The Beltsville News
An All Volunteer Newspaper
Vol. 70, Number 5
Beltsville, Maryland
May 2022

Cub Pack 1031 Finishing Up Our Ranks

By Regina Halper

The Scouts of Cub Pack 1031 are working hard at completing their rank requirements for the year. On April 25, 2022, our Arrow of Light Scouts will bridge over to Scouts BSA, that is the new name for the Boy Scouts of America since girls joined Cub Scouts and we became a family unit. This year two of our female Arrows are bridging over to Troop 214G, a Scouts BSA Girls unit in Riverdale. It has been a pleasure to have Casandra Inigo-Cartagena as their den leader and future Scoutmaster at Troop 214G. Her son, Aedan 1-C will be joining Troop 298 in College Park.

Most of our dens completed or have almost completed their rank – and now we have fun!! Tigers and Wolf dens are still helping a new Tiger complete his rank and the Bears learned knife skills and Robotics. The Webelos have almost completed their ranks. Then, we look forward to summer!

On Saturday, April 23rd, we lead the Anacostia Watershed Earth Day cleanup. There are 41 volunteers signed up to help us clean the Little Paint Branch Park.

Interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts for your child? Beginning June 1st we will start a new year. In the summer we do outdoor STEM and nature activities. Please contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature and do service. Over 85% of our scouts earn their rank each year! We are still being cautious, we meet weekly (either virtually or in person in the outdoors), stay arm’s length apart and we keep it fun! Our den leaders are 100% vaccinated and our scouts too!

UpStage Artists are at it again!

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists, the local community theater company performing at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville (11416 Cedar Lane) is getting quite the reputation as a place to come and enjoy great art! So far this year they have produced 2 shows, Frankenstein and Driving Miss Daisy. Frankenstein sold out all of its performances and Driving Miss Daisy sold out 5 of 6 performances. This is a fantastic feat for such a young company.

After Driving Miss Daisy one Tiger T and David H working on their knife safety skills.

Kyle T and David H

ARTISTS

Shawn Fournier and Beltsville’s Susie Mendolsohn rehearse a scene from “Sudden Death” one of eight plays in UpStage Artists performance of One and Dunne running May 6-15.

College Student from Beltsville Awarded Prestigious Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship

Tyler Smith selected for a fully funded leadership program in Ireland

PORTLAND, Maine, March 17, 2022 – Howard University sophomore Tyler Smith from Beltsville, Maryland has been selected as a 2022 Frederick Douglass Global Fellow, an honor awarding him a full scholarship to represent Howard University at a four-week leadership program for students of color that is set in Ireland and focused on peace, social justice, and conflict resolution.

The Government of Ireland will co-sponsor the 2022 Frederick Douglass Global Fellows to continue the legacy project created to honor the 175th anniversary of the meeting between 27-year-old abolitionist Frederick Douglass and the great Irish reformer Daniel O’Connell in Dublin in 1845. While in Ireland, the Fellows will continue on page 2

The Beltsville News

Submissions Due
No Later Than:
May 18
Paper Out:
May 28

On the Agenda

Karen Coakley

By President, Karen Coakley

The May meeting of the Beltsville Citizen’s association will take place on Wednesday, May 18 at 7pm. Unfortunately, as we go to press our speaker has not been confirmed. Check the Beltsville News Facebook Page or Nextdoor. Beltsville Division VI Citizens Advisory Council is hosting a virtual meeting on Mental Health and the Services provided locally on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be virtual with a call-in number.
FELLOWSHIP continued from page 1

explore the life stories, leadership styles, and legacies of Frederick Douglass and Daniel O’Connell as they engage in a comparative study of peace and conflict resolution through the lens of Ireland, the Middle East, and South Africa.

Tyler is one of 16 high-achieving diverse student leaders selected from a record number of outstanding applicants based on their demonstrated leadership and communication skills, and their commitment to agitating for positive social change.

An International Affairs and Political Science Major, Tyler was selected as a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow because of his academic excellence, communication skills, and commitment to social justice.

A highlight of Tyler’s service to his community is his work empowering students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to access international affairs opportunities. As part of the Larry Palmer Endows Program, Tyler conducted field research to investigate what HBCU students needed to succeed in study abroad. He also proposed a collaboration with the D.C. Metro Diplomats in Residence Office to organize an international career and research development program for HBCU students.

Tyler cites deep inspiration from Frederick Douglass for his commitment to international exchange. “Frederick Douglass’ diplomatic career encourages me to continue making change. The Fellowship’s dedication to help students explore different avenues and make a positive impact on local communities is exactly what I need to develop my perspective and ability to solve global issues.”

“The 2022 cohort of Frederick Douglass Global Fellows is an extraordinary group of students, representing a rich diversity of backgrounds, universities, academic majors, and personal stories,” said James P. Fellow, president and CEO of CIEE. “These leaders of tomorrow will be transformed through their experience in Ireland, as was Frederick Douglass in 1845, returning home with a global perspective on how to agitate peacefully for positive change in their communities and in our world.”

“Ireland was so special to Frederick Douglass,” said Nette Washington Douglass, chairwoman and co-founder of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, and the great-granddaughter of Frederick Douglass and great-granddaughter of Booker T. Washington. “The welcome and respect with which Frederick was greeted across his tour of Ireland affected him profoundly. I can think of no better place for these exceptional young people to hone their leadership skills and prepare to be agents of change.”

The Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship was launched in 2017 as part of CIEE’s commitment to increasing access to study abroad opportunities for students from historically underrepresented groups. In addition to funding the 16 Fellows, CIEE will provide all 700+ students who applied for this year’s fellowship a $1,500 Frederick Douglass Scholars Grant towards any CIEE study abroad program within the next year, committing more than one million dollars in grant funds to help diverse students study abroad.

In addition to being matched with global leaders to open doors for all students from low background and significantly increase diversity abroad.

To learn more about the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship, visit ciee.org/FDG Fellows. CIEE will provide all 700+ students who applied for this year’s Fellowship was launched in 2017 by students in underrepresented backgrounds and significantly increase diversity abroad.

ARTISTS
continued from page 1

audience member said “The acting was wonderful and we enjoyed all three of their performances very, very much. Thank you for providing another quality community theatre opportunity for the area.” Having a good time is what theatre is all about and the next show that will be performed on UpStage’s stage is “One and Dunne: An Evening of Laughter.” One and Dunne is a series of eight 10-to-12-minute comedy plays. They were written by local artists. The cast is made of local actors, including Beltsville resident Susie Mendolsohn, who will be making her UpStage Artists debut! The plays range from the outer silliness of having to find a replacement for Death, who has decided to work at Disney to group of turkeys who are about to find out the truth behind Thanksgiving to the most unusual support group you can imagine and much more. It’s described as 8 plays, 8 actors, 8,000,000,000 laughs."

If you are interested in coming out to see the show, there are 5 performances May 6, 7, 13, and 14 at 7:30 pm and May 15 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are $10.00 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com/tickets. Come on out, bring the family (the show is rated PG) and have a good laugh at One and Dunne!”
Caring for Community Cats

Living outdoors, feral cats face numerous nutritional challenges, surviving on food scraps, fruits/plants, small animals, and insects. Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) volunteers are working with colony caregivers to trap, neuter, vaccinate and return (TNVR) community cats to control their population growth and to provide access to winterized shelters during cold weather and to clean water and healthy food daily. BCC offers the following recommendations to caregivers on safe practices for feeding and suitable foods to give to feral cats.

Never allow a cat to eat wet food directly from the can as tongues can be cut, causing infections in the mouth. Never overfeed. Instead, place the portion on a dish. An adult cat should get ½ cup of dry food topped with a spoonful of canned food if possible. Excess food invites raccoons, rats, mice, ants, bacterial contamination, etc., causing neighbors to complain. Feed in a discreet location in the morning and/or late afternoon. Pick left over food up once the cats are done, or when the sun goes down. Never leave a mess. Always keep the area neat and clean.

Foods to avoid include caffeine-packed drinks, alcohol, sugary foods, dairy products, raw meats, raw eggs, and fat trimmings. Never feed foods with garlic or onion. Cats can eat cooked chicken and meats when the bones are removed. Accept cooked chicken and meats when mings.

Garlic or onion mings.

meats, raw eggs, and fat trim-

ary foods, dairy products, raw fine-packed drinks, alcohol, sug-

As BCC continues to grow, our needs grow too. We need volunteers to foster kittens/cats; trap, transport and overnight cats; research and respond to grant opportunities; and plan and conduct fundraising events. We depend on donations to pay veterinary bills, purchase equipment, and print materials. To learn more, visit our website www.beltsvil-

lecats.net. Questions regarding feral cats? Leave a message at 240-444-8533 or e-mail hello@beltsvil-

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Kitty Post By Sallie Rhodes

Share Your News! Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editorbvnews@gmail.com
Obituaries

Escobar, Laura Staples

Laura Staples Escobar, 64, passed away on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Laura was born on May 12, 1957 in Monterey, Mexico, to Laura Rodriguez Staples and Bradbury Clayton Staples Jr., the second of 5 children. Laura emigrated, with her family, to the United States in 1967.

Laura attended Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Maryland, and graduated in 1977. Upon graduation she joined the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. She fulfilled her mission trip calling by traveling to Lima, Peru from 1982 thru 1984. Returning to America she met her husband, Moises Escobar, through the church and they were wed on June 13, 1987. Their union was blessed with a daughter, Kimberly, on August 7, 1993.

Laura was the assistant to the principal at High Point High School for several years and became the school’s registrar from 2017 to the present. Laura was a loving wife and mother and was a fierce protector of her family. She was a caring and participatory aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She was committed to her church family and found strength through her unwavering faith.

Laura was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Richard James Staples, and several aunts and uncles. Laura leaves to honor her memory her husband, Moises, her daughter, Kimberly, three sisters, Nancy Salgado and her husband Arturo, Patricia Torano and her husband Anthony Tora-no, Christina Bromfield and her husband Kenneth Bromfield and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

Laura was laid to rest on April 8, 2022 at George Washington Cemetery, 9500 Ridge Road, Adelphi, Maryland. The family wishes to thank the many relatives and friends who continue to support them through this time of grief and sorrow.

UpStage Artists Wants to Whisk Your Children to Oz This Summer

By Rick Bergmann

There are very few people alive who don’t know the story of the Wizard of Oz. They know all the highlights, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, The Cowardly Lion, The Wicked Witch, The Munchkins, and all the other hallmarks of one of the most memorable family films of all time. UpStage Artists would like to give your children the opportunity to bring the story of Dorothy and friends to life in their first children’s production, “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.”

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz has been adapted from the original novel by L. Frank Baum by award winning writer, playwright, and UpStage Artist Board member, John Cusumano. The adaptation goes back to the original source novel and bring elements to the stage that were not a part of the movie we all know and love.

Children get a variety of benefits from learning to perform. Children in theater tend to learn reading comprehension, increase their self-confidence, improve their communication skills, be more tolerant of others and other’s ideas, and it gives them a greater sense of self expression. These are all lifelong skills that they will gain.

UpStage Artists is looking for children who want to have fun, creative, and learn some new skills this summer. Auditions will be held on Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22 at 2 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705). Rehearsals will begin on June 6th and run Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings beginning at 7 pm and running no later than 9 pm. Show dates are July 8, 29, 30 at 7:00 pm and July 24 and 31 at 2 pm. If your child is interested in auditioning, please go to www.upstageartists.com/auditions and fill out the form. This is a great chance for children to have fun and be creative this summer. UpStage Artists hopes to see you there!
ACROSS
1. In the Queen of Hearts’ oven?
6. Indiana Jones’ quest
9. Dance with leis
13. Sheikh, alt. sp.
14. Opposite of paleo
15. Hedgehog of movies and video games
16. Toilet, to a toddler
17. Pilot’s estimate acronym
18. One deserving of respect?
19. *Like submarine
21. *Abbey Road location
23. Lobe location
24. Per person
25. To the ___ degree
28. *“Twist and Shout” endearment
30. English confection
35. Wraths
37. Swarm like bees
39. Not taken and taken
40. Skiing helmet manufacturer
41. Homework assignment
43. Kamakawiwo’ole’s strings, pl.
44. Thermonuclear weapon
46. Type of list
47. Frost residue
48. “God, We Praise You” (2 words)
50. Redecorate, e.g.
52. What Carl Lewis did
53. Doctor’s order
55. December 31st, e.g.
57. *“Whisper words of ___”
60. *“Please ___ Me,” 1st album
63. Amusement
64. Rage
66. Scary movie consequence
68. ____ del Carmen, Mexico
69. Corn spot
70. Reach a goal (2 words)
71. Unit of heredity
72. Cry of alarm
73. Wipe out

DOWN
1. Cough syrupamt.
2. Greeting at sea
3. Blood vessel network
4. Ownership document
5. NASA’s first space station
6. All over again
7. Retired, abbr.
8. Aussie bear
9. *“I want to ___ your hand”
10. Editing arrow
11. Bank holding
12. Acronym, abbr.
15. Mister in Brazil
20. Speak from a podium
22. Month X
24. Hideous sight
25. “It’s been a hard day’s ___”
26. Social group
27. Roman king of Judea
29. Starr’s predecessor
31. *Fabulous number
32. Faquir, alt. sp.
33. Swelling
34. Ruhr’s industrial center
36. Not all
38. Like a full-fledged Mafia man
42. Cry of the Alps
45. The enlightened one
49. Barn sound
51. Nervous (2 words)
54. Inflict a blow
56. Truth or Dare player?
57. ____ E. Coyote
58. Persian Gulf country
59. Eye infection
60. Peephole glance
61. ____ ____ good example
62. Chows down
63. Frugal driver’s acronym
65. Fish eggs
67. Unidentified Jane

See Solution on page 11
Tech Sense  By John Bell

World Password Day 2022

World Password Day is on May 5th this year and is observed by updating your passwords and verifying your security settings. In general, a secure password should be 15 characters long, with a mix of upper- and lowercase alphabetic characters, digits, and special characters.

If you want to see the ways I have suggested in past articles to create strong passwords in can be found in my columns from March and April of 2015, January 2017, July 2018, April 2019, January 2020, and May 2021. Passwos should be changed at least annually so I try to repeat this topic at least annually because it is important!

Practically Perfect Passwords

I will repeat here the first method I suggested for creating secure passwords. I call this “practically perfect passwords” (PPP). The PPP involves forming passwords by rules that are followed to create your unique password for each website. First, select three or more letters from the website’s domain name. For example, amazon, you might pick the first and last two letters “aon.” Next select two digits that you will remember. It might be a memorable day or year like when the Declaration of Independence was signed (1776). The digit is above the “7” so we will use that as the special character. Finally, we will use a phrase that has been memorized; “water, water, everywhere, and all the boards did shrink;” from “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” This gives us “wwewaatbdS.” Now if we concatenate all of this we get “aon76&wwewaatbdS.” Finally, we add a capitalization rule, first and last characters and this next to the non-alphabet character are capitalized. This gives us the final password “AoN76&wWwewaatbdS.”

The password for Facebook would be; “FoK76&wWwewaatbdS.”

A Different Way

Last year I wrote about using dice and word lists to create hard to crack passwords. I have now created a new method that creates a code book to use to generate passwords. We start by creating a code book of words, one for each letter of the alphabet. On a piece of paper write a list with one row for each letter of the alphabet in order.

For each letter roll a single die 5 times and right down each number that comes up next to the letter. This gives you 5 digits from 1 to 6 in value for each letter. Let’s say the numbers are 3, 5, 6, 2, 6. Go to the EFF word list at https://www.eff.org/files/2016/07/18/eff_large_wordlist.txt and look up the word found, the word at 35626 which matches the word laundry. Write the word down next to the letter of the alphabet.

Repeat steps 2, and 3 until there is a unique word for each letter.

To create a secure password, use the rule for selecting letters from the domain name and then use the word to replace the letters with words from your list. Separate the words using the digits and symbols of the numbers you selected. My words for the letters A, O, and N are Gravel, Upper, and Junkie, the number we are using is still 76 and special character is & giving us the password “Gravel&Upper&R&Junkie.”

This password isn’t very easy to remember, but it is very easy to recreate if you have the word list you created. Since each person’s word list will be random and different every password will tend to be unique and the length and complexity will make the passwords impossible to crack using current technologies. But if you lose the list it will be impossible to recreate the passwords.

Multifactor Authentication

While updating your passwords it is also a good time to enable multi-factor authentication (MFA). When MFA is enabled on a system the system will ask for additional proof that you are who you claim to be. You may be asked for a code that is sent to your phone or generated by an app, or you may need to provide

TECH SENSE

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Residents for a Better Beltsville (RBB)

Join Residents for a Better Beltsville (RBB), a civic group advocating for the best in Beltsville, Maryland. We are focused on working with our Beltsville neighbors in the 20704, 20705, 20740, and 20783 neighborhoods. The aim of RBB is to foster a neighborly spirit and to promote civic pride.

As we all have had life interruptions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, RBB was forced to step back and reorganize. It is with a sad heart that we share the untimely death of our former chair, Mr. Eugene Jones, who we lost during his most recent illness. To honor Eugene, we will look forward to honoring his memory as we reassemble.

Whether you are looking for a local advocacy group to join or are a member of our various civic groups and homeowner associations - we look forward to meeting you. We are excited to partner with other advocacy groups throughout the greater Beltsville area.

Please join our meetings where we will discuss and monitor matters ranging from: beautifying our community, traffic concerns, potholes and road infrastructure, education, and future school construction, new and changing development, smart growth, geographical environmental impact, neighborhood safety, nearby resources, and much more.

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Supporting U.S. Troops in Eastern Europe

(StatePoint) As U.S. troops support NATO allies in Eastern Europe amid the crisis in Ukraine, efforts are being made to boost morale and connect service members to friends and family back home.

Sudden deployments like these are incredibly challenging for military families. One moment, a family is making plans for the weekend and deciding who will pick up groceries on the way home – and the next, a service member is packing their bags in a rush, canceling that vacation they had planned and saying goodbye to their spouse, children and friends. Suddenly, life goes from everyday normalcy to life on the frontlines.

“This is something they train for. Soldiers do layout after layout preparing to grab their bags and go at a moment’s notice,” said the spouse of a soldier at Fort Bragg. However, no matter how much a spouse mentally prepares, nothing can explain the way it feels to watch them walk out the door. According to the Blue Star Families 2020 Military Lifestyle Survey, deployment and time spent away from family were two of the top five issues facing active duty, Reserve and National Guard families today. To support troops and military families, USO staff and volunteers in the United States and Europe are working around the clock to deliver helpful resources. These efforts include:

• Providing Wi-Fi and call centers to keep service members connected to family back home.

This is particularly important for the thousands of troops in Eastern Europe who otherwise have no access to cell phones and laptops.

• Distributing care packages to ensure service members feel valued and supported. Packages include hygiene kits with essential toiletries, and snack packs with foods that remind them of home.

• Sending USO2GO and portable boxed programs to military units on the move, which include snacks, toiletries, games and sports equipment to keep troops entertained while giving them much-needed opportunities for relaxation.

• Providing hot meals to deployed service members, as well as their families at home.

• Offering a place to relax at USO locations throughout Europe, including a newly opened center in Poland and unstaffed centers in Eastern Europe.

• Delivering thousands of blankets, beanies and hand warmers to those operating in extremely cold environments.

• Supporting military families on the home front with community-building activities, opportunities to communicate with deployed loved ones, and other essential resources.

• Although deployment can be stressful, efforts like these can help alleviate the tension. According to USO research, 94% of surveyed service members reported that USO Programs ease their stress during deployment, and 96% feel more connected to loved ones during absence through the use of USO programs.

To learn more and discover ways to give back to military members and families, visit uso.org/uso-stands-ready-to-support.

“Although deployments are part of the journey for our service members and their families, the separation and uncertainty are among the most difficult aspects of life in the military,” said USO chief operating officer, Alan Reyes. “That’s why the USO always stands beside both service members and their families to strengthen and support them, especially during these short-fuse deployments.”

Americans’ Recognition of Racism’s Impacts is Fading

(StatePoint) In the summer of 2020 when calls for racial justice and the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 were on full display, some speculated that the country seemed to be at a turning point for acknowledging how much racism affects people’s health and economic well-being.

However, a new national survey from the non-profit RAND Corporation reveals that despite the public outcry and mounting evidence that racism and the pandemic are contributing to disparities between people of color and White people, the public’s recognition of racial inequities and the impacts of systemic racism is fading. Indeed, in July 2020, 61.1% of respondents agreed that people of color face more of the health impact of COVID-19 than White people, and 57.5% agreed that they face more of the financial impact. More than a year later, these numbers have dropped to 52.7% and 50.3%, respectively.

The data suggest that there has not been a seismic shift or enduring change in perception. “We conducted this survey because we wanted to see whether living through a once-in-a-century global pandemic would spur a shift in deeply-seated perspectives and attitudes around health, systemic racism, and equity,” Anita Chan, vice president and senior policy researcher at RAND Corporation, said. “We found that views around race and racism appear to be extremely entrenched. Moving forward, policies and actions that seek to address these issues must factor in where the public is and what needs to happen for these sentiments to evolve.”

As legislators around the country convene to tackle the pandemic and build their priorities for 2022, researchers say these findings must be top of mind as they work to make change. The good news is that of the same people surveyed about their views on race and health, most see the pandemic as a moment for positive change. Changes people hope to see include:

• improving access to health care (25.3%),

• prioritizing science in policy decisions (11.7%),

• protecting our freedom (11.1%), and

• increasing flexibility in how we all work (10.9%), among others.

And legislators can often look in their own backyards for inspiration. There is so much work being done at the community level to undo the impacts of racism and rebuild a more

RACISM
continues on page 15
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Emmanuel United Methodist Church Continues to Feed their Neighbors

By Rick Bergmann

In May of 2011 Emmanuel United Methodist Church began a program to help its neighbors who were struggling. They began what has become as the Emmanuel Food Bank, a program where once a month on the 4th Saturday residents can come by and get food and shelf stable foods to take home and prepare a meal. They are a model of what Jesus said when he stated in the book of Matthew “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” This dedicated group of volunteers gives selflessly to help their neighbors in need. With the cost of food prices going up due to inflation, more people are relying on food banks like the one at Emmanuel. If you need food assistance, there is no shame in coming and receiving the gifts from the Emmanuel Food Bank. Each month, volunteers give their time to pick up food, unpack and shelve items and create bags to be given out at the monthly giveaways. During the pandemic they served an average of 200 families a month. They are a model of what Jesus said when he stated in the book of Matthew “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Reminder: Scholarships to college

Each Senator is allocated funds for scholarships to students in our district who attend Maryland colleges. There are so many deserving students in Beltsville. With college tuition a struggle for many families, we need to do everything we can to help hardworking students get a good education. We can’t help everyone with Senatorial Scholarships, but we can certainly help some.

To apply online for a 2022-2023 Senate Scholarship, students should visit www.21stDistrictDelegation.com/college-scholarships, and the deadline to apply is Friday, July 8.

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 or call 301-858-3141.

Rosapepe’s Report to Beltsville

Cracking down on drag racing

Too many of our neighborhoods are plagued with dangerous drag racing. That’s why we passed Senate Bill 612 to increase fines and make car racing and speed contests on Maryland roads a “must appear” violation mandating that drivers face a judge. It also allows police to impound vehicles on the spot that are caught racing.

Supporting our community

In the legislative session that concluded in April, we worked together to invest in our Beltsville community:

- To fix potholes and improve local roads, we increased state funding by $25.4 million for Prince George’s
- $500,000 for the West Beltsville Park

Delegates Peña-Melnyk and Barnes made House Committee Chairs

House Speaker Adrienne Jones announced that, if reelected, Delegate Peña-Melnyk will be the new chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee and Delegate Barnes will be the new Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Senator Rosapepe is Vice-Chair of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee and Delegate Lehman is a member of the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

Share Your News!

Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editorbvnews@gmail.com
Beltsville Community Dumpster Day with Secure Shredding

We have scheduled a Beltsville Community Dumpster Day with Secure Shredding for Saturday, May 28, at Calverton Elementary School, from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM (or until the dumpster is full). We will be there rain or shine.

The dumpsters accept bulk items such as dressers, tables, bookcases, entertainment centers, desks, fans, vacuums, chairs, doors, cabinets, smaller household items, mattresses, and box springs (must be covered in protective encasement), and grills. The dumpsters do not accept sofas, refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, hot water heaters, tree stumps and trunks, yard waste, lawn mowers, auto parts, tires, construction materials, carpeting, sheds, fences, hazardous waste, household trash, glass and mirrors, and other wood waste/debris nor any materials from professional contractors.

No electronics.

This secure shredder accepts all types of papers, as well as papers joined with staples or paper clips, but not binder clips, 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks, folder organizers with metal inserts. No plastic or electronic items or CDs. If you cannot make it out, remember the County does curbside bulky pickups. Have your two (2) bulky items or two (2) tightly secured bags of smaller household goods placed next to your trash cart by 6 AM on your trash or recycling collection day.

News in Speed Calming Measures

In 2021, the Prince George’s County Council adopted County Bill-73-2021 An Act Concerning Residential District Speed Monitoring (CB-73-2021), which authorizes the county to install and utilize residential districts speed monitoring systems, also known as speed cameras. The first phase of the residential speed cameras are set to be installed soon. We are set to receive four speed cameras in District 1, locations include 105.

CONCERNS continues on page 15

Crossword Solution from page 5

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

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From the Office of Councilmember Tom Dernoga

Concerns About Proposed Currency Production Facility in Beltsville

By Maureen Fine, Vijay Parameshwaran, and Kiki Theodoropoulos

The following article was written by Maureen Fine, Vijay Parameshwaran, and Kiki Theodoropoulos; the authors are a part of Save BARC, a grassroots group of local residents organized around protecting the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center from destructive development, and encouraging renewed investment to make it a center of sustainable agricultural research in the United States.

In Beltsville, 100+ acres of land are being threatened by development. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), a 6,500-acre green space in Northern Prince George’s County, is part of a “green corridor” that includes Greenbelt Park, the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, and the Patuxent Research Refuge. This corridor forms the largest contiguous stretch of forest land on the East Coast from Boston to Richmond. According to BARC’s website, its research mission includes providing the American public with “healthier, safer food; cleaner air and water; and renewable natural resources, sustainable agricultural systems, and agricultural commodities and products that are abundant, high-quality, and safe.” The proposed currency production facility does not share the goals that further BARC’s mission. Moreover, its construction at BARC contradicts President Biden’s 30x30 vision to conserve nature, as well as the best practices outlined in the Maryland, Prince George’s County, and other regional climate action plans.

As federal land, BARC is under constant scrutiny for development opportunities, either with new government buildings or private projects. The proposed facility on the BARC green space has grave environmental and ecological implications. The U.S. Department of the Treasury (the project’s eventual landlord) identified environmental impact statement (EIS), the proposed facility is to be built as a sprawling, single-level, 1 million square foot structure, making the proposed factory buildings buildings be located on BARC. The entire factory complex is proposed to create a massive ecological footprint of 122 acres. Building this complex would increase impervious surfaces on the site and will further increase stormwater runoff and heat island effect.

The impact of this complex on the surrounding communities would involve more than the building and increased runoff. It also would involve the vehicle-miles traveled associated with commuting and deliveries once the facility is in operation and during construction. BARC’s final environmental impact statement (EIS) states that there would be an estimated 7,278 dump truck trips over the entirety of the construction period. Because of the decreased accessibility of the proposed facility to public transit compared to the BEP facility in Washington, D.C., the number of employees driving personal vehicles would increase, with almost all employees commuting on the road in Beltsville daily. In addition, approximately 82 heavy-duty diesel trucks, including semis, would arrive at and depart from the proposed facility weekly for shipments and deliveries, adding to the carbon dioxide emissions. While the final EIS discusses the adverse impact on roadways due to an increase in traffic from commercial and military diesel trucks, including long queues at most of the 15 intersections studied, there is no discussion of how the increase in traffic may affect air quality from additional car and truck exhaust, only the observation that vehicular traffic will significantly impact the region of influence.

The air quality near the site of the proposed facility is already bad, but is set to worsen substantially better than the minimum in the short term. The Department of the Environment air quality standards for ground-level ozone (annual fourth-highest daily maximum 3-year average). Ground-level ozone is created when pollutants, which can be harmful to public health and the environment. These monitors show that in 2019 the area near the site of the proposed facility already exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards for ground-level ozone, a dangerous condition that, according to the record of decision for the proposed facility, is already in operation and during construction. Once the facility is in operation and during construction, the additional car and truck exhaust will significantly increase this situation. Without cars, the air quality near the site of the proposed facility will exceed the standards for ground-level ozone. The EIS for this proposed facility does not sufficiently address operational controls for the BARC East sanitary sewer system. The wastewater would then be subjected to some level of separation and treatment before being discharged to a tributary of Bevard Creek, eventually reaching the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and then the Chesapeake Bay.

Because currency production depends on chemical processes, the project essentially locates an industrial facility with a chemical plant on a site largely consisting of forest, wetland, and open meadow. The chemicals produced by BEP’s production facility would contain highly toxic substances and pose significant health and toxicity hazards to human health and the environment if not handled properly. The final EIS for this proposed facility does not sufficiently address operational controls for the disposal of these chemicals or the wastewater produced. Without appropriate handling and controls, the waste from Bevard and Indian Creeks could be contaminated from these chemicals. BEP’s facilities in both Washington, D.C., and Fort Worth, Texas, have been previously cited by the EPA for chemical waste disposal and air violations, creating a worrying precedent.

So where are we now? On Tuesday, October 8, 2021, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Management, U.S. Department of the Treasury, signed the record of decision for the proposed facility. This decision is one in a series of troubling events leading to development in the green corridor that includes BARC. Recently, 105
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THE BUILDING, ART GALLERY, & BOOKSTORE
Main phone: 301.497.5772. The Visitor Center and the art gallery are open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, and federal holidays. The featured artist for May is nature photographer Bill Reichhardt. The bookstore is open Wednesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join our e-mail list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.gov. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent.

THE LSFC will meet on Wed., May 11 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a business meeting and a special program: Brain Health by RN Robin Nahor, and a luncheon (reservation to be made/paid in advance).

• Every Tuesday Bingo: 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); no admission fee.
• Indoor Yard Sale in the Great Hall on Sat., May 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables are $25 each; no admission fee.

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.

JUNIOR WILDLIFE RANGER
Sat., May 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 6 – 10, registration required (call 301.497.5887). Join a Refuge Ranger to explore the nature-related activities. Complete your Junior Wildlife Ranger activity booklet and earn a JWR badge!

YOUR OWN FUN NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN
Sat., May 21 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All ages, registration required (call 301.497.5887). Did you know you can help wildlife right from your home or apartment? Just a few native plants, even in a pot on a deck, can be a great home for native pollinators. Come to this class to help starting your own backyard wildlife refuge.

DRAGONS & DAMSELS
Sat., May 28 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Ages 5+, registration required (call 301.497.5887). Zipping through the air, dragonflies are masters of flight. Learn to use nets to catch them—and for those daring enough—hold one in your hand.

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Karen M. Coakley GRI
Your 110% Real Estate Agent!
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By Jason Inanga

Straight down to business! Here listening to the story of Billy Paul on You Tube, on the series UNSUNG. I have enjoyed these series on You Tube as one is provided an insight to the background of a lot of artistes, who I will confess, were not known till their hits put them in the public lime light. In 1972, “Me and Mrs Jones” earned Billy Paul a No 1 spot on the charts and a Grammy Award. He was born in December 1934 up in Philadelphia and sadly passed away on April 24, 2016 in New Jersey. He was 82 years old. Take the time to listen to his story.

Reminds me of a time in either 1996 or 1997, at the annual St. Kitts Music Festival, I was honored to see the legendary Kool and the Gang live in concert. These guys, apart from being good musicians, put on a show. They had so much fun with the audience, and went way over their allotted time, but who cared? All were having fun, dancing to hit songs from the 1970’s and 1980’s.

Music cuts across generations and culture. At Lovefield Airport here in Dallas, on some days, live music is provided in the departure area, between Alaska Airlines and Southwest check in desks. It is so refreshing to see persons dancing or moving to the music, as they deal with their travel protocol.

So, what is new at my end? Nothing much. I am now eventually giving in to the wish of my family to own a dog once again. I know who the work will fall on, once the novelty of a pet wears off. In Beltsville we had been through fish, turtles and a dog. You can guess who had to clean out the fish tank every week… (not smiling at my end).

I look forward to visiting Beltsville, later in the year, God sparing my life. I get very nostalgic when I speak with my friends there. It is a journey of 1380 miles and I have done the trip in 18 hours, making three stops for gas and a 47-minute nap after 10 hours of driving. Road trips are a lot of fun. My route is very scenic, passing through Little Rock, Arkansas, on to Memphis, Nashville and then into Virginia, coming up I 81 through Charlotte, New Market seeing the Blue Ridge mountains provide a lovely sea of green. I look forward to doing a few other road trips. So much to see on the road, and so much to take in – food, drink, local culture among others.

Reminds me of when in Beltsville, I would drive to Toronto overnight, 12 hours to go hang with my cousins or my wife’s siblings and then return to Beltsville on Sunday to play volleyball at 6 pm in Beltsville. Volleyball was my passion at the time. Highlight was when my Beltsville Team won the PG County League Title in 2013.

Well my dear reader, let me start to round up. Next month, I am going to feature an interview with a movie director, Bolanle Austen-Peters, BAP, who directed a movie that has just been released on Netflix. It is called, “Man of God” and literally shows how a Pastor was a hard disciplinarian on his first son, and eventually the son left home and turned his back on the family, but eventually became a Pastor himself. His past catches up to him and he eventually has to return to his father, who at this point has forgiven the son. I will warn that some of the language used is not too pleasant, but it reflects the reality of the streets in life. So we will meet BAP, who has transformed the performing arts sector in Nigeria. Hopefully you get a look into how a Director thinks and tries to tell a story. I cannot act to save my life, I respect those who do this.

On a final note, do have a great Mother’s Day when it comes. Mothers do a lot for all of us. We love our mothers, but let us do something special for them this year…instead of sending flowers on one day in May, let us give them other flowers all year round. An easy affordable way is to go to the website, www.bestimony.com and send a special affirmation to a loved one. Give the flowers to our loved ones while they are alive. That’s the Jive!

Jason’s Jive

If plans don’t fit within the frame
Time can be elusive,
Until freed for a lark.
When youth is riding on its back
Time crawls like a tortoise,
Wisdom lead our hearts.
He gave it as a gift for man should
Time, God has created,
Receive and ends when breath
For it starts when we are con-
Time is an enigma,
The source spent dwelling in the truth.
Controlling how much each life
Time is not granted power
Controlling how much each life
gets, or for what it is used.
Time holds sweetest pleasures,
With breezes from a heavy source spent dwelling in the truth.
Time is also bitter,
As aches creep slowly through our soul enduring what loss spews.
Time will bring back Jesus,
He promised us His soon return.
That Day none can refuse.
Time melts ’ere His splendor,
Eternity awaits for saints whose soul enduring what loss spews.

Beckie Hutchings
4/09/2022

TIME IS AN ENIGMA

Time is an enigma,
For it starts when we are con-
ceived and ends when breath
departs.
Time began before us,
But we must learn of history lest we repeat its darts.
Time, God has created,
For it starts when we are con-
ceived and ends when breath
departs.
Time is an enigma,
Time is not granted power
Controlling how much each life
gets, or for what it is used.
Time begins before us,
But we must learn of history lest we repeat its darts.
Time, God has created,
For it starts when we are con-
ceived and ends when breath
departs.
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Youth Fellowship 7:00 p.m.

St. John’s Episcopal Church Community Yard Sale
Spring has sprung and it’s time to clean out your closets, garages, attics and sheds! St. John’s Episcopal Church (11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville MD 20705) will be holding a community yard sale on Saturday, May 21 from 8am – 1pm.

We are currently looking for donations for our sale. We are looking for housewares, clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, books, and toys which are clean, in good condition and ready to sell. Ask your friends, family and neighbors for donations too! Gather your items in boxes or bags over the next few weeks. For more information and drop off dates, please contact Laurel Hillocks at (301)873-5945 or lhillocks@yahoo.com

BELTSVILLE BRIEFS
continued from page 1

Plants from The Duckworth School greenhouse will be on sale at the Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale!

BELTSVILLE BRIEFS
continued from page 1

Plants from The Duckworth School greenhouse will be on sale at the Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale!
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Contact Gary Kingery

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Contact Gary Kingery

RACISM

continued from page 7

equitable society that are worth recognizing and learning from. For example, over the past few years, more than 200 cities, counties, and leaders declared racism a public health crisis. Researchers say that this is an important step that can lead to efforts for real, lasting change centered on equity. We are already seeing this play out in some settings, from statehouses to city halls, where health equity is driving policy decisions.

To read more about “COVID-19 and the Experiences of Populations at Greater Risk” survey findings, visit rwjf.org/covidsurvey.

To read more about communities working to center equity to improve the health of everyone, visit rwjf.org/prize.

With more than two-thirds of respondents believing the pandemic presents a moment for positive change, researchers say that while there’s work to be done, there are also reasons to be hopeful.
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