

NEWS YOU
CAN USE

VOLUME III
ISSUE 12

APRIL 19, 2018

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Weekly Refresher

“You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

- ML King, Jr.

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Guilford Gazette

Serving: Savage, Kings Contrivance, North Laurel, Jessup, and Guilford

Residents Push Back on Milk Producers’ 375 Unit Residential Project in N. Laurel



David Thompson with Benchmark Engineering, far left, and William E. Erskine, lawyer with Offit Kurman, standing forward, addressing a sometimes contentious group from Fulton and North Laurel gathered to contest more housing in an increasingly congested area of Howard County.

by **Ricardo Whitaker**
Guilford Gazette

Over 120 Howard County residents came out last week to the Maryland Housing Center on Market Street in Maple Lawn to the presubmission hearing on plans of a large property owner to convert part of their land to a housing development in Laurel, Maryland.

The Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers, located at 8105 Derby Drive in Laurel, is looking to build approximately 375 residential units.

According to the letter sent out to the residents in the area by Benchmark Engineering, the firm hired by the property owner, the development calls for single-family detached and single-family attached units.

David Thompson, a project engineer, represented Benchmark Engineering and the interests of the property owner. William E. Erskine, a lawyer at the law firm Offit Kurman facilitated the meeting as a legal representative of the land owners.

Impatience was the general mood of the residents in attendance. Erskine made several requests for calm and order so that those in the group with relevant questions could get the answers they sought.

The major concerns voiced repeatedly by residents dealt with school overcrowding, traffic safety, traffic congestion, conservation, and quality of life issues. There was a resounding call to walk back the project.

One resident called for a show of hands of those who want the project to cease. Erskine balked at the request explaining that the meeting is set only to discuss the plans and process.

The development project falls within Council District 3. That seat is coming available next year as the current councilmember, Jen Terrasa, is prohibited by term limits from seeking another term.

Terrasa and all of the District 3 candidates were in attendance at the meeting. Some voters are advocating that significant pressure be placed on the present council and

(RESIDENTS continued on page 6)

Publisher's Notes

Community Activism Enlivened in Council District 3

In Jessup and Elkridge the feistiest residents both fought for what they believed they deserved. Each wanted High School #13 in their backyards. So far, Jessup is on top in that fight. Now a drug treatment facility is scheduled to move forward in a space in Elkridge. Residents are already screaming 'insult to injury.' But, if they want to fight the influx of residential drug abusers, they have the wherewithal to fight.

Down the road a bit, Guilford and Kings Contrivance are pushing to stop or modify a proposed storage facility that would interfere with the peace of a park and trail right off of Guilford Road. The residents do not want it, so a special hearing was held with County Executive Allan Kittleman spearheading and attending that meeting.

Over in Savage there is a fight that has been brewing for some time now about adding an assumed out-of-place commercial area to this idyllic and historic bedroom community.

Meanwhile, the council seat in District 3 is wide open because Jen Terrasa, the current councilmember there cannot run for reelection due to term limits. She has other political aspirations.

The folks in District 3 are making plenty of noise and the candidates are following the meetings and trying to show that they care about these issues by showing up. Some speak out in the meetings while others join the Facebook groups making their positions and allegiances clear.

But it all seems that this is the year of the vocal and active community. These days, residents do not seem content to simply allow government to make decisions on their behalf. The days of bobble head community compliance seems to be on the wane — at least for now.

If this trend continues, truly, the elected officials who represent District 3 now and in the future will become accountable to the electorate.

These new movers and shakers should be applauded for galvanizing members of their respective communities for not only voicing their concerns, but in some cases demanding action that lines up with the desires of the majority community.

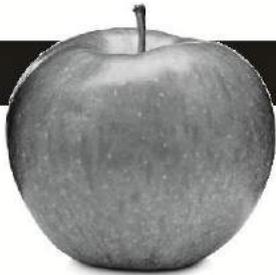
Volunteerism and civic leadership bites deeply into free time and also time that is not so free. So many people in these communities are attending neighborhood meetings, school board and county council meetings. They are writing letters, involving the press, establishing issue-oriented social networks, buying signs, forwarding petitions and so much more.

In some cases, reputations are at stake. To these community pioneers it seems that the risks are worthwhile.

I say hooray to those who stand up, but I encourage the activism to continue when the fires die down, lest the hoodwinking return with a vengeance.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

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Youth

High School Freshman Working for Peace in Howard



Fourteen-year-old Reservoir High School freshman Isaac Allen wants an end to senseless murders, homelessness and other Howard County maladies. He wants young people to resolve their differences and he is calling for the government to help.

by **Ricardo Whitaker**
Guilford Gazette

Isaac Allen is 14 years old and a freshman at Reservoir High School in Fulton, Maryland. When his friend Xavier Young was gunned down behind the Whiskey Bottom Shopping Center in North Laurel in late 2017, he knew he had to take a stand to make a difference in the lives of youth like him.

Young was killed in a “drug deal that went wrong,” according to Allen. The Baltimore Sun reported that three teens were arrested and charged as adults in the killing of Young, who was shot in the head and died at Johns Hopkins Hospital on October

30, 2017.

Like Allen, Young was only 14 years old.

Allen is calling for “less gun violence and more resolving of issues without fighting.” His course of action is basketball.

Last week, the Youth Council of the local Howard County NAACP put on its 1st Annual Hoopin’ for Teen Health 3-on-3 Co-Ed Charity Basketball Tournament at Wilde Lake High School.

Allen is the 2nd Vice President of the Youth Council. In his quest to get teens engaged and raise money to support teen health he and his volunteers engaged the broader community for support. He connected with Har-

ris Teeter, Weiss, Howard County Police Department, Next Generation Leadership Academy, It Takes a Village Inc., Voices for Change, Teen Club, The Council of Elders, Prospect Believe, and Reservoir High School Alpha Achievers.

Allen is pushing for Howard County to invest more in the youth. “We are the richest county in Maryland and we should [be a] better role model,” he said.

He has a heart for people, including the homeless. Allen explained that the Youth Council feeds the homeless twice per year, but more is needed. He wants county government more involved with the homeless and

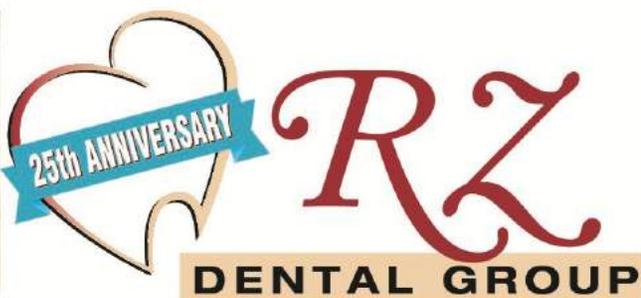
(FRESHMAN continued on page 6)



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(RESIDENTS *Continued from page 1)*

the candidates to stop the development in its tracks.

There was a call from one resident to wait for the construction of High School #13. Based on the number of proposed units to be built, one person estimated 400 new children would be moving to the area causing more overcrowding. Schools primarily impacted would probably be Hammond Elementary, Hammond Middle, and Atholton High School.

A new Howard County law limits school overcapacity at 115%, but as one resident pointed out, with Erskine conceding, the law does not go into effect for 16 months, so if the project is approved quickly, the new law would not apply.

The land in question is zoned residential and mixed use, but according to Thompson, the owners are only

building residential. It should be observed that the owners are not using all of their available land for this residential project, which means there is no restriction on mixed use construction at a later time.

The present use of the land is solely commercial. The company there processes milk. The operating plant is north of the proposed residential plan.

Areas affected by the plan and of great concern to residents are Leishear Road, Gorman Road, Murray Hill Road, Deep Skies Drive, Skylark Boulevard, and several other roads.

According to Thompson, the project is 40 units under maximum density. The units planned are between 6,000 and 8,400 square feet, with allowance for some moderately-priced units, but no low-income units.

One resident made a claim for the protection of the bald eagle. He said he took pictures of some near the property. Thompson said that a full environmental study was done. A traffic impact study is planned.

According to Thompson, only three of 87 existing trees are being removed and recreation facilities, still undetermined, would be created for the area.

Presubmission meetings in Howard County are designed to present plans, answer questions, and review and consider recommendations from the public.

There is a regulatory process that requires further legal and technical reviews before a proposed construction project can be approved by government.

The process can potentially take several years to complete before construction begins.

(FRESHMAN *Continued from page 4)*

the plight of the youth. He said, "The County should use money for something different, including better school programs and programs for feeding the poor."

The basketball competition was not the big success he had hoped for, but Allen was undaunted. "It kind of met my expectation considering it's the first one." The next event is set for April 28th. If all goes according to plan, there will be a third event for the championship.

The Youth Council is hoping for higher participation from ball players and spectators. There is a nominal fee to play and to attend.

Allen took time out from the event to chat with the Guilford Gazette. He came across as a young man with a passion for civic responsibility. He plans to take up a position as the president of the Youth Council next year. He is also a member of the National Society of Black Engineers that meets locally at the Savage Library.

According to Richard Butler, Jr.,

an advisor at NSBE, Allen got the attention of a dean at North Carolina A&T at an engineering competition in Pittsburgh. The school is offering Allen a scholarship to attend the school.

As for the tournament, which is Allen's present concern, he said, "We need more teams and more [spectators] to come out and watch."

To get more information on the event and to learn more about the NAACP Youth Council, visit <http://www.howardcountynaacpyouthcouncil.org/>.

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Crime

HCPD Crime Bulletin—Carjacking on Calm Sunset

MON, APR 16, 2018

Jessup, 20794: ezStorage, 8200 block of Washington Boulevard, Apr. 15 12:15 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) broke into a storage unit. It is unclear if anything was stolen.

**Theft from vehicle/
vehicle break-in**

Laurel, 20723: 9400 block of Glen Ridge Drive, Apr. 12-13 overnight, unclear if anything was stolen
8700 block of Teresa Lane, Apr. 14-15 overnight, mul-

tiple vehicles: various items

Vehicle theft

Columbia, 21046: 9100 block of Commerce Center Drive, Apr. 13 6:30-9:16 p.m.

2003 Infiniti QX4

Laurel, 20723: 9300 block of Cabot Court, Apr. 14 7:57 a.m.

Ford F-250, tags MD/6BD7450

FRI, APR 13, 2018

**Theft from vehicle/
vehicle break-in**

Laurel, 20723: 9600 block of Durant Avenue, Apr. 11-12 overnight, stamps, change

10000 block of Superior Avenue, Apr. 11-12 overnight, iPad

9600 block of Justin Lane, Apr. 12 9:06 p.m., unclear if anything was stolen

Annapolis Junction,

20701: 8800 block of Corridor Road, Apr. 12-13 overnight, tag

THU, APRIL 12, 2018

Commercial burglary

Fulton, 20759: McAdoo-

dle Consignment, 11800 block of Scaggsville Road, Apr. 10-11

Unknown suspect(s) attempted to gain entry to the store by prying open the rear door. No entry was gained.

Theft from vehicle

Laurel, 20723: 9300 block of Davis Avenue, Apr. 11 8:40 a.m., seven vehicles: car batteries

WED, APR 11, 2018

Vehicle theft

(CRIME Cont'd on page 8)

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Calendar

Board of Education Candidates' Forum

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 10:00 am—12:00 pm
Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Rd. Ellicott City
DESCRIPTION: Come join us for Town Hall meeting to ask your questions. We are planning to have all Howard of County Board of Education candidates at the forum. The town hall meeting is part of an ongoing effort to allow Community wide participation in guiding the future of the School System in Howard County.

Equity and Excellence

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 6:30pm—8:30 pm
Thomas Viaduct Middle School, 7000 Banbury Dr, Hanover | **DESCRIPTION:** Let's learn about educational equity! Thomas Viaduct Middle School PTSA presents Equity and Excellence, Helping Every Child Succeed | Meeting in Cafeteria | Join TVMS Leadership, HCPSS representatives, and community partners for an informational and interactive discussion on Educational Equity. | Special Guests: Kevin Gilbert, James LeMon, John Krownapple, and more!

Ridgely's Run Spring Spring Event

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:00 am—12:00 pm
8400 Mission Road, Jessup, MD
DESCRIPTION: Join our community in welcoming Spring! We are hosting a combination Vendor, Craft and Yard Sale at the Community Center. Spots are \$15 each. Held Rain or Shine. Contact Ms. Bessie at 443-280-1935 to reserve your spot.

Annual Spring Yard Sale

Sat, Apr 28 to Sun, Apr 29, 2018 from 11:00am - 5:00pm @ Green Valley Marketplace, 7280 Montgomery Road, Elkridge | **DESCRIPTION:** ATTENTION ELKRIDGE COMMUNITY: Join us at our Annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, April 28th from 7am-1pm. Reserve your Spot On The Lot at Customer Service for only \$10! | On April 28th and April 29th from 11am-5pm, cooking up our famous pit beef sandwiches, ribs and gourmet burgers for your purchase. Hanging baskets, mulch and bird seed will also be available throughout the weekend along with \$1 snowballs (proceeds going to Cross Life Church in Elkridge).

(**CRIME** Cont'd from page 7)

Laurel, 20723: 9700 block of Mountain Laurel Way, Apr. 10 10:52 a.m.
2007 Chrysler Sebring

TUE, APR 10, 2018

Carjacking

Columbia, 21046: 7200 block of Calm Sunset, Apr. 9 12:58 p.m.

An adult female victim reported that she was driving out of a parking spot when two male suspects approached the vehicle.

The suspects removed the victim from the vehicle and fled in the vehicle. Police responded, located the suspects and arrested them.

No one was injured. **ARRESTED:** Malik Miller, 20, of Calm Sunset in Columbia, and a 15-year-old male juvenile of Columbia, charged with carjacking, assault, and motor vehicle theft

Residential burglary

Laurel, 20723: 9200 block of Livery Lane, Apr. 9 12:35 p.m.

Police responded for a report of two suspects in a vacant residence without permission who fled when confronted. Nothing was reported stolen. The investigation is ongoing.

Weapon violation
Laurel, 20723: Old Scaggsville Road & High Ridge

Road, Apr. 10 1:56-2:30 a.m.

A witness reported seeing a passenger in a vehicle fire a gun up into the air. Police responded and located several shell casings in the area. No one was injured. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft from vehicle/ vehicle break-in

Jessup, 20794: 7900 block of Old Jessup Road, Apr. 9 9:43 a.m., unclear if anything was stolen

Laurel, 20723: 9500 block of Queens Guard Court, Apr. 9 8:08 p.m., various items

The **Guilford Gazette** is a weekly print publication serving Savage, Kings Contrivance, North Laurel, Jessup and Guilford.

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School News

New 2018 Scholarships and Summer Opportunities

New Information

Career Guidance/Mentoring Roundtable, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Howard West: On Saturday, April 14 from 1 pm – 6pm, a roundtable will be available for students to attend at Howard Community College, Duncan Hall, Kittleman Room.

Local businessmen and women will be available to discuss how to write resumes, interview skills, and various career paths including medicine, engineering, education, fitness, marketing, media sales, IT systems, Nursing, Construction, Psychology and more!

College 101 – Making the Transition from High School to College for Students with IEPS and 504S

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 7:00-9:00pm

Howard Community College
Duncan Hall, Room 100

Do you have a high school student with an IEP or 504 heading to college, or planning college for the future? Bring your student and join us for this informative evening that will prepare you both for navigating the new world of college. It's never too early to start planning! Topics include:

- Accommodations and supports provided in a college setting
- Advocating for yourself
- Exploring technology to support academic success, including tools for organization and note taking

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- Requirements:

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2. Completion and submission by the deadline of the Summer Intern Scholarship Application.

3. Must provide proof of enrollment in a post-secondary (education after high school) institution beginning after the completion of your summer internship, but prior to 12/31 of the year of your summer internship.

4. Must work full-time or be available to work full-time and respond to all work requests between May 1 and August 31 (accommodations will be

made for ending and beginning dates of school later in May or earlier in August with proof of such dates provided, but accommodations will not be made for summer school). 5. Supervisor acknowledgment of good work performance and attendance.

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(*SCHOLARSHIPS* Cont'd on page 15)

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Living

Hammond High Student Truly “Magnificent Dancer”



Hammond High School student, Chris Miller, effortlessly springing above the bar at the school's dance studio (Photo courtesy Hammond High School)

by **Ricardo Whitaker**
Guilford Gazette

The year was 2016 when I first saw Chris Miller, 16, on stage at Hammond High School. It was a typical assignment to cover one of the seasonal dance performances at the auditorium. The performances by the students were quite good, as usual, but Chris was the standout. He was one of a very small number of males surrounded by an ocean of young women.

Fast forward to 2018 and Chris is still practicing his craft. He is a junior now and the only male in the Hammond Dance Company.

He aspires to found his own dance company one day, but not before completing college and hopefully

dancing for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. In a recent interview with the Guilford Gazette, Chris revealed a solid plan for moving forward.

This summer he will be in Rockville studying with the Dance Studio of Harlem through their local Baltimore affiliate, City Dance. He will be with the group for two weeks at the end of June and then off to Los Angeles, the city of his birth, to study at the Debbie Allen Dance Company in July.

If Chris could take advantage of all of his opportunities he would also be at the Joffrey Ballet in Texas, but alas, the schedules conflict. Money for these opportunities is not much of an issue. Chris received a full Merritt Scholarship for Dance Studio of Harlem and a partial scholarship for the

Debbie Allen Dance Company.

When Chris dances, he communicates his personal approach and serious commitment to fluid, rhythmical movement, whether he performs modern dance, ballet, or hip hop.

There are no stylistic bounds for this self-described perfectionist.

When asked the question, “Who is Chris?” he replied, “He is an energetic, kind-hearted [person] -- hard on himself and tends to be a perfectionist.”

The perfectionism drives him to practice more than most dancers and to push himself beyond normal limits, but he instinctively understands his shortcomings. He does not impress as haughty or high-minded.

(DANCER Continued on page 15)



COLUMBIA EYE ASSOCIATES

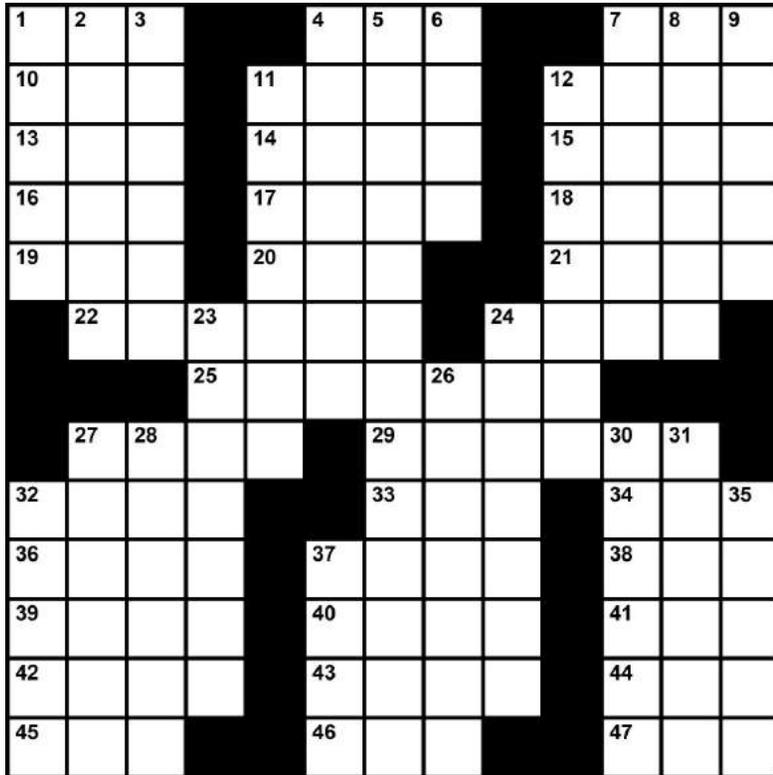
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Comics / Puzzles



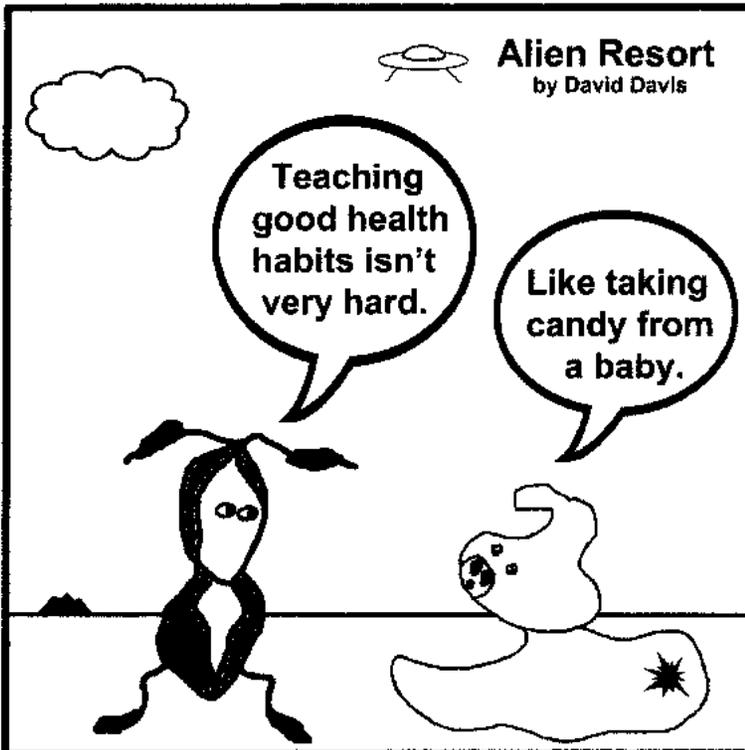
Across

- 1. Legal eagle org.
- 4. Small amount
- 7. Dance steps
- 10. Name
- 11. Babies' food collectors
- 12. Scarf material
- 13. "___ Robinson" - song from "The Graduate"
- 14. Celtic language
- 15. "Coyote ___" movie
- 16. Concept of self
- 17. Much
- 18. Pager alarm
- 19. Negative alternative
- 20. Slippery road hazard
- 21. Lady Macbeth, e.g.
- 22. Protest
- 24. Get in shape
- 25. Piano keys
- 27. British general in America
- 29. Con
- 32. Youths
- 33. Mushroom
- 34. Helpful connections
- 36. Poet Pound
- 37. Wear down
- 38. Horror writer
- 39. Catty remark
- 40. Bowlers
- 41. Sports contest
- 42. Oriental belts

- 43. "I'm working ___!" (2 words)
- 44. Formerly
- 45. "___ a chance"
- 46. George Washington's dream
- 47. Biblically yours

Down

- 1. Billboard designers
- 2. Porridge made of rolled oats
- 3. Soak up
- 4. African wind
- 5. They deliver babies
- 6. Puts to work
- 7. Bird common in cities
- 8. Cause of hereditary variation
- 9. Internet phone company
- 11. Have faith in
- 12. Secretly (2 words)
- 23. Puzzles
- 24. A ___ in a teapot
- 26. Inactivity
- 27. Park feature
- 28. Clever
- 30. Game with a piece of wood
- 31. "___ already!"
- 32. Goes with iced tea
- 35. Former Indian soldier
- 37. Holier-than-__



Solution to last week's puzzle



(DANCER Continued from page 12)

Still speaking in the third person (because of how the question was phrased), Chris goes on to say that “He comes to the realization that he has flaws and has that burden to carry it [the flaws] with him throughout eternity.”

The combination of skill and humility did not occur overnight. Chris related, “This is what I was born to do.” He said that his mother, Monique Miller, told him that he danced as a toddler.

Chris grew up watching Thomas the Tank Engine. During the show “I made up my own choreography and I would do back flips around three years old,” he said. Speaking of his mother, “She always knew that God gave me this gift [to use] to inspire other people.”

Chris continued to be inspired by dance, so once he and Mom moved to Maryland she enrolled him in hip hop classes at Studio A in Randallstown. He was five years old in a class where other kids were between six and eight. He remembers that he had “amazing musicality, able to easily absorb, getting more correction, getting advice, technical as-

pect.”

“Even the older kids would come to me for advice. Choreography came easy to me.”

With modesty intact, Chris said of that time, “I didn’t know much about dance so I would see friends doing it and thought I would give it a shot.”

Regarding the Hammond Dance Company, Chris said, “I always want to be supportive of [other dancers] and make everyone feel welcome; and I want to be sure that everything correlates.”

The head of the Hammond Dance Department, Brooke Kuhl-McClelland, said of Chris, “He’s intrinsically competitive, but it comes from within; not trying to be the shining star for others. He’s very humble.” She referred to Chris as “a magnificent dancer” who is also “a kind soul and passionate about what he is doing.”

Chris began his formal training, beginning at age 12 at DeVe’s Christian School of Performing Arts. The school met at Slayton House in Wilde Lake. There he learned ballet, jazz, hip hop, and contemporary styles of dance. He also studied at B. Funk Dance Studio in Ellicott City.

Chris was born in Los Angeles, but

his formative years were spent right here in Columbia. He lived in Catonsville for a short while, later moving to Howard County where he attended Atholton Elementary beginning in first grade, and attended both Hammond Middle and Patuxent Valley Middle, due to redistricting. He currently lives in Kings Contrivance with his mother and younger brother.

Regarding his time at Hammond High, he said, “I love Hammond. Being here for three years, I learned so much about myself and adolescence and making friends. It’s amazing what you learn in one to four years – learning who you are and your place in this world.”

Kuhl-McClelland said, “He knows where he’s going and sets his mind to things and accomplishes them.”

Chris tries to remain centered. He said, “It’s been a journey. I try to remain humble. The reason I am in this position is because of God. I honestly thank Him for everything He has done for me in my life.”

Chris will perform with the Hammond Dance Company in its Spring Dance on May 17 through 19 at 7:00 pm.

(SCHOLARSHIPS from page 10)

Ongoing Information

The Zonta Club of Howard County is a non-profit organization focused on the advancement of women through service and advocacy. We

offer an environment where women of diverse professions, ages and backgrounds can join in membership, fundraising and hands-on service projects. We welcome women and men with a vision of service to education and empowering women and girls locally and worldwide.

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