UpStage Artists Presents “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!”

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists, Beltsville’s premiere community theater, is gearing up for its final show for the 2023 season, Barbara Robinson’s “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!” The play is based on her novel of the same name. In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won’t believe the mayhem – and the fun – when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! This delightful show is adapted from the bestselling Young Adult book and has become a holiday staple for groups across the United States. UpStage Artists’ production features 17 children and 7 adults from Beltsville and the surrounding areas. This is a fantastic production for you and your family. The running time is just a little over an hour, so it’s not too long for the little ones, it’s funny and silly and will keep everyone entertained, there is Christmas music, and of course a feel-good message at the end. “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” is a show that is perfect to introduce younger children to the joys of live theater. Show dates for “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” are December 1, 2, 8, 9 at 7:30 pm and December 3 and 10 at 2 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Tickets are on sale online at www.upstageartists.com/tickets or by calling 301-715-8592.

Next Issue:

November 25

Cub Pack 1031 is Getting Ready for Scouting for Food!

By Rick Bergmann

Cub Pack 1031 along with Troop 1033 is getting ready for our Scouting for Food Drive which will be a week early this year! Scouts will begin putting stickers on doors the weekend of October 28th and we will be collecting cans and boxed food with unexpired dates on November 4th. This is due to Veterans Day falling unexpired dates on November 4th.

The donations will go to the food pantries at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and Emmanuel United Methodist Church. If you do not get a sticker just let me know your address and we will be sure to pick up your donation.

The pack also did a fall cleanup at Little Paint Branch Trail Park on Monday October 9th. We collected 7 bags of trash and 3 bags of recycling. Many thanks to all the families who participated, especially the Herdmans.

Cub Pack 1031 continues on page 6

Beltsville Lions Club Activities

By Ted Ladd

Four new members of the Beltsville Lions Club were inducted on 4 October by Lions Clubs International Director (ID) John Lawrence. The Club is pleased to welcome new members Suzie Mendelsohn, Vicky Malengo, Paul Malengo and Nancy Abernethy. In addition to the regular induction script, ID Lawrence asked new members to read aloud the Lions code of ethics. The code emphasizes honest and ethical conduct. Special thanks to ID Lawrence who drove some 150 miles round trip to meet with the club.

On Saturday, 14 October, Beltsville Lions Rev. Dr. Andrea King, Ann & Ted Ladd participated in vision and hearing screenings at National Harbor. The Lions Community Outreach Foundation’s mobile health unit contained the screening equipment, and visitors to National Harbor were offered complimentary screenings. The unit was parked not far from National Harbor’s Ferry wheel.

PRE-APPLICATION NEIGHBORHOOD

Prince George’s County Planning Department MEETING

There is a proposed Multi-family Project next to the Fire Station on Powder Mill Road across from Calvertion Shopping Center. The entrance to the property is at the traffic light at Powder Mill Road and Beltsville Drive.

Application: PPS-2023-025 & DET-2023-010

No Later Than: November 15

Paper Out: November 25

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Karen Cookley

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Application: PPS-2023-025 & DET-2023-010

Applicant Contact Name: Tom Haller
Phone: (301) 306-0033
Email: gibbshaller.com

Neighborhood Meeting Information
11/6/2023 6:30:00 pm Zoom.com
Meeting ID: 838 2661 4781
Passcode: 098617

Paper Out: November 25

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continues on page 11
Two New Eagle Scouts for Troop 1033

By Eagle Scouts Kris Smith and David Outland

In a double ceremony both Christopher Ryan Smith and David Curtis Outland from Beltsville Boy Scout Troop 1033 were awarded their Eagle medals at a Court of Honor ceremony held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. Their parents, Ms. Vanessa Smith and Mr. and Mrs. David & Frances Outland, grandparents and a host of other relatives, friends and fellow scouts witnessed this great event in the scouts’ lives. Kristopher and David started the same time as Cub Scouts and it was befitting that they celebrated their Eagle Scout ceremony together.

4 Ways You Can Observe National Veterans and Military Family Month

(StatePoint) When was the last time you thanked a military member or veteran for their service? November is National Veterans and Military Family Appreciation Month and an excellent time to celebrate, support and honor service members.

That’s why Points of Light, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing people to take action that changes the world, is sharing ways you can get involved, along with the stories of former military members already doing so. From volunteering to donating and beyond, these ideas are based on the Points of Light Civic Circle®, a framework that highlights nine pathways to boosting social impact.

1. Listen and learn. Being informed about an issue can help you think more critically, make better decisions and lend stronger support. Check out two podcasts created by Military OneSource. Covering topics like deployment, casualty assistance, money management and parenting, they are designed to help military members and families thrive.

2. Volunteer. Hands-on support is some of the most impactful work you can do in the nonprofit sector. The American Red Cross is currently recruiting caseworkers for military members, veterans and families. This volunteer role requires some training, but can be carried out from anywhere, and shifts are flexible. Whether you’re looking for remote or in-person volunteer opportunities, search Points of Light Engage, the world’s most comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities.

3. Donate. Nonprofits and NGOs are dependent on donations to pay their staff, recruit volunteers and execute their high-impact work. This year marks Wounded Warrior Project’s 20th anniversary. You can support its mission of providing career and family support. Check out two podcasts created by Military OneSource. Covering topics like deployment, casualty assistance, money management and parenting, they are designed to help military members and families thrive.

4. Celebrate, thank and honor veterans. Veterans and their family members are everywhere – from working alongside you to doing everyday things like grocery shop-
The September 2023 Kitty Post provided information on Feline Leukemia (FeLV), a condition which has no definitive cure. While evidence of benefits of homeopathic treatments and lifestyle changes are anecdotal in nature, one recent adopter of a cat with FeLV has made changes to her kitty’s diet and routine that seem to be improving her cat’s quality of life. It should be noted that it is important to consult with your veterinarian before making broad changes to your pet’s care and nutrition.

Again, anecdotal evidence indicates that a caregiver can ease the immune challenges associated with FeLV by following a holistic approach. Key components of one holistic therapy approach are providing: 1) a balanced diet that boosts the immune system; 2) a stress-free home environment; and 3) consistent access to clean drinking water. One supplement that may help FeLV positive cats is Sodium Ascorbate (the powder form of vitamin C). Mixing 1/4 to 1/16 teaspoon in your cat’s food at each meal makes a difference for some cats. Providing a balanced diet of energetic wet food, either prepared at home (recipes are available online) or as commercial canned food that provides a blend of prebiotics, probiotics and digestive enzymes is another example of a therapy that may improve the gut or intestinal health of a cat.

The woman who adopted a FeLV positive cat from BCC was happy to report that her cat has become a beautiful pet with an excellent demeanor after the therapy she provided. She stressed the importance of basic cleanliness. She wipes the cat down with natural aloe vera gel a few times a day. Filtered water is used rather than tap water, and she adds trace minerals back into the filtered water. Be sure to consult a vet for the types of minerals and how much is safe for cats. Some minerals given in excess (such as calcium, iron, phosphorus) can cause other health issues (source: www.petmd.com; www.ascapro.org).

This adopter also gives the cat supplements such as Cat’s Claw, Lomatium, colloidial silver, seaweed extracts, hemp seeds, olive oil, probiotic, etc. on a regular basis. Again, it is important to check with your vet before introducing any supplements into your cat’s diet. It is important with cats, just as it is with humans, to do no harm when working to improve health.

This adopter also uses toys and laser pens to encourage regular exercise, especially after meals. The time spent in play is good exercise, especially after meals. This adopter uses laser pens to encourage regular exercise.

The bottom line is that FeLV positive cats can be adopted into homes where there are no other cats or where any other cats are also FeLV positive. With proper care at home and veterinary care when needed, these cats may live for years.

Beltville Community Cats applauds all families who provide quality care for their pets. We would like to acknowledge all of those people who knowingly take on the responsibilities associated with pets that have special social, emotional or health concerns. As Sigmund Freud put it, “Time spent with cats is never wasted.”

Life with FELINE LEUKEMIA

By Sallie Rhodes

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Order Free At-Home Covid Tests
Have you heard? You can get four more free COVID-19 testing kits mailed directly to your home. Order them at covidtests.gov

COVID info and help
MDGOVAX Call Center Services are transitioning to 2-1-1 Maryland. Marylanders can still receive information and referrals regarding COVID-19 resources by calling 2-1-1 or texting your zip code to 898 211.

COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Homeowners
Are you struggling to keep up with your mortgage payments or other housing costs due to COVID-19 related financial hardships? The Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund may be able to help. Visit the State of Maryland’s Department of Housing and Community Development website at https://dhcd.maryland.gov/ or call the department at 301-429-7400 to check eligibility and get assistance with navigating the application portal.

Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 – December 7
Is it really that time again? Yes, it is. Open enrollment begins October 15 until December 7 so start researching those Medicare plans. Researching Medicare plans is worse than going to the dentist for sure, and maybe worse than doing taxes. In any case, take the time to do your homework. If this is your first time or your 10th time, check out www.medicare.gov. A change for 2023 is the cost of insulin. A one-month supply of insulin will be capped at $35 for those on Medicare Part B, and there is no deductible.

Volunteers are Needed
As the holiday season and winter draws near, consider being a volunteer. The following organizations and churches are always in need of your help.

Elizabeth House – FISH (www.fishoflaurel.org)
Host a goods or diaper drive; homemade and store-bought cereals are needed for dinner each evening. More information is available on the website.

Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (www.laureladvocacy.org)
Volunteers are needed to accept donations, perform clerical duties, and prepare and distribute food bags to clients.

Food Bank (www.collegeparkfoodbank.com)
Serving College Park and surrounding communities, volunteers can host a food drive, or serve as photographer, CPA, or fundraiser.

Fit & Strong Program! is Free
Seniors, are you ready to increase your strength, balance, and stamina? Join Fit & Strong! Class will be held at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 11 AM. Class will run from October 17 to January 9. Ages 18 & up are eligible to enroll. You must register via www.21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com.

Activities with the Laurel Beltsville Senior Activity Center

Thanksgiving Fellowship Luncheon Friday, November 17, 2023, FREE 11 am - 2 pm
Join fellow seniors for the Center’s annual Thanksgiving Luncheon! Enjoy a catered meal and live entertainment. Deadline to register is November 10. This event is FREE for those who register in advance and bring in an unexpired canned good for a local food shelter.

How to report potholes in Beltsville
Maintenance of State roads (identified by number — Rt 1, Rt 212, etc) is the responsibility of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). Call 301-952-0555 to report a pothole on a State road. Other local roads are maintained by the County. To report potholes on them, call 311 (3-1-1) or 301-883-4748 and report it online at pgrparksdirect.com; Activity Code: 17488-579. For more information call customer service at: 301-699-2255.

Borrow Technology from the Library
You can borrow more than books from our public libraries. Reserve a Chromebook, Wi-Fi hotspot, electricity usage monitor or a thermal camera. An electricity usage monitor indicates how many kilowatts are being used by a device. Thermal cameras can help you detect problems in your home such as lack of insulation, electrical problems and water damage. For more information, please go to the Beltsville Library at 4319 Sellman Road. Helpful videos are available on the library system’s website at https://www.pgrparksdirect.com or in-person at any M-NCPPC facility in Prince George’s County.

Volunteers are Needed to Accept Donations, Perform Clerical Duties, and Prepare and Distribute Food Bags to Clients.
Statepoint Crossword: Football

ACROSS
1. Brainchild 47. High or low card
5. Gravestone wish 48. Employer’s good news
8. Paleozoic one 50. Hyperbolic tangent
11. Pressing tool 52. *College player not using eligibility
12. Senegal’s neighbor 53. Actress Perlman
13. Literary theme 54. Millimeter of mercury
15. Scissors sound 55. Took the bait
16. Final notice 58. *Defensive one
17. *Notre Dame’s Fighting ___ 19. Not odds
18. *Home of the first Super Bowl winners 22. Lily, in French
21. Steer clear 24. *a.k.a. Iron Mike
22. “Glee” actress ____ Michele 25. Charcuterie stores
23. Befuddled 26. *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
26. *Of 1 of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field 29. Fish story
27. Have faith 30. Stockings
31. Lummox 32. Calendar abbr.
32. Calendar abbr. 33. “Doggone it!”
34. Russian autocrat 35. Rand McNally book
36. *Home to College Football Hall of Fame 37. Mozart’s “L’___ del Cairo”
40. Be more of a fox 41. Van Gogh flowers
42. Dead or Black, e.g. 44. Partners of pains
43. Obliquely 46. Spirited
45. Roof supporter 48. Puzzle with pictures and letters

DOWN
1. “___, Now or Never” 2. “Shoot!”
2. *Super Bowl winners 3. Arabian bigwig
3. Fund-raising letter 4. Torah teacher
4. Larger-than-life 5. Homer’s famous poem
5. Feel for 6. Home of the Citrus Bowl in Florida
7. Larger-than-life 8. Rushing unit
8. Larger-than-life 9. A Supreme singer
10. Emerald ____ borer 11. Emerald ____ borer
11. Emerald ____ borer 12. Poet’s death lament
12. Poet’s death lament 13. Fungal skin infection
15. Scissors sound 16. Final notice
16. Final notice 17. *Notre Dame’s Fighting ___
17. *Notre Dame’s Fighting ___ 18. *Home of the first Super
21. Steer clear 22. Lily, in French
23. Unluckily, exclamation 24. *a.k.a. Iron Mike
25. Charcuterie stores 26. *One of 4 NFL teams sharing a home field
27. Have faith 28. Ranees’s wrap
29. Fish story 30. Stockings
31. Lummox 32. Calendar abbr.
32. Calendar abbr. 33. “Doggone it!”
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36. *Home to College Football Hall of Fame 37. Mozart’s “L’___ del Cairo”
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See Solution on page 10
District 1 Community
Conversation: Superintendent Millard House II

Beltsville residents are invited to join the District 1 Virtual Community Conversation on Thursday, November 30, at 7:00PM. You’re invited to meet the new Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools, Mr. Millard L. House II. Questions may be submitted with your registration. Request ASL or Spanish translation assistance by November 20. Advance registration is required online at https://bit.ly/d1house1130.

High Point High School Replacement

The Prince George’s County Public Schools’ Department of Capital Projects Programs will host a virtual Project Information Town Hall meeting via Zoom on Monday, November 6, at 5:30 PM. Register online at https://bit.ly/HighPoint-Nov6.

Residents can learn updates and share views on the replacement project for High Point High School.

Update: Proposed Vansville Townhouse Development

A developer is seeking to develop 7.75 acres of land at the southeast intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Ammendale Way (11701 Old Baltimore Pike, Vansville) into a Harmony Garden townhouse community with a maximum of 67 units. To view the plans, visit here: https://bit.ly/11701OldBmorePikeDev

In February of this year, a neighborhood meeting was held with the developer to discuss this project in greater detail, per Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCP-PC) guidelines. In September, our office hosted another community meeting with the developer about the proposed townhouse project for anyone who missed the earlier informational meeting.

The project is on the M-NCP-PC Planning Board agenda for Thursday, November 30 at 10:00 AM. To sign up to speak or submit written comment, speaker registration and all materials for Planning Board consideration must be submitted by 12:00 NOON on Tuesday, November 28, two days prior to the Planning Board meeting. The registration link will be available at https://bit.ly/planning-boardtestify.

All interested people are encouraged to become a “person of record” for this application. As a person of record in a zoning case, you are notified of upcoming meetings, actions, and decisions made at certain stages of the zoning application process, as well as relevant appeals procedures. Requests to become a person of record may be made online at http://bit.ly/MNCPPCpor or call 301-952-3530 for additional information. Please reference the subject application numbers: PPS-2023-025 & DET-2023-010.

It’s Time for Development to Work for Us

For 60 years, County leaders and planners have promised forward-looking development focused on Metro stations and inner Beltway revitalization. But most Metro stations have little development, and townhouses pop up all over the County leading to some of the worst congestion in the U.S., overcrowded schools in the north, and old, crumbling schools throughout the County. The police department is understaffed and overstretched, and crime is rising. The backlog for new and renovated fire stations is overwhelming. The debt service that the County pays on capital projects has increased dramatically, approaching our 8% limit, which will threaten our AAA bond rating.

My new resolution, Council Resolution 83-2023, attacks this problem head-on, targeting development to go where we want it. For 20 years, the County has averaged 2,800 dwelling units built each year, but almost 80% of these units have been outside the Beltway. In addition, where 20 years ago, over 70% of these units were single-family detached, recent years have seen almost two-thirds of housing outside the Beltway become townhouses and multifamily. The County needs denser development, but it should follow our designated County plans to build where we have invested in infrastructure.

What does CR-83-2023 do?
• Targets 75% of new development to Regional and Local Transit Centers
• Allows 25% of new development to continue to go to suburban and rural areas
• Provides a 6-year window to target public facility deficiencies
• Plan 2035, our latest County development plan from 2014, sets a goal of 75% of new development to be built in Regional and Local Transit Centers. The County Climate Action Plan has the same goal. Eight years after Plan 2035, we still fail to achieve these goals because Plan 2035 has no teeth.

Is 60 years of not following growth plans acceptable? We need to take control of our futures. CR-83-2023 will control sprawl and refocus new development to priority areas, allowing the County to address infrastructure deficiencies.

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Don’t miss out on resources, local activities, and events for seniors. Sign up for our monthly senior email newsletter: bit.ly/1DISeniorNewsletterOptIn

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. On parle français. "��範 事務"

Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDemoga1

PAGEANT
continued from page 1

sold at www.upstageartists.com/ tickets for just $10. We will also be collecting monetary donations for Beltsville Community Cats at each show. If you have a local business and would like to advertise in our program, you can go to www. upstageartists.com/ad for more information. Remember, UpStage Artists is community theater for everyone!
UpStage Artists Announces Its 2024 Season!

As they get ready to wrap up 2023 with the hilarious family comedy “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” UpStage Artists is already looking forward to 2024 in another year of quality theater for the entire community. In 2024 they will be having a few firsts, their first Shakespearean performance and their first musical. They will have Lorraine Hansberry’s Award Winning “A Raisin in the Sun” to kick off their season in February. That will be followed by one of the world’s first romantic comedies, William Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing in June. Then during the summer months, they will be working on the children’s show, a musical version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves which will be performed in August. Finally, they will close out their season in early November with Agatha Christie’s The Mousetrap, the longest running show, of any kind, in the world.

“A Raisin in The Sun” is set on Chicago’s South Side, Lorraine Hansberry’s celebrat-ed play concerns the divergent dreams and conflicts in three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis, and matriarch Lena. When her deceased husband’s insurance money comes through, Mama Lena dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in Chicago. Walter Lee has his own plans: buying a liquor store and setting out on a drift; a strange little man who claims he can American Boy, ages 10-14. The production is sponsored by Agatha Christie’s The Mousetrap, the record-breaking murder mystery from Dame Agatha Christie, features a brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

UpStage Artists Announces Auditions For “A Raisin In The Sun”

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists is excited to announce auditions for their first show of the upcoming 2024 sea-son, Lorraine Hansberry’s Award Winning A Raisin In The Sun! Auditions will take place on December 4 and 6, 2023 at 7 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Hansberry’s play explores the themes of family and dreams as Beatrice are meant for each other—except for Benedick and Beatrice themselves! While their friends try to trick the bickering pair into admitting they’re in love, their young sidekicks Hero and Claudio start a romance of their own. But will false accusa-tions, broken promises, and even a nutty and bumbling police force prevent a happy ending? “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” has all of your old friends, plus a few new ones, in this classic, marvelous musical adaptation. You’ll meet the captivating Princess Snow White, the prince, the evil queen, and, of course, the seven mischievous dwarfs — Sarge, Gabby, Gloomy Gus, Ticklish, Spritely, Snore, and Slowpoke. There’s also a hilarious palace cat and an enchanted vixen — a fox, you could say! Following the tradi-tional storyline, the fairy tale is brought to life with an eclectic score of toe-tapping tunes.

Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap” is the world’s longest-running play! After a local woman is murdered, the guests and staff at Monkswell Manor find themselves stranded during a snowstorm. It soon becomes clear that the killer is among them, and the seven strangers grow increasingly suspicious of one another. A police detective, arriving on skis, interrogates the suspects: the newlyweds running the house; a spinster with a curious background; an architect who seems better equipped to be a chef; a retired Army major; a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift; and a jurist who makes life mis-erable for everyone. When a second murder takes place, ten-sions and fears escalate. This record-breaking murder mystery features a brilliant surprise finish from Dame Agatha Christie, the foremost mystery writer of her time.

Keep up with all the latest news from UpStage Artists by signing up for updates at their website www.upstageartists.com today. And come on out and enjoy high quality theater in your own back yard. All performances are held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Laurel Churches Participate in Joint Venture to Publicize Bazaars

Some local Laurel Churches have joined together to publicize their church Bazaars by using a Holiday Bazaar Passport. The bazaar dates/times, participating churches and addresses are:

- October 21, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Laurel Presbyterian Church, 7610 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, 20707
- November 3, 2-8 p.m. and November 4, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 8603 Contee Road, Laurel, 20708
- November 4, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church, 114 Saint Mary’s Place, Laurel, 20707
- November 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic Church, 8402 Brock Bridge Road, Laurel, 20724
- November 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, 522 Main St., Laurel, 20707

Since the Laurel Presbyterian Church Bazaar is now in the past, attendees can pick up a Holiday Bazaar Passport at St. Nicholas Holiday Market or St. Mary of the Mills Church Bazaar, so they can attend the rest of the bazaars on the passport list. The Passport will have a place for each church to stamp your Passport to verify your attendance. Turn your completed Passport in at the last bazaar at St. Philip’s Holly Days Bazaar.

Individuals who attend the greatest number of bazaars will be eligible to win a $100 gift card. Questions, contact Pat Farmer, 240-762-3805.

Neighbors in the News
NO PAYMENT FOR 60 DAYS!* 

Drive off with hot rates as low as 5.74% APR on our auto loans!* 

Scan the QR code, 
Text “LOANS4U” to 301.627.2666, 
call, or visit us online to apply today!

WWW.PRINCEGEORGESCFCU.ORG/AUTO 
800.952.PGCU | 301.627.2666

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Loan rates are tier-based and priced according to member’s individual credit ratings. No payments for 60 days; however, interest will accrue. PGFCU reserves the right to change or withdraw this offer at any time. Loans based on creditworthiness and subject to approval. Must be 18 or older to apply. Membership open to all persons that live, work, worship, volunteer or attend school in Prince George’s County Maryland. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.
University of Maryland School of Nursing Names DeVance-Wilson Director of Maryland Nursing Workforce Center

Baltimore, Md. – The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) has named Crystal DeVance-Wilson, PhD ’19, MS ’06, MBA, BSN ’00, PHCN-BC, assistant professor and vice chair of the UMSON program at the Universities of Shady Grove (USG), the new director of the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center (MNWC).

She succeeds Rebecca Wiseman, PhD ’93, RN, who retired at the end of the 2022 - 23 academic year. The MNWC, launched by Wiseman in 2018 through Nurse Support Program (NSP) II grant funding, was created to collect data, analyze findings, and report on the state’s nursing workforce. To plan for future workforce needs and to measure the success of related programs and initiatives, an accurate and comprehensive data set is essential. Creation of the center also responded to a national recommendation in the Institute of Medicine’s 2011 report The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health for improved collection of workforce data.

“It is an exciting time for the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center. Building on Dr. Wise-man’s legacy we will continue to address matters that are important to the nursing profession across the state of Maryland and nationally,” DeVance-Wilson said. “We have a great team who is looking forward to the work and is humbled by the opportunity to serve the Maryland nursing community.”

DeVance-Wilson has served as the center’s assistant director since 2021. She is the MNWC lead facilitator on the Universal Onboarding for Pre-licensure Students project, designed to standardize hospital orientation education for nursing students when onboarding for clinical and practicum opportunities, in conjunction with the Maryland Organization of Nurse Leaders Inc. Nurse Residency Collaborative. She was also a member of the research team that developed, implemented, and analyzed the 2021 Maryland statewide survey, “Analysis of COVID-19 Impact on the Maryland Nursing Workforce.”

Over its five-year existence, the MNWC has been at the forefront of efforts to assist nursing faculty members throughout Maryland to prepare for the introduction of the NextGen NCLEX, a revised nursing licensing examination paralleling national changes in nursing school curriculum. A highly collaborative and inclusive advisory committee made up of faculty from public, private, community, and historically black colleges and universities schools of nursing held a statewide summit in September 2021 on the changes to the exam and followed this with a series of in-depth workshops to assist nursing faculty in incorporating techniques to enhance students’ clinical judgment and decision-making abilities into classroom, clinical, and simulation instructional strategies. MNWC’s statewide collaborative efforts in developing such resources for nursing faculty has served as a model for other states.

The MNWC also serves as the official Maryland state representative to the National Nursing Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers, a national network of state-based workforce centers that aims to ensure a robust, diverse, and well-prepared nursing workforce. The MNWC is a recognized leader within the national forum.

DeVance-Wilson joined the UMSON faculty in 2009 as a clinical faculty and preceptor in the delivery and critical care nurse; she earned her PhD, Master of Science in Nursing degrees from the University of Baltimore.

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Ghosts of Christmas Past

So, it is October and I find myself writing the annual Christmas column so it will be published before Black Friday in November, and everyone can get gift ideas for the holidays. I have been doing this column for 10 years now, but I didn’t start writing a Holiday column until 7 years ago. I thought it might be interesting to revisit the gift suggestions that I have made over the years and, because Halloween is so close, I thought of these as “Ghosts of Christmas Past”.

Often many of my gift suggestions were updated repeats of previous years. I like to think that this was helpful for those that didn’t get their gift wishes the first time. I would like to start with one of my favorites.

Raspberry Pi
The Raspberry Pi first appeared in this list in 2016. At the time, a very basic 3D printer was buyable for as little as $180. Now I see prices for very basic printers under $120. I would still look in this range. I think there is less interest in 3D printing because many models are still difficult to use. It takes practice to make a good print. I have never gotten a 3D printer and I have lost interest because I do not have the time to learn to print well.

Phones
They keep coming out with new phones and phones still make a practical gift. In 2016, I suggested the new Google Pixel phones and had nice things to say about the affordable Motorola phones. As usual, I still have little to say about Apple phones. The new Google phone is the Pixel 8, and it gets rave reviews. In my house, we have a Pixel 5a and a Pixel 6a and we are happy with them. The Motorola phones are still good values, but many do not include near field communications (NFC) meaning they can’t be used for paying when shopping or with Free Style Libre continuous glucose meters (CGM). We do have a Moto One 5G Ace, but we have had some issues with it dropping signal on occasion. I do hear good things about other 5G Motorola phones.

TVs and Video Streamers
The final gift item for 2016 was a TV. For a small to midsized screen, I still suggest a 1080p HD TV until at least 42 inches. For a larger TV, consider a UHD screen with 3,840 by 2,160 pixels. Content for the UHD TV is a lot more available now than it was in 2016.

Video Streaming first appeared in the list in 2016. At the time, a very basic 3D printer was buyable for as little as $180. Now I see prices for very basic printers under $120. I would still look in this range. I think there is less interest in 3D printing because many models are still difficult to use. It takes practice to make a good print. I have never gotten a 3D printer and I have lost interest because I do not have the time to learn to print well.

Voice Assistants
In 2017, we also added Voice Assistants. This gift category may not have much life left in it. Apple, Google, and Amazon are all having difficulty figuring out how to make money from these devices. Still, I love turning off all the controlled lights in my house by simply saying “Alexa Goodnight”.

IoT Controls
If you don’t want to gift a voice assistant, consider Internet of Things controls and devices. These IoT devices showed up on the gift list for the first time in 2019. Last year Costco had Feit brand smart color light bulbs at a bargain price of two for $10. I believe we will see these again this year. Even if you don’t have a voice assistant IoT device can still be controlled with your mobile phone. Consider smart switches, light bulbs, and smart thermostats. Pepco often has discounts on smart thermostats.

Smart Cameras and Doorbells
By the holiday season of 2020, we were deeply into COVID, and I commented that doorbell cameras were all the rage, and this seemed odd to me because we were all stuck at home anyway. Smart cameras and doorbells are still popular, but these devices often have fees associated with services to copy the video to the cloud. Several companies have been caught invading privacy by allowing employees access to view your “private” videos and it has become common to raise the prices or reduce the services for storing the video.

Try to find cameras that allow you to store the videos in your choice of cloud service providers if you can.

Tablets and Readers
In 2018 I suggested that Tablets seem to be the forgotten technology. Yet last year, that is exactly what I requested for the holidays. My tablet was out of support, and I could no longer run the applications I needed to watch movies on the airplane. These are still great little devices. There are still only three major brands: Amazon, Apple, and Samsung and one or two smaller offerings, Amazon with Fire Tablets and Kindle readers seems to be the least expensive and make decent media devices. What Amazon really does well is providing content, books to read, music to listen to, games to play, and movies to watch. Samsung and Apple do this too. Tablets are starting to come back. Maybe next year there will be some new good devices.

Readers are primarily for books, but the batteries on a reader will typically last for weeks instead of hours.

Games and Gaming
I first covered game machines and games in 2018. The popular game machines today are the Nintendo Switch, the Sony PlaySta- tion 5, and the Microsoft Xbox series X and series S. All of these games are very popular and games for the devices run between $50 and $80.

Happy Holidays
I am out of space again, but I hope you enjoyed our walk down memory lane. I even managed to slip in a new gift that appeared this year for the first time. Happy Holidays from Tech Sense.
What’s Happening At The College Park American Legion?

By Karen Coakley
The Women’s Club of Beltsville is celebrating our 101st year! Would you like to learn more about us? Then join us for our next meeting on Monday, November 13th at 7:00 pm at the Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club, 11705 Ruby Avenue. Light Refreshments will be served.

Holiday Food, Gift & Fund-Raising Program 2023
It is that time of year again for our Annual Food and Gift Program, as well as fundraising for our other important projects. We are asking Beltsville businesses, schools, service organizations, social clubs, churches, and individuals to help us provide food and gifts for needy families in the Beltsville Community during the holidays. We would like to be in a position to provide assistance. The funds may also go towards some of our other projects and partners such as Scholarship/Leadership programs for teens, Beltsville Beautification, Adopt A Road, Partnership programs with Schools, the Police Department, the Fire Department and MCNP-PC Beltsville Boys & Girls Club, to name a few. There are times during the year when families are in crisis, and they reach out to us for help. We hope that you can assist us in these worthy endeavors.

We provide Gift Cards from Aldi’s at Thanksgiving. During the Christmas season, we provide presents by accepting new toys and new clothes for children. Monetary contributions and store gift cards (suggestions: TIMAXX, Marshall’s, Amazon, Kohls, Ross, Wal-Mart, Target, Aldi, Lidl, Safeway, Shoppers, Giant Visa or Mastercard) are also appreciated. You or your organizations are welcome to sponsor a child or a family. Contact Karen Coakley (Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com or 301-741-7672) with questions or to schedule a pickup or delivery time of your donation.

As a certified 501c3 organization, all contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made through PayPal by using our email address Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.

Monetary contributions and gift cards can be mailed to: Women’s Community Club of Beltsville P.O. Box 1607 Beltsville, Maryland 20704-1607. To see a list of activities visit our Facebook page, search Women’s Community Club of Beltsville.

The Women’s Club of Beltsville

VETERANS continued from page 2
At 7:00 pm-12:30 am. Please call Tina at 301-935-5308 to reserve tickets for $30. Your $30 includes the show, a buffet, a champagne toast at midnight, and many goodies!

The Women’s Club of Beltsville

NEWS YOU CAN USE continued from page 1
The pre-application neighborhood meeting is intended to inform residents of nearby lands about a proposed development application, and to provide the applicant an opportunity to hear comments and questions about the development proposal in order to resolve conflicts and outstanding issues, where possible. No government agency has reviewed this application.

The pre-application neighborhood meeting on December 13th is intended to inform residents of nearby lands about a proposed development application, and to provide the applicant an opportunity to hear comments and questions about the development proposal in order to resolve conflicts and outstanding issues, where possible. No government agency has reviewed this application.

Please note: This pre-application neighborhood meeting is not a formal hearing, and no vote will be taken during this meeting.
NOVEMBER 2023

Calendar of Events

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Fundraiser
Sat., Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This Friendly Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar is a fundraiser to benefit the Eastern Ecological Science Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge. More than 30 vendors will be offering one-of-a-kind gifts to complete your holiday shopping. Bailey’s Bargains will offer wild and not-so-wild gently used treasures. Treats and lunch will be for sale in the Crane Cafe. Meet live animals and enjoy wildlife holiday story time. Door prizes will be awarded every hour. Free admission. For more information, visit www.friendsofpatuxent.org, or call 301.497.5772 or e-mail friendsopf@friendsofpatuxent.org.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)
please note the library will be affected if there is a government shutdown
Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave., in Beltsville.
Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at https://twitter.com/@National_Ag_Lib. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get MyPlate nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

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

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)
Our next meeting will be Wed., Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting, and Kevin Leonard of the Laurel History Boys will speak on military history.

• Save the Date: Our Dec. 13 meeting will be our Holiday Party and will feature holiday tunes by the Sara Jones Duo.
• Every Tuesday Bingo: 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.), fee for cards, no admission fee. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

HOLIDAY MARKET
Fri., Nov. 3 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Nicholas Church, 6003 Centre Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. Join us for holiday shopping, food, fun, and fellowship. The Food Concession will feature German dinner with Beer Garden at 6 p.m. on Saturday. It will feature breakfast at 9 a.m., lunch at 12 noon, afternoon tea at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Italian dinner at 6 p.m. There will be children’s activities on Saturday. Browse and buy from our market stalls: Treasure Trove, Pages from the Past, Country Market, Crafts Shoppe, Wine, Pinkie’s, and raffle ticket sales. Note: The market will be closed during 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday and reopen for dinner and more shopping at 6 p.m. For more information, call Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS
Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TYV: 301.808.2631. Ask a Librarian telephone reference available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. Contact the library for updates and late changes. See www.pgcmls.info/location/ Beltsville for online services.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

COSMIC ADVENTURES!
Sat., Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Exploring the Wonders of the Universe! Presented by The Science Guys of Baltimore. Immerses yourself in an interactive journey through space, with experiments on life in a vacuum, spacecraft, electromag- netic rocket propulsion, and centrifugal force. Discover the solar system with the beloved Hoberman Sphere, and a guide. Get ready for an unforgettable and thrill- ing cosmic experience.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB
Meets from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday through Dec. 12. Volunteers provide homework help for 1st- graders through 6th graders. Please register online at https://www.pgcmls.info/events.

STEM-TASTIC!
Thur., Nov. 16 at 4 P.M. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Accompanying a explore la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas. Ages 8-12.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

OPERATION WARM:
FREE COATS FOR KIDS
Sat., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. A one-of-a-kind coat drive for working families living below the poverty line. There are 2 coats per family, with supplies last. First come, first served. Children must be present to receive a coat. Sizes 2T to 12. Special thanks to the PGCLMS Foundation for fund- ing and supporting this event.SPANISH READY-2-READ STORYTIME Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL
Mon., Nov. 13 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Join us for Needlework Social where you can bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

BEGINNER’S ENGLISH CLASS
Meets every Wednesday through Nov. 29, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each session. Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This class is for Beginner Level English-language-learners who are ready to learn in person. Please register online at https://www.pgcmls.info/events.
Neighbors in the News

Fall Maintenance Checklist to Keep Your Home in Tip Top Shape

(StatePoint) Fall is in the air, which means there is a lot to get done around the house before the cold weather comes. From landscaping to insulation, read on for a homeowner’s guide to preparing for the upcoming season.

Fall Furnace Check. Before winter arrives, ensure your heating system is in working condition and safe to use. Turn off the furnace first and then clean the vents, check for cracks or rust and swap out the dirty filter for a clean one. If it’s been a while since your furnace has been maintained, it may be time to schedule a professional visit.

Gutter Clean Out. While the fall foliage is beautiful, it can quickly clog gutters and cause water backups and flooding. Put on heavy-duty work gloves and remove debris near the downspout and work your way to the other end. As you clear away the leaves, easily repair broken or cracked pipes with strong T-Rex Tape. Unlike ordinary duct tapes, this extreme tape is made with a multi-layer grit embedding process for long-lasting wear and features a stronger adhesive bond than standard anti-slip tapes.

Extreme Tread Tape to improve traction on heavy-duty work gloves and remove debris near the downspout and work your way to the other end. As you clear away the leaves, easily repair broken or cracked pipes with strong T-Rex Tape. Unlike ordinary duct tapes, this extreme tape is made with a multi-layer grit embedding process for long-lasting wear and features a stronger adhesive bond than standard anti-slip tapes.

While fall maintenance can feel daunting, following these tips will simplify the process, so you can feel confident that your house is prepared for changing temperatures.

Holiday Hazard Prevention: Steps to a Safe and Accident-Free Season

(StatePoint) As the holidays approach, you might be hosting guests, shopping for gifts and decorating your home. While all these activities can bring a lot of joy into the season, they can also bring an increase in risks. Prepare by following these six tips to prevent damage.

1. Install a smart doorbell.
   Whether you want to see who just arrived or help keep packages secure, a smart doorbell will keep you updated on all activities in front of your home. From trick-or-treaters to carolers, you can easily view (and communicate) with your visitors, even if you aren’t home.

2. Decorate carefully.
   As pretty as those lights might be, they can be a tripping hazard. What’s more, overheating lights can trigger a fire in seconds, especially in a dry environment, such as near a parched tree. On Erie Insurance’s YouTube channel, they show how fast a Christmas tree goes up in flames and have tips on how to avoid fires, including to check string lights for any frayed wires and to always turn off lights when you aren’t home.

3. Prepare for the unexpected.
   As temperatures drop, prepare your home for potential damage. Bad weather can trigger a weak tree to fall, potentially on your house, while cold temperatures can cause frozen pipes, which could cost thousands of dollars in water damage if the pipes burst. Be sure to keep your homeowner’s insurance up to date so you are prepared should any seasonal damage occur. To prevent that damage and a costly claim, survey your property and even call-in experts to check trees, pipes and other possible hazards.

PREVENTION continues on page 14
**Beltsville News**  
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Go to https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/  
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday; Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom  
Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources  
Our Mission: To Share God’s love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.

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www.fbcbeltsville.org  
Keith Holland, Pastor  
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*Morning Worship* 11:00 a.m.  
Children’s Church (3yr-3rd grade) 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesdays:**  
Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 p.m.  
Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

**MOONRISE**  
How striking is the brilliance of the moon’s reflected light, illuminating crashing waves upon the shores at night.  
Bright serpentine foams race along the edges of the land, while Heaven sends its rays to etch their glow upon the sand.  
A sparkling diamond is this orb set in black velvet sky.  
And yet its beauty’s just a mirror of another’s fire.  
Aligning of our character to God’s will in our lives, allows the holy image of His splendor to arise.  
Beckie Hutchings  
10/01/2023

**PREVENTION**  
continued from page 13

4. **Stay safe on the road.**  
The winter season carries driving risks. Not only may roads be slick and icy, but holiday shoppers are often stressed and frazzled. On roads, and particularly in shopping centers and mall parking lots, slow down and stay alert to avoid a fender-bender. As an added precaution, be sure to keep your auto insurance up to date in case of damage. Your insurance company might offer options to help you tighten your wallet during an expensive season. For example, Erie Insurance offers convenient bundling of car and home insurance to potentially save you money.

5. **Mingle merry—and safely.**  
Holiday parties can be fun, but make sure you have a plan for getting home safely. And if you’re hosting the party, be aware that in most states party hosts can be held liable for their guests’ actions behind the wheel. So be sure your guests have a safe ride home.

6. **Be smart online.**  
If you’d rather keep your comfy pants on and do your holiday shopping online, be aware of where your data might be susceptible and only shop on reputable sites. An ERIE’s homeowner policy includes identity recovery coverage that can help you if you are the unfortunate victim of identity fraud.

Whether you are having a party or going on a shopping spree, being safe and prepared for the holidays is key to avoiding any accidents, injuries and incidents.
How to Prepare Physically and Financially for Severe Weather

(StatePoint) Severe weather can have a sizable impact on your home and your savings. Taking steps to prepare can help you maintain peace of mind should a hazard impact you. Freddie Mac offers the following preparation tips for homeowners:

Protect Your Investment
A home insurance policy is an important layer of protection, generally providing you with the funds needed to repair a damaged property to its condition prior to an incident. Here, coverage can vary greatly depending on the company and plan you choose. To avoid surprises, it’s important to review your policy carefully and make sure you understand what is and is not covered. For example, flooding is not generally covered by homeowner’s insurance, so if you live in an area at risk of flooding, consider a separate flood insurance policy.

Keep in mind that after a disaster strikes, you will need to list your possessions and verify any losses for an insurance claim. Taking a home inventory beforehand will make the process much easier.

Establish a Saving Strategy
Creating an emergency fund with a goal of saving enough money for three to six months of regular expenses can help you be more resilient if the time comes.

Secure Your Home
Regular home maintenance can help protect against the dangers of natural disasters, such as flooding and hurricane-force winds. Cleaning gutters and drains, for example, can prevent water from collecting around your home. You should also be sure you have a sump pump in good working order, and that your foundation and roof are in good condition. If a storm is in the forecast, clear your lawn of items that may be damaged, destroyed, lost, or cause damage to your home. You should also cover windows and shut off utilities. Many of these precautions can also protect against tornadoes, which can develop quickly and often arrive without warning.

Make Safety Upgrades
Before buying a particular house, you may want to consider the area’s history of natural disasters, and take stock of the home to ensure it’s up to code and has the safety features needed to protect you and your family.

Whether you’re a current or prospective homebuyer, you can reference information provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (known as FEMA) to help you assess which hazards could impact your home, and identify relevant safety upgrades that can strengthen its defenses.

Depending on the scope of renovations, you may consider taking out a loan to cover the costs. There are a variety of refinancing products available that allow you to leverage your home’s value to fund renovations. Talk to your lender to find the right financing option for you.

For additional emergency preparation tips, check out Freddie Mac’s collection of homeownership resources found at myhome.freddiemac.com.

Natural disasters are hard to predict. But being prepared can help you weather the storm, both physically and financially.
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