



MIMA

Monthly Update

SEPTEMBER 2025

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sep 15 - Oct 15

[Click for more information!](#)

Latin Dance Lessons

Multiple Dates • Multiple Locations



Kids' Writers Live: Gloriana, Presente

Sep 17 • Enoch Pratt Free Library



Hispanic Heritage Month: Sorocho

Sep 18 • Walters Art Museum



Unidos en el Arte

Sep 20 - Oct 25 • Creative Alliance



iCelebremos!

Sep 20 • The Maryland Zoo



Hispanic Heritage Festival

Oct 4 • Carroll Creek, Frederick



And More!

Multiple Dates • Multiple Locations



Hispanic Heritage Month



Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

Every year, from **September 15** until **October 15**, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. During this thirty-day period, many Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Spain, including Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.



Join us in honoring the contributions, culture, and influence of our Hispanic and Latino diasporic communities that help form the foundation of Baltimore City. Click on the calendar above for more details on events around town to experience Hispanic and Latino culture and history through music, dance, food, and more!



UPDATES FROM OUR OFFICE

Nominations Now Open for the 2025 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards

Mayor Brandon M. Scott and the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission present the 2025 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards. Do you know someone whose work has made a positive impact Baltimore's Hispanic and Latino communities during the past year? Nominate them for an award by **September 22** at 12:00 PM.



Five individuals will be recognized for their outstanding contributions as an emerging leader, an educator, a service provider, a volunteer, or a bridge-builder (the Delfina Haydee Pereda Echeverria Award), respectively.

[Submit a nomination by September 22](#)

Introducing Our Fall Semester Undergraduate Interns



William Mariscal is a Public Health major from Houston, Texas, and a current junior at Johns Hopkins University. He is a health advocate for Hopkins Community Connect and was a legislative intern for U.S. Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (TX-29). As a MIMA intern, he will participate in community outreach and assist with MIMA's community education initiatives.

Judy Nasser is a senior at the University of Maryland, College Park, pursuing a dual Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and in Criminology and Criminal Justice, with a minor in Law and Society. She is also enrolled in Maryland's 4+1 Master of Arts in International Relations (MAIR) program. As a first-generation American, Judy is passionate about immigration law and refugee advocacy and, in her role as a MIMA intern, will be supporting the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission.





Maria Paula Vasini is joining MIMA as a communications intern for the Fall 2025 semester. She is a transfer student at Johns Hopkins University, double majoring in International Studies and Economics with a minor in Communications and Marketing. As an immigrant from Venezuela, Maria Paula is eager to connect with Baltimore's diverse communities and support MIMA's communications initiatives. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music and playing the guitar.

Volunteer with Our Office

If you are not a student but looking for ways to get involved and support your immigrant neighbors, MIMA is seeking dedicated individuals to join our volunteer team!

As a volunteer, you can assist in various programs and initiatives to provide vital support, remotely or in-person (based on your preferences and our office's needs). Your involvement will directly contribute to empowering immigrant communities to thrive. Join us in making a difference!

[Apply to volunteer with MIMA](#)

Community Resource Guide

With the change in federal administration at the beginning of this year, there have been many shifts in the immigration policy landscape. Please see the "National Developments" section below for a summary of federal actions that may impact our communities. Additionally, please continue consulting our office's guide to services and resources.

[Find services and resources for immigrants in Baltimore](#)

Bi-Weekly Community Stakeholders Call

Our Community Stakeholders Calls take place every other Friday from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM and are hosted virtually on Microsoft Teams. The call brings together a diverse group of partners and stakeholders, including non-profits, faith-based organizations, civic groups, educational institutions, and city agencies. The call on **September 19** will feature the Office of Community Relations of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services as the presenter. The call on **October 3** will feature the Baltimore Infants and Toddlers Program of the Baltimore City Health Department and Clay Hill Public Charter School as presenters.



[Join MIMA's stakeholder calls](#)



CITY SERVICES

Baltimore City Public Schools: Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy Update



For the 2025-2026 school year, cell phones and electronic devices must be powered off, put away, and secured during the school day (including breakfast, lunch, recess, and transition periods). Cell phone and electronic device use is only permitted with teacher approval or in emergencies with permission. Parents should call the school to reach students. Learn more about this policy on the [City Schools website](#).

Traffic Modifications for Charm City Live

Temporary traffic modifications will be in place for the 4th Annual Charm City Live festival, taking place on Saturday, **September 20**. The event will be held at War Memorial Plaza located at 100 Holliday Street from 12 to 9 PM.

In preparation for the event, the following road and lane closures will be implemented on September 20 from approximately 12 to 9 PM with detours and parking restrictions in effect:

- Lexington Street closed between Guilford Avenue and Gay Street
- Holliday Street closed between Lexington Street and Saratoga Street
- Curb lane closure along the north side of Fayette Street between Gay Street and Holliday Street



Motorists traveling in this vicinity should be on the watch for pedestrians and are encouraged to use alternate routes.

Trash and Recycling Collection Returning to Standard Time



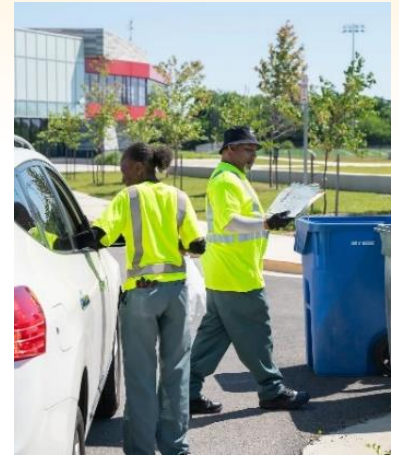
On **September 30**, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will return to the standard schedule for trash and recycling collection, from the earlier start time for summer months. Trash and recycling will begin at 6 AM on this date.

What residents need to know:

- Collection days will stay the same.
- Only the start time is changing, from 5 AM back to 6 AM.
- Set out trash and recycling by 6 AM, or preferably the evening before, starting at 6 PM.
- Expect early morning noise from collection trucks during this period.

Shred Your Documents at DPW Shred Day

DPW is hosting “Shred Days” to help residents to clear out their clutter. Bring paper documents that you no longer need but that may have sensitive information (up to two 32-gallon bags). A GROW Center Pop-Up will also be giving away free trees, mulch, and more. The next event is taking place on **October 4** from 8 AM to 12 PM at Western High School, 4600 Falls Rd, Baltimore, MD 21209. Find more information on the [DPW website](#).



Older Adults Thriving in Baltimore City Summit

The Mayor's Office of Older Adult Affairs and Advocacy (MOAAA) is hosting its 3rd Annual Older Adults Thriving in Baltimore City Summit on **September 24** from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the M&T Bank Stadium in Downtown Baltimore. Join us for a day full of essential conversations on health and wellness as well as plenty of information and resources. [Register on MOAAA's page](#) to reserve your spot.

B'More Fresh Provides Additional Food Assistance for SNAP Recipients

Baltimore City residents enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can earn \$30 per month to purchase fruits and vegetables when they shop online with a participating grocery store. After spending \$5 on SNAP-eligible items, shoppers will receive a \$30 produce voucher in their online account. Visit the [B'More Fresh Voucher Program website](#) for more information.



Discount on Water Bills Available for Certain Households through Water4All

Water4All is a program that offers discounts on water bills for eligible Baltimore City residents. Baltimore City residential households who meet income and certain other requirements are eligible. Visit the [Water4All website](#) for more information on eligibility and to apply.



LOCAL EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Lawyer in the Library: Immigration Information

Legal practitioners from Just Neighbors and World Relief will be available to speak with individuals seeking information on immigration-related matters. Practitioners can provide general information on basic immigration-related inquiries, distribute informational materials, provide referrals, and more. Services will be available in Spanish.



These sessions are hosted at the Southeast Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue, every other Wednesday from 11 AM to 2 PM, with upcoming dates on **September 10** and **September 24**.

Korean Society of Maryland: The 47th Maryland Korean Festival

The Korean Society of Maryland is hosting the 47th Maryland Korean Festival on **September 13** from 10 AM to 5 PM at Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road, Columbia, MD 21043. Experience Korean food, beauty products, fashion, and more at this celebration of Korean culture, from old traditions to new innovations! Find more information on the [Maryland Korean Festival website](#).

Waverly Main Street: 2025 Baltimore Book Festival



The City of Baltimore and Waverly Main Street present the 2025 Baltimore Book Festival, taking place on **September 13 to 14** in the heart of Waverly. This year's lineup will feature over eighty authors, six stages, literary panels, youth events, and a kickoff reception on **September 12** at Peabody Heights Brewery. Find more information on the [Baltimore Book Festival website](#).

Jewish Community Services: Community Connection Resource Fair

Join Jewish Community Services (JCS) for this free event at Arlington Elementary School on **September 17** from 12 to 5 PM! Representatives from public and private sector organizations will provide information and resources to help you and your family enhance your emotional, physical, and financial well-being. This event is free and open to the entire Baltimore community. Registration is encouraged but not required. Find more information and register on the [JCS website](#).

Greater Baybrook Alliance: 2025 Annual Event

Join the Greater Baybrook Alliance for our 2025 Annual Celebration on **September 17**! GBA will be celebrating the things they love most about their neighborhood and sharing the good work that they have done throughout the year. This will be a family-friendly event with a pre-event community clean-up, food, music, raffle prizes, and activities. RSVP through the [event form](#) to be updated on event activities, raffle prizes, and more.



Baltimore CONNECT and Young Successful Leaders: Fall Resource Fair

Baltimore CONNECT, in collaboration with Young Successful Leaders (YSL), invites you to their Fall Resource Fair on **September 20**. This free community event is dedicated to connecting Baltimore residents with essential health, housing, and human services. Organizations, faith-based groups, and service providers will share valuable resources and support individuals in need. Register for free on [Eventbrite](#).



Free Distribution of Fresh Produce by Centro SOL

Centro SOL, in partnership with the City of Baltimore and Common Market, provides free distributions of fresh produce once a month on Wednesday mornings before noon at 5215 Wright Ave, Baltimore, MD 21205. The next distribution date is **October 1**.

Free Health Education by Centro SOL

Weekly on Saturday mornings, Centro SOL hosts Embajadores de Salud, a free health education program to promote healthy lifestyles that are also culturally conscious. Each participant-centered session includes presentations, workshops, and physical activities. Sessions are held in Spanish for the entire family. Find more information on [Centro SOL's website](#), and [register through this form](#) to receive the location and details.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Judicial Immigration Updates

Lawsuits have been filed against many of President Donald Trump's executive orders related to immigration. Follow the development of these and other lawsuits at the [Just Security Litigation Tracker](#).

Executive Immigration Updates



Expansion of "Good Moral Character" Test for Citizenship

Applications: On **August 15, 2025**, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that they will be pursuing a [more "holistic" approach](#) to the "good moral character" test for citizenship applications. In the past, applicants passed this test as long as they lacked a record of specific criminal activities, drug-related offenses, fraud, and misrepresentation. Officers are now directed to evaluate not just the absence of misconduct but to

actively weigh an applicant's positive contributions to their community.

Under the new guidance, USCIS will place greater emphasis on positive factors, including:

- Sustained community involvement and contributions
- Family caregiving responsibilities and ties to the United States
- Educational achievements
- Stable employment history and professional accomplishments
- Length of lawful residence in the United States
- Compliance with tax obligations and financial responsibility

New Family-Based Visa Policy Guidance: USCIS has issued [new policy guidance](#) for immigration visa petitions made through a family member. Effective **August 1, 2025**, the guidance gives immigration officers more discretion to deny applications without warning. Two major changes are:

(1) USCIS can deny petitions without issuing one of the following:

- Request for Evidence (RFE), allowing the applicant to fix a minor issue or submit a missing required document; or
- Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID), warning that the case may be denied with a final chance to respond.

Now, USCIS officers can skip both steps and deny a petition immediately if required documents are missing or if there is no clear legal basis for approval.

(2) USCIS may issue a Notice to Appear (NTA) to some denied applicants. An NTA is the first step in deportation proceedings. Under the new guidance, if an applicant is in the U.S. without legal status and their petition is denied, USCIS may now place them in removal proceedings.

If you have already filed or are planning to file a family-based petition, please consult a [qualified immigration attorney](#) or [Department of Justice \(DOJ\) accredited representative](#).

Immigration Bond Support

If you or someone you know need immigration bond support, reach out to the [National Bail Fund Network through their intake form](#).

The National Bail Fund Network, hosted by Community Justice Exchange, is a network of community-based, independent groups that pay pre-trial bail, protest bail, and immigration bond. They coordinate a referral program that helps individuals and organizations seeking support with immigration bond to locate a fund that may be able to help.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- [NEW] [Family Services Coordinator](#) | St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore | Proficient Spanish preferred
- [Community School Coordinator](#) | Southeast Community Development Corporation (CDC) | Bilingual Spanish required
- [On-Site Intake Capacity Coordinator](#) | Global Refuge | Bilingual Spanish required
- [Reservation Clerk](#) | Maryland Department of Transportation | Bilingual candidates encouraged to apply
- [Police Monitoring Facility Technician](#) | Maryland Department of Transportation | Bilingual candidates encouraged to apply
- [Various Bilingual Positions](#) | Baltimore Medical System | enter "bilingual" in the search field



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