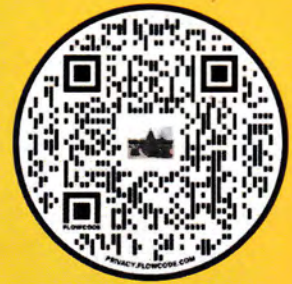


CELEBRATING FREEDOM

JUNE 19, 1865



ENCOURAGING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



JUNETEENTH

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

LINKING THE FUTURE

JOHN G. LANCASTER PARK – 21550 WILLOWS ROAD
LEXINGTON PARK, MD 20653

UNIFIED COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS (UCAC)

PO BOX 1457 LEXINGTON PARK MD 20653

UCACONLINE.ORG * FACEBOOK.COM/UCACSMC

COVER DESIGNED BY JESSE GREENWELL, UCAC MEMBER

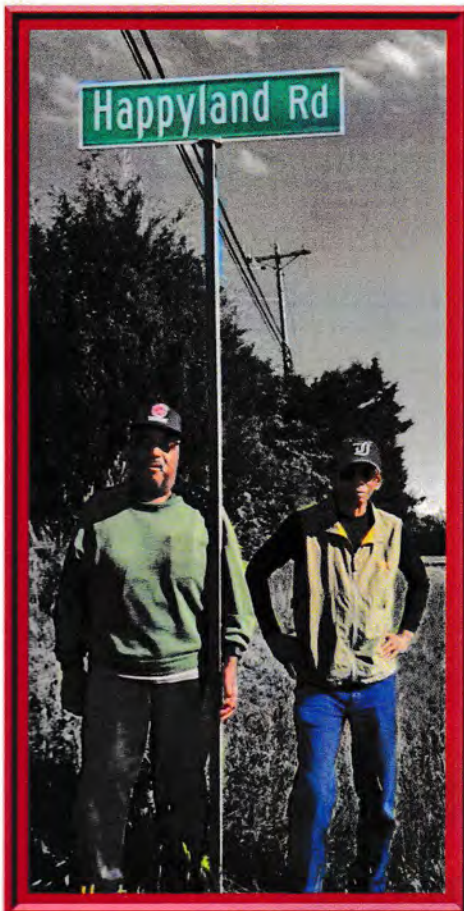


IN MEMORY OF THE FOUNDER

Mr. Elmer Brown is revered for outstanding, praiseworthy and dedicated services and the visionary and founder of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) in 1995. Under his leadership as the founder of the organization and through his inspiration and hard work for the African American Monument of St. Mary's County was established to commemorate the significant contributions of African Americans to the history and development of St. Mary's County. The monument was dedicated on July 29, 2000 and is located in the "Elmer Brown" Freedom Park, re-named in your honor at the 11th annual "Juneteenth" celebration in St. Mary's County on June 21, 2014.

"We must never ever give up, we must never ever give in, we must keep the faith, and keep our eyes on the prize."

— John Lewis



In their quest to hold on to a legacy, these first cousins and U.S. Marine Corps veterans, Bernard Thompson (left) and Jimmy Thompson (right), presented community letters, signed petitions, and their own testimonies to the St. Mary's County Commissioners in 2002. They successfully fought to retain the name Happyland Road referred to as "the back road" until 1946. Happyland Road was named for Happyland Club, previously located on the hill at the corner of Route 249 and Happyland Road.

Jimmy and Bernard researched the history and told the background of a beacon on a hill to those who didn't understand or acknowledge that Happyland Club, during its heyday, served the community needs and wants of people judged by the color of their skin. Happyland Club was a grocery store, a barber shop, a no-interest bank, a clothing store, a fast food restaurant, a gas station, a candy store, a community center, an entertainment and sports center, a home rental place, and so much more. It was, basically, a one stop shop to the people that walked through its doors shaking off the troubles of the outside world.

The Thompson Family Corporation, like UCAC, believes that you must continue to champion the legacy and history of the past so that it won't be forgotten in the future.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

As President of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), it is my honor to welcome you to our 20th Annual Juneteenth celebration. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

One June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into law a measure establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day. This recognition culminated in the first new federal holiday established since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was introduced in 1983. The theme of this year's celebration is Encouraging a Brighter Future. The celebration of Juneteenth today is important because it helps initiate difficult conversations and raises awareness about our country's complicated and tragic history of slavery and racial injustice.

It is immensely important to remember the difficulties of fighting and securing even the smallest measures of freedom. Juneteenth has become a symbol for emancipation and provides a highly visible celebration that addresses these difficult conversations of American racial history.

I encourage you to visit our African American Monument at Elmer Brown Freedom Park, The United States Colored Troops Memorial (USCT) at Lancaster Park, and the Interpretive Center for very informative discussions and displays which are all a part of UCAC.

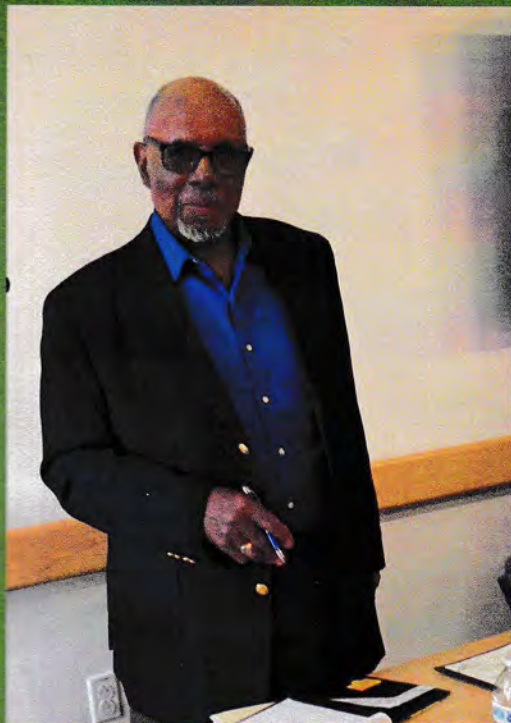
Thank you for joining UCAC on this beautiful day in this great celebration.

Be sure to stop by the UCAC table for information about us and how to become a member.

Blessings,

Nathaniel W. Lawrence, Sr.

President



It's as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3 !

1



2

Select Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions as your Charity



3

Shop!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH ONLINE SHOPPING

Another way you can support documenting and increasing the understanding of and fostering African American Contributions to history by connecting your existing Amazon account to Amazon Smile and choosing to support Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC).

For every purchase you make through Amazon 0.5% of your total purchase will go towards UCAC.

Thank you!

Cedar Lane

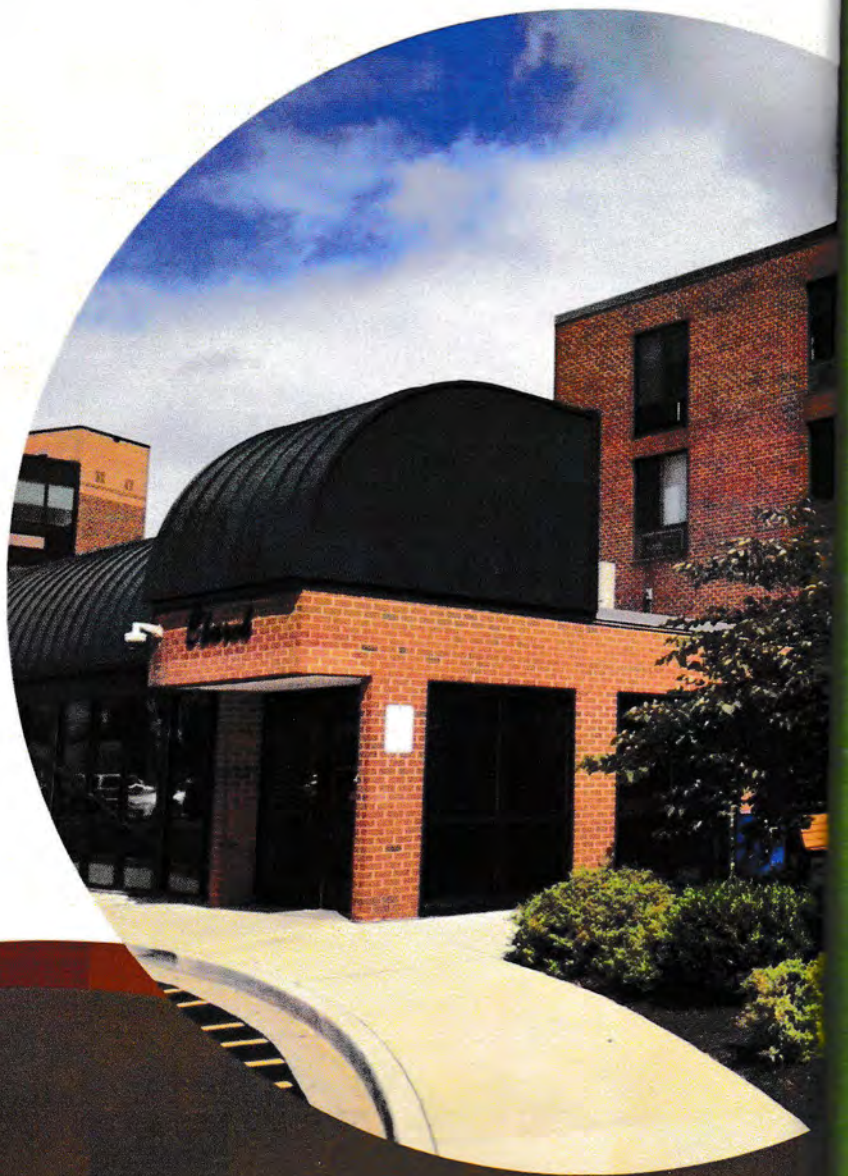
Senior Living Community

**HOUSING YOU
CAN AFFORD.**

**A COMMUNITY
YOU WILL LOVE.**

FEATURES

- ✓ 24/7 Reception Desk
- ✓ Activities Program
- ✓ General Store and Hair Salon
- ✓ Service Coordination
- ✓ HUD rental assistance

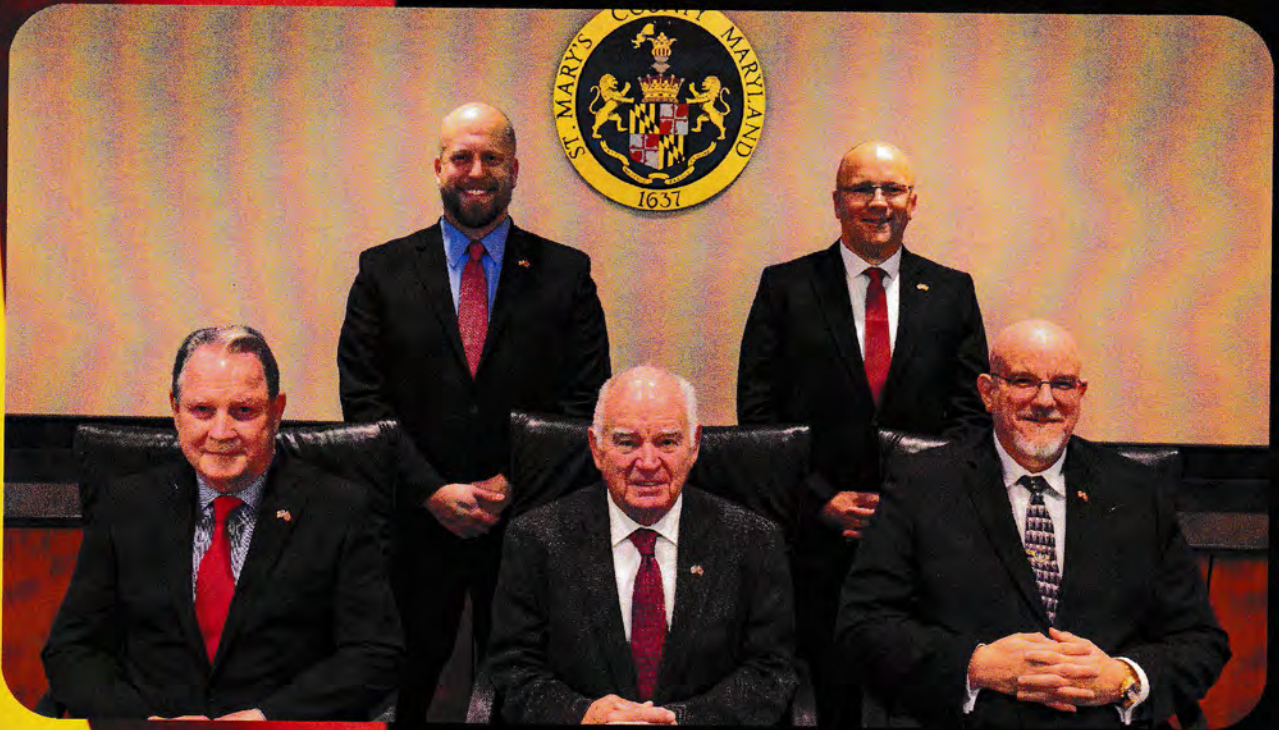


CEDAR LANE Senior Living Community



Call us: 301-475-8966
www.cedar-lane.org
22680 Cedar Lane Court
Leonardtown, MD

The Commissioners of
St. Mary's County extend a
heartfelt and enthusiastic
congratulations to the Unified
Committee for Afro-American
Contributions for the 2024
Juneteenth Celebration!



Commissioners, pictured from left to right:

Michael L. Hewitt, District 2

Eric Colvin, District 1

James R. Guy, President

Mike Alderson, Jr., District 3

Scott R. Ostrow, District 4

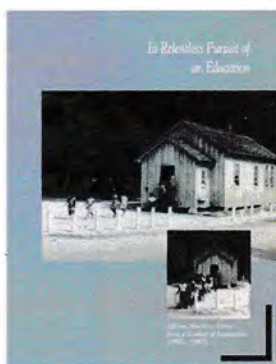
stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc

Encouraging a Brighter Future

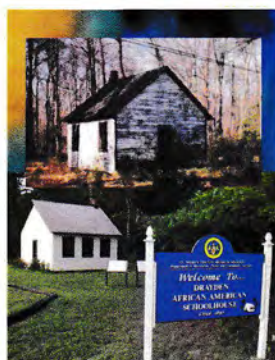
Celebrating 20 Years of contributions of African Americans to the history and development of St. Mary's County



Erecting the United States Colored Troops Memorial Monument (USCT) (Lancaster Park)



Publishing the book *Relentless Pursuit of an Education* to document the relentless struggle of education for African Americans (2006).



Conducting tours of the historic African American one-room schoolhouse in Drayden.



Erecting the African American Monument of St. Mary's County (Tulagi Place)



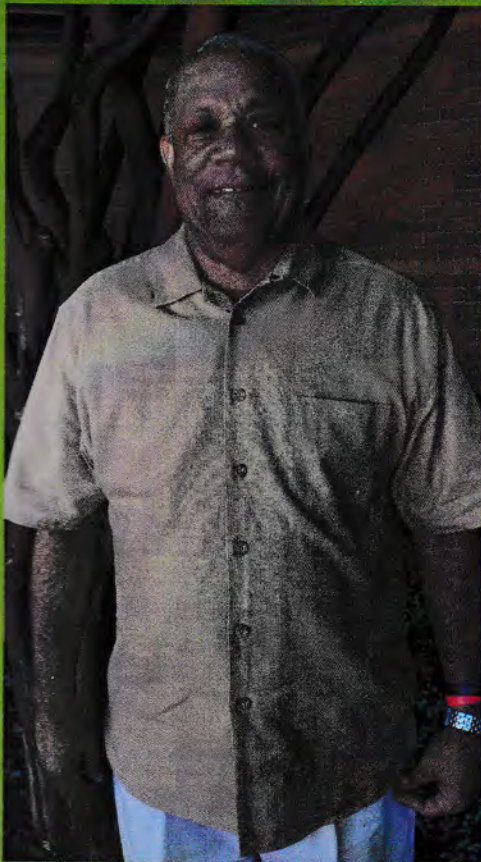
Proposing the "Three Heroes Memorial."



Documenting African American history in St. Mary's County (Oral History Project).



Providing meaningful exhibits and workshops at the USCT Interpretive Center to tell the African American Story.



FROM THE JUNETEENTH CHAIRMAN DESK

"Imagine a future where Black history, Native American history, Jewish history, and all of U.S. history are taught from a single book - just U.S. history." - Maya Angelou

Greetings from the Chair of the Juneteenth Committee,

Welcome to UCAC's 20th annual Juneteenth Celebration in Lexington Park! As we mark this momentous occasion in 2024, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported us over the years, making this celebration possible. Our Juneteenth event was among the first in the state of Maryland, and we are honored to have you join us today.

While you are here, we encourage you to connect with someone new and commit to being an agent of positive change in our community, county, and state. Our theme for this year is **"Encouraging a Brighter Future,"** reflecting our mission at the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contribution (UCAC) to preserve and celebrate the history of Afro-Americans in St. Mary's County.

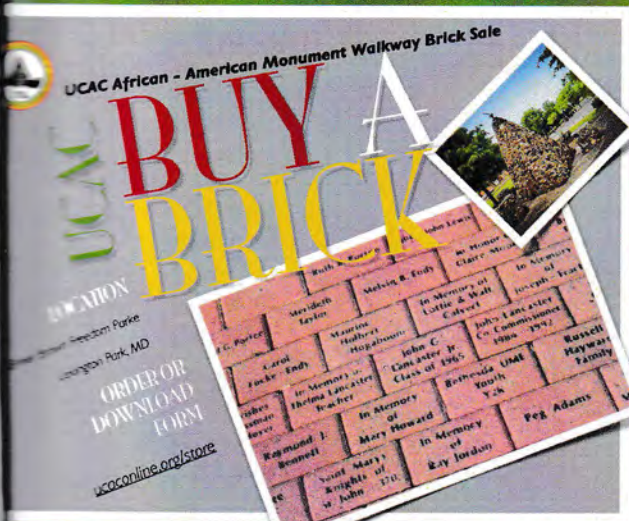
In today's world, it is vital to envision and work towards a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. We take this opportunity to honor the School Board and the Sheriff Department for their invaluable contributions to our community. Don't miss the chance to visit the Interpretative Center, USCT memorial, and the African American Monument during your time here.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful celebration. Let us come together to inspire hope, promote unity, and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

Warm regards,

Mike Brown

Committee Chair



2024 Juneteenth Events

Main Stage

DJ: Godfather - Roy Johnson

12 noon: Master of Ceremony: Dr. Dereck Rovaris

Presentation of Colors: Great Mills High School Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps

Invocation: Reverend Irvin Beverly Bethesda United Methodist Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Brielle Moffett, Green Holly Elementary Student

National Anthem: Allie Valmonte, St. Mary's Ryken Student

Welcome: Nathaniel Lawrence, President of Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions

History of Juneteenth: Reading of the Emancipation proclamation, Diane Thomas

Remarks & Proclamations:

Proclamations SMC Commissioners

Todd Morgan, Maryland Delegate

Presentations of Honorees: President Nathaniel Lawrence

Beatrice Ellis

William Greene

Tyrone Harris

Cpl. Andrew Holton

Timothy Smith

SMC Board of Education

SMC Sheriff Office

1:30pm: Presentation by "Ms. Story Living History" Shemika Renée

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing by Adrian Halton

Walk over to the wreath laying ceremony at the USCT Memorial

2:30pm: Gospel Time: Men's Choir of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

3:30pm: Music by: DJ Roy Johnson (get up and dance)

4:30-5:15pm: Entertainment: Soul in Motion African Dancers and Drummers

5:30pm-7pm: SIXX Sermon and Guest and Special Guest Shuga Shang

2024 Juneteenth Events Interpretive Center

Schedule & Activities

Unified Committee for Afro- American Contributions (UCAC)

(Open House)

Saturday, June 15, 2024 | 1-5pm

Exhibits - Presentations - Book Sales - Souvenirs - Cooling Station

1:30 -1:45 - Wreath Laying at the United States Colored Troops (USCT) Memorial Monument in Lancaster Park Conducted by Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Sgt. James H. Harris Camp #38 in honor of USCT and all Union soldiers and sailors from St. Mary's County who fought for Freedom in the Civil War. (Audience to process to the Wreath Laying from the Main Stage)

1:45 - Until Supplies Last - Juneteenth Crafts with "Miss Darlene Barnes and Miss Sandy"

Come enjoy making a variety of crafts that depict African American history and culture. (In the center and under the pavilion)

Near the center

1:30 - 3:30

- **Pony Rides**
- **Face Painting**
- **Bubble Balooza**

1:45: 2:15 - "The History of Lexington Manor (Flat Tops)" including a "Special Recognition of "Carver Heights". Presenter: Ms. Elizabeth Matthews, Archivist - St. Mary's County Historical Society"

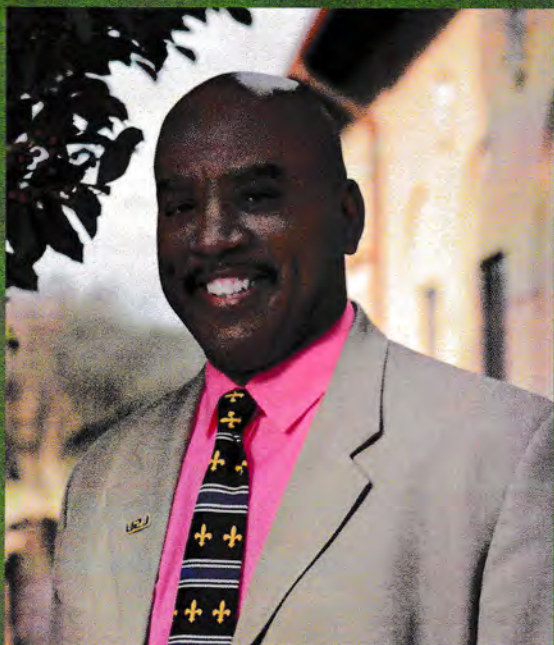
Find Out about the history of Lexington Manor a housing development built for White people in the 1940s to accommodate the families moving in the area whose jobs were connected to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Lexington Park, Md. Near the base but farther from the main gate the Carver Heights Project development was constructed for Black people, many who also worked at the Naval Air Station. These developments had the same architectural design and similar street scape.

2:15-3:00 - Genealogy Workshop - Learn How to Trace Your Family Roots. Presenters: Ms. Elizabeth Matthews and Ms. Karen Wood (Volunteer)

St. Mary's County Historical Society - Trace your lineage. Learn how to find your ancestors and the generations of your family that have been built throughout the years.

3:30-4:00 - Shemika Renee' - Hear more stories from Ms. Story's Living History

Shemika Renee will continue with more story telling in her portrayal of Ms. Story, an eccentric bookstore owner who brings history to life. She tells the stories of people and their relationships, some of which may surprise you. Come meet women from the past, some famous (like Harriet Tubman or Sojourner Truth), others not so much, but all important because they lived.



Since May 2022, Dr. Dereck J. Rovaris, Sr., has served as the inaugural Vice President for Equity and Strategic Initiatives at St. Mary's College of Maryland. This Executive Cabinet role is responsible for leading all the College's inclusive diversity initiatives, programs, and directives. He is the former Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Lead Diversity Officer at Louisiana State University. Serving in that role from 2014-2021, he was a principal advisor to the president and provost as well as the campus community on matters involving equity, diversity and inclusion. Five of his last 6 years there witnessed record numbers of underrepresented students in each of the entering freshmen classes as well as record numbers of graduates who were students of color, first generation and Pell eligible students in each of those six graduating classes.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Dereck J. Rovaris, Sr.

Rovaris's career in higher education included 25 years of service at Xavier University of Louisiana where he directed several nationally recognized student programs. He has a number of publications on graduate school placement and diversity as well as a book on the legendary Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. Dr. Rovaris has served as an educational consultant, conducted workshops, and been a featured speaker on the local, national, and international level. He recently received the W.E.B. DuBois Award for higher education from the National Alliance for Black School Educators

He has served and continues to serve on a variety of educational and non-profit boards including the Board of the University of Holy Cross, the Board of Notre Dame Seminary, the Council of Fellows Board for the American Council on Education, the Subcommittee on Higher Education of 100 Black Men of America, Inc., and served as national President for the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education. He earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Illinois, an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Xavier University of LA, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas with a triple major in Psychology; Human Development and Family Life; and Crime and Delinquency Studies. This son of New Orleans is happily married to Angela and together they share six adult children and their spouses, as well as nine amazing grandchildren.

ENTERTAINMENT

MS. STORY'S LIVING HISTORY Shemika Renée Berry

Shemika Renée Berry is an award winning makeup artist, award nominated actress, and costumer who has been in her creative field for 20 years. She has been on stage throughout SoMD and the Washington DC metro area.

Merging her acting, makeup and costuming skills with her love for history, storytelling and educating people, she began working at her children's schools telling the stories of historical figures in first person narrative, dressed as the historical figure. She brings history to life and makes it more accessible to her audiences. Over the last 20 years she has performed in schools, churches, and senior centers. In 2019 she portrayed Harriet Tubman at the Capitol Building in honor of Harriet Tubman Day, sponsored by now Vice President Kamala Harris. That same year she created, copyrighted, and starred in her own one woman show, "Ms. Story's Living History", which she brought back to the stage in Prince George's and Charles Counties in 2024.



PHILLIS WHEATLEY



CATE SHARPER



ELIZABETH KECKLEY



HARRIET TUBMAN



CATHAY WILLIAMS



BESSIE COLEMAN



MAHALIA JACKSON



MS. STORY

MS. STORY'S LIVING HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT

SOUL IN MOTION



Soul In Motion, founded by percussionist Michael Friend, is celebrating 40 years in the Arts. For approximately 4 decades, Soul In Motion has been committed to sharing the beauty and richness of the African-American culture through African Dance and Drum with diverse audiences. The ensemble is the proud recipient of the 2023 Maryland State Arts Council Heritage Award and the prestigious Creativity Award. Soul In Motion is honored to be returning once again to the St. Mary's County UCAC 20th Juneteenth Celebration.

SIXX SERMON



"SIXX" Sermon Sings A Tribute to the music of Smokey Lead vocalist, SIXX, is certainly no stranger to the stage. He has been singing and performing onstage for over twenty-five years. With his smooth tenor voice and impeccable harmony his musical sound is similar to that of the Smokey Robinson. The tribute contains hits from Smokey & the Miracles and his solo career. He began working on putting his own Smokey Tribute together selectively hand picking talented musicians to honor the soulful sounds of Smokey. He singing styles include Classic R&B, Funk and Standards with a natural born ear for harmonies. One of his favorite genres include Old School Motown, classic R&B and big band sounds paying Tribute to the Award Winning Smokey Robinson.

"All rights reserved"!

ENTERTAINMENT

ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR



ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR

Under the Minister of Music, Roy Johnson, the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church Men's Choir has sung its way into the hearts of the parishioners and the community for over 20 years. "Small, but mighty," the Men's Choir obviously love the Lord, have great soloists, and demonstrate a passion for singing, which have together resulted in them being a requested guest choir for a number of churches and community organizations. The goal of these men is to, one day, sing as part of the "Heavenly Choir." For the parishioners, this choir brings heaven to earth every 4th Sunday of the month!

JUNETEENTH

WORD SEARCH

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| R | R | A | H | K | Q | B | V | Z | Z | O | B | L | A | C | K | M | A | S | K |
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African
Brown
Elmer
Galveston
Lancaster
Live
Slavery
Texas
Union

American
Cannon
Emancipation
Granger
Lexington
Maryland
Slavery
Unified
war

Find the words above in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction.
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

JUNETEENTH HONOREE

Ms. Beatrice Wingate Ellis



(1935-2023)

Loved, Appreciated and Admired Educator

**Provided Skills and Job Opportunities for St. Mary's County Students
During the Era of Segregation and Beyond**

Beatrice Wingate Ellis graduated from a Historically Black University, North Carolina Central during the era of segregation in 1957 and started her teaching career in St. Mary's County Public Schools at Benjamin Banneker High School, the first high schools for African American students in St. Mary's County. Two years later she transferred to George Washington Carver High School, the high school for African Americans in the southern part of the county and taught Business Education.

During her years at Carver, she was responsible for the success of many African American students. Under her tutelage they were provided the opportunity to take the Civil Service test and receive General Schedule (GS) pay scale ratings for jobs being offered in the federal government. Many students passed the test and had successful careers working in Washington, D.C. and in St. Mary's county at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

After the full desegregation of schools in the county in 1967, Mrs. Ellis was transferred to Great Mills High School where she continued to teach Business Education and was appointed chair of the business department. She worked with Leonardtown and Chopticon high school business education staff to facilitate the testing program for Civil Service employment in all county high schools. Mrs. Ellis retired from St. Mary's County Public Schools in 1993.

Mrs. Ellis was a loving wife, preceded in death by her husband Charles Ellis, five loving daughters, three grandchildren, four great-grands!

May God continue to Rest her beautiful soul!

Mr. William Greene



William Greene was born on May 22, 1944. He attended St. Peter Claver School and then matriculated to Cardinal Gibbons High School where he graduated. Later he attended Wheeling Jesuit University where he attained his bachelor's degree in political science. He then went on to American University and the University of Maryland where he studied Vocational Counseling. Later he enlisted in the United States Navy where he studied operational intelligence aboard the Naval carrier, USS Boxer.

Before beginning his career with the State of Maryland and before he married, Mr. Greene taught at the then newly integrated Park Hall Elementary School.

After the military, Mr. Greene managed the State of Maryland Unemployment Insurance Office and the Maryland Job Service which included the WIN Program, the JTPA program, and the Private Industry Council. Mr. Greene returned to work in St. Mary's County after retiring from State service.

His second career began as a Route Supervisor for the Enterprise and a case manager for the St. Mary's County Human Relations Authority as well as with United Cerebral Palsy offices. During his career, Mr. Greene remained active in his community through the NAACP, UCAC, Jolly Gents, Board of Education, Human Relations Committee, Bethesda United Methodist Men's Ministry, the Community Affairs Committee and Lott Enterprises, INC. Of all the civil rights activities he has participated in and lived through the Drayden School project was near to Mr. Greene's heart as his older siblings attended that school and he assisted with keeping it open for the public on the weekends. Mr. Greene now lives at home where he manages his apartments.

JUNETEENTH HONOREE

Mr. Marcus Tyrone Harris Sr.



St. Mary's County native, Great Mills High School graduate in 1972. He was a Hall of Fame athlete. Tyrone received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Concord College and he also received a second Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland.

He was a St. Mary's County Government employee for over 30 years. Tyrone worked tirelessly for Recreation and Parks as coordinator of Park Operations at Chancellor's Run Regional Park, where his motto was "don't drive on my grass and don't mess up my fields." Chancellor Run Park is also the home of the St. Mary's County Teen Center. The Teen Center was known for partnerships of community and youth through education, enforcement and awareness to encourage youth against future involvement with at risk behaviors by providing safe spaces and opportunities. Due to Tyrone's passion and commitment, Chancellor's Run is the flagship park of St. Mary's County. Tyrone was admired for his kindness, humility and generosity. This is why Tyrone is the recipient of our Community Service Award.

Corporal Holton



Corporal Holton graduated from Chopticon HS in 1976. Graduated from the PG Police Academy in September 1979. He began working for the St. Mary's County Sheriff Department. Deputy Holton worked the Patrol Division until 1997. Upon which time Cpl. Holton transferred to Special Operation Division. Then he worked Community Police and Resource Officer at Great Mills HS and Chopticon HS. In 2019 Cpl. Holton was transferred to Warrants/Child Support Division.

He has worked with numerous community organization. Cpl. Holton has been awarded numerous awards also, like the Box Harris Award, the Youth Investment Award for the Young Marines, the Child Welfare Day Award, also, received the Excellence Minority Achievement Award from the Maryland State Department of Education, Meritorious Service Award from the Sheriff's Office, Deputy of the Year (2) times. In 2001 Cpl. Holton was appointed to the Governor's Task Force to Study the health care needs of inmates in transition from correctional institutions.

There are many more awards and citations that Cpl. Holton has received over his 37 years of service. Thank you, Cpl. Holton.

JUNETEENTH HONOREE

Mr. Timothy Wayne Smith



"Tim" was born and raised in St. Mary's County, Maryland, graduating in 1977 from Great Mills High School where he played football. He is the father of two sons and grandfather of three. He is a long-time member of Bethesda United Methodist Church, Valley Lee, MD, where he helps to keep up the grounds. His entrepreneurial spirit emerged early, inherited from his dad Clarence C. Smith who drove a truck and owned his own business, Smith's Lawn Mower Repair. Tim enjoyed riding in his dad's truck with him and recognized he wanted to become a trucker and someday own his own business. Following graduation, he worked for a trucking company in Leonardtown, MD, and, in 1990 at the age of 25, he purchased an 18-wheeler and started his business TW Smith Truck Repair.

Tim's parents imparted in him and his six siblings at an early age the need to give back to others and inspired Tim's community service. Since 2018, he has volunteered as a docent for the month of July at Drayden Schoolhouse, a one-room school house built in 1890 for African American children, which was attended by his dad. He and his family also make themselves available to help out with the schoolhouse whenever needed. They participated in the filming of a Chanel 2 News Special "You cannot erase history": Preserved schoolhouse serves as community Pillar" by Rushaad Hayward.

In addition to his contribution as a docent at Drayden Schoolhouse and his service to his church, Tim

Tim truly enjoys helping people whenever and wherever he is able, following the Helen Keller adage - "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".) He and his family are thankful for the recognition today and plan to continue to contribute and be of service to UCAC and the wider community.

Minority Outreach Coalition



St. Marys County

JUNETEENTH COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREES

St Mary's County Board of Education



The UCAC Board and Committee decided this year that two agencies needing to be honored and recognized for their importance in our community.

These two agencies are the reason we titled this years Juneteenth:

Encouraging a Brighter Future

First is the **St Mary's County Board of Education**. We know that our society need to have the next generation of our children educated. So, we want to recognize the Superintendent, the elected Board members, administration, teachers, counselors, custodians, cafeteria workers and school bus drivers. We Thank you.

St. Mary's County Sheriff Department, We thank the Sheriff, administration, all of the patrol officers and Community policing officers. You keep all of safe, and we appreciate the job you do every day. We pray that you are safe doing your job.

St. Mary's County Sheriff Department





Mission Statement

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions mission is to document, increase understanding of, and foster African American contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County while advocating for improvements in health, education and community building for all citizens of St. Mary's County

UNIFIED COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS

2024 Executive Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President | Nathaniel Lawrence |
| Vice President | Teri Branch |
| Secretary | Emily Lewis |
| Treasurer | Darryl Holland |

2024 Board of Directors

Michael Brown
Nathaniel Griffin
Jeanette Pettit
Jeanne Pirtle
Clarissa Stripling
Dorothy Waters
Emily Lewis
Darryl Holland
Alma Jordan
Anna Moseley
Merideth Taylor
Dr. Janice T. Walthour
Terri Branch
Linda Thomas

We also thank those who assisted throughout the planning process and the countless hours spent putting this event together. We truly thank you for the top of our hearts.

2024 Juneteenth Committee

Mike Brown
Cheryl Brown
Sandra Johnson
Emily Lewis
Alma Jordan
Nathaniel Lawrence
Dorothy Waters
Inez Brothers
Rose Thomas
Darryl Holland
Anna Moseley
Ginger Newman-Askew
Jesse Greenwell
Linda Thomas
Diane Thomas
Nicole Glover Wright
David Wilson
Michelle Brown
Sherita Gray
Marvin Gray
Sheila Milburn
Agnes Fenwick
Irvin Beverly
Dee Poole
Delora Crafton
Jeanette Pettit
Joi Lowe
Clarissa Stripling
Conelius Stripling



THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another, is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another, is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or neither of these version could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. For whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

General Order Number 3

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom.

North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove the some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Juneteenth is one of a number of "Freedom Day": celebrations commemorating the signing of Emancipation of Proclamation on January 1, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln which freed the slaves in the Confederate States but not in the Union State of Maryland.

On November 1, 1864, slavery was abolished in Maryland through the third state constitution which made special provisions in the field to allow the soldiers to vote.

Juneteenth celebrates the notification of the last slaves in Galveston, Texas by General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865 two and a half years after the Emancipation of Proclamation was signed.

As we celebrate Juneteenth as a national Holiday lets us recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice in our community as we move forward while also remembering our past.

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Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions

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The Frederick and Jordan Families Fund provides grants to non-profit organizations supportive of African American communities in the San Francisco Bay area, the Washington DC area and St. Mary's County, MD. Since the 1990's, the Fund has donated to science and technology programs, after-school programs, soup kitchens and many other causes to uplift the Black community. Our Board members are descendants of St. Mary's County's John and Lena Frederick and Lewis and Rosa Jordan:

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Please help us to continue our efforts! Tax deductible donations can be made payable to the San Francisco Foundation, with a notation on the memo line that it is for the Frederick and Jordan Families Fund. Mail your check to the San Francisco Foundation, P.O. Box 889275, Los Angeles, CA 90088-9275.

For further information, please email Monica Jordan at mojo73@verizon.net.

Thank you!

A CHAMPION OF VOTING RIGHTS

Honoring Fannie Lou Hamer



As we gather to celebrate Juneteenth, a day symbolizing freedom and progress, we honor the indomitable spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer, whose tireless advocacy for voting rights resonates strongly in this election year. Born into poverty as the twentieth child in a family of sharecroppers in Mississippi in 1917, Hamer's early life was marked by hardship and racial injustice. Despite these challenges, she emerged as a formidable force in the civil rights movement, dedicated to ensuring that all African Americans could exercise their hard-won right to vote.

Hamer's journey as a civil rights activist began in the summer of 1962 when she attended a meeting led by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and decided to dedicate her life to the fight for African American voting rights. Her attempt to register to vote later that year led to her being harassed, shot at, fired from her job, and evicted from her home, but it did not deter her. Instead, it fueled her commitment to change.

In 1964, Hamer co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), challenging the legitimacy of Mississippi's all-white delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Her televised testimony at the convention brought national attention to the civil rights struggle. Hamer shared harrowing accounts of the violence and discrimination African Americans faced, famously declaring, "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Hamer's advocacy went beyond speeches. She organized and led voter registration drives, educated African Americans on their voting rights, and relentlessly challenged discriminatory practices. Her efforts were pivotal in the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark achievement in the civil rights movement.

Fannie Lou Hamer's legacy is a beacon of courage and resilience. Her life reminds us of the power of voice and vote in the quest for equality. In this election year, let us honor Fannie Lou Hamer by participating in the democratic process and continuing the advocate for justice and equality that she championed.



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Membership

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UCAC relies on private donations, membership dues, Juneteenth proceeds, and grants to continue to make capital improvements and provide educational opportunities that increase understanding of and foster African American contributions to history. Meeting this undertaking requires an active community of supporters. As a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization, we depend on the generosity of our members for this essential funding. Thank you!

What We Do

Research and prepare archives for preservation to identify descendants of African-Americans who have made a significant contribution to St. Mary's County.

Conduct and record oral history interviews to include; transcribing, and editing audio and/or video tapes; indexing tapes, videos and transcriptions.

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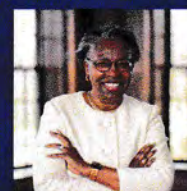
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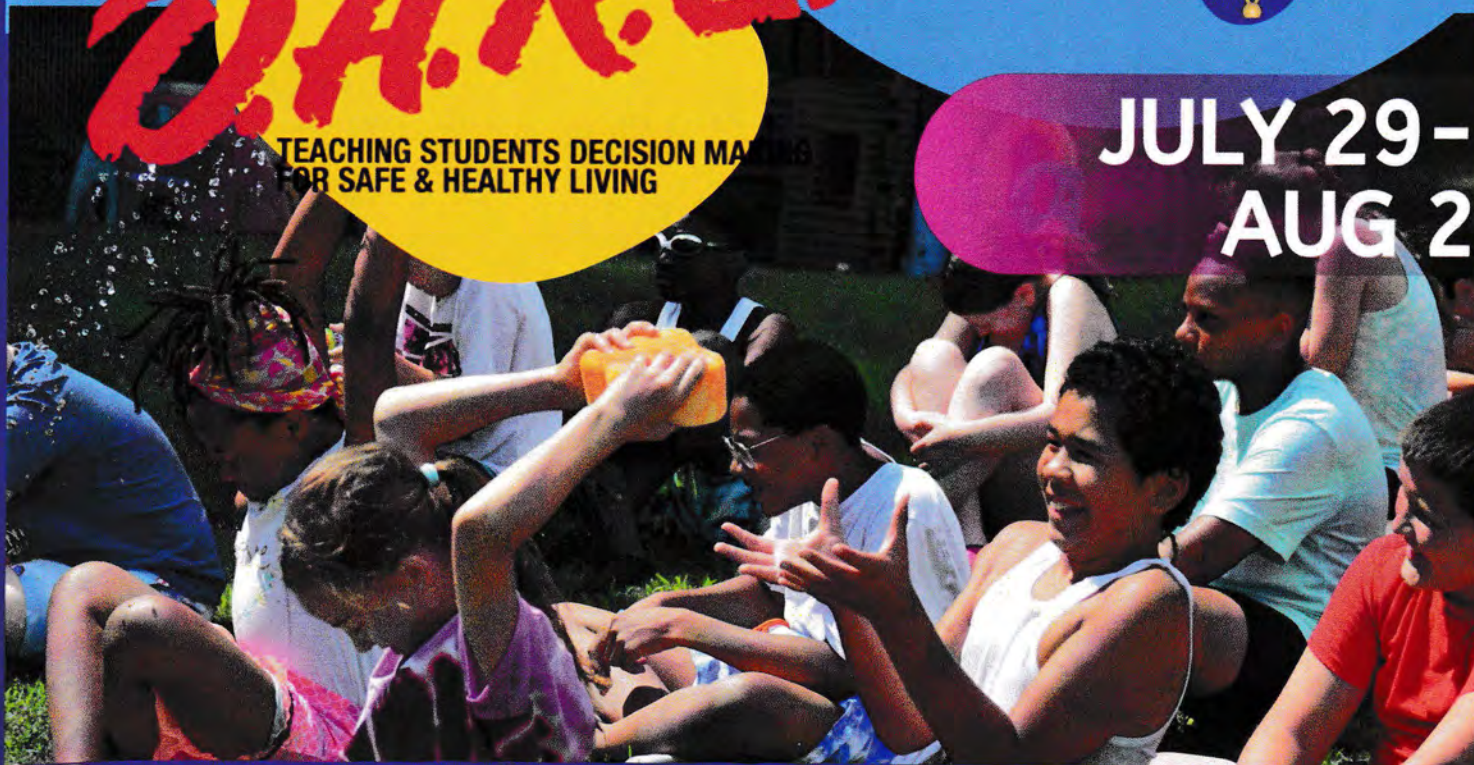
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The Cherry Cove Group, the premier provider of hotel lodging in Southern Maryland represented by the Fairfield Inn by Marriott, the Hampton Inn, the Hilton Garden Inn & Home2 Suites by Hilton and the Quality Inn by Choice is proud to contribute to the continuing success of the Juneteenth Festival.

Founded in 1977 under the vision, leadership and entrepreneurial spirit of Mr. Tom Waring, Cherry Cove is a regional leader in the delivery of hospitality, and property management services. Its properties are in Calvert, St. Mary's and Hartford counties, Baltimore City and West Palm Beach, Florida, with corporate offices located in Lexington Park.

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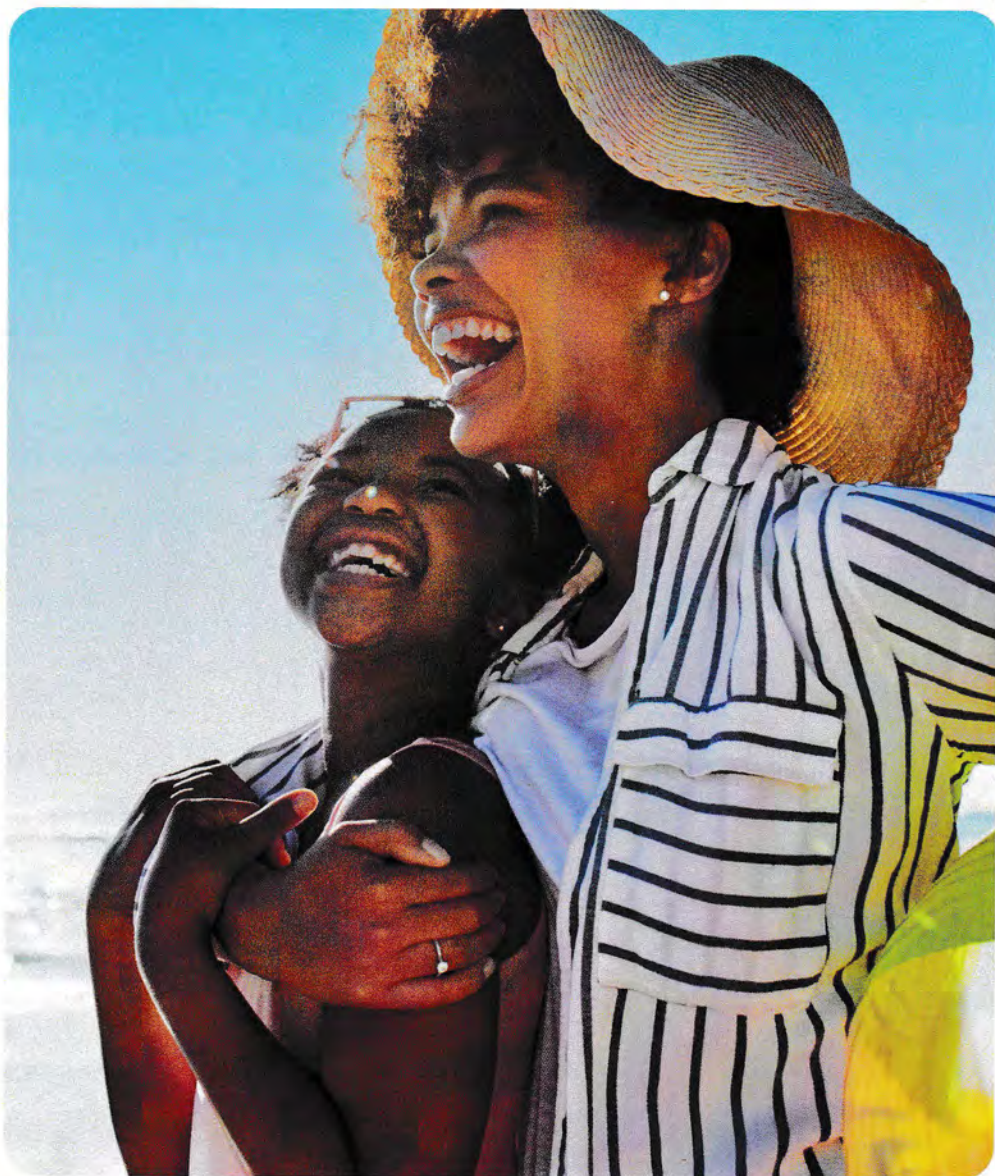
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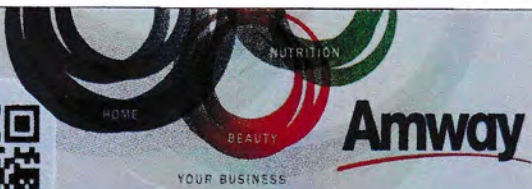

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For further information on Fidelity #60
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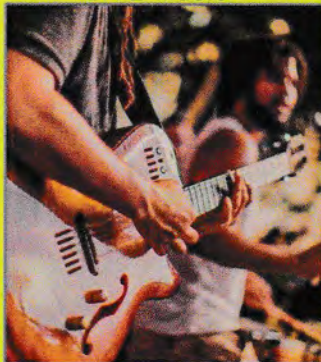
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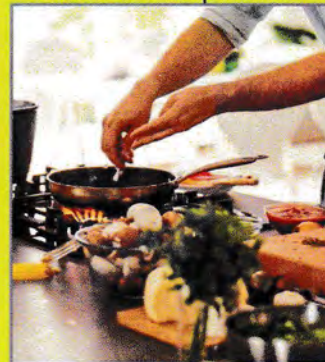
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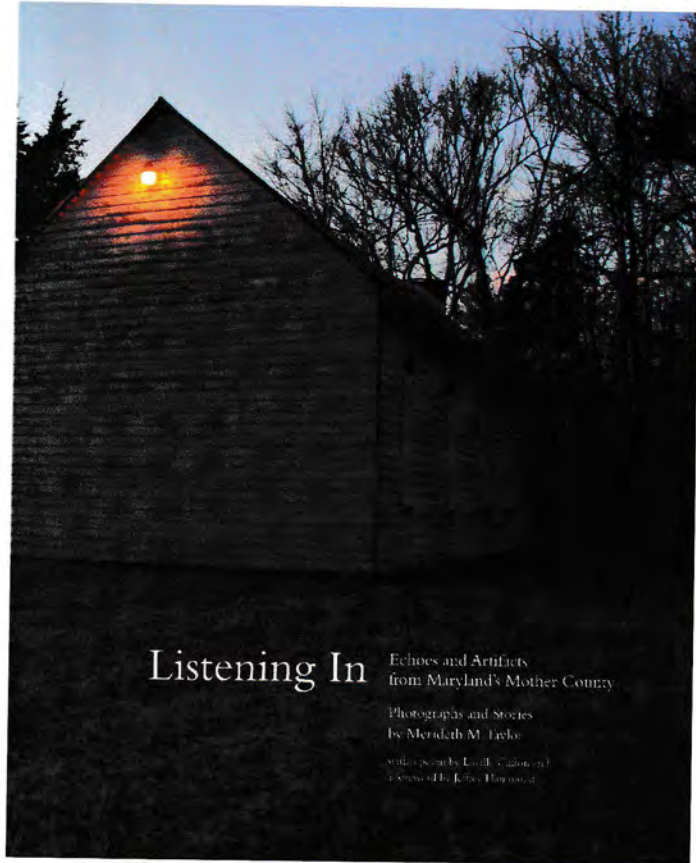


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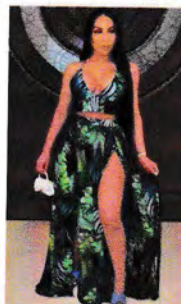
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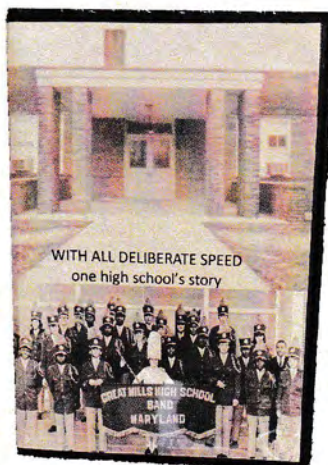
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... a powerful story, well told.

Professor Charles Holder
St. Mary's College of Maryland

The documentary is dedicated to all the generous people who, by sharing their memories, made this documentary possible, and to the students and teachers who took part in the process but whose stories have not yet been told.

This project was made possible by Legacy Project with support from the Maryland Education Council. The Maryland Education Council is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the NEH, the National Endowment for the Humanities, or the National Improvement for the Humanities.

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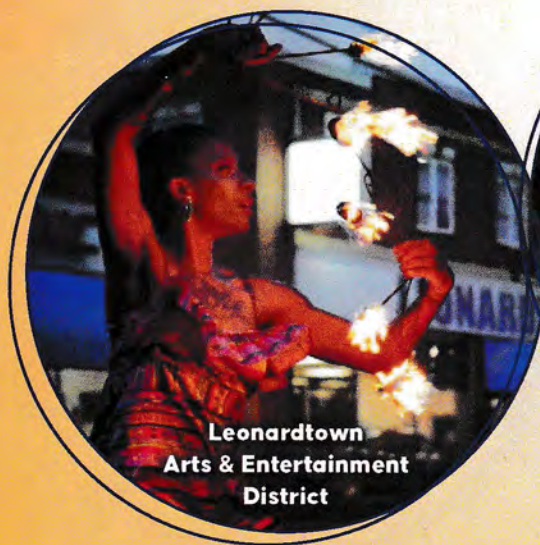
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