BALTIMORE COUNTY ROUNDUP

County fuel fund receives block grant

Baltimore County Executive Donald P. Hutchinson recently announced that low income county residents will have more resources to enable them to stay warm this winter, thanks to a $10,000 County Development Block Grant just authorized by the county.

"The county executive announced that the Human Resources Development Agency of Baltimore County will receive the block grant dollars for its "Fuel Fund," which offers fuel assistance to eligible residents during the winter months.

The block grant will enable the non-profit, community action agency to provide heating oil to low income residents who are out of fuel and can't afford to replenish their supply. Using these funds, HRDA will purchase heating oil from local vendors, and then make its supply available to families who are eligible for the assistance.

"Last year, when this program first received CDBG funds, HRDA provided some 1,020 families with fuel assistance during the winter," said Mr. Hutchinson. "This is certainly a worthwhile effort, and a particularly good use of block grant dollars."

The county executive said there are other fuel assistance programs also available in the county for residents who find that they can't afford their fuel bills. The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company offers both a Match Program and a Winter Protection Program for those residents who heat their homes with gas or electricity.

Also, the Maryland Energy Assistance Program administered by the Maryland Department of Human Resources has limited funds available to help eligible households offset a portion of their total heating cost throughout the winter months. MEAP will provide emergency assistance during severe weather conditions as well.

"Of course, residents who heat with oil can't take advantage of the BG and E programs," explains Mr. Hutchinson, "and while MEAP is a good source of fuel assistance, their funds are often exhausted before winter is over. For many residents, HRDA is their last resort. We are pleased that through the Community Development Block Grant Program, HRDA will be able to provide more heating oil grants to low income residents."

In order to qualify for the HRDA program, families must meet certain income guidelines. A family of four, for example, must have a gross monthly income of not more than $1,238 per month. Interested citizens can call HRDA at 285-4674 for more information.

The Community Development Block Grant program was initiated by the U.S. Government in 1974 to provide federal dollars to local programs that address certain areas of need. Since Baltimore County became eligible for the program in 1981, more than $23 million in block grants have been distributed to public and private non-profit agencies in the area.

Section 8 Housing applications

The Baltimore County Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program Waiting List is reopened. Applications will be available at all Public Libraries in Baltimore County, as well as the Department of Aging Outreach Centers, Department of Social Service branches, Baltimore County Police Stations, and at the Baltimore Housing Office, 23 West Susquehanna Avenue, in Towson.

The Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program is designed to assist lower income families in securing decent, safe, and sanitary housing that is affordable for the family in the private market.

Under this program, low-income families, who have been determined to be eligible by the Housing Office, are issued a "certificate," and are encouraged to negotiate directly with landlords to secure rental accommodations best suited to their needs, which meet both rental and housing quality requirements of the program.

Applications for housing assistance must be returned to the Housing Office in their completed form in order to be processed to secure a place on the Waiting List. Families having critical housing needs will be given the opportunity to provide that information on the application, and may be served on a priority basis.

Single person households under the age of 62 must have a verifiable handicap or disability in order to qualify for the program. Baltimore County residents and people who work in Baltimore County, but do not live in Baltimore County, are given preference over non-county residents.

Nonprofit organizations and agencies serving families who could benefit from housing assistance are encouraged to contact Mrs. Ford in the Housing Office at 494-2105 to secure applications for their clients.

Project Recognition Awards Program

The Baltimore County Children and Youth Council is accepting nominations for its tenth annual Project Recognition Awards Program.

Project Recognition is designed to "honor those individuals who have contributed their time and talent as unpaid volunteers to benefit the children and youth of Baltimore County," said Ardis Bell, Chair of the Council. "The nominee," Mrs. Bell added, "should exemplify a spirit of leadership, compassion, and capability."

Honored among 1984's 28 recipients was a former Golden Glove boxer from North Point Village Recreation Council who founded the "Dirty Dozen Goes Straight Club" and the mother of a handicapped child from Towson who instituted a Beep Ball program for visually impaired children from the Maryland School for the Blind.

Awards will be presented to the recipients at a banquet which will be held in April.

Nomination forms are available from the Children and Youth Council offices by calling 494-2757. The deadline for nominations is Thursday, February 28, 1985. For additional information, call Harriette L. Burros at 494-2757.

Self-improvement classes

The Office of Adult Education of the Baltimore County Public Schools offers day and evening classes free of charge to adults 16 years of age and older who cannot read who need to improve their basic skills in reading and math. Classes for foreign-born adults who need to learn English for everyday living are also available. For more information, call the Office of Adult Education at 494-4064.

Banneker and Fleming Centers get block grants

Two local recreation centers which function as focal points for communities on the west and east sides of Baltimore County will receive some needed improvements this coming year, County Executive Donald P. Hutchinson revealed today.

Mr. Hutchinson announced that two Federal Community Development Block Grants totaling $58,000 have been approved by Baltimore County for construction projects at the Banneker Community Center of West Catonsville and the Fleming Community Center in Turners Station.

The largest grant—$54,000—will cover the cost of renovating the gymnasium and developing an adjoining tot lot at the Banneker Community Center. The Fleming Community Center, which was just recently refurbished with a $639,000 block grant, will use its $4,000 block grant to purchase new playground equipment. Baltimore County's Department of Recreation and Parks will provide $4,000 in matching funds at each location to complete each tot lot project.

"In both cases, these buildings serve as landmarks in historic black communities, and are the source of much local pride," said Mr. Hutchinson. "I was certainly pleased to authorize block grants for these projects, which were initiated at the request of local recreation councils and will benefit area residents—particularly young people—in very tangible ways."

The Community Development Block Grant program was initiated by the U.S. Government in 1974 to provide federal dollars to local programs that address certain areas of need. Since Baltimore County became eligible for the program in 1981, more than $23 million in block grant funds have been distributed to public and private non-profit agencies in the area.

OUR WORLD

Deltas host Founders' Day weekend

DR. BERYL WILLIAMS (C) who received the Vashti Turley Murphy Award (highest Delta honor) during the "classy" Founders' Day celebration held Sunday, Jan. 27 at the Forum, by the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Primrose Ave. is flanked by other key Founders' Day figures (L to R): Sorors Ellen Howard, co-chairperson; Mary Demory, Chapter president; Lynnette Taylor, guest speaker and Julia Woodland, co-chairperson.

ALL DELTA HONORREES — Delta Sorors receiving Service Awards during the festive afternoon included (from left): Gertrude Neal, Louise Jackson, Ellen Howard, Vashit Turley Award winner Dr. Williams, Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Bernice McDaniels and Lillian Gundy.

(AFRO PHOTOS BY BRUCE SMALLWOOD)

CELEBRATING IN A BIG WAY are (seated): Sorors Alice Parham, Beryl Williams, Ethel Jones Hucles, Gladys Shepperd and Ponjola Priest. (Standing): Daughters of Delta founder Vashti Turley Murphy, Sorors Betty Moss, Frances Murphy and Ida Peters.

HEAD TABLE PARTICIPANTS (from left) are: Sorors Eleanor Howard, Sue Jones, Maggie Wiggins and Rebecca Carroll.

ALL SMILES during the fete are (L to R): Sorors Mae Wright Peck, Kathie J. McLaughlin, Ella G. White and Stephanie Lee.

AQUA KOUYATE (L) is pictured with her husband Djimo Houyate, who was instructor of Music at the National Conservatory in Senegal (now of Washington, DC) and who serenaded the assemblage with his Koran: Lynnette Taylor, Mary Demory and Eleanor Howard.

DELTA SORORS (from left) are Joan Case, Peggy Cooper, Louise Jackson and Ellen Howard.

WATCHING THE EXHIBIT are other Deltas (front, L to R): Frances Stith, Otyce Froe and Martha Bradford; (back, L to R): Eleanor Beverly and Ruth Crowder.

POINTING OUT AFRICAN ARTIFACTS displayed in the lobby of the Forum are (L to R): Rubye Gill, Bernice McDaniels, Dr. Lucille Venture and Dr. Constance Cooper.

Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., dedicated to public service in the areas of: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness, Physical-Mental Health and Political Awareness celebrated its 72nd Founders Day Sunday, Jan. 27.

In order to recognize twenty-two founders and to recall Delta's rich heritage, national development, and local progress, approximately 200 Baltimore Alumnae members participated in a closed rededication service for Deltas on Saturday at Epworth Chapel. A special service of inspiration, information and rededication was planned by the subcommittee - Chairpersons Rebecca Carroll and Gwendolyn Lindsay.

Following the special service, Deltas attended a beautiful reception of fellowship and friendship. They enjoyed a delectable repast, chatted, and held perky conversation around tables assembled as a pyramid with red table cloths and candlelight. Musical selections were rendered by the Delta Chorale. The reception was sponsored by Adolph Coors Company.

A second activity, open to the public, was held on Sunday at the Forum. Keeping in step with Delta Sigma Theta's, Inc., International Thrust, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter chose as its Founders Day theme - Baltimore Deltas: In Celebration of the African Diaspora'. Through travel and study, from 1984 to 1988, Delta membership is embarking on a far reaching program of awareness, education, understanding and outreach. The conclusion of this project will entail documentation and dissemination of all findings, including African contributions to the world.

Baltimore Deltas, locally, launched the African Diaspora Awareness program during the 1985 Founders Day celebration.

Highlights of the afternoon consisted of an African display, a Mini-African library and book list, an interesting video taping, a reception of fellowship, decorative flags, prizes, and other keepsakes.

Also interesting was a strolling musician, Djimo Kouyate (Groit), who performs with Memory of African Culture, located in Washington, DC. He also served as instructor for the National Conservatory of Music in Senegal.

Dramatic, creative, and innovative, co-chairpersons Ellen Howard and Julia Woodland presided using a unique script. Illustrious and charming, President Mary Demory opened the well-planned afternoon by giving the Occasion.

In recognition of the

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Pattie Hodges

OUR WORLD EDITOR

PARTYLINE

DOUGLAS HIGH ALUMNI WINE AND CHEESE SIP

The Frederick Douglass Alumni Association met on January 17 at the Control Data Center to open their 1985 season and to hold their annual Wine and Cheese Sip.

Hannibal Mickens, president, borought the status of the association up to date for the members present.

Following the successful Centennial Reunion of the school held in 1983 at the Convention Center and due to the monies raised, a scholarship Fund or Endowment Fund was set up and competed in 1984.

The amount invested was $15,000, with five scholarships to be awarded annually, starting with the June graduation of 1984. This will be done yearly at the school or whenever the ceremonies take place.

Categories for qualifying students will be excellence in the Sciences and Arts, one from the standpoint of need, two incentive awards for students in the 11th grade and one for the most improved student. A minimum of $2,000 will be given each year.

A plesant note was inserted at the meeting with a presentation of $1,000 from members of the class of 1940 to the Association. Class members presenting the check to Mickens were, Mesdames Hortense Kane, Beatrice Carter, Ruth Starks, Alverta Stewart, and Spencer Dobson and Robert Johnson.

The Alumni Association is planning to hold a fundraiser in the spring and is currently recruiting new classmates to help them with their efforts.

The group meets the third

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