

## Black History Special

known as Rock School, which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Stanley Institute

## Unionville, MD

Located in Talbot County Maryland off of St. Michael's Rd., Unionville was one of the only free African American villages in the country prior to the Civil War. Originally called "Cawgillton" after the prominent Talbot County Cawgill family who owned the land. After the War, the property was purchased by 17 returning African American Union soldiers who fought in the war. The town was renamed in their honor. A memorial to them can be found at the church in the town.

## Sumner Hall

Built in 1908, Sumner Hall in Chestertown is the home of Charles A. Sumner Republic (G.A.R.) and is now restored and houses



Sumner Hall

## Diana Purnell becomes chair of the Worcester County Commissioners

**She is the first Black woman to head the County Board.**

**Diana Purnell** of Berlin Worcester County VOLT Gambling Revenue Initiative Board. She has been elected by the Worcester County Board of Commissioners to be its president. She was elected to the Commission in 2014 to replace long-time Commissioner James Purnell representing the predominantly Black District 2. She is the first Black woman elected to the Commission and the only African American member.



The Commission president is selected by the Board and her election was unanimous

Mrs. Purnell is a member of the Social Services Board, the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, and is a voting member of the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Prior to her joining the Commission, she served as executive director of B.R.A.V.E. (Berlin Reclaim Attitude and Value Enhancement) for 15 years. The organization helped develop several enrichment programs for children and teens of the Berlin area. She has also been involved with the Worcester County Tourism Board, Worcester Ethics Board and the

a museum, gallery, community center, and performance space.

The Post was organized by Black veterans of the Civil War who were from Kent County or had settled there. The hall is one of only two such halls still standing in the US and the only one offering regular activities.

Operated by Sumner Hall, Inc., a non-profit corporation, the building is supported by grants, donations and memberships.

Center. Diana is married to Gabriel Purnell.

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