

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

The Beltsville News
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Beltsville, Md. 20705

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Cub Pack 1031 Scouts Getting Ready for the Holidays

By Regina Halper

As the holidays approach, Cub Pack 1031 met on Zoom to have our holiday party. We made ornaments, did skits, and had a visit from Santa who played Christmas songs! Little did you know Santa had such talents!

We have been hard at work earning achievements and collecting cans to donate to the St Joseph's Food pantry. The Lions completed Fun on the Run and are working on Animal Kingdom. Tigers completed Games Tigers Play and have been biking a lot!! Wolves have finished Council Fire and Howling at the Moon. Wolves did a skit with finger puppets about making gifts. Bears



Kyle T showing off his candy cane reindeer to the rest of the pack on Zoom

are working on Paws for Action and Roaring Laughter by telling Christmas jokes at the Zoom meeting. Webelos completed Webelos Walkabout and Into the Woods! We did lots of work before the weather gets cold!

For the coming year, our families will be working on achievements on Zoom with our den along with monthly meetings in the outdoors, and we keep it fun! We are out in the parks and on the trail when we can, wearing our masks, cleaning our hands, and staying 6 feet apart.

If you are interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts, please contact Regina Halper at Pack-1031cubscouting@gmail.com for more information.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

January 20

Paper Out:

January 30

On the Agenda

By President Karen M. Coakley

GOOD-BYE 2020! HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME 2021! I want to thank everyone who decorated the homes this year for the holidays! You made the "Season Bright." While we are limited on where we can go and who we can be with, we could drive around Beltsville for some holiday cheer and enjoy your decorations.

A detailed site plan for a portion of the Behnkes property will be presented at our January virtual/call-in meeting. We will have our virtual/call-in meeting Wednesday, January 20, at 7 pm. Bossi, a planner/coordinator with the Urban Design Section of MNCPPC, and the owner will discuss the proposed 7-11/gas station. The owners of the 7-11 currently located in the Garrett Cove Shopping Center would move a couple blocks south on Route 1. The 7-11 would be at the corner of Howard Avenue and Route 1, the former site of Behnkes Florist shop. The Behnkes property is in the CM (commercial miscellaneous) zone. Just an FYI: the townhomes that were previously proposed are not moving forward. The detailed site plan is scheduled to go before the MNCPPC Planning Board on February 4.

Winter Car Safety Tip: car thieves are watching, so on those cold winter mornings DO NOT leave your car unoccupied while it warms up.

Please send me your email address to receive the login information for our January Citizens Association Virtual Meeting. Details will be posted on *The Beltsville News* Facebook page and *nextdoor*. I can be reached at 301.937.3490 or karenmcoakley@msn.com.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On the morning of December 3rd, while on my morning walk, I came across a dog that had been hit by a car and badly injured. While I was trying to assess the situation, Ms. Debbie Berger of Beltsville, whom I had never met before, pulled over to ask if I needed help. While we were trying to figure out how to handle the situation, we were lucky enough to have Officer Harris of the Prince Georges County Police Department pull over to help us.

Within in minutes, Office Harris called for

help, and we had a total of five Prince Georges Country finest helping us with the poor animal in distress.

They immediately jumped into action and tried to put the dog in their patrol car to transport him to an emergency vet. When we found this was not possible, Ms. Berger immediately volunteered her SUV to transport the dog.

The officers gave us a police escort to Rocky Gorge Animal Hospital and called ahead to ensure the animal would receive priority attention. The staff at Rocky Gorge jumped into

action as soon as we arrived.

I would like to thank Ms. Berger, the officers of Prince Georges County, and the staff at Rocky Gorge for trying to save this poor dog. The commitment of the officers, the outreach of a stranger, and staff of Rocky Gorge all pulled together is the most amazing way.

A special thank you to the officers who assisted Ms. Berger and I, their outreach to the community, compassion, and actions will not be forgotten. May all the police officers stay safe in these unprecedented times.

Providing Christmas for Our Troops and Communities

By Ivy Christoffers

The world is hurling challenge after challenge at us, but our members are still dedicated and resourceful. The units and posts held Christmas drive-bys for their community children in December. Greenbelt Unit 136 and College Park Unit 217 provided wish list items for the Silver Spring Veterans Center to assist in its curbside holiday giveaways, and Glenarden 275 packed 56 care boxes for a command in Kuwait. There were 40 men and 18 women who all received a personal care package containing personal hygiene items, snacks, an oatmeal package, powdered drinks, magazines, puzzle books, and much more. Pastor Kameron Wilks penned a personal letter to each soldier. This was a true legion family event as the unit mem-

bers, post members, and Sons of the American Legion all participated. Such events took place throughout the state of Maryland. I'm sure all across the United States, but I can only speak for Maryland. Many posted their events on Facebook, Twitter, and other social pages. It was great reading all about them.

Our children were not forgotten as Mr. and Mrs. Claus made appearances across the state, distributing gifts and well wishes wherever their travels took them.

We hope your holidays were enjoyable although I'm sure they were a little strange this year due to the social distancing. I, for one, miss my hugs, my friends, and my family. Please, Lord, let us find a vaccine, if not a cure, for COVID 19, soon. It is especially hard for the elderly and those who live alone who have



Pictured above are several dedicated American Legion Auxiliary volunteers packing Christmas care packages to send to our soldiers in Kuwait.

no one to talk to or interact with. Stay as safe as possible.

I don't know about you, but I'm going to stay up on New Year's Eve to see this year out, not to see the new year in. I want

to be sure 2020 is over and done with. Welcome to 2021.

Keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to seek God's blessing on America.



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Neighbors in the News

Dancing in the Streets

By Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

Dancing in the Street reached number 2 on the Billboard Charts in 1964. Released on July 31st, the song was sung by Martha and the Vandellas, and written by Marvin Gaye, William "Mickey" Stevenson, and Ivy Jo Hunter. This energetic song was covered by many artists in different genres including: The Mamas and the Papas, Grateful Dead, Van Halen, David Bowie and Mick Jagger and it crossed the waters to The Kinks in London. Stevenson drafted the song after watching people cooling off on a hot summer day when a water hydrant was opened on the street. The jubilant movement of the people looked like dancing. Here are some of the lyrics:

Oh, it doesn't matter what you wear,
Just as long as you are there.
So, come on every guy grab a girl,
Everywhere around the world.
They'll be dancing. They're danc-

ing in the street.

It's just an invitation across the nation, A chance for folks to meet. There'll be laughing, singing, music swinging. Dancing in the street. Philadelphia, PA, Baltimore, and D.C. now. Can't forget the Motor City. All we need is music, sweet music. There'll be music everywhere. There'll be swinging, swaying, records playing. Dancing in the street.

If you have ever watched people dancing to it, cooling off would be the logical next step. It makes the listener move with abandon. No fancy choreographed steps for this lively beat. It is a fun song. My favorite lyrics say, "All you need is music, sweet music." There is something about music that unites people. We may not agree on the type of music, but if we listen, eventually there will be a song that the words or the beat will move you. We don't have to

know the language, just enjoy.

After the year we just had, we need something that will allow us to shake off the unrealistic, unconscionable, and unprecedented things we survived. Instead of the violence in the streets, let's dance. Can anyone be angry and dance? Really dance. The music taking over your body kind of dancing. No. We need that feeling as we embark on this new year. We need the feeling that comes along with operating in faith that our nation will heal and turn towards liberty and justice for all. That's what I want and pray you do too. Our church has members of the three major political parties, and several cultures. We know that it is possible to work together when we put the welfare of all people over politics. If you feel the same, join us. We meet virtually for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am Meeting ID: 851 2578 5976 Passcode: 850888 One tap mobile 1.301.715.s8592, Bible Study on Wednesdays, and Check-in to chat on Thursdays. More information can be found on our webpage www.eumcbeltsville.com or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville/. Until next time:

Democracy
Advances when
Neighbors and
Communities are
Equitable

Remember Righteousness

Remember righteousness;
Remember good and high ideals;
Remember faithfulness;
Remember truth and what is real.

Do not neglect God's awe;
Do not neglect His sage advice;
Do not forget His law;
Do not forget Christ's sacrifice.

Love builds and faith anoints;
Love humbly learns to recognize
Hope will not disappoint;
Faith like the sun won't fail to rise

The best is yet to come;
The best is yet to be unfurled;
The best rests with the Son;
The best is not found in this world

Soon all of this will fade;
Soon clouds will part reveal Heav'n's throne;
Soon wickedness will wane;
Soon God will come and fetch His own.

Beckie Hutchings
12/11/2020

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Cold Weather and Free-Roaming Cats

Winter, while beautiful, is a dangerous time for outdoor cats. Extreme cold, brutal winds, snow, and ice can injure and even kill.

One solution is to build winter shelters by converting large plastic tubs into warm, dry shelters. Use non-absorbent bedding such as straw or wood shavings to help keep the kitties warm. For a video on building "Cat Condos," visit www.beltsvillecats.net/resources.

If you have a raised porch, you can cover three sides with tarps. This provides animals with shelter from wind, snow, and ice.

If you feed outdoor animals, choose foods that have a higher fat content, and try to double the amount you feed them. Extra fat helps insulate against the cold. Routinely check to make sure they have clean drinking water that is not frozen.

If you are able, let outdoor cats inside when temps drop below

freezing. Hypothermia affects cats much like humans, and they can become disoriented, leading them to freeze to death.

Before starting your car on cold mornings, bang the hood of your car several times. Cats and other small animals crawl inside engine compartments to get out of bad weather.

These tips apply to all animals that live or spend time outside in the winter. If you know of feral cats that are not being cared for, contact Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) at 240.444.8353 or hello@beltsvillecats.net. If you see a dog that has been left outside in very cold weather without shelter, contact PG County Animal Services at 301.780.7200. It is against the law to be cruel to feral cats and to neglect pet dogs in PG County.

BCC encourages everyone to keep an eye out for our four-legged friends.



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Obituaries



Boone, Ruth Margaret

Ruth Margaret Boone, 75, of New Tampa, FL, (formerly a long-time resident of Beltsville, MD), born September 25, 1945, entered

eternal rest November 29, 2020. Ruth was a dedicated wife to William Robert "Bob" Boone for over 56 years; a loving mother to Stacy Marie Boone and Julie Boone Roth; a grandmother to Riley Tyeryar and Maxwell Tyeryar; a baby sister to seven siblings; and a fabulous friend to all she met. She had a zest for life like no other and a smile that was as big as her heart. She fought hard for over 20 years, determined to enjoy life and her time with loved ones. In lieu of flowers, please donate memorial contributions to Moffitt Cancer Foundation in support of the cancer thoracic department. Donations can be made online at give.moffitt.org/memorial or by calling 1.800.456.3434 ext.1403. A celebration of her life will take place in MD at a later date.

Croson Jr., Emmett S.

Emmett S. Croson, Jr., age 90, died peacefully at his home, on Thursday, November 26, 2020. Emmett was born on February 14, 1930, to Emmett and Eva Croson. He is preceded in death by first wife, Frances Ruth (Joyce) Croson of 56 years. They were blessed with five children: Charles Croson, Phyllis (Duane) O'Donnell, Joyce (the late William) Addis, Richard

(Kathleen) Croson, and Sherry Croson.

Emmett is married to his second wife, Lois (Steenrod) Croson. They spent the last 15 years residing in Englewood, FL. Emmett retired from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission after 28 years of service. He was a life member of the Beltsville Volunteer Fire

Department where he served in various positions, including fire chief for 3 years. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and traveler. He traveled to every state in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Emmett is survived by his wife, Lois Croson; brother, Curtis (MaryAnn) Croson; and sister, MaryAnn (Donald) Roberts; 5 children; 7 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at Borgwardt Funeral Home Beltsville, MD, on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. with interment following at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Brentwood, MD. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Beltsville Volunteer

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Tech Sense By John Bell

Free Gifts for the Privacy Minded

The holiday season is upon us as we work, play, shop, and go to school online. For many of us

hours and jobs have been cut making Christmas shopping a challenge. I thought I might try and help by creating a list of free software gifts that should be appreciated by anyone who wants to protect their privacy.

KeePass

You know that guy who writes "Tech Sense" for *The Beltsville News* keeps telling you that you need long passwords that are hard to crack and must be different for each site and must be changed regularly? Yeah, you ask, but how am I supposed to remember all of those passwords? Try KeePass (<https://keepass.info>). KeePass is a free and open-source password manager that securely stores all of your passwords in one place where they are locked and protected in a secure database behind a primary key. Now you only need to remember one strong password. Because KeePass is open source; anybody can examine the code to make certain it is secure. KeePass will even make up secure passwords for you.

Gnu Privacy Guard (GPG)

Gnu Privacy Guard is best known for helping to secure email messages. It can integrate with Outlook and other email clients allowing you to securely sign messages so the recipient can prove

TECH SENSE
continues on page 10

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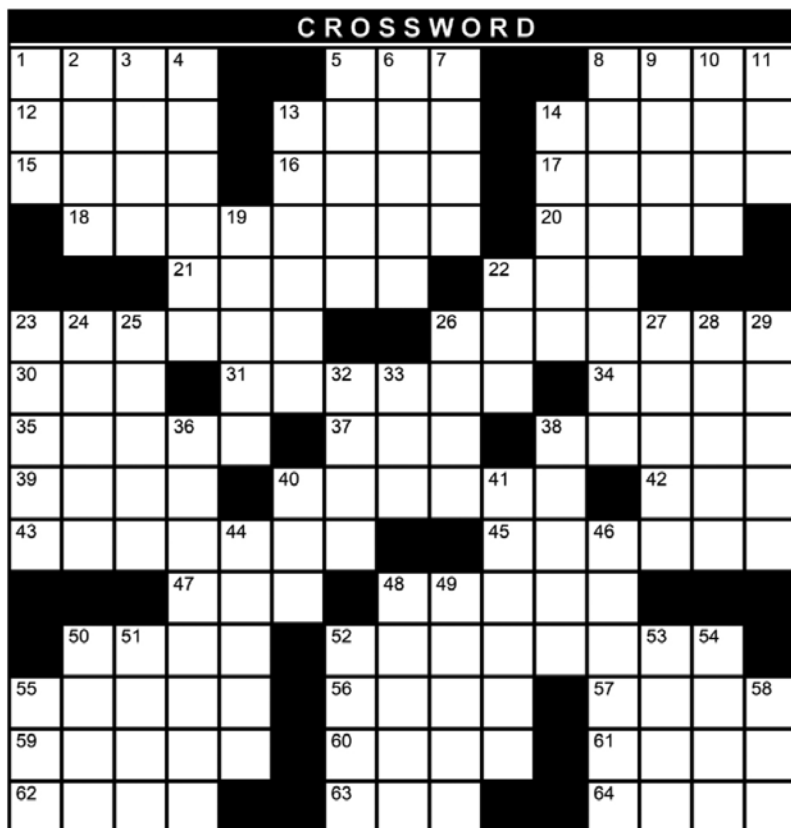
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Statepoint Crossword: Year in Review



ACROSS

1. *New wardrobe accessory
5. *RIP, ____
8. Flock's echo
12. Reply from a tunnel?
13. Feline noise
14. Edward Teller's "baby"
15. Beat
16. Competently
17. Savory jelly
18. *Blue vs. red competition
20. One third of a three-piece suit
21. Mailed greetings
22. Long time
23. ____ biloba
26. Anointing oil
30. Nurses' org.
31. Leafy vegetable
34. "Cogito, ____ sum"
35. Mooring spots
37. Bring into play
38. Old Brazilian coins
39. Prefix with 'graph'
40. *Joe's running mate
42. PGA peg
43. What bees did
45. Fixes firmly
47. Summer mo.
48. R in NPR
50. Widespread
52. *WHO's March announce-

ment

55. Cliffside dwelling
56. Drop-off spot
57. Sonic sound
59. Sports figures, e.g.
60. Persian backgammon
61. Water carrier
62. *Late basketball legend
63. *____ lightning, cause of California wildfires
64. X-ray units

DOWN

1. Copy cats
2. Flu symptom
3. Synagogue
4. 1/100th of a ruble
5. Bid again
6. Western neckwear, pl.
7. Gwyneth, to friends
8. *Like a vote during lockdown
9. What Joy Mangano does on TV
10. Do like exhaust pipe
11. *"Transplant" network
13. ____ of honor
14. It's often wreaked
19. Zoo enclosures
22. Compass dir.
23. Labored breaths
24. *Jared Kushner to Donald Trump

25. Nigerian money
26. Part of an eye
27. About to explode
28. Looked at, amorously
29. Smelling organs
32. Two of the same
33. Philosopher's study
36. *Best Picture Oscar-winner
38. China grass
40. Party barrel
41. Having a cover
44. *What Zoom host does to guests, sometimes
46. Type of jacket
48. "M*A*S*H" character
49. Ticked off
50. *President Trump used this power in 2020
51. United ____ Emirates
52. Be undecided
53. *Caucus state
54. Like most universities
55. Pose a question
58. Robinson or Doubtfire



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CHAMPION

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Join us January 20 for Virtual Inaugural Ball!

Like so much else this winter, the Presidential Inaugural will be primarily virtual. To celebrate the peaceful transition of leadership in our democracy, Delegates Peña-Melnik, Barnes, Lehman, and I are hosting a virtual inaugural ball. All Beltsville residents are invited.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be sworn in at the US Capitol at noon on Wednesday, January 2. Our "Ball" will be on ZOOM that evening. We'll be joined by local performers, some special guests—and more!

To get details and RSVP, email 21stdistrictinauguralball.com or call 240.712.4646.

Energy Assistance Grant Funds Available to Low-income Households

The state of Maryland is taking steps to ensure Marylanders will no longer have to choose between keeping warm and their other expenses. Depending on your household income, you could be eligible for a grant of more than \$1,000 per year to assist in paying heating and electric bills. Annually, more than 100,000 house-

holds across the state enroll in the program.

Households can qualify regardless of participation in other state benefits programs. Residents can apply for benefits on an annual basis, with each grant year starting July 1 and concluding on June 30 of the following year. Households may apply at any time and reapply once per year as needed. Applicants do not need to be behind on their bills in order to apply for help.

Interested residents should submit a completed paper application and the required supporting documents to their local energy office. To apply for assistance or get further information, customers can contact their nearest energy office by visiting dhr.maryland.gov/OHEPlocal or by calling DHR's helpline at 800.332.6347. Households can also apply online at dhr.maryland.gov/benefits.

Do You or Friends Need Help Getting Unemployment Benefits?

If you have still not gotten your unemployment insurance, please

let us know. Email us at 21stdistrictdelegation@gmail.com. We will contact the right people in the Department of Labor and do everything we can to get your money ASAP.

State Legislative Session Starts on January 13

The delegates and I will be back at the 2021 Maryland legislative session starting January 13. Most of our functions will be moving to Zoom to protect the health and safety of folks in Annapolis. Your input is still critically important, so we will be available via Zoom, phone, or email. And you can follow the action at mgaleg.maryland.gov.

Please let us know your opinions on issues of concern and contact us with any questions. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if the Delegates or I can help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 301.858.3141.

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Riderwood Residents Making Desks for Local Students Learning Remotely

Group Building Desks in Riderwood Woodshop

A group of residents living at Riderwood, an Erickson Living managed senior living community in Silver Spring, MD, called the Association of Woodcrafters love woodworking and were looking for ways to give back to the community. They reached out to local schools and asked if any students learning remotely would need a desk. In just a couple of months, the group has already built in the Riderwood Woodshop and delivered 10 desks with 4 more being delivered this week. Currently, there are 16 more in production.

Riderwood resident Tom Mertz discussed how the project came together:

Q. How did the project begin at Riderwood?

A. In September, my wife saw a piece on the internet about “dads building desks” for kids at home. She thought it would be a great project for the woodcrafters so I polled our members and received several positive responses. We found some plans for a fairly simple desk and off we went.

Q. Who are receiving the desks made by the Riderwood residents?

A. The desks we are making are intended for students working at home so we reached out to local elementary schools. Teachers are in the best position to be able to discreetly identify families in need of a desk.

Q. How many residents are working on the desks and how many have you all made?

A. There are currently ten of us on the desk team. We actually started working on the first (prototype) in mid-October. So far we have made and delivered 10 desks with four more going out this week. We have 16 more in progress in the Riderwood Woodshop. We are trying to maintain a pace of about 4 desks per week. The materials for each desk cost about \$50. We are buying from a local supplier and the money, so far, has come from generous folks here at Riderwood through word of mouth. Our plan is to continue building as long as necessary.

The Riderwood Woodshop members are enjoying being able to give back to the community by making these desks for local students learning at home.



The Beltsville Lions send warm New Year's greetings to all their Beltsville neighbors and friends, and wish you a joyous and prosperous New Year in 2021.

The Beltsville Lions Club was chartered in April 1958 by nine men committed to helping others. Today's Club is made up of 34 men and women similarly dedicated to community service. The basic motivation is to help others.

One of the Club's activities is performing free vision, hearing and eye-pressure screenings at Beltsville Day, National Night Out and local health fairs. Club members derive real pleasure from volunteering together. There is genuine team spirit in pulling together to help others.

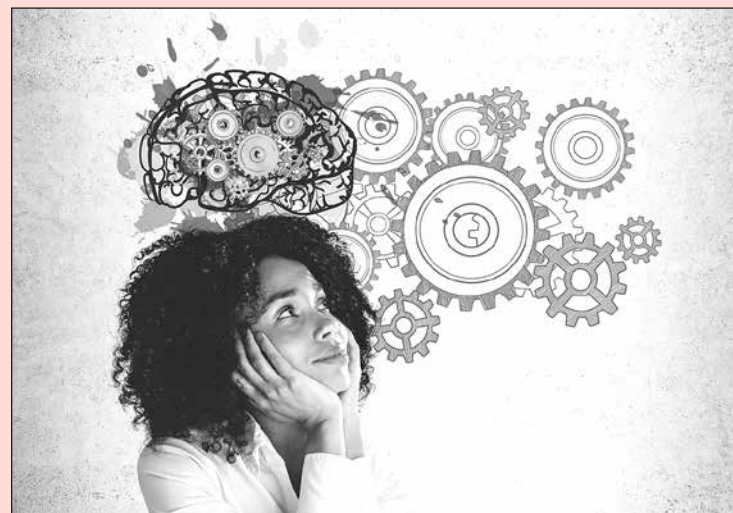
Beltsville is one of 44 Lions Clubs in the area encompassed by Washington, D.C. and the five Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's. This area of Lions Clubs is known as Lions Clubs International District 22-C. There is a lot of interaction and cooperation among the 44 Clubs.

You may want to look into joining the Beltsville Lions Club. For information, contact membership chair Mae Whitehead at maemediates2@gmail.com.

How to Spark Your Child's Interest in the Field of Education

(StatePoint) If your child is an effective communicator and a natural born leader, they may have what it takes to be an amazing teacher. However, a love of learning is fundamental to a career in education. Here are a few ways to cultivate a passion for learning and put this rewarding career path on your child's radar:

- **Be a good role model:** Whether it's checking out library books and watching documentaries or pursuing an advanced degree, you can serve as role model by demonstrating the ways that learning can and should be a lifelong pursuit.
- **Be understanding:** School is not always going to be easy. Avoid punishments and other negative consequences for less than stellar grades. Such an approach is unlikely going to motivate your child to work harder and may only backfire. Instead, start a conversation and find out what's going on. There could be a larger issue causing the setback.
- **Make learning fun:** You can help make sure that learning never feels like a chore by giving your child the space and tools to explore topics of interest to them. For example, if your child wants to learn to play a musical instru-



(c) ismagilov / iStock via Getty Images Plus

ment, check out new tools that make the process fun and easy. For example, the range of keyboards available from Casio have built-in learning tools and also connect to the Chordana Play app, which can help budding musicians quickly take their skills to the next level. With the option to add any MIDI file into the app, your child can select the exact songs they want to learn.

- **Encourage peer-to-peer tutoring:** Is your child excelling in a particular subject? Encourage them to help out classmates who may be struggling in the same area. Whether they volunteer their time

bringing friends up to speed or turn it into a business, this is an excellent way for your child to hone instructional skills. When it comes to math and science, free online resources can help them dial in their own grasp of the material and get started tutoring. Check out Casio's education resource page, which features lesson plans and webinars -- useful tools for students and educators of all ages. To access these resources, visit casioeducation.com.

Today's students are tomorrow's teachers. By instilling a love of learning in your child, you may spark their interest in the field of education.

Shorter Darker Days Are Ahead: Make Your Home a Haven

(StatePoint) As more of life is centered around home, good design can help you augment and replace natural light, while creating a beautiful, productive, safe haven during the darker, shorter days of fall and winter.

“As the home continues to serve as our collective sanctuary during the COVID pandemic, it's critical to consider how lighting can keep a family thriving during this fall and winter season,” says Michael McCullough, director of PR at Progress Lighting.

Long winter nights and colder temperatures mean more time inside working, learning and just plain living in our homes.

“The stress of the COVID-19 crisis has emphasized the impact our environment plays on our wellbeing. There's never been a more important time for interior design,” says Doris Pearlman, founder of Possibilities for Design of Denver. “Our goal is to create spaces that uplift and embrace, providing respite from daily pres-

sures.” Pearlman's team offers three design suggestions:

- **Add lighting above work areas** to create functional, operational spaces.
- **Complement ambient lighting** with pendant lighting around kitchen islands to facilitate collaboration.
- **Create inspiration by clustering pendants** for a fun, unique centerpiece.
- **Hang pendants over nightstands** to turn the bedroom into a retreat. Individual switches allow for customized lighting for easy bedtime reading.

Jayne and Nolan Fridley, of Fridley Homes in Oregon, who balance a busy custom home building business with their active family, are observing new trends.

“The open-concept floor plan is not as charming when everyone's working from home,” says Jayme Fridley. “Instead of a ‘great room,’ many families now think that having many areas designated for specific tasks is ‘great’.”

Fridley's strategies include:

- **Create specific learning areas** for each child.
- **Let kids customize spaces**, keeping clutter minimized to avoid distractions.
- **Encourage concentration** with good (if possible natural) lighting.

Design pros suggest homeowners incorporate light layering to maximize light throughout the day. Supplement daylight with overhead lighting from chandeliers, recessed and close-to-ceiling fixtures. Place task lighting such as pendants or desk lamps over work areas. Use accent lighting like wall sconces to add a soft glow as the day wanes.

“Lighting should set the tone for productivity. For some, this might mean bright lighting and multiple sources. Others might prefer a moody vibe. Making it your own is what's most impor-

HAVEN

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Dear Reader, how are you doing? It's been a very interesting year—so much has happened around us and we must be thankful that we are alive and in relatively good health. I know we make resolutions every year and then struggle to keep up with them. I have already started with my resolution: to eat healthier. I have fallen in love with avocados. I will not touch the guacamole; give me the avocado in its purest form. I guess it is a mental thing. Just like when I hear people say they made a smoothie and put in kale, beets, and other vegetables. I just cannot fathom the thought of drinking those.

Now please do not laugh at me. All my years in Maryland, I typically would wear shorts all year round – just two or three layers of shirts. A lot of people would be

upset with me and tell me something was wrong with me. I really cannot explain why I would do that, but that was me up to 2019. Now I am living in Dallas, Texas, I have apparently adapted to life here. The temperature hits fifty degrees and I am in long pants, a jacket, and a warm hat.

Talking about the weather, I am struggling to keep my lime and lemon trees alive as the cold weather has come through, and one of the two trees actually shed most of its leaves while blossoming. I must win in the fight to keep them alive through the cold season so they can bear fruits in the spring. Similarly, I have two pineapple plants in my garden. I cannot wait to see them bear fruit.

Tales from a Broken Baltimore...that is the name of a thread I follow on Facebook, and recent-

ly I came across a very interesting post. There was a recording of two law enforcement officers responding to a call. One officer can be heard on the radio, telling the other officer to be on the lookout for a male carrying a shovel and a prosthetic leg. Apparently, the shovel had been used by a subject to attack and rob a man of his prosthetic leg. It may sound hard to believe, but how low can one get as a human being to steal a leg? I am hopeful that the robber was found and the leg returned to the rightful owner.

Reminds me of a ridiculous situation when I was growing up as a teenager. This happened in Nigeria in the mid 1980's. Back then, sodas were sold in glass bottles and would have firm metal caps that could only be removed with a can opener. There was a

local eatery that got robbed at night, and the robbers decided to use an opener to open every single bottle of soda that was within reach in the crates. Ridiculous but it happened.

In 2021, I hope the pandemic eases up so I can visit Beltsville. I am amazed at the amount of development that has gone on. I miss my favorite eating places: Wawa—the gas station on Route 1, Sardis—located right before Wawa—and of course Campanero on Powder Mill Road, just next to the 7-11 and Shell Gas Station. Living in Dallas, there is a heavy Hispanic presence, but sadly I have not been able to find any food facility like those listed above. So, when you see Santa Claus, tell him to put a meal from each of those places on his sleigh and head down South to

Texas with it. I have been good all year, and I have even cleaned the chimney so his outfit does not get messed up. I also have a treat for the reindeer—so they can have a snack while Santa brings in my unique gifts. So, do I believe in Santa Claus? Yes—when it comes to getting my favorite meals. (just me being silly).

As I wrap up this "Jive," I am going to wish you a Merry Christmas. Be safe. Eat and drink RESPONSIBLY. If you must drink and drive, drink a Sprite Zero—the best drink out there right now. On a more serious note, have a great New Year and see you in 2021. That's the "Jive" for the year.

Resolve to Learn to Play an Instrument in the New Year

(StatePoint) Have you been wanting to learn to play an instrument for a long time? Let the New Year be your motivation to finally take the plunge. Here are some top tips for getting started and for sticking with it:

- Schedule practice sessions: Learning to play an instrument requires a time commitment, so actually schedule a daily practice session -- at least 30 minutes -- in your planner or calendar. Whether it's first thing in the morning or just before bed, identify a time of day when you are best able to turn off distractions and



(c) m-imagephotography / iStock via Getty Images Plus

- focus on the task at hand.
- Check out online resources: While in-person lessons may not be available at the current moment, you might try taking a remote class or working with an online music teacher.

Free tutorials are also available online and have the added benefit of being paused or replayed again and again.

• Stay motivated: When learning a new skill, fast progress can be one of the greatest motivators. Thankfully, some of the latest tools make picking up the basics easier than ever. For example, with the Casiotone Keyboards from Casio, which feature a built-in learning system, you can go from being a novice to an intermediate player in a matter of weeks. By connecting the

INSTRUMENT
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DIY Weatherization Tips to Keep Your Home Cozy All Season Long

(StatePoint) As temperatures fall outside, it's time to get ready for the chillier months ahead. Most homeowners want to keep their home cozy and their heating bills low during the winter, but struggle to keep the warmth in and the cold air out. Weatherizing can seem daunting, but there are many benefits -- from reducing drafts to lowering energy use. Follow these low-cost tips to protect your home and your wallet.

Give Windows a Makeover

Windows add charm to any residence and provide protection from the outdoors, but also account for a significant amount of heat loss in the winter. Heat gain and loss through windows account for 25% to 30% of resi-

dential heating and cooling energy use, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Even if your windows are in good condition, window insulation kits are easy, do-it-yourself solutions that will save you from sky-high heating bills, keep you comfortable and help with energy efficiency all winter long.

Try Duck Brand Max Strength Rolled Window Insulation Kits, which add a barrier and create an airtight seal between the outdoor air and your home's inside. The film comes with a pre-taped edge for quick and easy roll-on installation.

Want to check and see if you have a problem with insulation? Hold an incense stick near win-

dows, doors and electrical outlets. If smoke blows sideways, you have an air leak.

Deal with Drafts

Doors are one of the largest sources of drafts in any home and should be a top priority for homeowners this winter. From draft seals to door sweeps, there are many DIY weatherization solutions to choose from that are easy to install and don't require measuring or tools. Draft seals slide under doors, are removable, machine washable, pet-friendly and don't damage door frames. For example, Duck Brand's Double Draft Seal insulates your door from both sides and blocks winter

WEATHERIZATION
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Beltsville Adventist Community Center

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

BACC Services

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

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
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- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) - Dropoff documents
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JANUARY 2021

Calendar of Events

Please check with individual facilities for current updates. **Admission requirements may be instituted, and regular hours of operation are subject to change.**

AREA EVENTS

LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

The building is still closed. Any updates to the social calendar will be posted when they are available.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

TRAILS AND GROUNDS

Social distancing and face coverings are required. Free admission and free parking. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, except for federal holidays.

VISITOR CENTER

The building is still closed, but staff

members are at work. Contact the Visitor Center for information regarding plans for reopening in the future. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.gov. For future volunteer training (ages 18 and up), contact Diana Ogilvie at 301.497.5565 or Diana_Ogilvie@fws.gov.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

How do you know if you're getting enough fluids? Find out what signs to look for and get tips on increasing your water intake. The librarians have provided links for information regarding water, hydration, and health. The building is closed until further notice. Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave., near Sunnyside Ave. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib. See NAL.USDA.gov for links to digital exhibits and for more information.

WATER, HYDRATION, AND HEALTH

Learn what foods and beverages can help you stay hydrated and get the facts on how much water to drink each day. See https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/basic-nutrition/water-hydration-and-health?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. Topics include 10 Tips: Make Better Beverage Choices, Rethink Your Drink, Water and Nutrition, Spilling the Beans: How Much Caffeine is Too Much?, Energy Drinks, Alcohol Calorie Calculator, What Is A Standard Drink?, Dehydration, Why Try Flavor-Infused Water?, and Water—Drink Up!

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Check the library's current status at www.pgcmis.info/branch/location/Beltsville. Inquire about curbside pick-up. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.937.0294.

TECH SENSE

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that the message come from you and was not changed after the message was signed. It is a free and open-source implementation of the OpenPGP (Open Pretty Good Privacy) standard as captured in the IETF RFC-4880. Ok, I know that was gobbledygook for most of you, suffice it to say it has creds. If you are a Windows user, you will want to get GPG4Win from <https://www.gpg4win.org> but for

other platforms use <https://gnupg.org/download/>. GPG is very good at what it does, but let me warn you, understanding the tools used to protect your privacy and security can be very difficult. Even if you never install the software, reading the manuals will be an education.

AESCrypt

Sometimes all we want to do is protect a single file from prying eyes. We don't want to know about public and private keys, digital signatures, and asymmetric

encryption. AESCrypt is one of the solutions that does a single thing; it takes a password and encrypts the file using that password. The new encrypted file gets .aes added to the end of the filename. To decrypt the file, provide the password and a new unencrypted (or plaintext) file will be created without the .aes at the end of the filename. The program is free and open source and can be found for most platforms at

TECH SENSE

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\$412,000

From the Office of Councilmember Tom Dernoga

COVID-19 Updates

As you are aware, the rates for COVID-19 have spiked in MD and Prince George’s County over the past several weeks. In December, Prince George’s County has gone from 700 cases per week in July to over 3,100 cases per week. Specifically, in Beltsville (zip code 20705) there have been 1,774 cases since the start of the pandemic. For the last week in November, 18 new cases were reported in Beltsville.

Testing is again be available in District 1 at the Roseau Medical Center at 14402 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707. Tests are by appointment only Monday through Friday from 8am to noon. Call 301.604.8000 to schedule appointments. For other locations, call Prince George’s 311 for COVID testing sites. No doctor’s note is required.

Vaccines were to begin in MD in late December with the initial 155,000 doses scheduled to be delivered. Category 1A starts with hospital health care workers, 1st responders, and nursing home residents. The next group (Category 1B) continues inoculations of healthcare workers, residents in congregate living, and high-risk individuals with pulmonary disease. Category 2 includes workers in critical infrastructure workers



District 1 team members, Nicole Rios (left) and Tracy Nwosu (right), readying groceries for delivery to 550 residents’ Thanksgiving family meal.

in education, transit, and utilities. Category 3 is the final group to be receive the vaccine. This will happen over a number of months. As information becomes available, I will provide it here and in my weekly emails.

In the meantime, continue to wear your mask, wash your hands frequently, and do not meet in groups larger than 10 inside your homes. With Christmas quickly approaching, our county health department asks that we follow the rules regarding contact and travel.

Development on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Thank you for those who reached out to my office with your comments or who partici-

pated in the public meeting on December 2. Your comments and concerns have been incorporated into my official letter of response.

Key areas remain impacts on traffic, air quality, the watershed, and environmental diversity. For those who have not followed this issue, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has proposed moving to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The new BEP facility will cover 122 acres with a 1 million square foot building and 1,600 employees. Access will be off an entrance on Powder Mill Road. The actual facility is located adjacent to Odell Road and Vansville where the old poultry barns still remain.

The Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is available for review, but the comment period ended December 21. For more information, go to www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/BEP-Replacement-Project/

To keep up with all development in District 1, my office keeps an active spreadsheet which you may access at <https://bit.ly/D1development>.

Please keep in touch! Email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301.952-3887. Se habla Español. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Tom-DernogaD1

HAVEN

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tant...oh, and a good backdrop for Zoom calls sure won’t hurt,” says Julie Wynalda, owner of True Vine Creations in Hudsonville, Mich.

Instagram influencer Heather, of Operation Tudor Revival, who’s DIY-ing her home renovation says, “Office lighting can be both functional and fabulous! I went with an overhead chandelier with a drum shade for an updated look. The shade also helps diffuse light to avoid glare on my computer screen.”

Technology can help spaces pull double-duty. Lifestyle blogger, Lindsey Dalton says, “We put our chandelier on a dimmer

so it can be bright while my husband’s working, but we can turn it down during dinner to transition the room from workday to relaxing evening.”

With smart light fixtures, you can change lighting tone, brightness and color with a device or your voice. Control products from iDevices work with the three most popular voice assistants: Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant and Siri. Using the iDevices smart Dimmer Switch and Wall Switch, you can set lights on dynamic schedules and automations based on triggers like your local sunrise or presence at home. Delineating start and stop times to your day through lighting can help optimize productivity and

boost your mood.

Smart controls can also facilitate distance-learning. “With a voice assistant built inside the Instinct smart light switch, you have your own at-home teaching assistant, helping answer questions and assisting with exercises,” says Andrew Ragali, senior marketing manager for iDevices. “It also allows you to play music or audiobooks using voice commands to keep kids on task.”

For more tips and to shop products, visit Progress Lighting. Your home environment impacts your family’s health and wellbeing. Well-lit, comfortable spaces can help your household thrive in the months ahead.

INSTRUMENT

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instrument to the free Chordana Play app, you can learn to play your favorite songs from downloaded MIDI files. Some of the keyboard models in this series even feature light-up keys, helping new musicians quickly get the hang of proper finger placements and chords.

- Set new goals: Set concrete

goals and dates by which you’d like to achieve them. This could be mastering a particular song or performing a live stream concert for your friends over social media. Always having a new goal to reach toward can keep things fresh, helping you stick with your New Year’s resolution.

- Be compassionate with yourself: Learning to play an instrument is not easy, and some

practice sessions will go more smoothly than others. Have patience with your own progress and try not to compare yourself to others, especially those who have been playing a lot longer than you!

Building your music skills is not only fun, it’s good for your mental and physical wellness, making it the perfect New Year’s resolution. Be sure to get started with the right mindset and tools.

WEATHERIZATION

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drafts, dust, insects and pollen for year-round protection.

Don’t Let Air Sneak Through Cracks

While you’re at it, it’s a good idea to check for any cracks and gaps around doors and windows that can lead to heat loss. Weatherstripping doors and windows can save homeowners money. In fact, air sealing an old or drafty house can save up to 20% on your heating bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. While there are a variety of gap seals to choose from, rubber gap seals can

stand up to extreme temperatures that cause other seals to freeze or crack. Duck Brand Heavy-Duty Weatherstrip Seals work well for sealing large gaps or sprucing up old or damaged door and window seals.

For a project selector, articles, how-to guides and instructional videos for more DIY weatherization inspiration, check out Duck Brand’s Weatherize page at duckbrand.com/weatherize.

Don’t wait for the cold weather to set in. Weatherizing your home can be an affordable and easy do-it-yourself project that anyone can tackle. Ready to get organized?

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

St. Joseph Catholic Church
www.stjosephbeltsville.org
Pastor: Father Andrew Wakefield
Masses: Please contact parish office for schedule
St. Joseph’s Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org
Principal: Dr. Janine Bertolotti
11007 Montgomery Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7183

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
10774 Rhode Island Avenue
301-937-7646
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Jongkil Na
www.APLChurch.org
Come and Join Us
Located in the Beltsville Professional Center

Crossword Solution from page 5

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

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

DUNAMIS WORSHIP CHAPEL

A New Beginning with God in 2021!

In the body of Christ, a new beginning is often referred to as a "revival." The essence of a revival is to revamp our walk with God. As believers, it's crucial to put God first in every situation. A new year often provides new opportunities and beginnings. Spiritual revival establishes the believer's highest priority which is building his/her relationship with God. The beginning of a new year is therefore a great opportunity to re-dedicate your commitment to Christ. Psalm 65:11-12 reads "You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance." Three things that can help you secure a fresh start with God are; 1. Build your relationship with His son Jesus Christ 2. Total and complete obedience to His Word 3. Serve Him whole heartedly. Please join us at Dunamis Worship Chapel International and learn about ways to grow in faith and to walk in God's divine purpose. Please feel free to join us for any of our scheduled services listed below!



SUNDAYS:
1st Service 9 am 2nd Service 10 am
3rd Service 11 am 4th Service 12 pm

MONDAYS – FRIDAYS
911 Miracle Morning Prayer: 6 am-7 am

TUESDAYS
Word Encounter and Communion Service: 7 pm-9 pm

FRIDAYS:
Prophetic and Miracle Service: 7 pm - 9 pm

LAST FRIDAYS OF EVERY MONTH:
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Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;

Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Youth Sunday School Online via Zoom

Contact the Church office if you are interested
in any of these resources

*We are a beacon of Christ's love
offering Hospitality and sustenance
to all on their Spiritual way.*



TECH SENSE

continued from page 10

<https://www.aescript.com>.

7-Zip

To be fair, I do not use AESCrypt because I have been using 7-Zip for a very long time. 7-Zip is a free and open-source file compressor used to make collections of files shrink in size. It is similar to the well-known WinZip program. Both 7-Zip and WinZip allow files added to the zip file (archive) to be encrypted. Both programs support AES 256 encryption. When you add a file to the archive you will be asked for the optional password. If you provide the password, the file will be encrypted as it is added, and the password will be required to recover the file. 7-Zip is available for most platforms, and several other compression programs also support the same encryption mechanisms and formats. Both AESCrypt and 7-Zip allow me to securely send an encrypted file as an email attachment and then share the password with the receiving party over the phone or through a different, separate means allowing them to access the underlying document. You can download 7-Zip from <https://www.7-zip.org>.

BleachBit

So, I have dutifully encrypted my financial, tax, and health data to secure my files, but now I need to get rid of the originals. If I simply delete the file, it is still there in the recycle bin. Even if I empty the recycle bin or I use shift-del to delete the file without recycling it is still there, and anyone with the right tools can recover the data. How do I get rid of the original file? I use a file shredder or in this case BleachBit. BleachBit removes the file from your hard drive permanently shredding it as it goes. In this case shredding includes overwriting the directory information and writing new random or zero data over every block in the file. This effectively prevents the original data from being recoverable making it safe. BleachBit can be found at <https://www.bleachbit.org/>.

VeraCrypt

VeraCrypt is also an encryption tool but unlike the others, which are used to encrypt individual files, VeraCrypt is used to encrypt an entire disk. This makes it popular to encrypt external hard drives and USB drives so information on them can't be used if they are lost or stolen. It can also be used to encrypt your entire boot drive so if your laptop is stolen the information on it can't be recovered without the password. VeraCrypt can be found at <https://www.veracrypt.fr/en/Home.html>.

Happy Holidays

I wish all of my readers' happy and safe holidays. Remember that it's about what you give more than what you get. Happy New Year, hopefully it will be better than the old one.

First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

4700 Odell Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org

Keith Holland, Pastor

**Recorded Services are
Available on YouTube by
Searching for FBC Beltsville**

Sundays:

*Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
*Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
RA's, GA's, Mission Friends	7:00 p.m.
Youth Fellowship	7:00 p.m.

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Zoom Virtual Worship Service on Sundays
9:30 am - 10 am Fellowship and 10 am - 11 am Worship Time
Sign Language Interpretation Available During Worship

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Due to COVID-19 we are not meeting in person. You can join us for digital worship by clicking on the link on our home page.



Our doors may be closed but our work in the community isn't done! If you need food, come to our DRIVE UP FOOD DISTRIBUTION on Jan. 23 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This is for anyone in need, no questions asked!

New Bible Study begins Wednesday, January 6th at 7pm. The focus will be the book of Genesis! Join us on google meets! More info at www.eumcbeltsville.com/sundayschool



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