

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 72, Number 10

Beltsville, Maryland

October 2024

Cub Pack 1031 Ready to Go for a New Year!!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 ended the summer with a Raingutter Regatta and are ready to welcome new scouts at our second Join Scouting event on September 30! We will have games, competitions, nature, make a flag to take home and lots of fun. We have new opportunities for families to apply for financial help from the local area council.

We are so proud that all of our active scouts earned their rank this past year. And eight scouts earned their summertime activity pin!! Other scouts had a great summer traveling!

This year we begin an updated revised program and look forward to exploring it. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature and do community service. We also do biking and hiking outdoors.

If you are interested in Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the



Wolf, Tiger and Lion scouts racing their Raingutter regatta boats. with pool noodle boats, standard rain gutter boats and homemade boats. The fans made for fast races.

school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer we meet twice a month in the parks.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

October 23

Paper Out:

November 1

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen Coakley

Fire and Ambulance response times and staffing are still up in the air! As you are aware, the Fire Chief has cut staffing at several Fire Stations! Residents, Business Owners, and Employees in Beltsville, Calverton, Vansville, Laurel, College Park, Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, stand up and be heard because your lives, homes and businesses are at risk!

On July 1st Fire Chief Green pulled County Fire and EMT from stations along the Route 1 and Maryland 201 corridor. Bunker Hill and Berwyn Heights lost All of their County Fire and EMT. Greenbelt will only have EMT (Ambulance) 11 am - 11 pm. Since then, there have been 3 Fully Staffed stations from College Park to Laurel. The staffing shift was supposed to deal with mandatory overtime and place staff in "higher demand areas" during the summer months when people are on vacation. The staffing issues are "supposed to be reevaluated around the beginning of October 2024. On September 11th, 2024, the

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 13



The cast of UpStage Artists The Mousetrap (l-r) Christopher Farrar as Giles Ralston, Ayika Tshimanga as Molly Ralston, James-Curtis Bowers as Christopher Wren, KMG Bey Abdelrahimel as Mrs. Boyle, Peter Rouleau as Major Metcalf, Sofia Sandoval as Miss Casewell, Marc Rehr as Mr. Paravacini, and Zach Coates as Det. Sgt. Trotter.

UpStage Artists Announces Its Cast for Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap!

By Rick Bergmann

Are you ready for a good, old-fashioned whodunit? UpStage Artists is excited to announce its cast for classic mystery, The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie, opening November 1 at 7:30 pm. The cast is made up of diverse actors from all over the region, including some right here in Beltsville. The cast includes Christopher Farrar as Giles Ralston, Ayika Tshimanga as Molly Ralston, James-Curtis Bowers as Christopher Wren,

KMG Bey Abdelrahimel as Mrs. Boyle, Peter Rouleau as Major Metcalf, Sofia Sandoval as Miss Casewell, Marc Rehr as Mr. Paravacini, and Zach Coates as Det. Sgt. Trotter.

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap is the world's longest running play. After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm. It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasing-

ly suspicious of one another. A police detective, arriving on skis, interrogates the suspects: the newlyweds running the house; a spinster with a curious background; an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef; a retired Army major; a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift; and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone. When a second murder takes place, tensions and fears escalate. This record-breaking murder mystery features a

brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

Join UpStage Artists for this fun and mysterious show. All shows are performed at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Show dates are November 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30 pm and November 3 and 10 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are just \$10.00 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com/tickets.

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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of October 1999)

High Point SAT Scores Show Highest Gain in County

By Barbara Hughes

Great news arrived at High Point for the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year. High Point had the highest gain in SAT scores for the twenty high schools in Prince George's County. SAT scores rose 38 points over 1998 scores.

ATF Plans to Construct a Fire Research Laboratory in Beltsville

A 35.1-acre site south of the intersection of Ammendale and Virginia Manor Roads is the likely site for a fire research laboratory. According to William Straton, the Project Director for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency, construction is likely

to begin in January or February 2000, with anticipated completion in late summer 2001.

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church - 40 Years in Beltsville

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church will celebrate its 40th year serving the people of the greater Beltsville area on Oct. 31.

Women's Community Club Celebrates 77th Birthday

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville will celebrate its 77th birthday at its next meeting, Monday, October 11 at 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be George Sumi, service manager at Behnke Nurseries. He will discuss the effects of the summer's drought.

Boost Our Local Schools

By Jennifer Murray

You might be wondering how you can help our kids this school year. How about donating to our local schools? There is an easy way to check and see what our teachers and students might need by using the website DonorsChoose.com.

You can search by city and subject. For example, Beltsville Academy has 2 projects open, and High Point High School has 5.

These projects range from the arts to athletics.

At the time of this writing, at High Point High School, Mr. Robles has a project up for headgear for the wrestling program. Ms. Joyner wants to get her musicians organized. And Ms. Niner is going to do an Owl Pellet Dissection Lab!

At Beltsville Academy, Ms. Striegel has a student-hosted gallery project in mind for her middle

schoolers and the orchestra needs a violin.

There are more projects at more schools. When you make an account, DonorsChoose will track your donations and create a tax receipt you can download or print.

Go to www.donorschoose.com and then click "Find a classroom to support."

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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strength fails
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Protection that prevails.
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For evil cannot stand
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But, shrinks from righteous man.

Rejoice, therefore if you
know Christ
In Him there is true Peace,
Though many try to steal your life
His Grasp will never cease.

"The righteous man will be
glad in the LORD
and will take refuge in Him."
Psalm 64:10

Beckie Hutchings
9/12/2024

Keeping Your Pets Safe on Halloween

Although this column is listed as a "Kitty Post", this article is important for families with cats AND/OR dogs

Halloween is a night of fun for many kids (and kids at heart). Here are a few things to think about in order to keep your pets safe.

1. Make sure that all indoor/outdoor cats spend the night inside. They might not be happy but they will be safe.



2. Keep the treats out of reach of even the most determined dog or cat. Consider a cabinet or pantry rather than just a high shelf. A determined cat or dog can get to just about anything that smells good! While all of the sugar can give a child a stomach ache or cavities down the road, it can cause serious issues for cats and dogs. Chocolate, especially dark chocolate, can cause very serious problems for pets. Caffeine and Theobromine are stimulants and can impact the nervous system and heart. Anything that is sugar free that contains xylitol can be toxic to dogs. Even small amounts of this can cause seizures, liver failure, and/or death.

3. Halloween brings a lot of

activity at the front door. The regularly ringing doorbell and opening and closing the door can cause stress to our pets. It can also provide an opportunity for them to run out the door. People in costumes can also be confusing and frightening to our pets. The best way to keep our pets safe is to secure them in a room away from the front door. If a dog is used to a crate, this is a secure and familiar place for them to spend the evening. Putting a radio or TV on in the room where they are going to be housed can also block out some of the sounds.

4. If your dog needs to go outside during "trick or treat" hours, walk them on a leash in your backyard even if it is completely fenced and make sure that he/she wears their flat collar with ID tag.

5. If you want to dress your pet up

for Halloween, please be sensitive to how your pet reacts. While we might think it cute, many dogs and cats can be stressed out by clothes. Any clothing/costume must not limit his/her ability to breath, see, or move. In addition, be on the lookout for any small pieces that might become choking hazards. Constantly monitor costumes on your pet the same way that you would on a small child.

Halloween can be an evening/season of fun for everyone as long as we do a little preparation to keep our pets safe.

Finally, don't forget about our upcoming Event: Beltsville Community Cats and the EUMC Women of Faith are hosting a INDOOR Yard Sale on Saturday, October 19th (10 am to 2 pm) at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (EUMC), 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Park behind the church.

Concerns About Borgwardt's Expanding to include a Crematorium

By Rick Bergmann

It has been brought to our attention that several residents in Beltsville received the following letter earlier this summer from lawyers representing Borgwardt's Funeral Home and were concerned:

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise that I represent Borgwardt Funeral Home, P.A., which has been located at the above address [4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD] since initially receiving approval of a "Special Exception" granted by Prince George's County Council in 1982.

In recent years, the Funeral Home began receiving requests for a crematorium, and, at the present time, approximately half of its clients have requested cremation for the deceased period to more efficiently provide

this service, we are preparing a request to add an additional parcel to its operation as shown on the attached site plan and architectural rendering. We hope to meet with the civic associations in the immediate area prior to processing and filing this application to make a presentation and respond to any questions or concerns.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns or would like more information regarding this matter, please contact me at your convenience, and I would be happy to respond.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,
Russell W. Shipley

BORGWARDT
continues on page 15



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HVAC Maintenance

**By Andre Gibson,
Champion Home Improvements**

Happy Fall everyone. I was lucky to enjoy a vacation to a Tropical Island this summer. I unfortunately returned to a broken HVAC unit and a broken refrigerator. Not good news with DC area temperatures above 95 degrees. This leads me to the importance of HVAC Maintenance: Keeping Your System Efficient and Reliable

As the seasons change, so does our reliance on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. While these systems are designed to be robust and long-lasting, they require regular maintenance to operate efficiently and to extend their lifespan. Here's why HVAC maintenance is crucial and what you can do to keep your system in top shape.

Why HVAC Maintenance Matters

Improves Efficiency: Regular maintenance ensures that your HVAC system operates at peak efficiency. Clean filters, coils, and well-lubricated components reduce the strain on your system, leading to lower energy consumption. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, maintaining your HVAC system can result in a 5% to 15% reduction in energy use.

Extends Lifespan: Just like any



other mechanical system, HVAC systems have a finite lifespan. Regular maintenance helps prevent issues that could lead to premature system failure. By addressing minor problems early, you can avoid costly repairs or replacements.

Enhances Air Quality: A well-maintained HVAC system helps ensure that the air circulating in your home is clean and free from contaminants. Regularly changing air filters and cleaning ducts can reduce allergens, dust, and other pollutants, improving indoor air quality.

Prevents Costly Repairs: Routine maintenance can help identify potential issues before they become major problems. For example, a technician might spot a worn-out component or a refrigerant leak that could lead to more

significant damage if left unattended. Addressing these issues early can save you money on repairs.

Maintains Warranty Coverage: Many HVAC manufacturers require regular maintenance as part of their warranty agreements. Failure to adhere to these maintenance requirements could void your warranty, leaving you responsible for repair costs that might otherwise be covered.

Essential HVAC Maintenance Tasks

Change Air Filters: Air filters should be checked and replaced every 1 to 3 months, depending on usage and the type of filter. Clogged filters restrict airflow, reducing system efficiency and indoor air quality.

Clean Coils and Condensate Drains: Both the evaporator and condenser coils should be cleaned annually. Dirty coils can decrease efficiency and cause the system to overheat. Additionally, check and clean the condensate drain to prevent water damage and mold growth.

Inspect Ductwork: Over time, ductwork can develop leaks or become obstructed with dust and debris. Inspection and cleaning of the ducts can improve airflow and system efficiency.

Check Refrigerant Levels: Low refrigerant levels can affect cooling performance and lead to compressor damage. A professional technician can check refrigerant levels and recharge them if necessary.

Examine Thermostat: Ensure your thermostat is functioning correctly and is calibrated accurately. An improperly calibrated thermostat can lead to temperature inconsistencies and increased energy bills.

Inspect Electrical Components: HVAC systems have various electrical components, including connections, relays, and capacitors. Regular inspections help ensure these components are in good working order and can prevent potential electrical issues.

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BELTS24

ASK THE EXPERT
continues on page 14

Neighbors in the News

3 Tips to Help Kids Stay on Top of Their Homework

(StatePoint) When a new school year begins, most teachers don't wait long before they begin scheduling tests, and assigning loads of homework and reading assignments. Here are three tips for helping kids stay on top of all their coursework:



(c) Photodjo / iStock via Getty Images Plus

1. Focus on organization: One of the most valuable life skills a student can develop while in school is time management. Teach kids how to prioritize assignments with upcoming deadlines and those which are easy to knock off their to-do list. Encourage them to find an organizational tool, such as an academic planner or calendar, that works for them. Depending on their preferences and learning style, they may prefer to use app-based tools. The important thing is that they always know what is on their to-do list and when it must be completed by. If they are struggling, help them chunk their afternoon into segments so that they budget enough time for each of their tasks.

2. Equip them with high-quality math tools: Math can be a frustrating subject for many students. To make learning simpler, equip them with tools that are incredibly easy to use. With Natural Textbook Display and an intuitive icon menu, the fx-9750GIII graphing calcula-

tor from Casio is a solid, affordable choice for quickly grasping new mathematical concepts. And because it features nearly 3,000 functions, including graph plotting, probability distribution, vector arithmetic and spreadsheets, students at all levels will find it an invaluable tool, particularly during test-taking season, as its exam mode makes it approved for the SAT, PSAT, ACT and AP tests. The fx-9750GIII is also capable of programming in CASIO Basic and MicroPython, and Python files are easily stored and transferred via USB to a computer.

3. Set boundaries: As a parent, it's essential that you support your child in their academic pursuits,

however being too hands-on during homework time could lead them to rely on you to provide them with answers, not guidance. While this approach may mean they turn their assignments in on time, if they aren't absorbing the material themselves they could quickly fall behind in the classroom. Set clear boundaries about what your after-school role will be and stick to it. You can also foster your child's independence and confidence by helping them differentiate between reliable educational resources and misinformation.

With the right tools and habits, students can keep up with their assignments and make the most of their study time.

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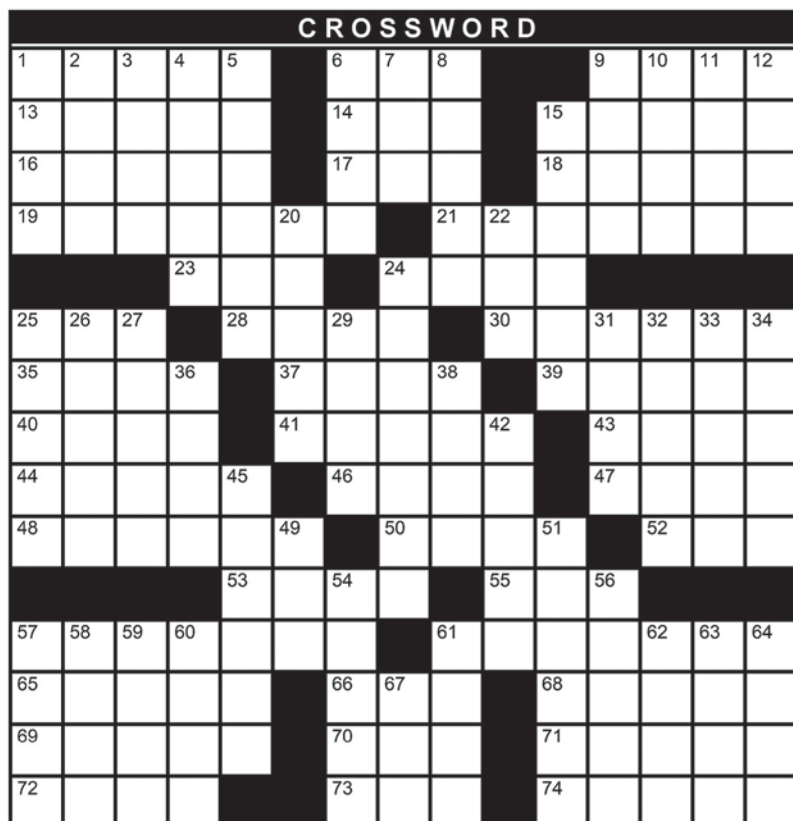
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Statepoint Crossword: NBA



ACROSS

1. Port city in Japan
6. *Team ride
9. Nordic native
13. Equipped with feathers
14. Cigarette deposit
15. *Arena, e.g.
16. Not odds
17. Hawaiian welcome wreath
18. Bone hollows
19. *NBA headquarters location
21. *Bill ____ NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award
23. "Roses ____ red ..."
24. *NBA centers typically have long ones
25. Tarzan the ____ Man
28. Cry like a baby
30. 3.26 light-years
35. "Off The Wall" shoe
37. Living quarters
39. Shop ____ slogan
40. "I'm ____ you!"
41. Got some shuteye
43. Comme ci, comme ça
44. Brandish
46. Ski hill ride
47. Contractor's work order
48. *Basketball blocking move
50. Swedish shag rugs
52. Member of a "benevolent and protective order"

53. Kind of cola
55. Thrice-repeated dance step
57. *Power ____ position
61. *NBA team with most championships
65. Deprive of armor
66. Genetic acronym
68. Plural of ostium
69. Junk yard stuff
70. Geisha's sash
71. *Nickname for 61 Across
72. Ooze
73. *NBA Sixth ____ of the Year Award
74. Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

DOWN

1. Bun baker
2. "____ me a seat"
3. From square one
4. Tanzania's northern neighbor
5. Not absorb, nor repel
6. Refuse to comply
7. Wear and tear
8. Bake an egg
9. Sunglasses "glass"
10. Cassino chip
11. Not knit
12. Church sound
15. Lord's subordinate
20. Good____, book lovers' app
22. Strike caller

24. High school math class
25. Declares to be true
26. Sweat-inducing attack
27. Come in!
29. *The Stilt's first name
31. David Schwimmer on "Friends"
32. Breadth
33. Art support
34. *Shot ____, NBA count-down timer
36. Cobbler's concern
38. Fix a dog
42. Vanish without this?
45. Abscond
49. Conjunction that joins alternatives and negatives
51. Inferior goods
54. Read-only disc
56. Away from port
57. Much ado
58. One time
59. Like pink steak
60. Sandwich alternative
61. Abel's big brother
62. It will
63. Give a ticket
64. Fresh talk
67. *Commissioned by Adam Silver

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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A	O	R	T	A		W	E	I		T	I	N	E	A
D	O	N	O	R		I	N	S		O	A	T	E	N
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		L	A	P		L	O	S	E					
B	A	N		S	I	L	O		P	R	E	F	A	B
E	R	O	S		C	I	G	S		S	T	A	R	R
A	G	R	A		S	M	I	T	H		A	R	E	A
R	U	I	N	G		N	C	A	A		L	E	N	D
S	E	A	S	O	N		A	B	I	T		D	A	Y
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P	L	A	Y	E	R	S		C	A	N	T	O	N	
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C	R	O	W	S		I	R	E		A	D	D	T	O
K	E	G	S		C	A	W		N	E	S	T	S	

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Senator Jim Rosapepe Connects with US Secretary of Agriculture at Democratic National Convention

I was glad to meet US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He's been a champion of rural America, organic agriculture, and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center right here in District 21, where there are more PhD farmers than anywhere else in America!



Senator Rosapepe with US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago

Beltsville Volunteer Fire Dept. Open House is Set for Oct. 5

On Saturday, October 5, from 12 to 4 p.m., the volunteer fire department in Beltsville will host its annual open house at 4911 Prince George's Avenue. This community event is free and offers fun for the entire family. Meet your volunteer firefighters and learn how the volunteer fire department operates. There will be free food, local vendors, face painting, a bounce house and more.

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 Xiomara Garcia, who will attend the University of Maryland Global Campus and major in Management of Information Systems and Services.

MD Health Department's community clinics offer free flu shots

Protect yourself and your family from the flu this season. The Health Department's community clinics are open to All county residents. No appointments required. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Injectable flu vaccine will be available to anyone age 6 months and older at Cheverly Health Center: Prince George's County Health Department 3003 Hospital Drive, Room 2114, Cheverly, MD

20785. Open Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm.

Food Assistance in Beltsville

If you are facing food insecurity, please see the list below of food assistance programs in Beltsville. Each program is available to you.

Lifehouse Church for their Drive-Thru Food Pantry

Location: 12304 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705
When: 2nd & 4th Mondays
Time: 2 PM-6 PM
 More information: <https://mylife-house.church/>

Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC)

Location: 4200 Ammendale Road (Beltsville parking lot of Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist Church)
Dates: Every fourth Friday
Times: 10 AM-12:30 PM (while supplies last)
 More information: <https://baccmd.org/services>



Beltsville Student Xiomora Garcia was awarded a scholarship from District 21 and will attend the University of Maryland Global Campus and major in Management of Information Systems and Services.

The Kingdom Fellowship Church, in partnership with Councilmember Tom Dernoga's office

Location: 11710 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville
Dates: Every Saturday
Times: Starts 9AM until all items have been given away
 More information: <https://kingdom.global/>

Lifehouse Ministries International Bread of Life Drive-thru Distribution Pantry

Location: 10727 Tucker Street, Beltsville
Dates: Every Saturday
Times: 10 AM-1 PM
 More information: <https://www.lhmiinc.org/bold>

Emmanuel Foodbank: Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Location: 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville
Dates: 4th Saturday of every month
Times: 8 - 11 AM.
 More information: <https://www.eumcbeltsville.com/>

Maryland Dept. of Aging invites your feedback on the state's multisector plan for aging

The Maryland Department of Aging is working to ensure that all older adults lead healthy, financially secure, socially connected, and purposeful lives. To that end, our state is developing a multisector plan for aging, Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM), a blueprint for government, private, and nonprofit sectors to positively transform norms, systems, programs, and services to build a thriving aging society and invite you to be part of the process. They are providing opportunities to attend live streams or watch recorded videos of the LRM workgroup meetings. They also invite you to participate in the January 2025 public comment period through online and in-person Town Hall meetings. For more information on meetings, LRM planning efforts, and to participate in the comment period, go to <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/lrmplanning.aspx>

Contact the team

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

Share Your News!

Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editor@beltsvillenewstoday.co

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Beltsville Trunk-or-Treat

Join the Council Member and the District 1 Team for an amazing event featuring complimentary candy and a free movie for the whole family! Beltsville Trunk-or-Treat will be on **Monday, October 28** from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** at **Beltsville Police Station**. It's guaranteed to be a fun-filled experience. Donations of candy would be greatly appreciated and may be dropped off at the **Beltsville Police Station 4321 Sellman Rd.**



(Left to Right) Council Member Tom Dernoga and Chief of Staff Michelle Garcia dressed as The Wizard of Oz and Dorothy Gale, at the 2023 Beltsville Trunk-or-Treat.

Grow Green in Pride Community Clean-Up

Prince George's County will host a Countywide community cleanup program entitled "Growing Green With Pride" on **Saturday, October 19**, from **8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. This event supports our Beautification Initiative to make our community cleaner by conducting individual community litter collection events. Join our commitment to keeping our communities appealing and attractive and our environment safe and healthy. Read more about the event and how to register: <https://bit.ly/3TBG1JM>.

To organize a cleanup in your neighborhood as a part of this program, sign up by **Friday, October 11**. Your group will receive gloves, trash bags, litter grabbers, and safety vests. Please leave your filled trash bags along the curbside of the roadways you identify to be cleaned, and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will pick up the trash bags.

Compost Your Fall Leaves! What You Should and Should Not Compost

Now that fall is here, keep in mind that Prince George's County residents can compost their natural materials like food scraps, yard trims, used paper, and cupboards to create an organic soil supplement. Please read the list below which identifies which items you should and should not include in the Prince George's County composting bin. The composting program is free to eligible residents who use curbside County-collected trash and recycling pickup. The designated pickup day is **Monday** in Beltsville.

Compostable items include: fruits and vegetables-any kind and don't need to be organic; dairy

products, bread, pasta, grains; seafood and shellfish; eggs and egg shells; kitchen paper towels and paper napkins; coffee grounds and paper coffee filters; uncoated, non-waxy compostable paper plates; newspaper, including food-soiled newspaper; tea bags and loose tea; meat, including bones; pizza boxes- clean or greasy, loose and bagged grass bagged in paper bags; loose and bagged leaves bagged in paper bags; garden plant clippings; green woody waste; tree limbs and brush (these must be tied in bundles and placed next to the wheeled green cart at the curb); and used or old straw and hay.

Not compostable items include: leftover cooking grease, fats, and oil; diapers, pet waster, including cat litter; plastic bags, wrappers, chip bags, or film; Styrofoam containers; plastic containers, jugs, and bottles; aluminum or steel cans, utensils, and pans; aluminum foil and disposable aluminum pans; facial or toilet tissue, oil or paint; household trash/litter; kitchen pots or pans; foil-backed or plastic-backed paper; ceramic or plastic dishes; sod, bamboo; rubble/construction trash; glass of any kind; dirt; treated lumber; electronics.

Unsuitable materials should be picked up through PGC311. You can download the mobile app through the Apple App Store and the Android Play Store on your mobile device, through the web portal accessible here: <https://bit.ly/47DX9o0>, or by dialing 311. Bulky trash should be requested for pickup through PGC311. Bulky trash is separated between general items including large boxes, bags large furniture; large appliances; and tires. Bulky trash collection is limited to ten large general items, five large appliances, and four tires per service

request. Please keep a record of your service request numbers.

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Don't miss out on 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. 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.

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Android

Android 15 will be released to Googles Pixel phones this month (October), it is has inspired me to review some of the features in newer Android phones and Google provided software which others may not be aware.

Android Updates

The newest version of Android, Android 15, starts to deploy this October to the phones that typically receive the earliest updates. Typically, these will be Googles Pixel phones (through Pixel 6 and higher) and higher end Samsung Galaxy phones. Pixel 8 and higher are supposed to get 7 years of updates, while older pixels typically get three years of OS updates and 5 years if security patches. You should check your phone to see what updates it will support.

Until Android 14 the software for most previous versions of Android were still compatible. Now software written for Android 5 and earlier no longer works due to security concerns.

Google Provided Android Applications

Android provides a number

of useful and free applications that run Android devices. These include Google Maps, Keep, Drive, and so on.

Google Maps is a navigation program designed to provide real-time navigation between locations as you drive your car. It also works when walking, riding your bike, or using mass transportation. A less well-known feature is that it will save a map for use when the phone has no wireless connection. For example, while camping is a very rural area of West Virginia, we saved the maps to navigate to our campsite. We drove for nearly 30 miles with no internet access, yet the navigation worked well the entire trip.

Google Keep is a simple tool to store notes, shopping lists, save drawings as notes, and setup with reminders for notes. It provides easy use in your browser on your computer, stays in sync with your devices using the same Google login. One feature I really enjoy is setting up grocery shopping lists and then sharing it with my wife. When one of us visits the store we can buy this things that

the other added to the list and avoid two trips to the store. Each list item gets a check mark when purchased. It is also easy to add quick reminders when to take medicines or events you don't want on the calendar. I also keep copies of important information like my car insurance card, Vaccination records, Emergency Contact information, Medicine List, and other information I may need to have handy.

Google Drive is like having an extra hard drive on your computer or phone. I often travel and I have a lot of information I like to carry with me. For example, I have over 1,100 ebooks that I like to keep with me as I travel. I keep these on Google Drive. Drive works on all my Android devices (I have a phone and multiple tablets and computers with Drive access). Last week I decided I wanted to start reading a series of books I had purchased and downloaded. As I was waiting, I added the first book of the series to my Play Books library (another Google program) and started reading it on my phone. When I returned home, I picked up

from where I left off on my desk-top computer (bigger pages and comfortable chair). That evening, I picked up my Android tablet and continued reading the book on yet another device.

Just a note, I do pay a small annual fee to use the storage on Google Drive because I have nearly a hundred Gigabytes of various files. Google typically provides 15 free Gigabytes of storage.

Google Workspaces provides an office suite of tools that work on your browser, Chrome OS devices, and on Android devices. The core functions are word processing using Google Docs, Spreadsheets using Google Sheets, and presentations using Google Slides. There are others including Gmail and Calendar, which like Keep are also independently available. I tend to use sides as an all-purpose calculator. I have created simple spreadsheets for car loan calculations, home loan calculations, and as a checkbook register. These files are all stored on Drive and easily found.

I do use Docs but normally only to outline something that I will go

back to and finish when I'm sitting at my computer.

Some Simple Tools

Android typically provides some simple and useful tools easily accessed by swiping down from the top center of the phone. These are a Flashlight, great when you need one, a "do not disturb" button that will prevent the phone from interrupting a movie or other event, an airplane mode to turn off all of the radios in the phone, and a turn location tracking off feature to make it harder for people to track your location.

Speech Recognition and Translation

Android has speech recognition built-in allowing you to speak what you want written and to read out loud whatever needs reading. To write just press the microphone icon and Google will type away as you speak. I use this almost anytime I am creating a restaurant review for example. This works well when using a headset or in a quiet environment

TECH SENSE
continues on page 13



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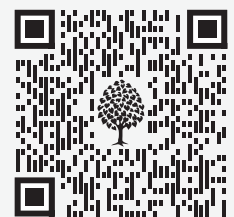
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What's Happening at Emmanuel United Methodist Church this Fall!

Emmanuel United Methodist Church (11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705) has several community events coming up this fall. Join them for these wonderful events.

On Sunday, October 6 at 10 am they will hold their annual Blessing of the Animals service. This service is for all pet owners who wish to bring their animals out to be blessed by Pastor King. The service will be

held on the hill in front of the church (if it rains, it will move inside to their fellowship hall). If you can't bring your pet, you can bring a photo of them to have them blessed. Pet blessing services are in honor of Saint Frances of Assisi who loved all of God's creatures, great and small.

On Saturday, October 19 from 10 am to 2 pm the United Women in Faith will partner with one of Emmanuel's community part-

ners, The Beltsville Community Cats, for a yard sale and adoption event. Come out and find a bargain, have some lunch and meet some of the wonderful cats and kittens the BCC has for adoption!

On Saturday, October 26 from 8 am to 11 am, Emmanuel's monthly food distribution will occur. This is for anyone who is in need of free food. Just come to the church and enter the education building on top of the

hill. No questions asked.

Finally, Emmanuel's Community Partner, UpStage Artists, presents its fall production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. This is a fantastic mystery and a great way to kick off November. Show dates are November 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30 pm and November 3 and 10 at 2 pm. Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com/tickets.

Fall Event at the First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Beltsville (4700 Odell Road Beltsville, MD) invites you to attend their special Fall Event that is on Saturday, November 9th from 4:00 – 6:00pm. There will be hayrides, food and games. This event is free to the community. Questions? Call 301-937-7771

Holiday Bazaar Passport

St. Nicholas Church bazaar publicity committee is leading the effort again this year to bring local Laurel community churches together to jointly publicize and promote their bazaar fundraisers through the Holiday Bazaar Passport.

The 2024 Holiday Bazaar Passport includes visits to five churches: St. Nicholas Catholic Church (Oct. 18/19); First United Methodist Church (Oct. 19); Laurel Presbyterian Church (Oct. 19); Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church (Nov. 9); and St. Philip's

Episcopal Church (Nov. 23). After picking up a copy of the Holiday Bazaar Passport at one of the three October bazaars, attendees who visit all the bazaars on the list and get each church's stamp on their passport, will be eligible for a drawing to win a \$100 gift card donated by the Resurrection of Our Lord Church Bazaar Committee.

Completed/stamped Passports should be turned in at St. Philip's Holly Days on Nov. 23. Winner will be notified. Information, Pat Farmer, 240-762-3895.

Trunk Or Treat at St. John's

St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville MD 20704, is sponsoring a Trunk or Treat Event for elementary students, 4 to 9 years old, on Thursday, October 31st, from 5:00 pm. until 6:30 p.m. The event will be held in the upper parking lot of the church. Parents are asked to park on the lower level of the church property. We look forward to welcoming you to this fun-filled event!

Beltsville Community Cats & the Women in Faith at EUMC

Invite you to join us for an Indoor Yard Sale & Adoption Event

Saturday, October 19, 2024
(10 am to 2 pm)
Rain or Shine!

Emmanuel United Methodist Church (EUMC)

11416 Cedar Lane,
Beltsville, MD 20705
(Park behind the church and enter up the hill.)

Great Deals:

Household, Decorative, Christmas, Halloween, Pets, Crafts, etc. Grab some lunch & a dessert, and meet some of BCC's foster kitties.

Check out the kitties available for adoption through BCC at:

<https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/md/beltsville/beltsville-community-cats-md506/>

Apply to adopt at:

<https://www.shelterluv.com/matchme/adopt/BCC/Cat>



Neighbors in the News

Sarah Underwood and Courtland Wilson Love Riderwood's Social Atmosphere and Abundant Amenities

Silver Spring, MD - When Sarah Underwood and her husband Courtland Wilson were exploring their senior living options, they were looking for a retirement community with an abundance of activities on campus and nearby.

"We looked at three retirement communities—one in Washington, D.C., where we lived, and two in Montgomery County," says Sarah.

Riderwood, the Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, Md., checked all of their boxes.

"Riderwood was the most appealing for many reasons, especially the diversity of the residents. Courtland is African American and living among diverse neighbors is important to both of us," she explains. "We also appreciate the large number of activities available to residents, the attractive apartment homes, and the ability to live an active life both on campus and within the D.C. area."

Since settling into their apartment home three years ago, Sarah and Courtland have made the most of the community's vibrant, worry-free lifestyle by engaging in a wide variety of activities—both on and off campus.

More free time

Resident Life Director Fiona Divecha notes that Riderwood's robust range of clubs and activities is a distinguishing feature that attracts many prospective residents to the community.

"Riderwood provides residents with the services, amenities, and resources they need to enjoy an unmatched lifestyle," she says. "With the ability to chart their own course, residents feel more connected and engaged than they did when living in their house."

For Sarah and Courtland, charting their own course starts with freedom from maintenance and repairs.

"We previously owned a 100-

plus year-old row house with a small yard," says Sarah. "It is a relief not to worry about something breaking or needing work. We no longer spend time scrambling to get a contractor who, half the time, doesn't show up. Living at Riderwood, all we do is call General Services and are met with an appropriate and timely response."

With more free time added to their schedule, the couple has been able to pursue their hobbies and interests.

"At Riderwood, you can be involved as much as you want," Sarah adds. "There is never pressure to participate but, with such a variety of activities, there is no need to ever be bored. It is easy to find something that interests you."

Out and about

Sarah participates in fitness classes three or four times a week, is a member of the garden club, and volunteers on the Resident Advisory Council's finance committee.

"I also attend the Democratic Club meetings, write postcards to voters, and was involved in the launching of a food scrap composting program with Riderwood's environmental club," she says.

In addition, Sarah volunteers her time with the sales team as a resident ambassador, leading prospective residents on community tours and answering their questions.

"One of the things I like best about being an ambassador is the opportunity to share the story of our lives here at Riderwood," she says. "People always ask what life is like here, and I sum it up by saying it's a combination of living at a fancy resort and a college dorm."

Full speed ahead!

Meanwhile, Courtland, an avid car lover, is currently building

RIDERWOOD
continues on page 14



HOSPITALITY EVENT MANAGER NEEDED AMANI EVENT CENTER, BELTSVILLE, MD

Local non-profit organization is looking for a qualified individual to manage its established events enterprise located near the University of Maryland. The Amani Events Center has been in business for 10+ years hosting weddings, parties, celebrations of life, and regular church tenants. The successful candidate will assist with sales and marketing, including booking events for our two large gathering spaces, and will manage the events themselves, which includes supervising the support staff and providing administrative and financial oversight. Events take place on weekends (parties, weddings, etc.) and weekdays (meetings, parties). This is a part-time position of 15-20 hours/week with a base compensation of \$2,000/month plus significant incentive opportunities.

Please send your resume to Matthew Clark at mmclark@ofcounselink.com and Lucas Boladian at boladie@aol.com to arrange for an immediate interview.

Club News

Update from the Vansville Heights Citizens Association

Greetings Vansville-Beltsville Community,

Vansville Heights is an historic section of Beltsville, MD. The Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Inc. has had many members who over the years have worked diligently to make sure that our community continues to be a family community, a healthy environment for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. This is a piece of Prince George's County that is truly "gorgeous" – a place where you would want to invite your family and friends to live. To maintain our community in this manner, it is a constant day to day job meeting with officials who recognize Vansville as a viable and significant part of this county. Many officials support us because they care and during election time, our turnout rate is 90% - we have a voice! We encourage you to register to vote, research the candidates and cast your vote for the best candidates.

Vansville Heights Citizens

Association, Inc. represents Vansville in pertinent civil affairs relating to the community. Vansville advocated long for the Vansville Elementary School. At that time Mr. Joseph Briscoe was President of the Vansville Heights Citizen Association, Inc. Vansville advocated for and got the traffic light at Old Baltimore Pike and Ammendale Rd. Vansville and still in the fight to prevent the Beltsville Fire Station from being closed.

We currently support the Vansville Elementary School, Police Explorers, Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department, and provide clothing through the Beltsville VI Police Department. This is to name a few of our outreach endeavors, and we have supported many other organizations over the years.

We are excited about the work we do, however there's always a need for others to join us, and to support our outreach endeavors. We invite you to join our monthly meetings which are held the 2nd

Monday of each month 7:00pm -8:00pm (except July & August). All meetings are held via Conference Call.

We look forward to hearing from you and particularly joining our monthly call to share new ideas and to provide a greater service to our community.

Mr. John "JD" Perkins, President, Mrs. Fannie Minor, Vice President, Mrs. Eleanor Holt, Treasurer,

Mrs. Loveleen "Dee" Perkins, Special Project/Secretary, Mr. Joseph Briscoe, President Emeritus

Vansville Heights Citizens Association Inc.
P. O. Box 793
Beltsville, MD 20705
perk1500@gmail.com

"A piece of Prince George's County that is truly "gorgeous" – a place where you would want to invite your family and friends to live."

Women's Community Club of Beltsville

By Karen Coakley

Women's Community Club of Beltsville Celebrating 102 Years of "Spreading a Little Sunshine Around" Beltsville. October is Our Birthday month!

Please join Us for our Birthday Celebration! Learn about the different projects that we provide in the Beltsville Community on Monday, October 7th 2024 7:00 pm 11705 Roby Avenue Beltsville. If you cannot attend stop by our table at the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department Open House Saturday, October 5th Noon- 5 pm

For more information send us an email womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.

Beltsville Young at Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

Our next two monthly meetings should be very interesting. Besides our usual refreshments, ways and means table, 50/50 chance and trips to sign up for (bring a check), we will be having speakers. On October 17, we'll have the ROSIE THE RIVETER group come and tell us about their amazing jobs during World War II when they took over jobs so that the men could go and fight in the war. I know these ladies and their amazing stories. You'll love to

listen and learn.

On November 21, we will have a speaker talk to us about **dementia and Alzheimers**. What to look for, how to do care giving, and any other questions our members may have to ask them. These are 2 diseases that medical science has little explanations to give us, but I also know that as we age, we may need these answers and resources. Bring a friend or relative that you think may be interested in these subjects.

We meet on the third Thursday

of each month at 10:30 am at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road. We usually end before noon. If you have any questions, please call me (Lois Hamilton) at 301-498-9736; leave a message and I'll get back to you. Our seniors are very friendly and worthy to know.

"When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable Plant."

Share Your News!

Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com



Karen M. Coakley

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Calendar of Events

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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. Interested in researching family history? For more information, see www.pgcs.org, or send an e-mail to library@pgcs.org, or call 301.262.2063 on Wednesdays.

AUTOSOMAL DNA TESTS AND TOOLS

Wed., Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. This presentation will take place at the Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr., Bowie, MD 20715. Andy Hochreiter will help us understand how autosomal DNA testing can help expand your research by breaking down brick walls and opening new avenues to explore. Non-members may request an invitation to attend by emailing 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. 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 the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport.

SPECIAL HOURS FOR COLLEGE PARK DAY

Sat., Oct. 5. In conjunction with College Park Day, the College Park Aviation Museum will be open from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY

Sun., Oct. 20. Join us and Women in Aviation International as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Girls in Aviation Day! Experience a life-changing event as we inspire the next generation of women aviators. Meet women in the aviation industry, participate in activities, and dream beyond the stars. Cost: FREE; advance registration required by Oct. 18. Swag bags available while supplies last.

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 are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, **except for federal holidays. For more**

information and events see <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates. Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. The Visitor Center is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, and federal holidays. The bookstore is open Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ART GALLERY

The featured artist for October is mixed media and fiber artist Heather Kerley. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Tue. – Sat. at 9 a.m., 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 for this program only.

Crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration; free booklet. October's theme is Spiders: Not as Creepy as You Think! November's theme is Beavers: Master Builders/Watershed Sustainers. Learn all about family life in the beaver household! Explore the world of Maryland's beavers as we take you inside their lodges (using pictures & story books). Group arrangements are possible.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY MAGIC!

The Monarch Magic Center is open Tue. – Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See these amazing creatures and their various stages of development from eggs to caterpillars to butterflies. If you would like to join our Monarch Team and help us support these beautiful, magical wonders of the sky, please call Barrie, or leave a message with your phone number at 301.497.5772.

RECEPTION AT THE ART GALLERY

Sat., Oct 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. nature photographer Liz Guertin will present *Vanishing World* and will discuss creative techniques.

EASY POLLINATOR-HABITAT CONTAINER GARDENS

Two Saturdays: Oct. 19 and Oct. 26 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Establish easy pollinator-habitat container gardens for balconies, decks, and plantings for yards. Adults and ages 12 to 17 with adult. Take home free native plants; container pots also provided. Fall is planting time! Learn how to plant, overwinter, and manage perennials for pollinators in containers and in yards. Get a jump on spring with less watering!

SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY BAZAAR FUNDRAISER

Sat., Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 30 vendors will be offering one-of-a-kind gifts to complete your holiday shopping. We will also have gently-used items at Baldy's Bargains Thrift Shop. New this year: educational demonstrations by the Chesapeake Woodturners! Meet live animals and enjoy wildlife holiday story time. Free admission and free arts & crafts. Treats will be available at our Bake Sale and lunch will be for sale in the Crane Café. This event is a fundraiser to benefit the Eastern Ecological Science Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge. It is sponsored by the Friends of Patuxent. For more information, visit www.friendsofpatuxent.org, or call 301.497.5772, or e-mail friendspr@friendsofpatuxent.org.

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.

NARFE CHAPTER 422

Wed., Oct. 2 at 1 p.m. The Laurel Chapter 422 of the Maryland Federation of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) meeting will feature a vote on the updated chapter bylaws. If you don't have e-mail and need a copy of the bylaws, contact Secretary Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Wed., Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. A short business meeting will be followed by **our first Oktoberfest!** 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.

- Every Tuesday Bingo: 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.

- Monthly luncheons—advance reservations required (a minimum of two weeks in advance is recommended). Contact the LSFC office to check on availability.

- 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.

OCTOBER BAZAARS

For more information regarding these bazaars, call Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

- **St. Nicholas Church Bazaar** on

two days: Fri., Oct. 18 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and reopens from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Address: 8603 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20708. Join us for shopping, food, fun, and fellowship. Browse and buy from our many market stalls. Food concession meals: On Friday, enjoy German dinner with Beer Garden (must be age 21 or older) at 6 p.m. On Saturday, enjoy breakfast at 9 a.m., lunch at noon, afternoon fall tea break from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Italian dinner at 6 p.m.

• Laurel Presbyterian Church

Bazaar on Sat., Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Address: 7610 Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. Join us for shopping, fun, and fellowship. We will have a very large selection of hand-crafted items. Pick up your 2024 Holiday Bazaar Passport, featuring local Laurel church bazaars.

VICTORIA FALLS CRAFT SALE

Sat., Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 27 from noon to 3 p.m. Address: 13701 Belle Chasse Blvd., Laurel, MD 20707. The Victoria Falls annual craft show and sale will take place rain or shine.

All items are handmade; it's a great place to start your holiday shopping. Please, no pets. Free admission. For more information contact Bridgette at Bridgette.Mady@FSResidential.com.

ARRA MEETING

Sat., Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. The Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association (ARRA) will meet at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Address: 424 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707. Join us to learn about and support the legacy of the Rosie the Riveters who gave so much to the World War II effort. For more information, call Pat Farmer 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.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. 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 2024. 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

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 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 late changes.* See www.pgcls.info/location/Beltsville for online services.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

SIP AND PAINT: BIRDS OF LATIN AMERICA

Sat., Oct. 5 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Teens can participate in creating their own artwork with paint supplies while enjoying non-alcoholic beverages. We will be looking towards birds of Latin America to create our own artwork and hang it up in our public art display wall. Teens can earn community service hours.

TEEN SKATE NIGHT

Wed., Oct. 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come skate at the library! Held in the library's parking lot. This event is presented by PG Parks. You can borrow skates or bring your own. Lace up your skates, and let's roll!

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Meet every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Homework help and reading practice for students in grades 1 through 6. Ayuda con las tareas y práctica de la lectura para los estudiantes en los grados de 1 al 6. Ages 6 – 12.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

There are two sessions: Sat., Oct. 12 and Fri., Oct 18, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Build your child's confidence as they read to specially trained therapy dogs. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 15 minutes.

STEM-TASTIC: PENNY SPINNERS

Thur., Oct. 17 at 4 p.m. Become a scientist by creating penny spinners with fun designs and learn about the science behind what makes them spin. Ages 8 – 12.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Meet every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

6 Tips to Stay on Top of Fraudster's Latest Tricks

(StatePoint) Identity theft is reportedly a growing threat as fraudsters evolve to be savvier and more sophisticated. There have been more than 1,300 data breaches already in 2024, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center.

It's no surprise an Experian survey found that many consumers are wising up to the risk, with over half the U.S. adult population saying they're highly concerned about identity theft and fraud.

To help you avoid becoming a victim of fraud, there are a few key tips you should follow:

Create strong passwords: Create strong passwords for every account you have and don't repeat passwords. If you reuse the same password across multiple accounts and a criminal gets ahold of it, they can potentially wreak havoc on your personal and financial life. A password manager can help you create unique passwords and store them so you don't need to remember them all on your own.

Protect personal documents: Keep all your personal documents out of the hands of fraudsters, especially your social security card, as it can quickly open the door to identity theft. Leave your social security card in a safe place at home—don't carry it with you. Additionally, check your mail every day to prevent theft of potentially sensitive data. Shred paperwork with personal information on it before throwing it away.

Also, consider having statements delivered electronically so there are fewer physical documents with your information on them.

Watch out for phishing scams: Phishing uses fake text messages, emails, phone calls or other types of communication that look like it comes from a reputable source. The fraudster's goal is to make you click on a link or open an attachment and share your personal information. After clicking the fake link and using your login credentials, the scammer can gain access to your account. To protect yourself from these types of scams, never click on a link or open an attachment from someone or a company that you don't recognize or that looks suspicious. Additionally, if you receive notice that your personal information was involved in a data breach, be cautious about hackers who may imitate the company you received the breach notice from. To verify the legitimacy of the communication, identify the correct phone number by looking at physical statements or by logging into your account through a verified portal and call or email the company separately.

Use caution when answering calls: Criminals may try to call you and pretend that they are with a company you are associated with in order to have you provide your personal information. Never provide information over the phone. Instead, ask for the person's name

and where they are calling from. Hang up and call the company back via the phone number listed on its website to verify if the call was legitimate.

Regularly check your credit reports: Regularly checking your credit reports is a good financial and security habit. Staying updated on what is in your reports will help you spot any suspicious activity, like new accounts you don't recognize, and help you act quickly to combat further fraud.

Leverage tools to combat fraud: Experian data found that only 30% of people are currently using an identity theft protection product or service. This shows that too many people are missing an opportunity to keep themselves and their identity safe. Experian offers free and paid identity protection products that can be an extra layer of protection. Experian IdentityWorks monitors for activity on your Experian credit report and will alert you if there are any changes. It also monitors for your information on the dark web and provides easy access to lock and unlock your Experian credit file.

You can check your Experian credit report for free and enroll in identity theft protection at www.Experian.com.

"Identity theft should be taken seriously by everyone. Being proactive and following key steps can help you stay ahead of fraud before it occurs," says Bruemmer.

TECH SENSE

continued from page 8

To read, look up how to enable accessibility, then the "select to speak", capability and set it up. Then find some text to read. It should read it back to you in your chosen language.

Google Translate translates text from one language to another. The cool new feature is that it will translate voice in real-time and speak it back into the translated language. Sort of like a primitive Universal Language Translator from Star Trek. How cool is that?

Quirks of Non-Google Android Devices

I have preferred Google phones ever since they released the Nexus. I have also used Samsung, Asus, Lenovo, Motorola, and several other Android and Chrome OS devices. I have found quirks in some of these that it is good for awareness. For example, the email application, the phone dialer, contacts, keyboard and photo gallery applications are typically the ones provided by Google and are included with Android. Instead, some vendors replace these applications with ones they have created giving them access to your information and providing a lower quality experience and adding risk but no extra value. Most of these you can't remove but you can disable and replace with the Google counterparts.

My primary concern here is protecting privacy, some of these companies (yes, I am talking about you Samsung) have been known to share this information with third

parties. Frankly, my emails, photos, contacts, and people I call are none of their business.

Motorola is pretty well known for just providing the Google apps and only adding extras that are specific to hardware features if the Motorola devices. One exception is the dialer. Motorola tends to use an older version of the Google dialer that is not as effective at blocking SPAM calls.

Some phones like Samsung and Asus like to replace the launchers. A Launcher is the software that provides the home screen and the ability to start or "launch" an app on the phone from the screen. Android provides the ability to replace the launcher with one downloaded from the Google Play Store. This can be very useful, for example, I once set my Mother's phone with a launcher designed for older people making it easier to access the functions they used most frequently.

It is rare that I find a keyboard better than Googles. A feature that I really like is that when using a tablet in landscape mode (wide side on the bottom and top) the keyboard will reconfigure to use thumb mode, which to me is much easier than the regular keyboard. This is modifiable if it is not your preference. Google spelling, and grammar correction and speech recognition, also seem better than the others I have tried.

Ciao

Ciao, in Italian seems to be the universal word for Goodbye and I am out of room. November is my annual Holiday Column, so until then, ciao.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

Mayors from Greenbelt, College Park and Berwyn Heights invited Fire Chief Green to a Community Town Hall for a status report...to discuss bringing County Fire and EMT back to their stations. Chief Green did not attend. Instead, the Public Information Director for the Fire Department was sent to the meeting. He was not able to provide answers to most of the questions asked by the Mayors and the public. One of the few pieces of information that was shared is "the response time for calls to service is 8 minutes." In the past the target response time was "6 minutes." Seconds Matter for a Medical Emergency!

Seconds Matter with a Fire!

Rumor has it that the Fire Chief still wants to install the "temporary trailers" at Beltsville BVFD 31 even though the County's Assessment of BVFD 31 stated there is not a health hazard. There is not a safety hazard at BVFD Fire Station 31. Those were the two main reasons Chief Green Needed to remove County Fire and EMT. I do not understand why Fire Chief Green wants to spend money installing trailers when there are No Life-Threatening Health or Safety Issues at BVFD Fire Station 31.

If you live or work along the Route 1 Route 201 corridor from Washington DC to the Howard, Anne Arundle, Montgomery County borders We Need to be Seen & Heard Together! Our communities matter! Our Businesses Matter! Our Homes Matter and Our LIVES MATTER! Keep PGFD Career Firefighters & EMT at Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31! Keep BVFD Fully Staffed 24/! Return Staff to Greenbelt, Berwyn and Bunker Hill. The County Needs to Create a Plan to Enhance the Volunteer Stations across the county. The reality is our county cannot afford the cost of a Solely Paid Department.

Please Call and write Executive Angela Alsobrooks 301-952-4131 Countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us

Council Chairperson Jolene Ivey 301-952-3864 Councildistrict5@co.pg.md.us

Councilmember Tom Dernoga 301-952-3887 Tedernoga@co.pg.md.us

Councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us At Large Member Calvin Hawkins 301-952-2136 At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us

Last but not least October is Fire Safety Month. Come by the BVFD 31 Open House Saturday, October 5th Noon - 5:00 pm 4911

Prinxe Georges Avenue, Beltsville Have you installed the 10-year battery Smoke Alarms? Carbon Monoxide Detectors? Not sure

what you need...Bring a Friend... Bring a Neighbor to the Open House.

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Jason's Jive

By Jason Inanga

Ever stepped on a sharp object? How did you react? It created a memory one will not forget in a hurry. Maybe you were sewing back a button that popped off a shirt and the needle pricked you. Everyday situations but the little object had a large impact on you.

As a young person, my next-door neighbor's daughter was learning to drive and almost hit me - I had to jump out of the direction of the car in their driveway and my heel dug into a cactus plant and for weeks, I could not wear any shoes till I could get out all the cactus pines. Till today, I do not mess with cacti or any of its relatives.

Affirmations! Small but powerful words to get a message across, that leaves a lasting memory. My first two paragraphs lend support to the concept that sometimes little things have a deep impact on us. Bee stings, ant bites, mosquitoes buzzing in your ears --- we feel these and react in different ways.

Affirmations are a very inexpensive way of giving flowers to friends, relatives, family members or even complete strangers. They leave a positive mark behind. I recently created an Affirmation Board at work, and it has become an object of conversation. Some people appreciate the kind words left behind. Others realize that a lot

of what they do daily is appreciated, by their co-workers. Giving people their flowers while alive is a good way of keeping them positively motivated.

I had a conversation with a co-worker while I was in the final stages of putting the Affirmation Board together. He was happy to leave a positive thought on one of the post it pads - no name beside it, just a simple but powerful statement. People love this.

I open doors for people at the gas station, grocery stores and other places of public interaction. Sometimes, they say thank you, and I respond and ask if they want to give me a tip (gratuity), with me pretending to be a door man, and they laugh sometimes and comment - "that was a good one," or "put it on my tab" or "do you accept Apple Pay?" It makes them smile and that little interaction goes a long way.

Some years ago in Dallas, driving through an employee parking lot, an employee was in the process of walking to his car and absent-mindedly literally walked into the path of my vehicle. I stopped abruptly, motioning to him to continue walking across. Once he cleared my path, I continued driving but pulled up close to him, put my window down. Not sure what he thought I was going to say, but I leaned over and told

him "I don't hit people on a Wednesday..." He laughed loud in response and then said to me, "Dude, I needed that laugh, that was a good one." He may have just finished a hard shift at work, but the little comment made his day.

I tell co-workers thank you all the time. Driving for FedEx, most of us on the PM Shift, do not have permanent trucks assigned to us, but one thing I do is to leave any truck I use cleaner than I met it. This week, a colleague whose truck I use regularly came up to me and thanked me for taking care of the truck the way I do. Makes his life easier - so the same day I went an extra step and sprayed down the entire cabin, disinfecting it and making it shine and smell like new. I have not seen him yet, but I know he would have been very proud and others around him would be jealous.

So, my dear reader, those words of affirmation, those acts of kindness are a very good way to give someone their flowers. Go to the dollar store --- Dollar Tree and buy a little card or two and write a few words of encouragement to a neighbor on your street or a colleague at work or even your favorite cashier --- be the star in the sky that brightens somebody's path. www.bestimony.com is a very good website to do digital affirmations.

BORGWARDT

continued from page 3

One of our readers who received this letter reached out to several local politicians including Mary Lehman. This is what Mrs. Lehman's office sent to her:

"After researching the situation with the help of M-NCPPC's Planning Department, this is our understanding. The second prop-

erty owned by Mr. Borgwardt at 11702 Roby Ave. is zoned RMF-20 which does not allow for a crematorium to be built on that piece of land. In order for such a project to move forward, the property would need to be rezoned. To date, we have not heard a request to do so.

I do encourage for your neighbors and you to become persons of record through the Planning Department. In that way, you

can receive timely information from M-NCPPC. You can register at: Become a Person of Record - Prince George's County Planning Board (https://www.mncppcapps.org/planning/Person_of_Record/default.cfm)"

As of now, the zoning applications have not been filed. If we here more information, we will update you with more information.

Classifieds • Call 301-257-3408

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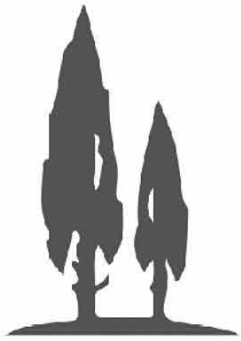
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