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Bmore Weekly: First time in 225-year history the BCFD was out of service, deadliest Jan. in 50 years, primaries in June

2 messages

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Happy Friday and good morning! This week's round-up:

- Fire that killed three firefighters moves city officials to action
- Black history feature to celebrate Black History Month
- Baltimore has deadliest January in 50 years with 36 homicides
- Play a game of "Name that crab house"
- Trinacria is the newest addition to the new Lexington Market



Firefighters salute as the funeral procession leaves the memorial service for three fallen Baltimore City Fire Department firefighters. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

THIS WEEK IN A NUTSHELL: FIRE TAKES THE LIVES OF THREE FIREFIGHTERS, LEAVING A CITY MOURNING AND CITY OFFICIALS TO ACT

[Mayor issued directive to decrease number of vacant homes after three firefighters lost their lives in a 2-alarm fire](#)

- On Monday, Mayor Brandon Scott issued a 30-day directive for all city agencies to conduct an internal review and provide City Administrator Chris Shorter with a full accounting of every effort they are engaged in to reduce the number of vacant properties in Baltimore.
- This directive follows the deadly 2-alarm fire that took place last week in a vacant three-story rowhome on the 200 block of South Stricker Street that collapsed, killing three

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firefighters and hospitalizing another with serious injuries.

- As of January 28, there were 15,032 vacant houses in Baltimore City, 13,560 of those are privately owned. Vacant buildings reduce property values, increase blight, attract crime and pose a nuisance to neighboring properties.

[Hundreds of firefighters from around Maryland volunteered to allow every Baltimore firefighter to attend the funeral of the three firefighters who lost their lives](#)

- Wednesday, Feb. 2, was the first time in its 225-year history that the entire Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) was out of service. Maryland firefighters from around the state volunteered immediately to come to Baltimore and fill in for them.
- To coordinate such efforts the Department of Emergency Management contacted local emergency management offices around the state, D.C., and federally. In all, they had to fill more than 50 engine companies and 20 ladder companies.

[City Council to vote on bills to address staffing in fire departments](#)

- The two bills will establish a study to look into the department's operations and lead sponsor Councilman Kristerfer Burnett told WBAL TV, if approved, the report could provide some vital insight to a department that has struggled with staffing and resources.
- The fire union president said that staffing issues have long hampered first responders. Recruitment and retention have been down, at last check, with a 7% vacancy rate. Firefighters have been retiring and taking medical leave regularly, and COVID-19 has not helped either.
- Both the city's fire union and department leaders say overall public safety and response in emergencies have not been affected despite the staff shortages.

"Anything less than our very best attempt at solving the problem would be a discredit to the lives of the brave firefighters we lost last week and the residents we serve day in and day out."

—said Mayor Brandon M. Scott on the new directive to address vacant houses.

BLACK HISTORY IN BALTIMORE



(John Greim/Getty Images)

Thurgood Marshall was a lawyer and civil rights activist born in Baltimore on July 2, 1908. After receiving his law degree from Howard University, Marshall went on to successfully argue many cases that have shaped American history. One of them was the well-known *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, a landmark case that demolished the legal basis for segregation in America. Another case he won that shaped American history was *Smith v. Allwright*, which overthrew the South's "white primary" which allowed discrimination in elections.

Due to his success fighting for the rights of America's oppressed minority, former President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall as the first African American Supreme Court Justice where he served a 24-year tenure. It was with the Supreme Court Justices that he successfully argued the landmark case *Roe v. Wade*, which guaranteed abortion rights for all.

Marshall's legacy is honored and preserved in Baltimore with his statue placed at the heart of downtown Baltimore outside the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse at the corner of Pratt Street, July 2 has been proclaimed as Thurgood Marshall Day in Maryland, and the Baltimore/Washington International Airport was renamed Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in his honor.

OTHER NEWS



(Tejas Sandhu/Getty Images)

- [Baltimore County](#) officially lifted its mask mandate on Feb.1, the **state of emergency will be lifted on Feb. 7.**
- **A teacher says high school students are not ready for further education as 77% of them read at an elementary or kindergarten level.**
- Baltimore has **deadliest January in 50 years** with 36 homicides, **topping the 35 homicides that happened in 1973.**
- Tom Perez announced he has chosen [Shannon Sneed](#) as his running mate for governor, he joins a **crowded Democratic primary with 9 other candidates.**

NAME THAT CRAB HOUSE



(Instagram)

- **NAME OF DISH:** Hooper's Island Crab Cakes
- **HINT:** A part of the iconic Baltimore skyline

(Answer at end of newsletter)

SOME GOOD NEWS :)



(Lexington Market)

Two of Baltimore's 100+-year-old businesses Trinacria and Lexington Market are uniting.

Century-old Italian market [Trinacria](#) will bring their beloved staples like meatball subs, Italian cold cut sandwiches, antipasto salads and New York-style pizza by the slice to the new Lexington Market. They will also be selling staple Italian grocery goods like sauces, olive oils, and frozen and fresh pasta and ravioli alongside gelato, beer and liquor. Trinacria's original location will remain open at [406 N Paca St. Baltimore](#) you can expect to see this city staple at the new Lexington Market later this year.

(Crab house answer: Phillip's Seafood)