
❖ FHHSAA NEWSLETTER ❖

February 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

John J. Williams

Thanks to the Fairmont Heights High School Family for weathering the storm of a happy and sad 2006. We thank God for both the good days and the sad days. It was His grace and mercy that brought some of us to a new year—2007. Many thanks for all your dedication, service, commitment and financial contributions throughout the year.

G. JAMES GHOLSON A LEGEND REMEMBERED AND HONORED



(July 20, 1912–December 3, 2006)

A service of thanksgiving and remembrance for Mr. G. James Gholson was held at St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland, in Upper Marlboro, MD on December 9, 2006. The service was preempted by a Resolution Proclamation from the Maryland Senate with words from the Governor of Maryland, which was presented by Senator Nathaniel Exum (D), 24th Legislative District, and was read by the church Officiant.

Most of the alumni and community will remember him as the first Principal of Fairmont Heights High School, whose leadership and lifetime commitment to education and democracy in Prince George's County began in 1950.

Others will remember him as a master of teachers, whose exemplary programs attracted attention of officials from all over the world, having organized a new secondary school, consolidating several junior high schools and one senior high school in the county.

In 1970, he was appointed Administrative Assistant for Administration in Prince Georges County. In 1972 during the Desegregation Suit vs. Prince George's County Schools, he was named Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Desegregation of Prince Georges County Public Schools. In that capacity he headed 21 educators and community leaders charged with developing and implementing a plan for improving race relations throughout the school system.

In 1973 Mr. Gholson was appointed Assistant Superintendent for Administration of the Northern Area for the Prince Georges County Schools with oversight of 75 schools. After his retirement in 1979, his activities and involvement did not slow down, but continued at full speed. The list would fill a book. He began a 12 year term as Secretary of the Board for the Collington Life Care Community, where he was serving in 2006 as Chairman of Collington's Personnel Committee.

He was recognized and honored by numerous organizations, and was selected as the 1990 Prince Georgian of the Year and was given the William S. Schmidt Award for Services to Youth, as well as was presented the 1973 Citizen of the Year Award by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

His list of membership in organizations would fill an encyclopedia, in addition to having served seven years as a member of Steny Hoyer' Service Academies Selection Committee and as Trustee of the Middle States Association of School Administrators, Phi Delta Kappa and Alpha Phi Alpha.

Mr. Gholson was a lover of painting and some of his works were exhibited throughout the community. He loved to read and was active in reading clubs at Prince Georges Community College until his illness prevented him from continuing. At the age of 94, he was very alert and aware of local and world events. We will miss him, but his name is engraved, not only on a school in his honor, but most importantly, his memory is engraved on the hearts of hundreds of thousands who knew him or knew of him during their lifetime, especially those of the Fairmont Heights High School family.

THE G. JAMES GHOLSON ENDOWMENT FUND

The G. James Gholson Endowment Fund continues to build support for exceptional graduates of Fairmont Heights High School. While building the endowment is our major priority, we continue to work with key leaders in the county to maintain and foster the legacy of Fairmont Heights High School. Given Mr. Gholson's recent death, it is even more important that we continue to celebrate his extraordinary influence on thousands of students in the state and the world. In keeping with our mission, Mary McKinney sponsored a superb dinner during the summer for Mr. Gholson and several teachers who played a major role in making Mr. Gholson's vision a reality. The dinner was well attended and Mr. Gholson entertained us all with his usual profound impressions of education and the creative and performing arts.

This year, we plan to devote greater attention to generating foundation and corporate support within the county and the state. If you have any suggestions or contacts that may offer potential, please forward to jpayne@aarp.org.

We thank you for your support and encourage you to make a tax deductible contribution to the Fund in several ways:

- * Mail contributions directly to Mary McKinney, 9006 Ardmore Road, Springdale, MD. 20774
- * Contribute to the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign at **CFC #5600**
- * Contribute online at www.thurgoodmarshallfund.org.

MEMORIAL SUGGESTED FOR MR. GHOLSON AND OTHERS

At the request of many alumni, faculty, and friends, a memorial is being considered for the first anniversary of

Mr. Gholson's demise, in addition to honoring other deceased alumni to be held at Fairmont Heights High School on December 1, 2007. Details will be posted on the alumni web page at www.fhhsaa.com. Also announcements will be made at our Spring Dance and Pool Party. All is subject to the response and approval of family members.

TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON FATE OF FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH

On February 16, 2006, after many requests by Alumni president, John Williams, local, state, community leaders and FHHS students, the Prince George's Board of Education approved \$2.1 million for needed repairs at FHHS.

In addition, a feasibility study was approved to determine if the school should be renovated or rebuilt at a new location. In December 2006, the results of the study was released.

The decision is a difficult one because of the school's legendary history. During the 2006 National African-American History Month, Prince George's County Schools selected Fairmont Heights High School and alumni to be featured on the internet, as well as on local television (20 pages of history). As well as being the first high school in the county for Black students, FHHS' history includes a list of contributions to the community and society that looks like a "Who's Who". Plans are being made to declare the school a historical site.

The goal of the study is to "determine how best to provide a facility for the students and faculty of Fairmont Heights High School that meets the school's educational needs, learning environment, as well as today's building and life safety needs."

The question is whether to relocate and rebuild at a cost of \$79 million, or to modernize and add needed facilities at an estimated cost of \$51 million.

The FHHS Alumni Association believes we should opt to modernize and replace parts of the building. The building image should not be altered, but restored to its original appearance. The building should be preserved as a symbol of the community's legendary history. FHHS is not just a school, it is a symbol of history for those enrolled at the school, and those not yet born to become alumni of a historical institution.

DATES OF THE HEARINGS:

FEBRUARY 14, 2007 FHHS GYMNASIUM - 7:00 PM
FEBRUARY 21, 2007 FHHS GYMNASIUM - 7:00 PM

Persons wishing to speak at the hearing should call the Board of Education office at (301) 925-6308 before 4:30 PM on February 14th-16th.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, "ONE OF ONLY TWO HIGH SCHOOLS FOR BLACKS" IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IN 1950.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
FOR 2006**

Thanks to all who attended FHHSAA's 17th Annual Reunion Dance in April 2006, and to those who contributed to our scholarship fund, making it possible to give \$3,000 in scholarships to the following FHHS graduates:

Stephaney Alexander - \$1,000
Business Administration - Temple University

Deborah Camara - \$500
Microbiology - University of MD, Eastern Shore

Ebony Johnson - \$500
Criminal Justice - Central Pennsylvania College

Miles Dieudonne - \$1,000
Pre-Law - University of MD, College Park

**SUPER DONATION OF THE
YEAR!**

Thanks to our SUPER DONOR OF THE YEAR, Michael "Ricky" Black for a \$500.00 contribution to the Scholarship Fund. We urge others to help make it possible for a FHHS graduate to attend college and make his/her dream a reality.

Make your donations to FHHSAA Scholarship Fund today.

NOTICE!!!

FREE S.A.T. WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS FEATURING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED JOHN SWANN AT DR. HENRY A. WISE HIGH SCHOOL - 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD, March 3, 2007 - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. (See Guidance Counselors or register online at www.hlkapsi.org or GuideRight@hlkapsi.org)

**FHHS – CELEBRATING
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

*Fairmont Heights High School
Principals – Past and Present*



G. James Ghoslon
1963 - 1969

Alvin V. Fortune
1969 - 1972

Dr. Donald A. Kiah
1972 - 1978

Clarence McDonald
1978 - 1995



Dr. Carolyn D. Blue
1995 - 2003



Richard Jones
2003 - 2005



Peggy Nicholson
2005 - Present



Portrait of G. James Ghoslon, first principal of Fairmont Heights HS, is unveiled at the 1999 Graduation ceremony.



Montel Williams speaks at Fairmont Heights HS in Spring 1990.

*Fairmont Heights
High School
Anniversary Celebrations*



At the school's 50th anniversary celebration, former music teacher, Dessie Smith, remembers how famed R&B singer Marvin Gaye would travel to Fairmont Heights HS as a youth to take music lessons from her.



First Principal G. James Ghoslon speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration for Fairmont Heights HS in November 2000.



Fairmont Heights HS Class of 1953 - 83 at the 50-year anniversary celebration.

FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION DANCE



FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

10:00 PM UNTIL 2:00 AM

AT

JAMES R. COUSINS JR. MUNICIPAL CENTER

8600 GLENARDEN PARKWAY

GLENARDEN, MARYLAND 20706

DISCO MUSIC BY: "MUSIC ON THE MOVE"

DRESS TO IMPRESS: GRAY and MAROON - In Remembrance of:

Mr. G. JAMES GHOLSON

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

B.Y.O.L. - FREE SETUPS

DONATIONS...\$22.00 NO SALES AT THE DOOR

Purchase tickets by mail: FHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 2727, LANDOVER HILLS, MD 20784-0727

or contact one of the individuals listed below.

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

LORETTA LIGON 301-249-2527

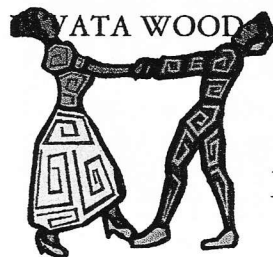
CHRISTINE TILGHMAN ... 301-627-4867

YATA WOOD 301-336-8541

MICHAEL MARSHALL 301-773-8248

OTIS BROADWATER EBONY INN

JOHN WILLIAMS 301-336-7913



MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP WILL BE AVAILABLE.

PLEASE JOIN !!!!



**FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



PRESENTS THE SECOND
PICNIC POOL PARTY & DISCO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

6:00PM until 10:00PM

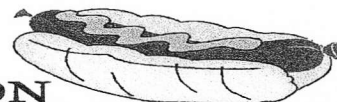
AT

BROADWATER MANSION

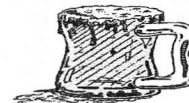
4205 CRAIN HIGHWAY

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

DISCO SOUNDS BY: "ONE LOVE PRODUCTION"



FREE FOOD - CASH BAR



Donations : \$25.00 In Advance or \$30.00 at the GATE

Proceeds To Benefit The FAIRMONT HEIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

PIERRE CRUTCHFIELD.....301-261-4812

MICKEY McCLOUD.....240-375-0853

LAVATA WOODS.....301-390-2483

OTIS BROADWATER....EBONY INN

JOHN WILLIAMS.....301-336-7913

MICHAEL MARSHALL...301-773-8248

"OLD HORNETS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST BUZZ AWAY"

**Fairmont Heights High School
Alumni Association**
Post Office Box 2727
Landover Hills, Maryland 20784-0727

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make check/money order payable to FHHSAA and send to the above address

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Graduation Year _____

Regular Membership - \$10.00 _____

Faculty _____

Lifetime Membership - \$200.00 _____

Staff _____