

### This Week

- Patuxent Valley: Third Place at County Black Saga Event
- Moderately Priced Homes Nearly Complete
- Hammond HS News: Bull Roast Set
- Scholarships: March Deadlines Approaching
- Sophomore Information Night

### Weekly Refresher

The Soul of the scoffer desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

- Proverbs 13:4

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# Guilford Gazette

## Patuxent Valley Places at Black Saga Academic Competition



Patuxent Valley Black Saga Team from left to right: Mr. Marcus Nicks, Sejal Sinha, Ms. Monica Bickerton, Shedai O'Brien, and Seun Aina. The team took third place at county Black Saga.

A Patuxent Valley Middle School academic team took third place at Seventh Annual Black Saga Competition at the county-wide event held at Veterans Elementary School, recently. Seun Aina, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Fawn Run in Jessup; Sejal Sinha, 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Laurel; and Shedai O'Brien, 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Oakhurst in Guilford, make up the school's team.

They competed against 14 other students at PVMS to earn a place on

the squad.

At the county competition the team went up against other middle schools, ultimately placing third after Hammond and Forest Ridge, which placed first and second, respectively.

When asked what she thought of her experience in the Black Saga program, Shedai O'Brien said, "I enjoyed answering questions and seeing how much I know." She said she joined the team because "I just wanted to

learn more about my culture and African American history." Sejal Sinha admitted that joining was her mother's idea, but said, "I enjoyed the experience." Seun Ain said "It's kind of fun and I enjoy learning."

The team mentor, Ms. Monica Bickerton, a PVMS teacher and part of the school's Applied Academics Team, has acquired an impressive record of county and state

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**Featured  
Neighborhoods**

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- ⇒ Carter's Cove
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- ⇒ Mission Heights
- ⇒ Heritage Woods
- ⇒ Guilford Square
- ⇒ Oakhurst
- ⇒ Mary Lane

## Cottages at Greenwood: Phase I Closes



One of several recently built, moderately priced homes on Mary Lane in Guilford. Phase I is complete.

The single-family houses appear ready, but the construction crews are on site almost every day. The Cottages at Greenwood, one of the newest moderate income housing plans in Guilford, initiated by Howard County Housing, presents itself as a distinctively colorful and fun neighborhood on Mary Lane, right off of Guilford Road.

According to the website, Phase I is complete

and all units are reserved for previously qualified buyers. The units were situated to encourage neighborliness, built for ease of access, and constructed in a manner friendly to the environment. On the environmental side, you have the typical high efficiency appliances, low flush toilets, a planned combination of sunlight and trees to balance energy use, erosion control, and other energy efficient

building materials.

A Baltimore Sun article listed the cost of each home as \$252,400. Families making up to \$64,400 may qualify for the 1,313 square foot cottages. The Guilford Gazette was unable to get information directly from the builders at the time of this article. To get more details check out <http://www.cottagesatgreenwood.com/>.

## The Publisher's Notes

Time after time we hear or participate in conversation that suggests that the present generation lacks something that a prior generation had. Too often we succumb to the belief that our teens are impolite, troubled, disrespectful, or worse – thugs. The reality has always been that among those teens with supposed bad reputations, there are many unrecognized heroes in the midst.

We look at our Hammond students and we see a dynamic, successful group of well-adjusted teens. Many in this generation have come to the realization that the future is theirs. They are full of hope as they prepare for the challenges that face them. While this group is not perfect, they deserve the attention and the wisdom of their adult neighbors.

How is it that some adults can complain about this generation, that will rule our world, yet purposely refuse to engage them, speak to them, teach them, or in any manner commune with them. Yes the teachers interact and the parents are obviously doing great jobs. If not, we would find many of our youth as delinquent trouble-makers. This is not the case.

There is a severe lack of community action in regard to the up-bringing of the youth. Yes, the adage remains true: “It takes a village to raise a child.” Where is this village? What is the role of the members of this village?

No doubt, we are called to be present, to be in the midst of the youth so that they build a healthy respect for authority. How can adults pass wisdom to the youth when they allow irrational fear to prevent them from freely sharing life's truths.

### Black Saga from page 1

Black Saga titles during her tenure. Mr. Marcus Nicks, the school's Black Student Achievement Program representative at the school, joined Ms. Bickerton several years ago to help coach the students.

To prepare the students, according to Mr. Nicks, he and Ms. Bickerton worked with the students individually, but they also stayed in contact with parents to encourage home study.

The students worked from a packet of 900

facts related to American and Maryland black history. The packet included pictures, maps, important quotes, and historical facts. According to Ms. Bickerton, the study material included facts from the 1400's to the present.

To enhance knowledge, the students took a field trip to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, a black history museum in Baltimore. According to Ms. Bickerton, the students experience “facts about per-

sons [and] organizations in black history that help in [preparation] for Black Saga.”

The Black Saga program “increases student awareness of African American culture, “according to Mr. Nicks. He said, “A lot of students only look at slavery. This goes all the way back to Africa.”

Ms. Bickerson said, “The competitive aspect of it is enjoyable for students - seeing students apply and delve

more into a topic. They ask questions and share experiences.”

For the state competition, March 17 at Towson State University, a six-member team will compete, including the three students from the county event. The county contest was not an elimination event so all county teams are eligible to participate in the state finals.

# March Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

## **NEW: Leslie Moore Foundation Scholarship:**

This \$2500 scholarship is for a student who is a US citizen or a permanent resident. Applicants must have verifiable community service and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better. The online application can be found at <http://scholarships.mycbf.net/STARS/>. The deadline is March 1, 2012.

## **Dance Scholarship for Randolph Macon College:**

The department of dance is offering dance scholarships valued between \$6000 to \$18000, which are renewable for four years. Dance scholarship winners are not required to major or minor in dance. Interested dancers should apply for admission to Randolph College and submit a concise portfolio of their training and performances. Early submission is recommended. Early action deadline for Randolph College is November 15 and regular decision is March 1. Interested applicants can email [sbartholomew@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:sbartholomew@randolphcollege.edu).

## **Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Baltimore-Washington Section (BWS):**

This scholarship is for young women who plan to major in engineering. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2012. The application for this local scholarship can be accessed at [www.baltwashswe.org/scholarships](http://www.baltwashswe.org/scholarships). Additional scholarships at a national level are available at <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/>.

## **Dwight P. Jacobus Scholarships:**

These scholarships were established by the Association of School Business Officials of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students who are pursuing a career in Business or Education at an accredited institution of higher education within Maryland or the District of Columbia. Applicants must be residents of Maryland or the District of Columbia for at least one year preceding the award, have a demonstrated financial need, and have a minimum 3.0 overall GPA. The award amount is \$1000 and a completed application must be postmarked by March 1, 2012. Please see your counselor for an application.

## **Call Me Mister:**

This scholarship is for black males who would like to become a teacher and attend college out of state for free. The Call Me Mister program is offered at four historical black colleges in South Carolina: Benedict College, Chafin University, Morris College, and South Carolina State University. If you are interested, visit [www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.html](http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.html) or call 1-800-640-2657. If you have demonstrated ability in some specific area or have exhibited leadership qualities and performed community service. The deadline for the application is March 15, 2012 and can be downloaded from <http://hcfbeca.community.officelive.com>.

**Scholarships from page 4****Columbia Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship and Awards:**

This scholarship is for African American high school seniors. The minimum GPA must be 2.5. An essay is also part of the application and an interview may be required. The deadline for this scholarship and awards is March 10, 2012. Applications are available in the counseling center.

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter:**

The Alpha Foundation of Howard County funds the education programs and efforts of the chapter, which is based in Howard County. These programs include the presentation of nine scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled academically. Scholarships are reserved for applicants planning to attend two or four year colleges or universities. All applicants must be African American and residents of Howard County or enrolled in a Howard County school. Applications must be post-marked no later than March 14, 2012 and are available in the counseling center.

**NEW: Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement:**

This scholarship is for African American students who have been Howard County residents for at least 15 months prior to the date of the scholarship award. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 and must be US citizens or permanent US residents. Applicants must have demonstrated a special talent or ability in some specific area or have exhibited leadership qualities and performed community service. The deadline for the application is March 15, 2012 and can be downloaded from <http://hcfbeca.community.officelive.com>.

**NEW: Maryland PTA Scholarship:**

This scholarship is offered to students who plan on pursuing a career in education in the public schools of Maryland. Financial need, academic record, and student resume will also be considered with each application. All applicants must have a 2.75 un-weighted minimum grade point average. The application is due on March 15, 2012. Please see your counselor for an application.

**Jewish Community Services (JCS) General Scholarship:**

This scholarship is for Jewish students from single parent homes. The factors that the JCS Scholarship Committee will consider are financial need, academic performance and potential, extra-curricular and community activities, part-time and summer employment, and Jewish community involvement. The deadline for this application is March 15, 2012 and the website to obtain an application is [www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program](http://www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program).

**Newhoff Scholarship:**

This scholarship will be awarded to a Jewish student with documentation of a diagnosed learning disability. Students do not need to be from single parent homes to be eligible. The Jewish

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**Scholarships from page 5**

Community Services Scholarship Committee will consider factors such as financial need, academic performance and potential, nature and impact of learning disability, extra-curricular and community activities, part-time and summer employment, and Jewish community involvement. The deadline for this application is March 15, 2012 and the website to obtain an application is [www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program](http://www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program).

**Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award:**

This scholarship is given each year to students who have exhibited extraordinary efforts in community service to benefit Columbia residents, reside on assessment paying property or has a parent who works full-time on or owns CA assessed property, and have a cumulative grade point average of C or better (2.00). The deadline to apply is March 15, 2012. To apply, go to the following website: <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/pdfs/getinvolved/SpiritColumbia.pdf>.



## *Hammond News*


**Advanced Placement Exam Registration Ends March 15**

Registration for Advanced Placement exams ends on March 15 at 2:30 pm. AP exams are administered May 7 through 11, 2012. For more information visit <http://www.hammondhs.org/APTest.htm>.

**Annual Hammond Bull Roast Set for March 18**

The Hammond Boosters Club is planning their annual big event, the Bull Roast. It is set for March 18 between 4 and 8 pm. The Boosters are looking for donations for the planned auction. For more information or to buy tickets for the event visit <http://www.hammondboosters.org/bull-roast>

**Hammond PTSA Prepares to Elect New Officers**

The Hammond PTSA is looking for officers for next year. Interested? Contact Laura Borowski: [mborowski@hotmail.com](mailto:mborowski@hotmail.com).

Advertise Your Business in  
the Guilford Gazette  
beginning March 15

Call: 301-789-1421

**Sophomore Information Night**

The Hammond Counseling Department is inviting college-bound Hammond sophomores (10th graders) and their parents to Sophomore Information Night on Monday, March 12, 7pm – 8 pm in the school's cafeteria. Academic counselors will be available to answer questions at this event.

Topics include:

- *The College Prep Timeline*
- *What Colleges Look For*
- *Understanding College Testing*
- *Financial Aid and Scholarships*
- *Resources Available to Students*

Hammond's Counseling Department will be available to answer individual questions.