

# The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 72, Number 2

Beltsville, Maryland

February 2024

## UMD Extension Office presents certificate of recognition to Montgomery County Association for Family & Community Education

by Kathie Mack

The University of Maryland Extension Office presented a certificate of recognition to the volunteers of the Montgomery County Association for Family & Community Education for their many years of service to residents of the county. The award was presented to Jean Purich, President of MCAFCE, by Lynn Rubin Traversa, Area Extension Director, and her assistant Iany McDonald. This took place on January 5, 2024, during one of MCAFCE's meetings to make comfort blankets for children in hospital and social services. (Donations of yarn and washed cotton or cotton/poly fabric are always accepted by FCE to make more blankets.)

### Text of framed award:

University of Maryland Extension awards this certificate to



Montgomery County Family & Community Education Volunteers accepting award from the University of MD for their many years of service to residents of the county.

Montgomery County Family & Community Education Volunteers in recognition and appreciation. Established in 1936, the Family & Community Education Montgom-

ery County chapter continues its mission to promote a better way of life in the Montgomery County community through fellowship, continuing education, and service.

FCE initiatives include school lunch programs, literacy education, blanket-making, fundraising to support scholarships and community incentives, global charity networking, child and family services, consumer safety and estate tax lobbying, mask sewing for the COVID pandemic, as well as many years of family leadership training. As part of a national network, the Montgomery County FCE chapter excels in its adaptability to meet the needs of an ever-changing community and its residents. The University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County, acknowledges the remarkable accomplishments of the FCE, and the positive impact these volunteers continue to make in their community.

(Signed) Lynn Rubin Traversa, Area Extension Director  
(Date) January 5, 2024

## NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

February 21

Paper Out:

March 1

## News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen Coakley

### The Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department Needs Your Help!

As the Beltsville News is going to press it has been brought to my attention that the "County paid Career Firefighters and EMT First Responders may be moved from the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station located at 4911 Prince Georges Avenue. We went through this approximately 20 years ago with threats from the County. They wanted to pull County First Responders from the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station.

Rumor has it the Career Firefighters and EMT First Responders would be reassigned to other County Owned Fire Stations. That means the Beltsville/Calverton/Vansville communities would have to rely on the Beltsville Station located at Powder Mill Road across from Calverton Shopping Center, the Laurel Fire Station located at Van Dusen and Contee

NEWS YOU CAN USE  
continues on page 2

## Beltsville Resident Turns 100

By Javed Amir

Sarwari Begum, a longtime resident of Beltsville, MD is turning 100 on January 28, 2024. She was born in British colonial India on January 28, 1924, in the district of Hoshiarpur. Her father was the lam-bardar (Mayor) of the village of Kabirpur. In 1943 she married Shabir Husain who was an officer in the British Army then fighting the Japanese in Burma during the second world war.

In 1947 she and her husband

migrated to Pakistan and lived in the city of Lahore where they raised 4 children. As they grew up, all 4 children migrated to the USA and became US citizens in due course. Her eldest son, Javed Amir settled in Beltsville in 1978. He was then a member of the National Press Club in Washington DC and worked as the Bureau Chief of The Frontier Post. In 2009 when Begum's husband passed

100

continues on page 14



Longtime Beltsville Resident Sarwari Begum turns 100! Happy Birthday!



Susie G and Breanna H. learn how animals stay warm in the winter

## Cub Pack 1031 Bear Scouts Hiking in a New Year

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 Bear Scouts visited the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge National Visitors Center and hiked the trails and visited the Center as part of their Fur, Feathers and Ferns achievement. They learned how animals keep warm in the winter and saw squirrels, the beaver lodge, and saw and heard lots of birds!

This month the pack be learning about how to stay warm and avoid hypothermia, which will be important if we get more snow! The pack had planned to have a

Martin Luther King Day of Service but the snow on MLK day changed our plans. We will do a day of service at the school soon.

If you are interested in Cub Scouts contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature and do community service. We are back in Beltsville Academy for our den meetings. And happy to be meeting in our usual place and learning about engineering, nature, doing service and hiking in the outdoors.



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## Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News issue of February 2014)

By Ted Ladd

### Aldi—Internationally Famous Discount Grocer Comes to Beltsville

By Jim Butcher

Aldi — a decidedly different kind of grocery store — officially opened for business in Beltsville on Jan. 10, 2014. By mid-morning of this grand-opening day, hearty shoppers braving a steady rain and near freez-

ing temperatures had packed the brand spanking new store situated in the partially constructed St. Mary's Square shopping center on Route 1 across from Costco. Advanced word of the store opening had gotten around. Clearly, curiosity had been piqued. A day earlier, executives from Aldi division headquarters in Frederick joined with Beltsville store employees to host a ribbon cutting ceremony, general briefing and store walkthrough for community members, county and local officials, and the press.

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

Roads, the Greenbelt Fire Station on Crescent Road and the College Park Fire Station on Route 1 near the entrance to the University of Maryland. ALL of the stations that I mentioned are 2+ miles from most homes and businesses in the Beltsville/Calverton/Vansville area. In the past twenty years there have been new residential and commercial development. This new development has added a significant number of cars on the road which makes response times even longer. The development has also brought an increase in calls for EMT Ambulance services, Fires and Accidents. The Safety and Lives of Residents and Workers in the Greater Beltsville/

are being put at risk!!! Our Safety and Our Lives Matter!! Check the Beltsville News Facebook page for updates.

#### PLEASE Contact:

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Alsobrooks

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301-952-2638  
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301-883-5200 TDGreen@co.pg.md.us

#### Attention Non-Profits

Attention Beltsville Non-Profits, please send the name of your organization and your contact information. I will be featuring Beltsville Non-profits in future articles in the Beltsville News. Email [karenmcoakley@gmail.com](mailto:karenmcoakley@gmail.com).

#### A reminder about car thefts

Car thefts are still a major problem. Here are a few safety reminders.

1. Don't leave anything of value in your car and don't forget to lock it.
2. Turn your outside lights on at night and park in a well-lit area.
3. Don't leave your car running if you are not inside. Wait to warm it up when you are in your car.
4. Consider getting a steering wheel lock.

Be vigilant and pay attention to your surroundings so you don't become a victim. My Valentine's wish is that we all try embracing Random Acts of Kindness.



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Calverton/Vansville communities

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#### Circulation

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

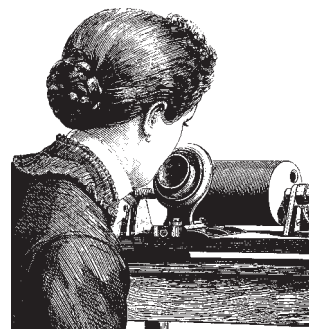
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The Beltsville News

# Kitty Post

By Sallie Rhodes



The Volunteers of Beltsville Community Cats

## Kitty Post: Beltsville Community Cats Hosts Successful Annual Meeting

By Sallie Rhodes

Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) hosted its Annual Volunteer Meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>. After over three years of restricted meetings due to Covid, many of the 26 volunteers present had never met in person. Everyone enjoyed getting to know their fellow volunteers. It is always lively when you get a group of cat lovers together to talk about helping cats. (Many thanks to Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane for letting us use their Fellowship Hall.)

The meeting began with each volunteer present talking about the cat rescue activities they perform through BCC – which include trap-neuter-vaccinate-return/release (TNVR) of community cats, fostering kittens and friendly adult cats, feeding colony cats in industrial areas, and taking care of cats placed for adoption at the Laurel Petco (a partnership between Petco, BCC, and the City of College Park).

Other important volunteer roles include fundraising, grant-writing, updating BCC's website ([www.beltsvillecats.net](http://www.beltsvillecats.net)), posting to BCC's Facebook page, record-keeping, writing reporting, winterizing colony habitats, and transporting and overnighting cats going to the vet.

Fostering kittens and cats is a particular joy for many BCC volunteers. Kittens that are taken into foster care have their lives transformed from the precarious and relatively short life of a community cat into a loving pet who will spend its life in a comfortable home giving companionship and affection to its forever family. Some volunteers prefer to foster adult stray cats – most likely former pets that were lost or abandoned – and help them find their way to a safe and loving home once again. After being fully vetted, BCC's foster kitties are advertised through Petfinder at: (<https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/md/beltsville/beltsville-community-cats-md506/>). Applications are carefully screened to make sure the cats go to people who are truly committed to giving them the care they need and deserve.

The volunteers doing TNVR work also find it very rewarding. They see the many benefits this work has for the cats themselves



as well as the broader community. Benefits include reducing the number of kittens born in the wild (most would otherwise likely succumb to disease, predators, and/or cars); reducing spraying, aggression and injury from unaltered males; reducing the spread of disease through inoculation against rabies and other cat viruses; and mitigating cat predation of birds and small mammals by limiting the growth of feral cat populations.

BCC president Sallie Rhodes presented the group's accomplishments in 2023. BCC rescued 140 kitties last year and found forever homes for 127 of those rescued. BCC also TNVRed 183 feral cats; fed 150 colony cats every day; and helped 73 sick cats with significant but treatable health problems (e.g., upper respiratory and urinary tract infections, injuries, ringworm, etc.). Many of the sick cats required multiple visits to the vet and follow-up nursing care provided by BCC volunteers.

Elections for vacant board positions were held during the meeting. Sallie Rhodes agreed to continue as president for one more year, stressing the need for someone else to step up to this critical leadership position within the next year. Earthe Williams agreed to be the new trapping coordinator, filling a position that has been vacant on and off since BCC started in 2019. Adaeze Offorbuike was selected as rescue coordinator. She will manage BCC's foster homes and oversee adoptions (things she has been doing since last spring). All three were elected unanimously and enthusiastically!

More volunteers are needed to enable BCC to help more cats in need. The work is flexible, fun, and deeply rewarding. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, reach out to volunteer@beltsvillecats.net.



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## Ask the Expert

BY ANDRE GIBSON, CHAMPION HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Hello Beltsville, Let it snow! Winter has finally arrived and it is time to make sure our homes are ready for the onslaught. When it comes to keeping our homes safe and secure, the importance of a strong and sturdy roof cannot be emphasized enough. A roof is not just a mere covering over our heads; it plays a crucial role in protecting us and our valued belongings from the outside elements. A quality-installed roof adds to the structural integrity of a house and is considered by many to be first in the line of defense against the wiles of Mother Nature. Many homeowners overlook the importance of having a strong and sturdy roof, failing to recognize that it plays a critical role in protecting their homes and ensuring their safety and comfort.

In this article, we will create the argument and delve into why having a strong roof is not only advisable but necessary for any dwelling. First and foremost, a strong roof protects against the ever-changing weather conditions. Whether from scorching heatwaves to torrential rainstorms, fierce winds, and heavy snowfall, our roofs serve as the ultimate shield for our homes from the elements, acting as a barrier between weather disasters of the outside world and the peace and comfort in our homes.

Just for a moment, imagine being caught in a thunderstorm without a solid roof over your head. The rain pouring in, the wind howling through the cracks,

and the fear of collapse looming over your head. It is not only inconvenient, but it can also be extremely dangerous. A weak or damaged roof can lead to leaks, allowing water to seep into the home, causing structural damage, and fostering the growth of mold and mildew. Over time, this can result in costly repairs and potentially hazardous living conditions. A strong roof ensures we stay safe and dry during unfavorable weather events. Additionally, a sturdy roof safeguards our homes from potential damage caused by external factors. From falling tree branches to hailstorms, or anything that threatens our homes' integrity. In earthquake-prone areas it serves as a vital protective measure against the tremors, providing stability and preventing catastrophic outcomes.

Not only does a strong roof protect us from external threats, but it also plays a significant role in energy efficiency and insulation. In terms of cost savings, a sturdy roof contributes to energy efficiency and climate control within the house. A well-insulated roof helps to keep the indoor temperature stable, preventing excessive heat from infiltrating during the summer and retaining warmth during the winter.

As a result, homeowners can save on their energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint. Furthermore, a strong roof with proper ventilation prevents excessive moisture buildup, which can lead to condensation problems, dam-

age to the structure, and the proliferation of mold. This improves indoor air quality and promotes a healthier living environment, especially for those with respiratory conditions. Another aspect to consider is the aesthetic value and curb appeal that a strong roof brings to a house. A well-maintained and visually appealing roof greatly enhances the overall look of a property, increasing its value and making it more attractive to potential buyers. When the time comes to sell your home, having a strong roof ensures that it passes inspections and is a selling point for potential buyers, avoiding any issues that could arise from a neglected or inadequate roof.

The National Association of Home Inspectors recommend an Annual Roof Inspections no matter the age of your home or roof. Protect your roof from things not covered under warranty such as acts of nature and animal damage. An annual roof inspection is inexpensive and can save you thousands over the cost of a full replacement. A quality inspection will come with photos and often a gutter inspection and gutter cleaning. Consider having your roof inspected when you check your smoke detector batteries or change the oil in your vehicle.

### Common Roof Issues:

#### Roof Leaks

A leaking roof is one of the most common roofing problems that homeowners face. It can happen due to a number of different reasons, but regardless of why it's happening, it's frustrating. Untreated roof leaks can cause expensive damage and, if left for too long, structural problems. There are a number of reasons why your roof might be leaking so it's important to make sure and keep an eye out for water damage regularly. Signs of water damage or leaks can usually be seen near your chimney, around the flashing, near gutters and skylights, in valleys, or close to vents. Some of the most common causes of a roof leak include cracked flashing, broken shingles, or structural damage to tiles or slate. If you notice any signs of a roof leak, call a professional for a comprehensive inspection.

#### Standing Water

Another roof issue that happens from water is standing water, or pooled water. This can happen when your roof starts to sink in certain areas but is most common on flat roofs. It's important that water drains off to avoid serious problems. Standing water creates consistent moisture, which leads to problems like mold, mildew, algae, and rot. Over time, the water can seep into your sup-

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EXPERT

continues on page 6

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1. Sri Lankan language
6. Something to chew on, especially for cows
9. Mascara holder
13. Muscat resident
14. "\_\_\_ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
15. Father, colloquially
16. Jewish folklore creature
17. Debtor's letters
18. Art class prop
19. \*Barbie's little sister
21. \*\_\_\_4 game
23. One less than jack
24. \*\_\_\_Frog educational toy
25. Nutcracker's distinguishing feature
28. Taboo, alt. sp.
30. Cooking fat
35. Deserter's acronym
37. President's David
39. Shower accessory
40. Pro \_\_\_
41. Conical dwellings
43. Prep flour
44. \*Thomas or Henry, e.g.
46. Law school test acronym
47. Genealogist's creation
48. Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"

50. Flying saucers
52. Make mistakes
53. Chemically-induced curls
55. Harry Potter's Hedwig
57. \*Certain Patch
61. \*Not real dough
65. Normal
66. Clingy seed container
68. \_\_\_-\_\_\_-la
69. Theater curtain fabric
70. Put into service
71. Female deer, pl.
72. Pub offering
73. Goo on a trunk
74. What's in your e-wallet?

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1. Duds or threads
2. Wildly
3. French Sudan after 1960
4. All thumbs
5. Marine gastropod
6. Coconut fiber
7. \*Shedding-type card game
8. Tie in tennis
9. Shark's provision
10. Part of cathedral
11. Work detail
12. "Stop!" to marchers
15. Correspondence friend (2 words)

20. Make, as in a law
22. Edible type of grass
24. Complete payment (2 words)
25. \*Banned lawn darts
26. Fully informed
27. Supreme Teutonic god
29. Get-out-of-jail money
31. Like Neverland boys
32. France's longest river
33. Bid on a house, e.g.
34. \*Certain gun ammo
36. "Best \_\_\_ schemes o' Mice an' Men"
38. "La Vie en rose" singer
42. Counter seat
45. Flamethrower fuel
49. Party barrel
51. Swaddle
54. Type of puzzle
56. Words in song, sing.
57. Intersection of two arcs
58. Ascus, pl.
59. "\_\_\_ after reading"
60. Switch's partner
61. Get ready, for short
62. Comedian Carvey
63. Ford contemporary
64. Jumble
67. North American country

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## Obituaries

Taylor, Ronald D.

Ronald D. Taylor, 80 of Frostburg, MD (formerly of Beltsville, MD) died on December 13, 2023. Ronald is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Margaret, his brother, Gary and his daughter, Tracy. Ron is survived by his wife of 56 years Barbara, daughter, Kim and son in laws, Dean and Frank; grandchildren, Megan (Tristin) Justin (Jen) Lauren (Josh) and Jacob; great grandchildren, Bree, Claire, Grayson, Peyton and Colton. Siblings Ken (Lucy) and Charlotte (Charles) and many nieces and nephews.

Ron loved being with his family and was always making people laugh. He was loved by many. He loved to ride motorcycles and take long country rides. He worked in construction for many years and Ron and Barbara owned Barbara's Flower N Things in Beltsville, MD until 2012 when they retired and moved back home. Ron will be greatly missed.

Services were held on Saturday December 16, 2023, at Borgwardt Funeral Home in Beltsville MD from 7pm to 9pm. The burial was held on Sunday at 1pm at Restlawn Memorial Chapel in Lavale, MD.

### EXPERT

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port system and cause structural damage that can pose dangerous threats to your home's overall stability.

#### Damaged Shingles

Damaged shingles are arguably the most common roofing problem that homeowners see and experience. Shingles can be damaged from heavy storms, debris, sun exposure, or even just the passing of time. While damaged shingles don't seem like they would be a pressing matter, they expose your roof and make it more susceptible to damage. The longer damaged shingles go unfixed, the more likely you'll experience problems that go deeper than the surface.

#### Damaged Flashing

The flashing around your roof helps to keep those protruding or awkward areas sealed and protected from water damage or leaks. It's installed on areas around your chimney, any sky lights, the venting pipes, or heating and cooling systems that are located on the roof. It needs to be properly attached and secured, otherwise you'll experience problems from the start. When flashing gets damaged, the seams that seal your roof and any protruding structure open up and can cause a number of different problems. If you notice any damaged flashing, call a professional like the ones at Champion today 301-277-7200.

#### Shrinkage

Shrinkage can affect all types of roofing materials but happens more frequently on roofs that have roof coverings such as synthetic rubber membranes. It occurs due to added pressure from materials shrinking and pulling from all directions. Signs of roof shrinkage are often cracking or tears in areas such as flashing or shingles. Shrinkage can usually be prevented with a good, professional installation and regular inspections and maintenance.

#### Clogged Gutters

While it doesn't seem like it'd be a problem that can harm your roof, clogged gutters have the potential to cause expensive damage over time. The longer a gutter is clogged, the more water is backlogged into your roofing system and home. The more water that

seeps in, the more likely you'll experience leaks or rot that can cause structural damage. Getting your gutters cleaned is a necessary maintenance job. You can also install screens on your gutters to reduce the amount of debris that accumulates.

#### Storm Damage

If you experience a strong storm in your area, it's important to have a professional roof inspector come out and check for damage. Storm damage can create unseen problems and should be taken care of as soon as possible to avoid more expensive repairs or uncomfortable living situations.

#### Trees or Shrubbery

If you have overhanging trees or shrubbery, they can slowly cause degradation on your roof and lead to shingle or flashing problems. Luckily, this is preventable. Trim large trees or shrubbery so that they're not touching your roof to avoid abrasion.

#### Ventilation Issues

Your roof is an integral part of your home's ventilation system. When ventilation isn't working properly, it can lead to problems outside and inside your home. Poor ventilation causes moisture to accumulate in your attic and raises the internal temperature of your home. Over time, this can lead to damage to your sheathing, shingle deterioration, insulation problems, structural damage to rafters, and high energy costs. In the winter, it can contribute to ice dams, which are both structural issues and safety issues. A roofing inspection can tell you whether or not your roof ventilation is up to standards, but if you notice any problems always call.

#### Snow and Ice Damage

As we mentioned, poor ventilation can lead to ice dams in the winter. This is when snow accumulates and goes through the freeze/thaw cycle. Water will eventually end up under your shingles and when the temperatures drop again, it will re-freeze. Over time, this will push your flashing or shingles up, exposing your roof underneath. The more it's exposed, the stronger this cycle becomes. Eventually, it can lead to a large sheath of ice and icicles that reach over a foot long. While you might think this looks pretty, it's dangerous and wreaks

havoc on your structural support.

#### Pest Problems

Dealing with unwanted pests is a common annoyance among homeowners, but when they cause problem to your roof it can lead to dangerous situations. Pests get inside of chimneys and create nests. Then, when it comes time to use your chimney, the nests create obstructions that make it difficult, if not impossible, for dangerous byproducts to leave your home. Carbon monoxide and smoke will billow inside and can be fatal when over exposed.

#### Lack of Maintenance

Your roof needs to be maintained over time. When it's not, it can lead to small unnoticed problems that grow into large, expensive ones. Unfortunately, many people don't realize what they need to do for proper maintenance. The best way to ensure your roof is getting the TLC it needs is through roof inspections. Make sure that you schedule at least one roofing inspection per year to ensure your home is properly maintained. If you live in an area that regularly experiences strong storms, you'll need to get more inspections. Talk to a roofing contractor near you to learn more about how to best maintain your roof.

#### Improper Repairs

If you need repairs, always use a trusted roofing professional that has the proper certifications. Improper repairs lead to even more expensive situations and create unsafe environments for you and your family. If you need any roofing repairs, always use a trusted roofing professional like the ones at Champion Home Improvements, LLC.

#### Poor Installation

Finally, one of the most frustrating causes of common roofing problems is improper or poor installation from the beginning. If you have inexperienced or unskilled workers installing your roof, it's going to lead to a myriad of different problems down the line. While you might save a few dollars upfront with a cheaper company, you can easily end up paying more in repairs down the line. It's worth it to spend a few

EXPERT

continues on page 7

# Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

## Snow and Ice Control: Roadways

When a snow emergency is declared, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is responsible for providing "passable" conditions on County roads. To learn about the County's Snow Plan and how to report cold weather-related concerns, visit [bit.ly/DPWTSnowPortal](http://bit.ly/DPWTSnowPortal).

To monitor the clearing of roadways in your neighborhood with the new PGC Snow Tracker, visit [bit.ly/SnowCitizenInsight](http://bit.ly/SnowCitizenInsight).

## Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Prince George's County Ombudsman Program's purpose is to ensure that residents of long-term care facilities receive the care they deserve. Anyone can contact the Ombudsman, residents, staff, family or friends of residents, public agencies, community groups, or individuals interested in the quality of care in long-term care facilities. There is no charge. If you would like more information, you can contact the Ombudsman Coordinator, Kelly Snipes, at 301-265-8455. If you would like to volunteer with the program, also contact Ms. Snipes.

## List of Food Assistance Distributions

Below is a list of where you can receive food assistance in and around Beltsville.

### Lifeshouse Church Drive-Thru Food Pantry

Location: 12304 Baltimore Ave,



Senator Jim Rosapepe

Beltsville, MD 20705  
 Dates: 2nd & 4th Mondays  
 Times: 2PM-6PM  
 Website: <https://mylifehouse.church/>

### Beltsville Seventh-Day Adventist Community Center

Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) distributes food on the fourth Friday of each month, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM (while supplies last). The distribution is in the parking lot of Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist Church, 4200 Ammendale Road in Beltsville.

Location: 4200 Ammendale Road Beltsville, MD 20705  
 Dates: Every fourth Friday  
 Times: 10AM-12:30PM  
 Website: <https://baccmd.org/services>

### Kingdom Fellowship AME Church

The Kingdom Fellowship Church, in partnership with Councilman Dernoga's office, distributes boxes of fresh produce, protein, and dairy products each Saturday. Boxes will be available for pick up on a first-

come, first-served basis.  
 Location: 11710 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705  
 Dates: Every Saturday  
 Times: Starts 9AM until all items have been given away  
 Website: <https://kingdom.global/>

### Whosoever Will Christian Church

Whosoever Will Christian Church addresses the needs of low-income individuals and households that lack reliable access to nutritious food and may regularly experience hunger. <https://www.whosoeverwillcc.org/ministries.html>  
 Location: 4514 Sellman Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705  
 Dates: Every Wednesday & Saturday  
 Times: Wed: 4PM-7PM; Sat: 12PM-3PM

### Lifeshouse Ministries International Bread of Life Distribution Pantry

The food pantry currently functions as a drive-thru pickup.  
 Location: 10727 Tucker Street Beltsville, MD 20705  
 Dates: Every Saturday  
 Times: 10AM-1PM  
 Website: <https://www.lhmiinc.org/bold>

### Senior Call Check Available to Maryland Residents

Are you home alone? Would you like someone to check in with you daily? If you are 65+, the Maryland Department of Aging offers you a free service for an automated daily phone call at a scheduled time. If you do not pick up after three attempts, the ser-

vice will call an alternate person on your behalf to check on you. You must have an active landline or cell phone to participate in the program. Sign up online here or by phone at 1-866-502-0560.

### 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.

### Contact me

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

## Emmanuel United Methodist Church is Seeking a New Music Director

Emmanuel United Methodist church is in search of a new Music Director. Emmanuel invites interested musicians to apply for this position. Basic responsibilities include providing music for Sunday Services, overseeing the church choir, working with the Pastor and worship team to enhance weekly worship and performing occasionally for special services.

Please submit a resume and possibly a video clip to [office@eumcbeltsville.com](mailto:office@eumcbeltsville.com).

## EXPERT

continued from page 6

extra dollars and ensure that your new roof is installed properly the first time around.

The best way to avoid common roofing problems is to have your roof installed by professionals with years of experience. It's also important to undergo ongoing maintenance and fix any problems that arise in a timely manner. If you notice any problems or want to schedule an inspection, contact

the roofing professionals at Champion. Our team of professionals have the experience you want and need when addressing common roofing problems and can help you keep your roof looking and performing its best for years to come. At Champion, we believe there's a perfect balance between hands-on, personable treatment, quality of work, and speed of delivery. We always take the time to understand your needs and communicate effectively from the first quote to the last nail being placed. To learn

more about our roofing options or to get a quote from us today within 48 hours, contact us at 301-277-7200 or visit us at <http://www.mychampionhome.com>.

In conclusion, a strong and secure roof provides peace of mind to homeowners, knowing that their most valuable asset is adequately protected. Look up! Give your roof a quick visual inspection today. Give me a call if you have any questions about your home needs. David Champion 301-277-7200

## WINTER WONDER

From the moment temp'ratures dip 'neath the freezing point  
 Some find their gaze rise t'ward the Winter's sky,  
 Searching for an indication heaven will anoint  
 The earth below with whiteness from on high.

How they long to hear the crunch of footsteps on the paths  
 Which wind between a curtain of bright trees  
 Whose dark barren barks present so vivid a contrast  
 Because of snow which clings to each of these.

If the richness of this gift should deepen past the knees  
 An outline of an angel may appear,  
 Or the presence of a multitude will leave their crease

As witness joyful beings have been here.

Comforters of stillness cloak the world within their peace,  
 Yet, as the blizzard ebbs before the dawn,  
 Shouts of jubilation from hearts of the young will reach  
 Throughout yards of the neighborhood 'ere long.

Certainly the One Who has created this brisk dream  
 Enjoys the pleasure it can bring to some;  
 Whether weather of this type is not a gracious scene  
 To children it is just tremendous fun.

Beckie Hutchings  
 1/13/2024

## Crossword Solution from page 5

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



# 2024 Stallings & Prestandrea Scholarship Program

**Scholarship Application Period: January 1, 2024 - March 1, 2024**

Each year we salute the commitment and dedication of two Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union pioneers, Virginia Stallings and Cindy Prestandrea with our scholarship program.

**This year we will expand our scholarship program by awarding (4) \$2,500 scholarships to members that are:**

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

**Applications can be submitted starting January 1, 2024, and are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 1, 2024.**

Recipients will be announced in late March 2024.

Visit us online ([www.princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship](http://www.princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship)) to download the application packet and for details on how to submit your entry.



# Printers

This month I thought I would start writing a series on computer peripherals. Peripherals are those add-on devices that go along with the computer to add additional capabilities like data storage, displays, input devices including human input devices like keyboards and mice, and output devices like monitors, sounds devices, lights, and printers. This month I also happen to be ready to purchase a new printer so I will start there.

## History

The first commonly available printer popular for personal use, was made by Epson in the late 1960's before personal computers had started to become popular. By 1980, Epson MX-80 could claim to be the most popular printer in the United States. This was a dot matrix printer using tiny pins to bang an ink-covered ribbon against a piece of paper leaving an ink mark.

In 1984, Hewlett Packard (HP) released a laser printer built around a Canon engine and offered for \$3495 at that time.

The laser printer created a much higher quality output closer to typeset printing and was much faster. Faster than dot matrix printers were.

Also in 1984, HP released the first mass market Inkjet Printer, followed quickly by Canon in 1985. The Inkjet was faster and quieter than the dot matrix printers, offering higher printing quality and color printing. Color was important because the dot matrix and laser technologies did not offer color.

Variations and other types of printers did exist, some built on typewriter designs, others requiring special papers to print on, but these never achieved the market size as the ones we have already covered.

## Home Printing Today

In the early 1990's, I purchased my first laser printer, an HP IIP, for \$1000. Today I can purchase a small laser printer for under \$100 but dot matrix printers are mostly gone. There are three major types of printers commonly used in homes today, the inkjet printers, which in general are the

most common, the laser printers, and the "all-in-one" printers. These all-in-one printers typically include all of the functions of a printer, a scanner, a copier, and sometimes a fax machine all in one device.

Laser printers now come in black only and in color printing models. The color models are more expensive than printing color using inkjets and most people think inkjet colors look better than laser colors. Oddly enough, it is possible to purchase black only inkjet printers as well.

Today there are only four major manufacturers of printers for the home market. Yes, we still have Ricoh, Kyocera, NEC, and Xerox but none of these represents much presence in the home. The four companies that do are HP, Canon, Brother, and Epson.

## Inkjets and Ink

Inkjet printers use ink to print. The specially formulated ink helps to control the flow through the print heads, control the size of the ink drops applied to the paper, and prevent ink clogs. A color

printer needs at least four colors of ink, Black, Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow. Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow are the primary colors for mixing colors, whereas Red, Blue, and Green are the primary colors of light. Some printers will add additional colors like grey, orange, green, or even lighter shades of the primary colors. These extra colors help create more vibrant and accurate colors for printing photographs.

Inks come as dyes or pigments. Many printers include Pigment Black to improve the appearance of text and include a dye version of black for printing graphics and photo images.

Most ink comes in little plastic containers. Canon and Brother printers tend to use small tanks that are simply removed and replaced when empty. Other printers (like some HP printers for example) have printer heads built onto the tanks. This means, the heads get replaced with ink.

In general, it is best to buy printers that use individual tanks or cartridges for each individual color. That way you don't pay for three

colors when you only need one.

## The Ink Scam

Ink can be the most expensive part of running an inkjet printer. Printer companies have been using the razor blade marketing scheme, where the cost of the razor is low because they make money on the blades. Printer companies make the cost of the printer low because that over charge on the ink. Third party ink companies started to create and sell compatible inks at much lower costs than the manufacturers, hurting their prices. A single cartridge only last for 200 to 500 pages. The manufacturers started to add electronic chips to report when the tank is empty and check to make sure that the ink came from the manufacturers and not a third party. HP even pushes updates to the printers to make certain if a third party has thwarted their scheme the third-party ink still will not work. This adds no value to the consumer, but HP has used it to raise their ink prices by giving themselves a

**TECH SENSE**  
continues on page 10



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# From the Office of Council Chair Tom Dernoga

## Virtual Community Conversation with Maryland Insurance Administration Commissioner

Join Council Member Dernoga on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, for the first 2024 Virtual D1 Community Conversation! Council Member Dernoga will host a conversation with Maryland Insurance Administration Commissioner Kathleen A. Birrane on Zoom from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Register to receive the link and submit questions before the event by visiting <https://bit.ly/D1CCFeb6Birrane>. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with the information to join the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Maryland State of the Economy Report

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman released the first State of the Economy report earlier this year. The report examines economic indicators and trends to understand better the current



Council Member Dernoga (second to left) with his county council colleagues as they tour the University of Maryland.

economic climate, the potential outlook for Maryland, and strengths and opportunities to leverage for sustained long-term economic growth. To read a copy of the report, visit [bit.ly/MDStateoftheEconomyReport](https://bit.ly/MDStateoftheEconomyReport).

MDStateoftheEconomyReport.

## PGCPS Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget

The Board of Education's work on the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget is underway!

Budget priorities for the 2024 - 2025 school year support critical investments in four outcome goals outlined in the PGCPS Strategic Plan: educational excellence, excellence in equity, workforce and operational excellence, and mental health wellness.

The Board of Education will continue to host Work Sessions and Public Hearings to review the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget this February. The virtual Work Sessions will be on February 1 and February 15 at 5:00 PM. The Public Hearings, also virtual, will follow the Work Sessions at 7:00 PM. Visit [bit.ly/PGCPSCalendar](https://bit.ly/PGCPSCalendar) for the Zoom meeting information.

We encourage you to participate in these events to remain

involved in shaping a school culture that best serves our students. To provide up to three minutes of testimony during the Public Hearing, please register four business days before each hearing by visiting [bit.ly/PGCPSPublicHearingRegistrationForm](https://bit.ly/PGCPSPublicHearingRegistrationForm). To review a snapshot of Superintendent Millard House II's proposed budget, visit [bit.ly/PGCPSFY25BudgetSnapshot](https://bit.ly/PGCPSFY25BudgetSnapshot).

## Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Don't miss out on resources, local activities, and events for seniors. Sign up for our monthly! senior email newsletter: <https://bit.ly/D1SeniorNewsletterOptIn>

## Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Email us at [councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us) or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. On parle français. Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1

## TECH SENSE

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monopoly on ink for their printers. HP customers have been so angry that have sued the company. This is why I stopped buying HP printers years ago.

## Ink Tanks

For years, many of us technically include people would refill our own ink cartridges and tanks ourselves, purchasing ink in bulk and saving lots of money. This became more difficult when the printer companies began chipping their ink tanks. Some manufacturers decided to make a change in their model and instead of removable tanks and cartridges created built-in refillable tanks. Ink now sells in bottles used to refill the tanks when they get low. The price of ink is much lower, and they last for 1500 to 3000 pages. These printers do sell for a little bit higher in price, but the overall cost of operations is less.

## Lasers and Toner

The black and white laser printers are much simpler. You simply remove a single toner cartridge and replace it with a new one. A single toner can last for 3000 to 5000 pages. And yes, you can refill toner cartridges, it just isn't worth it. I purchased my current brother printer longer than 7 years ago. I have only replaced the toner once and I am still running strong. I have another one that is even older and still works. If you only need black and white printing, go laser. Color laser is a different matter. I don't know why but color lasers are more expensive due to the costs of the color toners. The color is great if you are printing business documents and charts but not as good for photos by my observations. I suggest testing it before buying.

## Wrap Up

I didn't expect this to take so long, and I am not done yet. Next month it looks like I will have more on printers and printing. Until then have a great month.

## Closing the STEM Skills Gap to Create New Possibilities for Kids

(StatePoint) Over the next decade, it's projected that nearly 3.5 million manufacturing and STEM-related jobs will be available, yet 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to a skills gap, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Advocates are addressing systemic educational barriers that impact student success in order to fill this skills gap and expand opportunities for young people.

That's the idea behind Driving Possibilities, a \$110 million STEM career readiness and community engagement initiative of the Toyota USA Foundation. Its unique approach brings industry and academia together, while coordinating nonprofit services that address barriers and societal disparities—all to prepare youth for successful futures.

"From machine learning and connected technologies to autonomous vehicles and electrification, the career opportunities of

tomorrow will be boundless for those with STEM skills. During this time of rapid industry advancement, it's more important than ever to give all young people an equal opportunity to access rewarding careers in high-growth industries tomorrow," says Colleen Casey, executive director, Driving Possibilities.

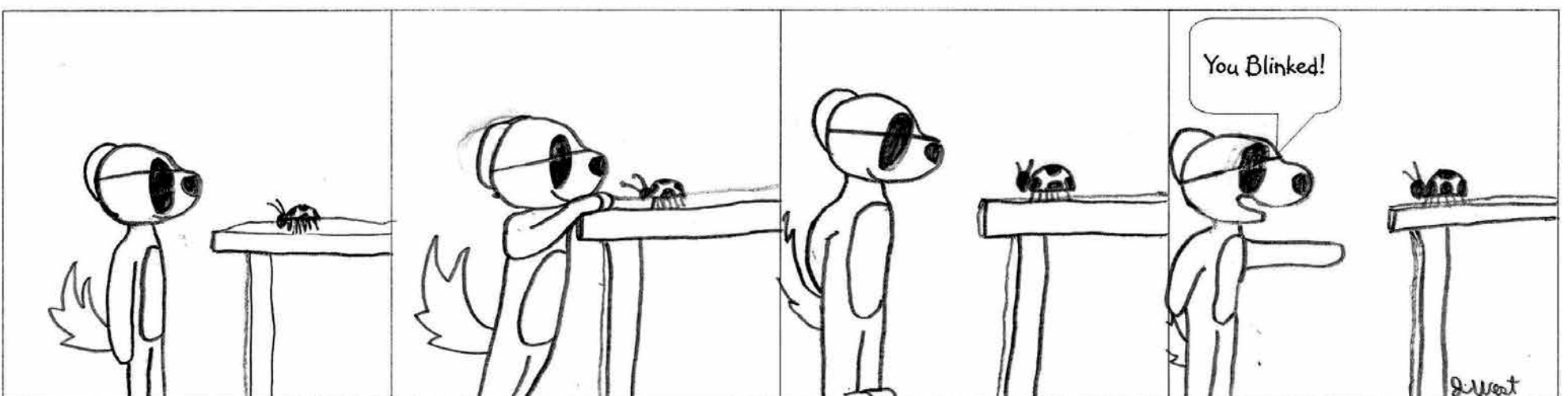
With the goal of increasing student awareness, excitement and interest in STEM learning, the multi-pronged approach of Driving Possibilities includes innovative, hands-on STEM programming from pre-K to 12th grade levels, professional and leadership development for teachers, and industry exposure and mentorship opportunities for students. The program also addresses students' essential needs to ensure they have the food, transportation, mental health services, after-school programming and early intervention literacy support they need to

succeed.

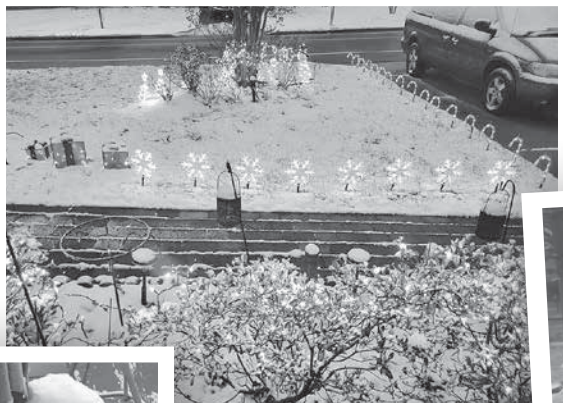
This long-term initiative is already making a huge impact for thousands of families in such high-need locations near Toyota's operations in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama. And while the program looks a little different in each location because it is based on the unique needs of each community, the mission remains the same: to level the playing field for students facing educational barriers. To learn more, visit [toyotaeffect.com](https://toyotaeffect.com).

"Young people are tomorrow's problem-solvers, makers and innovators. But they can face many roadblocks on their journey. Listening to what students need and then working within their communities to come up with solutions, will contribute to thriving communities, stronger local economies and limitless possibilities for all," says Casey.

## Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III,



# SNOW DAY FUN!



Beltsville saw its first snow day in two years on Monday, January 15! Check out these pictures from Beltsville residents of like you!

## Club News

### Beltsville Young at Heart

by Lois Hamilton

Our December 21, 2023, meeting was "outstanding." Our only entertainment, after eating our "goodie sweets," was picking out a Christmas present that a member had brought and wrapped. They were allowed to switch gifts in the "Crazy Santa" game, but few people changed, and kept what they had drawn. We had a couple of gifts left over that we will sell at our January 18 meeting on our "Ways & Means" table.

Our entertainment in January will be born and raised Beltsville native, Johnny Seaton. He has a great voice and presence, and we are sure our ladies will especially enjoy him. We'll have our usual 50/50, snacks and food, and Shir-

ley D. will have a list of upcoming trips in 2024, which will not start till March. January and February are too "iffy" because of the weather, which most of us know about.

I already have entertainment for February, March, and April. I'm so glad that the weather forecasts will be brighter in those months. Hope more people will come out and see what our group is about. You only have to be 55 years old. Don't have to live in Beltsville. Can join the first meeting if you want. And just like to enjoy good senior fun and fellowship. Need any more information, call me at 301-498-9736.

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from human faces." V. Hugo

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Brick rambler with 3 BDRM, 2 1/2 BA full basement with FP, NEEDS WORK! GREAT LOCATION!

# Calendar of Events

## FCE BLANKET DAYS

Fri., Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri., Mar. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Address: Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Rd., Derwood, MD 20855. Volunteers are invited to make blankets as gifts for hospitalized children (infants to teenagers). Blankets (quilts, afghans, and fleece throws) can also be made at home and delivered. Donations of yarn and washed cotton fabric appreciated.  
**Snow Policy:** If Montgomery Co. schools are closed, the meeting is cancelled; in the event of a 1- or 2-hour school delay, the meeting will begin at 11:45 a.m.  
Sponsored by Montgomery Co. Assoc. for Family & Community Education. Guidelines

are found at <http://mdafce.org/montgomeryblanket.htm>. For more information, contact Kathie at 301.270.5367 or [kpmack2@gmail.com](mailto:kpmack2@gmail.com).

## COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Some events

may have special hours of operation. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport.

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. All dogs must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. There are five miles of walking trails. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for federal holidays*. See the Friends of Patuxent website for more information at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

## THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

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

## ART GALLERY

The featured artist for February is illustrator Amanda Spaid, who prefers colored pencils and other dry media. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore.

## KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Tue. – Sat. at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. **Ages 3 – 10\***; *Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities. Registration is strongly recommended; call 301.497.5760.* Children will explore and learn about nature and the environment through engaging, age-appropriate activities, crafts, and games. Older siblings are welcome to join with parents and work with younger siblings to help them understand and complete the activities. **\*NOTE:** The Kid's Discovery Center is neither baby-proofed nor appropriate for children younger than 3-years-old, due to small items featured in the exhibits and activities.  
• **February theme:** Moths. How can you tell if an insect is a butterfly or a moth? What is the difference between a cocoon and a chrysalis? These questions and more will be answered as you discover everything you ever wanted to know about moths and their life-cycles.

## FAMILY FUN

*Tracks in the Snow*—a Family Fun event—is scheduled for Fri. and Sat., Feb. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. Tracks in the snow tell us the animals at Patuxent are staying busy, even when it's cold outside. But who made those tracks? What

were they doing? And how do they stay warm? Come learn more about wildlife in winter through hands-on activities, games, and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

## LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

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

## LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Our next meeting will be Wed., Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting and a speaker from the Buffalo Soldiers in celebration of Black History Month. The Buffalo Soldiers were U.S. Army regiments that were primarily comprised of African Americans and were originally formed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to serve on the American frontier. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

- **Please note our inclement weather policy:** Our meetings and Bingo follow the P. G. Co. school policies. If the schools are delayed by 2 hours or are closed, then we will not have meetings or Bingo on those days.
- **Every Tuesday Bingo:** 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.
- **Save the Date:** Wed., Mar. 13: Our meeting—in celebration of Women's History Month—will have Mary Ann Jung portraying Rosie the Riveter.

## BELTSVILLE EVENTS

### NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/#!/National\\_Ag\\_Lib](http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib). We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at [NAL.usda.gov](http://NAL.usda.gov) and [Nutrition.gov](http://Nutrition.gov). Get MyPlate nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit [www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant](http://www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant).

### YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Feb 15 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. Our meeting will feature entertainment by Retro Rockets.  
**A reminder about our snow policy: If P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet.** The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday

of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2024. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

## BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. Ask a Librarian telephone reference available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; *closed on most major holidays*. **Contact the library for updates and late changes.** See [www.pgcmcls.info/location/Beltsville](http://www.pgcmcls.info/location/Beltsville) for online services.

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

### KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Meets every Tuesday from Feb. 6 – Feb. 27 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Volunteers provide homework help for 1<sup>st</sup> graders through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Please register online at <https://www1.pgcmcls.info/events>.

### TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Feb. 10 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build your child's confidence as they read to specially trained therapy dogs. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 15 minutes. First come, first served.

### STEM-TASTIC

Contact the Library for updates for February. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Acompañenos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemática. Ages 8 – 12.

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### SPANISH-ENGLISH READY-2-READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

### MOVIES ALL MONTH LONG

We will show films featuring African American lead characters throughout February for Black History Month. Join us for great films and a great time!

- **Southside With You** Fri., Feb. 2 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Family Movie: **Soul** Wed., Feb. 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy this family friendly movie!
- Family Movie: **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella** Fri., Feb. 16 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Family Movie: **Selma, Lord, Selma** Wed., Feb. 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN INVENTORS AND INNOVATORS

Sat., Feb. 3 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Explore African American Inventors and Innovators who influenced our way of life in the workforce as we know it today. Participants will discover how these inventors were able to innovate in communication, technology, transportation, science, and

**CALENDAR**  
continues on page 14



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## Practical DIY Projects to Complete Over a Winter Weekend

(StatePoint) While many home renovation projects are best tackled during the warmer months, there are specific minor repairs and tasks that are important to address in winter.

These quick projects are easy to complete in a weekend and will make for a more cozy, organized winter home.

**Service the Furnace.** It's easy to get behind on regular home upkeep duties during the busy holiday season. But now that the holidays are over, it's time to take stock of your furnace. During winter months, dirt and debris buildup on the furnace air filter can keep your home from being heated efficiently. If you haven't already, replace the old filter and be sure to swap in a new one every three to six months to ensure proper heating and cooling.

**Tend to the Woodpile.** If you plan to use a fireplace this season, protect your woodpile from the harsh elements, like sleet and snow. Store the wood in an open storage area that allows the wind to pass through and cover the top of the pile with a tarp to keep the wood from getting wet.



**Secure the Tarp.** Use The Original Duck Tape brand Duct Tape for a long-lasting and durable hold. The easy-to-tear tape will create a strong hold that will keep your logs dry and in place throughout the cold season.

**Reorganize the Basement.** Before packing up all your holiday décor, head to the basement and sort through other seasonal items and clutter. Fix and seal broken storage bins or tree and wreath bags with Duck Max Strength brand Duct Tape. You also can use this time to update labels to ensure belongings are properly stowed away and can be found quickly the following year.

**Keep the Cold Out.** Stop chilly air from seeping into your home by checking areas where drafts are most common, such as around doors and windows. To prevent the cold air from coming in and the heat from escaping, seal the gaps around windows with weatherstrip seals, and the openings under doors with a draft seal. This simple DIY project will keep rooms warm and cozy and can even save you money on your heating bill.

Taking advantage of downtime over a winter weekend to catch up on these routine maintenance projects will ensure your home continues to run smoothly from season to season.

## Toys and Tools That Make Learning Fun for Kids

(StatePoint) Want to deepen children's understanding of the world around them? Educational gifts and toys can extend the learning fun throughout the year, and embolden them to make exciting discoveries every day.

• **Starry-eyed:** Bring the night sky closer to the little ones in your life. With the Magic Adventures Telescope from LeapFrog, fledgling astronomers can focus on the moon at night or nature during the day at up to 110x zoom, and even capture and save images of what they see. This real telescope is accompanied by twenty Cosmic Cards featuring images and fun

facts about objects in space, and more than 100 videos and images courtesy of NASA and the European Space Agency on such topics as the solar system, the Moon, star life cycles, constellations, space discoveries and more. A detachable tripod allows for steadier scientific exploration, and its adventure game will have kids dodging planetary hazards, powering on satellites and rebooting robots.

• **Coding building blocks:** Many of the newest hands-on coding kits don't even require a screen to get started. With block-based pro-

**TOYS**

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## Jason's Jive By Jason Inanga

Happy New Year. Many of us have childhood friends and memories of interacting with these friends. I feel it is a blessing to see these same friends grow up and become successful in their careers. Isi Joan Okogun, Senior Vice President – Global Banking and Markets, was my neighbor on Saunders Road. I literally played in their home four times a week, at the very least. Her older sister, Margaret was my classmate, so interaction was more with her. (In the Nigerian culture, you tend to interact more with your peers, growing up). Then there is Titi Cole (nee Falusi) who is the Head of Legacy Franchises at Citi, spanning responsibility in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Mexico. Again, her older sister, Toyin, a medical doctor was my peer.

So, to bring it home, the second week of this month, the Central Bank of Nigeria announced the appointment of Yetunde Oni, as the new MD/CEO of Union Bank, one of the oldest banks in Nigeria. (Until her appointment, she was the first female Managing Director and CEO of Standard Chartered Bank in Sierra Leone). This appointment has had me excited for a few reasons. We grew up together and she had always been brilliant at school (see where the

foundation started). She was diligent and focused but also very sociable. Their home on Alzayatti Crescent on the University of Ibadan Campus, was our unofficial soccer field on some days, as her two brothers were avid soccer players. Union Bank is the second oldest bank in Nigeria. It was established in 1917 as a full-service commercial bank under the name Farmer's State Bank. It changed its name to Union Bank in 1935.

We attended different Universities, graduated in the same year and she started working for a Merchant Bank at the time, which was THE place to work, in the early 1990's. I went on a different career path. She had done Economics while I went the way of Communications (and had gotten involved in the Nigerian Satellite TV industry). The Gulf War was on and satellite tv systems was about the hottest thing at the time.

So Yetunde and I have been in constant touch over the years and we even exchanged voice notes in the middle of the month when I congratulated her and conveyed the blessings of my mother to her.

This appointment is a very big deal as one has to understand that being a lady in a male dominated society, such as Nigeria, it is not easy to rise like this. I am not say-

ing it has not been done by others before her, but to see someone you have literally grown up with from Kindergarten days rise to such heights, it is a feeling of excitement. It was just a matter of time.

It just gives me a sense of pride to see that my friend has risen to the highest possible level in her field of banking and that the sky is the limit for her. More importantly, it will help to inspire many other young ladies in the country and show them that hard work does not go unrecognized. There are many other female childhood friends excelling in their own ways here and in other places around the world. It goes to show that with the right foundation, focus and diligence, one can be anything one wants to be in life.

Her late father is looking down at her smiling. Professor Wilson Aiyepoku and my late father were tennis buddies at the University Staff Club. I used to be a ball boy for them. At the end of it all, they would treat me to a chicken pot pie and a soda.

So, parents and grandparents, it is very important to invest in your children from a very young age. Sacrifice if you must, get them into education facilities that will

**JASON'S JIVE**  
continues on page 15

## Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jongkil Na

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

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

Pastor: Father Robert Maro

Masses: Please contact parish office for schedule

Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation  
[reled@stjosephbeltsville.org](mailto:reled@stjosephbeltsville.org)

Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever

St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School

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

Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier



11007 Montgomery Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-937-7183

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am\*, 11:00am;  
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am

\*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. \*\* The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

# Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

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away at the age of 90, her son brought her to live in Beltsville. Subsequently she became a permanent resident of the USA and got her green card.

Ms. Begum loves America. She lives a healthy, active life in Beltsville and, on her good days, tends to her little garden. Along with her 4 children who live in nearby states, she is often visited by her 10 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Alex Amir, one of her great-grandchildren, who is 7 years old, is learning Urdu from her and boasts a lot at his elementary school of his great grandmother who is 100 years old!

Ms Begum is proud of her large family of successful immigrants who have all achieved their American dream. One of her grandchildren, Sonia Amir Bowie was Miss Maryland 2000 while she still lived with her parents in Beltsville. The Washington Post Style section covered her story in July 2001. Ms. Begum's other grandchildren have also distinguished themselves in their many different professions and are grateful to be living in this land full of opportunities.

## CALENDAR

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much more!

### SIP AND CREATE: KEHINDE WILEY

Mon., Feb. 5 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participate in creating your own artwork with paint supplies while enjoying non-alcoholic beverages. In celebration of Black History Month, we will be looking towards Kehinde Wiley's art pieces to create our own artwork.

### SISTA' MARTHA

Thur., Feb. 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Beat the drum for black storytelling with Sista' Martha.

### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

#### COLLEGE AND CAREER READY—DIGITAL SAT PREP

Sat., Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Prepare for your future after high school with the library. This program will cover information about the Digital SAT and resources. Students are encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets.

#### RESUME WRITING & JOB SEARCHING WORKSHOP

Wed., Feb. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Whether you're looking to create a compelling resume, address employment gaps, or master online job searching techniques using platforms like Indeed and LinkedIn, this workshop has you covered. Attendees will leave with a completed resume template and valuable skills to excel in their job search.

#### NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Feb. 12 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.

## First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

4700 Odell Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-937-7771

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

Keith Holland, Pastor

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Children's Church (3yr -3rd gr)	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

### Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;  
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Contact the Church office if you  
are interested in any of these  
resources



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Sunday Morning Hybrid Worship 10 AM

Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned  
Zoom details can be found on our website  
You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.

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FEBRUARY BLESSING

Ps 63 v 1 "My Soul waits only upon God, from Him cometh my Salvation".

No words can tell, no heart conceive, the riches of the glory of this mystery of the Father. Enter deep into thy relation of dependence as children on God, to receive from Him every moment what He gives.  
- Andrew Murray (1850)



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**Classifieds**

**JASON'S JIVE**  
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provide them with a firm solid foundation for life. Was Yetunde a book worm? It would be hard to tell as she attended the prestigious Queens College in Lagos, an all-girls school, while I attended the International School, Ibadan. But she surrounded herself with the right friends and all of them are doing very well – lawyers and doctors. They kept together as very tight friends and to this day, they are still like that. Yetunde, I

wish you every success in your new role.

To you, my dear reader in Beltsville, my challenge to you is to please take the time to say a prayer for our young people. Help them to stay focused in their educational journey. Donate books to their libraries or even volunteer to go to the schools to speak to them about careers of the future.

It takes a village. You can partner with the Beltsville Library to give career talks for the young ones. Help mold a young per-

son and you may inspire the next great person to emerge from within Beltsville. Nobody knows the future. I will end with this – Chinedu Echeruo. Name sounds familiar, right. In 2013, Apple bought his HopStop app for \$1 billion. If you use an iPhone and its navigation, its roots are from here. Chinedu grew up on the street behind us but was always focused. He rarely played soccer with the rest of us. He was focused from a young age. Let's sow that seed in Beltsville.

**TOYS**  
continued from page 13

gramming tools, young engineers can get problem-solving experience while beginning to develop the computational mindset needed to code. What's more, the featured games and challenges can make the learning process fun, versatile and interactive.

- **Tiny worlds:** Help kids realize just how cool science and the world around them can be with the Magic Adventures Microscope, which offers 200x magnification. Budding biologists can zoom in on flowers, animals, food, minerals and more using eight double-sided smart slides that activate amazing BBC videos and images to discover answers to curious questions like: What do plant cells look like? What is sand made

of anyway? Kids can then make their own discoveries by finding things around the house and getting a closer look using the reusable slides or large sample tray. This innovative take on a classic microscope allows kids to save on-screen images, and even features a quiz game to put their new STEAM skills to the test.

- **Mini masterpieces:** Inspire little ones to express themselves through the visual arts with a comprehensive, mixed-media art supply kit. Whether you buy a ready-made kit or stock it and package it up yourself, be sure it includes all the age-appropriate essentials: markers, crayons, colored pencils, paints, brushes, paper and pencil sharpeners. Pair this present with an easel, so that kids will have a dedicated place to create and display their artwork.

- **Globe-trotting:** Young explorers can travel the world and see everything in it with the Magic Adventures Globe. Using the stylus, children can tap on the 10-inch interactive learning globe and experience new places, languages, cultures, animals, geography, habitats and more through high-quality BBC videos. Its integrated 2.7-inch video screen immerses kids in the curriculum through animations and live-action videos, providing a better understanding of the world. They can also play interactive games to explore the globe, challenge a friend and solve mysteries.

Encourage a love of knowledge and self-expression. With so many fun learning tools and toys to choose from, there are many ways to get kids inspired.

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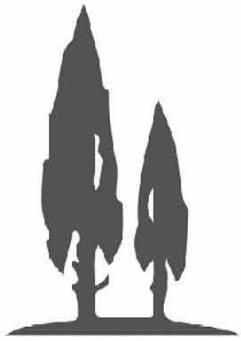
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