



A NEW SUBURBIA: REDEFINE & REDESIGN

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THREE COUNTY RESIDENTS WIN CASH AWARDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

County Executive Ike Leggett Congratulates Winners of the annual “Break the Barrier to Home Ownership” Contest; \$25,000 to be Awarded to Winners

Two Montgomery County schoolteachers, one of whom just returned from service in Iraq, one cook and one maintenance supervisor at Verizon have been chosen as winners in the “Break the Barrier to Home Ownership” contest. The contest is an annual competition sponsored by the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County. The three winners will receive a total of \$25,000 to help them purchase their first home in Montgomery County.

“Owning your own home is a crucial part of the American Dream,” said County Executive Ike Leggett, who met with each of the winners on Wednesday, April 18 to congratulate each winner. “Each one of these families can now share in that dream,” he added.

The awards will be formally announced at the 16th Annual Affordable Housing Conference which will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Rd. in North Bethesda.

The award winners are: Kimberly L. Walker, who won the \$10,000 first prize; Michael and Nicolle Joshua and José E. and Nora A. Valledares each won \$7,500 prizes. The money is to be used to help each family with closing costs on the purchase of their new homes.

The \$10,000 first prize is being sponsored by Freddie Mac; One \$7,500 award is sponsored by Mercantile Potomac Bank and one \$7,500 award is being sponsored by Norman Dreyfuss, of IDI Group Companies and the Affordable Housing Conference.

The cash awards are given annually to the winners of an essay contest sponsored by the Affordable Housing Conference to help Montgomery County residents afford their first home.

The “Break the Barrier to Home Ownership” contest asks each applicant to state in 200 words or less what home ownership means to them.

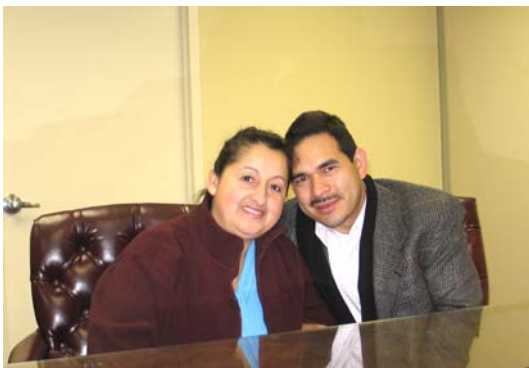
More than 150 people applied for the award this year. The winning essays are chosen by members of the Affordable Housing Conference planning committee.

Included below are brief bios of each winner and excerpts of their winning essays:



KIMBERLY L. WALKER: Kimberly, 37, is a maintenance administrator at Verizon in Silver Spring. She has 3 daughters, ages 18, 15 and 13. Ms. Walker has been a renter her whole life and is thrilled to be able to purchase her first home.

“Homeownership proves that a young, single mom, who didn’t always get it right, can take the tough lessons learned and turn them into the peace, love & security called HOME,” wrote Kimberly in her essay.



JOSÉ E. VALLADARES AND NORA A. VALLEDARES, have 4 children, who range in age from 8 to 17 years. Jose has been a cook at The Prime Rib restaurant in Washington, D.C. for the past 23 years. Nora works as a cashier/supervisor for the Howard University Law School cafeteria, managed by Sodexo, Inc.

“When we were growing up in El Salvador, we would hear so much about the American Dream. As Americans, we want to live the American Dream too,” wrote the Valledares in their essay.

The Valledares were chosen this year to receive a Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit in Silver Spring, Md. They will use their contest award to help with closing costs on their new home.



MICHAEL AND NICOLLE JOSHUA, both 27 years old, are both teachers in Montgomery County and are expecting their third child this summer. The couple currently live with Nicolle’s mother in Olney, Md. Michael recently returned to the U.S. after serving for one year in Iraq. He now teaches at White Oak Middle School; Nicolle teaches night school at Montgomery Blair H.S.

“Owning a home means an opportunity to invest. Not financially as in the traditional sense of the word, but relationally. It would give my family the opportunity to invest in the lives of other people,” said the Joshuas in their essay.

The Joshuas were recently chosen to receive a Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit in Clarksburg. They will use their contest award to help with closing costs on their new home.

All awardees (and their families) will be present at the Affordable Housing Conference on Monday, April 23, to receive their awards during a 12:30 p.m. luncheon.

ALL MEDIA WELCOME! INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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Included below is the agenda for the Affordable Housing Conference. The theme of this year's conference is: "A New Suburbia: Redefine and Redesign"

8:00 – 8:50 am **Registration, Networking, and Expo**

8:50 – 10:00 am **Welcome**

Salon D

Barbara Goldberg Goldman, Norman Dreyfuss

Co-chairs, Affordable Housing Conference

Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

Chris Van Hollen, U.S. House of Representatives, District 8

Key Note Speaker: Carl Guardino, President & CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group

**"Building Partnerships and Developing Champions:
Bringing Home Affordable Housing Successes and Dreams"**

10:10- 11:10 am Session I Break-out Panels

Salon A & B Successful Land-Use Solutions for Future Growth

Moderator: **Bruce DePuyt**, Anchor of NewsTalk NewsChannel 8

Panelists:

John Carter, Chief of Community-Based Planning Division, MNCPPC

Artie Harris, Vice President, Bozzuto Development Group

Pam Lindstrom, Urban Planning Advocate, Sierra Club

Bob Youngentob, President of EYA

Salon C Sustainable Development: Building Green

Moderator: **Royce Hanson**, Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman

Panelists:

David Bowers, Local Office Director, Enterprise Community Partners

Patty Rose, Executive Director of GreenHOME

Gary Skulnik, President of Clean Currents, LLC

11:20 – 12:20 pm Session II Break-out Panels

Salon A & B Reshaping/Resizing Neighborhoods

Moderator: **Roger Lewis**, Syndicated Columnist and Professor, University of Maryland

Panelists:

Patrick Hare, President, Hare Planning
John Murphey, Principal of Meditch & Murphey Architects
Lisa Rother – Montgomery County DHCA
Norman Dreyfuss, IDI Group Companies

Salon C Workforce Housing -- Where, When and How in Montgomery County?

Moderator: **Richard Y. Nelson, Jr.**, Montgomery County DHCA Director

Panelists:

Vicky Davis, President, Mid City Urban
Dale Saunders, Expanding Markets Manager, Freddie Mac
Clarence Snuggs, Deputy Secretary of Housing, State of Maryland

12:30 to 2:00 pm Luncheon

Salon D Luncheon

Marilyn Praisner, Montgomery County Council President
John Bohm, Legislative Director NAHRO "Housing America 2007"

Chevy Chase Bank Architectural Design Contest

Jan Maxwell, CRA Officer, Chevy Chase Bank
Ralph Bennett, Bennett Frank McCarthy Architects

"Break the Barrier to Home Ownership" Awards sponsored by:
Freddie Mac, Mercantile Potomac Bank and Norman Dreyfuss

Winners Presentation

Paul Sarbanes Excellence in Community Service Award

2007 Recipient: Thomas S. Bozzuto, Chief Executive Officer, The Bozzuto Group
Presented by: John Sarbanes, U. S. House of Representatives, District 3

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