

Scotland Celebrates Black History, Looks to Future

[By Aaron Stern/The Almanac](#)

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After energetic performances by the Quince Orchard High School and Scotland Step Teams, the Rev. James Phifer stepped to the front of the multi-purpose room at the Scotland Community Center. "They said I've got to do a step – you ready for my step?" Phifer asked the crowd. The crowd answered yes.

"I ain't," said Phifer, getting a laugh from the crowd. Phifer spoke to a crowd of close to one hundred Scotland residents of all ages who came to the Scotland Community Center on Friday, Feb. 29 to celebrate Black History Month.

Twins Isaiah and Jeremy Lindsay kicked off the evening with a rousing rendition of "Father Can You Hear Me," followed by a poem read by Dyan Herbert, a performance by the Scotland's Soulful Singers and the step performances before Phifer took the front of the room for the keynote speech.

Phifer urged the youth of Scotland to resist pressure from outside forces that would steer them away from future successes and he spoke about the pressure to do drugs in particular.

"I understand that young people face all kinds of pressure [and] peer pressure is the greatest kind," Phifer said. "Why would you trust someone who would sell you drugs? You know that they will kill you, they will destroy you... they will leave you empty," Phifer said. He urged young students to study hard and to think independently.

THE CELEBRATION came three days after well over one hundred Scotland residents and supporters gathered to lobby the Montgomery County Council to include a complete renovation Scotland Community Center in the County's Capital Improvements Program for the years 2009-2014.

On Thursday, Feb. 28 the members of the County Council's Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee expressed support for the Scotland renovation, along with those of Ross Boddy and Good Hope Recreation Centers. County Executive Ike Leggett did not include those renovations in the CIP that he proposed to the County Council late last year but the Council has the power to amend and approve the CIP as it sees fit. In order for the renovations to be included, the PHED committee would have to vote to include them and then the full Council would have to approve of the inclusion as well.



Photo by Aaron Stern/The Almanac

The Scotland Step Team was one of several performances on Friday, Feb. 29 at the Scotland Community

Center's Black History Month celebration.

Though the PHED Committee members expressed their support for the renovations they did not vote on the matter. The County Council is scheduled to approve the Capital Improvements Program this spring.

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