

News

Tenants Evicted on 48 Hours Notice

By Ava

On Wednesday, January 4, 2012, the City of Laurel evicted 10 very low income, formerly homeless and/or disabled residents from “Doc” Williams’ rooming house at Route 1 and Main Street in Laurel. They were given 48 hours notice to vacate. Some had lived in the building for several years.

Although the City posted a sign on the door giving the residents 12 days to move, police and the City arrived at the building on Friday, January 6 at 4:00 p.m., the end of the 48-hour verbal notice period given to tenants through the landlord, Darrell Williams, to ensure all residents had vacated. After learning from Williams on Thursday, January 5, that the sign was in error, the tenants effectively had 24 hours notice to move out. The sign was not removed or amended. (A sign indicating the 48-hour notice period was posted on another door not used by tenants.)

There was a flurry of moving activity Thursday evening and Friday as tenants scrambled to find places to stay and the ways and means to move their belongings. With few options available, tenants found temporary or longer term living arrangements in rented rooms, motels, vehicles, the Winterhaven shelter system and tents.

Over the years, Williams’ father, Dr. Dorsey Williams (“Doc”), had rented rooms upstairs while operating his dental practice on the first floor. According to Williams, the building underwent regular inspections. Since his father’s retirement, Williams made renovations to rent rooms on the first floor apparently without gaining the appropriate permits or licenses from the city. Repairs were also needed. Williams plans to restore the property to its “mixed use” status with a business on the first floor and three rooms for rent upstairs. At least one tenant plans to move back in.

The writer is one of the evicted tenants. She had lived in the building for 10 months.

Open Letter to the Governor

They Just Want Jobs

By Joe

Mr. O’Malley, I’ve been a long-time resident of Maryland, since 1969. We have a real problem in our state: it’s called homelessness. It’s been going on for some time and we need to address this problem immediately. I believe we have the resources, but nobody wants to talk about that. What do we have to do to get the wheels turning?

The homeless are labeled as “worthless.” Our governments--local, state and federal--think that everybody who is homeless wants to be that way. That’s not true. There might be some people out there who want to be like that, but 80 to 90 percent of the people out there do NOT want to be out there.

There are families out there now, too. You’ve got to look at all the foreclosures in the last two to three years. If you lose your home, where do you go? You’re homeless.

The people out there don’t want pity, they just want jobs.

Help Wanted

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Reflections

On Being a Friend of the Homeless *By Portia*

I was born in Annapolis and grew up in Glen Burnie and Laurel. My father's from Waterbury near Crownsville and my mother's from Virginia. My father used to drive a school bus my mother rode on and that's how they met. He was in the military and worked as a mechanic. They had three boys and three girls. I'm next to the oldest. They were married for 49 years when he died.

I'm not homeless. I look out for people. My daughter Denise told me about the Day Center. Everybody here is nice. They're doing a good job trying to help the people on the streets. One time I was on the streets when my sister told me don't come back to the house. I wasn't raised to be on the streets. Streets is not for me and thank God I got back in the house. I was in a place called the Stanton Center in Annapolis. I asked a man named Larry Griffin if I could come there. I stayed for two months. Then I called my mother and she said I could come back home.

Friends who come here tell me sometimes they don't like to be homeless. I tell them I understand. They've got plenty of shelters in Baltimore like Helping Up Mission and I tell them to go there. I saw a homeless woman at the light rail in Glen Burnie and I felt really sorry for her. She asked if I had any money. I said I've got a dollar to get you a hamburger or something and she said thank you very much. When I see homeless people digging in trash cans I say don't do that; if you're hungry I'll take you to

Continued on page 4

Original Expressions

Must Move On *By Eric aka Lil Pistol*

*Moving towards a helpless person who needs help
I offer money and say stay warm until the ice melt
I like to feed hungry people until they can't fit a belt
Some people don't care to realize the pain others have felt
I ask God to bless those who live with bad health
Even continue to bless people who just care 'bout themselves
I see the same people at the library at those bookshelves
Pretending to be happy, like Santa and his elves
People just sit and listen at the homeless
They have things to tell us
Since I been in the streets I felt like people with luxury smell like bugs
It never mean much to me to take off my shoes before walking on rugs
As long as I had a roof over my head
And to be able to say my grace with people before breaking bread
People ask me why is my favorite color red
And my answer is because wearing this color reminds me
Of the blood Jesus bled for this world
So when people sin we should get on our knees and beg
People say I walk like I got fleas chewing my wooden leg
My life is a Sad Moment, so my tears still fill a washin' rag
Now and dayz, I can't find a good job, like Craig
I wish I could buy every homeless person their own Jag
It's time for us homeless folks to have fun like playin' tag
At the Center, homeless people are so sad that they faces sag
I miss being on the block representing my blood flag
But in my present dayz, I live this life with a drag
I'm in school to earn a GED but I'm not tryin' to brag*





By Steve

“Blessed is the kindness of the heart that touches others”

“Many thanks to thee, Oh Volunteers”

Transitions

February Birthdays

Angel, February 2

Mike, February 7

Brian, February 18

Vernon, February 18

Primetime, February 19

Gian, February 20

Sam, February 20

Robin, February 23



Appreciation

“Volunteer Tim Picciotti died of cancer on December 27. Every month for three years Tim picked up towels to launder, one of the most humble yet necessary positions at the Center. He was always so upbeat and graciously took on this job of serving others.” -Anne

Resources

“Homeless Rob” of Tampa, FL found The Homeless Gazette’s Google+ page and linked to us! Check out Rob’s blog:

Homeless Rob Has A Plan

<http://homelessrobshome.blogspot.com/>

Additional blogs

<http://guide2homelessness.blogspot.com/>

<http://homelessfamily.blogspot.com/>

<http://thehomelessguy.blogspot.com/>

A great NPR story

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2011/12/20/144023853/from-homeless-to-white-house-to-the-martha-stewart-show>

Perspective

It Started with a Suspended License *Anonymous*

I had to serve three months for driving with a suspended license. I got over \$1000 behind on my child support payments. When I got out, I was getting some unemployment.

Now, I know it was wrong, but when I started working again I was worried about being behind in my child support and I didn’t tell anyone I was working and kept getting my unemployment. I just wanted to get caught up on my child support. But, of course, they figured it out.

I had gotten caught up on my child support, but then when my construction job ended again and I applied for unemployment, they told me they had to withhold it to pay off the money I got when I shouldn’t have.

It’s been four years of seasonal working and then not getting any unemployment trying to pay that off. I kept filing because I knew it would get paid off some day.

I left my room a few weeks ago, before I would be evicted, and am living in a tent. I’m in a good camp. This is the first time I’ve actually been living outside. It’s all right. I’ll be all right.

I just got my letter from the State saying I was all caught up on my unemployment and even got a check for \$73! The next check should be the regular amount and I’m hoping to get a room again after that.

I’ll be okay.

On Being a Friend, continued from page 2

McDonald's. I won't buy you a drink but I'll buy you something to eat. One man said he was really happy. Everybody tells me God is going to bless me.

I know a couple people who live in tents. I feel sorry for them. They say you're lucky you can go home. I say, thank God I've got a place I can rest my head in. I'm still at home with my brother and Denise, and my other daughter lives in Baltimore.

You have to try and help your own self. I tell them go home or call your mother and say, Ma, I love you, I miss you, can I come back home? And you have to be on your P's and Q's. I don't know what else to say. Some of them listen to me. I like to talk to people, be friendly with them, tell them get your head together. Some of them I say just go out and get a job.

Some people ask me do you know where can I get help. I tell them there's a Day Center in Howard County where they've got people who help people get off the streets and there's a van that picks everybody up. If they want to come I show them where. I say it's nice, you meet friendly people, they've got computers, a pantry, good food to eat, you can take showers there.

My mother helps people. Some people when they have problems call my mother. My father said if people need help, just go help them. I was in Glen Burnie sitting in McDonald's waiting for the bus and I had pains in my stomach and asked that old homeless woman if she wanted a double-cheeseburger and fries. She kept asking if I wanted some Pepto Bismol. I said I don't drink that stuff. She told me thanks and God is going to bless you. I was happy for her. She was hungry. She said she hadn't ate for three days so I said here's some food and a couple dollars. I said, thank you. I look out for people if people look out for me.

About the homeless in this country, it's sad. The government should put them in a shelter, keep them warm. The President needs to get on his P's and Q's and get these people off the streets. It's cold outside. I just tell them, good luck on you. Some people won't help people. I do.

My life is okay. My philosophy is don't be sad. Just be happy. I be happy all the time and go and

talk to people. Sometimes I am upset. I think about my father all the time. He had a massive heart attack in 2003. We miss him so bad. He was a good father. He told us he loved us. We told him, Daddy, we love you. All of us look just like our father. If somebody's car broke down he'd tell the person, bring your car around, I'll fix it. He said when I pass away, take care of my wife. We're taking care of our mother. She says just keep on helping people and God is going to bless you. I say, I know. ■

"The number of homeless students in Maryland has more than doubled in the past five years, rising from 6,721 to 14,117 last school year, according to the Maryland State Department of Education."

Jessica Anderson, The Baltimore Sun, January 22, 2012

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-homeless-students-20120106,0,6834361,full.story>

CLASSIFIEDS *Send ads to homelessgazette@gmail.com*

Job Wanted: If you need a Class A CDL OTR driver, call Keith, 832-524-1550.

The Homeless Gazette is looking for your stories, original poems, art, photographs, ideas and suggestions. Please drop off at submissions box at the Rt. 1 Day Center or email to homelessgazette@gmail.com.

The Homeless Gazette meets Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information please see Jerry, Gary, Sherri or Mary, or send an email to homelessgazette@gmail.com.

Published by homeless persons and advocates for the homeless in Howard County, MD.

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