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**Visit Howard County
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Howard County Welcome Center to Expand Hours as Increasing Numbers of Visitors Return to Old Ellicott City.

Ellicott City, MD - With the busy summer travel season beginning and an increase in traffic to restaurants, shops and attractions in Old Ellicott City, Visit Howard County is expanding the hours at the Howard County Welcome Center.

Beginning June 1, 2017 the Howard County Welcome Center will be open:

Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the increased hours of the Welcome Center, the two public bathrooms accessible from the building's side entrance are now open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"I continue to be impressed by the resilience of the businesses, residents and property owners on Main Street and in the West End. It's because of them that we are so far along in our recovery from the flood, with nearly 90% of the affected businesses reopened and 14 new businesses enhancing the unique mix of shops in Ellicott City," said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "With so many people visiting Ellicott City to show their continued support, I encourage them to take advantage of these extended hours and learn about all the wonderful attractions and events that Howard County has to offer."

"We're excited to assist visitors and residents alike in finding the exciting things to do in Howard County," said Anthony Cordo, Executive Director at Visit Howard County. "From our family-friendly attractions to our fast-growing brewery scene Howard County is a great summer getaway."

Howard County Tourism Council

Howard County Tourism & Promotion (501c6 not-for-profit) is recognized by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland and funded by a legislated 2% of the county hotel tax, granted through Howard County Government. Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique location, sites, services, products and people. We are the first and foremost source of information on all that is wonderful about visiting and living in Howard County, Maryland.

www.VisitHowardCounty.com

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