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Maryland Earns Barely Passing Grade of 'C' in New Study of Workplace Policies That Support New Parents

By PRESS OFFICER
NPWF

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new state-by-state analysis released two days before the 23rd anniversary of the day the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) took effect shows that few states have expanded upon the FMLA's unpaid leave protections or adopted other supports to assist expecting and new parents who are employed—and Maryland has not done nearly as much as it could to provide critical help. *Expecting Better: A State-by-State Analysis of Laws That Help Expecting and New Parents* is the most comprehensive analysis to date of state laws and regulations governing paid leave and other workplace rights for expecting and new parents in the United States. Maryland earns a grade of "C" for its policies.

The analysis was conducted by the National Partnership for Women & Families. The full study grades all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their passage of select laws that offer greater leave or workplace protections than federal law provides. California is the only state to receive an "A." The District of Columbia and New York earn grades of "A-" and 11 states earn grades of "B." However, 10 states earn grades of "C," 15

states earn grades of "D," and 12 states receive grades of "F" for failing to enact a single workplace policy to help expecting or new parents.

"Despite some meaningful progress, too many working families in this country struggle at the very time they should be focused on giving children their best possible starts in life. Twenty-three years after the country took its first major step to help people manage job and family by implementing a national unpaid family and medical leave law, our new study reveals that people in too few states are guaranteed access to paid leave and other workplace protections they urgently need," said Debra L. Ness, president of the National Partnership, which drafted and led the fight for the FMLA. "At this time when women are both caregivers and breadwinners, and when voters want and need supportive workplace policies, too many lawmakers are letting them down. America's families expect and deserve much better."

The poor grades are striking, Ness continued, considering women make up nearly half of the country's workforce and 68 percent of children live in households in which all par-

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PHOTO COURTESY BRITTA VANDER LINDEN

Left to right: Jim Coleman, President & CEO, PGCEDC; Lisa Anders, Vice President of Business Development, McKissack & McKissack; Marva Jo Camp, Esq., PGCEDC Board of Directors Vice-Chair; Nichelle Holmes, Development Manager, PGCEDC; Evens Charles, President and CEO, Frontier Development and Hospitality Group.

EDC Proposes 2017 Prince George's County Retail Showcase

\$1 Million Branding and Marketing Campaign to Build Massive Awareness About County Assets and Opportunity

By BRITTA VANDER LINDEN
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation held a sponsor appreciation breakfast hosted by the DoubleTree Hotel Largo and

McKissack & McKissack, for nearly 60 of the County's top business and real estate development leaders to thank them for their support of the County's participation in the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) conference in May 2016.

During this exciting breakfast meeting, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman presented a proposed plan to accelerate the acquisition of targeted premium retailers and developers by bringing them directly to the County for a two-day Showcase and deal-making strategy session.

"We are here to thank you and to celebrate the incredible accomplishments that we delivered at this year's ICSC Conference in Las Vegas," said Coleman. "We will con-

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Coleman Says 'Ni Hao' to Top Chinese Investors

Connects Investors to \$10 Billion in County Pipeline Opportunities

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On the evening of June 22, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President & CEO Jim Coleman spoke at the Welcoming Reception for the Chinese/Hong Kong Delegation at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. The reception, which kicked off the 'Select USA Global Investment Summit' was hosted by the Greater Washington China Investment Center and co-sponsored by the EDC. Over 150 Chinese investors attended the event to learn about investment opportunities in Prince George's County, the District of Columbia, and Arlington County Virginia.

"Prince George's County has \$10 Billion in the pipeline," said Coleman. "During our mission trip to China last year, County Executive Baker and the EDC worked with our friends and identified key areas that are most beneficial for Chinese investors. With 8 universities, 15 Metro stops and billions of dollars in



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation President & CEO addresses over 150 Chinese Investors at the Welcoming Reception for the Chinese/Hong Kong Delegation.

healthcare and IT projects currently happening, Prince George's County is where you want to invest!"

Prior to speaking to the large crowd, Coleman had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Ambassador and former U.S. Senator Max Bacaus as well as other regional leaders in Economic Development including Brian T. Kenner, the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development for Washington, D.C. and Victor L. Hoskins, Director of Arlington Economic Development.

"I'm very proud of the dynamism of the Greater Washington Area," said Bacaus. "Each region has its strengths and as a whole, the area is a very powerful vessel. You will find your investments here to be very rewarding."

To connect with Chinese investors, join Team EDC on August 22nd for our 'Mutual Briefing with China' at the EDC's headquarters in Largo, MD where Business to Business meetings are facilitated. To learn more about the briefing, please contact Isabelle Wang at (301) 583-4650.

Library Applauds PLA for its Every Child Ready to Read ASAE 2016 Power of A: Summit / Gold Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) congratulates the Public Library Association (PLA), the proud recipient of two American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) awards for Every Child Ready to Read's (ECRR) co-creation and implementation. The two ASAE Power of A Awards earned by PLA are: 2016 Power of A Summit Award and 2016 Power of A Gold Award. The goal of ECRR is to em-

power and encourage parents and caregivers to support the early literacy development of children from newborn to age 5.

Prior to PLA's and the Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC's) creation of ECRR, libraries focused on the child, rather than on educating the parent or caregiver with respect to early literacy. "The ECRR toolkit, available in both English and Spanish, includes background and research which validates the approach and educates library professionals about early literacy science. The core toolkit elements are the presentation tools for six

workshops; four are for patrons and two are designed to increase library staff skills," states a recently issue PLA media release by Kara O'Keefe, Manager, Membership Marketing.

PGCMLS has incorporated ECRR in its training of library staff and in café's that provide parents and caregivers with the tools needed to enhance the early literacy experience of young children. "We built upon the theme, with Ready 2 Read centers and backpacks with amazing suc-

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Senator Ben Cardin Statement on Fatal Flooding in Ellicott City

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, released the following statement on the deadly flooding in Ellicott City. He will join Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman at

an information session Monday evening to talk with residents and help compile a request for federal disaster assistance. Senator Cardin and Executive Kittleman also plan to visit affected businesses in Ellicott City Tuesday.

Senator Cardin: "Marylanders are heartbroken by the devastation that has hit our community. My condolences go out to

the families and friends who lost loved ones in this tragedy. I want to especially thank the first responders who have worked tirelessly to save lives and property after the historic flooding in Ellicott City on Saturday night.

"Over the next few days I will work with Senator Barbara

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INSIDE

Celebrating a Centennial of National Parks: Americans Are Flocking to Their Favorite Parks

National parks are growing in popularity among younger generations, with nearly half of Millennials (46 percent) citing that they are more likely to visit a national park in the next year, outpacing both Generation X and Baby Boomers.

Community, Page A3

A Message to the Next President: Invest in America

Every dollar spent on infrastructure increases in economic growth between \$1.50 and \$2. An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute estimated that a \$250 billion annual investment boosts GDP by \$400 billion and overall employment by 3 million net new jobs by the end of the first year.

Commentary, Page A4

HEDC's "Thirsty (for Business) Thursday" Attracts Elected Officials and Community Leaders

Local business owners from all over the County continue to make it their business every month to come out to network with government, non-profits and other local businesses in a relaxed and collaborative atmosphere.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Ghostbusters (2016)

When a villain (Neil Casey) excuses his actions with something to the effect of, "You don't know what it's like to be bullied," the Ghostbusters—who have been ridiculed in the scientific community as well as on the Internet—respond with: Uh, yeah we do. People crap on us all the time. So what? Get over it.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why do environmentalists consider Hawaii "ground zero" in the fight against genetically engineered crops?

—Michael Van,
Poughkeepsie, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Rooker named Sr. Vice President of Maryland's VFW Auxiliary

Karen Rooker, of Morningside, became Senior Vice President for the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in June at the convention in Ocean City.

She has a long history with VFW Post 9619 in Morningside. Her dad, Frank McCrone was Post Commander some years ago, and had been an Air Force Master Sergeant who served in Vietnam. Her mom, worked bingo, was secretary and later president of the Auxiliary. Karen herself became a member in 1979 and now her daughter, Ellen Ashby, is a member as well.

Karen worked for National Geographic for 35 years, but found time to serve off and on as Morningside Council Member and six years as Mayor of Morningside. As of July 11, she is Clerk-Treasurer for the Town.

And next June, Karen Rooker will take over as President of the Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary.

Skyline Citizens host annual Flea Market, Sept. 10

The Skyline Citizens Association's Annual Flea Market will be held in the parking lot of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There'll be fish & chips, hotdogs, beverages and dessert for sale. Tables are \$15. Contact Suzanne, 240-838-6412, or Spivey, 301-967-1320.

People

Barry Wade is the new part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Morningside.

Winnie Lanehart, of Skyline, attended her 60th class reunion of La Plata High School at the Port Tobacco Marina on June 5. Her daughter Tinya and granddaughter Tiffany were visiting and went along to meet some of her classmates. There were 28 present, of the original 98. All had a great time.

Winnie's granddaughter Krista celebrated with a birthday dinner at Red Robin in Lexington Park on July 15th. She invited 20 guests—28 showed up.

Paul Sinclair did a great job, at Skyline Night Out. flipping

burgers and toasting hotdogs in his amazing traveling grill.

Changing landscape

A Goodwill Retail Donation Center opened in Clinton, on Woodyard Road.

Andrews Manor Shopping Center has been spruced up with a newly-resurfaced and re-lined parking lot.

My favorite eateries keep closing. Another is The Royal Tea Room on Charles Street in La Plata. Does anyone know if it will reopen?

Speaking of reopening: I had a call mentioning that the Steak in a Sack will not reopen in Marlow Heights, but somewhere else, further south. Anyway, that doesn't do me any good.

Coming up

August 13: Outdoor Family Movie Night at the Morningside Town Hall., 8 p.m. Admission is free. Disney's *Zootopia* is the film; popcorn and Sno Kones will be sold. For information, call 301-736-2300.

August 13: St. Philip's Annual Crab Feast, 1 to 5 p.m. in the Social Hall. Tickets, \$40; kids 8 to 124, \$20; family of four, \$100. Information: suzy-giroux@verizon.net.

Sept. 24: Community Health Fair hosted by Councilman Obie Patterson, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Rd., Fort Washington. Free flu shots; medical, HIV/STD, dental & vision screening; children's health expo; hospital reps & vendors. Free.

Wednesdays: Farmer's Market at the Mona Center, 5859 Al-lentown Way, Temple Hills, 2 to 7 p.m.

She rode with Henry in a 1953 Eldorado

Diane Ruby, of Temple Hills, secretary at St. Philip the Apostle Church for more than 30 years, died July 26 at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Norma Harvey, in Tacoma Park. She would have turned 71 on August 5.

Mary Diane Harvey was born in Buffalo, the oldest of the nine children of Elizabeth "Betty" and Edward Harvey. The family later

moved to Southeast Washington. Diane attended St. Teresa's School, graduated from St. Patrick's Academy, and worked for the State Department.

In 1979 Father Oliver Mahedy, pastor of St. Philip's, hired Diane as secretary. Over the next 30-plus years she served four more pastors: Fathers Bernard Ihrie, Charles McCann, Arnold De Porter and Scott Hahn. She was a great secretary, and an invaluable resource—she knew everyone, and everything that was going on.

Diane was married twice, to Harry "Butch" Gaines and to Henry Ruby. For several years she and Butch lived on Woodland Road in Morningside. She was active with the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department and VFW Post 9619.

Along with her husband Henry, she enjoyed participating in the Cadillac & LaSalle Club, Potomac Region. The club's 2013 Colossal Convertibles show honored Henry, longtime Car Show Coordinator. As a tribute, his 1958 Eldorado Biarrita and 1953 Eldorado were displayed.

Diane's father, brother Dennis and husband Henry preceded her in death. Survivors include her mother, Betty Harvey, daughters Marianne and Cathy, four step-children, three grandchildren, and siblings Mary Ellen, Budge, Mike, Bill, Patrick, Donna and Beth. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's, concelebrated by the Revs. Edward Hegnauer, Bernard Ihrie, Scott Hahn and Jeffrey Samaha. Repast was at St. Philip's following burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Berkley and Brittany Short, Aug. 13; Margaret Hunt, Nancy Stacey and Gracie Mothershead, Aug. 16; Hildagard Koenig, Aug. 17; my granddaughter-in-law Heather McHale, Le August Brent and Mark Cummings, Jr., Aug. 19; and Melody Barnes, Aug. 20. Austin Michael Fowler, Aug. 21; Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubitz, Aug. 22; and Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23.

Happy 13th anniversary to John and Stacie Smith on Aug. 23.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BACK TO SCHOOL

The first day of school is August 23 for students. To secure bus transportation for the start of the school year, make sure students are registered for school by August 12. Registrations after August 12 will have transportation in place on August 27. Registrations completed after August 12 will result in students receiving a temporary grade level schedule with selected general classes until August 28. Early registration is advised to ensure an "official" schedule for the 1st day of school.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Does your child need immunizations for school? Come to a free summer immunization Clinic for students entering Kindergarten and Grade 7 or repeating Grade 9. PGCPSS is partnering with the Maryland Partnership for Prevention and Kaiser Permanente to provide FREE immunization clinics in July and August. After August, clinics may charge a fee.

You must bring the exclusion letter you received from your

child's school to provide information on your child's immunization needs. For information on immunization requirements, upcoming clinics, and FAQs, visit www1.pgcpss.org/school-health/immunizations.

THE KARATE KID

Join us for a movie on the Potomac, August 14, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at National Harbor, Waterfront Street, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Meet us at the Plaza screen for a free evening of fun for all ages.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP PARISH

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church invite family and friends to attend their Homecoming Service August 21, 2016 at 11:00 AM. Minister Michelle Bazemore who is licensed under Global United Fellowship will be the speaker. She is also a former member of Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church.

Nottingham Myers U.M. Church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Reverend Constance C. Smith,

Pastor. Telephone number is 301-888-2171.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Financial Peace University (FPU) is returning to Clinton United Methodist Church starting September 10 from 1:00 PM–2:30 PM on Saturdays. The church will start hosting the classes to help members to learn how to manage money God's way. Getting out of debt, saving money, investing for the future, and outrageous generosity that is scripturally based, practical, and proven. The classes are 90 minutes each once a week for 9 consecutive weeks. Register online at <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/claddes/1021790>. The church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Telephone number is 301-868-1281. E-mail address is cumcmd@verizon.net.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

Join us Friday, August 19, 2016 for line dancing from 7:00 PM–9:00 PM at St. Philip's Church 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Cost is \$3.00. Telephone number is 301-888-1536.

Neighborhoods

BGE Helps Customers Beat the Heat and Save Energy and Money

BALTIMORE, MD—As several days of 90 degree temperatures grip the region, customers may use more energy to cool their homes. With the current heat wave expected to continue throughout the week-end, BGE anticipates a possible Energy Savings Day for Monday, July 25, and provides tips to help customers manage their energy use.

Here are steps that customers can take to make a difference:

- Turn it off: Turn off all unnecessary lighting and devices.
- Manage your thermostat: Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level when at home. If health permits, raise the thermostat setting for days of extreme heat to save even more. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.
- Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed: About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply closing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat in your home.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air: For those without air conditioning, use ceiling fans or portable fans with the windows partially open to circulate fresh air into your home. For those with air conditioning, fans can be used to evenly distribute cool air.
- Use appliances wisely: Run appliances that produce heat (like clothes dryers, ovens and dishwashers) at night when it is cooler.

Customers also should always put safety first—check on elderly neighbors and relatives during prolonged periods of high temperatures.

Higher temperatures can lead to higher energy bills, and BGE provides a variety of programs to help customers save energy and money. For example, BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program®, the company's full suite of energy efficiency programs, helps residential, business, government and non-profit customers save energy and money. For more ways to save energy, visit www.bgesmartenergy.com.

AJ Enterprises, U-Haul to Meet Moving Demands of Hyattsville

HYATTSVILLE, MD—U-Haul Company of Maryland, Inc. is pleased to announce that AJ Enterprises has signed on as a U-Haul neighborhood dealer to serve the Hyattsville community.

AJ Enterprises at 2045 University Blvd. #L111 will offer U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, support rental items and in-store pickup for boxes.

Hours of operation for U-Haul rentals are 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Friday and 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday.

Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling (240) 450-2614 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Hyattsville-MD-20783/039080/> today.

AJ Enterprises partners Andre and Patricia Oliphant are proud to team with the indus-

try leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Prince Georges County.

U-Haul and AJ Enterprises are striving to benefit the environment through sustainability initiatives. Truck sharing is a core U-Haul sustainability business practice that allows individuals to access a fleet of trucks that is larger than what they could access on an individual basis.

Every U-Haul truck placed in a community helps keep 19 personally owned large-capacity vehicles, pickups, SUVs and vans off the road. Fewer vehicles means less traffic congestion, less pollution, less fuel burned and cleaner air.

AJ Enterprises is a great place to become U-Haul Famous®. Take your picture in front of a U-Haul product, send it in and your face could land on the side of a U-Haul truck. Upload your photo through Instagram using #uhaulfamous, or go to www.uhaulfamous.com to submit photos and learn more.

WSSC's Tom Kelly Unanimously Selected as Recipient of Prestigious AWWA George Anderson Award for Excellence

Kelly's Expertise is Felt Throughout the Water Industry



LAUREL, MD—Tom Kelly, a Utility Enhancement Support Strategic Coordinator and WSSC veteran of 33 years was unanimously selected as the George Anderson Award for Excellence honoree by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The award recognizes achievements, contributions, and the promotion of high ethical standards in the science of water meter development and is considered a lifetime achievement award.

Tom's work at WSSC includes research, review and testing of new water meter technology. His expertise is felt throughout the water industry with his involvement in developing and enhancing water meter standards. He currently chairs the AWWA Meter Standards Committee and is a member of AWWA's Subcommittee for Electronic Revenue Meters.

"This is a very prestigious award" said Carla A. Reid, WSSC General Manager and CEO. "His dedication and commitment to his profession has led him to become a much sought-after subject matter expert. We are very happy for Tom and extremely proud to have him as part of the #H2OPeople family here at WSSC."

The award was presented by Floyd Salsar, founder of MARS (Meters and Related Services) Company and lifelong member of AWWA during WSSC's July Commission Meeting.

"I almost fell out of my chair when I was informed I

had been selected to receive this award" said Kelly. "I am extremely flattered. There are only a handful of other recipients, most of whom I've considered mentors at one time or another."

The award is named in honor of George Anderson who originally achieved an industry reputation by conducting "Road Shows" throughout North America in the 1960–70s. George's specialty was large meters, and particularly Class II turbines, a new technology at the time.

Hospital's Population Health Focus Aims to Improve the Community's Wellbeing

LANHAM, Maryland—You have likely heard of a shifting focus in medical care termed "population health." Like many, you may wonder what it means and how it can improve the wellbeing of the community. Doctors Community Hospital's Dr. Sunil Madan, chief medical officer and chief population health officer, and Paul Grenaldo, chief operating officer, explain how their team is contributing to a healthier Prince George's County.

At the core of population health is a focus on keeping people who live within a defined geographic area healthy, not just treating them when they are ill. Especially important is the care of those who have chronic diseases or who rely on emergency departments to treat preventable conditions that are often best managed by primary care or disease-specific specialists. As Dr. Madan explained, "Although everyone benefits from population health, it is particularly beneficial for those who have diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and other such conditions. Optimally managing such diseases can help people avoid numerous serious complications. At the same time, it can contribute to decreasing healthcare costs—principally those incurred in emergency room settings or because of high hospital readmission rates."

Given the connection between population health and chronic disease management, Doctors Community Hospital continues to provide specialized medical programs that address conditions that occur at high rates in the area:

Diabetes—Its Joslin Diabetes Center is the only multidisciplinary program accredited by the American Diabetes Association. With experienced endocrinologists, educators and dietitians, people receive medical care and support to aide them with this complex disease.

Breast cancer—Its Center for Comprehensive Breast Care was the first program in the area with a dedicated breast surgeon. Recently, it acquired the new 3-D mammography technology, which helps many women detect breast cancer earlier—when it is most treatable.

Heart failure—A heart failure clinic provides hospital patients with support, resources and education to help them manage various types of heart disease.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Making Financial Literacy Fun

What important lessons will you teach your child this summer? Riding a bike? Sharing with others? How about teaching them important financial skills.

Financial literacy may not immediately come to mind when parents think of essential skills for students, but what children know about money at a young age can shape the way they manage money in adulthood. In fact, a 2015 study by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) found that credit scores among young adults improved in states with mandatory financial education.

However, not all states implement financial education. So how do we close the gap between what American students currently know about money and what they need to know?

Edutainment—one of the key personal finance instruction tactics that Visa uses to reach people of all ages—is an innovative learning method that strikes a balance between education and entertainment. Students can learn financial lessons without feeling like they're studying, and edutainment can help them retain the information better. According to a 2013 study commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, students who played educational games in addition to the standard curriculum performed better on tests than students who didn't.

Here are a few simple ways your child can learn about money this summer.

Learn together: Mymoney.gov offers activities and lessons for all ages, ranging from fun cartoons about American coins to guides on how to budget effectively. The website features World of Cents, a child-friendly game for ages 5 and up designed to help teach the value of money through the concepts of earning, saving and spending money, while incorporating basic math concepts.

Begin with the basics: Knowing the value of money is essential to financial literacy. The sooner children learn how much everyday items are worth, the better. Visa's Practical Money Skills initiative has developed a game, Peter Pig's Money Counter, which helps children improve basic financial skills such as sorting and counting coins to learn their monetary value. The free game is available online, as an Android app and from Visa's Practical Money Skills website.

Animate it: Educational favorite Schoolhouse Rock! makes finance fun with songs about interest, savings accounts, paying bills, and more. Dynamic animation and catchy songs help children learn basic financial facts while having fun. Search for clips on YouTube or pop in a DVD to teach your children these important and practical lessons in a fun and memorable way.

Play the market: The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students grades 4-12 in the world of economics, investing and personal finance, and has prepared 15 million students for financially independent futures. The game is part of a program provided by the SIFMA Foundation.

Make it comical: Visa recently teamed up with Marvel Custom Solutions to create a Guardians of the Galaxy comic that promotes saving and smart spending and introduces young children to the difference between wants and needs. The comic, *Rocket's Powerful Plan*, features an exciting storyline where saving money in an emergency fund is crucial to helping the Super Heroes. If your children are fans of Rocket, Groot and Ant-Man, they're bound to love this comic featuring the same iconic characters.

Bring it to life: JumpStart Clearinghouse offers a variety of games and resources that demonstrate how money skills transfer to real life. Children are challenged to plan their budgets, stretch their money, and be financially responsible. The website also provides a range of educational materials for both parents and teachers.

Additional edutainment resources include:

- MyMoney.gov Youth Resources
- TreasuryDirect Kids MoneyMemory and Perry's Pennies
- The United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Exchange games
- Visa's Financial Football and Financial Soccer

Bottom line: It's important to teach your children about finance, and edutainment is both an effective and engaging way to do so. Use these summer months to teach your children important basic personal finance skills that they can use for the rest of their lives.

Flooding from A1

Mikulski, Governor Larry Hogan, Congressman Elijah Cummings and County Executive Kittleman to review the need for federal disaster assistance from the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA). Our Congressional delegation will move quickly to facilitate the emergency help needed for families, communities, homeowners, and small businesses to recover from this disaster."

*Proudly Serving
Prince George's County Since 1932*

Celebrating a Centennial of National Parks: Americans Are Flocking to Their Favorite Parks

National Parks Can Expect To Welcome More Travelers In The Year Ahead

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Thursday, July 28, 2016) — The most Americans in recent years are heading to national parks in recognition of the U.S. National Park Service's 100th anniversary on Aug. 25. Visitation to the national parks reached an all-time high in 2015, with more than 307 million visitors, according to the National Park Service, and travelers can expect the parks to remain busy in the year ahead.

"Domestic visitation to Washington, D.C. topped 19.3 million visitors in 2015, and the parks remain the biggest attractions in the metropolitan area, generating more than 56 million visits," noted John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Talk about exploring the nation's backyard, there are 250,000 acres of parkland in the Washington Metro area. We are a nation of park lovers. These national treasures are rightly called 'nature's most spectacular locales.' No wonder 85 percent of U.S. adults have visited a U.S. national park. Of these, the majority (91%) drove to visit a national park."

According to a recent AAA survey, 79 percent of Americans say they are as likely (42 percent) or more likely (37 percent) to visit a national park in the next 12 months, building on the momentum of this year's centennial celebrations.

"The demand for national parks is off the charts this year, and it's exciting to see that Americans are poised to take even more national park vaca-

Visitation at the Top 5 National Park Sites in the National Capital Region			
National Parks in the National Capital Region	Visitation (2015)	Economic Benefit (\$ thousands)	Jobs Supported
Lincoln Memorial	7,941,771	\$208,495.20	2,120
George Washington Memorial Parkway	7,286,463	\$66,515.20	847
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	5,597,077	\$146,940.00	1,494
World War II Memorial	5,068,224	\$133,056.00	1,352
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park	4,798,312	\$126,688.60	1329

tions in the years to come," said Bryan Shilling, managing director of AAA Travel Products and Services. "In times of global uncertainty, many people are turning to domestic vacations and the wide variety of national parks offer something for every traveler to discover."

Eighty-five percent of Americans have visited at least one national park, and a majority say the national parks are a "must-see" vacation destination (73 percent). National parks are growing in popularity among younger generations, with nearly half of Millennials (46 percent) citing that they are more likely to visit a national park in the next year, outpacing both Generation X and Baby Boomers.

"It's not surprising to see that younger generations are particularly interested in visiting national parks," added Shilling. "Travel is part of Millennials' DNA, and they consistently seek experiential travel opportunities, a major draw for national park visitors."

According to the National Park Service, the most visited national parks in 2015 were

Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain. AAA's survey revealed the national parks that top most Americans' bucket lists for future travels include Yellowstone (33 percent), Yosemite (17 percent) and Grand Canyon (12 percent).

Americans feel the best times to visit the national parks are during the spring (35 percent), fall (33 percent) and summer (27 percent). Travelers planning trips to national parks for the remainder of 2016 can enjoy a discount on select dates in honor of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. All sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission August 25–28, September 24 and November 11. Results from the AAA survey reveal additional details about Americans' national park vacation preferences:

- The vast majority (91 percent) of visitors to national parks drive to their destination. The remainder choose to fly (18 percent), ride on trains or buses (10 percent each) or take a cruise or boat (7 percent).

- The majority of Americans (66 percent) typically stay in a

hotel, motel or lodge when visiting a national park. Camping (41 percent), vacation rentals or cabins (38 percent), staying with friends and family (33 percent) and bed and breakfasts (27 percent) are also popular accommodation options.

- Visitors' favorite national park activities include walking or hiking on park trails (53 percent) and sightseeing (35 percent).

According to the National Park Service, during 2015, there were more than 56 million visits to national parks and sites managed by the National Park Service in the National Capital Region. The visits amount to almost \$1.6 billion in economic benefit. Washington, D.C. is home to 565 listings in the National Register of Historic Places and 74 National Historic Landmarks. The largest number of visitation was to the Lincoln Memorial at 7,941,771, followed by the George Washington Memorial Parkway with 7,286,463 visitors and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with 5,597,077 visits.

Awards from A1

cess," said Michelle H. Hamiel, Chief Operating Officer for Public Services. "We highly commend PLA on its awards for this much needed service and have already seen positive results in the 2015-2016 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MDSE) for preschoolers in Prince George's County."

About the Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Early literacy

resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack and Playaway Launchpads. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, Artist-Works for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, Chess Clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Try out our new PGCMLS app too! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

About the Public Library Association (PLA)

PLA is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world. PLA strives to help its members shape the essential institution of public libraries by serving as an indispensable ally for public library leaders. For more information about PLA, visit www.pla.org or contact the PLA office at 1 (800) 545-2433, ext.5PLA, or pla@ala.org.

About the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

ALSC is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. From creative programming and best practices to continuing education and professional connections—ALSC members are innovators in the field of children's library service. ALSC's network includes more than 4,000 children's and youth librarians, children's literature experts, publishers, education and library school faculty members, and other adults dedicated to creating a better future for children through libraries. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/alsc.

Workplace from A1

ents are employed. Similar workforce participation and demographic data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia can be found here. As *Expecting Better* argues, the nation's public policies have not kept pace with the changing demographics and pressures affecting families, workplaces and our economy today—and low-wage parents and parents of color suffer disproportionately.

In Maryland, advocates and lawmakers are pressing for the adoption of a statewide paid sick days law. A proposal was approved by the Maryland House of Delegates this year in the final days of the legislative session. Maryland voters are strongly supportive of the measure, according to polling conducted by the University of Maryland and the *Washington Post*.

Nationally, public support for family friendly policies like paid family and medical leave, paid sick days and pregnancy

accommodations is strong, as is voters' favorable opinion of elected officials who advance them. A growing body of evidence shows that these policies promote the health and economic security of families while strengthening businesses and the economy. Yet the new study finds that lawmakers in most states have done too little or nothing to expand upon minimum federal protections. However, 11 states and the District of Columbia did improve their grades since the 2014 edition of *Expecting Better*.

The first edition of *Expecting Better* was released in 2005. As the fourth edition, released today, notes, over the past 11 years key workplace policies have been adopted in:

- New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island, which joined California in enacting paid family leave programs;
- California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Vermont and the District of Columbia, which enacted laws

guaranteeing workers the right to earn paid sick days;

- Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin, which expanded workers' access to unpaid, job-protected family and medical leave;

- Maine, Maryland and Minnesota, which expanded workers' access to flexible use of sick time;

- Twelve states and the District of Columbia, which passed laws requiring employers to provide pregnant women with reasonable workplace accommodations; and

- At least 10 states and the District of Columbia, which have enacted laws to protect the rights of nursing mothers in the workplace.

"Our new study shows that progress is possible, and it is wonderful that some states are showing real leadership by establishing standards that provide vitally important help to workers and families while

helping pave the way for national change," explained National Partnership Vice President Vicki Shabo. "But sadly, most states are not doing nearly enough. People's ability to meet the dual demands of job and family should not depend on where they live or work or what job they hold. Lawmakers at all levels and in every part of the country should commit to strengthening existing family friendly policies and adopting new ones, and pressing for federal laws that will benefit all workers, families and businesses while strengthening our economy."

At the national level, attention to and backing for policies that support expecting and new parents has increased significantly in recent years. Hundreds of diverse organizations, including the National Partnership, are calling on Congress to pass federal legislation such

See **WORKPLACE** Page A7

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Calls for Additional Funding to Backup Just-Passed Bill to Combat Opioid and Heroin Crisis

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee, released the following statement on the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA), which now heads to the president for his signature.

“Funding to combat public health crises, including the opioid and heroin addiction and abuse that has spread throughout every corner of our country, should not be held hostage to political posturing, but it has. Congress had to act. I voted for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 conference report because it sets up a reasonable framework for stemming the current wave of use and abuse. The bill will streamline coordination between federal, state and local governments working to address this epidemic and allow better sharing of best practices. It expands the popular prescription drug take-back program and access to life-saving opioid overdose reversal drugs. CARA also requires a study on the collateral consequences for individuals with convic-

tions for nonviolent drug-related offenses, with a focus on those who have completed recovery programs and are seeking to successfully re-enter the workforce. But this legislation should not be our final word on this issue. Despite the aura of bipartisanship, Republican intransigence assured that this bill fails to back up promised support with federal funding for state-led treatment, prevention and law enforcement programs.

“I commend the Obama Administration for its recently announced policy changes that will support communities and health professionals tackle this problem head-on. Any concerted efforts to battle the scourge of prescription opioid and heroin use disorders must utilize all available resources at every level of government. Facing this challenge should go beyond law enforcement and must include sufficient funding to improve access to evidence-based treatment centers, promote prevention education methods, and provide support for those in or seeking recovery. Addiction is a disease, and treatment must therefore be our priority.”



National Wildlife Visitors Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITORS CENTER

The National Wildlife Visitor Center, located at 10901 Tanager Loop, Laurel, Maryland, is the largest science and environmental education center in the Department of the Interior. Designed to accommodate one million visitors per year, this unique facility seeks to impart to young and old alike an increased knowledge of and appreciation for the earth's vital resources. Interactive exhibits focus on global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats, endangered species, creature life cycles and the research tools and techniques used by scientists. Visitor Center Building is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hiking trails are open from sunrise to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 304-497-5580.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



How Much Do Black Child Lives Matter?

Four little girls were changing into choir robes and chatting in a church restroom preparing for the Youth Sunday services at 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama on September 15, 1963. At 10:22 a.m. a bomb previously hidden under the church steps with its timer deliberately set to go off during Sunday morning services exploded. Three 14-year-olds, Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley, and 11-year-old Denise McNair were killed on that Sunday morning.

Addie loved softball and drawing. Carole was a straight-A student, a member of the science club and the Girl Scouts, and played clarinet in the school band. Cynthia played clarinet too, along with piano, and dreamed of being a teacher. Denise, the youngest, was excited about singing in the youth chorus. Addie's younger sister Sarah, also in the restroom, lost an eye in the bombing. She remembered Denise had just asked Addie to help her tie the sash on the back of her dress when the bomb went off.

Fifty years later a reporter found many of the surviving children in church that morning had never gotten over the trauma. Addie's older sister Junie Collins Williams said the two of them had gotten into an argument that day because she'd lost one of Addie's rings. The next time she saw Addie was when she was asked to identify her sister in the morgue. Her body was so unrecognizable Junie only knew her by her shoes. Barbara Cross, whose father was the church's pastor, was hit in the head with a light fixture and suffered tremors and fear of loud noises for years afterwards. She said, "I still cry sometimes ... We didn't know we were victims of terrorism back then. For years, we tucked it away, and tried to be strong."

For 14 long years there was absolutely no justice. A 1965 FBI investigation confirmed White supremacists and Ku Klux Klan members Robert Chambliss, Bobby Frank Cherry, Herman Frank Cash and Thomas E. Blanton, Jr. as the suspects, but it was not until 1977 that Chambliss was tried and convicted of the first degree

murder of Denise McNair. The girls' families suffered still another quarter century of injustice. Herman Cash was never tried for the murders, and died in 1994. Finally the families' agonizing wait was over when Thomas Blanton in 2001 and Bobby Cherry in 2002 were finally convicted of four counts of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Blanton and Cherry had walked free for 39 and 40 years respectively before being brought to justice.

Chambliss and Cherry died in jail. This August 3, Thomas Blanton will be eligible for his first parole hearing after serving just fifteen years of his four life sentences. He bragged about the murders for decades before his conviction and never expressed remorse for his actions. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. described his despair saying that if men could be that bestial maybe there really was no hope. A loud chorus of voices are joining together to say any parole and release would not be sufficient justice for the murder of four little girls. Justice requires Thomas Blanton serve the rest of his life in prison. An early release would signal how little the lives of four precious little Black girls

mattered to their killers in 1963 and in 2016 America.

Carole Robertson was deeply involved in Jack and Jill of America, a family organization founded by Black mothers to instill values and leadership skills in their children. Jack and Jill chapters honor Carole every September with educational and social programs about civil rights, human rights, and racial harmony. This year Jack and Jill mothers across the country are joining surviving family members and others in the #Justice4Carole campaign, writing and calling Alabama's Board of Pardons and Paroles demanding minimal justice for these child lives snuffed out so maliciously, and that parole for this "unrepentant racist" and "vicious mass murderer" be denied.

I stand with them and hope you will too so that on August 3 justice will prevail! Reverend Carolyn McKinstry, who was another child survivor of the bombing, says today: "This season of justice in America is becoming frighteningly reminiscent of the season in which Addie, Carol, Cynthia, and Denise were murdered. Our

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



A Message to the Next President: Invest in America

"America can't compete if she continues to warehouse a significant proportion of her work force in poverty and ignorance. If America is going to be competitive, she can't do so without investing in human resources."

—John E. Jacob,
National Urban League President and CEO,
1982–1994

As the major-party conventions conclude and the general election season begins in earnest, the National Urban League has a message for the next President, whoever he or she might be: invest in America.

When Europe found itself in physical and economic ruin after World War II, the United States invested \$13 billion (\$130 billion in today's dollars) through the European Recovery Program, more commonly known as the Marshall Plan, after Secretary of State George Marshall. Since 2006, the United States has spent nearly \$50 billion rebuilding Afghanistan through the Afghanistan Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program. The Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008, infused the nation's faltering financial institutions with investments of more than \$400 billion. The United States' collections under TARP and affiliated relief efforts, actually have exceed total disbursements by more than \$12 billion.

Whether we call it "recovery" "rehabilitation" or "relief," it's time for America to demonstrate that our commitment to our own struggling urban families and communities is as powerful and compelling as it was for Europe, or for Afghanistan or for Wall Street.

National Urban League proposes a sweeping and decisive solution to the nation's persistent social and economic disparities: the Main Street Marshall Plan: From Poverty To Shared Prosperity.

In many ways, the country's recovery from the Great Recession is well underway. But the recovery essentially has bypassed struggling communities of color. Black Americans remain twice as likely as whites to be unemployed. Since 1976, the black unemployment rate has consistently remained about twice the white rate across time and at every level of education. The household income gap remains at about 60 cents for every dollar. Black Americans are only slightly less likely today to live in poverty than they were 40 years ago.

The Main Street Marshall Plan is a bold and strategic investment of \$1 trillion over the next five years in America's urban communities is a

commitment of \$1 trillion over the next five years, including:

Universal early childhood education

Studies show people who were in preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school, to own homes, and have longer marriages. They are less likely to repeat grades, need special education, or get into future trouble with the law. Furthermore, financially, the return on investment in early childhood education is estimated at 12 percent, after inflation.

A federal living wage indexed to inflation

Not only would an increase in the minimum wage lift hundreds of thousands of Americans out of poverty and shrink the nation's dangerously wide income gap, it would inject billions into the economy; according to a Chicago Federal Reserve Bank study, every dollar increase for a minimum wage worker results in \$2,800 in new consumer spending by his or her household over the following year.

- An urban infrastructure fund to fund schools, community centers, libraries, water systems and urban transportation.

Every dollar spent on infrastructure increases in economic growth between \$1.50 and \$2. An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute estimated that a \$250 billion annual investment boosts GDP by \$400 billion and overall employment by 3 million net new jobs by the end of the first year.

- A new Main Street small- and micro-business financing plan with emphasis on businesses owned by women and people of color.

Small businesses accounted for 60% of net new jobs since the end of the Great Recession and lead large firms in new technology and patent creation. According to an SBA report, small businesses produced 16 times more patents per employee than large firms.

- Expansion of summer youth employment programs, housing vouchers and workforce tax credits.

Youth who participate in summer jobs programs do better academically and are far less likely to get in trouble with the law. Housing vouchers lift millions out of poverty, reduce health care

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Why Parent-Teen Communications Often Fall Short

As a parent you want to be there for your teenager. You try to learn what's happening in his or her life and try to help with problems or uncertainties he or she may be facing.

But despite your best efforts, most of the time you are rebuffed. Responses ranging from stony silence to outright hostility leave you wondering how you have failed so miserably in connecting with your own child.

The problem, however, may not be your fault but just the simple fact that parent-teen communications are inherently complicated.

One reason is simply that it's not easy to be a teenager. There's a variety of unsettling biological, psychological and emotional changes that are all part of a teen's normal developmental process. Pile on top of that the pressures of school, extracurricular activities, maybe a part-time job, and then the anxiety of college or a career in the near future, and it becomes easier to understand why the open communication you enjoyed with your pre-teen has become much more challenging.

Teenagers may often feel that their parents just can't understand all the changes and pressures they are facing. These feelings may be reinforced when parents react negatively to teens seeking to separate more from their parents and be more independent.

While we all want our children to grow up and be responsible adults, it can be confusing to deal with as our teens take their first tentative steps in that direction. This same process is also hard on the teen's side. He or she is anxious about sharing feelings of insecurity or uncertainty, about admitting mistakes, since it will just make him or her look weak, immature and not ready for the freedoms so badly desired.

There is no quick fix for any of these communication issues, but it's important not to give up on the effort. While many of your communication attempts will likely seem inadequate, every now and then you will break through and have a meaningful discussion. As importantly, your attempts to stay connected are active demonstrations of your love and concern.

Look for opportunities to let your teens know you're trying to understand and sympathize with all they are facing. Offer positive feedback when it's deserved and let them know your trust and respect is being earned. It takes work to open up communication, but it is worth the effort.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

Showcase from A1

continue to have a presence at the 2017 ICSC Conference, and we will sharpen our focus on premium retailers like The Capital Grille, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Apple and Lord & Taylor."

At ICSC 2016, the County had 23 pre-scheduled meetings and 60 walk-up booth meetings with high-level executives from top retailers, major developers and international food outlets and grocery stores. Nearly 500 convention attendees representing retailers and developers stopped at the County's booth to gather more information about expanding their business into Prince George's County.

However, to take Prince George's County's retail opportunities to the next level, Coleman proposed a two-day "Top-to-Top" Showcase Tour for 25 CEOs of targeted retail concepts from around the globe to take place in 2017. The travel and accommodations for these CEOs and CFOs was proposed to be sponsored by the business community. Strategy meetings would be pre-booked between targeted retailers and our local real estate developers and shopping center owners to discuss financing and incentives. Financing and incentive options would include guaranteed first year profitability, financing of the first thirty days and aggressive leasing pricing.

This showcase effort would be completed with a tour of the County's most in-demand and emerging areas

such as National Harbor, College Park, Greenbelt, Woodmore Towne Centre, Bowie Town Center, Hyattsville, Prince George's Plaza, Suitland and more.

"I think it behooves the County to bring the companies that they want and show them what we've got," said Jeff Berman, Vice President, Berman Enterprise LP. "Showing them a brochure or pointing to Prince George's County on a map is not tangible. It's tangible when you're on the ground and you can see our proximity to Washington, D.C., our access to transportation and the businesses that are already here. I would be very supportive of the EDC's proposal."

Coleman also presented the EDC's Fully Integrated Branding and Marketing Campaign, which aims to raise \$1 million from the private sector in order to raise massive awareness about Prince George's County's record economic growth, commercial and residential real estate development, as well as its strong and vibrant assets. The campaign includes a highly-targeted interactive marketing strategy, leveraging social media, earned media and direct mail.

The breakfast was sponsored by the DoubleTree Hotel Largo and McKissack and McKissack.

"We're delighted to be here in the County," said Evens Charles, President and CEO, Frontier Development and Hospitality Group. "The EDC and the County have opened up their arms and offered support in every aspect that we've needed with the DoubleTree Hotel and with

EDC's "Thirsty (for Business) Thursday" Attracts Elected Officials and Community Leaders to Network With Bladensburg Business Community

Coleman and Posse Toast 1st Anniversary of New Business in Bladensburg

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

BLADENSBURG, MD—Last night, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) kicked off its 'Bladensburg Blitz' by hosting its July edition of "Thirsty (for Business) Thursday" (T4BT) at the La Chiquita Restaurant, one of the hottest new spots in Bladensburg. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, partnering with the Better Bladensburg Block by Block and Business by Business Initiative (B5), welcomed State Senator Victor Ramirez, State Delegates Jimmy Tarleau and Diana Fennell, Former State Delegate Jolene Ivey, County Council Member Andrea Harrison, and Bladensburg Council Member Walter Ficklin. Bladensburg Mayor Walter Lee James served as the guest speaker and talked about the opportunities for growth, development and partnership in Bladensburg.

"Bladensburg is on the rise and I'm delighted to bring our 'Thirsty (for Business) Thursday' here to share with our greater business community what this wonderful town is doing," said Coleman. "The EDC is excited to be partnering with the leadership of Bladensburg, its B5 community initiative and its business community to build awareness about economic renaissance that is taking place in Bladensburg. When the movers and shakers in this District come out in support, you know that you must be doing something right."

The 'Bladensburg Blitz' is an initiative that will position the EDC to work with the Bladensburg business community to introduce them the millions of dollars in valuable resources to grow their local businesses, attract new development to the Town and prepare its residents for high wage jobs.

Guests were treated to two guest speakers, Mayor Walter



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: William Lawrence, CEO, Computer Services & Innovation Enterprises, LLC; Chris Lawson, President, Insuraty, Inc.; Carlyncia Peck, Co-Chair, B5 Initiative; Jim Coleman, President & CEO, PGCEDC; Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr., Town of Bladensburg; Delegate Diana Fennell, Legislative District 47.

Lee James, Jr. and Carlyncia Peck, Co-Chair of the B5 Initiative. The B5 Initiative is a grassroots community collaboration of stakeholders promoting a sustainable and exceptional aesthetic in the Town of Bladensburg. Both speakers shared their vision of all that is good and possible for Bladensburg.

"We are excited about Mr. Coleman and the EDC family coming out to La Chiquita to highlight Bladensburg," said James. "Bladensburg is a town of opportunities. La Chiquita Restaurant speaks to our vision of having more quality, family style restaurants. It shows that we are on the right path, and we can really build from this to not only grow our existing businesses, but to bring new, diverse businesses to the town we want to be a destination for the region."

"We are ecstatic about the EDC coming here to kick off our

'Bladensburg Blitz,'" said Peck. "Our partnership with the EDC is sure to stimulate positive economic development in Bladensburg. We are encouraging any and all to join in for the betterment of Bladensburg by going to our website www.betterbladensburg.org."

Last night's event, sponsored by Computer Services and Innovation Enterprises, LLC, and Insuraty, Inc., also celebrated the 1st anniversary of La Chiquita Restaurant in its new Bladensburg location. La Chiquita, one of the hottest new spots in Bladensburg, serves Salvadoran classic cuisine with a contemporary flair.

Local business owners from all over the County continue to make it their business every month to come out to network with government, non-profits and other local businesses in a relaxed and collaborative atmosphere.

"I really enjoy coming out to

the EDC's "Thirsty (for Business) Thursday" events. The information and the people that I meet each month are always interesting," said Lillie West, owner of L&R Business Solutions. "I am connected with them on Facebook and I keep all of their events on my calendar. These are wonderful networking opportunities."

The next opportunity to network with Jim Coleman and his 'posse' will be on July 29th when the EDC hosts the Embassy of Canada Mutual Briefing at its headquarters in Largo. Top officials from the Embassy of Canada will be coming to EDC to talk about trade and investment opportunities with our neighbors to the North. This event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20774.

To reserve your seat for this exciting and informative event, visit www.pgcdec.com/events

Invest from A4

costs and stimulate the economy. Tax credits invested in low-income communities result in new jobs, and greater access to public facilities, goods, and services such as manufacturing, food, retail, housing, health, technology, energy, education, and childcare.

- A new homeownership tax credit for middle and low-income homebuyers.

Higher rates of homeownership, particularly in low-income communities, are linked to improved children's educational achievement, greater financial stability, improved civic participation, better health outcomes and reduced neighborhood crime rates.

- Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The EITC lifted 6.2 million people—including 3.2 million children—out of poverty overall in 2013. When the income gains from the increase in employment the EITC generates are taken into account, the EITC's impact in reducing poverty is even more significant.

- Workforce training programs administered thru community-based organizations and targeted to areas of high unemployment.

According to the Brookings Institute, employment focused training programs, often developed in cooperation and collaboration

with employer or industry partners, have been tremendously successful, producing returns for workers that far exceed the social cost of the programs.

- A doubling of the Pell Grant program to make college more affordable, increasing the maximum grant from \$5,775 to \$11,550.

As Sen. Claiborne Pell, the chief sponsor of the program, said, "Any student with the talent, desire, and drive, should be able to pursue higher education." More than 60 million students from poor and working class backgrounds have received the economic lifeline they need to earn a college degree.

- Expansion of financial literacy and homebuyer education and counseling.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, nearly 70 percent of homeowners who participated in foreclosure prevention counseling obtained a mortgage remedy to retain their home, and 56 percent cured their defaults and became current on their mortgages. Of those who participated in pre-purchase counseling, 35 percent of became homeowners within 18 months.

- Increased access to affordable broadband and mobile technology for working and low-income Americans.

Access to technology is associated with higher unemployment rates, greater eco-

nomics growth, better healthcare and education, and greater civic participation.

The original Marshall Plan brought about the most dramatic increase in economic growth in European history. Poverty and starvation seemed to disappear overnight. Though the plan officially ended in 1953, the unprecedented economic growth it sparked continued for two decades. By contrast, the economies of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc nations, which declined American aid, faltered in the post-war era.

Today, our economy and infrastructure have been shattered, not by bombs and tanks, but by corporate malfeasance and governmental indifference.

Under President Obama, the nation has made great strides in stabilizing the economy. In eight years, the nation has gone from losing hundreds of thousands of jobs per month to 73 straight months of job growth. During President Obama's term, the private sector has added 14.4 million new jobs. The Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act is widely credited with protecting the nation from a second Great Depression.

Much more remains to be done, however. The benefits of the recovery have not reached our most troubled communities. We cannot continue to rely on policies that have proved ineffective in communities of high unemployment and low income; we must focus our resources and efforts on the neighborhoods where they are most desperately needed.

the Hilton that we are developing next door. From the assistance we received with the EDI Fund to the assistance we received with the permitting process, we have been made to

feel very special and we are very appreciative of that."

To become an EDC partner, contact Nichelle Holmes at nholmes@co.pg.md.us or call (301) 583-4621.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Ghostbusters (2016)

Ghostbusters (2016)
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a little mild profanity and scariness—much tamer than the PG-rated original, for what it's worth
1 hr., 56 min

Ghostbusters, the reboot of an obscure Harold Ramis/Ernie Hudson comedy from the 1980s, is about three scientists and a subway worker who learn that New York City is on the verge of being overrun by mean ghosts and must take action to prevent this. Like almost every reboot or remake of a good movie, it pales in comparison to the original. Unlike many, it's funny and high-spirited enough to stand on its own. Indeed, it does best when it's not using forced cameos or callbacks to remind us of the first movie, but instead letting these four new characters do their thing.

The new *Ghostbusters* don't have exact counterparts to the original bunch—a wise choice, since no one is Bill Murray. (Even Bill Murray is no longer Bill Murray, if his dire cameo in this is any indication.) Erin Gilbert (Kristen Wiig) is a prim, respectable science professor at Columbia University who disavows the ghost book she once wrote with a colleague. That colleague, Abby Yates (Melissa McCarthy), is still investigating paranormal phenomena, and is now teamed up with Jillian Holtzmann (Kate McKinnon), a genius-level science nerd who reminds you of Egon Spengler for but a moment before she establishes her own ultra-weird manner and persona. A haunting at a museum brings the three together, soon joined by Patty Tolan (Leslie Jones), an MTA employee with an extensive knowledge of New York history who saw something strange in the subway tunnel.

After following many of the original's story beats in the setup, the new one—directed by Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*, *Spy*) and written by Katie Dippold (*The Heat*) and Feig—takes its own path. Notably, there is no



ROTTENTOMATOES

***Ghostbusters* makes its long-awaited return, rebooted with a cast of hilarious new characters. Thirty years after the beloved original franchise took the world by storm, director Paul Feig brings his fresh take to the supernatural comedy, joined by some of the funniest actors working today—Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, and Chris Hemsworth. This summer, they're here to save the world!**

Sigourney Weaver character. Where the ironically detached Peter Venkman needed a potential romance to motivate him to bust ghosts, the new 'busters are earnest self-starters. The film is thus able to focus on their friendship and teamwork, a theme that is helped by introducing the fourth member of their group much earlier (and for less obvious reasons of tokenism) than poor Winston Zeddemore was.

The central quartet are all funny, separately and together, with Holtzmann the standout and McKinnon the only one of the actresses playing a character we haven't seen her do before. They're ably assisted by Chris Hemsworth as Kevin, the dumb hunk they hire as their receptionist, whose enthusiastic idiocy is good for several laughs and whose face inspires a spazzy crush from Wiig's character, Erin. Zach Woods, Ed Begley Jr., Charles Dance, and Steve Higgins all have brief but funny turns. The film

zooms along smoothly enough, occasionally hilarious but more often just amusing.

The problem, I suspect, is interference from Sony. You can smell the studio notes hindering Feig's usual looseness and spontaneity, mandating references to the '84 film, and focus-grouping everything to death. More than any film in the studio's recent history, everything in *Ghostbusters* has been scrutinized and second-guessed, a process that rarely makes anything funnier. Good ideas emerge—the ghosts turning New York into a past version of itself; Patty's expertise in local lore; the battle between the *Ghostbusters* and the mayor (Andy Garcia) who wants to keep things hushed up—but fade away without being developed. Bill Murray's bizarre cameo doesn't even have a payoff: we literally do not see what happens to his character. (Dan Aykroyd's bit will just make you roll your eyes.) On the bright side, the DVD must be loaded with deleted scenes.

There's a wee bit of "girl power" to the proceedings, though not as much as was forebodingly prophesied in the dank corners of the Internet where anything with a female cast is presumed to be a militant feminist screed. Erin, Abby, Jillian, and Patty support each other as friends and as women, letting what little overt sexism they encounter pass without being hindered by it. When a villain (Neil Casey) excuses his actions with something to the effect of, "You don't know what it's like to be bullied," the *Ghostbusters*—who have been ridiculed in the scientific community as well as on the Internet—respond with: Uh, yeah we do. People crap on us all the time. So what? Get over it. Let it make you more determined, not more bitter. The only agenda here is to have fun. I suspect there will be even more of it once everybody relaxes and lets Feig & co. do their thing. If nothing else, the next *Ghostbusters II* is bound to be better than the last *Ghostbusters II*.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

Rio's Police Say 'Welcome To Hell'



On Monday, outside of the international arrivals section of Rio de Janeiro—Galeão International Airport, was a very curious kind of protest. State police, agitating for a raise and threatening to strike, held a banner that read, "Welcome To Hell: Police and firefighters don't get paid, whoever comes to Rio de Janeiro will not be safe." The demonstration received breathless and widespread global coverage, and understandably so with the 2016 Olympics ready to launch in less than a month. In response, the state of Rio issued an executive order freeing up 2.9 billion real (\$850 million) to make sure that the police—not the firefighters, just police—would receive overtime and bonuses. Rio's Olympic Committee also sent hurried assurances that a remarkable 85,000 troops will be in the streets to keep tourists and athletes safe for the duration of the game.

Yet, with all the coverage, a minor factoid was left unexamined: This message, "Welcome To Hell," was not in Portuguese. It was in English. This was a banner for foreign consumption, and it worked. The police knew what is an open secret in Brazil: If you want to open the purse strings, just make politicians nervous about how they are being seen by people who don't happen to be Brazilian.

This is how we can have a situation where bailouts for tourist safety were treated like a national emergency while the ongoing "hell" for poor and working-class people in Olympic Rio has only worsened. There is no bailout for those displaced by Olympic construction or the thousands of students in the state of Rio who have occupied their schools in protest of education cuts, as billions are spent on the games. There is no bailout for the health services, cut earlier this year, despite the specter of the Zika Virus, which is far more prevalent in poor communities than anywhere tourists or athletes will tread.

There is also no addressing the conditions in what is a far closer approximation to "hell": impoverished communities currently in the grips of police violence. This is common for a city hosting the Olympic games: The state makes a muscular show of force in the poorest areas; the message being, "You better stay in line while the tourists are here spending their money." Yet even by the standards of this history, Rio has seen a staggering rise in homicides at the hands of police. According to *Amnesty International*, "In the city of Rio alone, at least 307 people were killed by the police last year, accounting for one in every five homicides in the city." This represents a dramatic uptick for an area that sees police violence in the favelas during the most placid of times. I asked the mayor of Rio, Eduardo Paes, if the Olympics had anything to do with this. He said to me, "That's not true. This has been a situation for Rio for much longer than when we got the Olympics. This is not new in the city, this is an everyday life problem for Rio. I even wish it was because of the Olympics because [after the games the violence would decrease, but it won't.]"

An opponent of Paes whom I interviewed, City Councilman Jefferson Moura, also did not blame these killings on the Olympics, instead attributing it to the "immense financial crisis" in the state of Rio. He pointed out that the "project of pacification" in the favelas, a Brazilian term for what we would call "community policing," had been dramatically defunded because of the economic downturn. Its replacement has been the kind of quick-hit, more cost-effective, and more deadly methods of policing, where you keep the peace by shooting first and asking questions later.

Whether the violence is a product of the economic crisis or the Olympics is largely irrelevant. Far more important is for the world to understand that the "hell" in Rio is being unleashed by the very people who just received a massive raise to keep doing what they have been doing, and that's kill with impunity. They say "welcome to hell," and one has to wonder if this a warning or a boast.

Yet the police have also proven something to the people of Rio: If you protest during these games, you have a far greater likelihood of being heard. Earlier this week, 500 people rallied in Rio against the priorities of the Olympics. Expect this to be the first of many. As one protester named Tomas e-mailed me, "The eyes of the world are on Rio. If this produces shame in our government; if this is what gets results, then we can play that game. All we've known this year is cuts. Now we also want our bailout." It is safe to say that the battle for Rio has been joined. This is a contest more dramatic than anything we'll see on the field of play during these Olympics.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME

During the hot and hazy days of summer, now's a great time for a reminder that those bug spray and sunscreen aerosol cans can be recycled! Whether it's shaving cream, hairspray or sunscreen, aerosol containers are made from aluminum or steel, which are both materials that are great to recycle and have some of the most significant benefits when recycled. Who knows, your hairspray bottle may even become a bicycle for someone else to enjoy next summer!

When recycling aerosol containers, remember to use all of the contents before recycling. Once they're emptied, they go right in your recycling bin.

*Source: Keep America Beautiful, www.iwanttorecycle.org

Richard L. Baker, III
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

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Calendar of Events

August 11 — August 17, 2016

Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc: Palmer Park Community Center

Date and Time: Thursday, August 11, 2016, 6:30–7:30 pm
Description: We know that walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It is also one of the best ways to connect with others! A local health care professional will lead a group walk, share wellness tips, and answer your questions. No registration is required. Just grab your tennis shoes and join the fun!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Palmer Park Community Center
7720 Barlowe Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Butterfly Search

Date and Time: Friday, August 12, 2016 9 am–12 noon
Description: Search through various habitats for butterflies to list for the annual count.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Skate & Glow

Date and Time: Friday, August 12, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: Tonight, its glow skate night! So strap on those skates, grab a friend and hit the floor. Glow sticks and skates will be provided.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Cupcakes/ Ice Cream/ Girl Talk

Date and Time: Friday, August 12, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Ladies bring a friend for a night of fun and delicious treats. Ladies will decorate cupcakes with a side of ice cream and will discuss topics just for girls.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

Safe Summer: Carnival Night

Date and Time: Friday, August 12, 2016, 10 pm–12 am
Description: Tonight teens will enjoy fun games, treats, food, and music at Carnival Night.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 12–17
Location: Bladensburg Community Center
4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD
Contact: 301-277-2124; 301-699-2544

Summer Spotlight Exhibition and Reception

Date and Time: Saturday, August 13, 2016, 1–3 pm
Description: An art showcase featuring the work of students in the summer programs at Montpelier Arts Center.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Fairwood Summer Series: David Bach and Band

Date and Time: Sunday, August 14, 2016, 7:30–8:30 pm
Description: Bring your lawn chair or blanket to enjoy monthly performances full of family fun! Tonight's FREE performance in the park is by David Bach and Band.

Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Fairwood Community Park
12700 Fairwood Pkwy, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-446-3242; TTY 301-699-2544

Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc: Hillcrest Heights Community Center

Date and Time: Tuesday, August 16, 2016, 6:30-7:30 pm
Description: We know that walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It is also one of the best ways to connect with others! A local health care professional will lead a group walk, share wellness tips, and answer your questions. No registration is required. Just grab your tennis shoes and join the fun!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Reggae and Rum

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 6:30–9 pm
Description: Come ready to relax, release, and enjoy the sounds of reggae music. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, or sit on patio chairs provided. Catered food can be purchased for your enjoyment. Rum samples will be provided; additional rum is available for purchase. This is an adult affair, please call to RSVP or send an email to www.ohmanor@pgparks.com.

Cost: \$10/person
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Oxon Hill Manor
6901 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, MD
Contact: 301-839-7782; TTY 301-699-2544

Jazz on the Lawn: Gina de Simone & the Moaners

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 17, 2016, 7 pm
Description: Bring a blanket or lawn chair, pack a picnic, and close out our final jazz concert of the summer with the bluesy sounds of Gina de Simone & the Moaners.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Why is Hawaii “Ground Zero” in the Fight Against Genetically Engineered Crops?

Dear EarthTalk:

Why do environmentalists consider Hawaii “ground zero” in the fight against genetically engineered crops?

—Michael Van,
Poughkeepsie, NY

Most of us think of beaches, surfing and luaus when we think of Hawaii. But the constantly warm and moist climate actually provides some of the most productive land in the world with a never-ending growing season. As a result, Hawaii has become a major player in commercial agriculture, and is frequently used to test new farming techniques.

Large agricultural companies moved in on this productivity by using Hawaii for trials of new genetically engineered (GE) crops. Monsanto and DOW Chemical both produce huge numbers of genetically modified seeds in Hawaii for distribution around the world. Some of Hawaii's more common GE crops include corn, sugarcane, and papaya, among others.

But not everyone appreciates how widespread GE crops are in Hawaii. Many local Hawaiians are upset that their homeland, otherwise a natural paradise, is used for such risky activities. Most GE crops are designed to resist intensive chemical pesti-

cides that kill most other plants. Around the state, vulnerable populations including kids and the elderly have suffered the effects of this type of chemical exposure resulting from the over-spraying of pesticides.

These issues aren't unique to Hawaii. People all over the world are increasingly wary of GE products, even as the chemical companies insist they are safe. However, the information on long-term effects is still inconclusive. Consumers want to know what's in their purchases. Chemical companies are denying them this right by refusing to label those products containing genetically modified ingredients.

Unfortunately, the state of Hawaii has hesitated to enact any legislation banning some of their most lucrative business ventures. Responsibility has fallen to the counties. Three Hawaiian counties initiated ordinances and moratoriums against additional GE crops and pesticide use in 2014. However, large companies like Monsanto and Syngenta sued to prevent these measures from being implemented, temporarily postponing these bans. While they did win their initial suit in late 2014, the counties have appealed the decision through the federal 9th circuit court of appeals in a trial which started this past June. The



CREDIT: IAN MACKENZIE, FLICKRCC

Hawaii has become ground zero for testing and trials of genetically engineered crops, and environmentalists worry about the implications for ecosystems throughout the islands and beyond.

cases hinge on the concept of preemption, i.e. does the county legislation conflict with state rulings? The counties believe that the state's acceptance of genetically engineered products does not mean that the counties cannot implement their own harsher regulations.

Whichever way the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decides will set an important precedent. If the court decides the federal law allowing GE products preempts the rights of the Hawaiian counties, any future GE bans would likely experience a similar ruling. However, the converse is also true. The judge allowing the counties to construct their own regulations regarding genetic engineering

would pave the way for other counties and states to do the same. The cases will hopefully be resolved before the end of 2016. Safe to say, Hawaiians, chemical and agricultural companies and the rest of the nation will be watching.

CONTACTS: DOW Chemical, www.dow.com; Monsanto, www.monsanto.com; Syngenta, www.syngenta.com.

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Nearly 80 Percent of Drivers Express Significant Anger, Aggression or Road Rage

An Estimated Eight Million Drivers Admit to More Extreme Behavior

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Thursday, July 14, 2016)—Motorists in the Washington D.C. area rated aggressive driving as the number one threat to highway safety, and for good reason, according to polling conducted by AAA Mid-Atlantic. Nearly 80 percent of drivers expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the past year, according to a new study released today by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The most alarming findings suggest that approximately eight million U.S. drivers engaged in extreme examples of road rage, including purposefully ramming another vehicle or getting out of the car to confront another driver. Last May, a motorist was reportedly shot to death in what police called a road rage shooting incident on DC 295 during rush hour. Also last year, another alleged road incident—this one involving verbal hectoring - on a road side in Sterling, Virginia went viral. In April of this year, a Washington, D.C. police officer was arrested after he allegedly “pointed his service weapon at a driver during an off-duty road rage incident.” Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic.

“Although the terms ‘road rage’ and ‘aggressive driving’ are often confused or used inter-

changeably, there is a world of difference in the outcome and the risk factors,” said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. “Road rage is best described as a predatory driving wherein a belligerent driver deliberately and wantonly targets another driver. Still, local motorists place aggressive driving at the top of their concerns about driving.”

For example, during the 2012 Smooth Operator campaign local police officials issued almost 400,000 citations and warnings for aggressive driving. In 2015, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation, “Roughly 60 agencies participated in the mobilization in Washington, D.C. and Maryland, and more than 175,000 citations were issued by Maryland law enforcement officers during the waves.”

“Inconsiderate driving, bad traffic and the daily stresses of life can transform minor frustrations into dangerous road rage,” said Jurek Grabowski, Director of Research for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “Far too many drivers are losing themselves in the heat of the moment and lashing out in ways that could turn deadly.”

A significant number of U.S. drivers reported engaging in angry and aggressive behaviors over the past year, according to the study's estimates:

- Purposefully tailgating: 51 percent (104 million drivers)

- Yelling at another driver: 47 percent (95 million drivers)
- Honking to show annoyance or anger: 45 percent (91 million drivers)
- Making angry gestures: 33 percent (67 million drivers)
- Trying to block another vehicle from changing lanes: 24 percent (49 million drivers)
- Cutting off another vehicle on purpose: 12 percent (24 million drivers)
- Getting out of the vehicle to confront another driver: 4 percent (7.6 million drivers)
- Bumping or ramming another vehicle on purpose: 3 percent (5.7 million drivers)

Nearly 2 in 3 drivers believe that aggressive driving is a bigger problem today than three years ago, while nine out of ten believe aggressive drivers are a serious threat to their personal safety.

Aggressive driving and road rage varied considerably among drivers:

- Male and younger drivers ages 19–39 were significantly more likely to engage in aggressive behaviors. For example, male drivers were more than three times as likely as female drivers to have gotten out of a vehicle to confront another driver or rammed another vehicle on purpose.
- Drivers living in the Northeast were significantly more likely to yell, honk or gesture angrily than people living in other parts of the country. For example, drivers in the Northeast

were nearly 30 percent more likely to have made an angry gesture than drivers in other parts of the country.

• Drivers who reported other unsafe behaviors behind the wheel, such as speeding and running red lights, also were more likely to show aggression. For example, drivers who reported speeding on a freeway in the past month were four times more likely to have cut off another vehicle on purpose.

“It's completely normal for drivers to experience anger behind the wheel, but we must not let our emotions lead to destructive choices,” said Jake Nelson, AAA's Director of Traffic Safety Advocacy and Research. “Don't risk escalating a frustrating situation because you never know what the other driver might do. Maintain a cool head, and focus on reaching your destination safely.”

AAA offers these tips to help prevent road rage:

- **Don't Offend:** Never cause another driver to change their speed or direction. That means not forcing another driver to use their brakes, or turn the steering wheel in response to something you have done.
- **Be Tolerant and Forgiving:** The other driver may just be having a really bad day. Assume that it's not personal.
- **Do Not Respond:** Avoid eye contact, don't make gestures, maintain space around your vehicle and contact 9-1-1 if needed.

Workplace from A3

as the Family And Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, which would establish a paid family and medical leave insurance program; the Healthy Families Act, which would set a paid sick days standard; and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which would help combat pregnancy discrimination.

This most recent edition of *Expecting Better* highlights the

impact that access to paid family and medical leave in particular can have on the health and well-being of expecting and new parents, as well as their children, families, employers and local economies. The United States is one of only a few countries among the 185 surveyed by the International Labor Organization that do not guarantee paid leave: 183 other nations guarantee paid maternity leave and 79 guarantee

paid paternity leave. It is also the only high-wealth country that doesn't provide paid maternity leave. *Expecting Better* finds that just four states guarantee paid family leave for expecting and new parents who work in the private sector.

To determine the state grades included in this edition of *Expecting Better*, the National Partnership reviewed different but overlapping public policies aimed at helping

new parents in each state and the District of Columbia. Researchers looked at laws governing both private and public sector employees. The study includes a special section on state policies that more broadly help family caregivers—both parents and workers overall—in addressing their families' needs. It is available in its entirety, along with state-specific graphics, at NationalPartnership.org/ExpectingBetter.

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