

# The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

The Beltsville News  
11722 Emack Rd.  
Beltsville, Md. 20705

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Beltsville, Maryland

September 2021

## Come Explore Scouting with Cub Pack 1031

We are busy finishing up our summer!

We will be having our Join Scouting event on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 10 AM at the Beltsville Neighborhood Park (the north end of Little Paint Branch Park (where the field and pavilion is). We will "step off" for a hike along the trail at 10:30. We wear masks because Cub Scout aged kids are not vaccinated yet.

We will have a leader led nature hike and have distanced Scout games. Come learn Leave No Trace concepts with hand signs and play hula hoop tag and fly hoop gliders. Come check us out!

This month we learned about local Dinosaur fossils. Did you know that we have fossils in our area? Mr. Ray, a local amateur

**CUB PACK**  
continues on page 7



Cub Scouts quietly checking out the geese at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
**Submissions Due**  
**No Later Than:**  
**September 15**  
**Paper Out:**  
**September 25**

### On the Agenda



Karen Coakley

**By President Karen M. Coakley**

Our first meeting of the 2021/2022 year will be on Wednesday, September 15th at 7:00 pm. Due to a last-minute cancellation I have to reschedule our speaker for September. Details will be posted on the Beltsville News Facebook page and Nextdoor.com by September 7th.

School is starting with in school learning, that means students walking to school and waiting for school buses. Remember the speed limit on our neighborhood streets is either 25 or 30 miles per hour. The red stop signs are not pretty decorations for our streets. They actually mean **STOP**. Please watch out for the children of our community.

Theft from auto is still our number one crime. Please remove valuables from your car, lock your car, park in a well-lit area, and turn on outside lights at night.

Mark your calendar for our next meeting Wednesday, September 15th 7:00 pm. Send me an email if you would like to be added to the email list for the Beltsville Citizens Association. I can be reached at 301-937-3490 or karenmcoakley@gmail.com

## Beltsville Briefs

### Beltsville Lions Foundation Honors David Marshall

On 7 August, the Beltsville Lions Foundation recognized David Marshall, owner of Brewer & Marshall Opticians, Inc. in Beltsville, for his outstanding service to the community over many years. The 2021 Public Service Award was presented to David by Beltsville Lions Foundation immediate past President, "Deedee" Musachio, in the company of Beltsville Lions and Brewer and Marshall staff members. Brewer & Marshall Opticians has functioned for years as a partner in service with the

Beltsville Lions Foundation, thanks to David Marshall. The citation cites Mr. Marshall for his unselfish and dedicated service to the Beltsville Community.

### 99th Year of Women's Club

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville begins its 99th year with a meeting September 9 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Boys and Girls Club building at 11705 Roby Avenue. Park at the Seven-11. Masks will be worn and there is plenty of space for social distancing. You can also join

the meeting virtually by calling 1-202-602-1295, access code 700-282-965#.

We will be planning the celebration of our 100th anniversary as the Club was established October 9, 1922. The Women's Club formed after they were told they were not allowed to join the Citizen's Association because only men were allowed. It is one of the oldest charitable nonprofit organizations in Beltsville. We remain a group of feisty women.

For further information email the Club at womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com. New members are always welcome.



Sonny Boteler passed away on August 11, 2021

## Remembering Sonny

**By Cary Thomas**

If there was ever a person whose countenance was perpetually sunny, it was Sonny.

Clifford Elmore Boteler, Jr., known to all of us as "Sonny", was the most cheerful person we ever knew. Always smiling with an affection that came from within, he greeted everyone with friendliness and genuine care.

Today [August 11, 2021], with his passing, the lights have grown dim in the shop at the back of the extant Beltsville Shell, the sunshine obscured by clouds of grief

**SONNY**  
continues on page 2



L-R, Brewer & Marshall staff members Jessica Kim and Debbie Blackstone, Lion Erv Whitehead, David Marshall accepting plaque, Lions Deedee Musachio, Mike Musachio, Mae Whitehead, and Ann Ladd (Photo by Ted Ladd)

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## Neighbors in the News

### St. Alban Birmingham Lodge #233 in partnership with Luminis Health will host a COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic as part of our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual SABL Community Day Event on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm!

Beltsville, Maryland (September 17, 2021) – Brothers of St. Alban Birmingham Lodge #233, in partnership with Luminis Health will host a COVID 19 vaccination clinic as part of our community day event. On September 17, 2021, at 10800 Edmonston Road, Beltsville, MD, the Lodge will host a community day and vaccination clinic. The event will feature fun and games for families, food, and provide free school supplies on a first come first served basis (as supplies last). All free of charge. Bring the entire family out for fun and get your COVID 19 vaccination shot!

**What:** COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic and Community Day

**Where:** 10800 Edmonston Road, Beltsville, MD 20705

**Includes:** Get your COVID-19 vaccination and enjoy free activities for the entire family. Prizes and drawings for those getting vaccination shots. Free school supplies for children returning to school (as supplies last).

We offer this opportunity to the entire Beltsville community, and surrounding areas. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to get vaccinated, enjoy free food, fun and games, and do your part in making our community safe.

Please join us. We hope to see everyone there!!

## SONNY

continued from page 1

hanging over Beltsville. All of us have lost a true, life-long, friend. A mournful vigil has ended.

Born on December 29, 1946, Sonny was for seven decades the heart and soul of Beltsville -- known by everyone and loved by all. The third-generation owner of the iconic general store -- Boteler

& Son -- Sonny had a positive impact on everyone he met.

Sonny engaged in the usual childhood activities of a Beltsville kid.

He was a member of Boy Scout Troop 408. In the early 1960's fewer than 2% of all Boy Scouts attained the distinction of Eagle Scout -- the highest achievement a boy can earn in Scouting. Sonny

was one of the first Eagles in Troop 408, earning his 21 merit badges for things like camping, hiking, and all the things that made Scouting fun. In the photo below you can see his progression from Star to Life and finally to Eagle. He told me that he was proudest of his swimming merit badge.

At High Point High School, Sonny was one of the most popular members of the class of 1965. He took the academic education track and was a member of the High Point Band.

Sonny supported the family business from his teenage years until the store finally closed its doors in 2006.

After Beltsville Shell was published, Sonny kept an inventory of the books handy at the store for customers to pick up and enjoy. He loved telling the story of the writing of the book, and relating how all the old Shell regulars maintained a friendship throughout the years, later meeting for annual reunions. He especially loved autographing the book for customers. You can read more about Sonny and his friends at <https://beltsvilleshell.blogspot.com/>.

# The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

News: Rick Bergmann, editorbvnews@gmail.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.

### Advertising:

937-6796 Ted Ladd, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705 • tedladd02@aol.com

### Subscriptions:

Send \$15.00 to Carolyn Scarcia, 11007 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705

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### Circulation

14,000 copies published monthly; 10,000 mailed in the 20705 zip code (total saturation) and 4,000 pick up copies available at the Beltsville library, community center, selected stores, and churches.

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News Director  
Rick Bergmann at  
[editorbvnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorbvnews@gmail.com)



## It's the Law!

Recent crimes committed in Beltsville include two kittens being poisoned near Beltsville Academy, a man routinely releasing his dog to hunt and kill feral cats at Ammendale Office Park, and property managers in two residential developments threatening to evict residents if they continue feeding feral cats. In response, Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) offers the following information to educate residents and business on the federal, state and county laws protecting feral cats and the people who help them.



Cruelty to animals is a federal crime in all 50 states and DC. In 2019, President Trump signed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act (PACT). Penalties for violating the law include a fine, a prison term up to seven years, or both. Law enforcement groups across the nation endorsed this legislation citing the link between animal cruelty and violence against people.

In Maryland, since 2013, anti-cruelty laws protect every cat regardless of whether the cat is identified as a pet, stray, unowned, or feral. Amendments to these laws specifically state that the provisions legally protecting animals from cruelty apply to feral cats stating, "no animal shall be [...] deprived of necessary sustenance, tortured, tormented, mutilated, cruelly beaten, or otherwise physically, psychologically, emotionally, sexually, or cruelly killed [...] no person may willfully poison any animal, with the exception of using poison in a careful and humane manner to destroy vermin such as rats, mice, and insect pests."

The current Prince George's County Animal Control Ordinance specifically refers to required elements of what is deemed adequate care for pets being extended to feral cats. This includes general care, management, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, treatment, and the prevention of suffering and impairment of

health. Feeding, sheltering and/or otherwise caring for free-roaming cats shall not be deemed a public nuisance condition unless it disturbs the peace, comfort, or health of any person residing within the county. As stated on the county website, free-roaming cats are not to be impounded as a public nuisance animal solely for being at large or unlicensed. Any person who accidentally or otherwise strikes an animal with an automobile must notify the police or Animal Control Facility of the accident.

If you have witnessed cruelty to feral cats, or any animal within Prince George's County, please call the animal control report line at (301) 780-7241.



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**Beltsville Lions Foundation Raffle**  
 The Beltsville Lions Foundation, a 501c3 Corporation, is sponsoring a holiday fund raising raffle, proceeds of which will be used to help the needy. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Please mail your check plus name & contact information to Beltsville Lions Foundation, PO Box 252, Beltsville, MD 20704. Lions will fill out the stubs and mail you the tickets. Drawing will be on 1 December. Winners will be called that evening.



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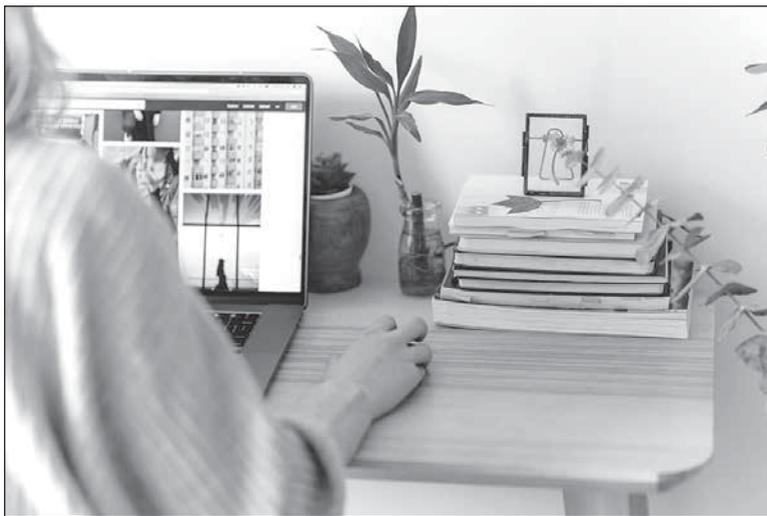
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# Back to School 2021

School starts again shortly, are you ready for the new reality? We are not certain where our students are going to be. They may be in the classroom, wearing masks, or a variant of the COVID virus may force them back home in an e-learning environment. Some parents may be choosing to have the kids learn at home to avoid the issues with protecting their families against the ongoing pandemic. Younger children are in a different situation than their older siblings. The current vaccines have not yet been approved for children under the age of 12. This means that this age group is more vulnerable to spreading COVID in the schools and bring it back to their homes and families. This age group will also be my focus for this year's Back to School column.



## The Basic Home Learning Environment

For in home learning your child will need access to a computer, with keyboard, mouse, screen, speakers, a web camera, and a headset with a microphone. They will also need access to the Internet with enough available bandwidth to participate in web meetings. This setup will allow the child to see and be seen in the virtual classroom environment. Headsets allow fewer distractions from noises in the student environment and in the classroom.

Inexpensive wired headsets can be found online for less than \$15.

The computer can be a laptop or a desktop. Laptops already have most of what is needed built-in and are easy to move to different locations within the house or to take to a babysitters or other locations. Desktops are good for a fixed study area.

Before you decide on a computer purchase, make certain you know the requirements of the school or online learning program your students are going to be using. Most modern programs support web access for all of the learning materials and will work with Windows or ChromeOS. School like ChromeOS because it is easier for them to maintain and support. It seems that the Chrome

Browser is the common browser choice for whatever operating system you may be using.

Used, refurbished, and hand-me-down computers should all be fine as long as they are not too old. Windows computers should be able to support 64-bit Windows 10 Home.

## The Learning Area

If your student is learning from home, I believe it is best to have an assigned learning area. This should not be in their bedroom but should be in a public area of the house that can be kept quiet during the school day. This might be a playroom, a family room, or even a spare bedroom with the door left open. You want to be able to peek in and see what the child

is doing without disturbing them. I believe it is best not to setup the area in their bedroom because it is too difficult to control access to the computer and observe the child especially after school hours. I also believe that there should be a mandatory computer break at the end of the school day and reasonable limits on computer usage at other times.

## Protecting your Child

As I mentioned previously, it is good to be able to observe what a child is doing on the computer. This is one means of protecting the child. Computers connected to the Internet can be a dangerous thing for children. Children 12 and under should not be using most social media sites on the web. The CIPA and COPPA laws were created to help with this, but they are poorly enforced. However, the school systems take the responsibilities for protecting your children from the Internet seriously. But when the kids are not in school, the job is left to the parents.

If you are using Windows, make certain you have a working Anti-virus and malware protection program installed and make sure to keep it up to date. Windows has one built-in. No matter what operating system you are using, I also recommend using a DNS system like OpenDNS that can automatically block dangerous websites.

OpenDNS can be configured for your home router or each individual computer. Best of all it is free. Go to <https://www.opendns.com/setupguide/#familyshield> and follow the instructions for setup.

If you are also using the Internet for work and you have a router that supports a guest network (most newer routers do) consider putting your child on the guest network to limit access to the rest of your internal network. Most guest networks automatically isolate the guest users from other devices on the network.

If the Firefox browser works for you, use this instead of Chrome. Firefox does a great job of protecting user privacy. This means your child will be safer online. You can also periodically review your child's browser history to see what they have been visiting on the web.

## Wrap Up

Back to school should be a fun and exciting time of year for both parents and students. Unfortunately, the COVID situation has added a lot of stress and we are all making difficult decisions about what is best for our families. Be safe and look out for the safety of those around you. It is not just about protecting ourselves but also protecting our communities and neighborhoods.

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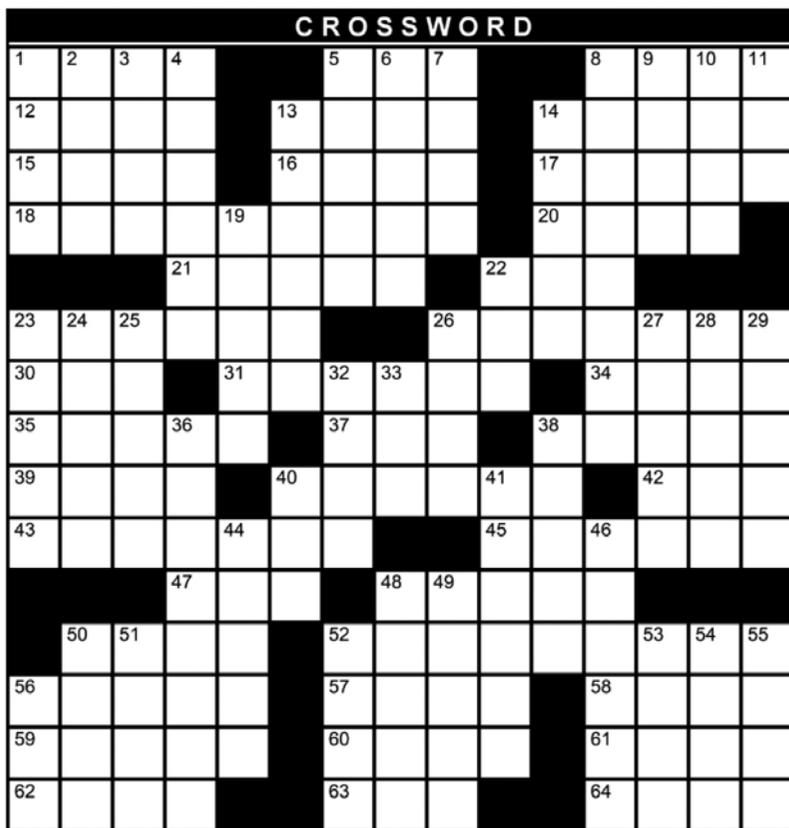
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**Statepoint Crossword: Back To School**



**ACROSS**

1. \* \_\_\_ mater
5. \*Graduate degree, acr.
8. Opposite of stereo
12. Defense ditch
13. Fishing rod attachment
14. More sure
15. One's final notice
16. Dutch cheese
17. Golfer's traction aid
18. \*Half-year terms
20. At the summit of
21. Water nymph
22. Actor \_\_\_ Mahershala
23. Be a busybody
26. Metrical foot in poetry
30. Earlier in time, archaic
31. Become bony
34. Shakespeare's tragic mon-arch
35. Labanotation founder
37. Theodor Geisel, \_\_\_ Dr. Seuss
38. Threshold
39. Relating to the ear
40. Weather advisories, e.g.
42. + or - atom
43. Widely esteemed
45. Most mature, as in fruit
47. Indian dish
48. Dashboard window

50. Female sheep, pl.
52. \*"The Breakfast Club" punishment
56. Flower holders
57. Singles
58. High school breakout
59. Acoustic output
60. Overwhelming defeat
61. \*Gym class test?
62. Catchall abbr.
63. \*Geography class staple
64. Not talker?

**DOWN**

1. \_\_\_ of cookie fame
2. Stud site
3. Cripple
4. \*Go to class
5. Mythological princess of Col-chis
6. TV cooking show pioneer James \_\_\_
7. Contributions to the poor
8. \*Kind of choice
9. Black and white treat
10. Less than average tide
11. Table scrap
13. Laces again
14. Milan's La \_\_\_
19. Manicurist's office
22. Is it \_\_\_ wonder?

23. Hard on outside, juicy on inside
24. One of the Muses
25. Payment option
26. From a great distance
27. Chill-inducing
28. Type of palm tree, pl.
29. Council of \_\_\_\_, city in Italy
32. \*Back-to-School retail event
33. WWII general who became President
36. \*Faculty member
38. "Peace" with fingers
40. TV classic "\_\_\_ in the Family"
41. Superlative of true
44. Lowest male singing voice
46. Small bomb
48. Christopher Columbus' birth-place
49. Consumed (2 words)
50. Small ladies' handbag
51. What one does at the altar
52. \*College freshman's new digs
53. International Civil Aviation Organization
54. Half as much as twice
55. \_\_\_-do-well
56. Every American's uncle?

**See Solution on page 10**

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## From the Office of Councilmember Tom Dernoga

### Beltsville Community Dumpster and Shred Day

Thank you to the residents who came out for our Beltsville Community Dumpster and Shred Day in August. The event was a great success. We provided reusable grocery bags and over 500 facemasks to residents. We collected over five thousand pounds of items for the dump and almost six thousand pounds of shredded paper. A special thanks to Corporal Kenneth Hibbert and the Police Explorers from Post 600 who came out to make this day possible.



Councilmember Dernoga and Chief of Staff Michelle Garcia, with team members, Nicole Ríos and Andrew Jacobson at Community Dumpster and Shred Day.

### Prince George's County Countywide Map Amendment

The Virtual Public Hearing for the Countywide Sectional Map Amendment (CMA) will be held September 13th and 14th. Approving the CMA is the final step in the Zoning Rewrite process. The new zoning ordinance will not take effect until the CMA is approved. To learn more about the zoning process in Prince George's County click <https://bit.ly/3AMDmks>. The link for the September 13th meeting and information about signing up to speak can be found <https://bit.ly/3gcjbo7>, and the link for the September 14th meeting and

information about signing up to speak can be found <https://bit.ly/3xXZqa1>. To learn more, read the Planning Board press release here <https://bit.ly/3iUcOYi>. To compare the new proposed zones with the current zones, click <https://bit.ly/2HhqsF4>.

Persons who wish to speak at the public hearing must register in advance before 3:00 PM on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at <https://pgccouncil.us/Speak>. Written testimony will be accepted in electronic format, rather than by U.S. mail and may be submitted through the online portal, emailed

to [clerkofthecouncil@co.pg.md.us](mailto:clerkofthecouncil@co.pg.md.us) or faxed to (301) 952-5178. Written comments may be submitted through the close of business on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, when the record of public hearing testimony will close.

#### Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Email us at [councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us) or call 301.952.3887. Se habla Español. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Tom-DernogaD1

## Neighbors in the News

### Little Paint Branch Trail Community Cleanup Saturday, October 2, 2021

Cub Pack 1031 is hosting a cleanup along Little Paint Branch Trail on Saturday October 2, 2021 (Rain date: Saturday, October 9, 2021) as part of our obligation as Adopt a Trail Sponsors for the trail. The Cleanup will run from 9

AM to 12 Noon.

We would love to invite the community to join us so we can remove all the trash and get the trail ready for fall colors.

We will be set up at "Old Rec" Beltsville Neighborhood Park—the northern end of the trail because of the football game crowds by the community center. Please bring gloves, apply bug spray, wear a hat, long sleeves, and pants. Also wear sturdy shoes and long socks to pull over your pants to protect against bugs and scratches. Also bring a mask for when you are around other people especially our

scouts.

We will provide trash bags and trash removal. We will have water available but no individual water bottles they are the most collected trash in the park. So, bring your own water bottle and refill. For any questions: contact Regina Halper Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com

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## Obituaries

### Mossi, Lisa Marie

Lisa died on Tuesday, July 26, 2021, after a long struggle with progressive MS. For years she was trapped in a body that no longer worked. But she was there and wanted to visit New Hampshire again. She loved it there and we finally made it back. She died at home in Woodsville, NH, after having pneumonia for a week.

Lisa graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Maryland. She received two B.S. degrees – Business and Finance. She did her best, but the MS took every function from her. She was a breast cancer survivor. Lisa was a fighter. She always loved animals and enjoyed being with our dogs, Kelly, and Carrot. Lisa was so happy to be going back to the White Mountains.

Lisa is preceded in death by our parents, Ercole and Marie, our older sister, Mary Jo, and our grandparents.

Lisa was sweet and loving. She will be greatly missed and leaves a void in our hearts.

### Wigand Jr, Robert Charles

Robert Charles Wigand Jr., 97, an engineer, surveyor, and retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. and NASA official, died July 4<sup>th</sup> at his home in Beltsville, MD of acute renal failure.

The only son of Robert C. Wigand Sr. and Marion C. Waner, Mr. Wigand was born and raised in the Grymes Hill neighborhood on Staten Island, NY, graduating from Curtis High School at the age of 16. He then attended the Colorado School of Mines and transferred to the University of Colorado to join the Marine Corps ROTC program in 1943, graduating in 1944. Serving in active duty until July 1946. Mr. Wigand remained in the Marine Corps reserves and was called to active duty for the Korean Conflict and continued to serve in the Marine Corps reserves until retiring in 1977.

After World War II, Mr. Wigand returned to New York and worked as a civil engineer for Johns Manville, Franki Foundation Co., and Burns & Roe Inc., where he served as a siting engineer for the Mer-

cury program space flight tracking stations. He joined NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, in 1963, holding various positions in tracking network facilities until his retirement in 1995. He remained an active member of the Goddard Retirees and Alumni Association, serving on its board and as secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Wigand was a fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers, fellow in the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping, and member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Military Engineers, and American Geophysical Union. An avid gardener, he was a long-time member of the Beltsville Garden Club.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Alice; his three children, Gwendolyn, James, and John; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. His first wife, Wanda, died in 2008 and oldest son, David, died in 1979.

He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. [www.borgwardfuneralhome.com/](http://www.borgwardfuneralhome.com/)

## Club News

### ALA National Convention To Be Held In Phoenix, AR.

By Ivy Christoffers

The National American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Convention will take place the end of August and the first week of September in Phoenix, AR. The Department of MD Delegates are all eagerly anticipating the trip to another very hot climate to meet and greet their fond friends from across the US. Do you remember a summer this hot in Maryland? So many days of 90 and above? I can't recall one quite like this one.

We have held two very important meetings recently, the budget meeting for the American Legion Auxiliary Depart-

ment of Maryland, held on July 31 at College Park Post #217 and the first D.E.C. (Department Executive Committee) meeting held on Aug. 14 at Post 7 in Annapolis, which was a hybrid (Zoom) meeting. It appears we must all be willing to change the way we conduct business as Zoom is the way of the future.

We are collecting school supplies at the post home, 9218 Baltimore Ave., in College Park for our two needy schools in the area, Hollywood and Paint Branch Elementary. If you can spare a few dollars to help this effort, we would be very grateful. You can drop them off any day after 12 noon.

Entertainers coming to the College Park American Legion on September 26 are Camron Robertson and Randoll Rivers. Tickets are \$20 each and food will be available to purchase. Also, there will be a 50/50 drawing and a Throwdown. Call Gina Roberson at 443-695-2579 or Tina Zook at 301-935-5308 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Remember the Post is open for business. We can handle your special event All you need to do is call Gary Kingery.

We pray for God's blessing on America and His protection on our fighting men and women stationed around the world.

### CUB PACK

continued from page 1

paleontologist, showed us some of his fossils! We also hiked out at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, where we saw geese, a frog, an egret and smelled a skunk! In August, we did our annual creek walk where the scouts discovered the type of rocks found in Little Paint Branch Park. We found limestone, quartz,

mica, gneiss, and sandstone. We also saw minnows and a tussock moth! And we picked up trash.

If you are interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts, our cost this year will be \$130 per scout. We are a family scouting unit. We hike, bike, go interesting places and learn about nature and do service. 95% of our scouts earned their rank this year! We

are still being cautious with our scouts, we meet weekly (either virtually or in person based on the COVID numbers), stay arm's length apart and wear our masks and we keep it fun! Our active den leaders are 100% vaccinated. Please contact Regina Halper at [Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com](mailto:Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com) for more information.

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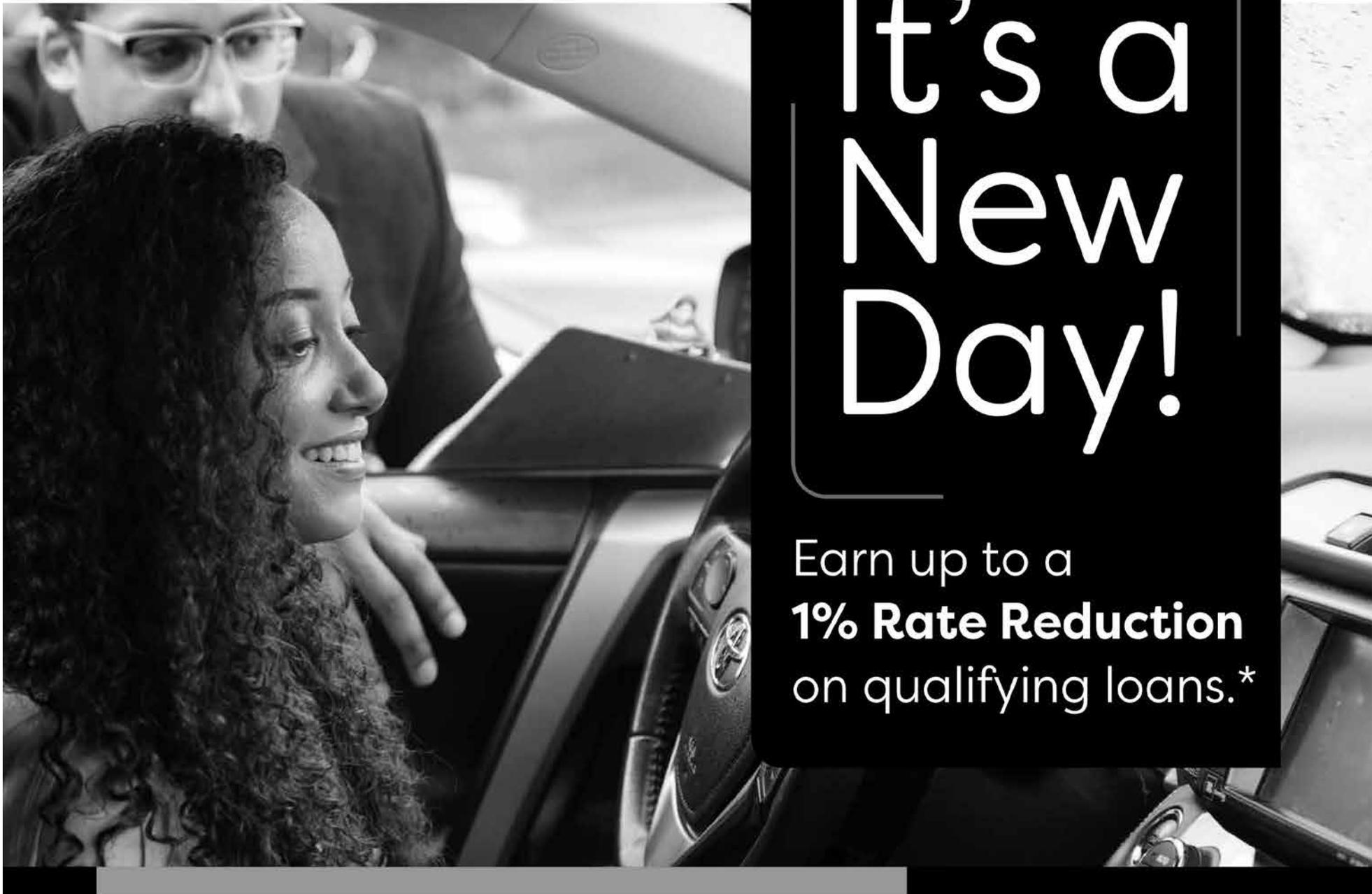
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## Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

### A big victory for working families!

Earlier this year, President Biden and the Democratic Congress launched a major effort to get Americans back to work and help them pay their bills until they do. Now, some governors are trying to cut benefits for barbers, beauticians, plumbers, UBER drivers and other unemployed working people.

The good news in Maryland, because of our laws, including one I sponsored, and my colleagues supported, to protect unemployment insurance (UI) benefits (SB 893/HB 1002), the state court ruled in late July that the aid will continue in Maryland as President Biden intended.

That's important for our neighbors who remain unemployed — and for all the local restaurants and retailers where the \$1.5 billion in federal aid will be spent.

If you or your friends continue to have problems collecting UI benefits you've earned, please contact my office at Jim.Rosapepe@Senate.State.Md.us

### I want your advice: should schools provide an online option for all students?

Even with more and more people vaccinated, the risk of COVID infections remains real. And vaccines aren't even available yet for those 12 and younger. All of us want to be sure that the health of our children, our families, teachers, and staff are protected when the school year begins in the fall. I want to hear your views about schools providing an online option for families who want it. Visit SenatorJimRosapepe.com to fill out the survey.



Senator Jim Rosapepe

### New Federal Child Tax Credit

To help working parents recover from the pandemic and fund their family's future, the Biden administration and Congress have expanded the federal child tax credit. Children under 6 qualify your family for \$3,600, and children 6 - 17 years old \$3,000. The credit is available for single filer households making up to \$75,000, \$112,500 for head-of-household filers, and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.

There's no need to apply — anyone who filed 2019 or 2020 tax returns or signed up for federal stimulus checks, will receive the payments automatically. If you have questions or want to learn more, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and click on "Advance Child Tax Credit Payments in 2021." If you have further questions, contact my office.

### Contact us

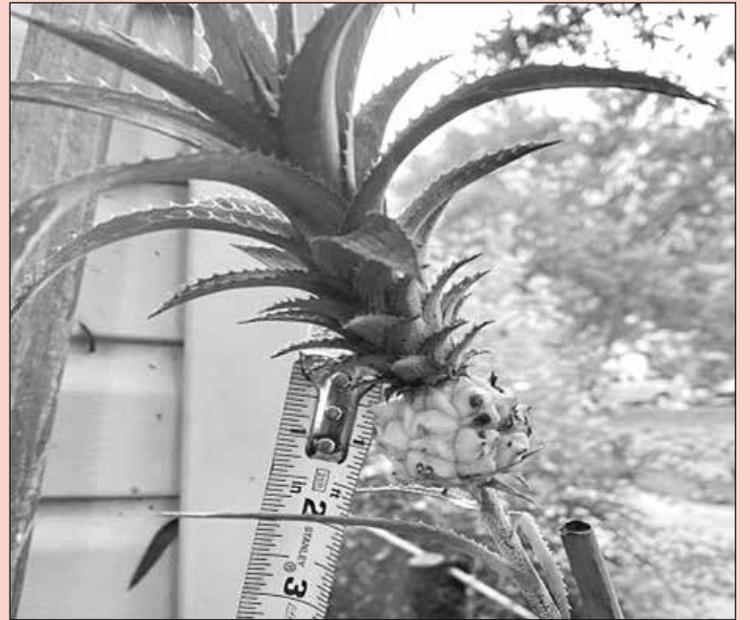
Please let us know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if we can be of help to you. Just email [21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com](mailto:21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com) or call 301-858-3141.

## Neighbors in the News

### The Pineapple Man of Beltsville!

Bill Alfaro has done it again. With years of experience and a very green thumb he has grown everything from coffee beans, corn, banana plants, and his favorite: pineapples! That's right, a little taste of Hawaii here in Beltsville! He has cultivated four plants and was even in the Beltsville News years ago when he grew the first one in Beltsville. It takes years of patience. Ultimately, they are ornamental and only about one inch. They are certainly cute and even if they ripened would only be a tasty morsel.

Bill Alfaro's latest Beltsville Pineapple!



### PGCPS Blueprint Schools Model Earns International Recognition

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — Today, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson announced the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Blueprint Schools model for building six new schools was named Social Infrastructure Deal of the Year and Best Deal in North America, Editor's Choice by infrastructure finance industry leader IJGlobal. The project is also a P3 Awards finalist for 2021 Social Infrastructure Project of the Year.

PGCPS is the first public school system in the nation to leverage a full-scope alternative financing model for a multi-school construction program. Groundbreakings were held this week for all six schools, including Adelphi, Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville, Kenmoor and Walker Mill middle

schools and a new kindergarten through eighth grade academy in Fort Washington. Construction on all six schools begins this summer with completion set for July 2023.

"I have no doubt that other school systems in Maryland and beyond will look to Prince George's County with admiration and inspiration for moving one step closer to ensuring that every child achieves their highest potential in modern school buildings," said Dr. Goldson. "This is our blueprint for bold action, for fierce urgency, and as we will see on the first day of school two years from now, for success."

Prince George's County Education & Community Partners (PGCECP), a consortium including Fengate Asset Management, Gilbane Development Company,

Stan- tec and Honeywell, will design, build, finance and maintain the schools. While it typically takes seven years from planning to building a school, the alternative financing model cuts that time in half to deliver long overdue schools.

The second-largest school system in the state, PGCPS has the second-oldest buildings in Maryland. More than half of the 208 schools are over 50 years old. Coupled with the school system's capital improvement program, a total of nine schools will be under construction over the next three years.

For more information on the Blueprint Schools initiative, visit [www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com](http://www.pgcpsblueprintschools.com).

### Crossword Solution from page 5

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## Farewell, Kathryn Griffin!

By Bobbie Deegan

*Kathryn Griffin has been the music director at Emmanuel United Methodist Church for over 40 years. She retired in August and moved to North Carolina to be with family. The Emmanuel Congregation and Community wishes Kathryn god speed and blessings on her next chapter.*

"To everything there is a season," (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and sadly, Kathryn Griffin's time at Emmanuel has come to an end. I wasn't able to attend her farewell party, so I am taking this opportunity to share with the congregation how much a part of Emmanuel Kathryn has been over the years.

Emmanuel's newer congregants know Kathryn as our dedicated organist, Director of the Chancel Choir, and (when we have youth in the right age group who want

to participate), Children's Choir Director. But she is much more than that. Kathryn has been an integral part of almost every program we have had at Emmanuel "pre-COVID." With her encouragement, Emmanuel's Chancel Choir members were featured at Emory Grove's summer Hymn Sing one Wednesday evening each year. A few years ago, the hymn sing accompanist unexpectedly was unable to attend, so Kathryn graciously agreed to fill that role as well, with no notice and no time to familiarize herself with the music. She led the congregation's annual Christmas caroling to area shut ins. When Rev. Daniel Mejia was pastor, Emmanuel had two "Community Days." For the musical activity, Kathryn helped children create their own "musical instruments!" In my opinion, Kathryn's finest hour came dur-

ing Vacation Bible School each year. Every evening for a week, Kathryn taught each age group of children several songs (complete with motions) based on that year's VBS theme. I taught just one age group a nightly lesson for a couple of years, and that was exhausting. I cannot imagine how much energy it took to work with dozens of children for two hours each evening! And she did a great job with them.

Kathryn's biggest contribution was to the weekly church service, though. Kathryn tailored each Sunday's anthem to the pastor's message that week. Did you notice? When the church's budget started getting tight, Kathryn began selecting individual pieces to create our own Easter and Christmas cantatas instead of

**GRIFFIN**

continues on page 15

## Neighbors in the News

# Riderwood awards record-breaking number of employee scholarships

*Granting gifts for the future*

Silver Spring, MD -- This fall, a record-breaking 89 Riderwood student employees will further their academic studies thanks to the generous support of the community members they serve at Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living managed community in Silver Spring, MD.

Studying nursing, psychology, computer science, and business, 20 of these scholarship winners are high school seniors embarking on their college career. The remaining 69 scholarships are awarded to employees already working toward their degrees.

"We are all so proud of this group of remarkable students," says resident life manager Fiona Divecha. "They are exemplary. The average GPA of all recipients is 3.29 on a 4.0 scale, and many of the winners will continue to work at Riderwood while pursuing their studies."

The scholarships serve as a tangible expression of the bond that forms between Riderwood's student employees and the resident whom they serve. The money raised in support of the Scholars' Fund—over \$261,000 this year—embodies the community's commitment to the mission of "sharing our gifts to create a community that celebrates life."

"Our community believes in the importance of higher education and as such is quite willing, indeed eager, to back up this view with action," says resident Don Simonds, who serves on the philanthropy committee.

### Making the grade

Of primary importance to the Riderwood community is the ability to award all eligible students who apply with a scholarship. This year, eligibility requires at least 700 hours of service. The student employees must achieve satisfactory grades and submit an application and essay.

"When it comes to my education and career goals I take it very seriously," says 2021 scholarship winner Amilcar Morales-Lucero, who attends Montgomery College. "I plan on majoring in nursing so I can become a registered nurse and then a nurse practitioner."

Ankitha Kollabatula, who gradu-



Residents raised enough money to fund 89 scholarships this year, including those awarded to Samantha McDaniel (left) and Valerie Simms. Photo at left by Chris Taydus and right by Courtney Coombs

ated from Paint Branch High School this past spring, says she discovered her passion for nursing while working at Riderwood. "Once I came to Riderwood I developed a clear vision of my goal to become a nurse practitioner. My goal is to help people, assisting those in need, diagnosing patients, and treating people," she says. "Working at Riderwood has had a very big impact on my life," says Cynthia Gomes who also attend Montgomery College. "It has truly opened my eyes to ideas and principles such as dedication, hard work, and punctuality. I have learned what it means to have a job and how to keep it. Through my job as a server, I have learned and improved on my people skills and manners, but also on key ideas like teamwork and motivation."

### Lasting bonds

The generosity of the Riderwood community toward the student employees extends above and beyond the awarding of the scholarships. Each day the students and community members interact on a personal basis providing each other with friendship and support.

"Being surrounded by so much diversity, and hearing stories from the residents who grant so much wisdom, encouraged me to pursue a college education," says Zohneseh

Fopenwoh, a recent Springbrook High School graduate. "I hope to be as successful as they are."

It's a two-way street for the Riderwood residents. "There is joy in working with residents you have grown to love and respect," says community member Levern Allen. "We have been able to provide 'grandparent' advice as well as guidance toward productive adventures. Many residents have offered tutoring when necessary or direction. Some students are entering fields I have never heard of. This year's class is the smartest class we've ever had. I'm so proud to be able to give them a hand up."

### Beginning a new chapter

As the students begin a new chapter in their lives, they are grateful to the Riderwood community for their continued support and encouragement.

"Once I started working at Riderwood I realized I love helping people anyway I can," says Tristan Ngamo, another recent Paint Branch High School graduate. "I learned the importance of teamwork and lessons that will stay with me for life. I will forever be grateful to the Riderwood residents who made this journey possible."

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To reveal the sun  
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Beckie Hutchings  
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Ecclesiastes 5:19

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# Calendar of Events

Please check with individual facilities for current updates. **Admission requirements may be instituted, and regular hours of operation are subject to change.**

## AREA EVENTS

*Please note that because of the uncertainty of the Delta Variant, these events may change or be cancelled. If you are uncertain, it is best to call the venue first.*

### LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

The center and its fitness room, computer room, and billiards room are open with limited occupancy. *Masks are required.* Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Regular hours of operation are: open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sunday 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. TTY: 301.446.3402.

### LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Laurel Senior Friendship Club (LSFC) will be having its *Welcome Back* meeting on Wed., Sept. 8, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 10 a.m. We will be having a business meeting and entertainer. No food will be provided or allowed in the meeting room at this time. COVID-19 restrictions dictated by the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activities Center include *wearing of face masks by all people entering the facility*, signing a one-time COVID-19 waiver, and updating or obtaining a Parks

Direct activity card, which is free to LSFC members. Please come a little earlier to handle this paperwork if not done previously. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380. We look forward to seeing everyone once again!

### COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. TTY: 301.699.2544. See [CollegeParkAviationMuseum.com](http://CollegeParkAviationMuseum.com) for more information. For any questions or concerns please contact the museum. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays, most major holidays, and some special events. Cost: \$5/adults, \$4/seniors, \$2/children, free/age 1 and under. Museum guidelines include:

*Masks are required indoors*  
Photography and videotaping are allowed in the museum gallery. Food and drink are not permitted inside the museum. While many of our displays are hands-on, we remind you that anything behind barriers is off limits. All children must have adult supervision while at the museum.

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

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. **Current social distancing and face covering requirements match those of Prince George's County.** 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. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, except for federal holidays.

### THE BUILDING IS OPEN

Open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, and federal holidays. Contact the Visitor Center for August events; **the registration number is 301.497.5887.** Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting [timothy\\_parker@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_parker@fws.gov). For future volunteer training (ages 18 and up), contact Diana Ogilvie at 301.497.5565 or [Diana\\_Ogilvie@fws.gov](mailto:Diana_Ogilvie@fws.gov).

### WILDLIFE IMAGES BOOKSTORE

The bookstore is tentatively open Wednesday – Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blue Goose Passports are available.

### WATER LILIES IN BLOOM

See masses of water lilies in bloom. They can be easily viewed from the patio at the back of the Visitor Center or from the trail that separates Lake Redington from Cash Lake.

**CALDNDAR**  
continues on page 14



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Spacious 3-level, 4BR, 2.5 BA home in Cross Creek Club at 13107 Crossview Ct. is “coming soon.” In-person showings begin August 3rd. Look for it on my websites or search by its MLS # MDPG2003890. \$625,000

This is not intended to solicit currently listed properties.



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## Great Ways to Keep Your Mind Sharp As You Age

(StatePoint) September, which is World Alzheimer’s Month, is an excellent reminder to keep your mind and body healthy through the years. Experts say that doing so can reduce your risk for cognitive decline. Try taking on these new hobbies to keep your mind sharp as you age:

**Cooking:** Not only can the development of a new complicated skill such as cooking improve cognitive functions like problem-solving and concentration, but having the ability to create your own nutritious meals at home has the added benefit of being good for brain health. From TikTok tutorials to online classes taught by master chefs, today, there are more avenues for picking up culinary know-how than ever before.

**Music:** Learning to play a musical instrument has countless benefits for brain health, helping improve memory, hand-eye coordination and more. It’s also a mood booster, which is impor-

tant, as depression is considered a risk factor for dementia. Check out instruments designed to build skills quickly. Whether you’re a total novice or taking up the piano after a long hiatus, Casiotone Keyboards, for example, are portable, easy to use and connect to an app that features lessons and more.

**Exercise:** The mind-body connection is strong. For ultimate brain health, stay physically active; and if you can do so outdoors, all the better. Research suggests that connecting with nature is good for one’s mental well-being, reducing stress, anxiety and depression. Support your journey with tools that track your activity and inspire you to delve further into adventures, whether that be hiking, fishing or rock climbing. The watches in the Pro Trek line feature Quad Sensor technology to provide you with temperature and barometric pressure so you can keep your eye on the weather conditions while out and about, as

well as sunrise and sunset times, an app for anglers and much more.

**Camaraderie:** Having an active social life can improve brain function. Unfortunately, if you aren’t proactive about it, there are not always that many opportunities to make new friends in adulthood. Whether it’s a sewing circle or a bowling league, consider joining a club or team for camaraderie and fun.

**Fast fingers:** Did you know that you can use your calculator to keep your mind engaged when there’s downtime or you’re on-the-go? Calculator games can build math skills, improve memory and keep your mind nimble.

Just as it is important to maintain physical fitness as you age, it’s also critical to exercise your mind. Stay mentally active by trying new hobbies, building new skills and seeking out new experiences.

How are you doing? I am fine. Happy the 100-degree weather is almost over here in Dallas. It has been HOT. I can appreciate the cool weather and its benefits.

I am dedicating this column to my first son, Javin, who turned 18 earlier this year and also graduated from High School. It is the joy of any parent to see their child (ren) born, grow up, develop into their own person, and by the grace of God, understand what is expected to be of them in life.

His formative years were in Beltsville, first at KIDS IN HIS CARE off Ammendale Road and later at the Beltsville SDA School. I also must mention, Nanny Fraser in St. Kitts, who helped us and took him in as one of only three children that she babysat. The other two, Arielle (is in St. Kitts) and Ashley (in University in England), have also grown up well. Thanks to all his teachers through the years. I used to teach when I was younger, first in Brooklyn New York and later on back in St. Kitts, so I can appreciate what teachers go through. I was blessed to have a super duper first grade teacher, who coincidentally taught me and my other three siblings, in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, regardless of the ten-to-twelve-year

gap between me and my last two siblings.

Anyway, Javin, went on from Beltsville to the Shenandoah Valley Academy in Virginia and then Atholton High School, before we relocated to Dallas, Texas and he finished up at Heritage High School in Frisco, Texas.

As a parent, it was a thing of pride to see him graduate from High School, less than a week after he turned 18 years old.

On to the next chapter where he starts college locally this week, in Texas and just got his driver's license. His Mum is more worried about him on the road than I am. I passed through the driving stage in Nigeria as a teenager and had to go through the ordeal of the grown-ups using me as a messenger and chauffeur. At a point I had wished I did not drive – all the runs to the market, groceries, if Dad was going out of state, I had to drive him and sit in the car for a long time while he had his meetings. I would read newspapers to kill time as there was no internet back in the 1980's and early 90's.

Back to my son! It is now a thing of joy to see him dropping his younger brother to school and picking him up, even though I know he

does not really like to wake up early in the morning to do that. Guess what? I had to drop my siblings and pick them up too, as a teenager. So, I can relate to those early mornings.

So, to all parents, and grandparents who have people starting school or moving on to college or even just starting a new job, let us thank God for sparing us to see these moments. It is a thing of joy. Oh, I forgot to add that all my three children can cook, so I am happy I don't have to deal with that – and they understand to help do the dishes afterwards, especially when they make a mess in the kitchen. As I tell them, housekeeping is not at work today, so we got to clean up.

Now, to all our educators, thank you for all the hard work you do. I know it is not easy and especially for first time educators, relax, you will be okay. I have been where you are. I had to overcome shyness. My second job after college was to teach English at Ogun State University in Nigeria, and I ran away from that, too scared to be a 21-year-old in the classroom. Nemesis would get me three years later, having to teach in Brooklyn, New York.

So to all our educators, in Beltsville and beyond, THANK YOU !

# Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY



## St. Joseph Catholic Church

[www.stjosephbeltsville.org](http://www.stjosephbeltsville.org)

**Pastor:** Father Robert Maro

**Masses:** Please contact parish office for schedule

St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School  
[www.stjosrcs.org](http://www.stjosrcs.org)  
Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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# Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

## CALENDAR

continued from page 12

### OWL & KESTREL

Contact the Visitor Center for future dates. All ages, **registration required.** Meet two of North America's smallest birds of prey: the American Kestrel and Eastern Screech Owl. Both are expert hunters: the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the Eastern Screech Owl is a stealthy hunter.

### SAVE THE DATE

Sat., Oct. 2: Urban Conservation Day. For more details, contact the main Visitor Center at 301.497.5772.

### 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](http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib). NAL is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences. Due to COVID-19, the NAL building remains closed to the public. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at [NAL.usda.gov](http://NAL.usda.gov). Food and Nutrition updates can be accessed at [Nutrition.gov](http://Nutrition.gov).

### MYPLATE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON ALEXA

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### BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.937.0294. The library's Phased Reopening Plan continues to evolve, based on public health conditions and guidance from the Prince George's County Health Department. With limited capacity, the Beltsville Library is now open to the public for full browsing with computer use and curbside service by appointment. Current hours of operation are Mon., Tue., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wed. from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday and most major holidays. Study rooms are open, but meeting rooms remain closed. We ask for your continued support as we strive to keep everyone safe while welcoming you back to the branch. See [www.pgmls.info/location/Beltsville](http://www.pgmls.info/location/Beltsville).

## St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704  
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The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

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Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom  
Youth Sunday School Online via Zoom  
Contact the Church office if you are interested  
in any of these resources

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[www.eumcbeltsville.com](http://www.eumcbeltsville.com)

Zoom Virtual Worship Service on Sundays  
9:30 am - 10 am Fellowship and 10 am - 11 am Worship Time  
Sign Language Interpretation and Closed Captioning Available During  
Worship. Service is also live streamed on our Facebook page

Wednesday Bible Study begins September 8, virtually. We will be  
studying the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. Get details at  
[www.eumcbeltsville.com/sundayschool](http://www.eumcbeltsville.com/sundayschool)

Due to COVID-19 we are not meeting in person. You can join us for  
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**TUESDAYS**

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**FRIDAYS:**

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ends! Can take summers off! Job entails filling, pricing and packing orders. Please do not apply if you need full time. MUST be dependable. In order to be employed, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or provide proof of eligibility to work in the U.S. If English is your second language but you know some English, ok to apply. 301-937-4330

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**August 28, 2021 -Saturday** - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**August 29, 2021 - Sunday** - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**August 30, 2021 - Monday** - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### GRIFFIN

continued from page 10

purchasing new works, as had been done in more affluent times. She also wrote the text that connected the songs to the Lent and Advent seasons. She led the effort to commission an anthem in honor of Emmanuel's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, too.

Besides being a staff member, Kathryn was a member of the congregation. Her children and grandchildren attended Emmanuel's Sunday School. Kathryn participated in UMW activities such as the Mother-Daughter Communion Breakfast, and when church support for the ESOL program waned and we couldn't get anyone to cover the Registration Table for an hour on Tuesday evenings, Kathryn stepped up and filled that role, too.

I am very happy that Kathryn now is free to enjoy her retirement without the demands of being at Emmanuel every Sunday. Emmanuel was blessed to have her leading our music program for as long as we did. But many of us (especially the choir members) will feel her absence very keenly!

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