

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 72, Number 3

Beltsville, Maryland

March 2024



Scout Sunday at St Joseph Catholic Church and Susie G receiving her St George medal at St. Thecla Church

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

March 20

Paper Out:

March 30

News You Can Use

Cub Pack 1031 Has a Busy Month! 2 Service Projects and Scout Sunday

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 had a busy month in February. We did two service projects: one a hike and

trail cleanup and a service project to help a blind senior clean Sweet Gum balls from his walk and front yard so he can garden. AND four Cub Scouts earned their religious

emblems! We will also end the month with our "Blue and Gold" dinner!!

The pack did a hike on Little Paint Branch Trail and collected

trash along the way as part of our Adopt a Trail. We found more than six types of wildlife (trees,

CUB PACK 1031
continues on page 19



Karen Coakley

Update on Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department

By Rick Bergmann

It's hard to believe that a month ago we were informed that career firefighters were being moved out of the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 831 and reassigned to other stations in Prince George's County. The reason we were given was that there were too many safety hazards at station 831 for the firefighters to be safe. We were "reassured" at the time that it was only temporary, but we knew differently.

This all began when the Beltsville News received four anonymous messages from people who said they were career firefighters who had been told that they needed to bid for other positions in the county because they were

going to be moved in February to other locations. Also, they informed us that the volunteers had not been told of the plan. This meant they were trying to move the firefighters from our station without informing either the community that relies on them or the volunteers who work with them.

Now anyone with common sense can tell you that if someone is being asked to look for another position, the change is not intended to be temporary, but that is exactly what Prince George's Fire Chief Tiffany Green attempted to tell a crowd of approximately 200 residents of Beltsville at a meeting on January 24. Chief Green claimed a single complaint from a career firefighter

FIRE DEPT.
continues on page 19



Scout Troop 1033 is preparing for the annual spring mulch sale!

Ten Scouts And Four Thousand Flyers

BSA Troop 1033, with a few helpers, folded four thousand flyers for their upcoming Spring Mulch delivery fundraiser. For more than thirty years, the Scouts have delivered bags of mulch,

compost and other bulk garden products to homes in and around Beltsville. According to Assistant Scoutmaster Kevin d'Eustachio

SCOUTS
continues on page 19

By Karen M. Coakley

Beltsville/Calverton/Vansville and our Neighbors in College Park, Laurel and Greenbelt. I want to say a Thousand Thank You's for Standing Up! Showing Up! Letting Your Voices Be Heard! Our State Representatives Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk and Mary Lehman have Passionately voiced Their Understanding of the Issues surrounding Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department.

The Concerns of the Firefighters & EMT Volunteer and Career and the Residents at the January 24th Community Meeting. Behind the scenes I know that Senator Rosapepe, Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Mary Lehman and Ben Barnes took Our Message! Our Concerns and Our Fears to the County Executive and Fire Chief. Team 21 did the heavy lifting! At the January 24th meeting we were told the PGFD Career Firefighters and EMT would be reassigned by February 11th. Fast forward to February 13th temporary trailers

NEWS YOU CAN USE
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Letter to the Editor

Good afternoon,

I am an owner of a condo unit at Maryland Farms in Beltsville Maryland. I voiced my concerns about my neighbor and how I was concerned regarding his wellbeing to the Maryland Farms Management Office February 8th. The management office directed the maintenance staff to remove the newspaper from in front of my neighbor's door. I never received a follow up call or communication regarding my concern. I came home on February 12th to find out my neighbor was deceased

in his home and by speaking to the police he had been deceased for about a week. After speaking with another neighbor in the building, I learned the management office was contacted two weeks prior regarding a leak in a unit that was coming from my neighbor's unit. That inquiry also went unnoticed. Further conversations with the police confirmed multiple residents had reached out regarding their concern for my neighbor along with the pungent smell coming from his apartment. I am saddened by my neighbor's passing, but I am also upset by

the way he passed and the amount of time that lapsed where nothing was done despite the multiple attempts residents made with the management office. There is a clear lack of care and work ethic amongst the management office staff. We all pay dues that are increasing every year, and it is apparent those funds are not being put into hiring hardworking and trustworthy staff. I hope the management of this condominium will be investigated.

L.W.

Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News issue of March 2015)

By Ted Ladd

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant Joined St. John's Episcopal Church as Rector

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant accepted the position of Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville, MD. His tenure begins on Mar. 22, 2015. Joseph comes to St. John's after serving as priest-in-charge at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. A native of Haiti, Joseph comes to St. John's with twelve years of experience as a priest. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Northeastern University and a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. After gradua-

tion from seminary, he served as the Assistant Rector at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC for almost 2 years. Then, he joined the staff at Virginia Theological Seminary in 2005 as Assistant to the Dean for Admissions and Community Life. During his time at the Seminary, he created the Office of Racial and Ethnic Ministries and served as Director of Ethnic Ministries. In 2010, following the earthquake in Haiti, Joseph joined the staff of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church as a Special Coordinator for Haiti. The task of the Special Coordinator for Haiti was to facilitate the multiple efforts among Episcopal churches, dioceses, networks, and organizations committed to the rebuilding of the Diocese of Haiti.

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Understanding How Cats Communicate

Many cat owners know that although our cats may not speak English, they have many other ways of communicating their wants and needs to humans. These can include meows and other vocalizations, tail movement and position, or knocking items off a desk to get our attention! One cat behavior that many cat parents may not be consciously examining is facial signaling.



Evolutionary psychologists believe that cats likely evolved their variety of facial expressions over 10,000 years of interactions with humans. Some studies have compared domestic cats with wild cats and found that the more domesticated the cats are, the more expressions they show.

The Feline Grimace Scale (FGS) was developed in 2019 by researchers at the University of Montreal to help cat owners and veterinarians assess whether a cat is in pain. This is particularly useful because cats are skilled at hiding their pain – a survival skill that evolved in wild cats due to the dangers of being perceived as weak by predators.

Other indicators of cat pain can be a decrease in activity (including grooming, eating, and moving around the home), avoidance of petting, straining at the litter box, and hiding. However, understanding cat facial expressions is another useful tool that pet owners can consider.

Interpreting cat expressions is not as intuitive as you might suppose. Prior to the development of the FGS, a study found that participants who were shown facial images of pain-free cats and cats in pain were often unable to reliably assess which cats were in pain. Indeed, only 13 percent of observers were able to identify more than 80 percent of painful cats.

The FGS is based on five distinct features of cat facial expressions: ear position, orbital tightening (i.e., partial or total eye

closure), muzzle tension, whiskers position, and ear position. This tool has been validated by other researchers and found to have good inter-rater reliability and excellent internal consistency. Plus, it is now available as an app for your phone (both Android and Apple).

Similar grimace scales have been developed for other animals including dogs, horses, rabbits, mice, and rats.

Recent behavioral research has expanded the study of feline facial expressions beyond pain assessment, focusing on topics such as relationships between cats and humans, and analyzing how cats interact with one another.

This research has utilized a more complex facial expressions tool, the Facial Action Coding System, which identifies 26 unique muscle movements that contribute to 276 distinct facial expressions. Researchers using the CatFACS system have categorized 46 percent of these facial expressions as friendly, 37 as unfriendly, and 17 as variable (both friendly and unfriendly).

Behavioral researchers are using CatFACS not only for pain assessment but also to infer emotions, increase the probability of successful bonding between domesticated cats, and examine factors influencing adoption rates. For example, studies found that providing more space for shelter cats to roam can encourage

KITTY POST
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Bonnie Bartel

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Ask the Expert BY ANDRE GIBSON, CHAMPION HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Introduction to Gutters and Gutter Covers

Gutters and gutter covers play a vital role in protecting our homes from water damage and maintaining their overall integrity. Understanding the purpose and importance of gutters is essential for homeowners who want to ensure the longevity of their property. This article offers a comprehensive overview of gutters and gutter covers, explaining their function, benefits, and different types available. By exploring the significance of a well-maintained gutter system, homeowners can make informed decisions regarding the installation and maintenance of gutters and gutter covers, ultimately safeguarding their homes from potential water-related issues.



Gutters are the unsung heroes of our homes, quietly and efficiently diverting rainwater away from our roofs and foundations. They are essentially channels or troughs that run along the edge of the roof, collecting rainwater and directing it away from the house.

Gutter covers, also known as gutter guards or gutter screens, are a protective layer placed over the gutters to prevent debris like leaves, twigs, and pine needles from clogging them. They ensure that water flows freely through gutters, reducing the need for regular maintenance and cleaning.

A well-functioning gutter system is vital for the overall health and longevity of your home. It not only protects the exterior but also

helps maintain the integrity of the foundation. By safely channeling water away from your roof, gutters prevent water damage, basement flooding, and soil erosion, saving you from costly repairs in the long run.

Without proper gutters, rainwater cascades down from the roof, pooling around the foundation. Over time, this can lead to cracks in the foundation, compromising the structural integrity of your home. Installing and maintaining gutters ensures that rainwater is directed away, protecting your foundation from water damage.

Rainwater can wreak havoc on the exterior of your home, causing paint to peel, wood to rot, and siding to deteriorate. With a well-

functioning gutter system, rainwater is collected and directed away, keeping the exterior of your house dry and in good condition.

When water is not properly redirected, it can erode the soil around your home's perimeter. This can create unsightly landscape issues, such as uneven terrain and exposed plant roots. Gutters play a crucial role in preventing soil erosion, preserving the beauty of your landscaping.

Furthermore, a poorly functioning gutter system can contribute to basement flooding. When gutters are clogged or improperly installed, water can overflow and seep into the basement, causing extensive damage to your belongings and the foundation. Properly installed gutters ensure that rainwater is efficiently channeled away from your home, reducing the risk of basement flooding.

The fascia and soffit, located underneath the roof's edge, are particularly vulnerable to water damage. Excessive exposure to rainwater can lead to rotting or mold growth, compromising the structural integrity of your home. Gutters play a crucial role in keeping the fascia and soffit dry, protecting against costly repairs.

Understanding Different Types of Gutters

1. Traditional sectional gutters are made of individual sections that are pieced together to fit the length of your roof. They are typically made of aluminum, vinyl, or steel. While cost-effective, these gutters are prone to leaks at the joints and require regular maintenance.

2. Seamless gutters are custom-made on-site to fit the exact measurements of your roof. With no seams, there is a reduced risk of leaks, making them a more durable and efficient option. Though they come at a slightly higher price point, seamless gutters require less

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EXPERT
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Statepoint Crossword: The Oscars

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
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	57	58	59					60			61	62	
63						64	65			66			67
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

ACROSS

1. Anti-seniors sentiment
6. ___ Pérignon, Champagne
9. Big Bang's original matter
13. Prefix for earliest
14. Call to Maria
15. Bob and ___
16. "Peter, Peter Pumpkin ___"
17. "Le ___ des cygnes"
18. Like yesteryear
19. *Greta Gerwig's Oscar nominated movie
21. *He's nominated for playing Leonard Bernstein
23. Nothing
24. White ___ shopping event
25. Federal food safety agency, acr.
28. It ran away with the spoon
30. ROTC happenings
35. Figure skating jump
37. Grad
39. Arrogant one
40. Archaic preposition
41. Passé
43. Scrubbed
44. Sugarcoating
46. Money in Mexico City
47. What DJs do
48. Trickery
50. Swerves
52. Sigma Alpha Epsilon

53. *Typical number of nominations in one Oscar category
55. Emergency responder, acr.
57. *"Nyad" nominee
60. *What kind of moon?
63. "Finnegan's Wake" author
64. Mother load offering
66. Java cotton tree
68. Artemis' companion
69. Fat of olives
70. *What actors do
71. Spinner's product
72. Wisecrack
73. Like Phoenix

DOWN

1. Cornelius of the movies
2. Snap up
3. 'I' in Greek alphabet
4. Howard of radio fame
5. Death-related
6. One of the Earnhardts
7. Spermatozoa counterparts
8. Muhammad's birthplace
9. Review service, with .com
10. Use a ladle
11. At any time
12. *"No Country for Old ___"
15. Suitors
20. Trojan War story
22. "Just an ___-fashioned love

- song"
24. Slumber
25. Fl., as in fl. oz.
26. "A Confederacy of ___," sing.
27. Place above a ceiling
29. Dueler's strike
31. Overnight lodgings
32. Shoelace bunny ears
33. Divine saying
34. *Producer and star of "Poor Things"
36. *"The ___ of Interest"
38. Table hill
42. Wooden pin
45. *Like nominated ones
49. Love-love, e.g.
51. Meat-cooking contraption
54. Roaring of an engine
56. Hindu religious teacher
57. Forum, pl.
58. Deed hearing
59. Medical diagnostic test
60. Abe Lincoln's hat material
61. #20 Down, e.g.
62. Traditional learning method
63. *Da'Vine ___ Randolph
65. Orinoco or Grande
67. *Ryan Gosling's character

See Solution on page 7

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Obituaries



Joan Chiusano

Chiusano, Joan

Devoted wife and loving mother Joan Haussin Chiusano died on February 9, 2024. She is survived by her husband John, and sons Christopher, Stephen (Irina), and Paul; grandchildren Aaron (Imani), Paul, and Margarita; great-grandchild Xavier, brothers James, Jerry, and Patrick, many nieces, nephews and cousins. Joan was preceded in death by her parents and sister Jane.

She was born in 1935 as the second of five children of Oscar and Isabel. She attended St. Peter's catholic church and school and Linton high school in Indiana. Joan was a talented professional interior Designer having earned a degree in Interior Design from the University of Maryland. She was a dedicated civil servant, working for several Federal agencies.

Gallagher, Charlotte

On February 8, 2024, Charlotte (Ward) Gallagher, "Nan" left this life at 101 years old, a resident of Alexandria, Virginia. Born in Paintsville, Kentucky on



Charlotte Gallagher

May 12, 1922, Charlotte grew up in Nicholasville, Kentucky with her parents Pete and Florence Ward and four brothers Bo, Charles (her twin brother), Norbert, and Jack, during the Great Depression. Charlotte worked in the family's bakery (Ward's Bakery in Nicholasville), earned a degree at a business college, wrote pedigrees at a thoroughbred horse farm where she met clients such as Emperor Hirohito, the Vanderbilts, and Hollywood types from the 1930s and 1940s. She moved to Washington, D.C. during World War II to work for the FBI, then Capital Airlines, and later the U.S. Department of Agriculture where she retired at the age of 70. Married to Bernard Gallagher, they lived in Beltsville, and Landover Hills, Maryland, had four children together, Marie Miller, Madeline Mitchell (David), Bernie Gallagher, and John Gallagher (Jeanine), six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. One of her favorite hobbies was gardening; her springtime daffodils were spectacular. A family only interment will

be held at the Crownsville, Maryland Veterans Cemetery, a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the U.S. National Arboretum or the National Audubon Society are appreciated.

Mizzer, Lillian

Lillian (May) Shrive Mizzer passed away peacefully on January 1st, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was 97 years old. She was preceded in death by her husband Ernest and son Ernest Jr. She is survived by her son Douglas (wife, Cheryl Ann Mizzer). She was the proud grandmother of four. Melissa, Rebecca, Samantha and Deborah. She also cherished her four great-grandchildren, Joshua, Joseph, Everett and Isla.

She grew up in Moosic, PA, then moved to Washington, DC where she worked for the government and met and married her husband, Ernest Mizzer. They were married for 27 years until his passing in 1974.

Lil was a valued and active member of the Emanuel United Methodist Church of Beltsville, Young at Heart, Laurel Hospital Ladies Auxiliary and countless other volunteer positions throughout her years.

She was a child of The Depression and saved everything that could be of use. She enjoyed making decorations, blankets, and even crocheted Christmas stockings.

We will all cherish her for what she gave to the community and her family. She always asked that people be happy and eat cookies at her funeral so bring your best recipe and fond memories. A celebration of her life was held at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD on Saturday, February 24.

How To Talk about Anti-Transgender Prejudice with Your Family

(StatePoint) Have you ever wanted to talk about the anti-transgender movement with your family but are unsure how? The conversation may start off pleasantly, but as it progresses, people may say things you don't agree with, including hateful comments in support of anti-transgender prejudice and legislation.

So, how do you respond in an effective way without it going badly? Here are five things to keep in mind.

Humanize, Don't Politicize, the Issue

Emphasize that anti-transgenderism negatively affects everyone. Everyone knows someone who is transgender or gender non-conforming, even if that person chooses not to disclose it. In some parts of the country, it is danger-



(c) rparobe / iStock

ous to come out as transgender, nonbinary or gender non-conforming because of anti-transgender prejudice, discrimination and laws. Simply put, transgender and gender non-conforming people are

your friends, siblings, relatives, neighbors, coworkers, parents and children. So, hateful talk and political attacks directly affect cisgen-

PREJUDICE

continues on page 15

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The Primary Election is less than three months away. We encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote. For the 2024 Presidential Primary Election, the advanced deadline to register to vote and update your information is Tuesday, April 23, 2024. For the 2024 Primary Election, you can vote in person during early voting, on election day, or by mail-in ballot. During early voting, go to an early voting center in the county. All early voting centers are open from 7 AM to 8PM from Thursday, May 2, through Thursday, May 9, (including Saturday and Sunday). The list of early voting centers will be posted when available here: <https://bit.ly/3T5FBz>

Become an Election Judge

Are you 17 years old (or a 16-year-old who can demonstrate your willingness to serve) or older? Are you a registered voter in Maryland? Physically and mentally able to work at least a 15-hour day? Willing to work outside your home precinct? Can you sit and/or stand for an extended period and speak, read, and write English? If you answered yes to all the questions above, then you qualify to become an Election Judge. For the Election Judge application, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3OQSuXI>

Importance of the Beltsville Police Division VI Citizens Advisory Council


The Beltsville Police Division VI Citizens' Advisory Council



**PARK ON YOUR LAWN.
GET A CITATION.**

Make sure your property complies with County Code.
Report with a photo at <https://pgc311.com>
Visit <http://dpie.mypgc.us> for more info.

No. 5 in the Most Frequent Code Violations in Prince George's County:
Parking vehicles on unpaved surfaces. You may not park operating or broken vehicles on grass or unpaved areas behind houses or in front yards.



(CAC) was established to address citizen concerns and optimize the utilization of police personnel and resources. It fosters and maintains positive police-community relationships while proactively engaging with public information, safety, crime prevention, and security issues in Beltsville Division VI and the wider county. Regular CAC meetings in each district allow residents to discuss police-related matters directly with the commander. These meetings also serve as a platform for police officials to evaluate the effectiveness of their crime-fighting strategies within the community. The CAC convenes on the 4th Thursday of every month, with the upcoming meeting scheduled for March 28, at 7 PM. The meeting will occur in person at the Division VI Calverton Satellite Office at 11613 Beltsville Drive, Calverton. We encourage each apartment management team, business, community organization, or homeowner's association to send a member. Please click the following link to view

the flier <https://bit.ly/DiviVICAC>

Coffee with the Cops

We encourage residents to attend the Coffee with the COPS to voice concerns, ask questions, and get to know your COPS officer. COPS stands for Community Oriented Policing Services. This once-a-month event circulates in the district, where residents can enjoy a cup of coffee and pastry while they meet with our local police on any issues of their choice. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 19, from 10 AM to 11 AM inside Riderwood Village Lakeside Commons, 3150 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring.

Get Your Reusable Bag

The Better Bag Bill is in effect! All consumers must bring their reusable bags when shopping or be charged at least 10 cents to purchase each paper or reusable bag. Due to a new County Law, after January 1, 2024, consumers must bring their reusable bags when shopping or be charged at least 10

cents to buy each paper or reusable bag. Please be on the lookout in our eNewsletter or contact our office to find out when we will be doing in-the-district office hours so you can pick up your free reusable District One grocery bag.

Free Tax Assistance

Are you searching for no-cost tax assistance in your vicinity? There are organizations dedicated to free tax preparation in Maryland, catering to individuals who need help with their taxes. Eligibility may be subject to income guidelines. To locate nearby agencies, dial 211 or explore the 211

Maryland resource database for free tax assistance options. Community groups, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offer these services.

For state taxes exclusively, local assistance can also be sought through the CASH Campaign of Maryland or the Comptroller of Maryland. Exercise caution and rely on reputable sources when seeking free tax assistance, as scams are prevalent during the tax season.

Feel free to go here to search Maryland resources near you: <https://bit.ly/3T42FKU>

Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

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

Contact Us

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

FREE PIANO

A family in Beltsville has a piano to give to a family, church, school or non-profit free of charge.

It is a Cable-Nelson Spinet piano
E-mail ellen.weiss2@verizon.net if interested.

Youth Suicide Prevention: Recognize the Signs

(StatePoint) Children and teens can be moody, but when signs of mental health troubles last for weeks, don't assume it's just a passing mood.

Suicide is a leading cause of death among U.S. children, teens and young adults ages 10-24, and rates have been on the rise. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all teens be screened for suicide risk starting at age 12.

While no single cause has been identified, suicide is often preceded by depression that is undiagnosed or untreated. Most youth show some warning signs or behavior changes in advance. Families and their doctors can work together to identify if a child or teen is struggling with depression, anxiety or substance use, all of which increase the risk of suicide.

"Suicide is complex, but often preventable," said Janet Lee, MD, FAAP. "When a person talks about killing themselves or feel-



(c) SeventyFour / iStock via Getty Images Plus

ing hopeless or trapped, it should always be taken seriously."

Don't be afraid to ask your child or teen to talk about their mental health or if they're contemplating suicide. Asking directly is the best way to know what your child is thinking. Studies show that it is safe to ask about suicide risk and that asking the question will not

put the idea into their head. Note that your child may initially turn away or be silent, but actions may speak louder than words. Watch for major changes in your child's sleep patterns, appetite and social activities. Self-isolation, espe-

PREVENTION
continues on page 17

Crossword Solution from page 5

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



TIRED OF YOUR DEBT CONSTANTLY BALLOONING?

Stick a pin in it and get **.50% off** our posted rates!

Are you tired of watching your debt balloon uncontrollably, expanding beyond your means? The weight of multiple payments, high-interest rates, and constant financial strain can feel like you're trapped in an ever-growing bubble. **Fear not!**

Our debt consolidation program is the perfect solution to burst that debt bubble once and for all. Not only will you reduce your debt, but you can also **get .50% off our posted rates**. It's time to take action and pop that personal debt bubble once and for all.

GET STARTED TODAY!



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[@princegeorgescommunityfcu](https://twitter.com/princegeorgescommunityfcu) | 301.627.2666



Partnering for Financial Success

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and APRs are effective as of 1/1/2024 and are subject to change without notice. Campaign runs Jan. 1- Mar. 31, 2024. Your rate will vary depending on your credit history and term. This offer is available on used automobiles, boats, RVs, motorcycles, home equity fixed rates and personal loans. This offer does not apply to existing Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union loans. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

County agrees to keep Beltsville Fire Station open!

Thanks to all the leaders and citizens of Beltsville who fought to protect local families safety and health. It was the unity of the community that convinced County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Fire Chief Tiffany Green to keep the station open with career and volunteer firefighters and EMT's, after considering pulling the career firefighters out. Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, and Mary Lehman, Councilman Tom Dernoga, and I worked with the community to change their minds.

The plan presented to us is to keep the station staffed while improvements are made to the building. We'll be keeping on top of progress to be sure the promises to Beltsville are kept. Let us know when you have questions or concerns.

Senate and House college scholarships for Beltsville students

This spring and summer, Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I will award college scholarships for Beltsville students. Applications for the scholarships for school year 2024-25 are posted on the 21st District Delegation website. The application will automatically go to Dels. Barnes, Pena-Melnyk, and Lehman. You will need to fill



Senator Jim Rosapepe

out a separate application with my office, for the Senatorial Scholarship. In the meantime, please make sure you have a Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) account and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when it becomes available. 21st District Delegation Website: <https://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/college-scholarships>. If you have questions, email my office at jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us or call at 410-841-3141.

Maryland Health Easy Enrollment Program

During this tax season, you will be able to sign up for health coverage through the Easy Enrollment program.

Check a box on your tax return if you would like the Maryland

Health Benefit Exchange, the state agency that runs Maryland Health Connection, to estimate your eligibility for coverage. If you file your taxes by April 15, this selection launches an easy process that will help you enroll.

How it works:

1. Check the Box. A question on your state tax forms (502 and 502B) will ask if you want to share some of your information, like your household size and income. By checking the box on the tax return, you are giving permission for the Comptroller to share information with Maryland Health Connection Text

2. File your taxes. If you check the box, Maryland Health Connection will check to see if you may be eligible for free or low-cost health coverage.

3. Receive a letter. Shortly after you file your taxes, the state will mail you a letter explaining your eligibility for free or low-cost health coverage. Many Marylanders qualify for savings. In fact, 9 in 10 Marylanders who enrolled through Maryland Health Connection last year got savings. You will have 35 days from the date on your letter to sign up for a health plan and access these savings.

4. Enroll through Maryland Health Connection. Once you receive your letter you can login into your account or create an account to explore your health plan options and enroll. When

you begin your application, a new Special Enrollment question will ask if you or a household member received a "Tax Time SEP" notice. If anyone in your household is already enrolled, you can still add uninsured household members under "Reason for Change."

5. Get help by phone. A certified navigator from Maryland Health Connection may call you to offer free help enrolling. Find a navigator in your county. Or call 1-855-642-8572 to apply. Deaf and hard of use Relay. Remember, you only have 35 days to enroll!

AARP Free Tax Preparation Services

AARP Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to anyone of any age, especially persons aged 50 and older or who cannot afford paid service. Tax-Aide in northern Prince George's is at the Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery St., Laurel, Maryland 20707, on Wednesdays, February 14, 2024, through April 10, 2024, from 9:30 AM through 2:00 PM, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 240-473-2955 on Monday or Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Prince George's County Ombudsman Program's purpose is to ensure that residents of long-term care facilities receive the care

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

Senior Call Check Available to Maryland Residents

Are you home alone? Would you like someone to check in with you daily? If you are 65+, the Maryland Department of Aging offers you a free service for an automated daily phone call at a scheduled time. If you do not pick up after three attempts, the service will call an alternate person on your behalf to check on you. You must have an active landline or cell phone to participate in the program. Sign up online here or by phone at 1-866-502-0560.

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.

ASK THE EXPERT

continued from page 4

maintenance and provide better longevity.

Choosing the right material for gutters

When it comes to selecting the material for your gutters, you have options like aluminum, vinyl, steel, and copper. Aluminum is a popular choice due to its affordability, durability, and resistance to rust. Vinyl is low-maintenance and easy to install, but it may not be as long-lasting as other materials. Steel and copper are more expensive options known for their strength and aesthetic appeal.

Remember, whether you choose traditional or seamless gutters and opt for gutter covers or not, the key is to have a well-maintained gutter system that effectively directs rainwater away from your home. So, let's give gutters the appreciation they deserve for protecting our homes, one raindrop at a time!

Benefits of Gutter Covers

Nobody enjoys cleaning out gutters, but it is a chore that even our inner procrastinator can't ignore. But fear not, dear reader,

because gutter covers are here to save the day (and your precious time). These nifty contraptions act as a shield, preventing leaves, twigs, and other debris from clogging up your gutters. With gutter covers in place, you can say goodbye to frequent cleaning sessions and hello to more leisurely activities. Netflix binge, anyone?

Picture this: It's raining outside, the sound of droplets hitting the ground is music to your ears. But wait! Your gutters are clogged, and suddenly, that soothing sound turns into a cacophony of water overflowing. Not exactly the symphony you were hoping for. This is where gutter covers work their magic. By keeping debris out of your gutters, they ensure that water flows freely and doesn't cause any unwanted flooding or damage to your home. So, let those raindrops serenade you, undisturbed by pesky clogs.

Gutters might not be the most glamorous part of your home, but they play a crucial role in protecting its foundation and overall structural integrity. Without proper maintenance, gutters can become a breeding ground for rust, mold, and other unwelcome surprises. However, by installing gutter covers, you can shield your gutters from the elements (and



the occasional squirrel attempting to build a cozy nest). This added layer of protection helps extend the lifespan of your gutter system, saving you from costly repairs and replacements down the line.

Factors to Consider When Choosing Gutter Covers

Before you dive headfirst into the world of gutter covers, make sure to check if they're compatible with your existing gutter system. You don't want to end up with a cover that doesn't fit like a pair of jeans two sizes too small (ouch!). Take measurements, consult with experts, and ensure a seamless match for a snug and effective fit.

Effectiveness in keeping out debris

The primary function of gut-

ter covers is to keep debris out of your gutters. So, naturally, you'll want to choose ones that excel at this job. Look for covers with small holes or mesh that will prevent even the tiniest particles from sneaking into your gutters. After all, you don't want your gutters to resemble a nature reserve for all things leafy and twiggy.

Durability and maintenance requirements

When choosing gutter covers, durability is key. You want something that can withstand Mother Nature's whims and still remain intact. Opt for materials like aluminum or stainless steel that can handle the elements without rusting or deteriorating. Additionally, consider the maintenance requirements of the gutter covers. Nobody wants to spend more time maintaining the covers than they did cleaning the gutters in the first place. Find a balance that suits your lifestyle and maintenance preferences.

Installation and Maintenance of Gutters and Gutter Covers

DIY vs. professional installation

Deciding whether to tackle the

installation yourself or call in the pros is a crucial decision. If you have a DIY spirit and the necessary skills, go ahead and give it a shot. Just make sure to follow instructions carefully and take safety precautions. However, if the mere thought of DIY makes you break into a cold sweat, it's best to leave it to the professionals. They'll have the expertise and tools to get the job done right, saving you from potential injury and a few colorful words in the process.

Even with gutter covers in place, your gutters still need a little TLC from time to time. Regular maintenance is key to keeping them in tip-top shape. Make it a habit to inspect your gutters for any signs of damage, clean them if needed, and ensure proper water flow. A little maintenance now will prevent bigger headaches and expenses later.

Thankfully, maintaining gutter covers is a breeze. Simply remove any visible debris and give them a gentle rinse with a hose. Voila! Your gutter covers will be back to their pristine condition in no time. If you would prefer to stay away from ladders, contact a professional to handle this important task for you.

Call us at 301-277-7200 for a free gutter inspection today!

Beltsville Firestation 31



Howard Mabry
Bill Clark
Fred Ridgeway
Roy Wood

Enmit Croson ? Bill Fleishman (Chief) John Coleman
? Collins Roy Wood Charles Wood

331 through the years



Printers – Part 2

This month we continue with our discussions of printers. As I mentioned last month I am in the market for a new printer. At the end of this month's column, I will share what I purchased and how I made my decision. Now continuing...

All in One Printers

We mentioned the "All-in one" printer last month. This type of printer combines multiple functions into the same device. The common functions include printing, scanning, and copying. Some also include faxing as well. Printers typically have a microprocessor built in to control the printing mechanisms and processes. For example, at one time Apple used to say their LaserWriter printer was the most powerful computer they made, due the internal microprocessor used within it. After combining the printing capability with the scanning capability, adding copy and fax was rather easy. Today the all-in-one printer seems to be the most common for



in-home use.

How do Inkjet Printers Work?

In general, an inkjet printer has a storage mechanism for the ink. This may be a tank or replaceable cartridge. The printer then feeds Ink to the print head. This is often a gravity feed directly from

the ink cartridge to the head. The print head either applies pressure to spray ink through very small nozzles or causes bubbles to form until they pop onto the paper. These tiny nozzles are arranged in a grid and the ink dots are applied several rows and columns at a time as the head is moved back and forth across the page.

Print heads are organized so that each head handles a single color. On some printers (Hewlett Packard for example) the heads are built-in to the ink cartridge. Others like Canon normally have the heads as a separate component and the ink cartridge simply holds ink.

Printing Colors

Most printers use at least four colors to print a full color image. These are black, cyan, magenta, and yellow. These are different than the colors used on a color TV or monitor. When using light, the primary colors are red, green, and blue (RGB). When combining light to generate an image these primary colors generate all of the colors of the spectrum. In this case, black is the absence of color, created by using no color at all.

A printer generates a page of paper viewed using the reflection of light on ink-covered paper. This uses the printer primary colors, cyan, magenta, yellow, and black often references as CMYK. Higher end printers may provide additional ink colors for more vibrant colors when photo printing. For example, my Canon printer had a grey color and an additional darker black color. I have seen variants like photo cyan, photo magenta, red, and multiple shades of gray and black, all with the goal of printing more realistic, photographic images. One typically does not find these in tank printers.

Most inkjet printers use dye-based inks. Dye is soluble, the color dissolves into a liquid. Higher end printers may use pigment-based ink. Pigments use particles

suspended within the liquid or medium. Pigment ink offers a better appearance when printing text and makes business documents look better when used for black ink.

How do Lasers Printers Work?

As we said last month, laser printers use toner instead of ink. Toner is a dust made from a material mixed with wax or plastic that melts at a certain temperature and is stored in a "toner cartridge". The cartridge is typically a tube-shaped device that runs the length of the paper. Rollers in the printer pull the paper across a "drum", another "tube shaped device". A laser flashes across the drum causing an electrical charge to form where the toner needs to stick to the paper. When the paper passes over the toner, the charge pulls the toner onto the paper where the toner sticks only where needed. Then the printer applies just enough heat to the paper to melt the toner onto the page and permanently fix the printing to it.

This process is repeated four times for color printing, once for black, and again for each of the printing primary colors, cyan, magenta, and yellow. The reason why color laser printers are not the best for photo printing is that the colors do not blend like the dyes and pigments of inkjet printers.

Impact Printers

Rarely used today in homes but still occasionally found in businesses or in point of sales systems impact printers are an older technology. Also called dot-matrix printers these printers were popular in the 1980's when microcomputers were young. The print head on an impact printer fires small flat pins to strike a ribbon against the paper and leave an ink mark. Today, they are useful when there is a need to print on multiple part forms. These printers are still manufactured and still useful. If

you are using an old MS-DOS machine, this may be the way to go.

Thermal Printers

Thermal printers work by using heat to print on thermal sensitive paper. Often used for specialty applications like Point-of-Sale systems (cash registers), or to print mail labels, bar codes, and fun instant photo stickers. Purchase prices for under \$50 or hundreds for industrial uses. No ink costs here, the cost driver is the special thermal paper needed to print. Still 20 rolls of sticky thermal paper for stickers might cost \$20. Not too bad for a little family fun. Apparently, these are popular for printing postage stickers. The biggest issue is that heat can make the printing disappear.

Wrap Up

This will wrap up our discussion of printers other than my reveal. Over the years, I have had many printers. Originally, I started out with an Epson MX-80 dot-matrix printer. That served well for several years.

Eventually I purchased an HP LaserJet IIP. This was a good printer, but I grew out of it. I replaced it with a small Brother Network ready Laser printer. I have since bought three of these and they are all still working as far as I know. My current primary laser printer is also a Brother purchase on sale at our local Costco. I didn't need it when I bought it, but it turned out to be a great purchase. It has been reliable and has features that I find I use all of the time like duplex printing, and easy printing of envelopes. I have printed close to 20,000 pages and I am on the original drum and the third toner cartridge.

I also needed a color printer, so I bought a Canon Pixma. I have purchased five Canon printers over the years, one plain color printer and the rest all-in-ones. The Canons have probably had an average lifespan of 5 years. The failure has always been print heads.

For this reason, I have decided to try an Epson Tank Printer, the ET-2850, found on-sale at Costco for \$200. This is an all-in-one network printer and includes 1 year of ink. It has duplex printing.

I will not consider an HP printer because of their practice of breaking their printers if the consumer decides to use non-HP ink. I didn't choose Brother simply because Brother ink for their all-in-one printers has been hard to get this year. I will update my readers on how this new printer goes. Have a great March!

BELTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Local Franchisee Success Story Expands as He Unveils a Pet Supplies Plus in Beltsville

Pet Supplies Plus of Beltsville to Offer Array of Natural Foods, Toys, Goods & Hassle-Free Services

Beltsville, Md.— Pet Supplies Plus will open a location on Friday, February 2 at 10468 Baltimore Ave in Beltsville to offer local pet parents a hassle-free shopping experience with a wide selection of pet products. Known for a friendly staff and helpful customer service, pet parents can save money at Pet Supplies Plus while celebrating the fun of pet ownership. In addition, the store will offer amenities such as a full-service grooming salon, self-service wash stations, a knowledgeable pet care team and carry-out service in which team members carry heavy items to neighbors' cars.

The store is owned by local entrepreneur BJ Singh, a Beltsville local with 25 years of experience in restaurant and children's development franchise industries. Singh is also the founder of an event production company, dedi-



cating his efforts to nurturing and expanding various brands. Beyond his business endeavors, Singh embraces his role as a devoted dog dad to his Bernedoodle, Angel. It

was Angel who sparked Singh's realization of a significant gap in the pet industry, inspiring his latest business venture.

As a community partner, Singh

will work alongside local animal shelters, rescue organizations and non-profits to host year-round adoption events, fundraisers, and pet food and product drives.

"After adopting Angel, I recognized a significant gap in the pet industry: the lack of interpersonal relationships," said Singh. "So much is handled online, and you're often left without a live person to address your questions. This realization led me to open my own Pet Supplies Plus as I was drawn to the brand's commitment to personal interaction. At Pet Supplies Plus, we're like a friendly neighbor, always ready to assist with any pet-related questions and needs. I'm thrilled to bring such a community-focused establishment to Beltsville."

To welcome the community, Singh, will host a weekend-long grand opening event with 4x

rewards points available on all purchases. Beginning on Saturday, March 2 and continuing through Sunday, March 3 the new Pet Supplies Plus will offer special prize giveaways, sale prices and more. The primary giveaways are as follows:

Saturday, March 2 – Sunday, March 3 – Pet Supplies Plus will offer complimentary nail trims for dogs and free pet washes. Proof of Rabies vaccination is required for nail trims. Pet photos will also be available and you earn a \$5 reward for every \$50 spent.

Saturday, March 2 – Mystery scratch cards, between the amounts of \$5-\$10, will be given to neighbors throughout the day, there will be animals available for adoption, and free samples.

Sunday, March 3 – First 100

SUPPLIES
continues on page 14



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Women's Community Club of Beltsville

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville would like to say Thank You to Our Generous Donors who Made Our Holiday Food & Gift Program 2023 a Success! We sponsored 30 Families with 86 children ...infants to high school seniors. We could not have done this without the Generosity of the following residents, schools, churches, businesses and Anonymous Donors. This is a partial list: Rick Jones Pianos, Johnson Crane, Sheila Brown, Ann Anderson, Dave & Alma Pinchotti, Versa Integrated, Solutions Inc., Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Albert Turner CLAT, Beltsville Adventist School, Antoinette Conrad, Gertrude Conrad, Camillo DiCamillo, Karen Spicknall, Beltway Blinds, Wanda Radcliff, American Home Center, Diaz Trucking, Borgwardt Funeral Home, Balaban Business & Tax Service, Excel Health Care Services, Sun Services, Mr. & Mrs Richard Fox, Crescent Nursery, Nancy Turner, Integrity Research Institute, Clare Imhultz, OTS R & D, Betty Ferris, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, MaryAnn Beauchamp & Mike Templeton, Vicky & Paul Malengo, Nancy



Santa's Workshop Before & After Gifts in Red Bags waiting to be delivered

Abernathy, Joy Edwards, Paulette, Tracy Addis, Patty Hennessy, The Reed Family, Mary Lehman, Cami Stork, Jaycee Cooper, Regency Commercial Construction, Beltsville-Adelphi Boys & Girls Club, Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department Calverton Citizens Association,

Michelle Garcia & Jeff McHugh and Boteler Automotive.

Join is for our March Meeting Monday, March 12th 7:00pm Beltsville Boys and Girls Club 11705 Roby Avenue. Women-sclubbeltsville@gmail.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

will be installed and key County employees are going to see that permits for water & sewer hookup will be expedited! Permits required for electrical, construction etc. for the temporary trailers will be expedited! Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31 will continue to be staffed 24/7 until issues at the station can be resolved.

Beltsville/Calverton/Vansville and our Neighbors in College Park, Laurel and Greenbelt we are not finished. We Need to Let Our Voices be Heard! We Need to Be Counted We Need Everyone to Sign the Petition! Share the Petition! We Need to KEEP the Pressure On. They are beginning to discuss the Budget for the County.

Prince Georges County needs to include funding to correct the issues with Beltsville Volunteer Fire Station 31. They Need to Hire more Firefighters and EMT Versus paying Overtime to deal with staffing issues. Volunteer Firefighters & EMT need more flexibility to work as Volunteers.

Support now! Sign & Share Petition! <https://chnng.it/BLvcj6WMNd>

Call & Email!

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
301-952-4131 Countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us

Council Chairperson Jolene Ivey
301-952-3864 Councildistrict5@co.pg.md.us

Tom Dernoga
tedernoga@co.pg.md.us
301-952-3887

At Large Member Calvin Hawkins
301-952-2136

At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us

At Large Member Mel Franklin
301-952-2638

Karen M. Coakley
741-7672 karenmcoakley@gmail.com

SUPPLIES

continued from page 13

people will receive one free small bag of dog or cat food and there will be games and activities.

In addition, neighbors will have an opportunity to win either a \$250, \$100, or \$50 gift card by entering the location's grand opening raffle. There will also be a \$10 off coupon given to all who enter the drawing. For more information and to enter text Beltsville to 34653 or visit <http://qkly.co/psp/beltsvillegiveaway>.

Pet Supplies Plus will offer Beltsville pet parents a wide selection of natural pet foods, goods and pet services at low prices and focus on a unique, rich in-store experience for its "neighbors" (the term Pet Supplies Plus uses for customer).

Pet parents are always welcome to shop with their pets at the store, where knowledgeable team members are on-site to answer questions, offer tips or just get on

their hands and knees to play with pets who enter the store.

Neighbors have access to an experienced and knowledgeable customer service team that will help them find everything they need. Each team member is extensively trained in the areas of natural and holistic foods and is able to answer a broad range of questions about dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and fish. Shoppers can also take advantage of the free Pet Supplies Plus Rewards, which offer members regular coupons on products they purchase frequently and monthly specials, resulting in big savings.

Pet Supplies Plus Beltsville will be open Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Neighbors can connect with the new store on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on events and promotions. To contact Pet Supplies Plus of Beltsville, call (240) 391-6278, or visit www.petsuppliesplus.com.

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

We had to cancel our January 18 meeting because our community center had NO heat. That means calling all our members to tell them not to come out. Fortunately, I was able to get hold of our planned entertainment, Johnny Seaton, to tell him not to venture out. We were able to reschedule him to come in May, when we won't have to worry about heat or snow.

Our February 15 meeting will have our regular scheduled activities- entertainment by Retrorockets,

50/50, light refreshments, trip sign ups, and a chance for everyone to check their information for our 2024 directory, which I hope to have printed to give out in March.

March 21 will have a little "Irish" flavor with a group called "Having Fun".I can hardly wait for spring to arrive and longer days. Terri Guillemets said, "the color of springtime is flowers; the color of winter is in our imagination." I hope she is right.

Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO



PREJUDICE

continued from page 6

dered heterosexual people as well.

Ask Clarifying Questions and Provide Corrections

Sometimes, people are misinformed and repeat things they have heard instead of doing their own research. Other times, they believe that anti-transgenderism is justified because of misleading and harmful information promoted by the anti-trans movement. Either way, you can prevent or delay an argument from escalating by asking clarifying questions that provide insight into your opponent's perspective. When someone says something transphobic or factually incorrect, ask them two questions: Why do you think that? Where did you get your information?

When they respond, present them with facts from your own research. You might say: "I don't agree because I know, according to [insert resource here]," or "I think you should look at [insert resource here] because this source [explain what makes this source more credible]." If you identify as transgender, nonbinary, or gender non-conforming and feel comfortable debating someone with anti-transgender views, remember that even though you may not be a policy expert, you are an expert on your own experience. No one is qualified to tell you about your experience, and you are not obli-

gated to answer any questions if you feel unsafe.

Share Resources

Sharing resources can combat ignorance and bigotry. Connect with local trans organizations, follow them on social media and participate in their events. This is a great way to access more resources and meet allies and transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people. Furthermore, you can direct people who want to learn more about anti-transgender prejudice and legislation to free resources like the Transgender Legislation Tracker.

Flip the Script

Unsurprisingly, data supporting anti-trans legislation is inherently negative. Reinterpret it with a positive take. For example, let's say you read a statistic that says that 40% of trans youth experienced homelessness in 2023. Put another way, you could say that 60% of trans youth had stable housing in 2023. Promoting negative statistics on trans and gender non-conforming issues pushes the narrative that "transness" is bad.

Continue Talking

Because they fear retaliation and harassment, many transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people and allies cannot openly support trans causes, creating a sense of hopelessness, especially in areas where anti-trans prejudice and legislation are

rampant. However, you do not have to be on the front lines of a protest to advocate for and support trans and nonbinary people. Simply having conversations with trusted family and friends can be effective. There is a lot of confusion surrounding anti-trans legislation in the ally community and in the transgender and gender non-conforming community. Across the board, most people are unaware of how pernicious anti-trans laws and social norms are, and how they make it hard for everyone to coexist peacefully.

For more information, visit colage.org or transgenderstrategy.org.

While conversations still may end in an argument, it helps to have tools for getting your point across while maintaining your dignity.



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MARY MAGDALENE'S MEMORY

Remember in the darkness of your wanderings,
Your eyes were opened by a strangers' light
Delivering you from your aimless floundering
New hope emerged and purpose filled your life.

His friendship held you close and when He called your name
It brought a peace you could not comprehend;
Forever, you determined, you would never wane
From serving Him. On you He could depend.

A day arrived you did not think would ever come.
How could this happen to a One like Him?
With sorrow watching ev'rything He'd ever done
Turned upside down because of others' sin.

Too soon, His breath was spent and all you knew was pain.
However, you stood by Him 'till the last.
Had all His patient love and labor been in vain?
What grief o'erwhelmed your heart and would not pass.

Though buried, you and others went to see His grave,
Perhaps it all had been an awful dream.
An empty tomb caused tears to surge again in waves.
Who'd taken Him away, is how it seemed?

Then suddenly a voice you loved called out to you,
"My work is done, the way is made complete;
Yes, all I said before has now been proven true
Our enemy has suffered great defeat."

"Together we will reign in Paradise, My child.
No one can ever separate us, dear.
The resurrected life proclaims us reconciled,
Eternity with Father now is here."

Beckie Hutchings
2/09/2024

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Calendar of Events

FCE BLANKET DAY

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

For more information, contact Kathie at 301.270.5367 or kpmack2@gmail.com.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (PGCGS)

Two events for March:
• Wed., Mar. 6 at 7 p.m. Free online presentation on using business ledgers to research and find elusive ancestors. E-mail PGCGC president Barbara Hopkins at president@pgcgs.org for an

invitation to our free virtual meeting.

• Sat., Mar. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the PGCGS Library, 12219 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, 20715. Join a free photo-dating workshop and learn clues that help you date photos of your ancestors. Bring old photos you need help in dating. Register and get more information at Eventbrite.com; search for PGCGS.

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Some events may have special hours of operation. Cost: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

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

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

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

ART GALLERY

The featured artists for March are Maryland photographers Rick Dove and April Price. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Tue. – Sat. at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. **Ages 3 – 10***; *Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities. Registration is strongly recommended; call 301.497.5760.* Children will explore and learn about nature and the environment through engaging, age-appropriate activities, crafts, and games. Older siblings

are welcome to join with parents and work with younger siblings to help them understand and complete the activities.

***NOTE:** The Kid's Discovery Center is neither baby-proofed nor appropriate for children younger than 3-years-old, due to small items featured in the exhibits and activities.

FAMILY FUN: HABITATS & ADAPTATIONS

Fri. and Sat., Mar. 15 and Mar. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. Learn about different habitats both here and around the world, and how animals have adapted to survive in even the harshest environments. Explore self-paced interactive games, crafts, and activities for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

MEET THE AMERICAN KESTRAL

Sat., Mar. 16 and Sat., Apr. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. The American kestrel is one of North America's smallest birds of prey. An expert hunter, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess to catch its prey. The program will take place inside the Visitor Center.

LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

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

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Our next meeting will be Wed., Mar. 13 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. A short business meeting will be followed by a speaker and actress portraying Rosie the Riveter, in celebration of Women's History Month. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

• **Please note our inclement weather policy:** Our meetings and Bingo follow the P. G. Co. school policies. If the schools are delayed by 2 hours or are closed, then we will not have meetings or Bingo on those days.

• **Every Tuesday Bingo:** 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.

• **Monthly luncheons** resume this month, with **advance reservations required** (a minimum of two weeks in advance is recommended). Contact the LSFC office to check on availability.

• **Save the Date:** Our Apr. 10 meeting will include a Magic Show by Eric Henning.

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., Mar. 21 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. **Our inclement weather policy: If P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet.** The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2024. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

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

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB
Meets every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Volunteers provide homework help for 1st graders through 6th graders. Please register online at <https://ww1.pgcmis.info/events>.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Mar. 9 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build your child's confidence as they read to specially trained therapy dogs. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 15 minutes. First come, first served.

STEM-TASTIC: CRAFT STICK LAUNCHER

Thur., Mar. 21 at 4 p.m. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Acompañenos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y la matemática. Ages 8 – 12.

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY-2-READ STORYTIME
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

CALENDAR
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I typically try to stay away from politics, but recent developments in Nigeria, my country of birth, have pushed me to write in this issue. Corruption and bad leadership at various levels, has created hardship and hunger in Nigeria, a country blessed with bountiful resources --- oil, gas and minerals. Pockets of protests have begun to emerge in different parts of the country, and sadly, the political class appears to either be disconnected from the reality on the ground or they just do not care and feel things will sort themselves out. The rate of exchange is climbing daily, I hate to imagine how the average person on the street is eating and even able to get to work. Salaries are not moving upward. I do not want to say anything that may amount to treason, but like a seed planted in the ground, factors that facilitate the germination of the seed are prevalent. The seed of social unrest is slowly brewing and when people are hungry, common sense evaporates and crazy things take charge.

In 1994, I witnessed part of the general strike in the country when for a few months, the country was at a standstill, due to a nation-wide strike, to frustrate the then Military Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida, out of power. I had to struggle to eat, not because I was broke, but because everything had shut down. Markets and stores closed, no electricity, no water, banks on strike, government workers on strike, virtually no public transportation – and one had to survive. I had days of waking up, not knowing what I was going to eat. Oh, and my situation was far better than that of others. Now in 2024, the situation has grown worse. Nigerians are highly educated people, running a lot of key global entities but yet where it matters most, at home, there is trouble in the land. The government is appealing to people for



patience. People have been patient long enough. How does a father face his children in the morning when they tell him they are hungry? And there is no food as his income cannot keep pace with the rising prices of goods and services. The few who have jobs may not get salaries paid on time, as the company has its challenges to stay afloat and generate revenue.

I do not have any solutions or possible answers, other than to say those who chose to run for office and get elected need to step up and take care of the people. How can you sleep at night knowing those who put you there are hungry? Have no water or electricity? Can't access good healthcare... etc.

Hopefully Nigerians in the diaspora will speak out more and draw global attention to the hunger and insecurity in the land. A crisis in Nigeria will have huge global implications. We do not want to wait till then to start acting to fix it. If your dog plays in mud outside, you do not wait for him to come inside and place muddy paws all over the house and now you have to clean a lot more than you want. Had you cleaned his paws at the door, it would have been easier.

Life is indeed very interesting. Last weekend, I had a ride share

passenger I picked up from Amazon after his shift. He got in the car for a 5-mile ride and after we exchanged pleasantries, I asked him where he was from, as I tried to place his accent. Narrowed it down to Ghana and then he said he lived in Nigeria for a while. He asked me if I knew Fela Kuti – to which I said yes, I know of him and his music. He then told me he was the bass guitar player for the band in the mid 80's to some point in the 90's. I then recounted an incident I had with Fela's band, and he was speechless. It was 1984. We were flying back to Nigeria from JFK Airport on Nigeria Airways, after a summer vacation. Mid-flight, across the Atlantic, a big fight broke out on board between the band members. I told him I remembered the incident, 40 years later. He was on the same flight. He was stunned as he knew I was speaking the truth. Folks, the world is small. You never know who you will run into or who you will meet.

Well, I will end this piece here and leave you to go back to what you were doing. Pray for Nigeria and other nations where there is turmoil caused by selfish greed.

PREVENTION

continued from page 7

cially for kids who usually enjoy hanging out with friends or participating in activities, can signal serious difficulties.

“Your goal should be to create a safe space where your child can trust you to listen and express concern without judgment or blame,” Dr. Lee said.

If your child says something like “I want to die” or “I don't care anymore,” some suggested responses are:

- “I'm sorry you are feeling this way—can you share a bit more?”
- “It sounds like you're in tremendous pain and you can't see a way out.”
- “Maybe you're wondering how life got this complicated

- and difficult.”
- “Right now, you're not sure of the answers to the problems you're facing.”
 - “You must really, really be hurting inside to consider ending your life.”

Common causes of stress that increase the risk of suicide include major life-changing events, including the loss of a loved one to death, divorce, deployment or incarceration. Bullying, discrimination, racism and stigma surrounding mental health or suicide can also increase risks. Children who have witnessed or are suffering violence or domestic abuse, engage in self-harming behavior or experienced a suicide in their school or friend group are also at

PREVENTION
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Community Easter Egg Hunt at First Baptist Church of Beltsville

There will be a community easter egg hunt at the First Baptist Church of Beltsville (4700 Odell Road, Beltsville, MD 20705) on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. for children ages 2-12. Join them for games, refreshments and lots of fun as they celebrate the real reason for Easter: Jesus! Bring a basket for the eggs and they hope to see you there!

Beltsville News
CHURCH DIRECTORY


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 Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
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 Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier
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 Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 11:00am;
 Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am
 *The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

Daryl Davis
 & *Patsy Stephens*
 ... *Kissin' Cousins*
Saturday, March 23, 2024
8:00 pm to 11:00 pm
“Country meets THE BLUES”
 \$20 admission - CASH ONLY (exact change would be helpful)
 Open to the public (doors open at 7:00 pm) Food & Drink available for purchase
 American Legion Post 217 • 9218 Baltimore Avenue (Route 1)
 College Park, MD 20740 • 301-441-2783

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

CALENDAR

continued from page 16

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MOVIE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: *BARBIE*

Wed., Mar. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
In celebration of Women's History Month, join us for a showing of Greta Gerwig's box office hit *Barbie*. A discussion on the film's themes of women's societal roles and identities will follow. Refreshments will be provided.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Mar. 11 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Join us for Needlework Social where you can bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

BEGINNER'S ENGLISH CLASS

Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This club is for Beginner level English-language learners. ¿Estas aprendiendo inglés y te gustaría practicar el idioma? ¡Esta clase es para estudiantes de inglés de nivel principiante listos para aprender en persona!

Meetings scheduled for this month are:
1) Wed., Mar. 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
2) Fri., Mar. 15 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
3) Wed., Mar. 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
4) Wed., Mar. 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
5) Fri., Mar. 29 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

PREVENTION

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higher risk of suicide.

Research has shown there are protective factors that help reduce the risk of suicide, including ready access to health care. Maintaining close connections to family, friends and one's community is also important.

Parents and guardians should limit access to lethal means, such as removing firearms and locking up medications or other potential poisons or weapons in the home. Half of youth suicides occur with firearms—and suicide attempts with firearms are almost always fatal. Teens and adolescents who attempt suicide with a firearm almost always use a gun found in their house, studies find.

"Suicide is often impulsive and a moment of crisis can escalate quickly," Dr. Lee said. "If your child is considering suicide, call or text 988 or chat on 988lifeline.org right away. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources."

For more information, visit HealthyChildren.org.

As children grow and become more independent, it can be more challenging to know what they are thinking and feeling. However, if you see signs that your child's mental health is under threat, it's important to tune in and take action.



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First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

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Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

Easter Activities & Worship Services



Community Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 23
10:00–11:30 a.m.
For children ages 2 – 12 years



Maunder Thursday Worship/Lord's Supper Service
March 28, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 31
6:30 a.m. • Sunrise Service
*9:45 a.m. • Bible Study (for all ages)
*11:00 a.m. • Worship Service
**Childcare available for children up to 3 years old*

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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

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FIRE DEPT.

continued from page 1

was brought to her attention in December of 2023 and that a week later an inspection was done, and the building was deemed unsafe. But, strangely enough, they weren't going to move people for another two months. Something smelled fishy, and it wasn't the supposed diesel fumes that were flooding the building, making it uninhabitable for career personnel.

After the January 24 meeting, a process to get to the bottom of the surprising attempt to remove firefighters from our local station began. It culminated in a meeting three weeks later where Beltsville received an early Valentine's Day gift: the career firefighters would remain at the Beltsville Station!

The number one reason we were able to push back on Chief Green's plan was because of you, our readers, who saw our pleas for help on social media and reached out to your representatives as well as Chief Green and her boss, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. Without that ground level support, the outcome could have been very different.

Reason number two was our core group of community leaders who left no stone unturned and no media outlet alone. They were able to gather information that showed

that Chief Green and her team were drastically exaggerating the issues at Station 831 in Beltsville. Station 831 on Prince George's Avenue is an older building that does need repairs, but it isn't uninhabitable. We learned that an insurance inspection had taken place in October of 2023, approximately two months before the complaint, and that there were no critical issues found. Also, we saw a summary of the county inspection report as well as the fire department's response to all of the issues in the report. They showed that while there were some needs that warranted repair, the majority of what Chief Green's office was claiming was at best exaggerated, or at worst, completely false. We were also able to find years of capital improvement plans where Beltsville Station 831 wasn't included in any of these over a number of years. Also, we were able to get a look at the capital improvement plan for 2024, and Beltsville wasn't on it at all.

The third and final reason we were able to get the fire chief to change course was a media campaign. Community leaders contacted local news outlets including NBC4, WJLA7, Fox5, WTOP, DCNewsNow, and others and asked for media coverage highlighting this attempt by the county to remove our firefighters. Most of the cover-

age did not paint the Fire Chief's office in a good light. We pointed out the discrepancies between the insurance report and Chief Green's report, the lack of Beltsville being included in repairs for years, and the total absence of Beltsville on this year's improvement plan. Something wasn't adding up, and we hammered that point home.

So, where are we now? At the February 13th meeting, we were informed that the plan for Beltsville was now to install temporary trailers for our career staff to work out of while repairs were made to the building. We were told that the firefighters would not be moved at all and would remain on-site 24/7. There needs to be some assessments done to see what repairs are needed, and that should take approximately six weeks. We won this battle, but it isn't over yet. Until we see the results from the last meeting, we will be keeping a close eye on Chief Green and her department. We will make sure that all that has been stated will happen and that our firefighters get the support that they deserve. I have spoken to many of you over these last few weeks and heard stories about how the firefighters helped you and loved ones through accidents, deaths, emergencies, and more. It is obvious that Beltsville Supports Its Firefighters!

CUB PACK 1031

continued from page 1

hickory nuts, sweetgum balls and buds) The Arrow Scouts went to a family member's brother's house and cleared the Sweet Gum balls from his walk and front yard to help keep him safe. They also learned how he adapted to becoming blind as part of their Aware and Care pin.

We will be celebrating our 58th Anniversary of Cub Pack 1031 next Monday with a Blue and

Gold dinner.

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

SCOUTS

continued from page 1

"A good scout fundraiser supports the community, makes a decent profit, and leaves the Scouts worn out from a hard day's work. The mulch deliver fundraiser does all three." Proceeds help fund Troop activities like camping, rock climbing and white-water rafting

and individual Scouts earn "Scout bucks" that they can use to pay for summer camp or uniforms. So, keep an eye out for your flyer either in the U.S. mail (if you have previously ordered) or hand delivered to your door by a member of Troop 1033. Orders are due March 23rd and Delivery is Saturday, April 6th.

KITTY POST

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more social and emotional bonding behaviors. Recognizing facial signals can also be helpful in recognizing signs of tension and in mediating conflicts.

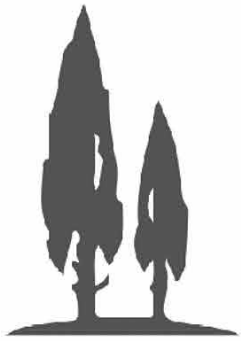
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provide quality care for their pets. We would like to acknowledge all those people who knowingly take on the responsibilities associated with pets that have special social, emotional or health concerns. As Sigmund Freud said, "Time spent with cats is never wasted."

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