

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 1

Beltsville, Maryland

January 2025



Attorney Moissette "Tonya" Sweat is running to replace Angela Alsobrooks as County Executive. She is the attorney for the volunteers at the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Attorney Tonya Sweat Files For County Executive Special Election

Accokeek, Maryland – Today, Attorney Moissette "Tonya" Sweat filed her Certificate of Candidacy in the special election for County Executive of Prince George's County, Maryland. After filing, Tonya stated, This is a crucial time for one of a great place to live in the United States, Prince George's County, Maryland. There are many positives in our county, which is why,

in 2011, my husband and I chose to move and raise our family here. Prince George's County is home to both the second largest school district in Maryland and the Washington Commanders. The County has opportunities for improvement and needs strong leadership to meet present challenges. The rise in crime, persistent lag in education, a \$150-180 million budget deficit, and uncertainty of future federal resources demand new leadership and immediate action. I might be a fresh face in local politics, but I am most certainly not new to Prince George's County. The County can no longer count on the State and federal governments to supplement the real estate taxes that are its main source of revenue. We have to develop a larger commer-

SWEAT
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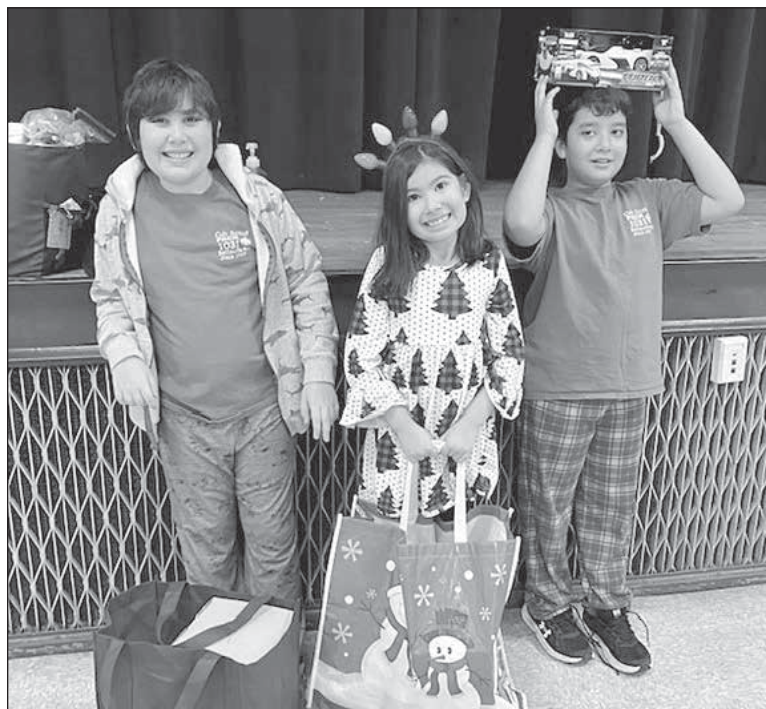
Cub Pack 1031- Thankful for Scouting for Food Donations!!

By Regina Halper

This month Cub Pack 1031 gathered toys to donate to a local charity and celebrated the holidays with a Christmas party eating treats and making ornaments while we listened to tunes played by our newly appointed Cubmaster, Peter G., on his accordion!

This month the scouts worked on our Safety adventures. The Wolf den did a winter hike and picked up trash. The Arrow of Light den is getting ready to bridge over to Scout BSA which will happen early next year.

If you are interested in Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet twice a month in the parks.



Wolf scout and Webelos scout and a friend show off the toys gathered for our Toy Drive!

NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due

No Later Than:

January 22

Paper Out:

January 31

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen Coakley

I Wish that I could Wish Beltsville a Happy New Year...but as the Beltsville News goes to print it looks like the Grinch who stole Christmas actually stole a portion of Chestnut Hills Neighborhood Park! The Grinch is building a "temporary Fire Station" on MNCPPC park property. The Grinch (otherwise known as Fire Chief Green) told Peter Shapiro, Chairperson of MNCPPC, she needed park property for a temporary station because Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31 had Health and Safety issues. This process began in August 2024.

The Grinch keeps telling our "Elected Officials" that this is a "temporary" solution. No one has had the consideration to give the Beltsville Community any information. My opinion, based on the financial crisis in Prince George's County and Maryland, it will be years before the "temporary" station is removed and our park restored. It is my understanding that the County is not going to take care of the "deferred maintenance" at Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31. That means I have to

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 2

UpStage Artists Raises Money for Local Food Distribution

By Rick Bergmann

Eight actors and two sound effects technicians brought It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show to life in a heartfelt and energetic performance. The familiar story follows George

Bailey, a man overwhelmed by his struggles, contemplating ending his life on Christmas Eve. Guided by his guardian angel, Clarence, George is shown how his good deeds have positively shaped his town, ultimately restoring his faith in life.

This production by UpStage Artists wasn't just a theatrical delight—it was also a benefit performance to support the Emmanuel Food Bank. Spon-

UPSTAGE ARTISTS
continues on page 5



The Cast of UpStage Artists It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Show (back row l-r) Zac Coates, Melvin Smith, Rick Bergmann, Rose Coates, Neil Swanson-Chrisman (front row l-r) Anna Fitzmaurice, Stacey Saunders, Peter Coates, Polly O'Rourke, John Cusumano

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Struggling with job loss, to pay rent, to get food, or need emergency help? The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville Community and beyond take the next step toward financial independence.

FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705, located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church

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- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation

Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of January 2000)

Beltsville Library's 25th Anniversary

To mark twenty-five years of service to the community, the library staff is planning a day of celebration on Saturday, January 29, 2000. There will be activities for children as well as adults, culminating with a gospel performance at 2 p.m.

The year 2000, and the month of January specifically, signify twenty-five years of service which

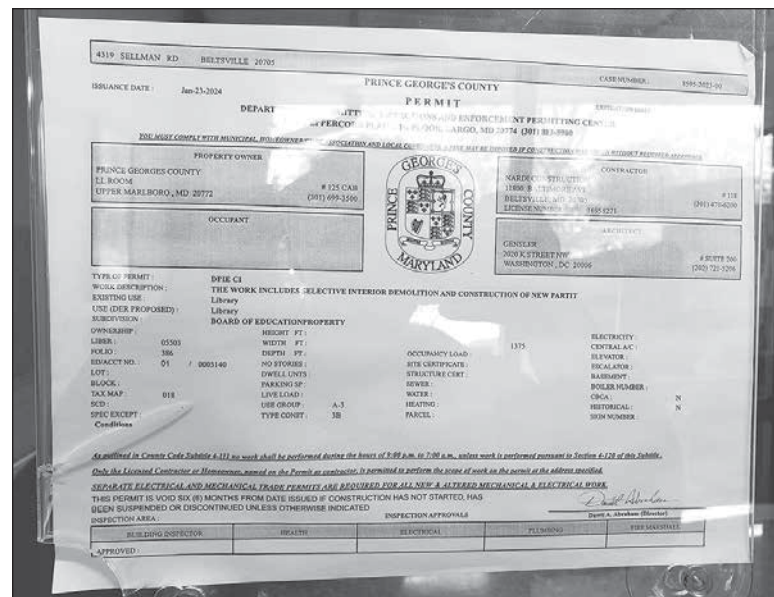
the Beltsville Branch of the county library system has offered to the community and its surroundings. The Beltsville Public Library opened its doors to the public in three interconnecting trailers at 11731 Old Gunpowder Road on January 6, 1975. Nine years later in February 1984, the library moved to its present location at 4319 Sellman Road, where the process and tradition of excellent service continue to the present day.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

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assume the temporary Fire Station at Chestnut Hills Neighborhood Park will be there until the County builds a County Owned Station somewhere in Beltsville. I hate having to assume anything. Unfortunately, because of the deafening silence and lack of communication and transparency all I can do is assume. I'm not very good at betting, however, based on the County and State Finances this "temporary" Station will be with us for at least five years if we are lucky.

Beltsville constantly gets the short end of the stick. I have personally spent over 25 years fighting for a new and/or totally renovated High Point High School. Beltsville Academy received new windows a few years ago and modular trailers. You should see what the



Permit for the building of the temporary fire station at Chestnut Hills Park. Photo taken by Jillian Schweitzer.

base of the trailers looks like. Calverton Elementary has trailers as well. Approximately 4 years ago

the state allocated approximately \$500,000 to MNCPPC upgrade Beltsville West Neighborhood Park located at 11540 Montgomery Road. Again, nothing has happened. Prince George's County rarely spends money improving anything in Beltsville.

There will be a special election in 2025 to elect a County Executive. Who knows if things will change. I testified before the county council in November. I have had numerous conversations with county and state elected officials. I have repeatedly told all of the elected officials about the discrepancies between what the assessment says about Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31 and what the Grinch claims.

On December 20th our elected officials have a meeting with the Grinch. My wish for the Beltsville community is that truth will prevail. I care deeply about our community. I have given over 40 years of my life to volunteering in Beltsville. As I close my first column of 2025, I am very disillusioned and disgusted.

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANVILLE DISTRICT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC.

News: Rick Bergmann, editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com, 8 Center Street, Laurel, MD 20723. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if photo is to be returned. Accepted material may be edited. Letters to the Editor on local topics are encouraged. Names may be withheld upon request.

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301-257-3408 Ted Ladd, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705 • tedladd02@aol.com

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Business Manager: Ted Ladd

Supporting Staff Members: Karen Coakley, Rebecca Hutchings, Jason Inanga, Elizabeth Olson, and Nancy Thrush.

Circulation

Hard copies may be picked up at more than 50 locations in greater Beltsville, including the Beltsville Library, Wawa, Beltsville Community Center, schools, churches, restaurants and more. Many receive a monthly pdf of the paper via e-mail at no charge. To receive copies by email, go to www.beltsvillenewstoday.com, and enter your e-mail address.

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Share Your News!

Send your article submissions to
News Director

Rick Bergmann at

editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com

Beltsville Community Cats: A Labor of Love!

By Kathy Rodeffer

Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) is an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to humanely reducing the population of free-roaming cats in Beltsville and nearby areas. Since its founding in 2019, BCC has spayed, neutered, and vaccinated over 2,000 cats, with over eight hundred of them being adopted into loving homes.



Through three core programs—TNVR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return), Rescue, and Colony Support—BCC is creating a brighter future for these cats. BCC relies on generous donors, small grants, and adoption fees to finance these efforts.

Rescue: Finding Forever Homes

Kittens under 8 weeks old and friendly adult cats encountered during TNVR activities are evaluated to determine their potential to become indoor pets. Those deemed suitable for adoption are placed in BCC's foster-based Rescue Program, where they are socialized, vaccinated, spayed/neutered, tested for diseases, and microchipped. Once ready, they are matched with loving families.

Want to meet your next furry family member? Visit BCC's Petfinder page to view adoptable cats: <https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/md/beltsville/beltsville-community-cats-md506/>.

Colony Support: Daily Care for Strays

In commercial and industrial areas, numerous cat colonies depend on BCC volunteers for survival. Every day, our volunteers provide food, fresh water, and shelters, ensuring these cats are safe and well-fed. When unaltered cats appear, they are trapped, vetted through our TNVR program, and released to their home colonies.

How You Can Help?

Report unaltered community cats to BCC (240)444-8353 or hello@beltsvillecats.net, particularly colonies of stray cats. If BCC has trapped for you in the past and you are seeing any unaltered cats, please contact us immediately. Our goal is to trap as many female cats as possible before kitten season starts again in March.

If you love cats, BCC could use your help! We need volunteers to foster kittens and friendly adult cats and feed colonies, as well as trap and transport cats to and from vet appointments. There are also opportunities to help with grant writing, fundraising, record-keeping, and more.

Joining BCC not only helps the cats but also connects you with a passionate, friendly community. Volunteers work hard but also enjoy spending time together—whether caring for cats, hosting adoption events, or simply sharing a laugh. Learn more about volunteering for BCC at: www.beltsvillecat.net/volunteer.

By working together, BCC volunteers and supporters are creating a lasting, positive impact for Beltsville's cats—one spay, neuter, and adoption at a time.



TNVR: A Humane Approach

BCC's TNVR program works to control the cat population by partnering with residents and businesses to identify colonies. Volunteers trap cats, transport them to low-cost clinics for spaying/neutering and vaccinations, and provide safe recovery spaces before returning them to their home colonies. This humane approach ensures that these cats live healthier lives while preventing further population growth. Thanks to these efforts, several Beltsville neighborhoods report seeing fewer free-roaming cats.

IMPERISHABLE INHERITANCE

Each year we want to promise it will be more than the past, And even if we meet a goal hopes also may be dashed. There always will be something hovering to make this task O'erwhelming as we recognize death takes it all at last.

This world as far as we're concerned is temporary ground. Futility is trying to obtain what can't be found. True hope is an inheritance surpassing what surrounds Built firmly on eternal principles it will abound.

Christ Jesus rose up from the grave and left behind our sin. His power conquered evil's grasp, the curse afflicting men. Today, if we are willing to put all our faith in Him, A future which won't perish waits beyond our earthly stint.

New mercies greet each morning if we take the time to see God's kindness is available to all who t'ward Him reach; With gratitude our hearts are opened for this is the key Revealing Christ in us is where our treasure is indeed.

*Beckie Hutchings
12/09/2024*

"(God) has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

(1Peter 1:3,4)



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Vinyl Siding vs. Paint for Home Exteriors

Happy Holidays! Who's considering painting their home next year? Wait. Before you pick up the paint brush or hire a painter there may be another solution that will last a lifetime.

I'm talking about a Durable, Low-Maintenance Option for Home Exteriors. Vinyl Siding.

When it comes to enhancing the curb appeal and durability of your home, few options can compete with vinyl siding. This popular material has become a go-to choice for homeowners across the United States and beyond due to its combination of affordability, low-maintenance, and wide range of aesthetic possibilities. Whether you're building a new home or upgrading an existing structure, vinyl siding offers numerous benefits that make it a practical and stylish option for almost any type of residence. This isn't your parent's aluminum siding.

Benefits of Vinyl Siding

Durability: One of the most significant advantages of vinyl siding is its exceptional durability. Unlike wood, which can rot, warp, or be eaten by pests, vinyl is resistant to moisture, insects, and extreme weather conditions. It won't crack, peel, or blister under most conditions, making it an excellent choice for homes in the DMV area that are prone to heavy



rain, snow, or high humidity.

Vinyl siding is incredibly low-maintenance compared to other materials like wood or metal. Unlike wood, it doesn't require painting, sealing, or regular treatments to preserve its appearance. Periodic cleaning with a garden hose or pressure washer is generally all that is needed to keep it looking fresh. The color is baked into the siding, meaning it won't fade significantly over time, maintaining its vibrant look for many years.

Energy Efficiency: Modern

vinyl siding can contribute to a home's energy efficiency. Many vinyl siding products come with insulating foam backing, which helps reduce heat transfer, making your home more energy-efficient by improving insulation. This can help reduce heating and cooling costs, keeping your home comfortable year-round. Some of the foam backing boards also help prevent denting and cracking of the siding panels.

Vinyl siding is available in a wide array of colors, textures, and styles, including traditional

horizontal panels, vertical panels, shakes, shingles, and even imitation stone and wood finishes. This variety allows homeowners to achieve almost any look they desire, from a sleek contemporary design to a classic, rustic aesthetic.

Vinyl siding is one of the most affordable cladding options available on the market. This makes vinyl siding an attractive option for homeowners on a budget or those looking to maximize their return on investment.

What can be some drawbacks of Vinyl Siding?

While vinyl siding offers many benefits, it's important to consider some potential downsides:

Though vinyl siding is durable, it can be prone to cracking or warping in extremely hot conditions or if impacted by heavy objects, like hail or tree branches. Additionally, it can fade over time due to exposure to UV rays. However, many newer vinyl siding products are UV-resistant, reducing the likelihood of significant fading.

Vinyl siding is available in a wide range of styles, it might not have the same upscale, authentic look that materials like brick, stone, or wood provide. For some homeowners, this can be a deal-breaker if they are looking for a more traditional or luxurious

appearance.

Although very durable, vinyl siding is not as structurally strong as brick or stone. It is mainly used for aesthetic purposes and doesn't provide the same level of security.

While vinyl siding is low-maintenance, it is not completely maintenance-free. Here are some tips to ensure your vinyl siding stays in top condition:

Cleaning: Regularly wash your siding with a hose or a pressure washer to remove dirt, grime, and mildew. Use a soft brush or sponge for tougher stains. Mild detergent or a solution of vinegar and water can be used to clean more stubborn spots. **Inspect for Damage:** Regularly check for cracks, warps, or gaps in the siding that may allow moisture to seep behind it. If any damage is found, replace or repair the affected panel promptly to avoid long-term problems.

Trim Overgrowth: Trim any vines or plants that may grow too close to the siding to prevent moisture buildup and damage to the panels.

Vinyl Siding can be a great way to refresh your home and eliminate the need to ever paint the exterior again. If you have questions or a topic you would like me to cover please send us a note or email.



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BELTS25

SWEAT
continued from page 1

cial tax base to ease the burden on homeowners. Prince George's County officials are too focused on the AAA+ credit rating, which has only served to get us deeper in debt. We can no longer afford to run the local government like some run their household finances. We must become fiscally responsible, more transparent, and more accountable in our government operations. I bring almost three decades of experience as a federal banking regulator, litigator, veteran, advisor, and entrepreneur, along with life experience as a wife, PGCPs mother, former substitute teacher, and community member to this race. The other declared candidates have all played a part in the current condition of Prince George's County. It's time to stop the insanity and political "musical chairs." I understand the needs of Prince George's County, because I AM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY! For more information, go to <https://tonyasweat.com>.

Neighbors in the News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church Continues To Feed Those In Need

Emmanuel United Methodist Church's Food Distribution continues to feed those who are in need each month on the fourth Saturday. The program began in May of 2011 and continues to this day. It has changed leadership and formats over the years, survived covid, and seen many changes in the community, but it has been a lifeline to many for the past 13 years. If you or anyone you know needs food, you can go their monthly distributions on

the fourth Saturday of each month between 8 am and 11 am. There is no judgement, no questions asked. If you are in need, they are here for you. If you have questions, you can email them at community_outreach@eumcbeltsville.com. The church is located at 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

The Food Distribution Dates for 2025:

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Saturday, January 25, 2025
 Saturday, February 22, 2025
 Saturday, March 22, 2025
 Saturday, April 26, 2025
 Saturday, May 24, 2025
 Saturday, June 28, 2025
 Saturday, July 26, 2025
 Saturday, August 23, 2025
 Saturday, September 27, 2025
 Saturday, October 25, 2025
 Saturday, November 22, 2025
 Saturday, December 20, 2025

UP STAGE ARTISTS

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sored by Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane in Beltsville, the Food Bank provides essential food items to individuals and families in need. The show was free to attend, with donations collected for the cause. By the end of the evening, UpStage Artists raised \$1,280 for the Food Bank.

The Emmanuel Food Bank operates on the fourth Saturday of every month, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., offering fresh produce, meat, canned goods, and other shelf-stable foods to anyone

in need, free of charge. Since its inception, this program has been a lifeline for thousands of residents in Beltsville, Laurel, College Park, Greenbelt, and surrounding communities. Its doors remained open even during the pandemic's most challenging times, ensuring that no one is turned away. To learn more or get involved, you can contact the Food Bank at community_outreach@eumcbeltsville.com.

Supporting community programs like the Food Bank is at the heart of UpStage Artists' mission. The group believes that community theater is for everyone and

strives to make a difference by keeping ticket prices affordable, engaging in local events, and supporting other organizations. Over the years, they've collaborated with the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, Beltsville Community Cats, Reading Partners of Baltimore, Hopeworks of Howard County, and more.

To learn more about UpStage Artists and their upcoming productions, visit their website at www.upstageartists.com or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Bluesky, Threads, and TikTok.

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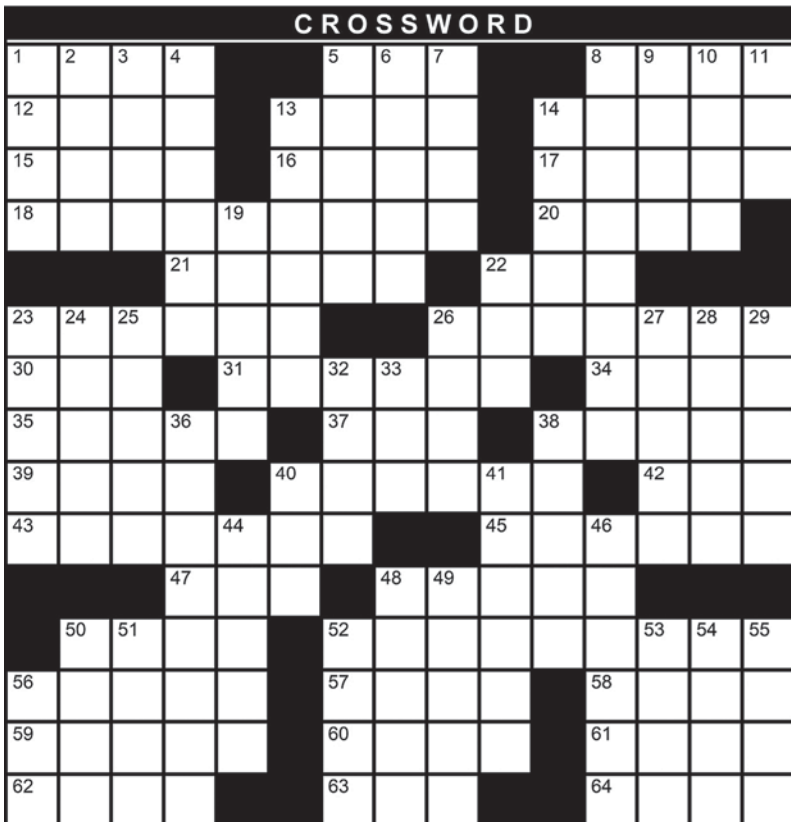
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Statepoint Crossword: Science Fiction



ACROSS

1. Le Corbusier's art
5. *"The Matrix" protagonist
8. Captures
12. Funkiness in the air
13. Vegetative state
14. Capital of Vietnam
15. Fairy tale villain
16. Beware of these in March
17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"
18. *Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"
20. The Beehive State
21. Burn with coffee, e.g.
22. Tire meas.
23. Sea nymph
26. Salad dressing option
30. *Pierre Boulle's Cornelius
31. Hoity-toity
34. Back arrow key
35. Covered with sphagnum
37. Tiny Tim's guitar
38. Allegro ____, in music
39. Sign of escape
40. Apprehension
42. Emergency responder, acr.
43. Neuron junction
45. Sleeping sickness vector
47. *Katniss Everdeen's sister
48. Hammerin' Hank

50. Tennis "innings"
52. *2010 film starring DiCaprio
56. Meat of coconut
57. Desperate
58. Karl of politics
59. *1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
60. Fail to mention
61. Bo Peep's females
62. *"Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author
63. Was ahead
64. *Spock's are pointy

DOWN

1. Point of entry
2. Side of a ruler, e.g.
3. S or C follower, in business
4. Two-word threat
5. Relating to node
6. Make corrections
7. Kiln for hops
8. *Captain Nemo's submarine
9. Tolstoy's Karenina
10. This and that
11. Bro's sibling
13. Droning insect
14. Niger and Nigeria language
19. In an unfriendly manner
22. Parent org.
23. "He named ____"
24. Strong adhesive
25. Pine juice
26. Original thought
27. Garment enlarger
28. *"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ____"
32. *Frank Herbert's famous novel
33. "I Like ____" 1950s campaign slogan
36. *"Where no man has gone before" TV series
38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
40. "It's no ____!"
41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.
44. South Korean port
46. Main dish
48. Japanese cartoon art
49. Like thick smoke
50. Solo, pl.
51. Long narrative poem
52. Worshiped one
53. Minnesota's southern neighbor
54. Last word on radio
55. Famed loch
56. Rogue or rascal

See Solution on page 6

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

RSVP Today for the 21st District Delegation Reception in Annapolis - Monday, February 3

Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the Maryland legislature.

We hope you can join us and other neighbors Monday evening, February 3, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 180, for good food and good fellowship. We'll be joined by other state and local leaders who represent you.

To RSVP, call 240-712-4646, or go to bit.ly/21stDistrictNight2025.

If you want to stay after the reception to see the Senate or House in action at 8 pm, just let us know when you RSVP. Note: This requires you to provide your own transportation. Buses will depart at 8 pm.

If you just want to come to dinner by bus with neighbors, reserve your seat when you RSVP. Bus pick-up locations will be in College Park, Laurel and Anne Arundel County. More details will be sent to those who RSVP. Finally, if you have questions, just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 240-712-4646.

Winter Brunch with me and Sheilah on January 19, in Laurel - Don't Forget to RSVP

When: Sunday, January 19 | 11 am - 1 pm

Location: City of Laurel Multi-service Center | 204 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, MD

This new center, created by a partnership between Laurel and the State, will expand services for the homeless, the ill, the hun-



Senator Jim Rosapepe

gry, and so many others in need. Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I fought for the \$10,825,000 state investment in it. I hope you can join us to learn more about how all of us can help our neighbors.

RSVP: www.WinterBrunch.com or call 240-712-4646. **Special Guest: Harry Dunn**

Presidential Citizens Medal-winning US Capitol Police Officer who helped save American democracy on January 6, 2021.



Special Guest Harry Dunn will join Senator Rosapepe at his annual winter brunch.

District 21 Awards Scholarships to Beltsville Students

Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I award college scholarships to Beltsville students each year. We are happy to highlight our scholarship recipients and wish them a successful academic year. One outstanding Beltsville student is **Briana Gonzalez Bastida**, who will attend the University of Maryland, College Park and major in General Biological Sciences, focusing on Pre-Med.



Beltsville student and District 21 S scholarship Winner Briana Gonzalez Bastida, who will attend the University of Maryland, College Park and major in General Biological Sciences, focusing on Pre-Med.

Christmas Tree Composting and 2025 Holiday Waste Collection Calendar

Curbside collection of live-cut Christmas trees will begin on January 2 and continue until January 30, 2025. Additionally, you may drop your tree off at: Brown Station Road Public Container Pad & Recycling Center

ROSAPEPE

continues on page 15

Crossword Solution from page 5

D	E	C	O			N	E	O			N	A	B	S								
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Memorable Main Dishes Made in 30 Minutes or Less

(StatePoint) Fifty-one percent of families find it challenging to get new ideas for meal planning. If you're like most Americans and stuck in a recipe rut, or you're often tired when it's time to prepare dinner and want something fast and easy, it's time to expand your repertoire of go-to meals that you can make in 30 minutes or less.

Here to inspire more flavor variety is McCormick. The brand's more than 40 dry Recipe Mixes—which are single-use spice packets—can help you create quick, convenient meals with the perfect combination of seasonings—from homestyle classics like chili and meatloaf to flavors from around the world like gyros and stir fry. To give weeknight meals new life in minutes, check out recipes from the brand:



Tender and Juicy Chicken

Tired of dry, flavorless chicken? This recipe for Garlic Ranch Crunchy Chicken is tender and juicy on the inside and crispy-crunchy on the outside. Requiring just 5 minutes of prep, it makes for a low effort but memorable main dish any night of the week.

Ingredients:

- 1 package McCormick Garlic Ranch Crunchy Chicken Seasoning Mix
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 4 boneless chicken breasts, about 1/2 to 1-inch thickness (about 1 3/4 pounds)

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Place chicken on a large foil-lined sheet pan sprayed with no-stick cooking spray.
2. Brush top of chicken breasts with mayonnaise. Coat top of chicken breasts with Seasoning Mix, pressing lightly to adhere.
3. Bake for 20 minutes or until cooked through (internal temperature should reach 165 degrees F).

Test kitchen tips: Try substitut-

DISHES

continues on page 7

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Harmony Garden Moves to District Council

The Planning Board approved Harmony Garden on November 14. The case will move to the District Council in either January or February; a date has yet to be selected. Residents can contact our office with questions and comments.

The address of the subject property is 11701 Old Baltimore Pike, Beltsville, which is located in Vansville, at the southeastern quadrant of Old Baltimore Pike and Ammendale Way on approximately 7.75 acres of vacant land. The nature of the proposed request is to seek approval of the detailed site plan for developing 67 townhouses.

To view the information and plans our office has received, go here <https://bit.ly/4djyirX>. To learn more about how to weigh in on this proposed development, contact the Office of the Clerk of the County at: 301-952-3600 or the People's Zoning Counsel at 301-883-8888.

County Inspections for Missed Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal

Please make sure that your sidewalks are clear of snow and ice! Homeowners, residents, property managers, and business owners who fail to clear the sidewalks of residential and commercial properties of snow and ice after winter weather events may be fined. Prince Georgians must remove snow and ice within 48 hours after accumulating two or more inches. Responsible parties who do not clear abutting sidewalks within 24 hours after a significant snow event will be issued a warning, while after another 24 hours, a citation may be issued by the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE), with a fine of \$100 per day. Fines



Council Member Dernoga with newly elected District 1 School Board Representative Dr. Tiffany Andorful at his November 2024 Community Conversation

will accumulate daily per subsequent 24-hour period if snow and ice are not cleared. If the County hires a contractor for its removal, the cost will be added to the fines. Please read more at <https://bit.ly/49vrqq3>.

Prince George's County Police Division VI Hats, Gloves, and Socks Drive

The Prince George's County Police Department has begun its Hats, Gloves, and Socks Drive. Division VI has been at the forefront of our efforts for three years, consistently leading the way in donations. Residents can make a meaningful impact this holiday season on the lives of those in need in Prince George's County. They kindly ask residents to donate a few pairs of socks, hats, or gloves to help keep women, children, and men in our commu-

nity warm this winter by dropping off the items at our station. All items can be delivered to the Division VI Prince George's County Police Department at 4321 Sellman Road, Beltsville. They will be collecting items until January 10, 2025.

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Take advantage of resources, local activities, and events for seniors. Sign up for our monthly senior email newsletter: <https://bit.ly/D1SeniorNewsletterOptIn>.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Please email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1.

DISHES

continued from page 6

ing BBQ sauce or a mixture of mayonnaise and hot sauce or sour cream in place of mayonnaise.

For the air fryer: Preheat to 360 degrees F for 3 minutes. Place chicken, coating-side up, in a single layer in the air fryer. Air fry 10 to 12 minutes or until cooked through (internal temperature should reach 165 degrees F).

Taco Night Twist

There is no such thing as a bad taco, but if you're bored and want a twist on your standard taco night, McCormick has you covered. Inspired by the flavor of the popular Mexican street food, elotes, these insanely delicious Mexican Style Street Corn Tacos can be made in just 15 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 1 package McCormick Mexican Style Street Corn Taco Seasoning Mix, divided
- 2 tablespoons oil, divided
- 1 cup corn, fresh, frozen or canned (drained)
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1-pound boneless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
- 1/2 cup water
- 8 (6-inch) corn or flour tortillas, warmed
- Optional toppings: Cotija cheese, cilantro, avocado and lime wedges

Instructions:

1. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add corn; cook and stir for 3 minutes or until heated through. Stir in 1 tablespoon of the Seasoning Mix. Transfer to a small bowl.

Stir in mayonnaise; set aside.

2. Heat remaining oil in the same skillet on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir for 3 minutes. Stir in remaining Seasoning Mix and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 3 to 5 minutes until chicken is cooked through, stirring occasionally.

3. Spoon chicken into warm tortillas. Top with corn mixture and serve with desired toppings.

For more recipes and flavor inspiration, visit mccormick.com. You don't have to resort to the same humdrum meals again and again. Using the right ingredients, easy-to-prepare dishes will become new family favorites.

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Neighbors in the News



The Cast of UpStage Artists Rope (l-r) Vedant Sharma as Wynham Brandon, Joseph Battley as Charles Granillo, Edward Brennan as Rupert Cadell, Rebecca Goldberg as Leila Arden, Carter Wescott as Kenneth Raglan, Edward Crews as Johnstone Kentley, Polly O'Rourke as Sabot, Elizabeth Wiggins as Mrs. Debenham

UpStage Artists Is Excited To Announce Its Cast of Rope!

UpStage Artists is excited to announce the cast of its first show of the 2025 season, *Rope* by Patrick Hamilton. The play was the basis for one of Alfred Hitchcock's earliest hits, *Rope*, starring Jimmy Stewart. The play is a harrowing suspense thriller where a sociopathic university student persuades his weak-minded friend to assist him in the murder of a perfectly harmless fellow undergraduate. Why, you ask? For the mere sake of adventure, danger, and the "fun of the thing." They place the body in a wooden chest,

and to add spice to their handiwork, invite a few acquaintances, including the dead youth's father, to a party, the chest with its gruesome contents serving as a supper table. The horror and tension are worked up gradually; thunder grows outside, the guests leave, and we see the reactions of the two murderers, watched closely by the suspecting lame poet Rupert Cadell. Will they finally break down under the strain and confess their guilt or will they get away with it!? Come on out and see the show to get the answers.

The cast of UpStage Artists production is a mix of new and veteran performers to our stage. Two newcomers, Edward Brennan and Carter Wescott, will take on the roles of Rupert Cadell and Kenneth Raglan. They will be joined by Vedant Sharma, last seen in UpStage Artists' *A View From The Bridge*, as Wynndham Brandon; Joseph Battley, last seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* with UpStage, as Charles Granillo; Rebecca Goldberg, last seen in UpStage's *And Then There Were None*, as Leila Arden; Edward

Crews, last seen in *A Raisin in the Sun* with UpStage Artists, as Johnstone Kentley; Polly O'Rourke, last seen in UpStage Artists' *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Performance*, as Sabot; and Elizabeth Wiggins, last seen in UpStage's *A Raisin in the Sun*, as Mrs. Debenham. *Rope* will be directed by Beltsville's own Rick Bergmann and assistant directed by Stacey Saunders, who has been in several UpStage Productions herself as well as being a member of the board of directors.

We are excited to kick off our

2025 season with this dynamic thriller of a show. Tickets will go on sale for \$10 in early January. Show dates are February 21, 22, 28, and March 1 at 7:30 pm and February 23 and March 2 at 2 pm. All performances take place at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Keep up with all the happening at UpStage Artists by following us on Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, Bluesky, and Threads or by visiting their website www.upstageartists.com.



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2025 STALLINGS & PRESTANDREA SCHOLARSHIP



If you are a PGCFCU member and plan to further your education in 2025, **you may qualify to win one of four \$2,500 scholarship awards!** Each year we salute the commitment and dedication of two of our long-standing credit union legends with our scholarship program: **Virginia Stallings and Cindy Prestandrea.**

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

This year our scholarship program will award (4) \$2,500 scholarships to members that are:

- Graduating from **high school.**
- Enrolled in an **undergraduate program** at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Enrolled in a **graduate program** at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Have been accepted to an **accredited trade or vocational school.**

Applicants will be required to complete the following application outlining their **academic history, community involvement, and video essay response** for a chance to win.

If you are not a Member and would like to be considered for the scholarship, you may enter by opening a savings account with the minimum membership amount. Eligible persons for membership include those who live, work, worship, attend school, or volunteer in Prince George's County, Maryland. Membership can be passed along to spouses, siblings, children, grandparents and grandchildren, even if not living in the same residence as well as those who share financial responsibility of household 18 years and older. Visit www.PrinceGeorgesCFCU.org/Scholarship for more information.



APPLY BY MARCH 1ST, 2025!



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What Older Adults Should Know This RSV Season

(StatePoint) Each year, up to 160,000 older adults living in the United States are hospitalized and as many as 10,000 die due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). RSV is a highly contagious virus that spreads through close contact with infected individuals, typically increasing during the fall and peaking in winter.

While most people with RSV develop mild symptoms, like that of a common cold, RSV can cause severe illness in older adults, especially those with certain medical conditions, like chronic lung disease, chronic heart disease or a weakened immune system. That's why the American Lung Association, with support from GlaxoSmithKline, is encouraging adults at increased risk for severe illness to protect themselves against RSV. Here's what they want you to know:

Severe Illness is Preventable: In 2023, RSV vaccines became available to help protect older adults from severe RSV illness, however, according to the most recent data, only 24% of older adults received it. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends RSV vaccination for adults aged 75 and older, and adults ages 60 to 74 at increased risk for severe RSV disease. You can get vaccinated any time, but the best time to receive an RSV vaccination is late summer and early fall before RSV starts to spread in the community. If you have already received an RSV vaccine, you do not need another one. Talk with your healthcare



(c) Renata Angerami / iStock via Getty Images Plus

provider about whether RSV vaccination is recommended for you.

"Vaccination is critical to saving lives and reducing hospitalizations during the respiratory virus season, but unfortunately, not enough older adults are getting vaccinated and disparities persist that put some populations at increased risk of severe illness," says Albert Rizzo, MD., chief medical officer of the American Lung Association.

National Immunization Survey data shows that RSV vaccination rates vary, with 27% of white/non-Hispanic adults having received a vaccine, compared to 21% of Black/non-Hispanic adults, and 15% of Hispanic/Latino adults. At the same time, Black and Hispanic/Latino populations have higher rates of underlying conditions that increase the risk of severe RSV illness.

Healthy Habits Can Also Help Stop the Spread: In addition to vaccination, you can help

stop the spread of RSV with these everyday actions:

- Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Staying at home when you are sick and avoiding close contact with others
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Taking steps for cleaner indoor air

For more information about RSV in adults and to learn steps to prevent severe illness, visit Lung.org/rsv.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. However, if you do get sick with RSV this winter, be sure to watch for signs of severe illness, such as shortness of breath and worsening symptoms, and seek prompt medical attention if needed," says Dr. Rizzo.

3 Ways to Help Your Child Avoid Falling Behind in Math Class

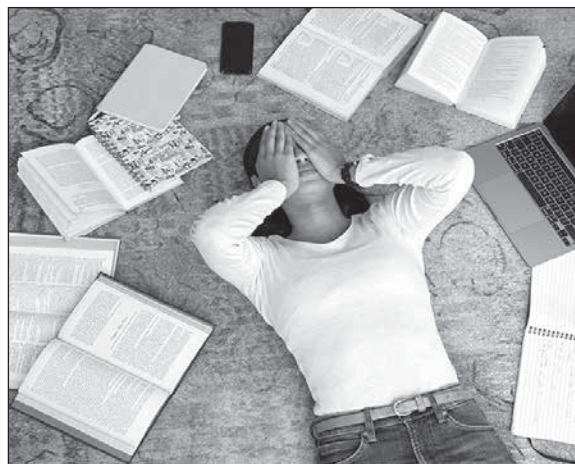
(StatePoint) Falling just a little behind in math class can have a snowball effect, making each new concept even more difficult to master. Here's what you can do to help ensure your child thrives in the classroom now, and in the years to come:

Supplement Their Learning

Math courses can move quickly. Encourage your student to supplement the curriculum with outside educational content to stay one step ahead of the game. Casio's library of free resources is a good place to start. It includes workbooks, calculator-specific activities, test prep and more, all of which is designed to help develop reasoning and critical thinking skills needed to succeed not only in STEM subjects, but in all classes. To access these resources, visit casioeducation.com.

Opt for Empowering Tools

Supply your child with a calcu-



(c) PeopleImages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

exams and more.

Make It Fun

Math is all too often taught in a way that removes any element of fun from the equation. Acquainting your student with recreational math can help them form a whole new relationship with the subject, one based not on dread, but on enjoyment. Recreational math encompasses puzzles, games and even magic tricks. These days, there are plenty of YouTube channels and

online creators dedicated to the delightful side of mathematics. Encouraging your student to spend some time exploring that content might inspire them to spend even more time with math, such as by joining their school's math team or other STEM-related club.

By providing your student with the right tools, resources and mindset, you can help them not just keep pace with their math classes but prepare them for success in college and the workforce.

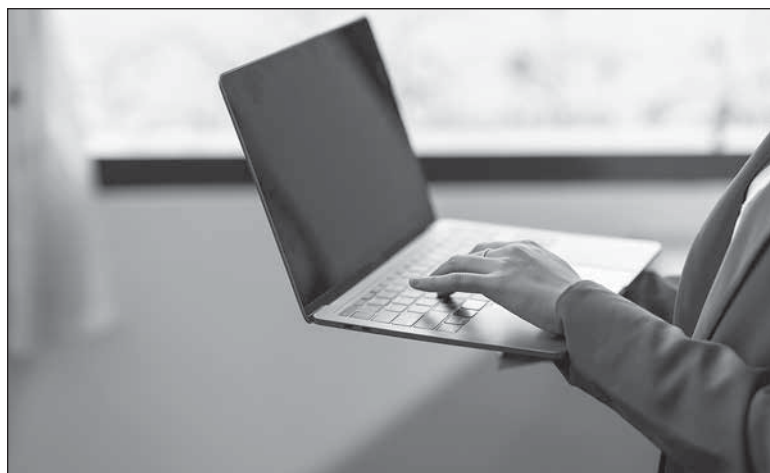
Happy Windows 10 End of Life

This New Year 2025 Windows 10 is supposed to reach the End of Life. It is scheduled to occur on October 14th, 2025. End of Life or EOL as we call it in the IT world means a there is no longer any support, updates, service, or help for a product or service.

Windows 10 is Expiring

Microsoft announced a long time ago that October 14th, 2025, would be the end of Windows 10 support and updates. It seems that many of us are happy with Windows 10 (over 61% share). After 3 years, Windows 11 has only a 35% share. It seems the simple solution would be to update Windows 10 to Windows 11 and move on as we did in the past with Windows XP, 7, and 8.

As it turns out many computers running Windows 10 are not capable of updating to Windows 11. This primarily relates to the lack of a Trusted Platform Module or TPM. TPM is a chip on the computer designed to enhance security. Version 2.0 of this chip is required to run Windows 11. Most computers built before 2020 did not include a TPM chip and those that did had an old ver-



sion that doesn't meet Windows 11 requirements. This leaves no direct upgrade path from Windows 10 for these machines.

Microsoft's solution to this dilemma for Windows 10 users, until earlier this year, was for everyone to go out and purchase new Windows computers that can run Windows 11. This may be great for Microsoft but is costly for consumers. Many seem to be looking for other, less costly solutions, until it is time to buy a computer for reasons that make more sense to the consumers. So now, Microsoft is offering to pro-

vide Windows 10 "security only" updates and support for an additional year for \$30. Of course, they may choose to extend this extended support for additional years at a higher cost each year.

What to do About Windows 10

So, what can we do about Windows 10? Microsoft expects the first option to be to replace your old Windows 10 computer with a new Windows 11 computer. You can recycle the old one or follow one of the other options that follow. Of course, you could

also purchase a new non-windows computer like an Apple, Chrome Book, or a Linux computer to replace the windows computer.

The second option, I will call the ostrich. We bury our head in the sand and pretend the problem doesn't exist. I saw this a lot in the transition from Windows NT to Windows 2000, Windows XP to Windows 7 (didn't we all just skip Vista?), and Windows 7 to Windows 10. However, these all offered paths to upgrade without having to replace the hardware.

You may not want to use the Ostrich because Microsoft software is constantly under attack. Microsoft publishes security updates monthly for a reason. Once Microsoft's security support is gone, sensitive data stored on unsecure computers like bank accounts or personal information is at risk.

If you decide to go the ostrich route, make sure your computer is as secure as you can make it. Do not count on Windows Defender! Get a good third-party anti-virus like McAfee or Norton. Do not use Microsoft Edge, instead use Firefox or Chrome or another secure browser. I tend to setup

my firewalls to block all traffic from countries like China, Russia, and former Soviet bloc countries. Be very wary of your email, use secure email. A lot of advice is available online about how to harden the security of Windows. I suggest you look it up, read it, and follow it.

Option three: recognizes that there are third party companies that will step up and offer subscriptions to non-Microsoft update services that will attempt to protect and patch the Microsoft software and enhance your security without Microsoft's help. I have seen a couple of companies that are beginning to offer these services, but I have no current information on their costs or effectiveness.

Option four: replace Windows 10 on your older computer with the Linux operating system. Many of my older computers have been running Linux for years. I prefer Ubuntu Mate, but I have used several variants of Linux depending on the age of the computer. All of the software I use is available in one form or another on Linux including Office Software, music

TECH SENSE
continues on page 14

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Calendar of Events

PGCGS & LIBRARY

Holiday closure: The library will be closed on Wed., Jan. 1, 2025.
Address: 12219 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, MD 20715. Regular hours of operation: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays (except 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month) and on Saturdays by appointment. PGCGS stands for the Prince George's Co. Genealogical Society.
For more information, see www.pgcs.org, send an e-mail to library@pgcs.org, or call 301.262.2063 on most Wednesdays. Non-members may request an invitation to attend monthly meetings by e-mailing president@pgcs.org.

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Some events may have special hours of operation. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating to the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport.

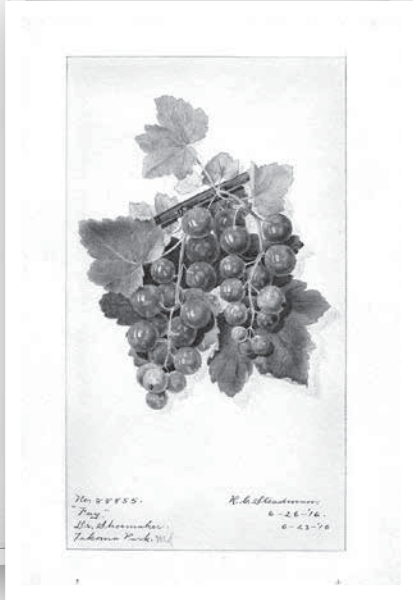
AFTERNOON AVIATORS

Sat., Jan. 25 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Explore a variety of STEM and aviation-themed sciences with a short lesson and activity. Ideal for learners ages 8 – 12, but open to all ages. This month, to celebrate Black History Month, join us as we celebrate John Greene and his quest to make flying accessible to all Americans! As the founder of the first African American Civil Air Patrol squadron in the area, Greene worked with a local Black aviator group called Cloud Club to open their own airfield right here in Prince George's County. Now it's your turn to follow in their footsteps. Design a clubhouse for your own flying group, as well as a plane to fly there! Cost: Free with paid admission.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. All dogs must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. There are five miles of walking trails. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds in January are: open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Closed all day on federal holidays and may close early the day before.* Please check for updates and more events at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE Contact the Visitor Center for



The USDA Pomological Watercolor Collection is online. View them at <https://archivesspace.nal.usda.gov/repositories/4/resources/651>

updates and late changes. Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. During January, the Visitor Center is open Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and federal holidays (*and the building may close early the day before a federal holiday*). The bookstore is open Wed. – Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WINTER FILM SERIES: WHOOPING CRANE RECOVERY EFFORTS
Special hours: Fri., Jan 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free event; open to the public. No registration needed. In addition to a free film screening, two volunteers from the former Whooping Crane program will join us to speak about the important research conducted at the Patuxent Research Refuge. One of North America's most unique birds, the Whooping Crane nearly became extinct with only 50 birds alive in 1967. Today there is a population of well over 500 Whoopers in the wild.

GAME DAYS: WINGSPAN
Two dates: Fri., Jan. 10 and Sat., Jan 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. No experience needed. Come play the award-winning board game; learn more about birds! Games provided; personal sets welcome. Registrants, please sign in at the Front Desk. **Registration required;** call 301.497.5772.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY
The featured artist for January will be painter and textile designer Alexander Winch. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.
• **Special Reception: Sat., Jan. 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Born and raised in Baltimore, MD to Canadian and Greek parents, Alexander Winch has made art depicting scenes of nature since he was a child. A big fan

of the dioramas and wildlife art shows at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Alexander graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2017 with a BFA in Painting. Education did not stop there! Alex got his Masters of Science in Textile Design from Jefferson University in Philadelphia in 2023.

FAMILY FUN
Regular hours of operation Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for drop-in/independent exploration. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER
The regular hours of operation are Wed. – Sat. at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. Ages 3 – 10, with adult. **Registration is strongly recommended; call 301.497.5760 and leave a message for Barrie for this program only.** The program provides crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration, and a free booklet. Group arrangements are possible.
• **January's theme is Raccoons & Skunks.** Do you like to fish? So do raccoons and skunks! Curious? Come explore with us!

LAUREL–BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, around the corner from the University of Maryland Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387. Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)
Wed., Jan. 8 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be our annual Holiday Party. We will have a short business

meeting—including installation of our 2025 Officers—followed by a speaker from the Laurel Library. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

- **Please note:** Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.
- **Save the Date:** Our Wed., Feb. 12 meeting will be a presentation by Eric Henning about avoiding financial scams.
- **No Monthly luncheons in January and February:** Due to potential meeting cancellation for inclement winter weather, no lunch will be served after our meetings in January and February.
- **Inclement weather policy:** Our meetings and Bingo follow the P.G. Co. school policies. If the schools are delayed by 2 hours or are closed, then we will not have meetings or Bingo on those days.

NARFE LAUREL CHAPTER 422
Wed., Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will have a guest speaker: Virginia Frazier, founder and CEO of Sankofa Financial Group LLC. She will tell us what we need to know before preparing our 2024 taxes. For more information, contact Pat at 240.762.3895..

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)
Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get *MyPlate* nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free

Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.
• **The USDA Pomological Watercolor Collection is online!** View and download pomegranates, watermelons, nuts, and additional fruits featured in more than 7,000 historical watercolor paintings. The collection spans the years 1886 to 1942. See <https://archivesspace.nal.usda.gov/repositories/4/resources/651>

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB
Thur., Jan. 16 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2025—Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information. *Our inclement weather policy: If P.G. schools open late or are closed, we DO NOT meet.*

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS
Upcoming Closures: Tue. and Wed., Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. *Please note: We will have a programming hiatus until Fri., Jan. 3, 2025.* Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; **closed on most major holidays.** Contact the library for updates. See www.pgcmlls.info/location/Beltsville for online services.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Please note: We will have a programming hiatus until Fri., Jan. 3, 2025.

READY 2 READ STORYTIME
Please note: We will have a programming hiatus until Fri., Jan. 3, 2025. Mondays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

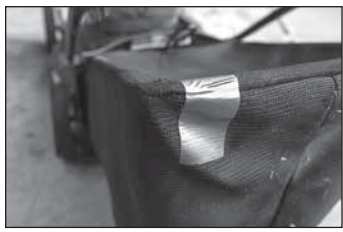
SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME
Please note: We will have a programming hiatus until Fri., Jan. 3, 2025. Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB
Please note: We will have a programming hiatus until Fri., Jan. 3, 2025. Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Homework help and reading practice for students in grades 1 through 6.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
BEGINNER'S ENGLISH CLASS
This program will resume in March 2025. Stay tuned for more information! Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This class is for Beginner level English language learners ready to learn in person.

Outdoor Repairs with Heavy-Duty Duct Tape

(StatePoint) With fall here, it's time to prepare yards and outdoor gear for the cooler months. While many think of duct tape as a quick fix for indoor projects, it might come as a surprise just how versatile and effective heavy-duty duct tape can be for upkeep outside.



Tool Tune-Up

Shovels, rakes and lawnmowers are key for prepping and maintaining the yard. These tools may show signs of wear and tear after enduring heavy use all summer. Use durable duct tape to make any necessary fixes to ripped lawn mower bags or a peeling rake grip, so they'll hold up under the stresses of fall yard work and help you get the job done without interruption.

Sturdy and Safe Outdoor Furniture

Summer storms and heavy winds might have damaged exterior furniture and décor. But broken tables and chairs can become a hazard if left in poor shape. Before hosting a bonfire or other backyard gathering, assess the condition of your patio furniture.

If quick, sturdy fixes are needed, Duck Max Strength Duct Tape is an excellent choice, whether for mending a cracked chair arm or tears in an

umbrella or canopy. The tape offers the ideal balance between being easy to tear and tough enough to make long-lasting repairs. The strong adhesion and holding power ensure furniture stays functional and safe for guests.

Patch Camping Gear

Camping trips over long summer weekends may have caused equipment to deteriorate. Before securing tents and canoes in the garage or shed for winter, assess them for rips, cracks or holes. If any are found, patch them with heavy-duty duct tape so they're ready for use next year. This easy solution will hold up against the elements and allow you to stay dry, warm and safe during your next adventure.

For more ways to use duct tape visit <https://www.duck-brand.com/>. From fixing yard tools to patching up camping gear, duct tape is an essential item in any shed, garage or toolbox this fall.

Club News

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville Christmas Gift Program 2024

The gifts are packaged, and the stockings are stuffed, waiting for Santa to pick them up! We could not do this without the Generosity of Residents, Businesses, our Religious Communities, and other Non-Profit organizations! Santa's Elves were working late into the night of the Beltsville News deadline. A complete list of our supporters will appear in the February Beltsville News as well as on our Women's Community Club of Beltsville Facebook page.

We Wish the Entire Greater Beltsville a Happy New Year!!!



Gifts and Stockings are ready for pickup thanks to the efforts of the Women's Community Club of Beltsville!

Beltsville Young at Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

By the time you read this, our Dec. 19, 2024, meeting will be over. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves this past year and are looking forward to the new one.

Although many members thought they would be away for the meeting, I'm sure everyone enjoyed the Christmas songs, refreshments, and gift trading.

Our January 19, 2025, meeting will be at the usual time (10:30 am) and usual place (Beltsville Community Center). I hope some new folks will

brave the cold and come to hear Johnny Season sing to us. Johnny is a Beltsville "boy" with a great voice and a love for his community. He's always a joy to listen to. The Refreshments, 50/50 and Ways & Means table will be open, but we have lost our travel coordinator. She's retiring after 11 years but will still be around for advice to give another volunteer advice and help with setting up trips. No trips will be scheduled in January and February due to the possible bad weather. But Mr.

Gunther (and his bus company) usually has great suggestions for us to consider. If you'd like the job, give me a call.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

"Dear Christmas tree, here we are keeping each other company, in the dark, on the night when once upon a time a holy star did shine." Robert Holden

Call me as needed at 301-498-9736. I love to talk to people (except scammers). Shalom, Lois Hamilton

How to Simplify Morning Routines and Make Sure Families Eat Breakfast

(StatePoint) With school-year routines in full gear, one element of the morning rush remains crucial: ensuring children (and their parents!) are fueled for the day ahead.

Numerous studies have shown the benefits of a balanced breakfast, from improved academic performance and cognitive function to better mood and energy levels throughout the day. Yet, according to the National Institutes of Health, nearly 25% of Americans skip this vital meal. Experts say that finding the time for breakfast has big pay-offs.

"Whether you're a busy parent or a student headed back to the classroom, your morning meal does not have to be overly-complicated or elaborate," said integrative registered dietitian and gut health nutritionist, Dahlia Marin of Married to Heath. "Starting the day with a variety of colors, high fiber carbohydrates, protein and healthy fats will feed your inner-ecosystem of gut bugs, resulting in stabilized blood sugar levels, sustained energy, and mental clarity rather than a brain, body and gut scattering to constantly find their next short-lived energy fix."



Because of tight schedules, many families seeking breakfast options understandably end up turning to packaged products or skip the meal altogether. While convenience can help families adhere to a breakfast routine, it's important to be mindful that the nutritional value of these items found in the supermarket can vary tremendously. Avoiding ultra-processed foods, which play a role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and heart disease, is a great start. This is where brands like Amy's Kitchen stand out: as the leading organic frozen food company, Amy's is revolutionizing the breakfast game with its new line of innovative, delicious frozen

BREAKFAST
continues on page 14

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WISHING YOU A NEW YEAR BLESSED WITH
PEACE, HOPE, AND HAPPINESS!

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

TECH SENSE
continued from page 11

and video players, games, email, and web browsers. The operating systems and most of the software is both free and open source.

Option five: replace Windows 10 with Google's ChromeOS Flex. Flex is a variant of ChromeOS designed to extend the useful life of older computers. Use it to replace Windows providing the feature of ChromeOS on the windows platform.

What will I do?

Now you have nine and a half months to prepare for the end of Windows 10. You may be interested in my plans. I have already replaced two laptops with Windows 11 laptops and will replace one desktop early in 2025. I have two desktops running Windows 10 on a separate secure network with very limited Internet access. These will continue until a project I am doing is completed. These have no at-risk data to protect. Linux will replace all other Windows 10 systems, and I may replace one with ChromeOS Flex for use as a guest PC for visitors.

Happy New Year

I am running out of space again. My windows 10 discussion was supposed to be shorter so I could make some free software suggestions and remind everyone of end of year technology chores. We will also discuss privacy and ad blocking. Now you know what's coming in the next months. Happy New Year!

BREAKFAST

continued from page 13

breakfast offerings. By swapping traditional eggs for their signature house-made organic tofu, Amy's has created a collection of morning classics that cater to a variety of dietary lifestyles and restrictions.

According to WISEcode data, after scoring 100 frozen breakfast foods from more than 20 household brands, more than 40% were categorized as Super Ultra Processed Foods. The good news? Better-for-you options are available. In fact, three of Amy's Kitchen products topped the list as some of the best frozen breakfast options in terms of processing: the Tofu Scramble, the California Scramble and the Mexican Scramble—aligning with the brand's emphasis on simplicity and fewer processed ingredients.

As families navigate busy weekday mornings, the convenience and delicious taste of Amy's Kitchen's frozen breakfast options provide a much-needed solution to the morning rush. By delivering protein-rich breakfast favorites that can be easily prepared to eat at home or on-the-go, parents and students will be empowered to start their day off right, fueled and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead. To learn more, visit <https://amys.com>.



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Sunday Morning Hybrid Worship 10 AM
Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned
Zoom details can be found on our website
You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Upcoming Events
Free Food Distribution Sat, Jan 25 from 8:00 am-11:00 am

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
May The New Year usher in a new season of favor and unprecedented blessings over you and your family. May the Lord order your steps and straighten your paths. Amen



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Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am
*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

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The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

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To view services online:
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources

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Sundays:

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Children's Church (4yr -4th gr)	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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 **Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News**

How has this year been for you? Welcome to December. I have enjoyed seeing all the lights on people's homes, business places and more. Folk have been very creative in their effort to decorate. I wish I had the talent to be as creative as some of these folks. So, what special traditions do you have? I admire those who still go out to buy greeting cards and mail them out.

One tradition that I tried to introduce in the development where I live is this. We did it three years ago. I had parents drop off gifts for their children by a set date. (I had a few other residents assist me). We had to create a delivery route for the gifts, based on the families that were participating. On Christmas Day that year, we had somebody dressed as Santa Claus, and he was ably assisted by two elves. Our chosen mode of transportation was a golf cart, blasting Christmas music. It was quite a site as we went from house to house. The children at their respective homes were very excited. Imagine hearing the doorbell ring, the child is told to open the door and then there in plain view was Santa Claus with a gift addressed to the child.

The children had a lot of questions for Santa — "How did you

get to my house?" "How did you know what I wanted?" ...etc. Santa had to be spontaneous with his responses. Oh, the children loved it, the parents loved it and even grandma and grandpa loved it too.

Sadly, I was unable to repeat this, as the housing development has grown, and the core of my help crew was not available this year. I have mentioned this to you. Possibly some of you can organize something similar next year for your streets in Beltsville.

Some go back to traditions — some bake cakes as gifts, some go caroling and others do things for the less privileged. Whatever it is, please try to spread some good cheer at Christmas, into the new year and beyond.

What do you do with receipts when you shop? Do you throw them in the trash, or do you keep them and try your hand at the surveys/sweepstakes they advertise? I love to do them and hopefully one day will win the star prize offered.

Many years ago, I had a friend come to stay with me and my family for a brief vacation. She had come from outside the country so in the daytime, would stay in and watch television and just relax. There was a day she excitedly called me — she was bored, was

going through some recent items she purchased and apparently did the survey on a Kohl's receipt. She won \$500. These receipts are real, the prizes are real. Ever since that fateful day, I do not throw away my receipts away. I keep them and try my hand at the surveys in the hope that one day, I will win a prize. So, after I type this article, I will do my surveys for Panda Express, Dunkin Donuts and Burlington Coat Factory. They are offering free items to compensate for the time spent doing the survey. Wish me good luck. Maybe I should try my hand at the Powerball thing and see if I win. If I get the jackpot, I will come to Beltsville to celebrate — stop at Wawa to get my favorite soup, get lunch at Sardi's next door on Route 1 and then for dinner, I will go to The Jerk Pit, just outside Beltsville on Route 1, for a Jamaican dinner. After that I flew back to Dallas from Beltsville on the same private jet that I chartered. What a way to celebrate.

Back to reality — I have to end this article and email it to my Editor. So have a great Christmas and a prosperous and blessed 2025. To the Beltsville News family, peace and blessings to every one of you and your families.

ROSAPEPE

continued from page 6

3501 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro.

For more information: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/environment/waste-recycling>

The 2025 holiday schedule for curbside collection of bulky waste, regular trash and recycling, food scraps, and yard trim and be found at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/environment/waste-recycling/trash-recycling>

Snow and Ice Control: Roadways

When a snow emergency is

declared, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is responsible for providing "passable" conditions on County roads.

To learn about the County's Snow Plan and how to report cold weather-related concerns, visit bit.ly/DPWTSnowPortal.

To monitor the clearing of roadways in your neighborhood with the new PGC Snow Tracker, visit bit.ly/SnowCitizenInsight.

Senior Housing Options

Independent, assisted living, or memory care housing, can be found via the Community Positive Ageing website or by

requesting a copy of the Positive Aging Sourcebook at positiveagingsourcebook.com or 1-800-394-9989 for the latest edition. This free resource can help you consider options for aging in place, moving to new housing, downsizing, and more.

Contact me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if I can be of help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 410-841-3141.

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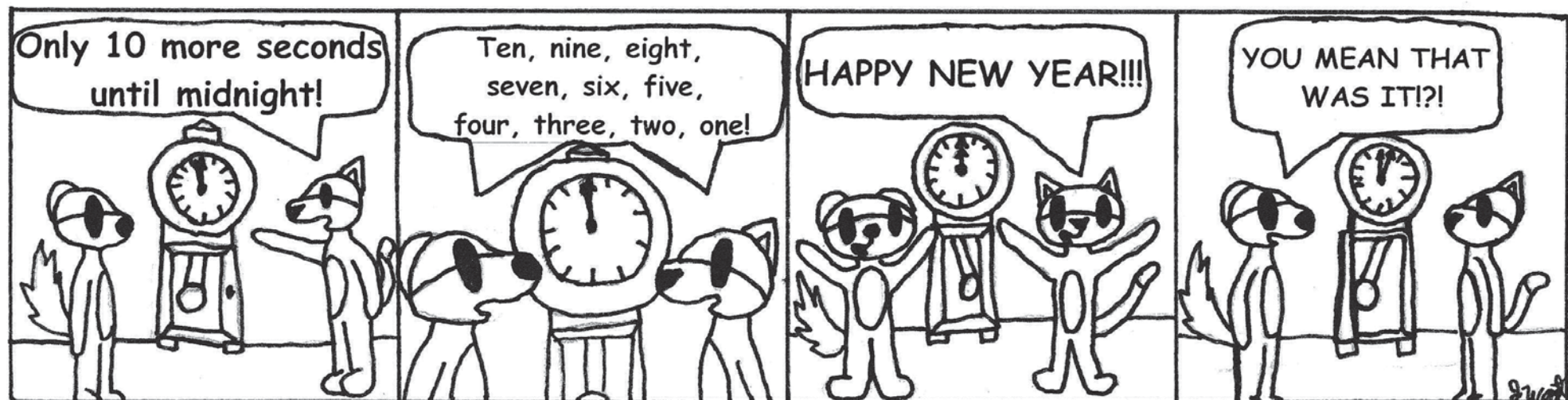
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College Park, MD 20740

Contact Gary Kingery

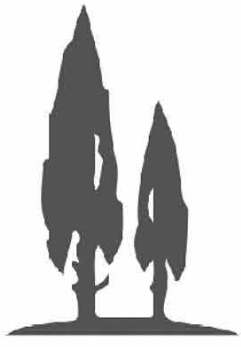
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