

**From:** [Charles County Government](#)  
**To:** [Public Record](#)  
**Subject:** \*NEW SUBMISSION\* Submit Comments - Commissioners' Public Comment Sessions  
**Date:** Monday, November 13, 2023 11:12:34 AM

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#### Submit Comments - Commissioners' Public Comment Sessions

**Submission #:** 2820290  
**IP Address:** 74.96.5.76  
**Submission Date:** 11/13/2023 11:12  
**Survey Time:** 1 minute, 39 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "\*\*\*\*\*" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

#### Read-Only Content

##### Name

Vera Merritt

##### Address

231 Williamsburg Circle  
La Plata, Maryland 20646

##### Phone

(240) 381-2217

##### Email

vwmerit231@verizon.net

##### Comment

In Support of A Historical Plaque to Recognize Mr. Joseph Christopher Parks Most of us know Mr. Joseph Christopher Parks as the First Charles County Supervisor of Colored Schools. He served in this capacity from 1919 to 1961. During this time Mr. Parks expanded educational opportunities for African Americans by providing teacher recruitment and training of minority teachers, plus providing school transportation for the many colored children in Charles County. He oversaw the construction of some grammar and high schools in the county including Pomonkey Elementary (later renamed J. C. Parks Elementary School), Pomonkey High School, and Bel Alton High School, as well as Malcolm and Mt. Hope Elementary Schools. We may not be aware that Mr. Parks was born in Kentucky, served in the US Army, and taught on the Eastern Shore before moving to Bryans Road, Md. In 1919. Mr. Parks also worked with Superintendent P.D. Brown to establish the first Public Library in the county. Later he served as Executive Secretary to the Maryland State Teachers Association and worked toward obtaining equal salaries for teachers statewide. After 42 years of dedicated service to Charles County and its citizens, Mr. Parks retired from public service in 1961. His vision of creating the best environment where all students experience academic success,

develop personal responsibility, and achieve career readiness for the 21st century is alive and well today as we continue to seek and provide the best education for our children. It is only right that we recognize and proclaim to all that Mr. Parks was a vital instrument in making education a top priority in the county. A plaque honoring him is long overdue and aids in making his story known to all. Thank you for your time and consideration. Vera Walton  
Merritt Bryans Road Property Owner

**Upload File(s)**

Thank you,

**Charles County, MD**

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