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Honoring Siblings in the Class of 2018



The Gibson sisters are 2018 graduates. (Left-right): Maiya, a graduate of Saint Augustine University; Aliyah, a graduate of Salisbury State University and Jaily, a graduate of Pikesville High School will attend Bowie State University in the fall. (See article on page 10). Courtesy Photo

Governor Hogan proclaims 2018 Year of the Bird in Maryland

Celebrating native and migratory birds and the places they need in Maryland

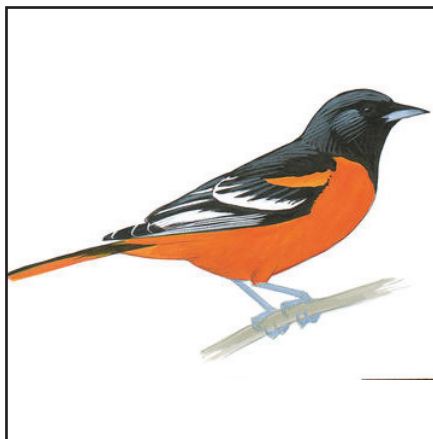
Baltimore— Governor Larry Hogan has proclaimed 2018 as the Year of the Bird in Maryland. The declaration celebrates native and migratory birds making their way through Maryland, as well as the Free State's remarkable landscapes and water resources that support them.

"Maryland is home to some of the most beautiful and iconic birds in the world — from the majestic Great Blue Heron on the Chesapeake Bay to our state bird, the Baltimore Oriole," said Governor Larry Hogan. "The Year of the Bird is an opportunity for Maryland citizens and tourists alike to celebrate the educational and recreational role of birds that live and migrate through our state, as well as a great reminder of the importance of conserving our natural resources. I want to thank the National Audubon Society for their efforts to protect birds and their habitats in Maryland and beyond."

The proclamation was delivered to more than 200 guests at Pickering Creek Audubon Center's "Annual Tour, Toast and Taste" fundraiser at Lombardy Estate in Easton, Maryland by Governor Hogan's Deputy Chief of Staff Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. The event helps raise funds for Audubon's efforts to further environmental education for school-aged students.

Audubon is proud to work with a host of state and federal agencies on important bird area protection, environmental literacy and sea level rise adaptation, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland State Department of Education on Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms.

Maryland is home to 42 Important Bird Areas, more than 400 observed species and the Chesapeake Bay water-



Baltimore Oriole
Courtesy Photo/Audubon



Cerulean Warbler
Courtesy Photo/Audubon



Great Blue Heron
Courtesy Photo/Audubon

shed, which serves as an important breeding and stopover area for millions of migratory birds each year. The Governor's declaration recognizes that Maryland's natural resources provide important habitat for birds.

People around the world are celebrating 2018 as Year of the Bird to mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), one of the oldest wildlife protection laws in the United States. In honor of this milestone, National Geographic, Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International, and dozens of other partners around the world joined forces to celebrate 2018 as the Year of the Bird.

"Year of the Bird is an easy way people can take small everyday actions to help birds along their journeys," said David Yarnold, president and CEO for National Audubon Society. "Maryland's Chesapeake Bay provides wintering grounds for approximately one-third of the Atlantic coast's migratory population, including iconic waterfowl species like the Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal for centuries. We'd like to thank Governor Hogan for declaring 2018 as Year of

the Bird and recognizing the importance of birds and the places we share."

Many conservation organizations, agencies, businesses and academics have been instrumental in protecting birds and the places they need in Maryland. In celebrating 2018 as the Year of the Bird, there is great appreciation for the efforts of many organizations, including local

Audubon chapters and centers, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Department of Natural Resources, waterfowl associations and duck clubs, and many others.

To learn more about Year of the Bird, visit: www.audubon.org/yearofthe-bird.

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Prepare to Prosper

Part 2:

Responsible Home Buying

Purchasing your first home could be another way to build your wealth. But lack of knowledge about the process may stop some from achieving their homeownership dreams. But if you're ready to put down roots, these eight tips may be able to help you prepare, and prosper now and into the future.

1 Consider your personal situation

Make sure you're ready to take on the financial responsibilities of managing a mortgage, insurance, property taxes, utilities, and ongoing home maintenance before you buy.

2 Buy only what you can manage

A prequalification from a home mortgage consultant will help you understand your price range so you don't fall for a house outside of your price range.

3 Don't skip the inspection

Home inspections often identify problems related to the age and construction of the home including a sinking foundation, or simply a broken dishwasher.

4 Keep an eye on interest rates

When shopping for the best rates be sure to also compare the APR. The APR includes certain fees and represents the cost of the loan on an annual basis.

5 Prepare for down payment and closing costs

A down payment is required for most loan programs. However, a 20% down payment is not mandatory. In fact, qualified homebuyers may be able to put down as little as 3%. You should also prepare to cover closing costs, which could be another 3% to 5% of your loan amount.

6 Take advantage of programs

You may qualify for down payment assistance or even lower your mortgage costs by researching and applying for homeownership grants, loans, and tax credits.

7 Understand your borrowing choices

You have a lot of options when it comes to choosing your loan type so be sure to understand the difference between conventional and FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loans, and short and long term, fixed or adjustable rate loans.

8 Meet with a Home Mortgage Consultant

Get help demystifying the home buying process. A Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Consultant can help you find loans, terms and programs that may be right for you.

Through our Advancing HomeownershipSM effort, we hope to impact the declining homeownership rate among African Americans. We've committed to helping create more than 250,000 homeowners over the next 10 years by lending a projected \$60 billion to African American homebuyers. Learn more at: wellsfargo.com/mortgage/jump/advancing-homeownership. And if you have more questions about homeownership, come in to talk to a home mortgage consultant today.

Get more tips to prosper when the Prepare to Prosper financial series returns with a focus on entrepreneurship.

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**WELLS
FARGO**

Guest Editorials/Commentary

Parental Engagement Secret to Academic Success

By Dr. Elizabeth V. Primas

Program Manager for NNPA ESSA Public Awareness Campaign

The National Family Engagement Summit of 2018 was held in Richmond, Virginia. Throughout the summit, multiple opportunities were provided for attendees to interact with some of the nation's leading experts in parent and family engagement. Participants came from near and far. Over 300 teachers, parents, administrators, and community activists participated, presented, networked, taught and learned strategies to increase family engagement. One presenter described the difference between involvement and engagement as the level of commitment, stating, "It's like you've got a ring on it! You're not just passively attending a few parent-teacher meetings, but you're planning, making decisions, running for the school board and more."

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) speaks specifically to parent and family engagement. Data highlighted examples of the successful impact parents can have when they are present in their child's school. One presenter pointed out that, "Parents tend to be extremely involved with students in the early elementary grades. They bring them to school, speak with the teacher frequently, and are more likely to volunteer for field trips, classroom activities, and attend parent-teacher meetings." However, around the third grade, parents start to reduce their involvement. They attend fewer meetings, volunteer for fieldtrips and other events less, and seldom spend time in the building. In some cases, they may have only met the teacher just once.

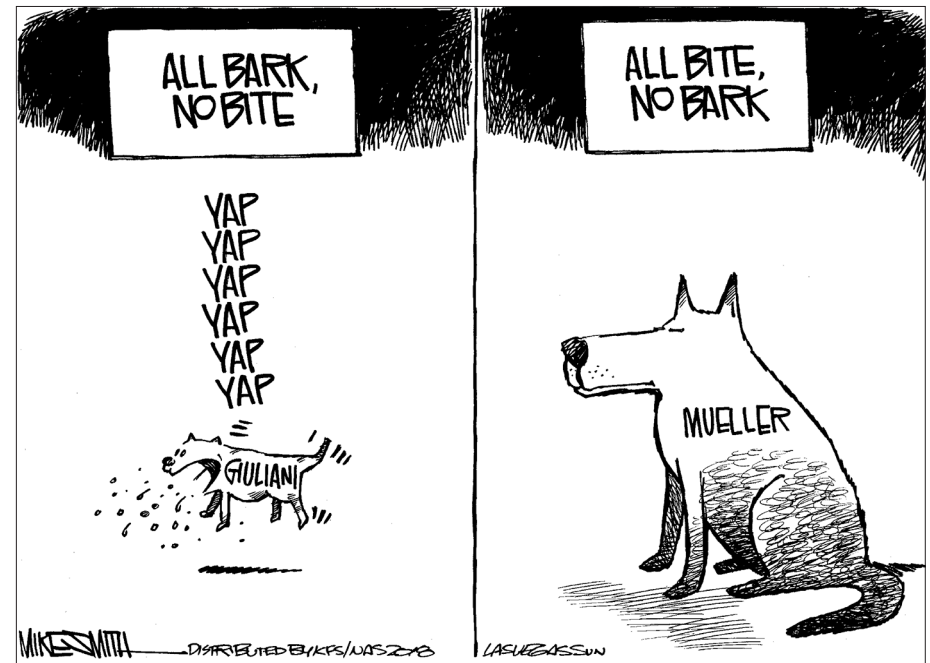
When students reach third grade and began to socialize more independently with friends, parent engagement, often wanes. It's not surprising that after requiring almost, constant supervision that parents breathe a sigh of relief when their children gain newfound independence. However, these are the times when our children require increased attention, specifically our young black males. There is significant data to show a correlation between K-12 completion, literacy, and adulthood incarceration. The NAACP reported that African Americans are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of whites and nationwide, African American children represent 32 percent of children who are arrested. Blacks make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population. Patterns such as, absenteeism, delinquent behavior, and academic apathy, correlate with high suspension rates and subsequent incarceration.

ESSA places increased priority on parental engagement and requires states to provide innovative strategies to incorporate parental and family engagement into a school's decision-making, and planning. ESSA stresses two-way communication. This requires teachers, and administrators to reach out to parents in clear, concise, relatable ways that encourage feedback and input at every level of implementation. Some non-traditional communication strategies include social media use, e-newsletters, and short surveys. Administrators and teachers are encouraged to schedule meetings that accommodate parents with different hours of availability.

ESSA does not dictate the ways in which schools are required to engage parents. However, educators should recognize the crucial role parental partnerships play in preparing students for college and careers.

This summer, the National Newspaper Publishers Association will host its second National Black Parents' Town Hall Meeting on Educational Excellence. The conversation on parent engagement will continue at the Gethsemane Community Fellowship Church on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. ETS. This event will be livestreamed and for the first time, NNPA ESSA will host two viewing rooms in California—one in Los Angeles, and the other in San Francisco. If you are not able to join us in Norfolk, Va., you should certainly make your way to the viewing rooms in California or join the livestream online.

Participants who pre-register and are present in either location are eligible to win grand prizes. Register today by visiting: www.nnpa.org/essa/events.



Community Affairs

MDOT MTA partnership with Transit Mobile App offers riders real-time bus tracking

Baltimore—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) announced a partnership with Transit, a mobile app that provides real-time transit information, simple trip planning, step-by-step navigation and more. Transit riders will now be able to receive highly accurate location and arrival information for every CityLink, LocalLink and Express BusLink bus in the BaltimoreLink fleet. The app is free and available on both Apple and Android devices.

"This innovative tool delivers on the Hogan Administration's commitment to customer service, and provides our MDOT MTA customers an overall better transit experience," said MDOT Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

Passengers will be able to use the app to view each bus in real time and will have a greater choice in determining which bus to take and when to expect its arrival. Riders can also select the GO

feature to enable voice alerts and push notifications for their selected route. Real-time bus tracking information is also available by calling the MDOT MTA Transit Information Call Center at 410-539-5000 and via text messaging by texting the stop number to MTAMD (68263).

"Our partnership with Transit enhances our BaltimoreLink system by providing the best real-time transit experience for our riders," said MDOT MTA Administrator Kevin Quinn. "With pinpoint scheduling accuracy at their fingertips, riders won't have to leave their workplace or home early to wait for the bus. This enhanced feature truly will transform the bus-riding experience for our customers enabling them to better manage their daily schedules."

Transit is a public transit app and mapping service based in Canada. The app is functional in over 175 cities around the world and offers users real-time data for multiple modes of transportation where available, including: bus and rail.

In January, Swiftly, Inc., a San Francisco-based computer software firm was contracted to install (GPS) tracking in each of MDOT MTA's 753 local buses to coordinate with the Transit app.

Black Mamas Are Dying. We Can Stop It.

By Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)

Black mothers are dying and it's time to do something about it.

Every year, more than 700 American mothers lose their lives to pregnancy or birth-related complications. Some medical professionals estimate that at least half, if not more, of these deaths are entirely preventable.

While the deaths of 700-plus American mothers should shock us all, the statistics are much worse for African American mothers. We are three-to-four times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than our White counterparts. A 2010-2011 survey of maternal deaths in Philadelphia found that three-quarters of those deaths were Black mothers.

These shocking statistics cut across class, education level, and socio-economic status. Earlier this year, Serena Williams shared her own story about nearly losing her life.

She, like too many other women, was ignored when she raised concerns about her own health and body. If this tragedy can befall a wealthy, world-class athlete

who's deeply in tuned with her own body, it could, and does, happen to anyone.

Sadly, the situation is getting worse, not better. American mothers are dying at higher rates every year.

Globally, we've had real success in pushing down the rates of mothers needlessly dying, especially in Africa and the Caribbean. Yet at the same time, the

data. We need to standardize data to find trends and protocols that work to save lives.

The MOMMA Act also establishes and enforces national emergency obstetric protocols and ensures the sharing of best practices between practitioners and hospital systems because, if it's working, we want every doctor to know about it.

Additionally, the MOMMA Act would

Finally, the MOMMA Act would improve access to culturally-competent care throughout the care continuum. For decades, we've known that culturally-incompetent care has had massive and negative impacts on our community and our health. In 2018, it's time to train health professionals to give appropriate care to all patients, regardless of their race.

I could not be prouder to have introduced the MOMMA Act or to have worked with the amazing women and men who helped us craft this important legislation to save mothers' lives.

It's the product of months of work with families, mothers, doctors, nurses, midwives, doulas and policy advocates. I'm deeply humbled to have the support of Black Women's Health Imperative, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, the National Urban League, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and many others.

As a mother, I was lucky enough to experience two happy, healthy pregnancies. I want the same thing for every mother and family: a healthy, happy pregnancy and child.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly represents Illinois' Second Congressional District. She is the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust and the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. She also serves on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Follow Congresswoman Kelly on Twitter @RepRobinKelly.

“Globally, we’ve had real success in pushing down the rates of mothers needlessly dying, especially in Africa and the Caribbean. Yet at the same time, the U.S. is one of a handful of nations where the number of mothers dying is increasing.”

U.S. is one of a handful of nations where the number of mothers dying is increasing.

We can and must do better. All mamas deserve the chance to be mamas.

That's why I've introduced the "Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act" or the MOMMA Act, for short. This comprehensive legislation takes a multi-pronged approach to ending maternal mortality through increased access to care, expanded culturally-competent training and standardized data collection.

Currently, one of our greatest challenges in addressing the rising rate of maternal mortality is a lack of good

expand access to care by ensuring that mothers retain their Medicaid coverage for one year after giving birth, the entire postpartum period. Right now, mothers lose their coverage just two months after giving birth.

However, many women face significant health challenges, often weeks and months, after giving birth. One mom who spoke at my press conference unveiling the bill suffered a childbirth-related stroke 20 days after giving birth. Furthermore, we know that postpartum depression and other health challenges face new mothers; expanding access to care will ensure that moms remain healthy as they raise their families.

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NNPA, Chevrolet launch 2018 'Discover the Unexpected' Journalism Fellowship in Detroit

By Daja E. Henry, Ila Wilborn
and Natrawn Maxwell
#TeamAuthentic, NNPA DTU
Journalism Fellowship

Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) have teamed up once again for the "Discover the Unexpected" (DTU) Journalism Fellowship program. The fellowship, in its third year, gives students attending Historically, Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) the opportunity of a lifetime: an eight-week, immersive training experience with the Black Press.

The NNPA also known as the "Black Press of America," is a trade group that represents more than 200 African American-owned media companies and newspapers in the United States.

This year, the program also features a travel journalism component when the DTU fellows (#TeamAuthentic and #TeamOptimistic) embark on a road trip in the 2018 Chevrolet Equinox, filing stories along the way as they travel to their second posts and then to Detroit, Mich., for a grand finale. #TeamAuthentic will travel from Atlanta to Norfolk and #TeamOptimistic will drive from New York City to Washington, D.C.

The participating NNPA newspapers are: The Atlanta Voice (Atlanta, Ga.), The New Journal and Guide (Norfolk, Va.), the New York Amsterdam News (New York City), and The Washington Informer (Washington, D.C.)

"Using NNPA's professional resources and the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox's innovative technology, DTU Fellows will share stories that shatter perceptions, jump-start their journalism careers and encourage us all to 'Discover the Unexpected,'" according to the official NNPA DTU website.

The 2018 Discover the Unexpected journalism fellows are: Tyvan Burns of Norfolk State University; Diamond Durant of Morgan State University; Daja E. Henry of Howard University; Denver Lark of North Carolina A&T University; Natrawn Maxwell of Claflin University; and Ila Wilborn of Florida A&M University.

The 2018 DTU fellows, along with Chevrolet and NNPA publishers and editors met up in Detroit for a two-day



The 2018 NNPA Discover the Unexpected Journalism Fellows (left to right) Tyvan Burns of Norfolk State University; Denver Lark of North Carolina A&T University; Ila Wilborn of Florida A&M University; Daja E. Henry of Howard University; Diamond Durant of Morgan State University; and Natrawn Maxwell of Claflin University.

Photo Credit: Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

bootcamp event, hosted at General Motors' (GM) headquarters. The DTU fellows learned about the Chevrolet Equinox, social media from a global brand perspective, and new Chevrolet marketing campaigns. The fellows also toured the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix held at Belle Isle.

Durant, a senior at Morgan State University talked about her expectations for the NNPA's DTU program this summer moving forward.

"I hope to really get better at writing," Durant said. "I hope to get better at chasing stories and finding stories, sticking to stories and just getting better at being unique and being more of a team player."

As an introduction to the program, Michelle Matthews-Alexander, Chevrolet's Diversity Marketing Director, talked about the program's inception.

Matthews-Alexander said that Chevrolet was interested in playing "a role in showcasing those stories that we all know exist; that we all know are happening on a day-to-day basis."

Hip-hop pioneer and philanthropist MC Lyte returned for the third year to serve as the national spokesman for the program.

This fellowship is unique in that it part-

ners a global auto manufacturer (Chevrolet) with a Black media organization, (NNPA), in an effort to not only expose HBCU students to the Black Press, but also to marketing and advertising roles that exist in corporate America, a space where Black professionals are often underrepresented.

"No other internship is going to have that," said Denise Rolark-Barnes, the publisher of the The Washington Informer. "I think to have relationships with Chevy and the whole concept of discovering the unexpected allows us to define some things about African American history and culture."

Ken Barrett, GM's Chief Diversity Officer, explained why diversity is key to Chevrolet's success. Barrett was previously the director of diversity for the United States Navy, where Admiral Mike Mullen helped him to realize that, "The less the Navy looked like America, the more disconnected, as a service, it would become."

Barrett brought that unique perspective on diversity to his current role with GM. With his focus on diversity of thought to include different factors including gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation

and veteran status, Barrett intends to lead the charge in a type of innovation that everyone has a stake in. The next game changer will come, he said, in "an organization that listens to all of those perspectives."

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, the president and CEO of the NNPA, said the NNPA is pleased with its ongoing partnership with Chevrolet, especially with the NNPA DTU Journalism Fellowship program.

"We believe that the NNPA's Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellowship program, sponsored by Chevrolet, is vital to the future of the Black Press of America," Dr. Chavis said. "We are enthusiastic about the 2018 DTU fellows, as each one of them represents the best of the new generation of journalism scholars that will serve the African American community."

Daja E. Henry (Howard University), Ila Wilborn (Florida A&M University) and Natrawn Maxwell (Claflin University) are 2018 Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellows representing #TeamAuthentic. Follow their stories this summer at nnpa.org/dtu.



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Ravens have established a quarterback incubator for Lamar Jackson

By Turron Davenport

Former Baltimore Ravens General Manager Ozzie Newsome had a specific idea in mind when he traded back into the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft to select quarterback Lamar Jackson. The plan all started when he signed the former No. 2 overall pick Robert Griffin III.

Griffin has been through a similar situation, as Jackson is getting ready to face.

Once hailed as the present and future of the Washington Redskins, Griffin thrilled the fans at FedEx Field by making a series of dynamic plays. The once-boring offense came alive with Griffin under center. Now he is in place to help another young, explosive playmaking quarterback in Jackson.

Another similarity they share is the challenge of being a black quarterback in the NFL.

"Is it different being an African-American quarterback in the NFL?" Griffin told Sports Illustrated. "Yes, it's different. But you can't look at it as a burden. You can't look at it as something that is going to hold you back. It's a challenge.

"You have to accept the challenge and move forward with it. Anytime you are athletic enough at the quarterback position and have similar traits to a wide receiver or running back, it's going to be talked about. You have to eliminate that



Baltimore Ravens quarterback of the future Lamar Jackson during a workout at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills. Jackson was selected with the 32nd overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

noise and understand that, because I have that ability, I am going to be even greater."

Although Griffin is working to get his own career back on track, he understands the importance of being a mentor to Jackson. Griffin says he wants to nurture Jackson, so he is ready when it's

time to 'leave the nest.'

Jackson will eventually take over for starting quarterback Joe Flacco and when he does, it will be Griffin on the sideline waiting for him with pointers.

However, the nest that the Ravens have in place in Baltimore extends beyond just Griffin as the backup.

Offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg and offensive assistant Greg Roman are experienced when it comes to working with dual-threat quarterbacks. Mornhinweg coached Michael Vick with the Philadelphia Eagles while Roman coached Colin Kaepernick in San Francisco. They know how to maximize the play-making ability that Jackson brings to the table. Jackson will be brought along gradually as he transitions to the NFL.

The weapons put in place around Jackson will help him as well.

Quarterbacks tend to favor their tight ends because they work the middle of the field, mostly between the hash marks. Throws to tight ends tend to be more high-percentage passes, which help quarterbacks settle into a rhythm.

With that in mind, Newsome and the Ravens selected South Carolina tight end Hayden Hurst in the first round (No. 25 overall) before Jackson at No. 32. They also added Oklahoma tight end Mark Andrews with the second of their two, third-round picks.

Both tight ends are outstanding receiving options. They'll get to grow with Jackson for years to come.

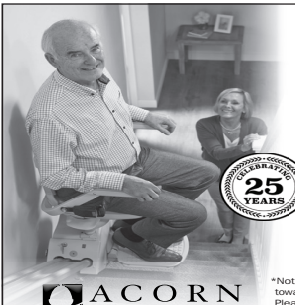
The mentor, the weapons, and the coaches are all in place for Jackson to succeed—it should be a bright future for the Heisman Trophy winner.

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Baltimore City native serving on “city at sea” aboard Navy’s largest amphibious warfare ship

By Kayla Turnbow, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Baltimore City, native and 2012 Baltimore Talent Development High School graduate, Amber McMillian is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island.

Petty Officer 3rd Class McMillian is a culinary specialist aboard the amphibious assault ship operating out of San Diego. A culinary specialist is responsible for cooking meals for the crew.

“Growing up, I was taught to be nice to everyone,” said McMillian. “By being nice to others in the Navy, you get the same treatment in return.”

Makin Island, one of the Navy’s most advanced and largest amphibious ships, is designed to deliver Marines and their equipment where they are needed to support a variety of missions ranging from amphibious assaults to humanitarian relief efforts.

The ship, which resembles a small aircraft carrier, is longer than two football fields at 847 feet, is 106 feet wide and weighs more than 41,000 tons fully loaded. It has gas turbine engines and two variable speed electric motors that can push the ship through the water in excess of 20 knots. It can carry more than 12 helicopters and six fixed-wing aircraft.

Sailors’ jobs are highly varied aboard Makin Island. More than 1,000 men and women make up the ship’s crew, which keeps all parts of the ship running smoothly, from handling weaponry to maintaining the engines. An additional 1,700 Marines can be embarked. It is capable of transporting Marines and landing them where they are needed via helicopters, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and landing craft.

“Makin Island is one of the most advanced warships on the waterfront, but she’s nothing without her crew,” said Capt. David Oden, commanding officer of Makin Island. “They’ve proved themselves time and time again, and their level of professionalism and dedication is second to none.”



Petty Officer 3rd Class Amber McMillian is a culinary specialist aboard the amphibious assault ship, USS Makin Island, operating out of San Diego.

Photo Credit: Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Heidi Cheek

These amphibious assault ships project power from the sea serving as the cornerstone of the amphibious ready group. Makin Island was delivered to the Navy in April 2009 and is the first U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship to be equipped with both gas turbines and auxiliary propulsion system instead of steam boilers.

These ships support special operations and expeditionary warfare missions, transporting U.S. Marines from sea to shore through a combination of aircraft and water landing craft. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to support humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice.

“I like the group of people I get to work with on the ship,” said McMillian. “We are tight-knit group and it makes for a better working environment.”

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy’s most relied-upon assets, McMillian and other Makin Island sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes.

“Serving in the Navy is an opportunity to further my education,” added McMillian. “I would like to go to school for criminal justice and the Navy will allow me to do that.”

Honoring Siblings in the Class of 2018

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

With many young people today confronted by insurmountable challenges and obstacles, it is uplifting to see students with the ability, drive and determination to achieve academic success and develop a sense of purpose for their future. As commencement ceremonies continue this spring, some families have multiple graduates. Such is the household of proud parents Tyrone and Martina Washington with two daughters who graduated, Taylor and Morgan.

Taylor Washington graduated from Bowie State University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Child and Adolescent Studies. Taylor has a passion for working with youth and helping others. Over the summer, she plans to volunteer at a youth center. In the future, she plans to attend graduate school and eventually work with Baltimore City Public Schools to create policies and programs to benefit youth.

Morgan Washington graduated from Owings Mills High School and will attend Morgan State University in the fall. She plans to major in early childhood education and become a Pre-K/ Kindergarten teacher.

"I am blessed to have beautiful and educated black women in my family who have made an impact on the lives of others. It is important to have positive role



Taylor Washington graduated from Bowie State University receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology

models in your life and I striving to be exactly like them," Morgan said.

Other sibling graduates include: Aliyah Gibson who graduated from Salisbury University with a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Dispute Management. She was awarded a graduate assistantship and worked as the graduate assistant for first and second student programs. Aliyah was also vice president of the Graduate Student Council. After graduation, she will continue as the graduate assistant through July while looking for full time employment. Her long-term career goal is to obtain a position



Morgan Washington graduated from Owings Mills High School and will attend Morgan State University in the fall.

at an HBCU working in the Office of Student Affairs and Student Programming.

Maiya Gibson graduated from Saint Augustine's University with a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Biology. She received a full basketball scholarship during her freshman and sophomore years. She received both meritorious and STEM scholarships in her junior and senior years. While attending St. Augustine's, she was also inducted into the Zeta Alpha Kappa Mu honor society and was treasurer of her senior class. Maiya is also a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She will pursue a Master's

degree in Athletic Training at Salisbury University in the fall. Her long-term career goal is to work at a college or with a professional athletic team as an athletic trainer.

Jailyn Gibson graduated from Pikesville High School where she made the honor roll every year. She was both a scholar and an athlete. She was a member of the volleyball team for four-years; she ran track in her freshman and sophomore year; and served as the basketball manager in her junior and senior years. Jai received over \$40,000 in scholarship offers and she has chosen to attend Bowie State University in the fall, where she will major in Psychology. She plans to attend law school and has aspirations to become a lawyer.

The Gibson sisters are very close. They both say that their mother, Deborah Gibson Ingram inspired them to succeed.

"She raised us to be God-fearing, intelligent and confident young women," Aliyah said.

"She set expectations for us; held us accountable— our mama did not play with us— but always encouraged and supported us," Jailyn said.

"We watched her succeed at everything she did and we wanted to be just like her. The three of us want to make her proud," Maiya added.

Congratulations to all graduates and continued success as you move forward!

NAACP now accepting applications for 2019 NextGen Leadership program

Baltimore— The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), is now accepting applications for the NAACP Next Generation program (NEXTGEN), the nation's premier young adult leadership training program.

Applications will be accepted online for the 12-month leadership development, training program for young adults between the ages of 21 and 35. The program is designed to prepare members who are young adults for leadership positions in the NAACP. NEXTGEN features a series of trainings, including leadership development,

legislative action, unit administration, advocacy and program planning consistent with the six NAACP Game Changer areas.

Members can apply for the NAACP NEXTGEN program by completing the online Application at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf32ste2H9ma0NWE3GDK123DrwP3G8-1VpbjV3KGnESqZZ5ag/viewform>. The application process closes on December 1, 2018. Applicants will be notified by February of 2019. The 2019 NEXTGEN Training will commence in March of 2019.

The NAACP encourages young adult

members of Adult Branches, At-Large members and former youth council, college chapter and Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics of the Mind (ACT-SO) members interested in being leaders in the NAACP, to apply for the NEXTGEN Program. Graduates of the training will go on to participate and contribute to the NAACP's Leadership 500 (L500) Program. The NAACP NEXTGEN Program will work in tandem with L500 and the NAACP's Youth & College Division as a vertically aligned leadership development initiative.

NEXTGEN launched its inaugural class last year with 233 young adults from 33 different states. Of those 233 members, 97 of them lived in 13 key battleground states critical to the Association's GOTV Civic Engagement Plan for the 2018 Mid-Term Elections.

Nominate a young adult or former NAACP youth by completing the Nomination Form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEi8gWqdE-CeVeZ4IcTnGnomYYG5MdGBtkxOrmyirs0B82gg/viewform>

St. Francis Center Capital Campaign in Reservoir Hill gets a boost

By Stacy M. Brown

In Reservoir Hill, West Baltimore, there are open-air drug markets; shootings seem to occur more often than not; and just about every family lives below the federal poverty line. It's also the neighborhood that was wrecked by demonstrations and riots following the death of Freddie Gray and the ever-rising theft and robbery rates keep Baltimore's finest busy.

However, something good is happening in Reservoir Hill, something that residents and those who run the more than half-century old St. Francis Neighborhood Center call "The Miracle on Linden Avenue."

"Our programs have helped young ones improve their grades and build pride in who they are," said Christi Green, the executive director of the center, which has launched a capital campaign to raise \$4 million to update and expand the center.

To date, center officials say they have already surpassed half the goal with \$2.1 million raised with support from companies like Under Armour and foundations like the France-Merrick and Knott organizations.

Another 30 percent of the \$4 million goal may come from the Weinberg Foundation, which would put the center on track to break ground in September. The center has received grant funding from the non-profit in the past and recently applied for funds from the foundation that would cover a large portion of the remaining campaign, according to Green.

"The goal is to be debt-free, so we have to raise all the [funds]. Green said. "If Weinberg, who we have a really good relationship with, funds 30 percent, we'd have about \$700,000 left [to raise]. It's pretty exciting and I definitely think we can do it."

Green says she feels the pressure to succeed because for decades the center's programs have served as a vital resource and catalyst for improving the lives of individuals and families in and around Reservoir Hill.

Among those programs is an eight-week summer youth development pro-



High School Leadership intern Destiny with Executive Director of St. Francis Neighborhood Center, Christi Green. Courtesy Photos



Community Clean up, featuring Center/Community Volunteers, as well as Senator Barbara Robinson (second from left).

gram, which engages youth between ages five and 18 in innovative service projects aimed at alleviating issues affecting the community.

The program is free to youth and families; and runs Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with breakfast, lunch and snacks provided. Children receive customized tutoring and participate in various educational projects.

Green says the goal is to improve pre-to-post assessment scores, behavior, attendance, and to prevent summer learning loss.

The center's summer program costs \$75,000 to run while separate youth development programs have budgets of \$485,000 and \$320,000.

"We have a three-year wait-list for kids to come in because we don't have enough room," Green said. "We've been through a lot here with Freddie Gray, the violence, the drugs, but one thing that's been consistent since 1963 is our presence."

The center's programs have paid dividends. All students in the program are now earning B averages and above and



Lorena, Ryleigh, and Shariah, students in Group 2 of the Center (8-10 years olds) in their cooking club at the after school program, the Power Project

Green and other center officials say that they are beginning to dream and so are their parents.

"We can see the children and the parents striving. Because the kids are doing so well, the parents are excited, and we have two families who are buying their first home and parents are going back to school and moving out of shelters, so cool things are happening, and we've become this model program that's tucked away in the heart of Reservoir Hill," Green said.

Plans for the new structure that will result from the capital campaign include adding classrooms, an art studio, a kitchen, greening projects, multi-purpose space, expanded media lab and library.

Once completed, the center will be equipped to serve more than 200 children in its education programs— an over 100 percent increase in enrollment.

"I feel very honored to work for this neighborhood," Green said. "I feel like it's exceptionally friendly despite the violent crime; [and] nearly 100 percent of the people in the neighborhood want better for the neighborhood."

For more information about the St. Francis Center or to make a donation, visit: www.st.franciscenter.org.

Fifth grade Baltimore City students showcase capstone STEM projects

By Ruth Young Tyler

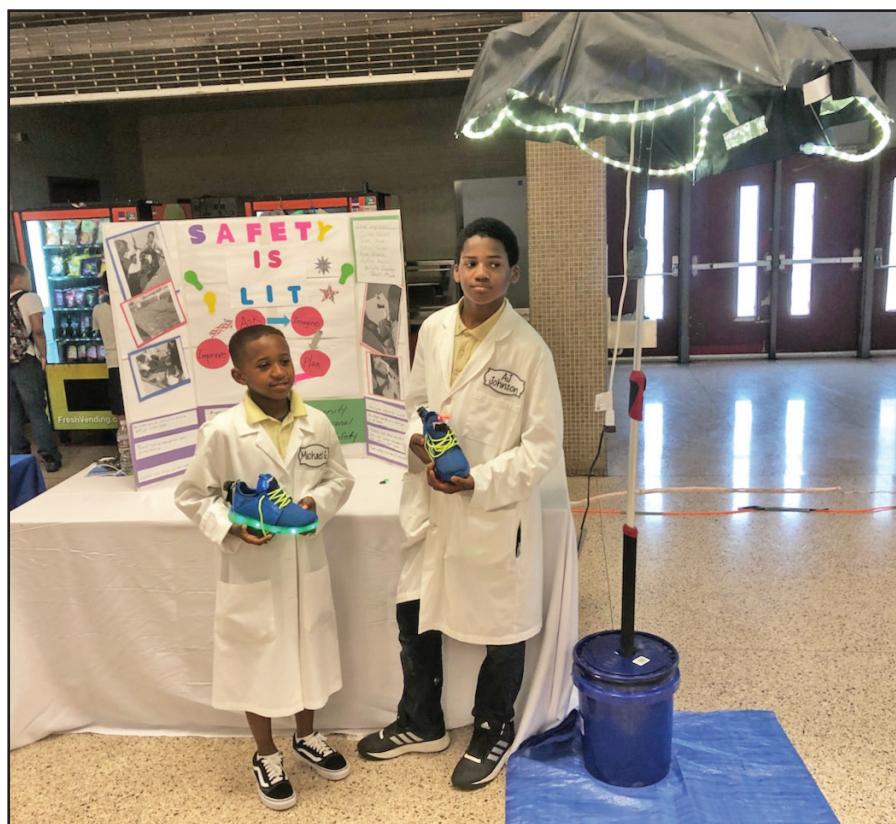
Arlington Elementary School students, Queen Bemah, Tyreek Brown, Michael Green, Amar Johnson and Maikala Manns identified poor lighting as a problem in the community. After five months of research and conducting a community walk-through, they presented their capstone STEM projects at the bi-annual STEM Showcase at Polytechnical Western Institute High School in Baltimore City on May 15, 2018 where more than 400 parents, teachers and supporters attended the event.

In coordination with their STEM facilitator and mentors from Johns Hopkins University, the students participated in a student driven project (SDP), designed to help them identify issues in the neighborhood and to seek out solutions to solve the problems.

The 5th graders participated in an after school STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program at Arlington Elementary School in Baltimore City, which met Monday through Friday for an hour. After months of learning about the engineering design process, the students presented their findings and projects.

The aspiring engineers conducted a community walk-through to identify a problem they could find a solution to. Within a few blocks of the school, they saw a light post that was lying on the ground. It measured 322 inches. They were inspired to focus on community and personal lighting for safety.

During the STEM showcase, students presented their inventions, including a non-falling light fixture, which was



Arlington Elementary School fifth grade students, Michael Green and Amar Johnson presented their projects at the 2018 STEM Showcase at Polytechnical Western Institute High School in Baltimore City on May 15, 2018.

Photo by Ruth Young Tyler

equipped with a collapsible pole, reflective tape and miniature cameras. With a focus on personal lighting, Michael Green enhanced a pair of sneakers with LED lights, fluorescent shoestrings and miniature cameras attached to the back of each shoe. Amar Johnson designed a hooded sweatshirt equipped with reflective tape and a miniature camera.

Many of the students, including those at Arlington Elementary attended previ-

ous STEM events and look forward to the next one. With the advancements of overlapping disciplines, STEM has opened up exciting career fields for elementary school students that were not around 15-20 years ago.

“We recognize the amount of time and support that’s required to spotlight the STEM projects of our SABES students, and we applaud their achievements,” said Alisha N. Sparks, Elementary

School SABES Program Manager at Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering.

STEM Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools (SABES), is a partnership between Baltimore City Public Schools and Johns Hopkins University with the goal of bridging the gap and improving educational outcomes for targeted city schools—Arlington Elementary/Middle School; Barclay Elementary/Middle School; Dallas F. Nicholas Sr. Elementary School; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary/School; Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School (#215); Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School (#237); John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School; Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School; and Pimlico Elementary/Middle School.

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$7.4 million grant to Johns Hopkins University School of Engineering and Education in 2012. The mission of the program focused on a three-prong approach for success: training STEM facilitators and teachers in best practices; to provide students an engaging and interactive curriculum; and to enhance learning in the classroom with after-school programming that shows students how science can impact their lives.

Research suggests that students who participate in STEM programs display more confidence, greater analytical thinking and an increased interest in a STEM career.

“The SABES STEM Showcase is a visual reminder to our students that they can do anything they put their minds to,” said Sparks.

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Baltimore prostate cancer advocate diagnosed with disease

By Stacy M. Brown

As a doctor for over 30 years, Sanford Siegel has done more than care for men stricken with prostate cancer.

For more than a decade, he has spearheaded efforts that have resulted in raising more than \$4 million dollars to fund research, provide free screenings and educate the community about this disease. Now, the fight has become personal for Siegel.

“Each year 225,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Now, I am one of the 225,000. I have prostate cancer. Yes, me. It can happen to anyone,” Dr. Siegel said this week.

The beloved doctor says he has not bothered to question why the deadly disease has now counted him among its victims.

“I spent very little time feeling sorry for myself. My thoughts turned to my family, my community and all of the men and their families that have been touched by prostate cancer,” Siegel said.

Dr. Siegel says he has completed treat-

ment at Chesapeake Urology where he serves as president and CEO and where he has done much of the work in helping those diagnosed. He is also using his unfortunate diagnosis to continue his advocacy to fight and to find a cure for prostate cancer.

“I am more dedicated than ever to increase awareness, to becoming an even stronger advocate for men’s health issues and to raising even money to find a cure,” Siegel said.

Just last year, Dr. Siegel helped raise \$515,000, sparked by an annual Run/Walk event.

Chesapeake Urology’s cancer care program has provided free cancer screenings to over 8,800 men in Maryland and they’ve diagnosed many cancers that saved lives.

Dr. Siegel says Chesapeake’s prostate cancer research scholarship through the Urology Care Foundation of the American Urological Association has been fully funded to \$1.1 million and they now have started a second scholarship to help inspire urologists to publish



Dr. Sanford Siegel
Courtesy Photo

scientific and clinical papers to advance understanding of prostate cancer, genetics and treatment.

This year, during his 2018 Prostate Cancer Challenge Kickoff, Siegel’s goal is to raise \$1 million as he prepares for the 12th annual Prostate Cancer Run/Walk in Baltimore in September.

The beloved doctor’s work hasn’t gone unnoticed.

“He has done a lot in examinations and fundraising with African American fraternities through leadership and significant contributions to improving the health of minorities” said Baltimore Times consultant Ackneil Muldrow II, who is president of Parker Muldrow & Associates. “He stages mas events with African American Fraternities for the betterment of the community through his Chesapeake Urology organization, a leader in this region.”

Dr. Siegel says he is still asking for support for others.

“Now, I have a greater passion and commitment to promote greater awareness, push for earlier screening and continue to raise funds for research and education,” he said. “I will not hide behind my disease. I will use it to make an even bigger impact.”

For more information about the 2018 Prostate Cancer Challenge Kickoff or to make a donation, visit: www.zerobaltimore.org.



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Called to help Baltimore Grow Financially and Spiritually

By Ursula V. Battle

This is Part Two of a Two-Part Series on Ramsey L. Harris, Vice President and Territory CRA Business Advisor in the Retail Lending Distribution Management division at PNC Bank.

Baltimore native Ramsey Harris had taken the advice of his grandfather Bishop Huey L. Harris, Sr., founder of Abundant Life Church in Elkton, Maryland. He had passed on an opportunity to go away to Morehouse College and instead attend Delaware State University. Remaining in close proximity to the elder Harris allowed the younger Harris to be groomed in ministry by his grandfather. It also allowed him to be in the right place at the right time to talk to a PNC Bank recruiter about promising employment opportunities.

Minister Harris would begin a successful career at PNC. However, the day would come when he would be 'called' back to Baltimore.

"My mom got sick," recalled Minister Harris. "I voluntarily made the decision to make sure I came back home to take care of my mother. I asked if I could relocate, and PNC provided me with an opportunity."

After his return to Baltimore, Minister Harris would work with Annie Spain, branch manager of PNC's Charles Village location. Like Harris' grandfather, Spain would also take the young Harris under her wing.

"Annie Spain was my mentor in the banking industry," said Minister Harris. "Meeting her opened up my eyes to the possibilities of climbing the corporate ladder at PNC. She created a career pathway. I attribute my stability in the banking industry to her. She had 30-plus years in banking. She also had insight and knowledge as to what it takes for minorities to be successful in the banking industry. We also shared a commonality in ministry."

Under Spain's tutelage, Harris would take flight up PNC's corporate banking ladder. Over his ten-year tenure with PNC, the 36-year-old has served in positions, which have included branch manager of PNC's Uptown Banking Center,



Minister Harris at his desk at PNC's Charles Village location.

Photo by Ursula V. Battle

and as Business Banker covering branches located in both East and West Baltimore.

As Business Banker, Minister Harris advised business clients with annual revenues of up to \$10 million, prospected and created new PNC customer relationships, and retained and grew existing relationships through implementation of PNC's brand of integrated Cash Flow Optimized solutions.

Harris currently serves as Vice President and Territory CRA Business Advisor in the Retail Lending Distribution Management division at PNC Bank. Harris is responsible for overseeing executing strategic plans that enable the bank to achieve specific Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) focused goals, and measures of lending to businesses located within designated, inner-city/Low-to-

Moderate Income (LMI) geographies.

"It's an opportunity to take what I was doing locally in Baltimore and expand where PNC has presence," said Minister Harris. "I am responsible for that piece of the pie for the East Coast. PNC is looking within those states to lend to small and minority businesses. PNC's approach is to have someone lead that charge."

The University of Delaware graduate currently serves on several boards, which include the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA). He has been a mentor/facilitator for the "Stocks in the Future" Program in conjunction and partnership with Johns Hopkins University's School of Education. He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Harris is now embarking upon the next chapter of his calling and ministry as Pastor/Founder of City Sanctuary™. This

new, evangelistic church in Northeast Baltimore is preparing to launch in 2018 with an emphasis on addressing and alleviating the holistic needs of the community.

"We want to develop ministry that merges my background by establishing an actionable plan to make a difference in the lives of those in Baltimore City," said Minister Harris. "All of what I do has everything to do with uplifting and empowering the community. My main goal is to take my knowledge and skill-set and pour that back into the community. I want to help people become homeowners and successful in business. That is part of my ministerial calling. I am called by God to merge corporate with church."

He added, "That is what is next for me. I believe in this city, I am from this city, and God has something great for me to do here."



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This workshop will be conducted by **Mirlande Jean-Gilles**, Haitian born visual artist, writer and Baltimore resident.



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Saturday, June

30,

1 p.m.

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BCCC Names Interim President

Baltimore—The Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) Board of Trustees has selected Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr., to be the College's interim President effective July 1, 2018.



Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr.
Courtesy Photo

"We are delighted that Dr. Johnson has agreed to serve as interim President for BCCC during this important period of transition. Dr. Johnson is a nationally recognized leader with an exceptional career in higher education. His experience as a proven leader, impeccable track record and commitment to students will be of great service to BCCC," said Kurt L. Schmoke, Chair of the BCCC Board of Trustees and President of the University of Baltimore.

Most recently, Johnson was a visiting professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Morgan State University. In addition, Johnson is a trustee and past chair of the Board of Trustees for Anne Arundel Community College and a past chair of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges that oversees Maryland's 16 community colleges.

Johnson is the past Director of the National Center for Environmental Research for the Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Johnson was a professor of civil engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences at Howard University.

"It is an honor and a responsibility that I accept with great enthusiasm," said Johnson. "I thank the Board of Trustees for their confidence in me and pledge to commit all my efforts to the success of this institution. BCCC represents a beacon of hope for its students and boundless opportunity for the City of Baltimore."

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NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **RP 17823-Catherine/ABC Park Improvements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, August 8, 2018**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **June 22, 2018** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90132 Park Rehabilitation**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **2600 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217 on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are: **Park Rehabilitation**

The MBE goal is **23%**
The WBE goal is **8%**

RP 17823

APPROVED:
Bernice H. Taylor
Director of Public Works

APPROVED:
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Clerk, Board of Estimates

Marylanders reminded to take mosquito precautions at home and while traveling this summer

Baltimore— As mosquito season begins and summer travel plans are solidified, the Maryland Department of Health encourages Marylanders, especially pregnant women or women who are trying to become pregnant, to protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases, predominantly the Zika virus.

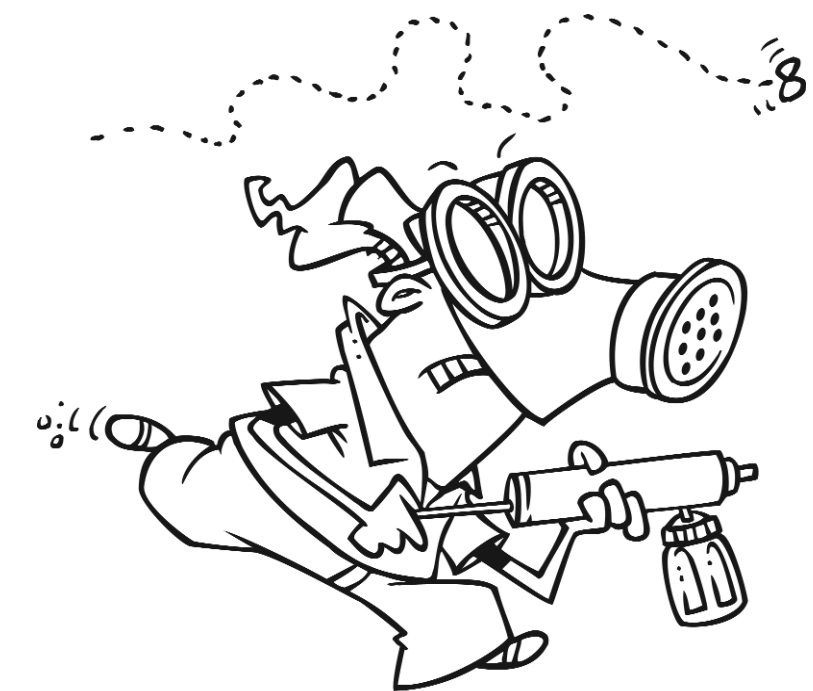
Zika virus is chiefly spread through mosquito bites, though it can also be spread via sexual contact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends pregnant women not travel to areas with risk of Zika, many of which are vacation hotspots during the summer and fall months. No vaccine exists to prevent Zika or its related birth defects. Most individuals infected with Zika virus do not have symptoms or experience only mild symptoms such as fever, rash, headache, joint pain, red eyes, and muscle pain which lasts from several days to a week.

"While we want everyone to have fun on their vacations this summer, we want them to be aware of the risk of Zika when traveling to Zika-affected areas," said Maryland Department of Health Public Health Services Deputy Secretary Howard Haft, MD. "Pregnant women and those trying to conceive should talk to their health care provider about any risks before they travel."

Pregnant women should refrain from traveling to areas with risk of Zika. Women who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant and have either traveled to or are considering traveling to an area with risk of Zika should contact their health care provider.

Sexual transmission guidance for both men and women has been updated by the CDC. If a male partner has traveled to an area with risk of Zika, the couple should consider using condoms or abstain from sex for at least six months. If only the female partner has traveled to an area with risk of Zika, the couple should consider using condoms or abstain from sex for at least eight weeks.

When traveling to countries where Zika virus or other viruses spread by mosquitoes are found, travelers are advised to take the following steps:



- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
 - Stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
 - Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are overseas or outside and are not able to protect yourself from mosquito bites.
 - Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
 - Always follow the product label instructions.
 - Reapply insect repellent as directed.
 - Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.
 - If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent.
 - Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated items. Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See product information to learn how long the protection will last.
 - If treating items yourself follow the product instructions carefully.
 - Do NOT use permethrin products directly on skin. They are intended to treat clothing.
- More than 5,500 symptomatic cases of

Zika virus occurred in the U.S. and more than 37,000 symptomatic cases occurred in the U.S. Territories, according to the CDC. Maryland has reported 247 confirmed and probable cases of Zika virus as of May 30, 2018, and all of them were attributed to travel. As part of that surveillance, the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry (USZPR) collected information on more than 2,400 pregnancies with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection, including 128 pregnancies from Maryland residents.

Recent findings from this data show that Zika virus can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus and that infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly—a birth defect characterized by smaller heads and underdeveloped brains in newborns— and several fetal brain defects. Currently, however, the full range of health effects in infants from Zika virus infection is unknown, making continued surveillance important. This is of particular concern for newborns without notable defects at birth that may exhibit Zika associated developmental delays later in early childhood.

To learn more, visit: zika.maryland.gov. For more CDC information on avoiding Zika infection during travel, visit <http://goo.gl/IgHuWC>.

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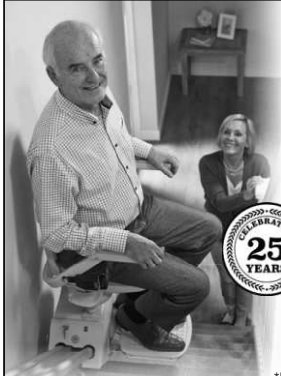


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