

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

SPEAK UP NEWS!

WINTER 2019

"Let the S.U.N. brighten Your Life"

Speak Up Community News promotes the Culture, Health and Success of the community. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers Who Care, 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone (301) 393-9290. Download a full-color copy of this news publication at: www.brotherswhocare.org

SUCCESS NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE: The Electoral College

If I opened this article with, "What a load of crap", I would lose and gain readership all in an instant. Nevertheless, let me know what you think.

It is important to remember that the President of the United States of American is not chosen by a national popular vote. The Electoral College vote totals determine the winner, not the statistical plurality or majority a candidate may have in the national popular vote totals. Electoral votes are awarded on the basis of the popular vote in each state.

The Electoral College is a body of electors established by the United States Constitution, which forms every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president of the United States.

Electoral votes are allocated among the States based on the Census. Every State is allocated a number of votes equal to the number of senators and representatives in its U.S. Congressional delegation—two votes for its senators in the U.S. Senate plus a number of votes equal to the number of its Congressional districts.

Obama defeated Romney, winning a majority of both the popular vote and the Electoral College. Obama won 51.1% of the popular vote compared to Romney's 47.2%.

Five times a candidate has won the popular vote and lost the election. Andrew Jackson in 1824 (to John Quincy Adams); Samuel Tilden in 1876 (to Rutherford B. Hayes); Grover Cleveland in 1888 (to Benjamin Harrison); Al Gore in 2000 (to George W. Bush); Hillary Clinton in 2016 (to Donald J. Trump).

How many electoral votes did Donald Trump win? Ultimately, Trump received 304 electoral votes and Clinton 227, as two faithless electors defected from Trump and five defected from Clinton. Trump is the fifth person in U.S. history to become president while losing the nationwide popular vote.

Three criticisms of the College are made: It is "undemocratic;" It permits the election of a candidate who does not win the most votes; and. Its winner-takes-all approach cancels the votes of the losing candidates in each state.

The "Every Vote Counts Amendment" is a proposed constitutional amendment sought to abolish the Electoral College presidential elections and to have every presidential election determined by a plurality of the national vote. It was introduced by Representative Gene Green (D) Texas on January 4, 2005.

(CULTURE NEWS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Get RID of It!!!

Oh snap, where is article going? Please read this repost from the Internet and provide feedback on whether you agree or disagree that it is time to get rid of Black History Month. Personally, I agree that Black History Month and the need for it should END!



For decades the month of February has been set aside to draw attention to the contributions of African Americans, or blacks. But, Black History Month will never be enough time to adequately cover the contributions of Negroes, blacks, or African Americans—names applied during the last 400 years.

Blacks have made significant contributions in all areas of American life, from A to Z, from the Arts to Zoology and all subjects in between. Despite arriving to this country as slaves, enduring centuries of oppression and discrimination, and despite ongoing efforts to minimize, marginalize, distort, hide—even deny and destroy—blacks have played and continue to make major contributions in American history.

Black History Month will never be enough time to even put a dent in what blacks across generations have achieved for this nation, in every area of American life.

In 2020, Black History Month at best is received with mixed emotions. On the positive side, it is good that at least there continues to be a meager effort to draw attention to the roles that some key blacks have played. Historical lessons and exhibits are highlighted in schools. Communities host celebratory events. There may be a revisit of movies and documentaries on TV and in theatres.

On the negative side, these activities do not even scratch the surface of the voluminous records that exist. The featured lessons, exhibits, and celebrations tend to focus on the same few most famous blacks. Only those who captured media attention because of the dramatic circumstances, often death, associated with their contributions. Those few are the focus and get the most attention.

One month of focus, which happens to be the shortest month, truly begs the question of whether it is merely a salvo, a feeble attempt to correct an egregious injustice perpetrated against an oppressed people. Black History Month will never be enough to correct that injustice.

What about the many, many black Americans who made significant contributions under less dramatic circumstances, in less sexy areas like in the sciences, medicine, mathematics, agriculture, mechanics, and a host of other areas?

What messages are we sending to the young impressionable minds of our children with such limited focus? Black history is American history. Until text books, daily classroom curricula and lessons include an accurate and complete accounting in every subject area, there is so much work to be done.

When the contributions of black Americans are put in their proper place in American history, there will be no need for designating one month out of the year as a quick fix. The stark reality is that Black History Month will never be enough to correct the record.

HEALTH NEWS



TOBACCO FREE FOR LIFE PROGRAM Schedule

Support Groups* are offered in between regular classes every Monday and Thursday from 11:00am to 12:00noon and from 5:30 pm to 6:30pm at the Washington County Health Department location 925 North Burhans Boulevard Hagerstown, Maryland 21742. Everyone is welcomed! FREE Nicotine Patches, Gum & Lozenges (while supplies last)

SPEAK UP: NEWS ALERTS!!!

Will the Robert W. Johnson Center swimming pool open in 2020?

The Robert W. Johnson Center did not open its neighborhood swimming pool during 2019 for the first time in many years and attracted about a \$100,000 in funding which is nowhere near what is needed to really fix close to a \$1 million of damage that mounted up over years of improperly repairing the swimming pool which should have never left stewardship of the County government.

How much help is Preservation Maryland bringing to the Jonathan Street?

An unfortunate accident involving a police car wrecking into a residence on Jonathan Street uncovered a historic log cabin dwelling concealed under aluminum siding and an effort led by Preservation Maryland is involved to preserve the home and other historical landmarks in the neighborhood.

Is this the end of Printed monthly issues of Speak Up News?

Most likely, Yes! For the first time since we started, we did not deliver a printed monthly issue of Speak Up to the Jonathan Street neighborhood where the publication started almost 20 years ago. In fact there was not a December 2019 issue produced or published. The decision to reduce the monthly issues to a Quarterly issue was confirmed by the cost of \$1 a copy to deliver door to door in the Jonathan Street neighborhood, even with limited delivery during winter months, the cost is too much for a FREE news publication providing outreach through media without sales ads. This community news publication is possible through volunteer work which includes: reporting, photography, interviews, videos, layout and publishing. We called on others, including the churches in the neighborhood, to help print enough copies to deliver to the 500 homes and organizations in the neighborhood; this request was made with barely any response other than a state agency printing a couple hundred occasionally and with conditions. Any monthly issue ever published can be read or downloaded from our website tab: <http://brotherswhocare.org/speakup.html> Using our Facebook magazine page: www.facebook.com/speakupnews you can get up to date news and publications that never reach this monthly. On our Facebook news page you can see the adventures with my grandkids going throughout the four-state area, Canada, Chicago, New York, our interviews in front of the White House and wherever our weekly outings and adventures lead us. My own children and Mollie Smith serve on our Community Outreach Team effectively engaging the community with outreach assistance offered by Brothers Who Care – Speak Up News.

Contact our office at Brothers Who Care – Speak Up News* if you would like to participate in a life enhancing journalism experience that give opportunities to meet and interview celebrities, dignitaries, local entertainers and entertainment venues or if you just wish to help donate printed copies of our monthly issues or help with door-to-door delivery by calling 301-393-9290 or email: speakup@brotherswhocare.org

Thank you for your help,
Brother Andy Smith, Chief Presiding Officer
Brothers Who Care – Speak Up News (The S.U.N.)

**Brothers United Who Dare To Care is a Non-profit 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

Medal of Honor Group



NEIGHBORHOODS 1st

Participant invitation to the 2020 Neighborhood Day of Hope Saturday May 16, 2020 from 12noon to 4pm Wheaton Park in Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 *“Remembering Brother Henry Smith”*

On behalf of the Neighborhoods 1st – Medal of Honor Group, I wish to invite you or your organization to join us as an outreach participant at the 2020 Neighborhood Day of Hope. Each year we have had over 30 organizations, agencies and businesses offer their services at our annual event which attracts hundreds of friends and neighbors who gather at this joyous celebration of community and heritage.

The **Neighborhood Day of Hope** is sponsored by the City of Hagerstown’s Neighborhood 1st Medal of Honor Group in partnership with the Brothers Who Care health initiatives from the Washington County Health Department.

The Day of Hope event schedule has been filled with cultural presentations, interactive activities, speakers, poets and live bands. You or your group could fill one of these event presentation slots or provide services.

This event which started back in 2009 grew into an annual neighborhood celebration so we are inviting the first 150 of our guests to have a free meal at this year’s Neighborhood Day of Hope with food prepared by local Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts Troop/Pack # 75, who will also have food to sell for those who do not receive a FREE Meal ticket. So get their early enough for your FREE meal ticket or help the Scouts raise funds by purchasing food.

We hope that you, your organizations and friends will join us for the 2020 Neighborhood Day of Hope planned for Saturday, May 16, 2020 from 12noon to 4pm on Wheaton Park* in Hagerstown, Maryland. Please mark your calendar and contact or email Brothers Who Care to participate as a vendor, business or agency. Phone (301) 393-9290 email: bwc@brotherswhocare.org

Click on this link to take a peek at a slideshow movie of one of our past Neighborhood Day of Hope gatherings: <http://brotherswhocare.org/images/2015DayOfHope.wmv>

Again, thank you for your interest and support. *Brothers Andy Smith, Neighborhoods 1st Medal of Honor Group*

This event is rain or shine*

Call or email today to register for your participation at this event to be part of making a difference