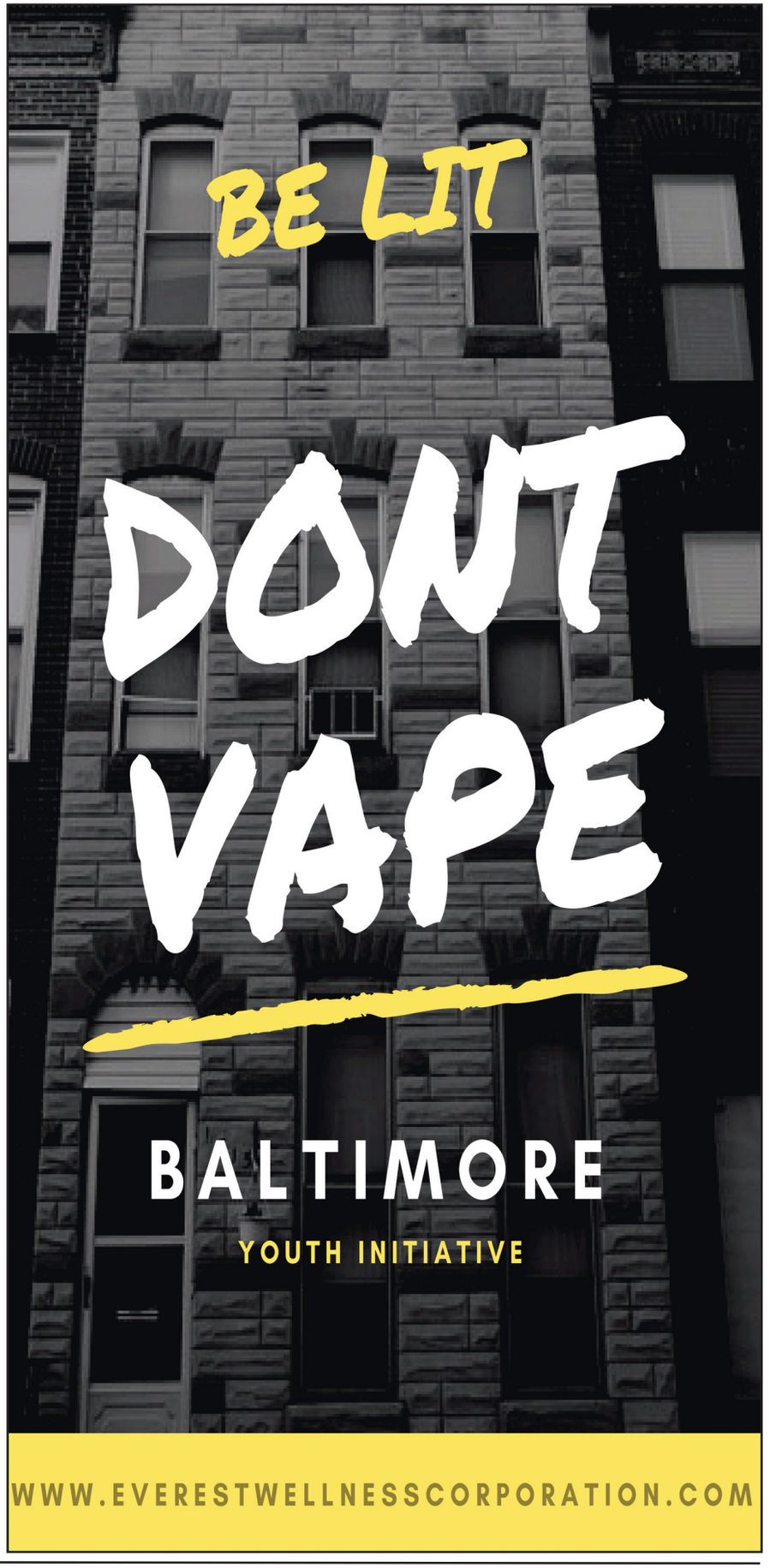
•Wear warm leg coverings and heavy socks or two pairs of lightweight socks.

•Wear waterproof boots or sturdy shoes to keep your feet warm and dry.

•Be alert to such common winter hazards as carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and injuries from heat sources. CO is produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns and gas ranges or by the burning of charcoal and wood. This colorless, odorless gas can cause severe illness and death. Heating sources can also cause fires, electrical injuries and burns, if not properly installed, operated, and maintained.

•Review your family emergency communications plan and emergency supply kits for homes and vehicles. Each family member should know what to do and how to contact others in an emergency. The home emergency supply kit should include unexpired food items, medical supplies and batteries. Vehicles should contain such items as heavy blankets, water, nonperishable food, a flashlight and a snow shovel.

More information on emergency preparedness is available at https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Home.aspx.



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