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Bmore Weekly: Residents left homeless after apartment condemned, City to lift indoor mask mandate, concerts return

1 message

NewsBreak Baltimore <newsletter@newsbreak.com>
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Happy Friday and good morning! This week's round-up:

- Residents left on the street after apartment building condemned
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity—this week's Black history feature
- Baltimore City lifting indoor mask mandate on March 1
- Paul McCartney performing at Camden Yards, tickets on sale today
- Play a game of "Name that crab house"
- See what good an urban farm is doing for the Baltimore community



(David S. Holloway/Getty Images)

THIS WEEK IN A NUTSHELL: SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT CITY'S HOMELESS POPULATION, OFFICIALS AGREE

[Residents in Southwest Baltimore left homeless after apartment condemned](#)

- On Wednesday night about 30 residents of a Southwest Baltimore apartment complex were left on the street as the building was boarded up and labeled as condemned, according to FOX45 News. Hours after the building was condemned many residents remained outside saying they had nowhere to go.
- A resident of the apartment building said he was given one week and \$200 to relocate immediately and nothing else.

- In a statement, the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) said after an inspection on Feb. 14 the building was condemned, and residents were advised they would need to temporarily relocate. Any assistance needed would be the responsibility of the owner.

Baltimore will invest \$90.4 million to reduce homelessness with purchase of two hotels

- On Tuesday, Mayor Brandon Scott announced that the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) would receive \$90.4 million in combined funding that will allow the city to implement best practices from its COVID-19 emergency housing response as a model for its long-term response to homelessness.
- This includes the purchase and renovation of two hotels that will be used for emergency housing. In April 2021, Mayor Scott announced he was exploring the purchase of hotels to provide housing for the homeless.
- In March 2020, the city moved several congregate shelter projects into hotels in order to provide sheltering in compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and allow for safe quarantine.

"We must save lives, and this is the day that we can do this."

—Mark Council, lead organizer of grassroots organization Housing Our Neighbors, [about the new funding proposal](#) for the homeless.

BLACK HISTORY IN BALTIMORE



Members of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. perform a step routine at CIAA Step show in 2016. (Paras Griffin/Getty Images)

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated (ΙΦΘ) was founded on September 19, 1963, at Morgan State University (then Morgan State College) in Baltimore, Maryland. On that day, 12 students founded what is now the fifth-largest predominantly African American social service fraternity. The

fraternity is a part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), colloquially known as the "Divine Nine," which consists of nine historically Black sororities and fraternities.

The Divine Nine started with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity's founding in 1906 by seven Cornell University students who wanted to create an organization to combat their isolation at a predominantly white Ivy League university. The NPHC groups have been key supporters of civil rights organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

The Iota founders were different from their brother fraternities in that they were all non-traditional students. Three to five years older than their peers, many had served in the military, worked full-time while attending classes full-time and had families with small children. This is why this fraternity was founded: to encourage its members to refuse to bind themselves to a defined fraternal image and celebrate the individuality of its members.

As of today, there are over 70,000 members in the United States and overseas with over 250 chapters located in 40 states, the District of Columbia and the Republic of Korea.

OTHER NEWS



(Edwin Remsberg/Getty Images)

- Baltimore [City](#) will be [lifting its indoor mask mandate](#) on March 1. There's **no decision yet on city schools** as local districts can now adopt their own masking policies.
- The [Orioles](#) are [opening Camden Yards to the concert scene](#) again for **Paul McCartney's 2022 GOT BACK tour**, with tickets on sale Feb. 25.
- The State Board of Education voted 12-2 to [rescind the statewide mask mandate for schools](#). The Maryland **General Assembly must now vote** to approve it.
- Mayor Scott was questioned about City Council President [Nick Mosby's ability to do his job](#) following his **wife's continuing legal battle**.

NAME THAT CRAB HOUSE



Screenshot from Instagram.(Kaleah Mcilwain)

- **NAME OF DISH:** Bavarian Crab Pretzel
- **HINT:** Visit Lighthouse Point and watch the sunset from the Tiki bar

(Answer at end of newsletter)

SOME GOOD NEWS



(Plantation Park Height Urban Farm)

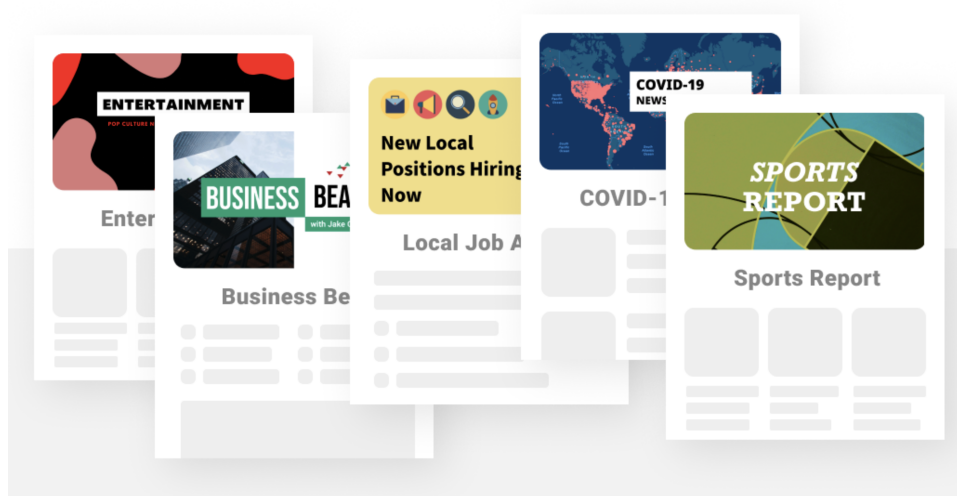
Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm, aka "**AgriHood Baltimore**," gives out free food boxes to the community every Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. This farm is a part of Baltimore City's Food Matter Program that is a collaborative effort to reduce food waste in cities.

The collaborative effort with the Baltimore Office of Sustainability (BOS) has committed the city to reduce half of all wasted food generated in the city by 2030. To reach this goal, BOS is implementing community-led solutions and programs, creating stronger linkages between food rescue stakeholders and food insecure residents and providing capacity-building funds to current food waste reduction efforts in the city.

If you'd like to participate in this initiative, the BOS collects food scraps every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the 32nd Street Farmers Market and every Sunday from 7 a.m. to noon at the JFX

Farmers Market. For those in the Baltimore-area who cannot make it to one of the farmers' markets, check out their [food scrap haulers](#) who collect food scraps as well.

(Crab house answer: Bo Brook's Crab House)



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