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The Millennium Seat Pleasant Club Event Called "Seat at the Table" Had the Honorable Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County State's Attorney, as a Special Guest Speaker

By SHAWN HAY
for NANBPW

OXON HILL, Md. (Feb. 19, 2020)—The Millennium Seat Pleasant Club (MSP) of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Incorporated hosted its "Seat at the Table" event on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at the BLE Suites in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

About 50 community members came out to hear from the panelists. Dr. Valencia Campbell and Ms. Jewel Eubanks co-chaired the event. Dr. Campbell moderated the lively panel discussion which included: Ms. Stephanie Harrison, Millennium Seat Pleasant Club President, The Honorable Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney for Prince George's County, MD, Co-Pastor Cynthia Brown of the Life and Victory/Outreach Ministry, and Ms. Miriam Brewer, Appointments Liaison with the Office of the Prince George's County Executive. The discussion showcased how attendees can get more involved in the organizations working to serve the community whether it is serving on a local Board or Commission, serving in a church, working with a women's organization or having input on the work of the County's Top law enforcement officer. All of the women em-



PHOTO CREDIT: MAURICE FITZGERALD

Left to right, Stephanie Harrison, President Millennium Seat Pleasant Club of NANBPW (Inc.), Sherrell Carper, National President, NANBPW, Inc., Miriam Brewer, Appointment Liaison, Prince George's County Executive's Office, The Honorable Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County State's Attorney, Jewel Eubanks, Event Co-chair, Co-Pastor Cynthia Brown, Dr. Valencia Campbell, Event Co-chair

phasized the importance of bringing a passion for the contributions that they would like to make to the position (volunteer or paid) of their choice. Ms. Brewer pointed out that her office has been overwhelmed with resumes so folks need to be patient with their requests

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See SEAT AT THE TABLE Page A8

Council Member Deni Taveras Applauds Expansion Of ISLA Initiative

Access to Counsel Initiative Announced During ISLA Anniversary Luncheon

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 24, 2020)—Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras (D) – District 2, is pleased to welcome the "Access to Counsel Initiative" to Prince George's County, which will extend quality legal counsel to all eligible County residents who are detained without representation. The announcement was made by the Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC) during the 2nd Annual Immigrant Services and Language Access (ISLA) Initiative Luncheon hosted by Council Member Taveras, the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition and the University of Maryland, on Friday, February 21, 2020 at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Under the initiative, IJC, the country's first fellowship program dedicated to meeting immigrants' needs for high-quality legal counsel, will partner with CAIR, which ensures equal justice for local immigrants at risk of detention and deportation through legal support and advocacy, for a two-year Access to Counsel Initiative to provide representation to all County residents detained in immigration custody who cannot afford legal representation.

District 2, represented by Council Member Taveras, has the highest immigrant population in Prince George's County. Council Member Taveras says Prince Georgians benefit when every resident has an opportunity to thrive in our communities.

"With the support of the Immigrant Justice Corps, the ISLA initiative will offer legal counsel and support to County

residents who have been detained. The expansion in services will keep our communities' diverse tapestry intact and minimize the social and economic impact caused by family separation. This is also a valuable resource to ensure that every County resident feels comfortable participating in the 2020 Census."

The ISLA Initiative was established as part of the approved FY 2018 County Budget (CB-55-2017), which followed the adoption of Council Resolution 2-2017, legislation introduced by Council Member Deni Taveras (D) – District 2, denouncing anti-immigrant activity, racial bias and discrimination, hate speech, hate crimes and harassment in Prince George's County. The ISLA initiative is coordinated and managed through the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission.

Black Health Matters' Precision Oncology Pushed to Educate Thousands About Prostate Cancer and Clinical Trial Participation

Physicians & Advocates Talk to African American Men About Prostate Cancer March 13 Program in Fort Washington

By DEVON ALLEN
Black Health Matters

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (Feb. 19, 2020)—Black Health Matters, the nation's leading integrated platform on African American health, is hosting a series of educational programs in 2020. The focus is to raise awareness of prostate health, prostate cancer and clinical trials. This initiative is a part of Precision Oncology, which was launched in July 2019 at Kappa Alpha Psi's Grand Chapter meeting in Philadel-

phia. This educational program is funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb.

African American men are at an increased risk for developing prostate cancer over white men and other men of color. One in six African American men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. Overall, African American men are 1.8 times more likely to be diagnosed with—and 2.2 times more likely to die from—prostate cancer than white men. African American men are also slightly more

likely than white men to be diagnosed with advanced disease.¹ "Understanding why African-American men are more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer than men of other racial and ethnic groups is a critical, unanswered question in cancer disparities research," said NCI Director, Ned Sharpless, M.D.

Black Health Matters has formed strategic partnerships with important organizations focused on serving the African American community. By working with churches, fraternal

organizations, professional and, masonic organizations, Black Health Matters connects with African American men and often caregivers within environments deemed safe and conducive to "real talk" among attendees. These programs allow conversations to take place with the practitioner whereas an office setting may seem less friendly, precluding meaningful dialogue between the physician and patient. In all

See EDUCATE Page A8

The Proposed State Blueprint for Maryland's Future: The Historic New State Education Funding Proposal and What it Means to You

March 10 ANC Meeting

Right now, pending before your General Assembly in Annapolis, is the proposed "Blueprint for Maryland's Future," a nearly \$4 billion proposal for increased annual education funding for public schools statewide, proposed by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000). Join us for a discussion on March 10 at the Southern Gateway ANC Meeting at Oxon Hill Library and let's discuss how this proposal might affect you. Will it lead to higher achievement in our schools? Could it result in higher taxes for your family?

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/JB6pHuKDWveZKnJr8>

What: Southern Gateway Advisory Neighborhood Community (ANC) Meeting "The Biggest School Funding Issue of Our Lifetimes"

When: Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Oxon Hill Library Auditorium, 6200 Oxon Hill Rd, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

The Kirwan Blueprint for Maryland's Future proposes to invest nearly \$4 billion annually in expanding prekindergarten, higher standard and salaries for teachers, enhanced career-prep and college readiness programs, and more programs and resources for low income students and students with high or specialized needs. Here is a recent poll of Marylanders on this subject: <https://www.baltimore-sun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-goucher-poll-20200224-7lzzb2yuwvgxth3pgp22hq4euu-story.html>

The Southern Gateway ANC Area includes the Suitland, Greater Temple Hills, and Greater Oxon Hill-Forest Heights (incl. National Harbor) Areas, but the topic of this meeting is countywide in nature. Join us!

—Mel Franklin, Council Member At-Large

Upper Marlboro Sailor Selected For U.S. Navy Rhino Demonstration Team

By CMDR. JENNIFER CRAGG
Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (Feb. 21, 2020)—A South African U.S. Navy Sailor from Upper Marlboro, Maryland looks forward to supporting the U.S. Navy Rhino Demonstration Team for the 2020 air show season.

The Rhino Demo Team is a single ship air show demonstration that displays the rich heritage of Naval Aviation to patriotic audiences across the United States. The demo flight profile highlights the mobility, versatility, and power of the most lethal, carrier-based Strike Fighter aircraft in the world, the F/A-18F Super Hornet, nicknamed the "Rhino".

The Rhino Demo Team includes 15 elite members; four pilots, three weapon systems officers, and eight maintainers. All Team members are attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA-106).

Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Marshal Ngwenya, immigrated to the United States in 2014 and entered into the U.S. Navy two years later in 2016. Ngwenya has been assigned to VFA-106 since January 2019.

"Serving at VFA-106 you get to see a lot of different people and serve with other cultures and backgrounds," said Ngwenya, who manages fuel systems, engines, and ensures that all aircraft are operational and ready to fly.

The Rhino Demo Team will fly the F/A-18F to 11 different air shows throughout the United States in 2020, including those nearby: • June 13-14, Ocean City Air Show (Ocean City, MD) • September 19-20, NAS Oceana Air Show (Virginia Beach, VA) VFA-106, also known as the "Gladiators", is located at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana. As the East Coast Super Hornet Fleet Replacement Squadron, VFA-106 is comprised of over 200 Officers and 1,340 Sailors who are committed to training the next generation of Strike Fighter aircrew in the tactical employment of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet.



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Marshal Ngwenya

INSIDE

Free St. Patrick's Day Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during St. Patrick's Day 2018 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. Community, Page A3

Brown Introduces Legislation to Require Helicopter Black Boxes

"As a veteran Army helicopter pilot, I understand the great lengths pilots go to ensure the safety of those onboard their aircraft," said Congressman Anthony Brown, who sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Commentary, Page A4

American Community Management Expands Operations To Largo

The new team at the Largo office is comprised of Prince George's County residents.

"Opening our Largo office is an exciting time for ACM and its great team of employees, board members and vendors," McCoy says. Business and Finance, Page A5

First Multi-Generational Facility Opens in Southern Prince George's County

"SAARC will be a new place, where everyone in the family can gather and a new way for the community to improve their health and wellness," said Director for the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Bill Tyler. Out on the Town, Page A6

Collecting Shoes to Help Fight Global Poverty

Psi Epsilon Omega along with other chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., are collecting gently-worn shoes. The effort is part of a partnership with Soles4Soul, a non-profit organization that ships shoes to destinations around the world populated with people of color. Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Laurie Verge, Surratt House founding member and Museum Director, dies at 76

I can't imagine walking into the Surratt House office and not seeing Laurie sitting at the desk. She was known as a leading authority on the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination and local Southern Maryland history. Or as I think of her, she knew everybody.

Laura Elizabeth "Laurie" Verge was born Oct. 24, 1943 to Noel Owen Mays and Laura Elysebeth Burroughs Mays at Mitchel Field, N.Y. From a young age until adulthood, Laurie was the organist at the Chapel of the Incarnation in Brandywine.

At Gwynn Park High School, she was a 1961 graduate and salutatorian. She earned a BA in 1965 from Frostburg State College where she was involved in a variety of clubs and activities, especially Alpha Xi Delta Women's Fraternity. She went on to teach history and government at Spaulding Jr. High in Forestville.

Laurie married and became a stay-at-home mom to daughter Jennifer. For some years she was a dance mom, spending countless hours behind the desk of the Linda Natoli Dance Studio and at dance competitions.

Then her life really changed. Her love of history led her to become a founding member of the Surratt Society and one of the first docents at the restored Surratt House in Clinton. In the mid-'80s she became a fulltime employee of the Museum, under the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission. She worked as Director until her death.

Laurie's daughter, Jennifer Diane Verge Morphew, and grandson, Aaron Brayden Alexander Morphew, survive her. Laurie was particularly proud of her grandson's shared love of history and dedication to education. Visitation was at the Huntt Funeral Home with a brief burial service at the Huntt Family Cemetery in Waldorf on Feb. 28.

The obituary was sent out by Joe Gotshall, a good friend of Laurie's and a member of the Gotshall family who, years ago lived on Allies Road in Morningside.

Neighbors and other good people

Terence P. O'Connor, a 1974 graduate of McNamara HS died Aug. 29,

2019. A star athlete, he was a key player on the 1973 McNamara football team that won the DC metro championship. He was inducted into the McNamara Hall of Fame. Terry and his longtime friend Carl Desmarais are founders of O'Connor and Desmarais P.C., McLean, Va.

Briana James, of Upper Marlboro, graduated from Hood College in January with a master's in biomedical science.

Fr. Scott R. Hahn has been assigned administrator of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Seat Pleasant, while continuing as pastor at St. Jerome Parish, Hyattsville. Father Hahn was formerly pastor at St. Philip's in Camp Springs.

Sarah McHale's dances received platinum awards except for three group dances she was in, which received grand slams (highest) at the Hall of Fame Dance competition in Baltimore. She dances with Turning Pointe Dance Academy and I'm proud to say she is my granddaughter.

After reading Mary Kilbourne's obit in last week's column, Julie Koch-Michael emailed, "So, Mrs. Kilbourne was also a biology teacher [at Crossland]. Mr. Kilbourne was a science teacher at Suitland High." She went on to say that he had attended one of Suitland's reunions.

Speaking of reunions: I would love to run your high school reunion in my column. Might even get more to come. Also, John Kelly's column in The Washington Post frequently runs reunions. Send school, class, date and contact information to john.kelly@washpost.com.

Eats

- Fish Fry Fridays (March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3). 3 to 7 p.m. (or while supplies last): whiting, coleslaw, potato salad, green beans, soda or water. Fee: \$12, fish dinner (includes 2 sides and drink); \$10, fish sandwich. St. Philip the Apostle Parish Hall, 5416 Henderson Way, Camp Springs.
- St. Patrick's Party will be celebrated Saturday, March 21, 6 to 9:30 p.m. with dinner, ceili dance, Irish entertainment, live Irish band, "great Irish food and beer." St. Mary's Church, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville. \$15 per person/ \$35 per family.

Reservations, jphippis@gl.com or 301-401-4281.

- Seafood Dinner at Holy Angels Church, 21340 Colton Point Road, Avenue, on Sunday, March 22, 11:30 a.m. to 4 pm. Buffet menu includes fried oysters, steamed spiced shrimp, crab balls, fried chicken, parsley potatoes and so much more. Adults, \$30; children 6-12, \$8; under 5 free. Info 301-769-3332.

Morningside Memories:

30 years ago

Significant things that happened to Morningsiders in 1990:

Mayor Jerry Glaubitz was elected national president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors at the Dec. 7 convention in Albuquerque.

Kenny Carnes made headlines as he raced his wheelchair to victory in marathons around the world, including Russia and Poland.

Morningside Councilman Ken Miller founded Parents Against Drugs in response to concerns about drugs and our kids. They met monthly at the Town Hall.

Debra Balint became the first Morningside Council Member to give birth when Matthew Alexander was born March 8.

Morningside's first fire chief, Lawrence "Laddie" Beardmore, was named to the County Volunteer Firemen's Hall of Fame.

Ron Oliver was presented the Chief's Award and Bernard Smith received the President's Award at the annual Morningside VFD awards banquet.

Danita Dawson was selected one of five Suitland High students to spend three weeks in Russia with the Student Ambassador program.

Victor and Mildred Peaire celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; Ange Meoli, John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, March 11; Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson, Rebecca Turner and Marcy Richardson, March 12.

Around the County

Clinton MD Native Nominated for Television Academy's College Television Awards



PHOTO COURTESY TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Breana Ross

Clinton, MD, native Breana Ross has been nominated for the prestigious Television Academy Foundation's 40th College Television Awards.

Ross, a recent graduate of the University of Miami, has been nominated (along with 7 of her classmates) in the news category for a project she co-wrote titled "UMTV's NewsVision: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Massacre One Year Later".

The program takes a look back at the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, what has happened since, and what the University of Miami is doing in response to the event. NewsVision is a weekly, live 30-minute news broadcast, produced by students at the University of Miami.

The College Television Awards honors achievement in student-produced programs and will feature stars from today's top television shows presenting awards to winners in eight categories. The Television Academy Foundation's 40th College Television Awards will be held on March 21 in Los Angeles.

For 40 years the College Television Awards has been instrumental in launching careers. Past nominees and winners are now working on programs such as The Handmaid's Tale, Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, The Simpsons, America's Got Talent, Grey's Anatomy, 60 Minutes and Empire, among others.

—Jane Sparango, for the Television Academy Foundation

Free Entrepreneur Training For Veterans

Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you? Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start? Do you have a business and want to take it to the next level? Want to know more, register for the Project Opportunity Prince George's Spring 2020 orientation session at <https://www.projectopportunity.com/registration/>.

Orientation is Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Employ Prince George's (Suite 400) 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland

Classes Begin Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program. The Spring 2020 program will meet every Wednesday from 6:30-9:30 March 18-May 20, 2020 at Employ Prince George's (Suite 400) which is located at 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland. Through grants and community business support this program is free to all veterans. The curriculum and materials are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch and graduation ceremony.

—Project Opportunity

State Soil Conservation Committee: Prince George's Soil Conservation District Supervisor to Be Appointed

Nominations for an appointment to the Prince George's Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors are being accepted by the Maryland State Soil Conservation Committee.

The appointment will be for a term to expire April 15, 2025 and will fill the expired term of James Parreco-Member At Large. Nominations should be sent to: State Soil Conservation Committee, Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 306, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Any interested individual or organization may submit a recommendation. Nomination forms are available at the Prince George's Soil Conservation District, 5301 Marlboro Race Track Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Nominations should be received by the State Soil Conservation Committee by April 3, 2020. The form is now available online at www.mda.maryland.gov (click on Conservation, then committees).

A supervisor must be a resident of the district. District boundaries are the same as county boundaries. Anyone recommended should be able to attend monthly meetings of the Board of Supervisors and have a knowledge of and a sincere interest in proper land use and the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

—Katie Bliley, Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Local Students Honored

University at Albany Announces Dean's List of Distinguished Students for Fall 2019

ALBANY, N.Y. (Feb. 28, 2020)—The University at Albany has announced the Dean's List of Distinguished Students for the Fall 2019 semester.

In order to qualify for this distinction, students at the University at Albany must earn a grade point average of 3.25 or higher during their first semester of study. In subsequent semesters of study, students must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

The following students have been named to the University at Albany Dean's List:

Clinton, MD: **Mowan Tony-Adiari**

Laurel, MD: **Kyara Frames; Karl Mofor**

—Michael Parker, University at Albany

SU Announces Fulbright Student Semifinalists

SALISBURY, Md. (Feb. 25, 2020)—Salisbury University has 15 semifinalists for prestigious U.S. Fulbright Student awards for the 2020-21 academic year—its largest number to date.

A senior from Prince George's County is up for an academic study and research award: **Abiodun Adeoye, a history and political science major from Hyattsville, MD, to Nambia.**

"This year, out of 22 applicants, almost 70 percent have moved to the next round," said Walton. "Becoming a semi-finalist is an impressive achievement on its own, and that means each of these students is qualified for a Fulbright."

More than 50 SU students have won national and international fellowships, scholarships and awards in the past eight years. The Chronicle of Higher Education has spotlighted SU as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Students for each of the past three years.

The Fulbright is America's flagship international exchange program and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

For more information, visit www.salisbury.edu/nationalfellowships.

—Maura Dullea, Salisbury University

Brandywine-Aquasco

JOHN ISABELLE ACRES

John Isabelle Acres Farm "Real Black History, My Black History" by Todd Johnson. John Robert Johnson, my great Grandfather: John Robert Johnson purchased 70 acres of the Rosemount Plantation in 1901. John Robert was the son of Richard H. and Elsie Diggs Johnson. The father of Richard H was Bernard Matthew Johnson, a slave from Nairobi, Kenya.

John Robert Johnson and his wife, Isabelle Pinkney Johnson raised 11 children on the Johnson farm. The family harvested tobacco, raised chickens, cattle, pigs, and vegetables. John Robert died in 1925, leaving Bernard (Bud) Matthew Johnson, the second son, to become the farm patriarch.

Bud and his brothers continued to work the farm as children. For most of them a formal education was sacrificed for the sake of "saving the family farm." Bud remained on the farm, until his death in September 1993, raising tobacco, tending the animals, and vegetable garden with seasonal assistance from his siblings.

The Johnson Farm was subdivided in 1975. It then became John Isabelle Acres where 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation descendants of John Robert and Isabelle Johnson live today.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

The incredible Dallas Black Dance Theatre is back with a new program of modern, jazz, and spiritual dance by celebrated choreographers planned especially for the "Sassy Seniors" of the Publick Playhouse. The Platinum Series performance is an interactive hour-long program that includes Q & A with the dancers. Age 60 & better. Tickets (General Admission): \$10 per person.

The performance dates are Thursday, April 23, 2020, 11 a.m. and Friday, April 24, 2020, 11 a.m. Address is Prince George's Publick Playhouse for the Performing Arts at 5445 Landover Road Hyattsville, Maryland 20784.

ODE TO OUR ANCESTORS

Words by Kendra Y. Neal: "Our complexions may range in many shades from vanilla to mahogany can be found, even in the hues of our almond shaped eyes from light hazel

to chestnut brown. Our ancestors fought long and hard for the freedoms we have privilege today but what still stands out above all the rest is knowing how to pray. Unfairly treated, sold off, and torn. Not aware of what was ahead. Separated from family, deserted, and lonely and the looming fear and dread. But then, came those old spiritual songs that rang out from morning til night while working those tired old bones seemed to make everything alright."

"Nowhere to go, but simply look up to the one, who always there. Would comfort those worn out souls with the promise that Jesus cares. So, as we come to the end of this special month let us continue to run this race for the struggle still carries on until we meet him face to face."

GIRL SCOUTS NATION'S CAPITAL SUMMER CAMP

Camp Spring Fling is for Non-Girl Scouts in Grades K-5. This camp opportunity is perfect for girls who want to have fun and make new friends. We will enjoy activities that may include but are not limited to crafts, recreation, playing games, singing, dancing, acting, Girl Scout traditions, and hands-on Science experiments. This is an indoor camp; however, there will be some activities outside. Camp Spring Fling is a community outreach camp designed as an introductory program for girls who are not currently Girl Scouts.

The dates are April 6-April 9 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Location is Rosaryville Elementary School (9925 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772). Cost is \$50. Financial Assistance is available. Camp fees are non-refundable. Campers should bring a healthy lunch, beverage and a backpack to camp each day. Snack provided daily. Free bus transportation provided. See online registration form for bus stop options.

To register for Spring Fling visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cb-camper>. If you do not have access to the internet, call 301-861-5860. For questions or more information, contact: Jessica Hadsell, Membership Specialist, jhadsell@gscnc.org, 301-861-5862 or Ann Collins acollins@gscnc.org.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

When It's Time to Take Action

Most of us have few hesitations about taking actions to correct life's small problems. We might complain about poor restaurant service, return yesterday's defective purchase, or visit our doctor about a troubling health issue.

But are we ready and willing to take action when the problem we're facing turns out to be the actual life we're living?

Too often our response to real life issues and disappointments is to simply push them aside, or to feel sorry and depressed that things aren't going right. Unfortunately, allowing yourself to wallow in anger or blame or feelings of helplessness when life isn't giving you all you expect from it, doesn't fix anything. Instead, you need to turn such feelings into positive energy to help in building the better life you desire.

A starting point is simply sitting down with yourself and identifying what things have you feeling that your life isn't working out the way you once planned. While the realities of daily living often take a toll on the optimistic visions we all once had, you need not surrender totally to the problems and shortcomings you face.

Instead, you can begin to take small steps toward living the life you really want. One step is simply finding your own voice. It's necessary to be able to express your feelings when things are disappointing you. Speaking up doesn't mean that you're being selfish or overbearing. You simply want to be honest and to have others better understand what's troubling you.

If the demands of an overly-busy schedule don't leave you time for people and events that would make you feel more positive about your life, learn to say, "No" when necessary. Your aim should be for the changes, even small ones, that help you move toward the life you want.

Identify your strengths and interests and then put time into nourishing them. Begin by taking one daily action that moves you closer to your desired life. It can be something simple, like rewriting your resume, cleaning out old files or a cluttered closet, or reconnecting with an old friend.

Your goal is to create an overall balance in your life. A life that is too busy often ends up without room for those people and activities that can help you better connect with the real you and the life you feel you should be living.

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

Free St. Patrick's Day Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

By TAMMY WAN
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 25, 2020)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), well over a third (39%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers*, free St. Patrick's Day Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout Prince George's County, Maryland beginning Tuesday, March 17.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2020 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) and continue until 4 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last year, 697 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays.

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during St. Patrick's Day 2018 involved drunk drivers according to the Na-

tional Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "Worse and between midnight and 6 a.m. the day after St. Patrick's Day that year, more than three-fifths (62%) of U.S. traffic deaths involved alcohol-impaired drivers."

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

"Lyft is proud of the role ridesharing has played in reducing impaired driving across the nation. Here in the DC area, partnering with the Washington Regional Alcohol Program allows us to take our commitment to providing reliable, convenient, and affordable transportation a step further, particularly during times of the year when people are out celebrating and in need of a ride home," said Emily Ellis, Lyft General Manager.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. In addition, WRAP's 2020 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Maryland Highway Safety

Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

In addition, ten of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants have also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring SoberRide®. These dining establishments include: The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (DC); Fadó (DC); Ireland's Four Courts (VA); The Irish Whisper (MD); Kelly's Irish Times (DC); The Limerick Pub (MD); Martin's Tavern Est. 1933 (DC); Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (DC & VA); O'Sullivan's Irish Pub (VA); and Siné Irish Pub (VA).

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 80,047 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

* Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, see: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/saint-patricks-day>

For Charles,
kayaking
offers total
freedom.

His heart
almost took
that away
from him.



Coronary bypass surgery ranked in the nation's top 10%. Charles lives to kayak... and he almost lost it all when he developed congestive heart failure and an aortic aneurysm. He was referred to Dr. Jamie Brown at UM Capital Region Health, who is also a faculty physician at University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Brown and his team replaced Charles' aortic valve and restored his life.

Charles is thankful for the outstanding care he received. "This is a miracle to me. I'm back kayaking and playing with my grandchildren—which wouldn't be possible without Dr. Brown."



See Charles' story at umcapitalregion.org/evidence

Bowie • Cheverly • Laurel • National Harbor • Suitland

COMMENTARY

Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



Brown Introduces Legislation to Require Helicopter Black Boxes

WASHINGTON (Feb. 28, 2020)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) introduced legislation to require flight data and cockpit voice recorders in most helicopters, also known as “black boxes.” Currently, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires large commercial planes and some private aircraft to have such recorders. Loopholes in regulations allow some helicopters to operate without black boxes.

Flight data recorders track aircraft altitude and other instrumentation, while cockpit voice recorders records both radio transmissions and sounds within the cockpit. In the event of a crash, this technology allows federal investigators to conduct safety probes and assess the factors that may have led to the accident.

For nine years, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has urged the FAA to address these gaps in helicopter safety. The recent tragic crash in Calabasas as well as

accidents in New York City and across the country have underscored the urgency for additional safety measures. From 2005 to 2017, the NTSB estimates there were 159 crashes involving helicopters with no recording equipment. Of the 159 incidents, the NTSB was unable to determine probable cause for 18 of those crashes.

“As a veteran Army helicopter pilot, I understand the great lengths pilots go to ensure the safety of those on-board their aircraft. Unfortunately, there is always a chance of risk-factors and accidents outside of pilots’ control,” said Congressman Anthony Brown, who sits on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. “When tragedies occur, it is our responsibility to assess the causes and take meaningful steps to improve safety. Adding black boxes to helicopters raises accountability for pilots and allows investigators

to give families closure in their time of need.”

The Helicopter Data and Voice Recorder Requirement Act is cosponsored by Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA-43).

“I am pleased to continue my years long advocacy for increased regulatory and aircraft safety protocols that will ensure that families and communities like my own District, which is home to three airports, will have the ability to fully access and investigate flight data and radio transmissions following a helicopter incident,” said Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA-43), Chair of the Financial Services Committee. “In the aftermath of the disturbing string of tragedies involving helicopters that have lacked proper ‘black boxes’ because of regulatory loopholes, Congress has a responsibility to act. This bill is an important first step, and I am proud to join with my colleagues in support of this measure.”

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Russia Is Back: Congress Must Defy President Trump and Pass Legislation to Stop Foreign Election Tampering

“Since at least 2014, known and unknown individuals, operating as part of a broader Russian effort known as ‘Project Lakhtha,’ have engaged in political and electoral interference operations targeting populations within the Russian Federation and in various other countries, including, but not limited to, the United States, members of the European Union, and Ukraine. Since at least May 2014, Project Lakhtha’s stated goal in the United States was to spread distrust towards candidates for political office and the political system in general.”

—U.S. Criminal Complaint against Elena Alekseevna Khusayaynova, accused chief accountant of “Project Lakhtha,” a Russian effort targeting foreign audiences in the United States, members of the European Union, and Ukraine, among others.

For at least half a dozen years, possibly longer, the corrupt leaders of Russia have been engaged in a massive campaign to disrupt the United States of America’s political and social stability. Their goal is to weaken the institutions that have served as a bulwark against Russian aggression, such as the European Union and NATO. Federal prosecutors have charged 13 Russian individuals and three Russian business entities with Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, and other crimes.

Last week, intelligence officials briefed Congress that the interference continues, and has expanded to include the Democratic presidential primary.

It is difficult to say which is more harmful to the nation: the ongoing Russian cyber warfare, or President Trump’s appalling response.

Terrified that Russia’s efforts on his behalf delegitimizes his election—and may do so again—President Trump and his allies in Congress not only refuse to take action to secure our elections, but have denigrated the findings of the intelligence community as a hoax.

President Trump has gone so far as to remove the acting Director of National Intelligence whose staff provided the briefing, following a chilling pattern of retribution against government employees for carrying out their duties.

One of the ways, but certainly not the sole

way, corrupt Russians believed they could advance their agenda was to promote the election of Donald Trump. Whether by design or by coincidence, Trump has served Russia’s interests in a number of ways: Days after inauguration, his administration began working to lift sanctions against Russia, and explored withdrawing military forces from Eastern Europe. He’s refused to condemn Russia’s annexation of Crimea. He’s pushed to re-admit Russia to the G-7. He’s continually attacked NATO, threatening to pull out of the treaty, and berated the leaders of NATO ally nations.

All of this has weakened other nations’ trust in the United States, and our ability to conduct responsible foreign policy.

As difficult as it is to believe, we are at a point in history where the President’s bruised ego has taken precedence over our national security. And instead of fulfilling its constitutional duty to exercise oversight of the President, Congress is enabling his dangerous behaviors.

Earlier this month, the Senate blocked three election-security bills, including one that would require campaigns to report offers of foreign election assistance to the FBI, and another that would require campaigns to report such offers to the Federal Election Commission. The Senate also has blocked the Securing America’s Federal Elections Act (SAFE Act), which would provide additional funding to the Election Assistance Commission and would ban voting machines from being connected to the internet as well as machines that were manufactured in foreign countries. Also rejected have been the Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy (SHIELD) Act, which requires offers of foreign assistance to be reported to the FBI, and the Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines (DETER Act), imposing sanctions on Russia if U.S. intelligence agencies determined that Russia interfered in a federal election.

Congress can no longer afford to continue compromising the national security of the United States simply to demonstrate partisan loyalty. The Senate must act at once to protect democracy and stand up against foreign tampering in our elections.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Dr. Margaret Morgan Lawrence

As a child Margaret Morgan Lawrence grew up grieving a brother she never knew. He was her only sibling, but had died before she was born when he was just 11 months old, and their parents never fully recovered from his death. Margaret often dreamt that she was the child who had died and she could see her own body in a coffin under the large portrait of her brother that hung in their living room. The sadness and loss that surrounded her family led her to decide that she was going to grow up to be a doctor and help other children live—despite the fact that she was Black and a girl at a time when neither Blacks nor women were welcome in many medical schools and residencies. Neither ultimately mattered. Dr. Lawrence went on to become a pediatrician and pioneering child psychologist, going around every door that was closed to her and opening others along the way to become the “first” and “only” again and again.

Margaret Morgan Lawrence passed away in December at age 105 after a long and extraordinary life of service helping make sure children received the strongest and healthiest possible start. During Black History Month and every month, let’s stop and remember trailblazers like Dr. Lawrence who refused to abide by other people’s limits.

Harvard Graduate School of Education sociologist Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, one of Dr. Lawrence’s three extraordinary children, captured many pieces of her mother’s story in the 1988 biography *Balm in Gilead: Journey of a Healer*. Dr. Lawrence was born in 1914 and grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the daughter of an Episcopal priest father and schoolteacher mother. She excelled in school, and after graduating from her local segregated high school at age 14 moved to Harlem to live with relatives in order to attend a more challenging preparatory school. She then attended Cornell University on a scholarship, where she was the only Black undergraduate on campus. She worked as a live-in maid for White families to gain housing because she wasn’t allowed to live in the dormitories. She excelled in premed studies in college too, but was denied acceptance to Cornell’s medical school because of her race: they told her the only other Black student they had ever admitted twenty-five years earlier “didn’t work out” because he contracted tuberculosis and died before graduating, and they were not ready to give another Black student a chance. So she kept going.

Dr. Lawrence graduated from Columbia University’s medical school instead, where she was

the only Black student in her class and one of only ten women. She was turned down for the first hospital internship she applied for because women were not allowed to live in the affiliated doctors’ housing and the nurses’ housing wouldn’t allow a Black woman, but again she kept going. She secured an internship at Harlem Hospital, and during her time there became keenly aware of how much the poverty and other challenging circumstances children faced in the surrounding neighborhoods influenced their health and the care they needed. This shaped the rest of her professional life.

She went on to pursue a master’s of public health at Columbia, where she studied under the famous pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock. There she learned more about the deep relationships between physical, social, and psychological health, and that led her to continue formal training in psychiatry, becoming the first Black resident at the New York Psychiatric Institute and the first Black trainee at Columbia’s Psychoanalytic Clinic for Training and Research. Dr. Lawrence ultimately became both the first Black woman psychoanalyst and the first Black woman physician certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

She served as chief of the Developmental Psychiatry Service for Infants and Children at Harlem Hospital, as an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and as the first practicing child psychiatrist and co-founder of the Center for Mental Health in Rockland County, New York, and she established some of the first child therapy programs in schools, hospital clinics, and child care centers. Dr. Lawrence was dedicated to serving underserved children and especially interested in helping develop “ego strength” in Black children. She was also dedicated to helping children and families recover from trauma and develop resiliency, and always said helping families was a privilege. She gave other children the thoughtful, loving care she once might have needed.

All along the way, in her daughter’s words, “her life [was] one of courageous boundary crossing; enduring the visibility and distortions of tokenism, and the double oppressions and assaults of racism and sexism”—yet she “faced the virulent barriers of racism and sexism with a deft blend of grit and grace.” All of us who care deeply about child development owe Dr. Margaret Morgan Lawrence a debt of gratitude.

From CouncilConnection Newsletter, Feb. 28, 2020

County’s Census Team at Budget Town Hall Meeting

Census Day is April 1. The County Council and the County’s Census Team teamed up at the FY 2021 Budget Town Hall meeting on February 25, to promote a Complete Count in the 2020 Census for Prince George’s County. Important Census 2020 materials were shared with residents as a reminder that households will receive an invitation to complete the Census online or by phone as early as March 12. We want to make sure every Prince Georgian is counted! Please plan to participate and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. It’s easy, safe and important. For more information, visit www.PGCensus2020.org

Census 2020 Events:
Census Solutions Workshop
Saturday, March 7, 2020
11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: Fairmont Heights Library, 5904 Kolb Street, Fairmont Heights, MD 20743

Fact Check: Why It’s Important to be Counted in The 2020 Census
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
6:30–8 p.m.

Location: Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD 20710

County Executive—Proud To Be Counted Happy Hour
Thursday, March 12, 2020
All Day
Location: Dave & Busters,

1851 Ritchie Station Ct, Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Senior Census Day—Senior Bingo
Friday, March 20, 2020, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Multiple Locations: **Registration is required**, register at pgparksdirect.com and search for “Census.” Space is limited, so register today for a location near you. For more information call 301-446-3400 or email seniors@pgparks.com.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Does Social Security Ever Make Mistakes on Benefits?

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

Dear Rusty:

Can or does the Social Security Administration occasionally make mistakes in determining the benefits due? I'm now 72 but I retired early at age 61 and knew that my benefits would be reduced. I've always wondered if my monthly benefit calculation was incorrect but did not know how to address my concerns. If it is possible, could you direct me in how to handle with the SS Administration?
Signed: Skeptical of My Benefit

Dear Skeptical: Can the Social Security Administration ever make mistakes? Of course they can, and do, but not really very often considering that they are dealing with tens of millions of beneficiaries, and especially when it comes to computing benefit amounts. Since nearly all benefit computations are done by computer, the usual source of any error is almost always from using incorrect input data. The actual benefit computation formula, while complex, is very standard and well proven; if an error occurs in a basic benefit computation, it is usually because a person's lifetime earnings record contains an error. Having said that, let's explore why you feel your benefit may not be correct.

When you say you "retired early at age 61" I assume that means you claimed your Social Security early at age 62 (the minimum age). Since your full retirement age is age 66, that means that by claiming at age 62 your benefit was cut by 25% from what it would have been at age 66. Also, any benefit estimate you had from Social Security prior to claiming made the assumption that you would continue to earn at your current level until you reached your full retirement age. If you "retired" and stopped working and earning at age 61, the benefit you are entitled to is less than that estimate you had from Social Security at age 61.

So, how can you address your concerns? I suggest the first thing you do is get a copy of your lifetime earnings record from Social Security. You can do this by calling them and requesting it or, if you have a "My Social Security" personal account, you can obtain it online. You should verify that all of your lifetime earnings are properly reflected in Social Security's records (SS gets your earnings data from the IRS). Note that only your earnings up to the maximum payroll tax for each year count because that's all you paid SS FICA tax on; if your actual earnings in any year were more than the annual payroll tax cap, only the amount up to that year's tax cap is used. Be aware that if you find an error, you will need to prove it to Social Security by showing them a copy of your W-2 or your Federal Income tax return for the year(s) in question. If your lifetime earnings record is in order, then you are almost certainly getting the correct benefit. When computing your benefit, Social Security adjusts each year of your lifetime earnings to today's dollar value, so inflation shouldn't be a factor either. The highest earning 35 years over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) are used to determine your benefit amount.

If you're still uncomfortable that you may not be getting the correct benefit, you should call Social Security directly and ask them to review your benefits to make sure you are receiving the correct amount. Social Security has all of your lifetime earnings data immediately available and can quickly determine if your benefit amount is correct based upon the earnings history shown in your record.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

BUSINESS FINANCIAL TRAINING SERIES: Pathways: Intersections of Credit and What You Need to Know

March 12, 2020 | 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
\$40.00 • Register: www.pgcedc.com/events/pathways-intersections-of-credit-and-what-you-need-to-know

In this course your top questions about credit such as when should you use your personal credit versus your business credit, how do you improve your personal credit history and how your personal credit is used to make business lending decisions are answered. Learn how to establish a business credit history through Dunn & Bradstreet credit agency reporting.

Additional Session Highlights:

- Get strategies on how to improve and leverage your personal credit
- Examine the benefits of business credit
- Learn how to establish a business credit history with Dunn & Bradstreet (D&B)
- Understand how credit is used for lending decisions

Moderator: Andre Plummer, Financial Services Manager

Speakers:

John Halley, Vice President / Business Banking Team Leader, M&T Bank

Myriam Diomande, Banking Officer / Business Banking

Associate Relationship Manager, M&T Bank

Anthony Franklin, Smart Credit

American Community Management Expands Operations to Largo

New Office to Serve Clients in Prince George's County

By ALETHA PETERS
for AMERICAN COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 21, 2020)—Theresa McCoy, owner and CEO of American Community Management, announced today that the community management firm has opened a new location in Largo, Maryland.

The new Largo office will enable ACM, which is headquartered in Hanover, Maryland, to better serve its growing client base in Prince George's County. McCoy says the Largo office reflects ACM's growth in

the D.C. metro area and commitment to provide outstanding customer service.

"Our hope is to partner with local businesses and the county to ensure that Prince George's homeowners and residents as well as those in surrounding areas receive community management services that surpass the norm and raise the bar," says McCoy. "ACM is committed to helping homeowners love where they live by providing effective communication and personalized service. And with this expansion, we are perfectly situated to serve our PG County clients and extend our vision to the Washington, D.C., area."

The new team at the Largo office is comprised of Prince George's County residents. McCoy, a Washington, D.C., native, says she will use her expertise as a CPA to maintain sound financial practices protecting community resources.

"Opening our Largo office is an exciting time for ACM and its great team of employees,

board members and vendors," McCoy says. "I am excited to be part of this thriving community and look forward to introducing myself as your new neighbor so we can share our experiences and learn how we can help each other grow."

The Largo office is conveniently located near the Largo Metro. Visits by appointment are encouraged as ACM staff are frequently visiting properties. The office address and hours are:

American Community Management
Greater Washington Area Office
9701 Apollo Drive, Suite 451
Largo, MD 20774

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Founded in 2001, American Community Management (ACM) is one of the most prominent management firms in Maryland, servicing more than 28,000 households within over 200 residential properties and an additional half-million square feet of office condominiums. Owner and CEO Theresa McCoy purchased ACM from founder and board chair Mel Herzberger in 2019. McCoy joined ACM in 2009 as vice president of accounting. She was appointed COO in 2015 and then CEO and president in 2018. During her tenure, McCoy has been instrumental in implementing numerous managerial and financial reporting and banking enhancements.



PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Owner and CEO of American Community Management
Theresa McCoy.

UMGC's Kemp Chosen For Maryland State-wide Leadership Program

By BOB LUDWIG
University of Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. (Feb. 25, 2020)—Leadership Maryland has announced that Lisa Kemp, the University of Maryland Global Campus senior vice president of administration and finance and CFO, has been chosen to participate in its professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of the state's local business and community leaders.

Kemp is one of 52 individuals chosen for Leadership Maryland's 28th class who will complete the eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

"I am honored to have been selected to participate in a program that has such a positive impact on our organizations and communities in Maryland," said Kemp. "I look forward to learning from the many experts in their fields and being enriched by my fellow cohort members over the course of the program."

Following a two-day opening retreat in April, the class will traverse the state during five two-day intensive sessions that focus on Maryland's economic development, education, health

and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multiculturalism/diversity. These sessions will be followed by a one-day closing retreat in November and a graduation celebration in December. More than 100 experts representing business, government, education, and the non-profit community will serve as panelists and guest speakers throughout the program.

"This was our most competitive cohort of applicants in our history, which is a testament to our members encouraging a diverse and broad spectrum of highly-qualified executives from across the state to apply to our program and share in their experience," said Renée M. Winsky '05, president and Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Maryland. "This year's class is a powerful cross-section of leaders from our state. I'm excited to see them come together as a group and do great things in their workplaces, communities and beyond in the years to come."

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers, their careers or both. The first Leadership Maryland class graduated in 1993, and the organization's alumni network now consists of more than 1,100 leaders from all industries and regions of the state. To learn more, please call Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or visit www.LeadershipMD.org.

Moore Signs 22,962 Square Foot Lease With Chesapeake Real Estate Group at 4200 Parliament

Performance-driven marketing firm to open second headquarters in Lanham by mid-year 2020

By LARRY LICHTENAUER
for CREG / Moore

BALTIMORE, Md. (Feb. 25, 2020)—Moore has signed a lease with Chesapeake Real Estate Group, LLC (CREG) for 22,962 square feet of space within 4200 Parliament, a six-story, 122,000 square foot Class "A" commercial office building situated in the Lanham section of Prince George's County. The Tulsa-based innovator in the direct marketing industry will operate a second headquarters from the facility and bring together several business units including CDR Fundraising Group and Donor Direct Television (DDTV).

Christopher Murray, Vice President of Chesapeake Real Estate Group; and Tim Jaeger and Todd Bosley of DANAC Realty Advisors represented the landlord in this transaction. Mike Gillman of CBRE represented the tenant.

CDR Fundraising Group, a Moore company, is an integrated fundraising agency dedicated to helping non-profits raise money through the utilization of a variety of direct response channels and will relocate from Bowie with approximately 80 employees. The new office will also be home to DDTV, a Moore company, to operate its media services division which will include a new technology driven production studio.

"This location brings us closer to downtown Washington, D.C. where many of our clients are now based, and it is also ap-

proximate to our existing offices to minimize disruption to the routines of our employees," explained Gretchen Littlefield, CEO of Moore. "We surveyed many buildings but made our final decision based on the exterior curb appeal of 4200 Parliament which, together with the dramatic interior design we have planned, will make this a showcase space. The layout is also extremely functional and will provide a boost of energy to our team."

4200 Parliament was designed with an innovative layout that creates twelve corner offices per floor and features first-floor men's and women's locker rooms with showers, a shared gym and conference room and conference room that were all updated in 2018. It also includes a surface parking lot with free and unreserved parking, as well as a parking garage and covered parking spaces. The building is located approximately 30 minutes from downtown Washington, D.C. and is within minutes from the New Carrollton train station that includes Amtrak, MARC and Metro Rail transportation services. Vista Gardens Marketplace, a 400,000 square foot shopping center featuring an assortment of restaurants and retailers is located one mile from the site.



PHOTO COURTESY CREG / MOORE

4200 Parliament in Lanham.

This lease elevates 4200 Parliament to 74% occupancy. Several years ago, Thompson Creek Window Company relocated its corporate headquarters and more than 150 employees to the building. Additional tenants include WBA Research; W.A. Chester, LLC; and Children's Evaluation and Therapy.

Chesapeake Real Estate Group, LLC, headquartered in Hanover, Maryland, is a fully-integrated commercial real estate operating company that focuses on real estate development, leasing, property management and brokerage services. Visit www.cregllc.com

Moore is a global leader in performance-driven marketing solutions focused on all facets of the consumer experience. Moore is comprised of 32 companies with more than 2,000 employees dedicated to helping our clients fulfill their missions.

OUT on the TOWN

National Harbor Wedding Walk Event Restaurants, Shops, Retailers, Hotels and Wedding Venue Spaces Open Their Doors to Showcase Wedding Options on March 7

By VICKI BENDURE
for National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Feb. 28, 2020)—National Harbor will hold an exciting event for anyone planning a wedding. The National Harbor Wedding Walk will provide an opportunity to visit more than 30 wedding-centric shops, retailers, hotels, attractions and venue spaces on Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Participating restaurants will provide complimentary small bites, and there will be beautifully decorated event venues. Participating retailers and shops will provide gifts and offer creative suggestions for wedding décor and

wedding favors. The day will end with a champagne reception and raffle with thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

The event is perfect for anyone who is planning the ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner, bachelor/bachelorette party, shower, after-the-wedding brunch, looking for places to host wedding guests before or after the wedding, or all of the above, National Harbor is the spot to create special, memorable experiences. Attendees will get a chance to see the impressive hotels, award-winning restaurants, luxurious spas, unique attractions, thriving night life scene, and the best sunsets in the entire Washington, D.C. region.

“National Harbor is the perfect place to

have a destination wedding with our variety of hotels, entertainment, shopping, and dining options all in one place. Plus, we have the best sunsets in the Washington, D.C. metro area,” said Deborah Topcik, director of marketing at National Harbor. “The Wedding Walk will be able to show what makes National Harbor such a unique waterfront destination.”

The day provides the opportunity for attendees to walk through the destination, enjoy the views, try amazing food and have fun planning the big day.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include parking and are available via Eventbrite. Visit www.nationalharbor.com/weddingwalk.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Opens First Multi-Generational Facility in Southern Prince George's County

By KIRA CALM LEWIS
Department of Parks and Recreation

BRANDYWINE, Md. (Feb. 29, 2020)—The Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAARC) opened last Saturday, February 29, as the first multi-generational recreational center in Prince George's County. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission property in Brandywine is a 75,000 square-foot aquatic and recreation facility.

“This opening is a celebration of the beginning of a new community focal point,” said Director for the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Bill Tyler. “SAARC will be a new place, where everyone in the family can gather and a new way for the community to improve their health and wellness,” Tyler concludes.

Thousands of residents came out to see the building's features and amenities including a double gymnasium, flexible programmable spaces, a fitness center and running track. The natatorium that welcomed eager swimmers even on the cold winter day consists of three separate bodies of water: a 25-yard Lap Pool with six lanes, a leisure pool, and a spa. The new facility also includes three pieces of public art inspired by the 150-year-old Willow Oak tree located adjacent to the building. With more than 30 Proctor family members in attendance, including Delegate Susie Proctor, the plaque dedicating The James E. Proctor, Jr. Center at The Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex was unveiled to honor his unwavering advocacy and extensive efforts to secure the funding that brought SAARC to fruition.

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chairman, Prince George's County Planning Board and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission led the ceremony. Remarks were offered by Mike Miller, Senator



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT M-NCPPC, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held Feb. 29, 2020 to open The Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAARC) in Brandywine.

Maryland State Senator, Prince George's County District 27; Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive; Mel Franklin, Prince George's County Council, At-Large; Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Prince George's County Council, At-Large; Sydney J. Harrison, Prince George's County Council, District 9; Mr. Earl Mitchell, SAARC Community Advisory Committee; and Susie Proctor, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates, Prince George's County District 27A.

The Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex began as part of the first comprehensive plan for parks, recreation and open space, for Prince George's County, commonly referred to as Formula 2040: Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space. According to Formula 2040, there was a need for additional recreational and aquatic facilities within the Southern Area of Prince George's County. A key recommendation was to move away

from the current model of building small community centers to constructing larger, multi-neighborhood-serving or “multi-generational” facilities to provide an array of multidisciplinary programs simultaneously, to serve the recreation needs and leisure interests of an entire family. Future phases of the 65-acre complex development will include additional site amenities.

The Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgpc.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, and Instagram.

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

MAKE PLANS NOW!

African Americans & Women's Suffrage Movement, Lecture and Discussion

Date and Time: **Thursday, March 5, 2020, 6–8 p.m.**

Description: Join us for a lecture and discussion with Assistant Professor Sharon Harley from the University of Maryland College Park as we explore the important and often overlooked presence of African American women during the Women's Suffrage Movement. Light fare provided by Main and Market. Invited: Dr. Evelyn Higginbotham, Harvard University. #MarylandYOW #BDMWomensSuffrage. This discussion is a part of “The Black Vote Mural Project” public program series. To learn more about the exhibit please visit: www.bdmuseum.maryland.gov/exhibitions/

Cost: Free. Register via Eventbrite

Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-216-6180

Seven Last Words By Maryland Choral Society

Date and Time: Sunday, March 8, 2020, 4–6 p.m.

Description: Haydn's tour-de-force setting of the Passion narrative, with chorus and orchestra. Featured artists: Annie Gill, Soprano; Taylor Hillary Boykins, Mezzo-Soprano; Thomas Swain, Tenor; Jared Hancock, Baritone. Artistic Director, Dr. Douglas Buchanan, will present The Half Note, a pre-concert discussion starting 30 minutes prior to the concert. This informal talk will focus on the music's historical context and what to listen for throughout the program. The Half Note is FREE for all concertgoers!

Cost: General Admission, \$20.00; Senior/Student, \$15.00; Children under 10, \$0.00. Tickets: https://maryland-choral-society.ticketleap.com/seven-last-words/dates/Mar-08-2020_at_0400PM

Location: Mt. Calvary Catholic Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD

Contact: MarylandChoralSociety.org

To Collect and Preserve—A Year of the Woman Event!

Date and Time: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Description: This mini-seminar will feature presentations covering history of the American Women's Suffrage crusade, the use of objects during the Movement, the research and collecting of memorabilia, and the concerns of preserving such artifacts. Lunch included in the ticket price. **RSVP**

Cost: \$25/Residents & Friends of Montpelier; \$30/Non-Residents
Location: Montpelier Historic Site, 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society's Women's History Month Presentation: “Maryland's Mother of Civil Rights: Gloria Richardson and the Cambridge Civil Rights Movement”

Date and Time: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 1 p.m.

Description: An in-depth presentation by historian Artura Jackson, who will discuss the life of Gloria Richardson, civil rights activist and leader. Light refreshments follow.

Cost: \$5/person (ages 8 & up)
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769

Contact: 301-464-5291 to *reserve your seat*

DPARK3311's Grand Opening Reception

Date and Time: Monday, March 16, 2020, 6:30–8 p.m.

Description: Join Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC), the Gateway CDC, and the City of Mount Rainier as we celebrate the grand opening of DPARK3311, our Community of Creative Entrepreneurs!

Cost: Free. Register at Eventbrite
Location: DPARK3311, 3311 Rhode Island Avenue, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Spotlight on Teens

Xtreme Teens: Job Search Seminar

Date and Time: Friday, March 6, 2020, 7–10 p.m.

Description: Teens will learn how to fill out applications, do resumes, and cover letters to prepare for employment.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Location: Rollingcrest / Chillum Community Center, 6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD 20782

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

DREAM Lab: Let's Get Lyrical

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 3–4 p.m.

Description: Have fun singing or rapping your favorite tune. Feeling shy? No problem! Join us in the DREAM Lab for this fun recording session.

Cost: Free

Ages: Teen (13–18 yrs) |

Location: Fairmount Heights Branch Library, 5904 Kolb St, Fairmount Heights, MD 20743

Contact: 301-883-2650

Winter Youth Musical:

Theseus and the Monster in the Maze

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m. and Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Description: See an original show performed by a talented teenage cast.

Cost: \$5. *Advance purchase recommended.*

Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-397-2208

Teen Advisory Board

Date and Time: Monday, March 9, 2020, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Description: Earn service hours while making your local library a great place for teens. Enjoy snacks, meet new people, become a leader!

Cost: Free

Location: Bowie Branch Library, 15210 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: 301-262-7000

Teen Advisory Board

Date and Time: Monday, March 9, 2020, 4–5 p.m.

Description: Earn service hours while making your local library a great place for teens. Enjoy snacks, meet new people, become a leader!

Cost: Free

Location: Greenbelt Branch Library, 11 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-345-5800

Prince George's Best Dance Crew Competition

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 7–9 p.m.

Description: Teen dance teams compete before a panel of judges for trophies, cash prizes, and the title to be, “Prince George's Best Dance Crew.”

Cost: \$5/per person

Location: The Publick Playhouse for the Performing Arts, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710

Xtreme Teens Sundae Social

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 7–10 p.m.

Description: Come enjoy ice cream while listening to music, playing a variety of games and getting to know your peers!

Cost: FREE

Location: College Park Youth Services Center, 4912 Nantucket Road, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Community Center Exchange

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 7–10 p.m.

Description: Teens will be on an outing to visit another local center to build friendships with other teens.

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Location: Rollingcrest / Chillum Community Center, 6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD 20782

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: March Madness Paint And Sip

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 7–10 p.m.

Description: Come and enjoy a March Madness event that will help get your tournament spirits magnified. Take your talents and creative thoughts to the canvas and create a masterpiece for a loved one or just for added decoration. Make sure you wear your favorite college team shirt/jersey.

Cost: FREE

Location: Good Luck Community Center 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD 20706

Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: March Madness Pizza and Game Night

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 7–8 p.m.

Description: Come watch the game with us while enjoying pizza and drinks. Afterward, let's play some ball and have more fun. R U Game?

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Location: Berwyn Heights School Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

Youth Music Traditions: St. Paddy's Concert

Date and Time: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 7 p.m.

Description: Featuring young musicians from College Park and hosted by Eric Maring “Mr. M”.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20741

Contact: info@cpae.org

Calendar of Events March 5–March 13, 2020

Ally Theatre Company's Rasheeda Speaking

Date and Time: March 5–22, 2020; Thurs, Fri and Sat, 8 p.m.; Sat matinees, 2 p.m. and Sun matinees, 4 p.m.
Description: Ally Theatre Company's take on the incendiary play by Joel Drake Johnson takes another look at the ever-topical questions about the prevalence of ingrained racism in America. This tense workplace thriller examines the realities of a so-called "post-racial" workplace where two co-workers—one black, the other white—are driven apart by the machinations of their boss. A chilling power struggle ensues that spins wildly out of control. This incisive and shocking dark comedy will keep you in its claustrophobic grip until the final moment.
Cost: \$25 general admission; \$15 veterans/students
Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: 301-699-1819

National Capital Equestrian League Horse Show

Date and Time: March 7, 2020–March 8, 2020, 8 a.m.
Description: The National Capital Equestrian League (NCEL) is comprised of riding schools throughout Maryland and Virginia, giving riders an option to stay competitive during the winter season. Their league affiliates include the "National Capitol Short Stirrup- NCSEL" and "National Capitol Junior Equestrian-JEL" leagues which provide a natural progression of learning and competitive riding. Bring out the whole family to watch the competition!
Cost: Free for spectators
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

Women's Suffrage March

Date and Time: Sunday, March 8, 2020, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Description: Kids can participate by creating their own 'votes for women' sash as they learn about some of Maryland's heroines of the movement. Girl Scouts are invited to participate in this program to fulfill the "Playing the Past" badge.
Cost: \$10 per child/free for adults
Ages: Ideal for ages 6–12
Location: The Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201-4674
Contact: 410-685-3750

Nature Hike for Seniors

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 1–2:30 p.m.
Description: For the active senior! Join a naturalist on a fitness hike while looking for wildlife and local plant life. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Stretches and cool down activities included.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4 Register through Parks Direct
Ages: 60 and Better
Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 699-2544

Women Wednesday Event: Find Your Word Wednesday

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 5–7 p.m.
Description: AC Hotel agrees that sometimes, one word can say it all. Imprint a special word on your very own MyIntent jewelry in AC Lounge. AC Hotel and Bethesda based charity, Hope Connections for Cancer Support have teamed up to host Women Wednesdays at the hotel. Every Wednesday during the month of March women can attend a free event taking place in the hotel and all guests are encouraged to make a monetary donation to the nonprofit organization.
Cost: Free
Location: AC Hotel National Harbor, 156 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745

Cub Corner

Date and Time: Thursday, March 12, 2020, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Description: Come to the Cub Corner story time for preschool fun! Ideal for little learners up to five years old to enjoy a flight-themed story and hands-on craft activity. Call ahead for groups of 10 or more!
Cost: FREE with Museum Admission (Adults: \$5, Seniors: \$4, Children: \$2 (Free 1 and under)
Ages: Pre-school age children
Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Charisma Wooten: "A Night with Jackie Moms Mabley"

Date and Time: Thursday, March 12, 2020, 12–1 p.m.
Description: A Night with Jackie Moms Mabley is a Helen Hayes nominated play for the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play written and portrayed by the veteran performing artist Charisma Wooten. This veteran actor/singer/playwright has toured throughout the United States, and overseas. Step back in time with the wonderful mother-wit of Loretta Mary Aiken, better known as Moms Mabley. This one-woman show is filled with one-line zingers about everything from politics to sexuality and racism. You will laugh and cry!
Cost: \$12/person
Ages: Seniors 60 and up
Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800

College Park Seniors Art Show & Reception

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 4–8 p.m.
Description: Seniors 55+ are invited to show their work on a first-come basis (not juried). Two or three-dimensional work, including paintings, photographs, pottery and sculpture, textiles, needle and fabric art, will all be accepted. Artists are asked to reserve an easel or table space for their display; table top easels and standing floor easels will be acquired as needed. The Art Exhibit will bring Seniors together to celebrate their arts and to build a more robust and lively community in College Park.
Location: Catholic Student Center, 4141 Guilford Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: info@cpae.org

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® in Prince George's County, Md. Collects More than 1,000 Pairs of Shoes to Help Fight Global Poverty

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Feb. 27, 2020)—Work boots, sandals, pumps, and kid's sneakers and dress shoes are just a few of the assortment of shoes collected by the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in February. "We've been gathering shoes since September. Our goal was to collect 800 pairs," said Benita Swindell, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter President. "Thanks to the generosity and service-mindedness of our members, we were able to surpass our goal and can now help hundreds of people lift themselves out of poverty."

Psi Epsilon Omega along with other chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., are collecting gently-worn shoes. The effort is part of a partnership with Soles4Souls, a nonprofit organization that ships shoes to destinations around the world populated with people of color.

Sorority members ensure that the shoes are clean and in good condition before bagging and delivering them to Soles4Souls so they can reach the feet of those in need.

"Although our specific service areas are in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, we are pleased that we are able to reach beyond our local community and help families around the world," added Swindell.

The Soles4Souls partnership supports Alpha Kappa Alpha's global impact program: which focuses on the sorority's efforts to engage in programming designed to enhance the international footprint of the sorority.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chap-



PHOTOS COURTESY ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INC. PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter sort shoes headed for developing countries to help families in need.

ter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in the communities of Laurel, Bowie and, Greenbelt Maryland.

Capital Bikeshare Expands Equity Access Program With \$5 Annual Memberships

Capital Bikeshare for All Expands Eligibility for the Region's Most Vulnerable Residents

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 27, 2020)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and its six partner jurisdictions announce the launch of Capital Bikeshare for All. Capital Bikeshare's equity program makes it easier than ever for users of all income levels to access bikeshare.

Capital Bikeshare for All expands access to one of our region's most affordable and reliable transportation options for thousands of users. Capital Bikeshare for All offers a \$5 annual bikeshare membership to riders who qualify for certain state or federal assistance programs with appropriate documentation. Riders who qualify for the program can sign up online individually. Additionally, Capital Bikeshare for All al-

lows qualifying members to:

- Unlock CaBi bikes via the mobile application, in addition to the fobs (key);
- Use more payment methods including prepaid cards, credit and debit cards, or cash (cash payments are only accepted at in-person sign up locations);
- Sign up online; and
- Ride bikes for 60 minutes at a time

For more information about Capital Bikeshare for All and how to enroll, riders should visit <https://www.capitalbikeshare.com/pricing/for-all> or call the Prince George's County Department of Public Works at 301-883-5600.

Capital Bikeshare is the Metropolitan area's bikeshare system, with more than

4,700 bikes available at over 575 stations regionwide. The system was founded in September 2010 and provides residents and visitors with a convenient, fun, and affordable transportation option. Capital Bikeshare operates across seven jurisdictions: Prince George's County and Montgomery County in Maryland; Washington, DC; Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and the City of Falls Church in Virginia.

Prince George's County offers a variety of public transportation options to address the public's mobility options. Follow us on Twitter for transportation-related information, and also like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. Visit the website at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov for more information on transportation options in Prince George's County, Maryland.

MDOT MVA Celebrates 3 Million REAL ID Transactions, Honors 'Customer No. 3' at Branches Across State

Maryland Achieves 64 Percent REAL ID Compliance Rate

By WHITNEY NICHELS

MDOT MVA

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (Feb. 27, 2020)—It's not every day a trip to get a new driver's license results in photos and fanfare, but that was the case for 24 lucky customers who came to a Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) branch to get REAL ID ready.

On Wednesday, February 26, MDOT MVA celebrated its three millionth REAL ID transaction. To date, more than 64 percent of Maryland drivers and identification card holders have become compliant with federal REAL ID requirements ahead of the October 1, 2020, deadline. Maryland's compliance rate is nearly double the 34 percent national average reported last month by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"Reaching this milestone is truly a testament to Maryland residents and their responsiveness, so we wanted to celebrate them in a special way," MDOT MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer said. "When faced with the federal mandate, our team came together to find new and creative ways to deliver premier customer service, from extending hours at several locations to providing more than 28,000 appointments a week. I am thankful for all involved in this effort."

In honor of the three million transactions milestone, each of the 24 full-service MDOT MVA branch offices on Wednesday surprised the third customer coming in for a REAL ID appointment. After completing their transactions, these patrons were presented with a "REAL ID READY" commemorative license plate, a photo frame and celebratory items including balloons and party favors.

"Our employees really understand the value of going the extra mile, which has helped us maintain a 98 percent customer satisfaction rating," said Administrator Nizer. "We know we still have more REAL ID customers to serve, so we look forward to continuing to provide a positive, professional experience as we work toward 4 million compliant Maryland residents."

The federal REAL ID Act was passed by Congress after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In August 2019, MDOT MVA was the first in nation to have its REAL ID process recertified by DHS, affirming Maryland's compliance with the federal requirements. By October 1, all Marylanders must have documents on file and a REAL ID compliant driver's license or identification card in order to board commercial aircraft or gain access to federal facilities.



PHOTO COURTESY MDOT MVA

Yaa Adjekum was lucky "customer no. 3" at the Largo Branch Office on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Marylanders are encouraged to visit MVA.Maryland.gov and use the REAL ID Look Up Tool to learn their REAL ID status and make an appointment online, which comes with a guarantee of being seen in 15 minutes or less of the appointment time. Over the past year, MDOT MVA has extended hours at many branch offices to make additional appointments available to customers.

For more information on REAL ID resources and other MDOT MVA services available online, visit our website mva.maryland.gov.

