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Telemundo 44 and Comcast Present Latin American Youth Center With 200 Laptops and Complimentary Internet Essentials Service for Families

Giveaway encourages multigenerational connection as part of national NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises campaign

By SAVANNAH ISNER
Comcast

WASHINGTON (Jan. 7, 2020)—Telemundo 44, in partnership with Comcast's Internet Essentials program and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, celebrated Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) yesterday and presented 200 free laptops to families who are served by the nonprofit Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), which serves over 4,000 youth and families through youth centers, school-based sites and public charter schools in the District of Columbia and in Maryland's Prince George's and Montgomery Counties as the Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers. This donation is part of a broader national campaign led by NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises, the leading media company serving Hispanics in

the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

"I am so happy that our youth and families will be receiving laptops that will help them remain connected to their school learning as well as our LAYC after school programs and services," said Lupi Quinteros-Grady, President and CEO of Latin American Youth Center. "I am grateful for Comcast's generosity to uplift our community in this way. Our communities are facing many challenges, and the gift of a laptop supports our youth and their families in a significant way."

Comcast will also provide each family with 12 months of complimentary Internet service through its Internet Essentials Program, the nation's largest and most successful broadband adoption program that provides high-speed Internet service to low-income

families and has connected more than four million low-income students since its inception in 2011.

"Staying connected is more important than ever as learning and working and interacting with loved ones has shifted to become more socially distanced and virtual," said Misty Allen, Senior Vice President of Government & Community Affairs for Comcast's Beltway Region. "We hope the laptops and Internet Essentials service help to start the new year off right for these families and give them the ability to access the information they need and to keep in touch with what matters most."

This initiative ties into Comcast's broader mission to help close the digital divide and is one facet of Telemundo's holiday campaign, Felices Fiestas, which celebrates

the value of relationships and hope for the future. The donation contributes to learning gaps for students and to social isolation for seniors — issues that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By focusing on these demographics, the company aims to create opportunities for intergenerational connections and provide bonding experiences among family members who need a safe, socially distanced way to see loved ones. In addition, while the pandemic keeps many students out of physical classrooms, technology becomes vital for distance learning and helping young people continue with their studies.

"We are thrilled to be able to help support intergenerational connections among

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PHOTOGRAPHS CREDIT JASON PUTSCHE PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF COMCAST

Telemundo 44, Comcast and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation celebrate Three Kings Day and pass out laptops and Internet Essentials service information for Prince George's County families at the Latin American Youth Center's location in Riverdale, MD.

Maryland Legislators, Advocates and Business Supporters Introduce Paid Family Leave Bill

Coalition urges passage of legislation to protect workers, improve family health and security; new Maryland poll shows overwhelming support for the measure

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Time To Care Coalition

A broad coalition of advocates, business leaders and legislators today announced legislation to enact a paid family leave program in Maryland. The program would provide partial pay to help workers who need to take time off to care for ailing relatives or themselves.

Sen. Antonio L. Hayes (D-Baltimore City) and Del. Kris Valderrama (D-Prince George's County) unveiled the "Time to Care Act" (SB211 and HB375), establishing a Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program through which employees may take up to 12 weeks of paid leave from their jobs to care for new children, other family members with serious health conditions—such as COVID-19—or disabilities, or themselves.

"It's shameful that in 2021, in the middle of a pandemic, so many people are forced to choose between economic security and caring for their family," Sen. Hayes said. "The pandemic has only heightened the need for a compassionate, sensible paid family leave program, and that's what the Time to Care Act delivers."

The program partially replaces wages during the leave period, drawing from a fund pool into which employers and employees each contribute a small amount from each paycheck, similar to the way Social Security works.

"We know that paid family leave has many beneficial effects," said Del. Valderrama. "It allows parents to take more time away from work to bond with their infants, for instance. And it helps

workers feel more loyalty to their employees."

Recent polling shows 91 percent of Maryland registered voters believe people should be able to take time away from work for major needs like the birth of a new child or serious illness. While 88 percent of registered Maryland voters support the legislation, there's also broad support across party lines, including 92 percent of Democrats, 81 percent of Republicans and 86 percent of Independents.

Supporters shared stories about difficulties facing families and businesses when coping with caring for children and aging parents.

Montgomery County business owner Aaron Seyedian, founder of Well-Paid Maids, said he is glad his business has access to Washington, D.C.'s Paid Family and Medical Leave program, which, unlike the Time to Care act, is entirely employer-paid.

"I have dozens of different costs that I am constantly trying to control as a business owner but paid leave is not one of them. I don't stress about it. I don't even feel it," Seyedian said, speaking of the District of Columbia leave program. "By being able to use paid family and medical leave, my employees can actually take the time they need when it's a situation that would otherwise be financially impossible for me to cover through vacation pay or one that they'd try to work through, risking their health and safety, ruining their job performance, and increasing the likelihood that they'd quit."

To fund the program, employers and employees contribute a small amount

from each paycheck. The average combined weekly contribution is \$7.24 or 0.67% of payroll. Marylanders apply for the benefit when they need to take leave from work for birth or adoption of child, illness, or caring for a loved one. Families use benefits to cover expenses while not being paid at work. The program would be administered through a state insurance pool.

"In Maryland, unpaid leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act is inaccessible for 56 percent of working people," said Ricarra Jones, political director of 1199 Service Employees International Union. "Paid Family Leave will play a large role in a better work-life balance for our members because they will no longer have to battle the thought of choosing between caring for their family and working their job."

Support for such leave is growing: Nine states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Oregon, Washington) as well as the District of Columbia currently have paid family and medical leave laws.

The U.S. is the only industrialized country that does not guarantee some form of paid family leave for workers, forcing many to choose between the job they need and the family they love when critical needs arise. National polling from March 2020 showed 75 percent of voters would support a national paid family and medical leave policy that covers all workers.

The U.S. is also the only one of the thirty-five Organization for Economic

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MedStar Health Opens an Infusion Center for COVID-19 Treatment—One of Seven Statewide—On MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center's Campus

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (Jan. 7, 2021)—Today, MedStar Health opens an outpatient infusion center for the treatment of COVID-19, one of only seven such facilities statewide, on the campus of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. By providing monoclonal antibody infusions, this center will help people with COVID-19 stay out of the hospital while they recover, reducing the disease's devastating toll in the region and across the state.

The center will be administering the monoclonal antibody infusions. The specific medication (bamlanivimab) was the first to receive emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19. It works by binding to the spikes that are on the surface of the SARS COV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, and stopping the virus from being able to attach itself to cells within the body. In early studies, monoclonal antibodies have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization for people with COVID-19, and it may also reduce the duration of COVID-19 symptoms.

"This infusion center is great news for our area. It gives us the opportunity to have a treatment available in this region that can help people with COVID-19 get better," said Karla Evans, RPh, MedStar Southern Maryland's director of pharmacy. "Having this treatment option available also helps keep our inpatient beds open for sicker patients who need hospitalization."

Patients need a referral from a physi-

cian to receive the treatment, which consists of a one-hour infusion, followed by one hour of monitoring at the infusion center. The treatment is appropriate for COVID-19 positive patients with mild to moderate symptoms who are at high risk of developing complications. The drug must be given within 10 days of the start of symptoms.

The COVID-19 infusion center is located in the Lakeside Building on Hospital Drive. The center offers four treatment rooms, and all appropriate physical distancing measures and safety precautions are in place to keep patients and staff safe. The center has additional capacity and can expand should more treatment space be needed.

"Today, we are proud to offer convenient access to this effective treatment for Maryland's southern region," said Christine Wray, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. "Our hospital is committed to caring for our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and this infusion center is a key way to get treatment to people who need it, keeping them out of the hospital."

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, located in Clinton, Maryland, is a 182-bed acute care hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro and Southern Maryland area. The hospital is focused on caring for patients and their loved ones utilizing advanced technology under the guidance of expert clinicians. Quality, Safety, Wellness, and Patient Satisfaction are achieved through a spirit of patient centered services that connect us to the community we serve. For more information, visit MedStarSouthernMaryland.org.

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The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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ChildWatch: A Reminder That All-Important Charity Is Not a Substitute for Justice

Yet like so many other prophets, Dr. King's voice was often at odds with leaders or conveniently left unheard by citizens in his own land.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

2021 is here—and I thought no year could be worse than 2020!

I love Washington. For years I visited the Capitol, sat in on hearings, admired the sculptures in the Rotunda, dropped by various offices, took the trolley to the Senate dining room or the tunnel to the House offices, excited to be at the pulse of the Nation. I Marched for Life—and for other issues—around the Capitol. One time Joan Baez was sitting on the Capitol steps, singing with us.

There was even a time when I could park in the lot, right at the back door.

I attended the Inaugurals and the Inaugural Parades for several years—Democrat and Republican. I was saddened when Kennedy's Parade had to be rescheduled to the new Capital Centre because of freezing weather.

But on this January 6, I sat in horror, watching a mindless, vindictive, treasonous mob jamming balconies and stairways of the Capitol, breaking windows, rampaging through offices, stewing government papers, pilfering, cheering, yelling, waving banners, proudly taking pictures of their mayhem.

The cost of repairing their crusade will be immense. In terms of the cost of making repairs? Yes! But more important, the cost of making the Capitol a fortress. I've already noted the tall fence encircling the Capitol grounds. Will it become permanent?

At 91, of course, I'm not attending the Inaugural this year. I'll be watching from the quiet of my couch as President Joseph Biden of Delaware and Vice President Kamala Harris of California are inaugurated. Thanks to the virus, I assume there will be no Parade. We are changed forever, and not for the better.

Neighbors & other good people

Anita Cook, formerly of Morningside, was driving Brandywine Road recently when a deer ran into the car, totaling it. A few days later she and Dean Woods, also of Morningside, had someone swipe their loner car on Rt. 5 at the Woodward Rd. overpass, damaging it beyond repair.

Tom Ferrell, who grew up on Larkspur in Morningside until moving across Suitland Road to Reamy Drive in Skyline, has gotten in touch with me. I'll tell you more about him in next week's column.

Tom's sister, Kathy Hartle, recently moved from Shepherdstown, W.Va. to Mechanicsburg, Pa.

My four daughters, other family, and four dogs visited Quiet Waters Park in Anne Arundel County. They all enjoyed it. As one reviewer wrote, "The park overall is super nice, two dog parks as well as a nice overlook and an off-leash beach."

Msgr. Francis Kazista, a veteran priest of the Washington Archdiocese, died Nov. 2. Among his many assignments was as parochial vicar at Mount Calvary Parish in Forestville.

June Herrity Cowles, 88, Census Bureau retiree, died Dec. 17. She was born in Washington and was married to Fred Dupre Cowles. They became parents of seven and made their home in Forestville. Eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive her. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Francis Assisi Church in Triangle, Va. Burial is at National Memorial Park.

I received an announcement about the death of Oliver W. Gaskin, "The Lawnmower Man." Can someone email me more about him?

Changing landscape

A spending bill Congress passed last week includes authorization for two new Smithsonian museums, one on American Latinos and the other on American women. Both will be on or near the Mall. The Latino museum might be housed in the historic Arts and Industries Building next to the Smithsonian Castle.

A new Lidl store opened Dec. 9 on Livingston Road in Oxon Hill.

Virus vicissitudes

Maryland report: through 5 p.m. Jan. 6, a total of 292,904 cases, of which 3,146 are new (in one day!). Also, we've had 6,132 die of coronavirus, 50 in the last day.

State data show Prince George's has given out just 4.3% of its vaccination allocation, the third lowest in the state—and has the highest infection rate in the state. At 91, I'm being very careful, and looking to get that shot.

Did you see it? Call police

A pedestrian was struck and killed by a vehicle Jan. 6 about 4:30 a.m. at Allentown and Suitland roads, near Andrews. The man was found lying in the road and pronounced dead at the scene. Police did not release his name. Roads in the area were closed for several hours. The accident is under investigation.

Danny Fluhart, Dr. Mudd House President and beekeeper

Danny Morris Fluhart, 79, FBI cryptologist and former President of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House, died at his home in Waldorf on Aug. 27.

As many of you know, I am the great-granddaughter of Dr. Sam Mudd, the Southern Maryland doctor who set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth as he escaped after fatally shooting President Abraham Lincoln. I believe he didn't know it was Booth or that he knew about the assassination. He was, however, arrested and sentenced to prison at Florida's Dry Tortugas Island, became a hero for treating yellow fever victims, and was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson after four years. He returned to his home and medical practice. He died Jan. 10, 1883.

His house near Bryantown is one of the most-visited historic sites in Charles County and is open for guided tours (though closed right now). Danny Fluhart headed the Dr. Mudd House for nearly 15 years. He knew everyone and how to handle anything.

He was born in Columbus, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Herberg in 1965 and settled in Maryland. He was an FBI cryptologist for 36 years before taking on the Dr. Mudd House. His memberships included the Southern Maryland Beekeepers Association, U.S. Genealogical Society, Historical Society and Riverview Grange. He enjoyed gardening, growing cactus, studying genealogy and entering items in the County Fair.

He's survived by his wife of 54 years, Margaret, seven children, 16 grandchildren and sister Mary Patricia Thomas. A traditional Catholic Latin Mass was celebrated at St. John Francis Regis Church with burial in the church cemetery.

The Dr. Mudd House is seeking docents. For information, contact Kate Taylor at 230fallriver@gmail.com.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Robert Koch, Jan. 15; Dolly Wood (VFW), Jan. 16; Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17; Dennis Seaman and former St. Philip's School Principal Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19; June Nicholson, Jan. 20; Gina Glagola Hull, Jan. 20; and my step-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22.

Happy 66th anniversary to Frank and Sharleen Kelly Cappella, on Jan. 15.

Brandywine-Aquasco

CGES HISTORY

In the 1998 issues of the PL HUG, we began a series of articles about the beginnings of what is now known as Clinton Grove Elementary School. Much of this information has been gathered from a book entitled "Records and Recollections: Early Black History in Prince George's County, Maryland" by Bianca P. Floyd and published by the Park and Planning Commission. This Book can be obtained at the Surratt House in Clinton, Maryland.

Clinton Grove Elementary School began life in 1868 as the Robeystown School No. 1, District 9. It was the first school established for the African American community in the Surrattsville - Clinton area. It was established to provide education to the children of freed slaves by the Freedmen's Bureau. This was done at a time when there was not strong support for the education on these children.

The construction of the school began in August of 1867, after the land was "given" to the Freedmen by Townley B. Robey, a white farmer. Freedmen was suppose to provide money for the school's support. In actuality, the land was purchased by the Freedmen's Bureau and deemed to the trustees. Two hundred dollars was provided for the construction of the school and the finished building measured 18 feet by 32 feet. It was located on the property now occupied by the American Legion Hall on Piscataway Road.

There were many difficulties in opening and running the school. Failure to support the school when the trustee tried to solicit the remainder of the final four hundred dollars cost delays in opening the school for the children. In fact, many of the better off families refused to send their children to the school, opting instead for the Bureau School in Oxon Hill or Niles Chapel.

It was not until between the end of November and the beginning of December of 1868 that a teacher was selected and directed to open the school. That teacher was Martha J. Smith. She was also directed to organize a school organization among Freedmen Organization who were to select five men to serve as trustees for the school. Controversy continued between the trustees and Robey to the point where it was suggested that school matters be taken out of Robey's hands. Martha Smith was the first teacher at the old Robeystown School. Login for editors (http://ektron.pgcps.org/login.aspx). More information about

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384
Clinton Grove Elementary School will appear in my January 21 and January 28 Articles.

THE MIGHTY WONDERS

Stepping on Board with the Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland. "The Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland were a close-knit group, according to Tom Contee." They had to be, because from early fall through early summer for years they were performing up to three programs every Sunday in churches around the Baltimore area.

"Old Ship of Zion" recorded by the Mighty Wonders from Aquasco, Maryland. The recording is part of the Baylor University Libraries Digital Collection's Black Gospel Music Restoration Project and was provided by The Sun by them.

Contee joined the group in 1970, a few years after its formation. As they gained more attention in the local area, they decided to record a 45 and sell it as a fundraiser for the band that was the "Old Ship/Canaan" pressing, recorded in 1971 or 1972. The group sold the 45 at concerts and to family members, but aside from word of mouth, they made no attempt to get radio play for the songs and relied on "love offerings" from the churches where they performed as payment for their services. I had the honor of being their Mistress of Ceremonies at one of their Anniversary Programs.

None of the members had any formal training in singing or performing. They simply took what they had seen at their home churches and broadened it into a multi-part vocal group. They took turns singing lead, with two members John Stewart and Alfred Johnson, doing the honors more often than the others, and Contee would step up to take lead for that song or performance. All in all, it was a way for the men to sing the songs they liked, and it suited them well. Special thanks to Dan Rodricks, Bob Darden, Tony Tadey, Bob Marovich and most importantly Tom Contee for the information.

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Nurbert and Carol Hughes, Buddy and Betty King, Walter and Theresa Lindsay Joiner who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in January.

Around the County

Bible & Leadership Institute—2021 Winter Semester

Classes will be held online, via Zoom
DATE: Saturday, January 16, 2021
VENUE: Accokeek First Church of God online, via Zoom
301-283-2116 / www.accokeekchog.org
Rose Kitt, Admin. Assistant
rosersblackus48@aol.com
301-885-8124 (cell)

Description: The Winter semester of our Bible & Leadership Institute is offering the following classes:

- Understand People: 9–10:15 a.m.
- Growing Toward Spiritually Maturity: 9–10:15 a.m.
- Exalt His Name: Understanding Music and Worship 101: 10–11:15 a.m.

Registrations are open now up to January 23, 2021. To register and learn more about our entire course offerings and benefits, go to:

http://accokeekchog.org/bible-institute/ or send an email to: adminasst@accokeekchog.org. Or call or text Rose Kitt at 301-885-8124.

Our certified instructors are: Pastor Paula Collins, Minister Lisa Kirby and Minister Ben Snyder.

—Rose Kitt, Accokeek First Church of God

PGCPS Students Awarded Posse Scholarships

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 5, 2021)—Thirteen Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) high school seniors have been named 2021 Posse Scholars and will receive four-year, full-tuition college scholarships from The Posse Foundation's partnering schools.

Posse Scholars from across the nation will enter colleges and universities in multicultural groups of 10 known as "posses." Throughout their college career, they will support each other and receive ongoing assistance from The Posse Foundation. Posse Scholars have a 90 percent college graduation rate and demonstrated potential to positively impact their professions. Each scholarship is worth approximately \$140,000. More than 50 PGCPS students have received Posse scholarships since 2013.

This year's Posse Scholars include:

- Name, High School, Posse University**
Diego Benitez Rodriguez, International High School at Langley Park, Lewis & Clark College
Tino Cione, Bowie High School, Bucknell University
JaJuan Hall, Largo High School, Lafayette College
Ninah Jackson, Oxon Hill High School, Bucknell University
Assiata Kamagate, Frederick Douglass High School, University of Rochester
Matthew Miller, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy - South, Bucknell University
Camoni Mullens-Warren, Oxon Hill High School, Bucknell University
Rosebell Onuma, Academy of Health Sciences, University of Rochester
Iman Osman, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy - South, Lafayette College
Samantha Peabody, Oxon Hill High School, Lafayette College
Jasmine Robinson, College Park Academy, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Maryama Thiam, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy - North, University of Rochester
Cedric Wilkerson, Friendly High School, University of Wisconsin - Madison

For more information, visit www.possefoundation.org.

—Office of Communications, Prince George's County Public Schools

Prince George's County Announces Office Closures for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

County government offices will close on Monday, January 18, 2021, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 8, 2021)—The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) announces the following services and facilities will be closed or suspended on Monday, January 18, 2021:

Facility/Service	January 18
Animal Services Facility (3750 Brown Station Road)	Closed
Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill	Open
Brown Station Road Public Convenience Center	Open
Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site (Located at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill)	*Closed
Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site (Located at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill)	*Closed
Missouri Avenue Solid Waste Acceptance and Recycling Center	Open
Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility	Open
Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (1000 Ritchie Road)	Open
Bulky Trash Collection (By appointment only)	No Scheduled Collections
Trash Collection in County-Contracted Areas	Regular collections occur Tuesday, January 19 through Friday, January 22
Residential Curbside Recycling Collection	Regular collections occur Tuesday, January 19 through Friday, January 22
Residential Yard Trim Collections	Regular collections occur Monday, January 18

*Facility only open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

TheBus, a public transit service operated by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, will operate a regular COVID-19 schedule on Monday, January 18, 2021, except Route 51 service to the Equestrian Center/Courthouse. Regular COVID-19 operations of Route 51 will resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. In addition, the County's Call-A-Bus service, including dialysis and senior nutrition, will not operate on Monday, January 18, 2021. Regular COVID-19 operations of the Call-A-Bus services will resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

COMMUNITY

Closures for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day from A2

The Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

In addition, Prince George's CountyClick 3-1-1 will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021, and will return to regular operations on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. However, residents can still submit service/issue requests online at www.countyclick311.com/.

—Linda Lowe, Department of the Environment

Prince George's County Council Concludes Virtual 2021 Annual Retreat "Challenges and Opportunities"

Discussions Focused on County Budget, Fiscal Outlook, COVID-19 Impacts and Legislative Priorities for 2021

The Prince George's County Council has concluded its 2021 Annual Retreat "Challenges and Opportunities," held January 6–7, 2021. The two-day annual meeting, which was held virtually from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, may be viewed on the Council website.

Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, says the Council remains committed to effectively addressing the many challenges ahead, and seizing the opportunities to emerge a stronger Prince George's County.

"The Council convenes a retreat annually in January to establish a foundation for the upcoming Legislative Year. It was especially important to come together this year to discuss the health, safety, and economic impacts of the pandemic on County residents, businesses, workers and communities; review the County's COVID-19 response; and discuss a path forward. We received important updates and engaged in productive dialogue. I remain confident that our time together sets the foundation for a successful Legislative Year."

Council Members opened Wednesday's session with a briefing on the County Budget and fiscal matters provided by Office of Management and Budget Director, Stanley Earley. The presentation and dialogue focused on the County's economic and long-term fiscal outlook, including an overview of the County's employment and unemployment rates, housing and job trends, tax credits, budget-related fiscal challenges and Coronavirus Relief Funding. The County Budget session was followed by an update on the various programs and services available through the County to support residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Morning sessions concluded with a COVID-19 update from County Health Officer, Dr. Ernest Carter, who provided status reports on the county's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, Behavioral Health Support and Healthcare System Capacity.

Day two of the Council Retreat, held Thursday, January 7, began with a Judicial Branch Briefing from Seventh Judicial Circuit Administrative Judge, Sheila R. Tillerson Adams; Court Administrator, Stephanie Maxwell and Family Justice Center Director, Denise McCain. Council Members were updated on court operations, case statistics, early inmate release, and the system's COVID-19 response.

In preparation for the opening of the 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session on January 13, Senate Delegation Vice-Chair and former County Council Member Obie Patterson, and House Delegation Chair Erek Barron discussed the County's Joint Legislative Priorities with the Council, including the Countywide Map Amendment, Kirwan funding and school construction.

For more retreat information, updates and presentations visit <https://pgccouncil.us/Retreat>

—Angela Rouson, Prince George's County Council Media

Give Yourself the Gift of Wellness Education

University of Maryland Extension intern creates new self-care texting service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Jan. 7, 2021)—A new texting service, developed by University of Maryland Extension Family & Consumer Sciences intern Rebecca Ajiboye, delivers self-care advice to remind caregivers and health service workers to give themselves the same level of care they provide for others.

Just in time for the new year, Ajiboye created the new health and wellness texting service through 2-1-1 Maryland, a nonprofit organization partnering with state agencies to provide mental health resources to Marylanders. The free texting service offers reminders with self-care tips for caregivers, especially as many are isolated from their own families while attending to others during the pandemic.

"They're the ones who are spending a lot of their time and energy taking care of other people, so we wanted this texting platform to be a reminder to them to take care of themselves," said Ajiboye, senior family science major in the School of Public Health. "It's very necessary to put into yourself and to make sure you are taking care of yourself and taking care of your needs. Once you do that, you will be better equipped to take care of other people."

Though healthcare workers were targeted for this new service due to their

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Prince George's County to Host Virtual Community Meeting on the Impact of Cultural Arts on Economic Development

By PRESS OFFICER
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 7, 2021)—Prince George's County will host a virtual community meeting to engage stakeholders on the impact the cultural arts have on economic development as a part of the Prince George's County Cultural Art Study (PGCCAS). The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Arts and culture are a proven economic engine and multiplier. According to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, the arts contribute more than \$800 billion annually to U.S. economic output, amounting to more than 4% of gross domestic product. The virtual meeting will engage stakeholders and discuss how arts and culture can impact economic development in our communities.

PGCCAS is the first comprehensive inventory and assessment of the diverse arts and culture ecology in Prince George's County. This study will develop strategies and recommendations on how to integrate cultural arts into the County's economic development and land use planning strategies. PGCCAS is a collaborative effort between the Prince George's County Planning Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council.

Community participation is integral to how the study will gather data, raise awareness, and better integrate arts and culture with the needs of Prince George's County. To participate, register at https://pgcca_caedi.eventbrite.com. Log-in information will be provided prior to the meeting to all who register. For more information on the study, visit <http://bit.ly/PGCCASStudy>.

WHO: Prince George's County Planning Department and Department of Parks and Recreation of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, Inc.

WHAT: The Prince George's Cultural Arts Study: The Cultural Arts Impact on Economic Development

WHEN: Thursday, January 28, 2021 | 7 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual via MS Teams To register—https://pgcca_caedi.eventbrite.com

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities or language interpretation in all its programs and services. For special assistance (i.e. large print materials, assistive listening devices, sign language interpretation, etc.) call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-4584.

Howard University President Issues a Vaccine Public Service Announcement: When the Time Comes, Get Vaccinated!

By PRESS OFFICER
Howard University

WASHINGTON (Jan. 6, 2021)—Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick, a practicing surgeon and person living with sickle cell disease, has a message for Black America: When the time comes, please get vaccinated! As an essential health care worker, educator, father and person at high risk, Dr. Frederick decided to lead by example by producing a public service announcement (PSA) on the importance of getting the coronavirus vaccine. He was among the first to get a vaccine shot at Howard University Hospital, and he hopes his message will encourage others to do the same. Watch the PSA at <https://youtu.be/1uotK7FIK0c>.

"The coronavirus pandemic is having a significant impact on communities of color, and that narrative won't change until we take the necessary steps to protect ourselves from exposure," said Dr. Frederick. "The vaccines that are coming to market are safe and have been proven to be more than 90% effective. However, we can't get to the other side of this pandemic without you. Wear a mask, keep your social distance, wash your hands and, when the time comes, get vaccinated."

Dr. Frederick has been on the frontlines of the pandemic in a variety of ways, including making the tough decision to close the University in March, spearheading efforts to set up COVID-19 testing sites in urban communities, co-chairing the Mayor Muriel Bowser's ReOpen DC subcommittee to address equity and vulnerable populations, and

actively speaking out to encourage more vaccine trial participation and, now, vaccination participation.

Nationally, African-Americans are almost three times as likely to die of COVID-19 as whites, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Washington, D.C., African-Americans have comprised 75% of the COVID-19-related deaths in Washington, D.C., while making up only 46% of the city's population. Public health officials and academics are pointing to underlying health conditions for the severity of the virus in vulnerable populations.

The PSA, produced in partnership with Howard University's television station, WHUT-TV; Howard University Hospital; and the Office of University Communications, features several essential health care workers sharing their personal reasons for getting the vaccine. As each person steps up to be vaccinated, they express their "why": for family, to protect fellow co-workers and in honor of those who've lost their lives.

"I understand there is a lot of hesitancy in minority communities across the country when it comes to healthcare, but this is not an American experiment on Black people. The vaccine is a worldwide cure to end a global pandemic and set us on a path back to normalcy," said



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick was among the first to get a vaccine shot at Howard University Hospital.

Howard University Hospital CEO Anita Jenkins, who is featured in the PSA getting her shot. "We want the public to know that we trust the science, we're leading by example and taking the vaccine will help us end this pandemic and the tragic loss of life."

Founded in 1867, Howard University is a private, research university that is comprised of 13 schools and colleges. Students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. The University operates with a commitment to Excellence in Truth and Service and has produced one Schwarzman Scholar, three Marshall Scholars, four Rhodes Scholars, 11 Truman Scholars, 25 Pickering Fellows and more than 165 Fulbright recipients. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States. For more information on Howard University, visit www.howard.edu.

Laptops from A1

families, especially during these times when accessing classroom lessons and information is so vital," added Jackie Bradford, President and General Manager, NBC4 Washington (WRC) and Telemundo Washington (WZDC).

The local laptop distribution for LAYC families is one of several selected by Telemundo, including Boston, Chicago, Denver, Fresno, Houston, Miami, Philadelphia and Salt Lake City. Recipients were selected in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and local community partners. Locally, Comcast has supported the LAYC's digital literacy and inclusion efforts for years, focusing on building digital competency for minority youth and incorporating digital technology in workforce development programs. This recent laptop donation and complimentary Internet Essentials service add to these efforts.

NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises is a world-class media company leading the industry in the production and distribution of high-quality Spanish-language content to U.S. Hispanics and audiences around the world. This fast-growing multiplatform portfolio is comprised of the Telemundo Network and Station Group, Telemundo Deportes, Telemundo Global Studios, Universo, and a Revenue Strategy & Innovation unit. Telemundo Network features original Spanish-language entertainment, news, and sports content reaching 94% of U.S. Hispanic TV households in 210 markets through 30 local stations, 50 affiliates, and its national feed. Telemundo also owns WKAQ, a television station that serves viewers in Puerto Rico. Telemundo Deportes is the desig-

nated Spanish-language home of two of the world's most popular sporting events: FIFA World Cup™ through 2026 and the Summer Olympic Games through 2032. Telemundo Global Studios is the company's domestic and international scripted production unit, including Telemundo Studios, Telemundo International Studios, Telemundo International, Underground Producciones, an internationally renowned production boutique based in Argentina as well as all of the company's co-production partnerships. As the #1 media company reaching Hispanics and millennials online, the Revenue Strategy & Innovation unit distributes original content across multiple platforms, maximizing its exclusive partnerships with properties such as BuzzFeed, Vox, and Snapchat. Through Telemundo Internacional, the largest U.S.-based distributor of Spanish-language content in the world; and Universo, the company reflects the diverse lifestyle, cultural experience, and language of its expanding audience. NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises is a division of NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast Corporation.

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company with three primary businesses: Comcast Cable, NBCUniversal, and Sky. Comcast Cable is one of the United States' largest video, high-speed internet, and phone providers to residential customers under the Xfinity brand, and also provides these services to businesses. It also provides wireless and security and automation services to residential customers under the Xfinity brand. NBCUniversal is global and operates news, entertainment and sports cable networks, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, television production operations, television station groups, Universal Pictures, and Universal Parks and Resorts. Sky is one of Europe's leading media and entertainment companies, connecting customers to a broad



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT JASON PUTSCHE PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF COMCAST

Telemundo 44, Comcast and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation celebrate Three Kings Day and pass out laptops and Internet Essentials service information for Prince George's County families at the Latin American Youth Center's location in Riverdale, MD.

range of video content through its pay television services. It also provides communications services, including residential high-speed internet, phone, and wireless services. Sky operates the Sky News broadcast network and sports and entertainment networks, produces original content, and has exclusive content rights. Visit www.comcastcorporation.com for more information.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Reminder That All-Important Charity Is Not a Substitute for Justice

I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means—except by getting off his back.

—Leo Tolstoy, from
What Then Must We Do?

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice.

—Nelson Mandela

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke these words on April 4, 1967 at New York City's Riverside Church—a year to the day before his assassination in Memphis—he was describing something my friend Dr. David Hilfiker shared in a thoughtful Sunday sermon at The Church of the Saviour called “Justice and the Limits of Charity.”

In his speech the night before his murder Dr. King repeated the Biblical parable of the Good Samaritan who stopped and helped the desperate traveler who had been beaten, robbed, and left half dead as he journeyed along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. The Good Samaritan is traditionally considered a model of charity for his willingness to treat a stranger as a neighbor and friend. Dr. King agreed that we are all called to follow his example and serve those around us who need help. But he reminded us that true compassion—true justice—requires also attack-

ing the forces that leave others in need in the first place.

If travelers are being assaulted on the Jericho Road, we should help bind their wounds, but also work to make the road a safe passageway. If our communities have poor, homeless, and hungry children and families and we volunteer at homeless shelters or donate to food pantries and think we've done our part, we are only half right. We have done an important part. But we are not finished if we are not also fighting to prevent and eliminate the violence of joblessness, poor education, poverty, and hunger and the inequalities and injustices that feed and accompany them and unjust systems that create them.

Our great prophet Dr. King understood this. Many of the cracks in America's edifice he identified over a half century ago are deeper today. CEO compensation and corporate greed and welfare have skyrocketed to morally obscene levels while middle class and minimum wage workers and people seeking work were left behind even before the pandemic. In Fiscal Year 2018 3.8 million American households, including 1.2 million with children, had no cash income, relying only on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to stave off the wolves of hunger—a program the Trump Administration has fought to shred while increasing government welfare to the wealthiest individuals and corporations. Countless Black, Latino, and Native American youths see no hope for the future because there are no jobs for them and our schools are not preparing the majority of them for the jobs of the future. Racially unjust profiling and sentencing policies feed Black and other non-White youths and adults into a mass incarceration system too often driven by profit. Government safety net programs have lifted many millions but not all children out of poverty. Additional investments in nine federal programs that help make work pay, increase employment, and meet children's basic needs could lift 57 percent of our poor children out of poverty now; instead these programs have been under systematic attack. Even those who are lucky enough to get a job now might

not be lucky enough to be paid a fair or living wage. And we have the unbelievable spectacle of 12 states denying their citizens tens of billions of dollars in desperately needed health care and jobs under the Affordable Care Act by rejecting the Medicaid expansion even in the middle of the pandemic.

With true structural change there would be far less need for charity; without it the very best charitable efforts will never be enough. How many private foundations could make up for the denial of Medicaid or gaps in safety net programs? Yet like so many other prophets, Dr. King's voice was often at odds with leaders or conveniently left unheard by citizens in his own land.

During Dr. King's lifetime, President Lyndon Johnson's great War on Poverty attempted to address some of the inequalities in the United States that needed redressing and restructuring. But Richard Nixon sent a very different message as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in August 1968 already criticizing President Johnson's new anti-poverty efforts, saying: “For the past five years we have been deluged by government programs for the unemployed, programs for the cities, programs for the poor... America is a great nation today not because of what government did for people, but because of what people did for themselves.” Candidate Nixon had a different vision for government's role: “Let government use its tax and credit policies to enlist in this battle the greatest engine of progress ever developed in the history of man—American private enterprise. Let us enlist in this great cause the millions of Americans in volunteer organizations who will bring a dedication to this task that no amount of money can ever buy.” Instead of worrying about restructuring the edifice that had produced America's beggars, he thought giving the edifice more power would help; instead of worrying about transforming the Jericho Road, he recommended relying on millions more Good Samaritans.

When Ronald Reagan ran for president in 1980, he gave a similar message about letting people take care of themselves—all the more charged because he chose to deliver it at an appearance at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia, Mississippi, the county where three young civil rights workers—James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner—were murdered in June 1964 while seeking to ensure the right to vote for Black citizens in Mississippi's closed society. It was a shameful signal to the White Jim Crow, states' rights South. Shockingly he did not say a word about the racist violence that took these three young lives but rather told his Southern audience he believed in states' rights and “in people doing as much as they can for themselves at the community level and at the private level.” Like Nixon, Reagan said he thought we needed to recognize

“that the people of this country can solve the problems, that we don't have anything to be afraid of as long as we have the people of America.” In fact, Reagan said as governor of California he had learned many people were poor because the government “bureaucracy” there to help them “has them so economically trapped that there is no way they can get away.” His first budget as president sought to eradicate virtually the entire federal safety net and replace it with block grants and billions of budget cuts.

The same familiar accusations and policies are back from some leaders today who believe government's safety net is responsible for putting poor people in a “poverty trap,” and they will only be able to escape it if we shred the safety net to pieces. In many corners we hear the same old exhortation that the way to fix poverty and anything else that ails Americans is for us to become a nation of Good Samaritans. But has giving a beggar a coin ever been as effective as creating an economy that provides him or her a good education and a job? Is starting a prison ministry the same as speaking out against racially unjust law enforcement and judicial sentencing policies and practices? Can the most dedicated volunteer at a children's hospital give every child in her community access to preventive health care if the Affordable Care Act is overturned?

Should we be satisfied because we helped a single wounded traveler if we didn't do anything else about the rest who travel the road to Jericho at risk of attack or unjust police brutality tactics and law enforcement policies that too often take rather than protect Black lives? What is so scary today is that so many young children and adults of color have to combat daily violence in their own neighborhoods and from law enforcement officials enjoined to protect them.

We are facing another inflection point in our nation and I hope and pray we will hear and heed and move towards and not away from becoming a more just nation. Will we just let everybody worry about themselves—and rely on needed acts of charity—to get by? Or will we reform the deep unjust structural inequalities and injustices at America's core that favor the powerful at the expense of the powerless, the rich at the expense of the poor, and the greedy at the expense of the needy? Can we become a more just as well as a more charitable nation—understanding that the latter is no substitute for the former? Dr. Hilfiker in the article “When Charity Chokes Justice” reminded us that “working for justice is messier and far less rewarding than charity. There are no quick fixes, and the most common reason for quitting is discouragement. But we have little choice. Within an unjust society, there are limitations to our charity; we need to join others in the struggle for justice as well.”

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

For the Security of the Nation, Donald Trump Must Be Removed From Office Immediately

“The threat the president poses to our democracy is not short-lived and must be cut off urgently and decisively—before it leads to even greater degradation to American democratic processes and traditions. It will need to happen quickly, even with other demands pressing on our country's leadership like certifying the election results, rolling out the coronavirus vaccine and calming a nation in crisis.”

—Law Professors David Landau and Rosalind Dixon

The events of this week have shown beyond a shadow of a doubt that every day that President Trump remains in office is a threat to our national security.

Incited by Donald Trump's unhinged fantasies about the election he lost, a mob of his supporters smashed its way into the U.S. Capitol, terrorizing lawmakers and staff. Four people are dead.

It is stunningly clear that Donald Trump is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. He has constructed an alternate reality of conspiracy theories and wishful thinking, and unleashed a bloodthirsty mob to enforce it for him.

The nation cannot endure another two weeks of his illegal and unhinged efforts to maintain power. Vice President Pence and the Cabinet officers have a duty to invoke Section 4 of the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and Pence must step in as Acting President.

We cannot speculate on the reasons for Trump's unhinged behavior. But we cannot allow it to threaten our national security. As shocking as it was, the insurrection was not even the worst of the deadly consequences of his utter inability to face unpleasant facts. More than 360,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, with new records for one-day death tolls being broken every few days.

On the very day he was whipping an armed mob into a violent frenzy, nearly 4,000 Americans died of the virus that he has allowed to rage, virtually unchecked, throughout the nation.

We do not know what the next two weeks will bring, but it almost certainly will bring more lies, more incitements to violence, and further breakdown of the functioning of the federal government at a time when we need it the most.

Inciting an insurrection is sedition. It is among the gravest of crimes against the nation. Removal from office is the very least of the consequences Donald Trump should face. But the penalties that he should pay should not be our primary concern at the moment. He must be removed for the security of the nation.

The spectacle of Confederate flags being paraded through the Capitol was a sickening reminder of his months-long crusade to invalidate ballots in states where Black voters turned out in record numbers. Outside, rioters flashed the “OK” hand signal that has been adopted as a white power

symbol. They hung nooses. They flew the Kekistan flag, modeled on a German Nazi war flag.

Rather than condemn the violence, the chaos and the racism, Trump consoled the mob with words that recalled his appalling “very fine people on both sides” remark following a deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

“We love you, you're very special,” he told the mob in a videotaped statement. “I know your pain; I know you're hurt.”

Donald Trump has repeatedly forced Americans to choose between love of country, and love of Donald Trump. It is one of our great failures as a nation that we have been brought to the brink of disaster by his desperate need for constant adulation—which includes constant degradation of his political rivals and of the journalists who accurately report on his behavior.

The insurrectionists scratched “Murder the media” a door of the Capitol. They smashed journalists' equipment and assaulted a photographer.

“What is the downside for humoring him for this little bit of time?” an unnamed Republican official asked with regard to the support some members have given to Trump's election fantasies.

The answer is horrifyingly clear.

Congress must formally censure every member who stoked the insurrection by promoting Trump's fictitious narratives and baseless conspiracy theories about the election. This includes those who supported falsehood-based objections to the counting of electoral votes.

While they may consider their lies nothing more than political theater, “the prop revolvers were loaded with live bullets, and half the audience thought the drama

was real,” professors Henry Farrell and Elizabeth N. Saunders wrote in the Washington Post.

We can take a measure of solace that the mob failed to prevent Congress from completing its count of the electoral votes and confirming that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the lawful President-elect and Vice President-elect.

Furthermore, the results of yesterday's runoff election in Georgia offer hope that the incoming Senate will take its constitutional responsibilities seriously. Senators-elect Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff will replace two senators who supported and encouraged Trump's election fantasies.

But we cannot afford to wait for Congress to act. Vice President Pence and the members of the Cabinet are well aware of their responsibility under the constitution. They must act now to protect the country or bear responsibility for any tragedy that results from Trump's worsening recklessness.

—January 9, 2021

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Did My Wife Get a “Notch Baby” Benefit Increase?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I was born in May of 1930, and my wife was born in April 1931. My wife claims she received an increase in her Social Security benefit due to the “Notch Baby” provision. Is she correct about this? **Signed: Inquisitive Husband**

Dear Inquisitive: Allow me to clarify for you what your wife is referring to, and you can use your own judgement on how to present the information to her.

So-called “notch babies” are those Social Security recipients who were born between the years 1917 and 1921. Folks born in those years were affected by a Social Security issue which had to do with how Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) were computed. Here’s what happened:

In 1972, when the Social Security Administration switched to automatic COLA increases based on the Consumer Price Index, they made an error in the automatic COLA computation formula which wasn’t discovered for several years. During those several years they awarded COLA increases using the incorrect formula which paid COLA at a higher level than appropriate. After discovering the error, and in an attempt to fix the issue, in the mid-1970s, Congress decided that those born before 1917 would be allowed to stay on the incorrect (more generous) formula, but COLA for those born after 1917 would use a corrected formula. However, that didn’t sit well with SS beneficiaries born after 1917 because they were receiving less COLA than their counterparts born before 1917. So, in an attempt to mollify those Social Security beneficiaries born after 1917, Congress created a special “notch” formula for those born between 1917 and 1921. And those who were born between those dates were called “notch babies.”

The new “notch baby” formula was not quite as generous as the incorrect formula being enjoyed by those born before 1917, but yet a bit more generous than the corrected COLA formula which applied to anyone born after 1921 (and still exists today). Thus, “notch babies” do enjoy a slightly better COLA formula than other Social Security beneficiaries born after 1921.

Over the years, various attempts have been made to extend the notch baby end-year definition from 1921 to, for example, those born before 1927. And even as recently as 2019, a Congressional bill called the “Notch Fairness Act” attempted to provide restitution by extending the end date of the “notch” to 1926. But none of those attempts in Congress have ever succeeded in changing the definition of “notch babies” beyond the original 1970s Congressional definition to apply only to those born between 1917 and 1921. So, anyone born after 1921, including your wife, has COLA computed using the corrected formula, not the “notch baby” formula.

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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Suitland Native and NAVFAC Washington Electronic Acquisition Specialist Retires From Federal Service After 36 Years

By PRESS OFFICER
From Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command
Washington Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (Jan. 7, 2021)—Debra Strachan, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Washington electronic acquisition specialist, retired after more than 36 years of federal service. Strachan grew up in Suitland, Md., where she graduated from Suitland High School at the age of 16 in 1981. She started working at an early age. At the age of 15, she worked at Suitland Nursing Home as a housekeeper. An administrator at the nursing home encouraged her to become a nursing assistant, which she did. With that training, Strachan continued to work there an additional four years until the privately owned nursing home closed.

“The Navy Yard has been in my family for three generations,” said Strachan.

Her grandmother and aunt worked at the Washington Navy Yard. Her mother retired from NAVFAC Washington. So, it was only fitting that Strachan began her federal government career with the Department of the Navy on the Washington Navy Yard as a clerk typist in the Management Analysis Division in June 1984. She was quickly promoted to a secretary in 1985. In November 1986, Strachan was selected for an upward mobility program as a computer specialist, where she was trained to become a certified Wang System/database administrator. She installed and configured new networks at each field office in 1991. Between 1997 and 2005, she joined specialized teams to head up the establishment of SPS and eContracts.

“I am actually an Electronic Acquisition Specialist,” said Strachan. “I have always enjoyed working with computers and systems. Troubleshooting issues and resolving them has always been a strong point of mine.”

Although she enjoyed troubleshooting and solving issues, Strachan also enjoyed working with her team members at NAVFAC Washington.

“The members of my team all perform unique duties. Each of us worked together to accomplish our mission and provide value to the command. We all worked well together. We were like family. I will miss them deeply.”

Her advice for aspiring interns who plan to work in the federal government: “Be patient, humble and proactive. Work hard and let your passion and enthusiasm shine through.”

During her career, she had many memorable experiences. But what stands out to her the most is traveling to different places. She felt fortunate to have the opportunity to travel the country and meet wonderful people. However, her proudest moment was getting her 35-year pin and award.

“It has been a pleasure to serve the Navy and our country for the past 36 and a half years. I want to thank NAVFAC for the trust and confidence they have had in me over these years. As I depart, I want to say how proud I am of all of my users. You are the rock stars! I will truly miss you. Thanks for all you do! Peace!”

Strachan is married with three “four-legged fur babies.” They reside in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Her goals in retirement include working on projects around the house, crafting and eventually travel.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Debra Strachan, an Upper Marlboro resident, retired after more than 36 years of federal service.

SBA and Treasury Announce PPP Re-Opening; Issue New Guidance

By JACK SPIRAKES, MPA
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (Jan. 8, 2021)—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced today that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act.

This round of the PPP continues to prioritize millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to \$284 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses through March 31, 2021, and by allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to

apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

“The historically successful Paycheck Protection Program served as an economic lifeline to millions of small businesses and their employees when they needed it most,” said Administrator Jovita Carranza. “Today’s guidance builds on the success of the program and adapts to the changing needs of small business owners by providing targeted relief and a simpler forgiveness process to ensure their path to recovery.”

Key PPP updates include:

- PPP borrowers can set their PPP loan’s covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;
- PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;
- The Program’s eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, destination marketing organizations, among other types of organizations;
- The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees;
- Certain existing PPP borrowers can re-

quest to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and

- Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.

A borrower is generally eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The new guidance released includes:

- PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns;
- Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act; and
- Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans.

For more information on SBA’s assistance to small businesses, visit sba.gov/ppp or treasury.gov/cares.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Managing Your Employees: What New and Small Businesses Need to Know

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 • 12–1 p.m.

Register: <https://www.pgcedc.com/events-calendar/managingemployeeswebinar>

This is the third in a series of online events co-presented by Lerch, Early & Brewer and the Innovation Station Business Incubator Powered by the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation.

You’ve done the hard part (or so you thought): You’ve come up with a business idea, developed a plan, and raised the money to get your new company off the ground.

However, one of your next tasks, responsibly growing and managing your workforce, will present a set of different challenges. Whether you have five, 50, or hundreds of employees, business owners must take care to properly (and legally) take care of their workers (and that’s before considering the issues presented by COVID-19).

This workshop will address the many issues employers should be considering including:

- Employment-related filing, reporting, and insurance requirements.
- Hiring considerations.
- Offer letters and employment agreements.
- Wage and hour issues, including administering payroll and classifying employees and independent contractors.
- Protecting the company’s trade secrets and other confidential information.
- Anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws.
- Employee policies.
- Workplace notice and posting requirements.

Join Lerch Early employment attorneys Michael Neary and Nida Kanwal on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 for an informative and engaging discussion on these topics and more.



COVID-19

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