

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 2

Beltsville, Maryland

February 2025

UpStage Artists Invites You To The Perfect Murder This February!

By Rick Bergmann

Imagine committing a crime—not out of necessity, but simply for the thrill of danger and the act itself. That chilling premise sets the stage for *Rope*, the first play of 2025 by UpStage Artists. This gripping drama and tense mystery follows two young men, Wyndam Brandon and Charles Granillo, who believe their gruesome act proves their intellectual superiority. After committing the unthinkable, they host a dinner party with the victim's body hidden in a chest—used as the evening's dining table. To heighten the audacity, they invite the victim's father and aunt to the gathering.

Rope draws inspiration from the infamous 1924 Leopold and Loeb case. Nathan Freudenthal Leopold, Jr. and Richard Albert Loeb, two wealthy University of Chicago students, kidnapped and murdered 14-year-old Bobby



Vedant Sharma as Wyndam Brandon (Center) and Joseph Battley II as Charles Granillo (right) discuss the "perfect murder" in UpStage Artists production of *Rope* opening February 21st at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Franks in what they believed was a demonstration of their genius. Their crime, which they considered the "perfect murder," was dubbed the "crime of the century."

Patrick Hamilton's *Rope* was his first major theatrical success,

debuting in London before moving to Broadway. It was later adapted for a 1938 BBC broadcast, but perhaps its best-known version is Alfred Hitchcock's 1948 film starring Jimmy Stewart. Hitchcock's adaptation is lauded

for its groundbreaking technical style, with long takes and minimal editing, making the story unfold almost in real time.

Now, UpStage Artists is bring-

UPSTAGE ARTISTS
continues on page 4

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

February 19

Paper Out:

February 28

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Special Election for County Executive

Residents, voters, I encourage all Prince George's County voters to do their due diligence when voting for Count Executive. I have sent numerous letters, beginning in January of 2024, to members of the County Council and former County Executive Alsobrooks questioning staffing actions within the Prince George's Fire Department. I have asked where the money is coming from for the temporary station and the deferred maintenance that Prince George's County is responsible for at Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department station 31. I testified in November at the County Councils Special Night Meeting pertaining to the Staffing issues within Prince George's County Fire Department.

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 6



Beltsville's own Johnny Seaton and Bad Behavior will headline the College Park American Legion's Annual Mardi Gras Party on March 1.

College Park American Legion Post 217 is busy again!

The College Park American Legion (9218 Baltimore Ave College Pk, Md 20740) will be hosting it's annual Mardi Gras Party on Saturday March 1 from 7 pm-10pm. The entertainment will be

LEGION POST 217
continues on page 2

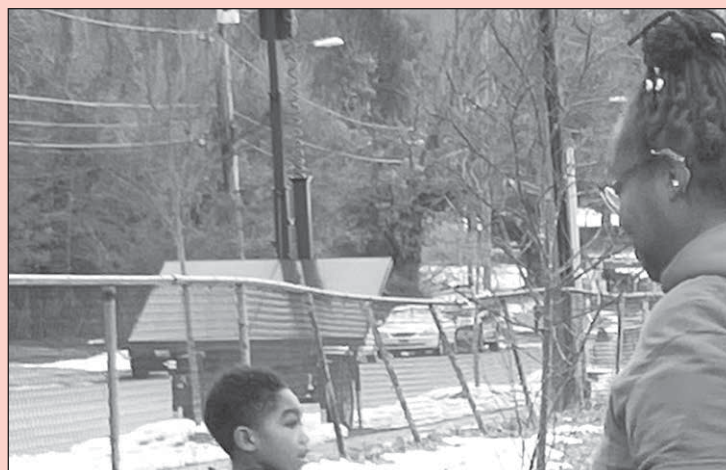
Cub Pack 1031 Begins The New Year With A Day of Service

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 and Troop 1033 started the new year off with a MLK Day of service cleanup at Beltsville Academy. We did the cleanup on Saturday January 18th to avoid the extremely cold temperatures later in the week in order to keep the Cub Scouts warmer. The scouts "belly-slid" down the hill after the cleanup! A scout has fun after working hard!

We also reviewed Hypothermia - Uncontrollable Shivering, Clumsiness, Mumbling, Stumbling and Confusion. Cover your head and hands, Stay dry, Wear clean wicking layers with the outside layer being nylon or Gore-Tex.

The pack will be celebrating the Crossover of our Arrow of Light Scouts with a campfire at their leader's house later in January. Scouting America (BSA's new name) wants the



Grayson L and his mom pick up trash around Beltsville Academy

Arrow scouts to bridge earlier than April and this year's scouts are eager to bridge to their troop.

The scouts are also getting their Pinewood Derby cars ready to race later this winter and working hard on their achievements.

If you are interested in Cub

Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet twice a month in the parks.

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

Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of February 2000)

High Point Honor Society (NHS) Provides Coats to the Homeless

The National Honor Society of High Point High School was extremely successful in their "Winter Coat Drive for the Homeless." The school collected fifty winter coats, four sweaters and eight hats to donate to those who could really use some warmth as the winter weather approaches. Yhuy Nguyen, a

member of the NHS and coordinator of the coat drive with assistance from the Beltsville Lions Club President, Bob Young, made a special trip down town to NW Washington, DC on December 21st and donated the coats to two organizations, the Bethany Women's Center and Bread for the City.

Tech Sense

By John Bell

Useful Software for Free

The holidays are over. You got that new computer you were waiting for but no software. On the other hand, maybe you didn't get the new computer, and you just discovered that Microsoft will stop supporting Office 365 on older computers running Windows 10 or older when they retire it in October this year. This month we will share software that you can get and use freely. We have shared some of these programs in the past and some may be new to you, but everything this month will be free to download and use. So, let's get started.

Office Suite

An office suite is a collection of software that typically includes a word processor, a spreadsheet, and a presentation package. Office 365 is the current version of Office

Suite software from Microsoft. Microsoft recently announced that when they retire Windows 10 the updates to Office 365 will no longer work on versions of Windows 10 and older. Microsoft has also announced that it will remove the simple WordPad word processor, which has been a part of Windows for many years. They will include a trial version of Office 365, but to use after the trial you will need to pay an annual subscription.

While several alternatives to Office 365 exist, the one generally considered the best is LibreOffice. LibreOffice is both free and Open Source and can be easily downloaded and installed directly onto your Windows or Linux computer. It even installs on Chromebooks, Android and Apple devices. It includes Writer, a word processor, the Calc spreadsheet, and Impress,

a presentation package. In addition, it includes a basic drawing package, a Math Equation editor, and Base, a database management program. While LibreOffice is not the only free office suite available, many consider it the best alternative product out there. It is included with most Linux installations and my family, and I have over 15 years of experience using it.

Email, Contacts, and Calendar

Microsoft provides a version of Outlook with Office 365. Outlook includes an email client, a calendar program with the ability to schedule meetings, and an address book to store, names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for all of your contacts. Different versions of Outlook may be provided with Windows 11. My copy of Windows 11 appears to include an "Outlook Classic" as well as the current version Outlook for Office 2021 (not 365). If you have Windows 10 you may also have a program called Mail and Calendar which includes simple contacts and calendar applications. These programs are often simpler than those provided with Outlook. Currently, it is not clear on the status of these simple email related programs when Windows 10 retires.

TECH SENSE

continues on page 3

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANSVILLE DISTRICT
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News: Rick Bergmann, editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com, 8 Center Street, Laurel, MD 20723. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if photo is to be returned. Accepted material may be edited. Letters to the Editor on local topics are encouraged. Names may be withheld upon request.

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301-257-3408 Ted Ladd, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705 • tedladd02@aol.com

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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, 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, and enter your e-mail address.

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and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.

Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com

LEGION POST 217

continued from page 1

Johnny Seaton and Bad Behavior!

There will be a New Orleans type Dinner for sale, the bar will be available, and there will be a 50/50 drawing. Dress in your most festive carnival outfit & mask or just come enjoy the festivities. The cost is just \$25 per person and all the profits go to benefit veterans. Call Tina 301-935-5308 for tickets or information.



“Paws for a Cause: Volunteer with Beltsville Community Cats!”

Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) invites you to our **Annual Volunteer Meeting on Saturday, February 8th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville)**. Whether you're a longtime volunteer, a passionate cat lover, or simply curious about how you can help, this event is a welcoming space to learn, connect, and make a difference for cats in our community.

Who We Are

BCC is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of free-roaming and rescue cats in Beltsville. Through a **trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR)** program, fostering, and colony support, we've helped over **650 cats find forever homes** and cared for thousands more. Our work is powered by volunteers like you—and there's a role for everyone!



How You Can Help

Explore our volunteer opportunities:

- **TNVR Heroes:** Trap, transport, and care for cats needing sterilization and vaccinations.
- **Foster Families:** Care for rescued kittens and cats, whether for a weekend, short-term, or until adoption. We cover all medical expenses!
- **Colony Caretakers:** Feed and monitor local colonies of free-roaming cats once or twice a week, ensuring their well-being and safety.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Stars:** Help with grant writing, fundraising,

social media, or content creation—perfect for those who can't drive or prefer remote volunteering.

Why Volunteer?

Volunteering with BCC is more than helping cats—it's about joining a compassionate, supportive community. Many of our volunteers have formed lasting friendships, found purpose, and even discovered the joys of “kitten therapy.” It's a rewarding experience that changes lives—yours and theirs.

Join Us

Come meet our team at the annual meeting. Hear inspiring stories and learn how you can get involved. Contact us at **240-444-8353** or **hello@beltsvillecats.net** for more information. If you'd like to support BCC but can't volunteer, we also welcome donations of money or cat food at **donate@beltsvillecats.net**.

Help us make a difference—one paw at a time. We look forward to seeing you on February 8th!

TECH SENSE

continued from page 2

Thunderbird is the most popular Outlook alternative email client and includes the address book and calendar features. The Mozilla organization originally developed Thunderbird, but it separated into its own organization. The software is also free and open source, and runs on Windows, Linux, and macOS. This makes it a good choice if you plan to stick with Windows 10 or move to Linux.

Drawing Software

Microsoft provides Paint, a very basic package to draw some simple bitmaps images. There is better software freely available. First is Inkscape. Inkscape is a vector drawing program. It creates vector drawings that are stored in the standard SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) format. A vector drawing is scalable, with the ability to increase and decrease in size while still maintaining its appearance. Adobe Illustrator and Corel Draw are two commercial packages that also support vector drawing. These tools are great for creating illustrations and diagrams.

Photo and Painting Software

Use Paint software to create or edit pixel art. Pixel art includes the ability to touch up photos or use painting skills to create images as if they were painted. This is like tools like Adobe Photoshop or Corel Painter. The free and open-source tool to do this is Gimp. Gimp has been around for

many years and is available for Linux, Windows, and macOS.

Securely Storing Passwords

The three most popular browsers Chrome, Firefox, and Edge all offer secure password facilities within the browser. This of course limits the passwords to those browsers storing the password you need. KeePass is a free and open-source utility for securely storing passwords and recovering them when needed. Plug-ins are available to integrate KeePass with your favorite browsers making it convenient to work with multiple browsers. I have over 1000 passwords to manage. The ability to store the passwords and restore them when needed is very helpful.

Shrinking and Encrypting Files

WinZip is a commercial tool for compressing files and making them smaller. It also provides the ability to encrypt the data in the files to protect them. Years ago, Microsoft added the compression capability to Windows. From the file explorer right click and select send to compressed folder to compress a file or a folder in Windows. However, Windows can't encrypt.

7-Zip is free software that compresses, decompresses, and optionally securely encrypts or decrypts the contents as well. It is a good way to send secure files across the Internet or via email attachments.

Media Player

Under Windows Accessories, you should find the old original Windows Media Player (WMP) or, maybe even the “Windows Media Player Legacy”. These old tools for some reason seem to be better than the new ones created for Windows 11. I have used WMP for years to convert my CDs to collections of MP3 files that I can listen to as I work or copy them to my phone or table and listen to when I travel.

The VLC media player makes a good alternative that is both free and open source and play music, MP4 video, CDs, DVDs, and other media formats. It also works on Windows, Linux, Android, iOS, and macOS.

About FOSS

I want to add just a few words about Free and Open-Source Software or FOSS. This is software created by hardworking developers and organizations that choose to give the software they build away. You don't normally see any advertisements or nagging to donate. They may ask for optional donations to help them cover their costs, but their contributions are typically worth more than they ask. If you find one of these products that you get value from, consider contributing. Or, even better, volunteer. Believe it, or not, you do not have to be a “techie” to help.

This has been a short introduction to some of my favorite free software. I hope you try some out and enjoy.



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FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705, located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church

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- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

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Tips for Comfort and Energy Savings

As winter approaches, one of the best ways to prepare your home is to ensure it is properly insulated. Insulation helps maintain a consistent indoor temperature, reduces heating costs, and keeps your home more comfortable during cold weather.

Key Areas to Insulate

Attic Insulation. Have you ever looked up and noticed that some homes still have snow on the roof while others don't. Well, there could be many factors but

if they both face the sun the same way it is most likely one home is losing heat through the attic. Hot air rises, so a poorly insulated attic allows heat to escape through the roof, causing your heating system to work harder. Insulating the attic floor with fiberglass or spray foam insulation can help keep the warm air inside. If you already have insulation, ensure its evenly distributed and check for any gaps or compression.

Insulating the walls of your



home is essential for both winter and summer comfort. If your home has cavities in the walls (e.g., older homes), you may consider adding blown-in insulation. This is a great option for those who don't want to tear down dry-wall. Insulating wall cavities with fiberglass batts, cellulose, or foam can dramatically improve your home's energy efficiency. Adding a siding with insulation is another good way to increase the value and energy savings of your home.

Drafty windows and doors are major culprits when it comes to heat loss. Install weatherstripping or caulk around windows and doors to prevent cold air from entering. Consider investing in energy-efficient windows that have a higher R-value (a measure of thermal resistance). You can also add window insulation film for an extra layer of protection. If your budget allows, replacing old windows with double-glazed ones will improve your home's energy efficiency and comfort.

Floors, especially over unheat-

ed spaces like basements or crawl spaces, can be a significant source of heat loss. Insulating these floors with fiberglass batt or foam board insulation can help keep the cold from seeping into the living areas above. For a more DIY approach, laying down thick carpets or rugs can provide an added layer of warmth.

Basement and Crawl Spaces Unfinished basements and crawl spaces often let in cold air, reducing the effectiveness of your home's insulation. Insulating the perimeter walls and floors of these spaces with foam board or fiberglass batt insulation can help prevent cold air from entering and warm air from escaping.

Pipes and Ducts Cold water pipes can freeze in the winter, leading to costly repairs and disruptions. Insulate exposed pipes with foam pipe insulation, especially those in unheated areas like basements and crawl spaces. Additionally, sealing air leaks in ducts and insulating them can improve your home's heating efficiency.

Additional Tips for Winterizing Your Home

Seal Gaps and Cracks: Walk around your home and look for gaps or cracks where cold air might enter. Use caulk or spray foam to seal any small holes around windows, doors, or pipes.

Check the Fireplace: If you have a fireplace, ensure the damp-

er is properly sealed when not in use. A fireplace can act as a chimney for warm air if it isn't sealed tightly.

Add Insulation to the Garage: If your garage is attached to your home, consider adding insulation to its walls and ceiling. This can help prevent heat from escaping into the garage and keep your living spaces warmer.

Benefits of Proper Insulation


Energy Savings: Proper insulation can cut your heating costs by as much as 30%. By reducing heat loss, your furnace or heating system doesn't have to work as hard, leading to lower energy bills.

Increased Comfort: Insulation ensures that warm air stays inside your home, making it more comfortable during the cold months. This also reduces the occurrence of cold drafts that can make your living spaces uncomfortable.

By using less energy to heat your home, you're contributing to a lower carbon footprint. Proper insulation can reduce the overall energy demand, benefiting the environment.


Insulation helps to regulate indoor air temperature and humidity, reducing the likelihood of mold growth or condensation, which can affect air quality.

Proper insulation is one of the most effective ways to prepare your home for the winter season. By focusing on key areas such as the attic, walls, windows, and floors, you can ensure that your home stays warm, comfortable, and energy-efficient throughout the colder months. Not only will this help lower your heating costs, but it will also improve your home's overall performance and sustainability. Make sure to inspect and upgrade your insulation before winter sets in for maximum comfort and savings.

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BELTS25

UPSTAGE ARTISTS
continued from page 1

ing this classic story to life for a new generation. With its suspenseful twists and compelling moral dilemmas, this production promises to keep you on the edge of your seat. Will Brandon and Granillo's arrogance lead to their downfall, or will they truly commit the perfect crime?

Find out when you see Rope! Performances are February 21, 22, 28, and March 1 at 7:30 pm, with matinees on February 23 and March 2 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.upstageartists.com/tickets or at the door. All performances take place at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Statepoint Crossword: The Super Bowl

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11					12				13	14	
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62						63				64	

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ACROSS

1. Bungle
5. Cause of a trip?
8. Dao, alt. sp.
11. Between marquess and viscount
12. Super garb?
13. Inlet in Norway
15. Cogito ____ sum
16. Long story
17. Deprived of a limb
18. *Half-time headliner
20. Ice, dark or middle ____
21. *Cindy Crawford wore “____ Dukes” in a Super Bowl ad
22. Flightless bird
23. *Last year’s Super Bowl winners
26. A cheap, run-down motel
30. “____ the fields we go”
31. Merry
34. Actor’s part
35. Expensive
37. Not him
38. Cell phone bill item
39. Civil Rights icon
40. *David Tyree’s ____ Catch
42. Letters of distress
43. What rule follower does
45. Get cozy

47. Greed, biblically-speaking
48. Grieve for the dead
50. Time period
52. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
55. 3600 seconds, pl.
56. Casino chip
57. Salmon’s output
59. En ____, all together
60. Like Piper of Hamelin
61. Uber alternative
62. ____ Robinson
63. Acronym, abbr.
64. “Come Sail Away” band

DOWN

1. Service charge
2. Songbird
3. Craving
4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
5. ____ lazuli
6. Hot
7. 52 cards
8. Hefty volume
9. Greek god of war
10. 1, e.g.
12. Cherry red
13. Post vitriol
14. *Team with no Super Bowl appearances
19. Looney Tunes duck

22. Architectural add-on
23. Meat of coconut
24. Roman king of Judea
25. Like certain whiskey
26. Grow crop
27. Brag
28. Algorithmic language
29. Ganders’ companions
32. Tom Jones’s “____ a Lady”
33. Rolodex abbr.
36. *____ Superdome
38. Wombs
40. Lady lobster
41. Hardened
44. Follows wash
46. Pig sounds
48. Bouncing off the walls
49. Weasel’s aquatic cousin
50. Fly like an eagle
51. Boot-wearing kitty
52. Mama Bear’s husband
53. To perfection (3 words)
54. *Justin Timberlake’s “____ Back,” sung in Super Bowl show
55. Expression of doubt
58. *Steelers’ number of Super Bowl trophies

See Solution on page 6



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Must provide references and consent to a background investigation.

Please contact Mary (301) 937-9449 for more details and to discuss this opportunity.

Crossword Solution from page 5

F	L	U	B			L	S	D			T	A	O
E	A	R	L			C	A	P	E		F	J	O
E	R	G	O			E	P	I	C		L	A	M
		K	E	N	D	R	I	C	K		A	G	E
				D	A	I	S	Y			E	M	U
C	H	I	E	F	S					F	L	E	A
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P	R	I	C	Y			H	E	R			U	S
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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

New Elderly Tax Credit Enacted

A new county law revises the county's existing Elderly Property Tax Credit and allows any resident over the age of 65 who has been living in the same home, valued at \$500,000 or less, for at least 25 years to be eligible for a 20% property tax credit. Eligible homeowners will receive the tax credit for up to five years beginning in 2025.

Contact the Prince George's County Tax Department at 301-952-4030 for further information. The customer service representatives are ready to answer your questions.

We Want to Hear Your Views

The 2025 Maryland legislative session began on January 8 and will continue until our last day on April 7. Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnik, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman and I are working to pass a balanced budget while protecting education, public safety, and help for seniors and the unemployed. If you have concerns on these or any other issues before this year's legislature, please contact us at the email address or phone number below.

After April 9, we'd be pleased to attend one of your organization's (homeowner or tenant association, business, church, or other group) upcoming meetings to report to your members on the legislature's actions, discuss local issues of concern to you, and answer your members' questions. Please let us know if you would like to schedule a mutually convenient date. If so, we request that you provide a few dates and times that would work out by contacting 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or 301-858-3141.

Reminder to Join us in Annapolis on Feb. 3

We hope you can join us and other neighbors Monday evening,



Senator Jim Rosapepe

February 3, from 6 to 8 pm, at the Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 180, for good food and good fellowship.

We'll be joined by other state and local leaders who represent you. To RSVP, call 240-712-4646, or go to <https://bit.ly/21stDistrictNight2025>.

Senate and House college scholarships for Beltsville students

Each summer, Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnik, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and award college scholarships to Beltsville students. Applications for the scholarships for the school year 2025-26 are posted on the 21st District Delegation website. The application will automatically go to Delegates Peña-Melnik, Barnes and Lehman. You will need to fill out a separate application for the Senatorial Scholarship.

In the meantime, please make sure you have a Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) account and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when it becomes available.

21st District
Delegation Website:
<https://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/college-scholarships>
If you have questions, email

my office at jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us or call at 410-841-3141.

Snow and Ice Control: Roadways

Snowy and icy days are still ahead. 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 more than 1,900 miles of county-maintained roadways to ensure the safety of residents, citizens, and travelers.

To learn about the five operations of the Snow Plan and how to report cold weather-related road concerns, visit the Department of Public Works and Transportation Snow Portal at: bit.ly/DPWTSnowPortal.

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

AARP Free Tax Preparation Services

AARP Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to anyone of any age, especially persons aged 50 and older or who cannot afford paid service.

Sessions are by appointment only. Please call (240)-473-2955 to schedule an appointment. Wednesdays, February 5 - April 9 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Laurel Armory
422 Montgomery Street,
Laurel, 20707

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 or call 410-841-3141.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

I have questioned funding, especially considering the financial mess Prince George's County and Maryland are facing. It is with a heavy heart that I can tell you no one on the County Council answered any of my inquiries. The mismanagement of the Prince George's County Fire Department is just one of the problems. Below are the deadlines for the Special Election.

Prince George's Special Election Calendar	Primary	General
Mail-In Ballots Sent via Mail and Web Delivery	Jan. 18	April 19
Close of Registration	Feb. 11	May 13
Last day to request a ballot be mailed to an address other than address of record	Feb. 25	May 27
Last day to request a ballot by mail 8pm or 11:59pm by web	Feb. 25	May 27
Early Voting	Feb. 26-Mar. 3	May 28-June 2
Election Day	Mar. 4	June 3
Election Day Canvass (MIB1) (Election Night Posting)	Mar. 4	June 3
Post-Election Canvass I	Mar. 6	June 5
Provisional Canvass	Mar. 12	June 11
Post-Election Canvass II	Mar. 14	June 13
Certification	Mar. 14	June 13
Voter Registration reopens	Mar. 15	June 14

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Challenges for Snow Removal in District One

The Prince George’s County Council held a snow removal briefing with the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) to brief residents about the snow removal operations on Tuesday, January 21. Director Michael Johnson and his team briefed the County Council on the challenges and the proposed long-term solutions to addressing future snow events. Please watch the Snow Removal Briefing, starting at 24:57, at <https://bit.ly/Snow-BriefingRecording>.

Our office worked to ensure that people received timely communications and to report roads for clearing to DPW&T. There were 845 PGC311 snow-related requests in District One, with 785 requests closed as of January 19, 2025. A summary of the DPW&T plowing standards, service priorities, and a proposed timeline for future operational improvements was provided by DPW&T at the briefing. To read more from DPW&T, please visit: <https://bit.ly/CCSnowBrief-Jan2025>.

Staying Warm at the District One Warming Center

When extreme winter weather events bring extreme cold, it is critical to stay out of the cold and warm up. The designated warming center for District One is the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, located at 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, 20707. Winter storms include blizzards, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds, and they can increase the risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.

The Prince George’s County Department of Social Services (DSS) staff and community-based providers will continue to reach out to homeless community members and urge them to seek shelter during extreme cold temperatures. Individuals needing an emergency shelter should call the 24-hour Homeless Resource Line at 1-888-731-0999 for location information. Residents concerned about the well-being of a homeless individual can complete the online Prince George’s County Community Services Street Out-



Council Member Dernoga at the January 21 Department of Public Works and Transportation Snow Removal Briefing.

reach Referral form: <https://bit.ly/PGStreetOutreachForm>, with whatever information is known, and the Street Outreach Team will attempt to locate the person and offer resources and support.

Tips to Remember to Stay Warm

It’s crucial to know the three levels of winter weather. The three levels of ascending danger are winter weather advisory, winter storm watch, and winter storm warning. An advisory is issued for the accumulation of snow, freezing rain, drizzle, and sleet. A watch identifies that a potential blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is possible and is issued 12 to 48 hours before expected precipitation. A warning implies that heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or ongoing.

To sign up for severe weather and other emergency notifications, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4yf5a6nf> and sign up for Alert Prince George’s to get text messages sent to your cell phone, landline phone, and/or email address.

Please try to stay out of cold weather, minimize recreational activities, and wear appropriate warm clothing. To remain safe indoors, be mindful of carbon monoxide levels from different combustion heaters and avoid the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. To keep your vehicles safe, keep the gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines, have adequate anti-freeze, keep your phone charged, keep extra blankets, and never leave a person alone in the cold. Animals cannot be left outside unattended, which may be considered animal cruelty.

Extreme cold is a dangerous situation that can cause health emergencies to susceptible people. This includes children, seniors, those without shelter, stranded individuals, or those living in poorly insulated homes or lacking heat.

Please pay attention to any signs of hypothermia or frostbite. Hypothermia can result from prolonged exposure to the cold, while frostbite is an injury caused by the body freezing. Seek medical care after you warm up for both situations.

2025 AARP Tax-Aide Program

The AARP Tax-Aide program offers free, in-person, personal income tax preparation, especially for those 50 and older who can’t afford paid preparation. The AARP site is at the Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery Street, Laurel, 20707. They are available by appointment on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM between February 5 and April 9, 2025. To schedule an appointment, please call 240-473-2955.

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

Take advantage of 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. You can email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1.

A KIND OF WONDERFUL

Bent beneath its beauty
Trees aglow with white,
Fragile limbs bear burdens
Softly piled high.

Waters slow ‘till they
Become a solid path,
As the wind blows drifts
Upon their lids of glass.

All at once a tail is
Lifted in a flash
Brightly warning those
Around it they must dash.

Winters’ glory wakens
Joy within the soul;
None but God could plan this
Kind of Wonderful.

Miracle of marvel:
How this great a weight
Is bestowed so gently
Yet, without a break.

In the quiet stillness
Not a voice is heard;
Creatures large and small
are
Nestled like the birds.

Curtains hung from heaven
Wave both to and fro,
Back and forth in silken
Sheets of falling snow.

Beckie Hutchings
1/07/2025

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SNOW DAY FUN!

Beltsville saw its first major snowfall in a while on January 6, 2025. We got just a little under a foot! Look at the beautiful pics from your neighbors!



Obituaries



Daniel Pavelka

Daniel Pavelka (1988-2024)

With heavy hearts and fond memories, we announce the passing of Daniel "Dan the Man" Pavelka, who left this world on 12/21/2024. Born on 11/28/1988, Dan lived a life full of laughter, joy, and an endless sense of fun.

Dan was a beloved son, brother, and friend, known for his playful spirit, warm heart, and the uncanny ability to bring a smile to anyone's face. His knack for finding fun in even the smallest of moments made him a one-of-a-kind soul. Whether he was cracking a joke, surprising someone with a thoughtful gesture, or simply brightening the room with his presence, Dan had an extraordinary gift for making life lighter and brighter for everyone around him. He was known for creating happy memories that will be cherished forever. His warmth, humor, and zest for life brought joy to every gathering, turning ordinary days into unforgettable moments. He had a unique ability to make everyone feel at ease, leaving a legacy of kindness and laughter that will endure in the hearts of all who knew him.

Dan is survived by parents, Julie & Chuck Pavelka, and siblings, Glenna & Christopher McDaniel and Chris Pavelka, who will carry his spirit forward in their lives. He is preceded in death by grandparents Daniel & Eleese Holman.

A memorial service to celebrate Dan's lovely life was held on Sunday 1/12/2025 at Borgwardt Funeral Home from 3:00-5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to American Organ Transplant Association (AOTA).

Though Dan may no longer be with us, the love, support, and joy he gave so freely will remain a part of us forever. Let us honor his memory by living as he did—with open hearts and a readiness to show up for one another, creating happy memories along the way.

Fulcher, Patricia Kalec

Patricia Kalec Fulcher passed on January 15 th, 2025. Born on November 2, 1944 in Douglas, Georgia. Patricia was the second daughter of Gertrude and George Kalec. She was preceded by both her parents and her grandson, Seth

Ammon Rieker. Patricia is survived by her husband, James Kenneth Fulcher, her sister Nancy Marion Gerstel, her six children, Ian Christopher Fulcher, Megan Esther Rieker, Kirt Drew Fulcher, Jared Golden Fulcher, Owen Garr Fulcher and Gwynn Valentine Fulcher, as well as eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Patricia graduated in 1962 from High Point High School and went on to attend the University of Maryland, from which she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. She married her high school sweetheart James on June 29th, 1968 and eventually settled to raise her family in Beltsville, Maryland.

Pat, as she was known to her many friends, joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and lived a life of service, beginning with her family, then to her faith, and finally to the community from whence she came. She taught elementary school at institutions all over Maryland, most notably St. Joseph's, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Calverton Elementary, where she touched thousands of young lives with her passion for education.

At church, Sister Fulcher, as she was known by her congregation, served in a multiplicity of service capacities, including – but not limited to – Primary School, Youth, Scouts, where scores more got to know her love, kindness, knowledge, and utter joy of living life. With all these accomplishments, Pat identified with being a mother perhaps the strongest. She read to

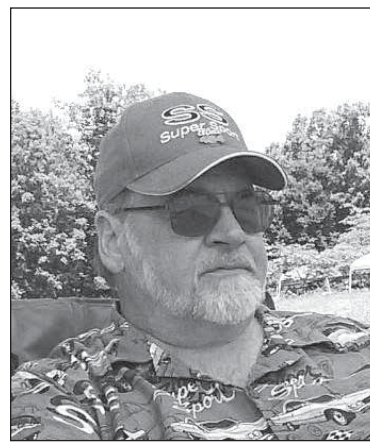
her children every night and championed them in their scholastic careers as many went on to university and wide-spread disciplines that ranged from computer science to the fine arts. As they grew and blessed her family with grandchildren and eventually great-grandchildren, so too grew her joy and wisdom. She was a vibrant and integral part of her ever-expanding family right up to the very day of her passing. She was 80 years old.

Her funeral was held on Friday the 24th at the LDS Church at 7200 Contee Rd, Laurel, 20707. The viewing was between 10-11am, and the service from 11-12. In lieu of flowers, feel free to donate to the American Cancer Society in Pat's name.

Richard Franklin Schiafone (1949-2024)

Richard (Dick) Franklin Schiafone, born May 4, 1949, passed to his heavenly home on December 14, 2024. Born in Buffalo, New York, he moved with his family to Beltsville, Maryland at age 3. Richard was one of six children, and attended Nativity Grade School in Washington DC, and Bladensburg High School, in Bladensburg, Maryland.

A rebellious but intelligent youth, he dropped out of high school to pursue his love of all things cars and quickly entered the



Richard Schiafone

field of auto mechanics, learning everything he could about cars and their repair and maintenance. He worked at various auto businesses including starting one of his own company Skoda. He always had at least one car that was a classic, that he worked on to perfection. He was kind and generous in gifting those he loved, and often helped his family and friends with their car repairs. During the last 20 plus years of his career he was the stellar Service Manager at Criswell Acura Automotive in Annapolis, Maryland, earning awards for his excellent customer service and attention to detail for every customer he served. He felt a personal responsibility to each and every one of them and provided only the highest level of service, often assisting mechanics in troubleshooting repairs with his extensive knowledge.

Richard was also an excellent self-taught musician, and his love of music and music history rivaled that of his love of automobiles. He was an accomplished guitarist. Later in life, he was excited to qualify and play in the Galax bluegrass music festival in Virginia. He knew everything about Paul McCartney, one of his music idols, and the Beatles and studied early blues and bluegrass artists which were his musical mentors.

Richard could have been a stand-up comic. His keen memory and outrageous sense of humor led him to be a consummate prankster and joke teller. He could lift you up with his funny presentations. He loved to tell stories about his many adventures and those of others and was a true entertainer. He was also an avid reader of all information, up on current events and politics, and loved mystery and sci-fi books. He had a rule to read every day to stay informed and appreciate literature.

Richard was a lover of nature and animals. He and his wife spent time hiking in local parks in their younger years. He always had numerous pets, from several adopted stray cats, beloved companion dogs, and birds. The local birds and other wildlife in his neighborhood will miss his daily feedings.

He enjoyed gardening during his middle years, growing a large garden with his wife at their home

OBITUARIES

continues on page 14



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The Beltsville News



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PGFCU MEMBER BELINDA JOHNSON. PHOTO BY VSDAVISPHOTOGRAPHY.

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Calendar of Events

PGCGS & LIBRARY

Address: 12219 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, MD 20715. Regular hours of operation: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays (except 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month) and on Saturdays by appointment. PGCGS stands for the Prince George's Co. Genealogical Society.

For more information, see www.pgcs.org, send an e-mail to library@pgcs.org, or call 301.262.2063 on most Wednesdays. Non-members may request an invitation to attend monthly meetings by e-mailing president@pgcs.org.

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. 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. For special events see www.pgcparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

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 in February are: open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for closing at 4 p.m. on Tues-*

days. Closed all day on federal holidays and may close early the day before. Please check for updates and more events at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates and late changes.

Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. Current regular hours of operation for the Visitor Center are: open Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and federal holidays (*and the building may close early the day before a federal holiday*). The bookstore is open Wed. – Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

GAME DAYS: WINGSPAN

Two dates: Fri., Feb. 14 and Sat., Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. No experience needed. Come play the award-winning board game; learn more about birds! Games provided; personal sets welcome. Registrants, please sign in at the Front Desk. **Registration required**; call 301.497.5772.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

The featured artists for February are **wildlife photographers Fredrik and James Fatemi**. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

FAMILY FUN

Regular hours of operation Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for drop-in/independent exploration. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

The regular hours of operation are Wed. – Sat. at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. Ages 3 – 10, with adult.

Registration is strongly recommended; call 301.497.5760 and leave a message for Barrie for this program only.

The program provides crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration, and a free booklet. Group arrangements are possible.

• February's theme: Groundhogs.

Are they really the weather forecasters we think they are?

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)

Wed., Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting followed by a presentation by Eric Henning about avoiding financial scams. 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:** Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.
• **Save the Date:** Our Wed., Mar. 12 meeting will feature Irish music by *Good Measure*.
• **No Monthly luncheon in February:** Due to potential meeting cancellation for inclement winter weather, no lunch will be served after our meeting in February. You will be able to sign up for our March lunch at our February meeting.

• **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.

NARFE LAUREL CHAPTER 422

Wed., Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will have a guest speaker: Virginia Frazier, founder and CEO of Sankofa Financial Group LLC. She will give a talk on *Planning to File Your 2024 Tax Returns*. For more information and late updates contact Pat at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib.

We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get *MyPlate* nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant.

• **The USDA Pomological Watercolor Collection is online!** View and download pomegranates, watermelons, nuts, and additional fruits featured in more than 7,000 historical watercolor paintings. The collection spans the years 1886 to 1942. See <https://archivesspace.nal.usda.gov/repositories/4/resources/651>

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. 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 2025—Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information. *Our inclement weather policy: If P.G. schools open late or are closed, we DO NOT meet.*

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is 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. See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville for online services.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 – 3 years old.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

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

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Volunteers provide homework help for students in grades 1 through 6. Please register online at <https://www1.pgcmis.info/events>.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INVENTORS AND INNOVATORS

Sat., Feb. 1 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Explore African American inventors and innovators who influenced our way of life in the workforce as we know it today. Discover how these inventors were able to innovate in communication, technology, transportation, science, and much more.

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY 2 READ

Thur., Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Appreciate art by listening to stories in English and Spanish about black scientists and then create artwork about space! Artwork may be displayed in the public area afterwards. ¡Aprenda a apreciar el arte escuchando cuentos en inglés y español sobre científicos afroamericanos y luego crea obras de arte sobre el espacio! Las obras de arte pueden exhibirse en el área pública posteriormente.

BODY SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

Wed., Feb. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Presented by Medu-cate. Fun, hands-on activities will show how all your organs work together to keep you healthy and strong. You'll learn how your body's systems team up to make you feel great.

STEM-TASTIC DNA MODELS

Thur., Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on science activities using basic scientific principles. For Black History Month, learn about the extraordinary life of Henrietta Lacks and her contributions to the medical field while building your own DNA model. Ages 8 – 12.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

LEGOS CREATIVE CLUB

Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Feb. 8 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each child will read for 15 minutes to a specially trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 15 minutes. First come, first served.

KIDS CREATE BASQUIAT

Sat., Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. Learn about Jean-Michel Basquiat's art style and contribution to the art world. Then we'll create Basquiat-inspired artwork!

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

JAZZ JOURNEYS FROM BLUES TO NOW

Sat., Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Trumpeter and jazz historian Muneer Nasser explores the rich history of jazz through live music, rare recordings, and interactive demonstrations. Perfect for music lovers and history enthusiasts interested in discovering the Memphis blues roots of jazz.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Feb. 10 at 4 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

This program will resume in March 2025. Stay tuned for more information!



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(Beginning Late January 2025)

AARP Foundation

For Other Locations
Call 888-227-7669 (Beginning Mid-January 2025)

(202)424-3176

AARP Tax-Aide Program Offering Free Income Tax Prep in Laurel

The AARP Tax-Aide program offers free, in-person, personal income tax preparation, especially for those who are 50 and older, or who can't afford paid preparation. Our Laurel site is located at the Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707.

We are available on Wednesdays, February 5-April 9, 2025, from 9:30-3:00 by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call 240-473-2955. For other AARP Tax-Aide locations and hours, please visit our website at AARP.org.

5 Ways to Make Sure Your Business Stands Out Among Competitors

(StatePoint) Staying competitive in today's market can be a challenge. As the business landscape continues to evolve, paying attention to the competition is more important than ever. Business isn't run in a vacuum and understanding what's working — and equally important, what's not working — for other successful companies is an integral step in staying ahead of the game.

Here are some ways to do that from the experts at PNC Bank:

Set a Google Alert

One of the easiest things you can do, setting up a Google alert, allows you to immediately be alerted of big news that's being reported about you, your industry or your major competitors.

Follow Websites and Track SEO

Poor user experience on a website can drive 50% of potential customers to competitor businesses. "Track what your major competitors are doing on their websites — taking special note of anything new or innovative — to ensure you stay viable in this area. Start by paying attention to their SEO. Compare web traffic and look for similarities and differences in your online strategies," says Marc McAndrew, head of small business, PNC Bank.

Go Through the Customer Experience

Consumers have indicated in any number of surveys and forums they would leave a brand they've been loyal to after three

or fewer bad experiences with customer service. It is worth running through your competitor's customer experience from time to time to see how smoothly it operates and what they're doing differently.

Invest in Data Technology

There are plenty of automation tools on the market that help track how competitors are doing in various areas. Look for companies that offer things like competitive and social post analysis, social media audits and social listening for the most complete overview.

Track Pricing

Technology aside, pricing is one of the most important aspects of a business. Understand where your company falls by comparing pricing strategies among your competitors. Customers are willing to pay more for certain things, so understand your customer base and price accordingly for best results.

Just having the above data on-hand isn't enough to make a difference. Besides assessing your competitors, institute the following as benchmarks for your business to keep customers coming your way:

- Provide unparalleled customer service;
- Define and build your brand based on the value you provide;
- Position yourself — and your business — as experts in the field;
- Put a face to your product or service; and
- Have a clear and unique voice in tharket.

Riderwood Provides Unmatched Resources for Professional Growth

Silver Spring, MD - At Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, Md., team members enjoy more than just a job. They also enjoy opportunities and support for achieving their individual career goals including further education, professional development, advancement, and a healthy work-life balance.

In support of these efforts, this year, each Erickson Senior Living community hosted a Career Expo for current team members to meet department ambassadors, learn about current and upcoming career opportunities, map out a personal development path, and access skill-building opportunities to fuel professional growth.

"Our goal is to provide our talented and diverse team members with a meaningful work experience that matches their interests and goals," said Nicole Walker, Chief Human Resources Officer for Erickson Senior Living. "This is why we created the 2024 Internal Career Expo Series across the enterprise. As a growth company with a bright future, we strive to be an employer of choice by providing our team members with the resources to cultivate the career they personally desire at Erickson Senior Living."

Since beginning her Riderwood career as a high school student server in 2010, Shifali Kapoor has taken full advantage of Erickson Senior Living's opportunities and resources for professional advancement.



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"My sister also worked at Riderwood, and from everything she told me, I knew I wanted to work here too," she says.

After two years, Shifali was promoted to a host, bartender, and peer trainer. Recognizing her strong work ethic and dedication to the Riderwood residents, her supervisor suggested she apply for the position of part-time supervisor, a promotion that accommodated her full-time college schedule.

"Everyone was very supportive as I worked at went

to school," says Shifali. "Not only did I benefit from the student scholarship, but, as new opportunities came up, I was always encouraged to go for it. After two years as a supervisor, I became an assistant general manager of one of the community restaurants. My managers were always encouraging me, telling me I was ready. It was very validating."

Two years ago, Shifali, now a college graduate, was encouraged to apply for the staff development manager position.

"I have a really great support system here," she says. "My managers take the time to talk through my goals and come up with a plan for advancement."

In her new role, Shifali represented the dining service team at this year's Career Fair.

"The event was designed to be fun, informative, and engaging for current employees," says Shifali. "For the dining team, we offered a huge presentation including prep and line cooks, and provided information on Erickson Senior Living's Culinary School, a self-paced program to help employees advance in their dining career. The Career Fair was also a great opportunity to learn about other departments. My next goal is to work with human resources as either a recruiter or manager."

RIDERWOOD

continues on page 14

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Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

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www.eumcbeltsville.com

Find us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville
Follow us on Instagram @eumc_beltsville

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.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Upcoming Events

- Soup & Ice Cream Lunch Sun. Feb. 9 following service
- Pastor's Valentine Luncheon Fri. Feb. 14 Noon
- Free Food Distribution Sat, Feb. 22: 8:00 am-11:00 am
- UpStage Artists Presents the play "Rope" opening Fri. Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4: 7

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10774 Rhode Island Avenue
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Rev. Jongkil Na

www.APLChurch.org

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All Services in English

Fr. George Johnson, Rector
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www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org



St. Joseph Catholic Church

www.stjosephbeltsville.org

Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez

Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org

Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever

St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
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*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
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.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:

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.



OBITUARIES

continued from page 10

in Lusby, and was a big fan of Mexican cuisine, making tamales for Christmas and other gourmet meals. Richard was also a certified waterman for the Chesapeake Bay for some years, a person who is officially licensed to harvest seafood like crabs, oysters; essentially a commercial fisherman with a permit that allows them to work the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, with a good understanding of the ecosystem.

Through all of his accomplishments, Richard had one more dragon to slay in his sixties. He enrolled in a local GED program while commuting and working full time, and aced his GED classes, achieving his high school diploma. He was very proud of that achievement, having completed the circle of his career, before he retired. He then went on to refurbish and show yet another vehicle, his beloved El Camino. Richard's health declined in the last five years, with difficulties walking from prior work injuries and advancing cardiovascular issues. He will be missed by all who loved and enjoyed his bright soul.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Ethel Schiavone, his brothers William and Kenneth Schiavone. He is survived by his son Ken Schiavone, an accomplished stone mason and champion billiards player, his first wife Marie Hunt-Schiavone (mother of Ken), wife Katherine Marie (Katy) Schiavone, and siblings John J. Schiavone Jr. (Susan Marie, deceased), Susan Schiavone-McGinley (Robert), Dennis J. Schiavone (Nancy), along with six special nieces and nephews Kevin, Carrie, William, Paul, Dawn and Dennis Jr.

Richard was laid to rest at George Washington Cemetery in Adelphi, Maryland on December 19, 2024. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his name to an animal rescue organization or charity of your choice. The family hopes to have a memorial service later in the year.

During the Fair, I spent time with the team learning what my next steps should be. I was shown a variety of paths and discovered what makes the most sense for me."

Looking toward the future, Shifali is confident that the support she receives will encourage further growth in her Erickson Senior Living career. As staff development manager she now enjoys the opportunity to show the same support to student employees.

"My advice is to make connections, look for opportunities, and express your interests," she says. "There are always people ready and able to help you achieve your goals."

Watch your calendar! Be on the lookout for the 2025 Career Expo at Riderwood!

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www.fbcbeltsville.org

Keith Holland, Pastor

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Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Congratulations to the Washington Commanders for a job well done. As I sit to type this, I have no idea what the outcome of the Championship Game will be over the weekend. I just respect the grit, hard work, focus, dedication to the task at hand. One lesson learnt is that the talk shows and podcasts can talk all they want, but one cannot allow a third party to decide the outcome of your work. You put in the work and sweat – you reap the reward. Football is not played on podcasts or the airwaves of radio talk shows. Hopefully this is the start of something sustainable for The Washington Commanders.

It is no secret that I am a Pittsburgh Steelers fan (since 1982). Win or lose, I support my team. Our time will come.

Snow in Dallas two weeks ago – it covered a basketball I keep in the back for my dog to play with when she is out there. That is how much snow we had. Houston had snow a few days ago. So did Louisiana and some parts of Florida. Even the Caribbean is cold. Something is definitely changing with the weather. I do not have the answers and cannot speculate. All I will advocate is for folk to be ready at all times. Invest in enough warm clothing, stock up on food items, get a small portable stove or grill – you can use it to

warm up some food items in the event of extreme weather.

This talk about weather makes me reflect on hurricanes we used to have in the Caribbean. I moved to St. Kitts from Nigeria/New York in January 1995. My first hurricane experience was in 1995. We had two category one hurricanes – Luis and Marilyn. We were blessed to have them as a category one. There were two hurricanes in one week – dumped a lot of rain on us. These two hurricanes caused immense damage to the tourism industry on the nearby island of Dutch St. Marten. I think it hit them as category three. It was the howling wind that was scary at night, no power, not sure what to expect. Literally nowhere to run to – one is on an island that is 64 square miles. Nothing topped Hurricane George in 1998 – category five that caused immense damage to the island. That one was straight out the scene from a survival movie. My cousin and I shared a three-bedroom house and he and I had to fight to keep the hurricane shutters from flapping open in the kitchen, bringing in a lot of rainwater and wind. There was pressure inside the house. Our ears felt like they wanted to pop. The noise from the wind sounded like a Boeing 747 was at rooftop level trying to land. One could see all sorts of objects flying in

the wind – galvanized roof sheets, plants and more. By God's grace we survived a very scary ordeal. This happened during the middle of the hurricane season that year. (Traditionally, hurricane season would run from June 1 to November and would peak in August).

So yes, the weather pattern has changed. We got to be prepared. Know your neighbors by name, check on them, make sure they are okay. If possible, have them move in with you temporarily for the duration of the storm (if you have advanced notice). We got to go back to the way things used to be where neighbors looked out for one another. One fun thing I did not mention was that after the hurricane had passed, there was always a community effort to cut up fallen trees and clear debris so life could go back to normal as soon as possible.

So, as you sit back, enjoy the hurricane of change that is now the Washington Commanders. They have set up high expectations for the next season. Happy Valentine's Day next month. Maya Piata – she is an emerging soul musician out of Dallas. I am hoping that I can connect with her and feature a brief interview with her in my February column. Look her up on You Tube – Maya Piata "Sunny Days."

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Clubs

Beltsville Young at Heart Club

by Lois Hamilton

Anyone who missed the January 16 meeting missed a great entertainer—Johnny Seaton. He gave us a great performance with songs and the history of many of the singers he's met and sang with. We all had a great time.

Our February 20 meeting will be with Dan & Cheryl duo and have a romantic theme, although

it will be the week after Valentine's Day. We have a new travel coordinator, Annie Foster, and we look forward to her experience and ideas for trips coming up this year. I'm so glad that many members are volunteering to help the club run smoothly.

I certainly hope and pray that our "snow season" is over and we can have a regular Maryland winter. For additional information,

call me at 301-498-9736, and I can answer any of your questions.

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle....a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl; and the anticipation nurturing our dreams."

—B. Winkler

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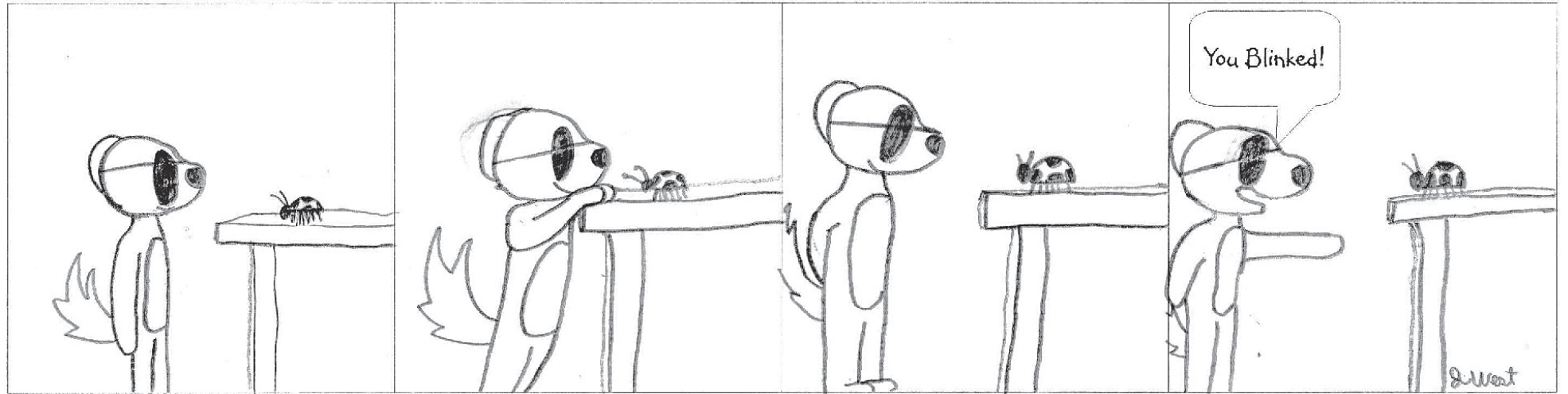


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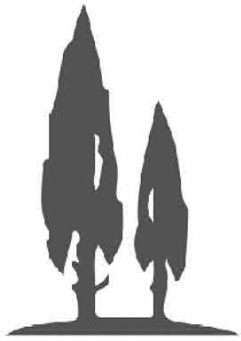
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