

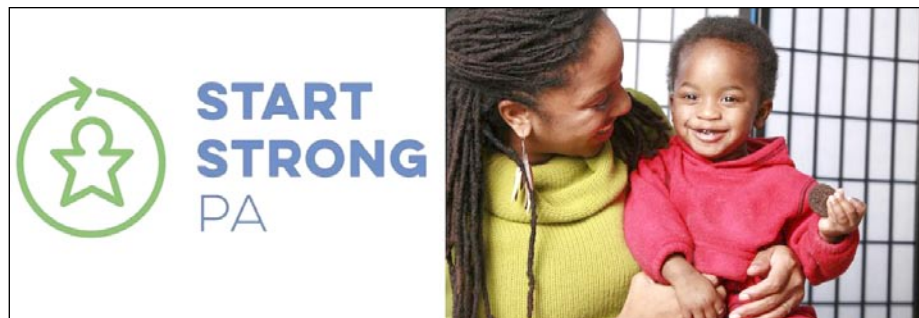
Pa. Budget Provides \$101 Million In Federal Child Care Dollars

By Maria Pisano

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania – Start Strong PA observed the 2019-20 PA budget as an important down payment to ensure all infants and toddlers learn, grow, and succeed. The following statement was issued by the ten principal partners leading Start Strong PA, a campaign to ensure that children across the state can access affordable, high-quality child care programs during the most critical period of brain development, the first three years of life: “We are pleased Governor Wolf’s budget provides a plan for spending \$101 million in federal child care dollars that will help Pennsylvania families who need high-quality child care for their children to thrive.

Given the essential role that high-quality child care has to support Pennsylvania’s working families, we urge Pennsylvania policymakers to explore all options to allocate additional state resources to address the critical needs of our state’s early childhood system that limit access and affordability.

Two elements of Governor Wolf’s budget proposal closely align with the campaign’s goals, including: a \$15 million allocation to remove approximately 970 infants and toddlers from the subsidy waitlist and move them into programs that will elevate their potential; and a roughly \$10 million allocation that will help to reinforce program stability and consistent staff-child relationships by increasing quality add-on rates for infants and toddlers by 28% for STAR 2, 3, and 4 programs.



In addition, the Governor’s proposal includes a \$2 million allocation to support early childhood career pathways which acknowledges that children develop best when they have consistent teachers and relationships.

The campaign believes this proposal will begin to address the significant need to attract and retain additional talented adults to become early childhood educators. Furthermore, an allocation of approximately \$74 million would increase rates to support the move to a \$12 per hour minimum wage in Pennsylvania.

The Governor’s proposals use federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars. Start Strong PA campaign partners believe that these increased investments demonstrate the bipartisan support for ensuring our youngest children have what they need to thrive, while supporting the needs of our state’s workforce and education systems.”

The Governor acknowledged the dual role of high-quality child care for children and families by saying, “We can get more kids off of waiting lists...and help more parents make their way into the workforce.

Start Strong PA supports:

1. Increased reimbursement rates for the highest quality STAR 3 and 4 programs serving infants and toddlers to the full cost of quality;
2. Increased investments to support more STAR 2 providers to move to STAR 3 and 4 thereby increasing high-quality capacity;
3. Increased investments in the child care workforce by adding slots for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarships, fully funding Education and Retention Awards, and conducting a child care labor market survey.

“Our state is at a critical moment for determining the future of infants and toddlers in Pennsylvania. Legislators must build on last year’s momentum that acknowledges the role of state funds in our early childhood system. We call on legislators to use this year’s state budget to foster a better future for all children by providing them a solid educational foundation through access to high-quality child care that their families can afford.”

The 2019-20 proposed budget includes the following expanded investments to early learning:

- Allocation of \$101 million in federal child care funds;
- Increase in Pre-K Counts investment: \$40 million;
- Increase in Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program investment: \$10 million;
- Increase in state funds for evidence-based home visiting: \$5 million.

Start Strong PA is an initiative of Early Learning PA (ELPA), a statewide coalition of advocates focused on supporting young Pennsylvanians birth to age five (5). ELPA also advocates for expanding publicly funded Home Visiting services via the Childhood Begins at Home Campaign, and access to high-quality, publicly funded pre-k for income eligible children via the Pre-K for PA Campaign.

Start Strong PA is an initiative of Early Learning PA. Through a statewide collaboration of partners, Start Strong PA aims to support healthy child development, working families, and the economy by increasing access to and affordability of high-quality child care programs for young children. Learn more at www.startstrongpa.org.

VFW Post 739

Bangor, Pennsylvania



EVERY BINGO WINS A HAND GUN

LIMITED TICKET SALES OF 250

Saturday Feb. 23rd 2pm

Doors open at 12:00

Tickets are \$50 a person.

There will be food and drink for purchase.

Must be 18 to play.

Tricky tray and 50/50 during bingo.

Call 610-588-5555 or for more info.

Our Bar is Now 'SMOKE FREE'

202 Veterans Road Bangor, Pa.

*Area's Premier
Banquet Facility*

At Comunale's Italian Market

**'We Do It All, No Stress
We Handle Everything From
Food, Venue and Great Service'**

We can accommodate guests from 35 - 110

'Come Take a Tour of our Facility'

- Weddings
- Rehearsal Dinners
- Showers
- Corporate Functions
- Banquets
- Luncheon Meetings
- Birthdays
- Funerals

Our Building Is Completely Accessible to All

1 Mt. Bethel Plaza

2165 Mt. Bethel Highway Mt. Bethel, PA

(570) 897-5630



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Energy Retrofit

There are several levels of repairs that can make your home more energy efficient. Over the years different terms have been used to describe them. Energy retrofit is one that encompasses all aspects of the work that is needed to reduce the cost to heat and cool. A deep energy retrofit is one that is more comprehensive and can potentially save another 10% off the cost of conditioning the space. Each step taken goes a little deeper than the previous one. For example if someone has had insulation blown in the attic, it is not easy to come in later and airseal the leaks beneath that insulation. I am not a fan of the blow-and-go style of insulation that is popular today. There are savings to be had by insulating that way but it only makes it harder to achieve the final goal of a total airseal.

I have turned down jobs for people who just wanted some insulation blown around the attic because it was not the right way to do the job. There are plenty of companies out there who will be happy to do that. The deep energy retrofit is my specialty. The cost difference is relatively small but the benefits are huge. Air quality is improved, comfort is achieved at a cost that is affordable, and no flaws in the building are concealed beneath insulation. Bath fans and the venting of them must be included in this type of work because once the air inside the building stays longer, moisture can build and create problems. The fix is simple and appropriate for all bathrooms but can't be ignored.

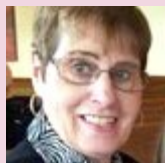
There is a progressive course of action for each and every house because no two are exactly the same but step by step, perfection can be achieved. The long term benefits of this type of work are numerous and most people can't believe the results when they compare utility cost from before and after. Amazingly enough we still see homes with no insulation at all. They are actually easier to retrofit than poorly insulated ones because we can fill every space without old ineffective insulation blocking our access.

The bottom line is that you can pay the utility and fuel companies forever or you can add value and comfort to your home once and for all with a deep energy retrofit. Most of this work will pay for itself within 5 years and retrofitting an uninsulated home is closer to 3. I wish there was still a tax credit for this work because it is that important.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

OBITUARY

Mrs. Joanne DeMaria Clewell



Mrs. Joanne DeMaria Clewell, age 74, of Lincolnton, NC departed this life on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Born May 9, 1944 in Bethlehem, PA, she is the daughter of the late Pasquale and Josephine DeMaria of Bangor, PA.

Joanne Clewell had a huge heart, a true servant's heart. She delighted in providing for others at home, work and church. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, family was the center of Joanne Clewell's world. She spent most of her career in the Belk's organization: beginning in Henderson, NC as a department manager and buyer and continuing with the Belk-Matthews Group in Lincolnton until retirement. An active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, she enjoyed hosting for the Agape Ministry and highly valued her Via De Cristo experience and Reunion Group. Her spiritual gifts of encouragement and hospitality will long be remembered in the cards, hand written notes and homemade sweets she prepared for friends and family, near and far. From her childhood in Pennsylvania through her final task as Alex's 'Grandmom' and Layla's 'Nana', Joanne Clewell invested a lifetime in others.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by the love of a lifetime and husband of 46 Years, Bob Clewell, sister Lucia Capone and husband Phillip, brother Michael DeMaria and sister in law Nancy.

She is survived by daughter Eva Clewell Walker and husband Gordon of Greenville, NC, son Robert Clewell and wife Regina of Maiden, NC, grandchildren Gordon A Walker of Raleigh, NC and Layla Clewell of Maiden, NC, her sister Mary Rose Comunale and husband Frank, twin sister Patty Bray and husband Louis, cousin Phil Vonelli and wife Marie Elaine all of Bangor, PA along with many precious nieces, nephews and friends. A Celebration of Joanne Clewell's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 10th, 2019 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 2639 E Highway 150, Lincolnton, NC with Pastor Chad Walker presiding. The family will receive friends after the Celebration and at other times at Joanne's home. The Clewell family would like to thank Joanne's friends, church family and care providers who have been so generous with their love and support. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions to The Memorial Fund at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 2639 E Highway 150, Lincolnton, NC 28092 or Hospice and Palliative Care-Lincoln County, 900 Donita Drive, Lincolnton, NC 28092 be considered. #30#



Northampton County Receives Grant to Install 3 Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure and the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) are pleased to announce \$30,000 in grant funding for the installation of three Level 2 Electric Vehicles (EV) Charging Stations on Northampton County property.

"The future of Northampton County is green," says Lamont McClure. "This grant will encourage the use of electric cars, reduce pollution, and help keep the air cleaner for our residents."

Driving PA Forward is an initiative of Governor Wolf's Administration and the DEP to increase the air quality in Pennsylvania. The program will provide \$7.7 million over a five year period for the installation of Level 2 EV Charging Stations for public use.

The Department of Public Works anticipates installing the charging stations later this summer. Each station can charge two electric vehicles at a time. The use of the charging stations will be free to the public; parking in those spots will be limited to electric vehicles. Current plans are to install them at the parking deck at the Courthouse in Easton, across the street in the new lot created after the removal of the Milides Building, and at the Department of Human Services in Bethlehem.

9th ANNUAL BENEFIT SNOW BALL DINNER DANCE

FAMILIES FIRST Presents: MARGARITAVILLE

Saturday, February 23, 2019 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm
WEONA PARK RECREATION CENTER Pen Argyl, PA
Music by ROMEO VEGAS Dinner By Just in Thyme
Salsa, Taco Bar, Shrimp Skewers, Chicken Skewers

\$25.00 per person in Advance \$30.00 at the Door
BASKET RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES, BYOB/DRESS CASUAL

For Tickets Contact

SPRING SHANK – Pen Argyl High School
HEATHER REED – Wind Gap Middle School
KELLY THOMAS – Plainfield Elementary

For information contact: Frank Jones – 610-863-9095 Ext. 1387
or jones.frank@penargylsd.org

ALL PROCEEDS HELP SUPPORT FAMILIES
FIRST FREE PROGRAMS

Tony's HANDY MAN SERVICE

Need Those Odd Jobs Around
The House Done Today?
Call Me Today!

I Do It All..... No Job Too Small!

Painting Inside/Outside,
Light Plumbing/Electric, Carpeting
Water Damage, Sheetrock, Ceramic Tile,
Hardwood & Vinyl Flooring,
Gutters Cleaned, Snow Removal,
Garage Cleanout

References available from residential
to commercial sources.

570-517-6596