

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 8

Beltsville, Maryland

August 2025



Nature Hike at Little Paint Branch Trail.

Cub Pack 1031 Out and About in Little Paint Branch Park

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 has been busy! We went to the Baysox game on June 27th and hiked on the Little Paint Branch Trail in early July with a new little future Lion scout, Finn H. and his family. He is checking out Cub Scouts and will join a unit in Arbutus. His dad is an Eagle scout from T1033.

Later this summer we have are planning to bike, hike and launch rockets at NASA Goddard Visitors on the first Saturday of August. We will also be at National Night Out and out in the parks.

Check out our new website: <https://pack1031.org/> There you can find information on how to

join our Pack.

I do recommend that families contact me and come by to a prearranged pack event to see if your child is interested in joining our Pack. We do have scouts from several area schools and are happy to welcome new scouts especially in the summertime and in the fall when we start our annual program.

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 at least twice a month mostly in the parks.

Thank You From The Calverton Citizens Association For A Wonderful Fourth of July

By Bernadine (Bernie) Karns

The Calverton Citizens Association (CCA) and the Calverton Recreation Council (CRC) celebrated July 4th by partnering with the Prince George's Parks and Recreation Department this year. The Come Out and Play celebration took place on July 2nd at Calverton Park on Beltsville Road and Fullerton Street.

There were all sorts of games from corn hole to lawn games, to skating provided by the park's personnel for Calverton families to enjoy. Parks and Recreation also provided face painters for the celebration. Hot dogs, drinks, and music were provided by the CCA and

the CRC so that families could enjoy dinner at the park after work. The CRC gave away folding fans. The CCA had an information table and a table where you could paint a Calverton Kindness Rock.

There was a fire truck and ambulance along with displays exhibits to visit Calverton residents to enjoy and see. Even though it was a little hot that evening, everyone got to enjoy an evening with Prince George's Beltsville Division VI Police, Beltsville Division VI Police Explorers, Montgomery County Division 3 Police, Burtonsville Volunteer Fire

JULY 4TH

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NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due

No Later Than:

August 20

Paper Out:

August 29

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Please join the Police Officers from Beltsville Division 6 Police Station to Celebrate Police National Night Out. Police National Night out is Tuesday, August 5th from 6-8 at the Beltsville Library! Come meet with members of your community and community groups! Bring a Friend, Bring a Neighbor!

2026 Promises to Be a Season of Laughs, Tears, and Excitement at UpStage Artists

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists is thrilled to announce our 2026 season! This year's lineup promises a dynamic mix of comedy, drama, mystery, and musical fun. At UpStage Artists, we aim to present theatre that speaks to everyone—and we're excited for what 2026 will bring with these four shows:

The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde's classic comedy follows two friends, each pretending to be a man named "Ernest" to win the hearts of

women who claim they could only love someone with that name. Chaos and hilarity ensue in this sharp, witty satire filled with lies, tangled plots, and mistaken identities.

American Son

This powerful, award-winning drama centers on an estranged biracial couple grappling with their personal histories and perspectives on race and bias after their son is detained by police following a traffic stop. Tensions rise as they wait for answers and confront long-standing emotional divides.

The Maltese Falcon

Based on Dashiell Hammett's noir classic, this mystery follows private investigator Sam Spade as he becomes embroiled in the hunt for a priceless artifact—the titular Maltese Falcon. With his partner murdered and a gallery of ruthless criminals in pursuit, Spade must navigate a dark world of deceit, betrayal, and greed.

Babes in Toyland: The Musical

Villainous Barnaby is deter-

2026 SEASON
continues on page 2



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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of August 2000)

New Beltsville Post Office Opens in September (2000)

By Dottie Steele Demos

The new Beltsville Post Office at 10901 Rhode Island Avenue is tentatively scheduled to open on Tuesday, September 5 (2000). The only things holding up the September 5 opening are the paving of the parking lot for which several days of dry weather is needed and getting the building hooked up to water. Post Master **Chuck Malinich** said the staff will be

working over the long Labor Day weekend to see that the new facility is ready on Tuesday morning and there is no interruption of service. The move should be transparent to postal patrons in the 20705 area and for 20704 post office boxes. All but three of the current delivery routes will remain the same, Malinich said. "Everyone will still get their mail every day. Some customers may see a change in delivery times due to the slight change in delivery routes."

Neighbors in the News

City of Greenbelt Applauds Senate Committee's Vote to Retain \$1.4B Funding for New FBI Headquarters

GREENBELT, MD - The City of Greenbelt is pleased to learn that the Senate Appropriations Committee has voted to retain \$1.4 billion in funding for the new FBI headquarters in Greenbelt, Maryland. This action underscores the Committee's support for relocating the FBI to a modern, secure, and strategically situated campus outside downtown Washington, D.C.

Greenbelt was selected by the

Government Services Administration (GSA) as the best choice for the new headquarters, thanks to its exceptional accessibility, robust security, and proximity to other critical federal facilities. This vote reaffirms the integrity of the selection process and the determination that Greenbelt is the optimal location for this project.

Our city stands ready to partner with the federal government and the FBI to ensure the new head-

quarters is constructed efficiently and becomes an integral part of our community. We look forward to the economic growth and job opportunities this project will bring to Prince George's County, and we are proud to contribute to strengthening our nation's security.

We extend our gratitude to our Team Maryland representatives for their advocacy and leadership in advancing this critical initiative.

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC.

2026 SEASON

continued from page 1

mined to marry sweet Mary Quite Contrary—if not by charm, then by coercion. But Mary loves Barnaby's nephew, Alan. When Barnaby's plot to eliminate Alan fails, Alan returns triumphantly to Mother Goose Land. Mary escapes to the magical Toyland, pursued by Barnaby and the rest of the Mother Goose gang. There, they encounter the whimsical Toy-maker and his quirky helpers in this charming musical adventure perfect for audiences of all ages.

Whether you're looking to laugh, reflect, cry, or simply escape reality for a while, UpStage Artists has something for you in 2026!

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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Planning Ahead: Leaving Your Cat While You Travel

Whether you're traveling for work or heading out on vacation, one big question always comes up for cat owners: *Who will care for the cats while I'm gone?*

For some, like me, the solution is simple—a trusted house and pet sitter stays in my home and cares for my whole crew (cats, dogs, chickens, fish—you name it). But if you only have one or two pets, the decision might not be so clear-cut. Here are some key tips to help you prepare for a stress-free trip—for both you and your cats:



Before You Go: Prep Like a Pro

- **Stock** food and water bowls for your sitter to use.
- **Emergency Info:** Leave a list with your vet's number, a trusted backup contact, and a note authorizing your pet sitter to approve care if needed. Confirm in writing that you'll cover any veterinary costs.
- **Detailed Instructions:** Outline your cat's daily routine—feeding times, litter box cleaning, preferred lights or radio settings, favorite hiding spots, etc.

Sitter Expectations Matter

Some cats may be okay alone overnight, but if you'll be gone more than 24 hours, someone should check in daily—ideally twice a day. In addition to feeding and litter box duties, cats need companionship too.

Make it clear you expect the sitter to spend real time with your pets—at least an hour or two a day. Having a human presence helps ease loneliness and stress, especially for social or bonded cats.

Your sitter could be a friend or neighbor, a professional pet sitter, or a trusted person from your workplace or community. Whoever you choose, be upfront about how often they should visit and

how much time they should stay. Show them where everything is—and feel free to leave a few snacks and the Wi-Fi password to make their time easier.

Why Home Is Best

It may be tempting to board your cat at a kennel or take them to a friend's house—but cats are creatures of habit. Being moved to an unfamiliar place, even temporarily, can be very stressful. If you do opt for boarding, check if extra vaccinations or paperwork are required.

Keeping your cat in their own space with familiar smells, sounds, and routines is almost always the better choice.

Interested in Learning More?

Two quick, cat-savvy videos worth watching:

- *Jackson Galaxy* (host of *My Cat From Hell*) shares expert advice on cat care while you're away.
- *Kitten Lady* offers a great video: "Tips for Traveling When You Have Cats!"

Check them out before your next trip—you and your cats will be glad you did!

Kitten Crisis Alert – We Need You!

Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) is overwhelmed this kitten season—and we're not alone. Shelters and rescues across the area are bursting at the seams, and we urgently need **foster homes** to help save lives.

If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to step up. Whether you're looking for a little extra joy, a way to break out of the routine, or just love the idea of kitten cuddles, fostering might be perfect for you. It's a short-term commitment with **huge impact**—you provide the love, food and litter, and we take care of all the medical bills.

Not sure you're ready? Sign up for **vacation fostering**—host a cat or kitten while someone else takes a break. It's a great way to test the waters.

Ready to open your heart and home? It will be a life-saving experience for the kitties and a life-changing experience for you.



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Prince George’s County Planning Board Announces New Director Darius A. Stanton for the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County

LARGO, MD – The Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announces its appointment of Darius A. Stanton as the new Director of the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County. Effective Monday, July 21, 2025, Stanton will assume leadership of the Department comprised of more than 5,000 full and part-time employees, an unionized park police force, and a \$492 million operating budget – all supporting 200+ miles of trails, 300+ athletic fields, four regional parks, four golf courses, an equestrian center, the oldest continuously operating airport in the world, a minor league baseball stadium, community and senior activity centers, ice skating rinks, and more.

“Darius A. Stanton is a values-driven leader whose career reflects a deep commitment to results, innovation, and community engagement,” says Darryl Barnes Chairman of the Prince George’s County Planning Board. “His experience in public safety, youth development, and strategic operations makes him uniquely qualified to lead our department into its next era.”

The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County – a six-time National Gold

Medal Award winner and current 2025 finalist – is a national leader in innovation, service, and community impact. With more than 29,000 acres of parkland including trails, cultural spaces, and historic sites, the Department remains dedicated to creating inclusive, accessible, and sustainable opportunities for all residents and visitors. With the guiding plan, Formula 2040, and the mission to help people “Live More, Play More,” the Department provides opportunities for active lifestyles, meaningful connections, and community pride through programs, classes, events, and accessible facilities.

“I am honored to serve the residents of Prince George’s County in this capacity,” said Stanton. “Our parks and recreation facilities are not just amenities – they are destinations, engines of public health, safety, and family development. I look forward to building on the Department’s legacy and expanding access to transformative programs.”

About Darius A. Stanton

Darius A. Stanton brings more than three decades of executive leadership across government, nonprofit, and private sectors. His career began in the City of Annapolis, where he was appointed Drug Czar at age 22. He moved to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and ultimately

became Vice President of Operations overseeing facilities, staff – civilians and police officers, and award-winning youth programs. He later transitioned to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Baltimore. His leadership helped launch a program called the “Boys Club” at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, which has been credited with reducing violence in the facility. Mr. Stanton was the co-founder of The Stanton Group, Inc., a human development and strategic business consulting firm.

Mr. Stanton holds a master’s degree in human services from Lincoln University and has taught sociology at Anne Arundel Community College. He is the immediate past Board President of the Maryland Black Caucus Foundation and currently serves as a Commissioner on the Maryland Economic Development Commission. He resides in Prince George’s County with his wife of 29 years and their family.

About the Prince George’s County Planning Board

The Prince George’s County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – a bi-county agency established by State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional

system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. In Prince George’s County, the agency also administers the public recreation program. The Planning Board’s responsibilities include supervising preparation of land use plans and comprehensive zoning maps, advising the County Council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, and reviewing and approving site plans and subdivisions. The Board also oversees the Commission’s work in the County, as carried out by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. In Prince George’s County, the Planning Board’s full-time Chair and four part-time members are appointed by the Prince George’s County Executive and confirmed by the Prince George’s County Council, serving overlapping four-year terms. Visit www.pgplanningboard.org for more information.

About the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County

With over 29,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County provides an award-

winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for Prince George’s County residents and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department’s Formula 2040 Plan establishes a framework that will ensure the Department can meet future parks and recreation programmatic and facility needs, fulfilling its mission to determine the combination of land, facilities, and programs that will provide appropriate experiences for Prince Georgians in the future. To learn more, visit www.pgpparks.com.

Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org, or complete the online form at <https://www.pgpparks.com/patron-sign-language-service-request-form>.



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Our fallenness demanded death,
His resurrection gain.

No pow’r of man could do this feat,
But faith in Him alone
Hears witness of God’s precious Son
Declaring us His own.

*Beckie Hutchings
7/12/2025*

Statepoint Crossword: Circus

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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ACROSS

1. *Jumbo The Elephant or Sirius in space
5. "But I heard him exclaim '____ he drove out of sight'"
8. Young salmon
12. Blood component
13. What Lizzie Borden did
14. Leather razor sharpener
15. "The Famous Five" author ____ Blyton
16. Back of the neck
17. Letter-shaped girder
18. *Feats-of-strength circus performer
20. Indian restaurant bread
21. In need of a muffler
22. Away's partner
23. Backward
26. Same as ruin
30. Greek R
31. Net sales minus cost of goods sold
34. Europe/Asia mountain divide
35. Approximately, as in date
37. Overnight lodging
38. Inflicted a blow
39. Celestial bear
40. Goose egg
42. ____-AFTRA
43. Frying pan
45. Eating establishment
47. Type of English crs.
48. Traffic accident

50. Wading bird

52. *Sara Gruen's novel "Water for ____"
56. *Lion tamer's tool or counter seat
57. Justice's garb
58. Hit it on the head
59. Run off, as in couple
60. Was in the hole
61. Japanese zither
62. Something ____
63. Movie "Saturday Night" subject matter, acr.
64. FedEx, verb

DOWN

1. Tom Jones' "____ a Lady"
2. *Big Top
3. Gulf V.I.P.
4. Remodeled
5. Tests
6. Settle a debt
7. Biblical place of bliss
8. *"The Greatest Showman" protagonist
9. Equals length times width
10. Multicolored horse
11. Dashboard acronym
13. Type of heart pain
14. Moses' mountain
19. Hollywood legend ____ Shearer
22. *Like circus audience's

- experience, hopefully
23. Bow-like structure
24. Dodge
25. Trunks
26. *Three-____ circus
27. What phoenix did
28. Batu Khan's people
29. JD Vance's "Hillbilly ____"
32. Civil disorder
33. African grazer
36. *Sound of circus
38. Money under mattress, e.g.
40. *Aerialist's bouncy safety device
41. Piled
44. Twisted cotton thread
46. Give it generously
48. *Funny one
49. James Dean's famous role
50. It will
51. *Unwelcome reception, pl.
52. Cupid, to the Greeks
53. Sodium hydroxide
54. ____caca, South American lake
55. Trough stuff
56. Witness

See Solution on page 6

Neighbors in the News

Come Out and Audition for UpStage Artists — You Might End Up Sharing the Stage with a Giant Gorilla!

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists is holding auditions for Kong's Night Out, the comedy event of 2025! All roles are open!

Kong's Night Out tells the story of what happened in the hotel room next to the one where Ann (played in the 1933 movie by Fay Wray) was whisked out of bed and into the Manhattan night by King Kong. There's always a backstory.

Myron Siegel is a low-end Broadway producer who desperately wants to be high-end. Trouble is, he's spent his entire career being sabotaged by his archrival—an ultra-famous producer known for making movies about scary jungle creatures. Their feud isn't new; their fathers were also rivals, and the legacy lives on.

As the play opens, Myron has just learned that his rival has booked a theatre directly across the street from the one where Myron's new potential bonanza is about to open. Nobody on the Rialto knows what the mystery production is, but it's big. It's BIG!

Myron gathers his entourage—his sassy mother, a gangster henchman, his Hungarian backer, and his wide-eyed niece straight off the bus from Buffalo—to concoct a plan and find out what the competition is all about.

Auditions will take place at 7 p.m. on August 6 and 7 at Emmanuel United Meth-

odist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.

You don't need any experience to audition—if you've ever wanted to give it a try, come on out! Fill out the audition form at: www.upstageartists.com/auditions

Roles being cast:

- Myron Siegel (40s): Energized, determined Broadway producer with a long list of failures.
- Sally Charmaine (60+): Brash, blunt, sarcastic. Myron's mother.
- Bertrille Siegel (30s/40s): Very beautiful and vain. Myron's wife.
- Little Willie (30s): Thug. Makes the world a better place by expanding his vocabulary.
- Daisy (20s): Cute and in awe of NYC. Myron's niece, from Buffalo.
- Ann Farrow (20s): Pretty and young—the object of Kong's affection.
- Jack Driscoll (30s): Terminally sweet and sincere. Ann's fiancé.
- Carl Dennam (40s): Brusque and succinct. Myron's nemesis, whose hits always seem to coincide with Myron's flops.
- Sig Higgenbottom (60+): Myron's financial backer. Wears a terrible toupee and speaks with a middle European accent.



A Smart Start to the School Year: The Value of a Back-to-School Loan

While many of us are still savoring the final days of summer, the approaching school year brings a new wave of responsibilities for parents, especially with financial concerns quietly lingering in the background.

Ideally, the start of a new school year should be filled with enthusiasm—a time for families to embrace fresh beginnings and set their sights on new academic milestones. In reality, expenses like uniforms, laptops, and tuition fees can quickly add up.

That's where **Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union** can help. Our **Back-to-School Loan** is designed to ease the burden of school-related costs—from supply runs to sign-up fees and everything in between. This limited-time offer features **12-month financing at a**

competitive 10% APR, making it easier to prepare without overstretching your budget.

As you plan for the year ahead, consider these additional tips:

- **Federal Loans & Work-Study Programs:** Explore federal and state aid options for both undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Encourage Student Contributions:** If your child is old enough, a part-time job can teach responsibility and help cover personal expenses. Younger children can earn by helping out more around the house.
- **Apply for Scholarships:** Look for opportunities at the local, national, and international levels. *PGFCFU also*

LOAN

continues on page 13

Back to School 2025

August is coming quickly and school is about to start. Parents are trying to decide how to provide their children with the computers they will need for their schoolwork.

The Parent Dilemma

Many parents consign their older machines to their children. Microsoft has declared that by October 14th, people should discard all Windows 10 computers if they can't be updated to Windows 11. But, for \$35 Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 for one more year with security updates. However, at this time Microsoft is also saying that Microsoft Office 365 support on Windows 10 will also end. What is a parent to do if Microsoft's



solution is to replace all of the older computers?

Solution One: Do Nothing

The first solution is simple, ignore Microsoft and go ahead

with Windows 10 without them. This of course has an element of risk since Microsoft does push out security fixes on a monthly basis. If you decide to go this route, add a quality Anti-virus and Firewall package to your computer. Ignoring Microsoft patches is still a risk but this will reduce the risk.

There is also a European company (OPatch.com) offering to apply their own fixes to Windows 10 for under \$25 annually per machine for at least the next five years. They will patch zero-day issues for no cost for individuals.

Solution Two: Buy New Computers

Purchasing a new computer is what Microsoft is pushing as their solution. Of course, it primarily benefits them if you buy a new Windows 11 PC. For many students a Chromebook is a good alternate choice and much less expensive than a windows PC. You can find Chromebooks online for under \$100. Used Windows 11 capable PC's are also a potential

choice. You can find these online for under \$300.

Solution Three: Replace Windows with Linux

Over the years, I have replaced Windows with Linux on a number of my computers. I even have an old 11 inch Notebook computer that that I like to bring when I travel to handle email and editing documents running Ubuntu Mate. A number of Linux choices like Mate even mimic the Windows user interface. You may also find that the Linux conversion will run much faster than Windows.

Solution Four: Replace Windows with Chrome OS Flex

Chrome OS Flex, based on Chrome OS but designed to run on older computers instead of running on a new Chromebooks. Google offers a list of many older models of computers tested to work with Flex.

What about Software?

If Microsoft Office is required, Office supplies Office as a web application to run it online. Linux provides LibreOffice, which can read and write Office files. Google has Google Workspace, which provides an entire Office suite as web applications. Email clients, web browsers, calendars, music and video players, and games are all available, and much of it is free.

Other things

If you student bring their computer to school you may want to

make sure it has a battery that can last for the entire school day. Many schools do not have enough outlets to plug in all of the computers in the room. A multiple outlet plug can also be helpful allowing sharing of outlets.

Headsets with microphones are important for working and participating in meetings and conferences without disturbing others. Teaching now frequently happens over the computer screen.

USB memory sticks or thumb drives can be used to backup work (in case the dog eats it). Show your child how to back up the computer to the thumb drive and have them do it each day. You can do this for them if they are too young. A computer lock is good to keep the computer from "walking away".

A mouse if needed. Many kids use the mouse pad below the keyboard. I still find these to be awkward. I prefer a Bluetooth mouse because it doesn't waste a USB port, it has no dongle to lose, and no cord in the way. However, younger kids may have difficulty reconnecting the mouse if the Bluetooth signal is lost.

Last Thoughts

You may want to review that last couple of years of these columns for more tips about sending the kids to school well prepared. In the mean-time enjoy your vacations and have a great new school year.



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Crossword Solution from page 5

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How to Borrow for College Without the Stress

(StatePoint) A student loan can be a valuable tool to help you earn your degree – and with the right plan, it doesn't have to be stressful. "Smart borrowing starts with knowing the basics. The more you understand, the more confident you'll feel," says Dan Kennedy, chief marketing officer, College Ave. "Our research finds that while a majority of students are focused on money management, they could use a little more information about how borrowing works."

To help ensure your student loan helps pave the way for your future success, not a future headache, Kennedy recommends avoiding these common borrowing mistakes:

Skipping federal student loans: Before taking out a private student loan, exhaust your other options first. Free money you don't have to pay back is always preferable to a loan, so look into scholarships. You should also fill out the Free Appli-



(c) JLco - Julia Amaral / iStock via Getty Images Plus

cation for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to unlock federal student aid, including grants, scholarships and federal student loans. Getting your Federal Direct student loans from the government will often beat private loans in terms of interest rates and repayment options.

Plus, if you go into a qualifying field, the government may even grant you student loan forgiveness.

Borrowing too much: Borrow only what you need to pay for schooling and basic living expens-

BORROW

continues on page 14



21st District Democratic Team

Rosapepe

Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Ben Barnes
Mary Lehman

Beltsville's State Legislators – Standing Up for Working Families!

THANK YOU!

We appreciate your support for our work to keep Beltsville a great place to live — and make it better!

As your representatives in the Maryland state legislature, we work together to solve problems big and small. And protect what makes Beltsville special and improve it.

- *Protecting the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center from commercial development*
- *Keeping the Beltsville Fire Department open and getting state funds to improve it*
- *Helping families in need with utility bills and health insurance*
- *Providing college scholarships*

Now we face the new challenge of Trump's attack on Maryland.

Firing federal employees and contractors. Closing federal agencies. Cutting funds for health insurance, student loans, and local schools. And much more.

But, we're fighting back — hard!
That's why we're running for reelection in 2026,
to make sure that Beltsville's interests get the
attention they deserve. ***Please join us!***

E-mail us at 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com, call us at (240) 712-4646, or visit our website, 21stdistrictdelegation.com.

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Proposed Projects and Developments in Beltsville

Our office published a list of Proposed Projects and Developments in District One on June 25, 2025. As residents of Beltsville, we understand the importance of knowing how to participate in the development process, and how vocal many of you have been throughout the years.

Many of you have reached out to our team to request updates on the developments in the pipeline for Beltsville and the greater District One area. By using this link, <https://conta.cc/4lohWRR>, you can access our newsletter regarding developments in the district and learn more about the land use process. This newsletter provides information about zoning matters, subdivision cases, and the land use process.

WSSC Get Current Temporary Water Bill Assistance Program

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has a new program to assist eligible customers who are delinquent in their Water Bills to pay off their remaining balance. The *Get Cur-*



Councilmember Tom Dernoga at the U.S. District Court advocating for the release of Beltsville resident, Mr. Kilmar Ábrego García on July 7, 2025. Video: <https://tinyurl.com/CMTDInterview>

rent temporary water bill assistance program allows customers who pay half of their full account balance to see the remainder of their balance forgiven. Additionally, 100 percent of a customer's late payment charges and turn-on fees will be waived.

There is also an option to pay 25 percent of the full account balance, and 25 percent of the balance will then be forgiven. All late payment charges and turn-on fees will be waived upon completion of the payment plan. Both options are great opportunities to pay off your delinquent water bill. The program will run until October 31, 2025. You can get more infor-

mation by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/WSSCD1Get-Current>.

Addressing Flooding and Downed Trees after Storms

Throughout July, most of Maryland was under a flood watch due to the heavy rains and extreme winds. As extreme weather events become more frequent, more intense precipitation and high-wind events can be expected over time. To receive notifications from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, you can sign up for alerts by going to <https://tinyurl.com/MDD1Alerts>. It would be good to know how to identify ways to fortify your home and report hazardous situations.

For homes that face challenges to drainage, or may lie within a watershed, please see this link at <https://tinyurl.com/D1PGD-rainage> to view the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement's (DPIE's) Drainage and Flooding website. This website lists critical information about the Drainage Defects Complaint Program, the 100-Year Stormwater Management Control Map of Prince George's County, the Drainage and Flooding in Prince George's County report to outline challenges and resolutions to flooding, A Homeowner's Guide

to Drainage Problems and Solutions, and a guide to how improperly installed fences can cause drainage issues.

Some temporary measures that can protect your home against flooding include keeping extra materials for emergency waterproofing, clearing brush and debris away from storm drains and ditches, and improving drainage away from structures. Homeowners who are planning substantial improvements to their structure should contact the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) for a residential building permit. "Residential Drainage: A Homeowner's Guide to Drainage Problems and Solutions" is available from Prince George's County. This free guide can be obtained by calling Moses Fadiran at 301-883-5768.

After a storm, downed trees can also cause major concerns when they block a road. After a storm, if a downed tree is in the roadway, blocks lanes of traffic, or causes motorists to cross over the direction lane markers, please report it to PGC311 as a Roadway Emergency, as "Roadway Impassable or Unsafe". Trees that have not yet fallen and block the roadway, but require tree trimming to reduce the risk of them falling, should be reported as Down Trees on PGC311. Please also report any downed road signs or dark traffic signals as Roadway Emergencies

to PGC311.

Generally, in Maryland, the cost of removing the tree and repairing any property damage falls to the property owner who sustained the damage. A homeowner can be held liable if a tree on the homeowner's property presents a danger to abutting properties and the homeowner knew or should have known about the deteriorating condition of the tree. Often, this type of damage is covered by homeowners' insurance. Homeowners should review their insurance contracts to find out what is specifically covered under their policy. Prince George's County is not responsible for trees that belong to one neighbor's property that fall or overhang onto another neighbor's property.

Join our District 1 eNewsletter

We will email you about twice a month to provide you with updates on local happenings and, on occasion, alert you to important county news. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/D1eNewsletterOptIn>.

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.

Karen M. Coakley
You know me . . .
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Beltsville Homes Sales from Bright MLS:

12003 Beltsville Drive \$360,000	4406 Tonquil Street \$540,000
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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

We're here for DOGED Federal employees and contractors

Recent federal layoffs have deeply affected many Marylanders, including right here in Beltsville. If you or someone you know has been impacted, there are several state programs and local services available to help you navigate this difficult time. Please reach out to our office if you need assistance accessing any of these resources.

Federal Worker Emergency Loan Program

The Maryland Department of Labor is accepting applications for the Federal Worker Emergency Loan Program, which offers a **\$700 no-interest loan** to Maryland residents who were recently laid off from federal employment due to mass layoffs, agency closures, or relocations and are experiencing financial hardship. Loans must be repaid within 180 days, with a one-time 90-day extension available upon request.



Senator Jim Rosapepe

To apply, create an account and submit your application through the online portal: Apply at <https://labor.maryland.gov/federalworkers/FWEloan>

Career Transition Support

The State is providing free **State-Federal Transition Workshops** every Wednesday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. These virtual and in-person sessions include resume writing, mock interviews, and more. Email Fed-

Worker.Transition@maryland.gov to enroll

The State of Maryland is hiring! Explore job opportunities: <https://response.maryland.gov/federal-publicservants/career-transition-support-and-job-opportunities>

Thank You to Our Beltsville Student Applicants

Each summer, the District 21 team is proud to award Senatorial Scholarships to outstanding students from our community. The application period for the 2025-2026 academic year is now closed, and we want to extend our sincere thanks to all the Beltsville students who applied.

We'll be notifying scholarship recipients soon, and we look forward to supporting your continued success in the year ahead.

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.



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Back to School LOAN



LOAN AMOUNT	MONTHLY PAYMENT
\$1,000	\$89
\$2,500	\$221
\$3,000	\$265

Sample Payments Based on 12 months at 10.00% APR*

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



WWW.PRINCEGEORGESCFCU.ORG/BACKTOSCHOOL | 301.627.2666

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Back-To-School Loan is available for qualified borrowers. Loan subject to normal underwriting guidelines. Advertised loan is called "Just for You" Loan and can be used for back-to-school expenses. Term limit is 12 months with a minimum loan amount of \$500.00 and a maximum loan amount of \$3,000. Representative payment example: A \$3,000.00 loan at a fixed rate of 10.00% Annual Percentage Rate for 12 months would require 12 monthly payments of \$265.00. Offer ends September 30, 2025. Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union reserves the right to withdraw or revise the terms of this promotion at any time. Loans are based on creditworthiness and subject to approval. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.

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Neighbors in the News

Riderwood Celebrates its Silver Anniversary!

Silver Spring, MD - Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, Md., celebrated its silver anniversary with a variety of fun events and activities.

"It was our goal to plan activities that recognize our past and look ahead to the future," says Resident Life Director Fiona Divecha.

Celebrations began on May 1 with a communitywide champagne dinner, followed by a recognition of Riderwood's "pioneer" residents and staff members, who have been with the community all 25 years. Later, Riderwood hosted an anniversary-themed summer carnival, complete with a live band, games, bounce houses, face painting, and snacks.

"All of the events were successful, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our planning committee. Everyone was committed to creating special experiences for the entire community," says Divecha.

Savoring the memories

Becky Hedin, a member of the planning committee, moved to Riderwood 21 years ago with her husband Alan. Only 62 years old at the time, she is grateful for the worry-free lifestyle that has allowed them to make the most of their retirement years.

"The biggest piece of advice I have to share is to come early. Do not wait to start this wonderful part of your life," she says. "Moving to Riderwood has offered us so many exciting opportunities. We've been involved in so much more than we would have, had we stayed in our house."

Becky recently started a Riderwood history and archives group, which played a large role in the



The Residents of Riderwood are enjoying their time as Riderwood celebrates 50 years!

community's anniversary celebration.

Meet Our Residents

"Our intent is to collect the history of different clubs and activities around campus," she says. "As we began thinking about ways to honor our 25th anniversary as a community, we started interviewing lots of residents, many of them Riderwood pioneers, for a series called Meet our Residents."

The group asked the residents about everything from their careers to the hobbies they're enjoying now. "The result is a nice balance of stories about remarkable professional achievements as well as the many little things that people did, or do, that bring them a lot of satisfaction," notes Becky.

As the anniversary approached, the history and archives group, in partnership with the Riderwood Civility group, also encouraged residents to share memories about day-to-day living at Riderwood through a series of "Do you remember?" questions.

"It's been such a fun project. We asked residents to share some

of the special moments or events they remember over the years," says Becky.

"The responses were wonderful and insightful. One resident shared her memory of celebrating Juneteenth and the Pride parade. Another remembers when the beautiful windows were erected in the chapel. All of these things, when combined together, are capturing our shared history."

With so many meaningful memories and accomplishments to look back on, Riderwood is very well-positioned for the future.

"It's the people who stand out," says Executive Director Dee Dee Gray-Weaver. "When you reflect on the past 25 years, it's the people who stand out the most. Each resident and staff member, in their own unique way, has helped shape Riderwood into the vibrant, thriving community it is today," says Executive Director Dee Dee Gray-Weaver.

"Twenty-five years is just the beginning," adds Divecha.

"Growth is an important part of life at Riderwood. As times change, so do the needs, wants,

RIDERWOOD
continues on page 13

Riderwood Residents Support Students Futures Through Scholarship Fund

Silver Spring, MD - Seven local high school students, soon to graduate, were recently honored as Student Scholars at Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, Md.

These dedicated student employees—who worked as servers and hosts across the community's nine on-campus restaurants—demonstrated outstanding commitment to service and professionalism.

To recognize their dedication and propel their promising futures, community residents generously donated over \$358,000 to the Student Schol-

arship Fund and Adult Learner Scholarship.

"Our student employees truly understand the value of these scholarships," says Philanthropy Manager Maria Aghguiguan. "We're incredibly grateful to our residents for their generosity. These awards make a lasting difference in our students' lives."

To qualify for a four-year scholarship worth up to \$3000 a semester, a student must work 1000 hours during a two-year period, maintain good academic and professional standing, and plan to attend a college, university, or trade school on a

full-time basis (at least 12 credit hours per semester).

In addition, the Adult Learner Scholarship, a one-year scholarship worth up to \$7,000, was given to 51 college students who tirelessly balance their work schedule at Riderwood and hours of coursework.

"The Student Scholar and Adult Learner Scholarship awards reflect just a portion of how Riderwood supports team members pursuing their education," notes Aghguiguan. "Our goal is to make Riderwood not only a wonderful place to live but also a rewarding place to grow and work."

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Beltsville Division VI
4321 Sellman Rd, Beltsville



JULY 4TH

continued from page 1

Department, Montgomery County OEHM (Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security).

Calverton residents got an opportunity to meet Senator Jim Rosapepe (Prince George's District 21) and representatives from Tom Dernoga's office (Prince George's Councilmember District 1).

A big THANK YOU shout goes out to the following agencies, business and Calverton volunteers for their support:

1. Volunteers who made the event happen: Calverton residents and students volunteered to help get items for the event, to bring items from the CCA shed at the Calverton Swim Club to the pod at the park, to set up and decorate, to cook and serve food, and to finally take down and put everything away in the shed at the pool after the event. One Calverton resident manned the Calverton Kindness Rock table. Another Calverton resident was the DJ for the evening. Your THANK YOU shout out goes to these volunteers: Alfonso Talavera, Ann Hickey, Benjamin, Clara Meacham, Daniel Ly, Dara Bramlett, Gina Stephens, Hol-

- ly Ly, Jacob Ly, John Richards, Joseph Gomes, Leon Jones, Paul Malengo, Rick Norris, Terry Stephens, Tom Hickey, and Vicky Malengo, and the Beltsville Division 6 Police Explorers and their parents.
2. Senator Jim Rosapepe and Councilmember Tom Dernoga for always supporting our event.
3. Beltsville Division Vi Explorers for helping with set up at the celebration. The Explorers always open our events with the Presentation of Colors. The ceremony was amazing and is always a very special, memorable treat for all to see.
4. Beltsville Division VI Police Commander Batth and his staff for supporting our event with officers, vehicles, the Explorers, and manning a table at our event.
5. Montgomery County District 3 Police Commander Cokinos for police support and manning a table at our celebration.
6. Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department and Chief Ryman supported our event with fire vehicles and manning a table.
7. Chris Scheer and the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department for providing the generator for our music.
8. Prince George's Parks and

Recreation also provided tables, chairs, trash cans, recycling cans, and the storage pod for the CCA to keep everything at the park.

9. Montgomery County OEHM and Sareem Streater for manning a table and providing emergency preparedness information.
10. Grocery Outlet in the Calverton Shopping Center gave Calverton a great price on the ice that we purchased for the event. The Grocery Outlet supported the Calverton July 4th Celebration even before it opened last year and it supported our event this year, too.

The CCA is very thankful to all the county agencies, politicians, and business who supported our event. We are especially grateful and thankful to the volunteers who worked hard in the heat and humidity. This event would not have been a success and would not have happened without all the community volunteers who made it happen. Let's all remember that it is your community and your responsibility to bring unity in our community. We need to all be kind and show respect to one another. A community celebration is one way to bring everyone together to show you care about your community and your neighbors.

IF YOU NEED HELP WE ARE HERE!

Si necesitas ayuda, estamos aqui!

301-937-8119

www.baccmd.org



Struggling with job loss, to pay rent, to get food, or need emergency help? The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville Community and beyond take the next step toward financial independence.

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

BACC Services

- Job Counseling Assistance
- Rental & Utility Assistance (on a case by case basis)
- Food Supplement
- Professional Counseling

Food and financial assistance HOURS:

Tues and Wed 9 am to 2 pm.

Office calling HOURS:

Mon through Thurs
9 am to 4:30 pm

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation



**Check us out on Facebook!
The Beltsville News**

AREA EVENTS

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 some holidays (double-check with the museum regarding the specific holidays). Special events may have different hours of operation. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children and Students with ID/\$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.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

YOUTH AVIATORS: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

This is a 4-session course: Saturdays, Aug. 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. Students must be able to commit to all 4 days. **Call 301.864.6029 for more information and to check availability.** Dive into the critical world of Air Traffic Control. Air Traffic Controllers have the responsibility of directing and tracking pilots for safe takeoffs, flights, and landings. Participants will master the phonetic alphabet and radio lingo used by air traffic controllers, explore key procedures and protocols, connect with industry professionals, and more. Registration required—see <https://mdpgparksweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=474979988>. Cost: FREE. Ages 13 – 18.

RUNWAY RHYTHMS: SETH KIBEL & THE KLEZTET

Sat., Aug. 30 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Get your feet tapping during our annual summer courtyard concert series with the award-winning Seth Kibel Quartet as they perform Klezmer, Yiddish theater, Yiddish folksong, as well as a smattering of Jazz and Swing! Picnics, picnic blankets, and lawn chairs are welcome, and light refreshments will be available for purchase. Each month features an act that will bring lively sounds and snappy beats to the museum. Get your dancing shoes ready! Concerts are sponsored in part by Riverdale Park Arts and the Field of Firsts Foundation. Ages: all. Cost: FREE with museum admission.

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. Events are free of charge unless otherwise stated.

- There are five miles of walking trails.
- 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.

- No food and no drinks are for sale. There are water-bottle refill stations in the Visitor Center, when it is open.
- Educational exhibits, family activities, auditorium, wildlife art gallery, pollinator gardens, and bird blind.
- Cash Lake seasonal fishing (licensed).
- Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds in July are: open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Closed all day on federal holidays and may close early the day before.*
- **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.
- If you have special accommodation needs, please notify us in advance. For large groups or getting on the Visitor Services e-mail list, contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov. For registration and information call 301.497.5772 during regular hours of operation. Registration is also available online at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates and late changes. Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information and events can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent and at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>. 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. Any special hours of operation for the building and the bookstore are noted in the listings for individual special events.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

The featured artists for August are The Laurel Arts Guild. The guild was founded in 1967 and has amateur and professional artists who work in a wide variety of 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. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

Sunrise to sunset daily. Exception: Tuesdays, until 4 pm. All ages. Self-guided outdoor nature-challenge game via phone app: download the free app before coming. Earn a patch for completing the challenges. Game directions: <https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge>.

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wed. – Sat. All ages. Schools and organizations offering summer camp programs are welcome to visit. Endangered species exhibits can accommodate 45 youths at a time; our back patio is great for picnics. Questions: email Jason: michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

FAMILY FUN

Regular hours of operation Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all month long. This is a drop-in program for independent study—come and go as you wish. Hands-on learning activities, games, crafts. No registration required. Cost: Free. All ages.

- **August theme:** *BUGS!* Butterflies, insects, spiders, and more. Hands-on learning activities, games, and crafts.

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

- **August theme:** *Fish.*
- **September theme:** *Butterflies & Moths.*

Registration is strongly urged—call 301.497.5772. For large groups: e-mail Jason: michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

MONARCH MAGIC

Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. See a full-color video about the life cycle of monarch butterflies. **Also check for volunteer opportunities this summer:** call 301.497.5772 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. and leave a leave message for Barrie.

WINGSPAN GAME PLAY

Sat., Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wingspan is a beautiful, award-winning board game all about birds. In Wingspan, each player controls a small wildlife refuge. Your goal is to populate your forest, grasslands, and wetlands with a flourishing array of birds. Join us for a friendly game-playing session and learn more about North American birds in the process!

Experienced and new players ages 12+ are welcome. Instruction will be provided for those who need it. Feel free to bring your own game if you have one. Registration is required.

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. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8

p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, next to the University of Maryland Laurel 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., Aug 13 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 speaker from Adventist Healthcare on home assistance. Reservations for our monthly luncheon are due two weeks before the meeting. Contact the LSFC office for reservations and more information 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. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

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.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Aug. 21 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.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENT

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.pgcmils.info/locat

tion/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CRAFTERNOON: RAINBOW TISSUE PAPER MOSAICS

Mon., Aug. 4 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the large meeting room. Have fun crafting and creating! Supplies will be provided. Ages 5 – 12.

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Program Room. Bring your toddler and enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! Ages 2 – 3.

FAMILY MOVIE

Wed., Aug. 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a family-friendly movie, *The Wild Robot* in the Large Meeting Room. All ages.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Aug. 9 and Fri., Aug. 15 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day in the Children's Area. 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 10 to 15 minutes. Ages 5 – 12 years old.

COFFEE & A CLASSIC MOVIE

Wed., Aug. 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon coffee and celebrate Alfred Hitchcock's birthday with a showing of his classic thriller, *Vertigo* in the Large Meeting Room. This movie is suitable for adults and for teenagers ages 13 and up.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays, Aug. 14, 21, and 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Program Room. Stories, fingerplays, and songs will be presented in Spanish and English. Edades 3 a 5. Se presentarán cuentos, actividades de "Fingerplay," y canciones en inglés y español. Ages 3 – 5.

LEGOS CREATIVE CLUB

Wed., Aug. 27 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Free-style building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild! Ages 5 – 12.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

The program is on hiatus and will return in September.

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Tue., Aug. 5 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Life Lab. This workshop aims to educate participants about different financial scams and frauds, how to identify them, and how to protect themselves. Participants will acquire practical knowledge that will enhance their financial security and confidence. This workshop is presented by Univ. of Maryland Extension. Age group: Adults.



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Trend Report: Back to School!

(StatePoint) Sharpen those pencils and pack those book bags, back-to-school season is upon us. Before the first day, study up on this shoe style study guide for the hottest looks to hit the hallway this year.

- 1. Mocha Mousse: Earthy hues just became the next big thing. This sumptuously soft look feels like a well-deserved treat from PUMA, adidas and Nike.
- 2. Y2K 2.0: Take a course in Just Do It-osophy with the Nike V5 to truly embrace the early 2000s distinctive chunky silhouettes and an innovative mix of materials.
- 3. Color Theory: Look to adidas



to find every 3-stripe in the rainbow. Let your toddlers,

teens and in-betweens play with every crayon in their box to help them stand out this year.

4. Classic Culture Studies: New Balance has earned its place as the home for truly classic styles over decades and across generations.

Find the perfect pair for everyone by visiting rack-roomshoes.com. For one-stop shopping, visit Rack Room Shoes in your area for more fun and exclusive accessories only available in-store.

Heading back to classes is a fresh start, and the right shoes can help students of all ages confidently step into the new school year with comfort and style.

What to Buy Now if You Hate Cleaning

(StatePoint) Without the right tools, housework can be time consuming and exhausting. Smart home cleaning technology, though, can bust through the tedium and make your home sparkle with less effort. Here are three of the best-selling, top-rated devices to consider if you want to work smarter, not harder, when it comes to cleaning:



All-in-One Design: The 175-watt powerful suction capability of Tineco's PURE ONE Station 5 vacuum thoroughly captures dust, debris and pet hair, and is suitable for everyday cleaning on both carpets and hard floors. Its unique

design means it can pick up large debris without clogging and its smart sensor intelligently detects the amount of dust, automatically adjusting the suction power accordingly to improve efficiency. And if you love a no-mainte-

nance cleaning solution, this is the device for you. After every use, the vacuum can simply be returned to its station where it will automatically self-clean and recharge, and the 2.5-liter eco dustbin eliminates the need for daily emptying.

Swivel Action: The FLOOR ONE Stretch S6 from Tineco is a truly innovative floor cleaner that vacuums and mops hard floors in a single pass, cutting your time spent cleaning in half. This model in particular makes a deep clean possible by reaching where most mops and vacu-

CLEANING
continues on page 15

Club News

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

We could not meet in July because the Beltsville Community Center needed our community room for their "kids camp".

But we will be back for the August 21 meeting at 10:30 am, at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road. Our entertainer is Steve Flynn, who sings many Frank Sinatra medleys, as well as other tunes. This is the first time that our club has been able to hear him, so we look forward to any songs he brings us.

We will still have light refreshments, 50/50 chances, trip sign-ups, and Ways & Means table for the economical buyer.

Our September speaker will talk about "senior scams", which are faced by most of us these days.

If you know of any speakers or singers that you can recommend, please call me at 301-498-9736.

"A tree is known by its fruit, a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

—Unknown

Yard Sale at College Park American Legion

College Park American Legion John B Lattimer Post 217 is having its yearly yard sale outside in the parking lot on Saturday September 27 from 8-1. Vendors are welcome. If you have items you want to sell, please contact Joan Hotzwar at 301-422-4221...for all the info.

The vendor space will cost \$20

and you must bring your own table or tables to fit into that space. We also welcome sales tents. The rain date will be Oct 4, same time. We are requesting payment before September 13. If you don't want to sell; please come shop. We will put our much more information closer to the date.

Share Your News!

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

LOAN

continued from page 5

offers a member scholarship each year from January to March—watch for details this fall!

Our Back-to-School Loan is more flexible than many traditional options, allowing you to support your scholars at any stage—from elementary school to college. Use funds for books, tuition, equip-

ment, travel, and more.

With a hassle-free application and same-day approval, you'll get the support you need—fast. And as your local, member-owned credit union, we're here to empower your family's success every step of the way.

Visit www.PrinceGeorgesCF-CU.org/BackToSchool, your local PGCFCU branch, or call 301.627.2666 to get started.

RIDERWOOD

continued from page 10

and lifestyles of our residents. We are growing with them," she says.

This spring, Riderwood unveiled the community's new outdoor activity complex, which also houses the relocated putting green and driving range.

This new addition follows on the heels of the six new pickleball courts added in 2023 and the meditation garden added in 2024.

A special life

For Becky, it's the people who live at Riderwood that make life so special. "It doesn't matter if you've lived here for years or if

you're new to Riderwood. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming. It's exciting to meet new people and benefit from their new ideas and enthusiasm. I believe it is what makes our community so special," she says.

Looking forward to Riderwood's future milestones, Becky is excited to continue leading the history and archives group, which is currently working on honoring residents who have served as chair of the Resident Advisory Council.

"Just as Riderwood continues to grow, our group will continue to collect and document the memories and things that make life at Riderwood so special," she says.

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www.stjosephbeltsville.org

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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.



Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
10774 Rhode Island Avenue
301-937-7646

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Jongkil Na
www.APLChurch.org

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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
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4700 Odell Road
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301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

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Sundays:

Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Children's Church (4yr -4th gr)	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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***Childcare available for children up to 3 years old**



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

Upcoming Events
**Community Food
Distribution**
Aug. 23
8-11 am

**PRAYER FOR THE
MONTH OF AUGUST**

Lord Jesus Christ, Source of all miracles
and graces, we humbly seek Your powerful
help to bless us and guide us this Month of
August. Be with us, Lord, in all our dealings
and affairs. May we shun all things that can
lead us to sin. Please preserve us in
holiness. Amen.

BORROW

continued from page 6

es. This will help eliminate the temptation to use the money on items that are not an investment in your future. You should also avoid borrowing more than you can comfortably repay based on your expected future income. A College Ave March 2025 student survey found that 67% of those who expected to have student loan debt post-graduation didn't know or were unsure of how much their monthly payments would be. Before taking out a loan, use CollegeAve.com's student loan calculator to get a sense of its overall cost and monthly loan payments.

Not shopping around: If you do end up taking out a private student loan, it's important to pay attention to lenders' interest rates and repayment options. Unlike federal loans, which have fixed interest rates for all borrowers, private student loan interest rates vary from lender to lender. And because your repayment plan can impact your monthly payment and overall cost, it's key to choose one that fits your budget. Whatever loan you do go with, understand its terms, so there are no surprises down the line.

Not having a cosigner, if needed: As a college student, you likely don't have an established credit history or sufficient income and may not get approved for a private loan on your own. Consider improving your chances of getting approved and securing a lower interest rate by adding a cosigner, like a parent, to your loan application.

Not having a repayment strategy: The College Ave survey found that 76% of students say that they confidently pay their bills on time each month and 63% are working toward personal financial goals. Carry these healthy financial habits with you to the repayment stage of your loan. Having a plan for repayment can make a big difference down the road. Think about when you'll start making payments and how much you can afford each month. The more prepared you are, the less stressful it'll be when it's time to pay it back.

College is a big investment, and having a smart approach to paying for it is essential.

Share Your News!

**Send your article
submissions to News
Director
Rick Bergmann at
[editor@beltsville
newstoday.com](mailto:editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com)**



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Protecting Kids' Mental Health This School Year

(StatePoint) From schoolwork and homework to friendships and extracurriculars to potentially dealing with difficult situations like bullying, there is a lot for kids to navigate during the school year. Fortunately, efforts are being made to provide tools that help protect kids' mental health.

Preventing Bullying

- Bullying is a direct cause of mental health issues and can be one of the major stressors kids face both at school and after hours due to the rise in cyberbullying. . Celebrating 10 years, Pilot Pen's "Erase Bullying for Good" initiative helps students, parents and teachers understand and stop bullying. The campaign recommends these tips to help erase bullying before it starts at your child's school:
- Advocate for the adoption of bullying prevention programs. This might include special teacher and faculty training, peer mentoring and "Bullying Boxes," where students can file anonymous reports of bullying.
 - Institute wellness rooms, which are safe spaces where students experiencing distress can retreat and relax.
 - Ensure your school actively

- celebrates both diversity and differences, and that all students are respected and valued. Establish programs that teach empathy, tolerance, kindness, acceptance and conflict resolution.
- Ask your school to establish internet use guidelines to educate students and help stop after-hours cyberbullying.
 - Teach kids about the difference between being a bystander – someone who watches bullying happen – and being an upstander – someone who intervenes when bullying is taking place. Encourage them to be an upstander when it feels safe to do so and to report bullying when they witness it.
- If you're experiencing bullying, or if you have a friend, child or student who is, lean on resources designed to help. Pilot's "Erase Bullying for Good" campaign and STOMP Out Bullying provide tools to help you react effectively to bullying when it happens and learn what to do next. To access these resources, visit powertotheopen.com/erase-bullying.
- Navigating Emotions**
- It's easy for students to get overwhelmed by the demands of

their classes. Be sure that kids have the time and space outside of schoolwork to have fun, cultivate friendships and practice self-care. Encourage hobbies like exercise, meditation, team sports and outlets for their creative expression like journaling, drawing and music. These activities can help kids build self-confidence and manage relationships; skills they need to be resilient in the face of stressful situations. Parents can help by establishing open lines of communication and equipping kids with tools that can encourage them to express themselves more freely and help eliminate some homework-related frustration. FriXion erasable pens made with thermo-sensitive ink technology write smoothly and erase cleanly, giving students the power to write, erase and rewrite anything from term papers to poetry, without tedious rewrites and with less stress. Cultivating kindness and compassion in communities and giving kids the tools they need to build their self-confidence helps protect students' mental health and helps ensure everyone has a safe, healthy and successful school year.

CLEANING

continued from page 13

ums can't, reclining fully to 180 degrees and even swiveling left and right from its lay-flat position for cleaning every hidden area. With HyperStretch technology, the device compresses to just 5.1 inches, effortlessly cleaning dust under beds and in tight spaces. Its three-chamber water separation system keeps dirty water away from the motor, ensuring full cleaning power even when lying flat. Plus, mini assistive wheels allow for effortless maneuvering in both directions, while the repositioned clean water tank embedded above the brush head reduces the body weight, making cleaning easier. With self-cleaning functionality and 40 minutes runtime, this is

one floor cleaner offering both functionality and convenience. **Deep Cleaning for Less:** According to estimates from HomeAdvisor and other home services platforms, the average cost of U.S. professional carpet cleaning services range from \$150-\$300 per session, depending on room size, carpet type and provider. You can kiss those ongoing costs goodbye by investing in the Tineco Carpet One Cruiser, which provides a professional-grade, on-demand solution that eliminates scheduling constraints and ensures immediate results. Its advanced features are engineered for regular home use. These include a complete hands-free maintenance system and a PowerDry system that reduces drying time by more

than 50%, so you have carpets that are ready for use within hours—not days—mitigating the risks of mold growth, odor and surface re-soiling. Plus, it's easier to use than the traditional carpet cleaners you may be used to. Three selectable power levels and bidirectional assist wheels minimize physical strain and enable smooth navigation across carpet types and floor transitions. In addition, thoughtfully repositioned water tanks create a better weight distribution, further easing operation. To get more details about these products, visit Tineco's store on Amazon at www.amazon.com. If you hate cleaning, invest in high-tech home cleaning products that will work harder so you don't have to.

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Contact Gary Kingery

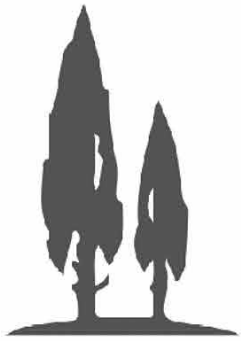
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