

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 74, Number 3

Beltsville, Maryland

March 2026

Sixty-Three Years of Scouting and Service in Beltsville

By Rick Bergmann

February 8, 1910, marked a landmark moment in American history with the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. For 116 years, Scouting has served as a lifeline for young people and families in communities across the country. For 63 of those years, Troop 1033 has been an active presence in the Beltsville community and a valued community partner of Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane.

Troop 1033 is currently led by Scoutmaster Jennifer Kresge, a longtime member of Emmanuel and the Beltsville community. On February 8, 2026, Mrs. Kresge, along with the scouts and parents



Members of Scout Troop 1033 celebrating Scout Sunday on February 8 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. Photo by Cale Fuller

of Troop 1033, celebrated Scout Sunday at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. The troop opened the worship service by presenting the flags and colors and leading the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the opening, Mrs. Kresge spoke to the congregation about the enduring importance of Scouting. She reminded attendees that even after more than a century, the mission of Scouting remains unchanged: preparing young people for life “by building character, fostering citizenship, and developing leadership and life skills.” Through Scouting, many young people

SCOUTING

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NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

March 18

Paper Out:

March 27

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

News You Can Use
By Karen M. Coakley

We are moving forward toward a new High Point High School!! High Point High is the oldest high school in the county that has never been replaced. Over the years, there have been additions and some renovations. High Point opened in 1954 and was named for its location as the highest point in Prince George’s County. High Point will be replaced with a new, state-of-the-art 423,000-square-foot facility on the current site. Designed to accommodate 2,600 students, the new school will address overcrowding and provide modern learning environments that support 21st-century instruction. The project includes updated core spaces, enhanced safety features, energy-efficient systems, and dedicated areas for career and technical education. Once complete, the new building will expand access to high-quality educational opportunities for students in the northern area of the county.

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 2



Marcellous B. Taylor, Sr. - A Living Landmark of Vansville

By Cheryl Gresham

Almost 10 years ago, to the exact day of the January 2026 ice storm, long before any county trucks arrived, and while the neighbors in Vansville, Maryland were caught inside their homes due to the Blizzard of 2016, the familiar whir of the blue tractor owned by neighbor Marcellous B. Taylor, Sr. could be heard navigating its way up and down the streets of Old Baltimore Pike, Cordwall Drive, and parts of Odell Road. Both

newer homeowners and longer residents came to their doors, making their outside to greet Mr. Taylor as he worked to clear the streets and driveways of his neighborhood. Now at 87 years old, sitting in his favorite living room chair, in the home he and his late wife, Shirley Taylor purchased in 1967, Taylor gazed outside his window. As the snow and ice began to accumulate, he reminisced about that



Marcellous B. Taylor, Sr., “The Professor” - Once a Marine, Always a Marine

TAYLOR

continues on page 10

A Laurel homeowner’s quick response and the power of community connections helped reunite a 74-year-old man suffering from dementia with his family after he was found wandering alone in freezing temperatures.

When a Neighbor Needed Help, Laurel Answered

By Mike Mondy

On February 12th, during freezing temperatures, a West Laurel homeowner opened his door to find an elderly man standing alone in his driveway. The man appeared confused and unable to speak. He was wearing only on shoe and had no socks, gloves, or identification, which immediately raised concern given the dangerous cold.

The homeowner didn’t hesitate. He helped the man get warm,

NEIGHBOR

continues on page 14



Photo: Oscar Gregory

The photo is from the January 17 vigil on Route 1, which reflected on local and national incidents, honored those impacted, and stood in solidarity with families and individuals harmed by these actions.

Beltsville United to Host Saturday, March 28 “No Kings” Demonstration in Calverton

By Aliki Nicholas, Beltsville Resident and Educator

Beltsville residents will once again gather in peaceful solidarity on Saturday, March 28, 2026,

from 11AM to 1PM, as part of the nationwide “No Kings” movement.

The local demonstration will take place at Beltsville Drive and Powder Mill Road, near McDon-

ald’s, offering community members a visible and accessible space to stand together in support of

NO KINGS

continues on page 6

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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of March 2001)

Choristers Guild Festival 2001

By Kathryn Griffin

Emma McNealy and Stephanie Ladd, members of the youth choir at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Beltsville, participated in the festival 2001 sponsored by the Choristers Guild, an international organization of elementary and youth church choir

directors. Ninety-five high school students from area churches gathered on February 25 at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, with their guest conductor, Michael Jochen, and presented an inspirational worship service of music and scripture which they presented to family and friends. Congratulations to Stephanie and Emma for a beautiful musical presentation.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

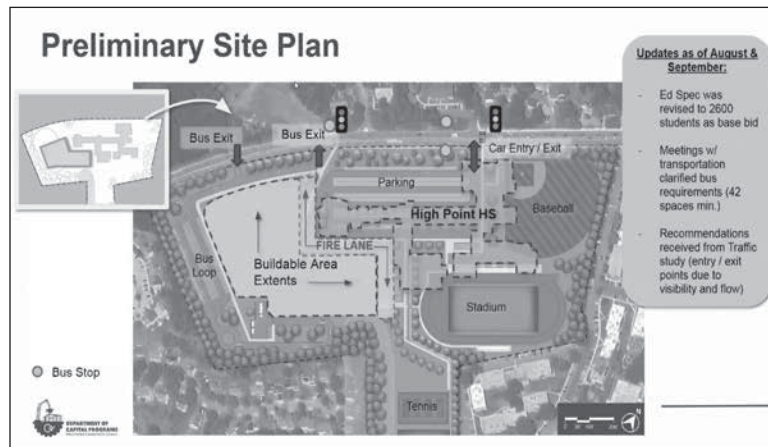
The new school will be built on the existing track and football field. Construction avoids the existing structure altogether. Students will remain at the current High Point while the new school is built.

Specialty spaces will include an auditorium, gymnasium, AFJROTC suite, CTE programs, cafeteria courtyard, media center, visual arts suite, and a performing arts suite. Academic spaces will include core classrooms, ELD classrooms, science labs, computer labs, tech labs, small-group instruction rooms, collaboration spaces, and outdoor learning spaces.

Timeline:

January 2026 — Schematic design submitted to PGCPS

July 2026 (Projected) — Design development submission to PGCPS



The preliminary site plan for the new High Point High School

March 2027 (Projected) — Construction document submission to PGCPS

April 2028 (Projected) — Construction manager bid award
June 2028 (Projected) — Start of construction

August 2031 (Projected) — Building occupancy
August 2031 (Projected) —

Demolition of existing school and site work

August 2032 (Projected) — Final completion

I hope and pray that we stay on track moving forward and that nothing happens to the money in the budget for construction. I graduated from High Point in 1975, and I have been lobbying for a new or renovated school for over twenty-five years. When the project is fully completed — new school and new outdoor athletic field — in 2032, I will be 75. I cannot wait to see this project completed. The children in our community deserve a new, state-of-the-art school!

Several years ago, when I was talking to a dear friend, otherwise known as "my son," I was expressing my frustration about High Point constantly being pushed back. I made a comment that I hoped to still be here to see the new school open. My son's response was "Karen, I have no doubt that if the politicians create any more roadblocks, you will come back and haunt all of them until there is a new High Point."

I hope I do not have to resort to hauntings!

You can view the project overview at <https://www.pgcps.org/offices/capital-programs/projects/high-point>.

FYI, coming right behind High Point's construction is a new North County High School in Adelphi, which will pull students from Northwestern and High Point. This school will also accommodate 2,600 students.

If you would like to see more details on layout, etc., send an email request to karenmcoakley@gmail.com.

May love connect us, faith direct us, and God protect us. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANVILLE DISTRICT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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

Advertising:

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

Subscriptions:

One year is \$20. Send check to Beltsville News, 11722 Emack Road, Beltsville MD 20705

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Circulation

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

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Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com



BCC's Snow Trouble and a Paint-and-Pet Event!

Wow! I don't know about you, but I have never experienced the type of snow/ice storm we experienced in the region on January 25th. The thick, hard-as-rock sheets of ice burying the snow underneath were an absolute bear to shovel. The storm received nicknames like "The Great Glaze of 2026" and "The Complete Sleet Show". And after the storm ended, it seemed like the below-freezing, chilling-to-the-bone cold would never end.



In addition to the worry about caring for our families and neighbors, Beltsville Community Cats' Feral Colony Team was very anxious. The text chains on our phones, which communicate about every one of our 20 community cat colonies, were buzzing. We were deeply concerned about the cats- would they make it through this weather? The Team was constantly coordinating about who could actually get out of their neighborhood to feed our community cats each day. The cats and all the animals out there in the cold either needed to have extra fat storage to make it through the killing temperatures or they needed to eat a meal every day.

The BCC Feral Colony Team is an awesome and stalwart crew absolutely dedicated to the colony cats. We love and deeply care for our ferals, some of which are friendly and greet us and others who we love from afar. Despite slippery road conditions and unyielding ice, every colony got at least one meal a day throughout the cold spell! Paths to the colonies were shoveled with great care. Snow and ice were brushed out of the cats' feeding areas. Frozen water bowls were emptied

each day and refreshed with warm water. But we were all collectively holding our breath. Would our community cats, like Sandy and Snaggletooth and Sweet Pea, make it? Was what we were doing as a team enough to help them survive? Would all of the Autumn preparations and repairs we made to the cats' shelters pay off and allow the cats a safe place to hide from the weather? This truly was a nail-biting situation with life-or-death consequences.

As the cold spell abated, the team all looked eagerly to see if every cat showed up. If they made it through. If what we did was enough. And one by one, all of the cats showed their faces. They survived. All 100+ of them.

I could not be prouder to be a part of BCC's Feral Colony Team. The members are phenomenal- deeply devoted, incredibly kind and also so much fun to be around. And because of the Team's preparation and efforts, the cats made it. They made it through. And now we all can breathe again.

Paint and Pet Event!

BCC is offering a fun Paint-and-Pet event for all ages on Sunday, March 29th. Participants will create a cat-themed canvas painting and also be able to pet adorable cats and kittens (available for adoption) at the same time! There are two session times to choose from: a 1pm-2pm session and a 3pm-4pm session. The event is held at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church (thank you EUMC)! The address is 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Please sign up by Sunday, March 22nd for the Paint-and-Pet event either by emailing hello@beltsvillecats.net or calling 240-444-8353. Whichever way you sign up, please leave your name, phone number (in case of inclement weather), email address and number of participants attending. We are asking for a donation of \$7 per participant (at the time of the event). We look forward to seeing you on March 29th!



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Spring cleaning

Spring cleaning isn't just about tidying up—it's an opportunity for senior homeowners to make thoughtful home improvements that enhance comfort, safety, and independence. As winter fades and the weather warms, spring is the ideal time to assess how well your home supports your current lifestyle and make updates that help you enjoy it for years to come.



Start with safety-focused improvements. Simple updates such as installing grab bars in bathrooms, improving lighting in hallways and stairways, and securing loose railings can significantly reduce the risk of falls. Non-slip flooring, walk-in showers, and lever-style door handles are practical upgrades that make everyday tasks easier and safer. These changes don't have to alter the character of your home—they simply make it more supportive and accessible.

Next, consider comfort and energy efficiency. Drafty windows and doors can make rooms uncomfortable and increase energy bills. Replacing or sealing them helps maintain consistent indoor temperatures and reduces strain on heating and cooling systems. Spring is also a great time to schedule HVAC maintenance, clean vents, and ensure air quality is at its best—especially important for seniors who spend more time

indoors.

Maintenance is another key part of seasonal home care. Checking the roof, gutters, siding, and foundation after winter can prevent small issues from becoming costly repairs. Cleaning outdoor walkways, repairing steps, and ensuring driveways are even and well-lit improves safety when entering and leaving the home. These steps help create a worry-free environment while protecting your property's value.

Inside the home, focus on making daily living easier. Updating kitchens with pull-out shelves, easy-grip cabinet handles, and better task lighting can improve usability without requiring a full remodel. Bathrooms can benefit from comfort-height toilets, handheld showerheads, and additional storage within easy reach. Small changes can make a big difference in maintaining independence.

Spring is also a good time to think about future needs. Many

seniors choose to age in place, and proactive improvements can support that goal. Widened doorways, single-level living adjustments, and accessible entryways can make a home more adaptable over time. Planning ahead allows updates to be completed gradually and affordably rather than during an urgent situation.

Outdoor spaces shouldn't be overlooked. Refreshing landscaping, repairing fences, and creating easy-to-maintain gardens can make the exterior of the home both beautiful and manageable. Adding seating areas, handrails, or improved lighting can make outdoor spaces more enjoyable and safer to navigate.

Spring home improvements don't need to be overwhelming. Focus on a few meaningful updates that increase safety, comfort, and peace of mind. Whether it's replacing worn fixtures, improving accessibility, or handling preventative maintenance, every step contributes to a home that better supports your lifestyle.

Ultimately, spring is a season of renewal—and your home should evolve with you. By investing in practical improvements now, senior homeowners can create a space that feels secure, comfortable, and ready for the years ahead while maintaining independence and quality of life.



Local scouts and families celebrating Scout Sunday

Local Beltsville Scouts Celebrate Scout Sunday!

By Regina Halper

At two churches here in Beltsville, Scouting America scouts celebrated Scout Sunday.

On February 8, the Scouts BSA celebrated at Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

On February 15, the Scouting America Scouts participated in Scout Sunday at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church here in Beltsville.

Three scouts from Pack 740 received their Religious Medals. Congratulations to them!

Those attending from Pack 1031 were Dave Georges P. and his sister, Breanna H., and Sean H. and his family. Two scouts from Troop 1033 also attended. As you can see, Scouting is active here in the Beltsville area. For information on joining Scouts, please visit

BeAScout.org.

Coming up for Pack 1031 is the Blue and Gold Dinner at the end of February and the Pinewood Derby in late March. On Saturday, April 25, we will lead the Anacostia Watershed Earth Day cleanup at the park. Come help us out. Sign-ups will be in March.

Check out our new website: <https://pack1031.org/>. There you can find information on how to join our pack. If you are interested in Cub Scouts at Pack 1031, contact Regina Halper at Pack-1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year, we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings, and in the summer, we meet at least twice a month, mostly in the parks.

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BELTS26

UNDERSTANDING INTERRUPTIONS

If snow and ice can hold us captive in the midst of life
And cause us to be still in wonders beautiful to sight,
Is not it possible that suff'rings have another side?
Could we consider there is meaning precious in all plight?

When drifts and problems are removed do not we turn again
To living like we did before they entered our domain?
Perhaps, there's purpose to these interruptions which occur;
The wise ones would seek God for understanding to be sure.

Behold, what mercies He has hidden throughout life in seed;
His word informs us of the changes of which we're in need.

Before us are Spring rains which water, softening the earth,
Preparing for abundancies replacing Winter's dearth.
As temperatures warm up the air and bring forth buds anew,
May we with hearts of gratitude seek Heaven's point of view.

Beckie Hutchings • 2/10/2026



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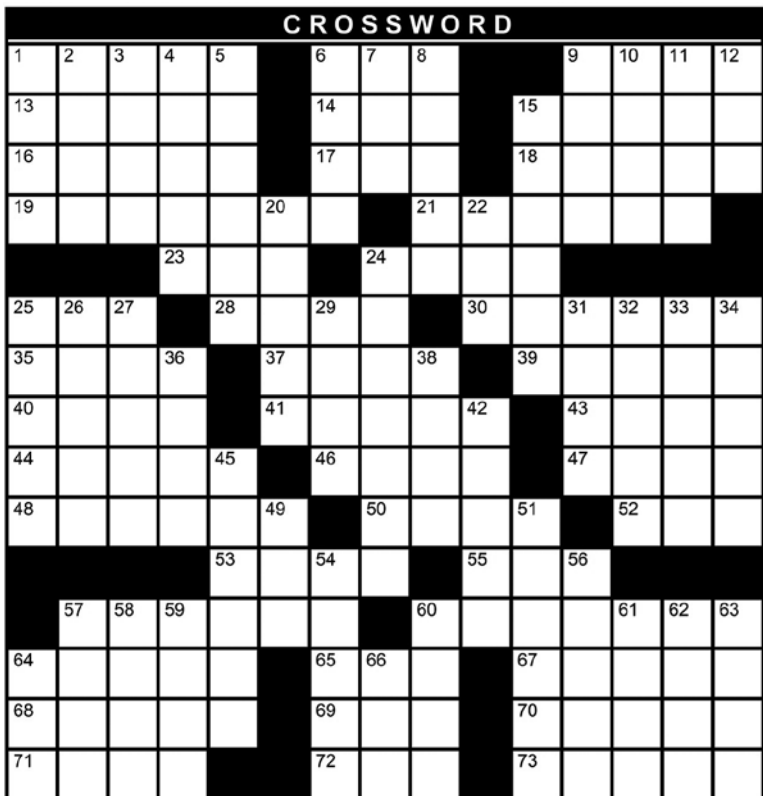
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Statepoint Crossword: The 1990's



ACROSS

- 1. *First cloned mammal
6. Fuel economy acronym
9. Land measure
13. Pascal of "The Mandalorian" fame
14. Second O in EV00
15. a.k.a. sergeant fish or robalo
16. Plant fungus
17. *"Titanic" star
18. *"The ___ Whisperer" (1998)
19. *PepsiCo offering
21. *One of the Walsh twins, 90210
23. Long reef dweller
24. Reach a high
25. Color of passion
28. Agitate
30. Like Matryoshka inside Matryoshka
35. Gave the boot
37. Arab League member
39. One of Florida Keys
40. Summer month
41. Polished diamond surface
43. Safecracker
44. Lazybones
46. Before "saw" and "conquered"
47. Glitch
48. Watercraft
50. Remains repository

- 52. Like some martinis
53. Comfort
55. One in a pod
57. * ___ bubble
60. *The 1990s, a.k.a. post - ___ decade
64. Biblical patriarch
65. Sensitive subject?
67. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.
68. ___ shopping cart
69. Father's progeny
70. Trojan War epic
71. Difficult situation
72. Like jalape o
73. So out it's in

DOWN

- 1. Design detail
2. M nchen mister
3. Jittery
4. Irregularly notched
5. *Harry of Privet Drive
6. Gangster's gal
7. *"American ___" (1999)
8. Geography class prop
9. Any minute, arch.
10. Cut at birth
11. Parks on a bus
12. ___ out a living
15. Israeli monetary unit
20. Remote in manner

- 22. Did a marathon, e.g.
24. Mollify
25. *Assassinated Gandhi
26. Radiate
27. Small wooded hollows
29. *Apple offering
31. Simon does what?
32. Influencer's creation
33. Daytime moth
34. *Snoop ___ Dogg
36. Coloring substances
38. Nautilus' captain
42. Allegro or lento
45. Repeat an echo
49. Pathet ___
51. *Fresh Prince's town
54. * ___ Mouth of "All Star" fame
56. Discombobulate
57. *Jeff Bridges in "The Big Lebowski," with The
58. Made in Vegas
59. Makes lace
60. One-tenth of a dime
61. *" ___ Wait... Don't Tell Me!" on NPR
62. Petri dish gel
63. Do over
64. Fruit spread
66. * ___ Goo Dolls of "Name" fame

See Solution on page 6

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Major issues on 2026 legislative session

Holding down utility rates

Electric and gas rates are too high and rising too fast. Last year, the legislature provided rebates on residential bills and directed the state Public Service Commission to crack down on PEPCO and Washington Gas rates and accelerate the expansion of cost-effective clean energy. But it's not enough. That's why this year Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I are working to make sure energy-guzzling data centers pay their own way.

Protecting Beltsville from ICE abuse

We've all seen what has happened in places like Minneapolis, where fatal and non-fatal shootings involving federal immigration agents have sparked outrage and fear in communities across

the country. In Minneapolis, a U.S. citizen was fatally shot by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in January, an incident that drew national attention and protests, and another person was shot and injured in a separate ICE operation.

Law-abiding, hard-working immigrants should not be snatched from their homes or workplaces, and all residents deserve to feel safe in their neighborhoods. The Delegates have already passed bills to bar masking by agents and limit inappropriate local law enforcement engagement with ICE. We're also working to block ICE from buying or building large detention centers in Maryland.

Making housing more affordable and protecting our communities

The costs of buying or renting a home have gone up dramati-

cally in recent years. There are a variety of causes, including too little construction, particularly for renters and first-time home buyers. The governor has proposed legislation to boost housing production in a variety of ways. Some proposals make sense and some do not. Building in areas with adequate infrastructure — such as at transit stops like the Muirkirk MARC station — makes sense. Undermining local zoning in established single-family home neighborhoods does not. I'm working with my colleagues to strike the right balance.

Contact Me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of help. You can email me at Jrosapepe@yahoo.com or call 410-841-3141.

Car Rally Task Force Dismantles Six Car Rallies; Two Arrests Made

(PIKESVILLE, MD) — Multiple large-scale illegal car rallies were dismantled by the Maryland Car Rally Task Force and partner law enforcement agencies on Sunday in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Howard counties.

The dismantling operation started at 10 p.m. on Sunday, February 1, and focused on planned car meets, known as "Chipeos", taking place on public roads, industrial zones, and parking lots throughout Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Howard counties. High visibility enforcement and patrols were conducted throughout the region, preventing crowds of up to 100 participants from engaging in exhibition driving, disorderly behavior, and roadway shutdowns.

The Task Force responded to the following locations, dismantling six large-scale driving exhibitions:



Jareb Rivera (L) and Reynaldo Prieto Gonzalez (R) were arrested and charged in connection with multiple large-scale illegal car rallies were dismantled by the Maryland Car Rally Task Force.

4301 46th, Bladensburg
9200 Hampton Overlook,
Capitol Heights
11011 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville
8251 Preston Ct., Jessup
4500 Forbes Blvd., Lanham
8299 Preston Court, Jessup

Maryland State Police arrested and charged Jareb Rivera, 22, of Lanham, Maryland, with possession of a loaded handgun in a

vehicle, possession of a handgun in a vehicle, and possession of a handgun without a serial number. He was transported to the Prince George's County Detention Center, where he is waiting to be seen by a district court commissioner.

Troopers additionally arrested Reynaldo Prieto Gonzalez, 22, of Brooklyn, Maryland, for two outstanding warrants, both related to assault in Baltimore City. He was transported to the Prince George's County Detention Center, where he is waiting to be seen by a district court commissioner.

The Maryland Car Rally Task Force is comprised of the Maryland State Police and police departments from Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore counties, Baltimore City, and the Maryland Transportation Authority Police. This collaborative effort remains vital in addressing illegal exhibition driving across designated regions.

NO KINGS

continued from page 1

democratic values, dignity, and civic engagement.

The upcoming protest builds on the momentum of Beltsville's first No Kings gathering last fall, which brought neighbors together in a show of unity and peaceful expression. Following that event, participants also organized a community vigil, prompting many to ask an important question: What happens next?

In response, a new grassroots community group has formed: Beltsville United.

Beltsville United is a private community space for neighbors and allies who live, work, or have ties to Beltsville and the surrounding areas. Created in response to concerns about recent federal actions — including increased presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that has caused fear and instability for some local families — the group provides a respectful forum for conversation, information sharing, and support during uncertain times.

The group affirms a shared commitment to dignity, safety, and justice for all members of

the community. It is intended as a peaceful, values-driven space centered on compassion, thoughtful dialogue, and the well-being of Beltsville families.

Community members who feel aligned with the group's purpose and would like to join may request information by emailing beltsvilleunited@gmail.com.

As March 28 approaches, organizers emphasize that the Calverton gathering will remain peaceful, respectful, and community focused. If previous events are any indication, Beltsville's spirit of togetherness continues to guide the way forward.



We don't want this in Beltsville.

We're a community of immigrants. From Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe. Joseline was born in the Dominican Republic and Jim in Italy. And all our families came from around the world. Demonizing immigrants and their descendants is unAmerican. That's why we're fighting back.

Immigrants who have committed crimes in Maryland should stay in jails here, not be released by the Trump Administration to foreign countries. The vast majority of immigrants in Beltsville are hardworking and law abiding families. **They are our friends, not our enemies.**

- NO support for ICE body snatches
- NO detention facilities in Maryland
- NO masks to protect people who are traumatizing our neighbors

They're fighting for us.



BY AUTHORITY, TEAM 21 SLATE

21st District Democratic Team

Rosapepe

Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Ben Barnes
Mary Lehman

E-mail us at 21st.campaign.director@gmail.com, call us at (410) 841-3502, or visit our website, 21stdistrictdelegation.com.

Neighbors in the News

Beltsville Boy Scout Troop 1033 Announces 39th Annual Spring Mulch and Garden Fundraiser

Beltsville's own Boy Scout Troop 1033 is continuing a proud local tradition with its 39th Annual Spring Lawn and Garden Products Fundraiser, offering residents an easy way to prepare their yards for spring while supporting the Scouts who live and serve in their community.

Orders are now being accepted through Saturday, March 14, 2026, with delivery scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026. The fundraiser features a variety of popular lawn and garden products, including hardwood mulch, cedar mulch, pine bark, compost, and soil blends—just in time for spring planting and landscaping.

What makes this fundraiser especially convenient is the Scouts' door-to-door delivery service. Troop members and volunteers will deliver orders directly to homes through-

out Beltsville and Calverton, placing materials wherever customers request. Residents outside the delivery area can pick up their orders at Emanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane on delivery day.

Funds raised support the local troop's programs and activities through the Boy Scouts of America, including summer camp and year-round outdoor adventures such as camping, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and climbing. Troop leaders note that summer camp is often one of the most meaningful and memorable experiences in a Scout's journey, helping build confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships.

In addition to supporting local youth, residents receive quality products at competitive prices. Approximately 33 percent of each pur-

chase qualifies as a tax-deductible contribution, with the deductible amount noted on the customer's receipt.

The fundraiser is organized entirely by volunteers and Scouts, reflecting Beltsville's strong spirit of community support and service.

Residents interested in ordering or viewing the full product list can visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bsa1033mulch>. Orders must be received by March 14 to ensure delivery on March 28.

For more information, contact Jonathan P. Szczepanski at 301-332-8224.

By participating, Beltsville residents not only prepare their lawns for the season but also invest in the development and future of local Scouts—helping continue a tradition that has benefited the community for nearly four decades.

Obituaries

Faris, Doris Jean

Doris Jean (Jeanne) Faris, a long-time Beltsville resident, passed away on February 3, 2026, after a long illness. She was born in Washington, D.C. on December 30, 1941, to Eleanor V. (Stark) and William F. Falvey. She spent her elementary years attending school in Washington D.C. and spending her high school years in Prince Georges County, Maryland attending High Point High School.

She is survived by her brother, John Edgar (Eddie) Faris, two daughters, Deborah Matte (Tom) and Lisa Dubis (Joe), a granddaughter, Katrina Baker, and a great-grandson Kaleb Keys. She also leaves her longtime partner Charles Brown of Beltsville.

In addition to being a homemaker, Jean was employed for many years at the Sears store in White Oak, Maryland. Working on both the Sales floor, as well as in Customer Service. She ended her career as Manager of the Sears Installation Department where she enjoyed working closely with both customers and contractors to ensure that Home Improvements



Doris Jean (Jeanne) Faris

were done with the highest quality. Her knowledge of the Home Improvement Trades was valued by both the customers and the contractors.

After retiring from Sears, she put her "Da" hat on for her granddaughter, becoming the daycare giver. From the time Katrina was a baby until she finished high school, "Da", as she was called by Katrina, cared for her granddaughter, including taking her to and from school and sport practices. She also provided many hours of

volunteer service to the school on behalf of her granddaughter, fulfilling the school's Family Service obligation.

She was very fond of animals including dogs, cats, birds and other wild animals that visited her backyard. Special were her cats, as she adopted and cared for many strays, and kittens over the years. Her indoor cats were a great pleasure of hers; she often had one sleeping on her lap.

She was also an avid fan of the Washington Redskins who delighted in attending many games in person.

Final arrangements are being made by Borgwardt Funeral Home of Beltsville, Md. A memorial service will be held later this spring. The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to the Friends House Nursing and Rehabilitation facility in Sandy Spring, MD, who provided many months of compassion and excellent care. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made to the SPCA or to Meals on Wheels of College Park, MD where she was a volunteer.

City of College Park Announces Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

February 5, 2026 - The City of College Park is proud to announce it has been designated a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, the first time the City has received this recognition. The designation recognizes communities taking meaningful steps to support

safer and more accessible bicycling. "The City has been working to make College Park a more bicycle friendly community with designated bike lanes, miles of interconnected hiker-biker trails, and bicycle friendly events like Bike to Work Day" said Fazlul Kabir, Mayor of College Park,

"We look forward to building this momentum and continuing work toward a safer, more connected transportation network for all."

College Park joins Rockville, Annapolis, Frederick, Ocean

DESIGNATION
continues on page 9

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From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Legislative Updates

As we move into March, things are picking up in Largo and in Annapolis. Last month, I wrote about the Governor's Housing bill (HB 239/SB 36) that would allow a major increase in residential development density and last year's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bill that will become effective later this year. There has been a fair amount of pushback to the Governor's Housing bill, and there are many proposed amendments. Working with our State representatives, I am hopeful that there will be little or no impact to the Beltsville area. The region needs more affordable housing, but I believe that this growth should be targeted to transit stations, as our Comprehensive Plan (Plan 2035) proposes.

I am proposing a bill to place on the November ballot the repeal of the At-Large Council seats. If approved by the voters, this would return the Council to 9 District seats. Because all Council seats, including the At-Large seats, are on the ballot this year, the repeal would take effect for the 2030 election. That is, those who are elected this November will serve a 4-year term, and then the seats would terminate. I spoke out vocally against the At-Large charter amendment in 2016 pushed by special interests and I have yet to see any real value for County residents and those seats cost well over \$1 million annually. I would love to get public support for this bill.

The Council has proposed a flurry of bills and resolutions aimed at protecting County residents from Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

CB-5-2026 would make certain ICE and CBP employees ineligible for future county employment.

CB-6-2026 ("The Community Safe Spaces Act") restricts ICE access to County facilities and prohibits ICE usage of County-owned facilities for surveillance, staging, processing, detention, or vehicle storage.

CB-7-2026 ("The Resident Kidnapping Protection Act") would allow residents observing



The District 1 team thanks and congratulates Daniel Douglas as he embarks on his next life chapter. While on our team, he served as a Constituent Services Specialist. He is now off to Belgium to continue his studies. He is pictured here with J.D. Perkins, President of the Vansville Heights Citizens Association (VHCA).

immigration enforcement activity to call 9-1-1 to request assistance from the Police Department to verify the identity of persons engaged in such activity.

CB-8-2026 prohibits facial coverings for law enforcement that conceal or obscure the face while interacting with the public in the performance of official duties (with exceptions). The bill also requires a law enforcement officer to display the officer's name and identification number issued by the law enforcement agency that they represent without obstruction.

CR-8-2026 urges the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the Prince George's County Board of Education (BOE), the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGMLS), and the Prince George's Community College (PGCC) to prohibit the use of public property under their control for civil immigration enforcement.

CR-9-2026 directs that the County partner with a local non-profit entity to develop a roster of all residents of the County in potential ICE custody.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, March 11, at 6:30 PM, I will host a Community Conversation with Major Saul Serpas, the new Commander at the District VI Police Station in Beltsville. The meeting will be held at

the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD 20707. Come meet the new Commander (and Captain Patrick Devaney) and hear his vision for enhancing public safety and reducing crime.

I will be sponsoring two shredding events this month. The first will be Saturday, March 7, at 9 AM at Montpelier Elementary School, 9200 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708. The second will be Saturday, March 21, at 9 AM at Beltsville Academy, 4300 Wicomico Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Minor Amendment to the Subregion 1 Master Plan

Finally, the Minor Amendment to the Subregion 1 Master Plan has been progressing, and there was a large turnout of interested residents for the Open House on January 21. The Amendment will update development policies for much of the undeveloped land between Beltsville and Laurel. If you could not attend the Open House, the website allows you to view the presentation, overview context boards, and map activities to get caught up. Visit the website at <https://tinyurl.com/Sub1MPA>.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch by emailing us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887.

DESIGNATION

continued from page 8

City and Salisbury as Maryland communities that have earned Bronze-level status. The designation reflects years of coordinated effort to expand trail connections, improve crossings, and strengthen bike routes throughout the City.

Bicycling and walkability safety and accessibility in the City are important issues for our community. In 2023, the City's Mayor and Council created the Bicycle

and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to help in the development of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and policies for College Park. This designation further reflects the City's commitment to its walkers and cyclist community. The City will continue investing in projects that improve bike connections and make biking a more practical option for everyday trips, including commuting, recreation, and accessing local destinations.

The Bicycle Friendly Commu-

nity designation is awarded by the League of American Bicyclists through its Bicycle Friendly America program. The program evaluates communities across the nation on infrastructure, education, encouragement, evaluation, and equity for cyclists. Designations are valid for four years and require renewal to ensure continued improvement and alignment with best practices. College Park's Bronze-level designation is valid through 2029.

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TAYLOR

continued from page 1

1996 snowstorm. He mused about wishing to take his tractor out once again to live out his favorite quote, “Service is the rent we pay to live on this Earth.” He also smiled, acknowledging that his driveway had just been cleared with the help of neighbors who wanted to repay the kindness he had always shown them.

Taylor has been a pillar of the Beltsville / Vansville community for almost 60 years, an elder statesman of sorts. He is the father of six children (one deceased) and was married to Shirley for 64 years. Taylor and Shirley moved their family to the Vansville section of Beltsville with children Marcellous Jr., Marcia, Kevin, and Cheryl. Soon after, Lori and Karam circled out their family. Known affectionately as “The Professor” because he is well versed in so many areas, Taylor may be the longest living resident of his Van Horn Estates community. Some children reared in this community successfully expanded its legacy, many finding notable careers. The Vansville community has supported a Provost and President of the University of Maryland, an Assistant Superintendent of Maryland’s Department of Education, a University Dean, Chancellor, Administrators, educators, community stakeholders, activists, professional athletes, entrepreneurs and professional workers. For his part, Taylor set his own high standard



Marcellous B. Taylor, Sr. working in his neighborhood during the blizzard of 2016.

as a police officer and detective, and later, an entrepreneur, where he successfully built multiple businesses.

Marcellous and Shirley Taylor moved to the Van Horn Estates section of Vansville in 1967. There were several families there who owned large plots, some of whom currently have streets named after them. To this community, the Taylor’s built a home to live amongst the Gaithers, Odells, and Byrds. The Van Horn Estates, located in the Vansville section at the intersection Odell Road and Old Baltimore Pike, is an unincorporated community, started as an area for a stage line and the Van Horn Tavern in 1783. It is marked in the National Historical Marker Database, with a historical roadside

marker, inscribed as the location being a resting place mentioned in writings of the first President of the United States, George Washington. The neighborhood is nestled between the Beltsville Industrial Park and adjacent to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Most residents can still look from their front or backyards and see the sprawling acreage that belongs to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Several years after arriving in Vansville, staying true to his Standardsville, Virginia farming roots, Taylor began to look for additional land to purchase, to create his own family garden. First, renting land from another local Taylor family, he then went on to purchase land on Gross’s Lane, from Lester Gross of the historic Gross’s Beltsville Refuse Service that held the contract for trash pickup throughout Beltsville and surrounding areas. There, Taylor grew vegetables to feed his family and the community. For a while, you could find the family at the corner of Old Baltimore Pike and Muirkirk Road or on Old Muirkirk Road, selling fresh vegetables at a mobile stand. Taylor’s two-acre garden grew the typical farmer’s market items, more than 30 fruit trees, and at one point, was the home to chickens and ducks. Taylor also used this opportunity to teach neighborhood families how to garden and often volunteering to use his farm equipment to create their own backyard dreams. And to his backyard, neighborhood children who were not going to “The Park,” the local MNCPPC Vansville Park, could be found playing in the enormous sand box that would soon become a favorite spot. Adjoining his backyard, the Marcellous family (another family with the same surname) and the Thomas family also grew a variety of fruits and vegetables. Knowledge of raising crops and recipes of homemade dishes were traded back and forth between yards with no fences to impede relationship. Just across the street, the McCleary family produced bountiful harvests and meals as well. This neighborhood exemplified the old adage about enclaves where everyone watched each other’s children, perhaps not

knowing that they would be creating a long-lasting bond that continues to this day.

Over the years, Taylor worked in his backyard (which currently still has multiple fruit trees) completing a variety of projects. In addition to gardening, Taylor could be found with his children, carving fresh beef purchased from the BARC, or working on his house or a neighbor’s house. Once, during another major snowstorm, the neighborhood lost electrical power for days. Taylor fired up the grill and smoker he designed and cooked enough food for his immediate neighbors. In the late 70’s, Taylor began a complete renovation of his split-level foyer house. He designed a brick 2-car garage, front vestibule, and house length patio in the back. Using his skills as a contractor, Taylor completely transformed the look of his home to what it is today. Further, he began to work on the homes of his neighbors, painting exteriors and adding outdoor patio spaces.

Taylor is a proud DAV Marine and he retired from MPD as a detective in the early 1970’s. With a family to feed, he began a journey that defines his life as a true Renaissance Man. He began to educate himself at American University and University of Maryland, earning four degrees. He learned to speak Spanish and Japanese. Before working for himself, Taylor was hired to work as a butcher at the College Park Safeway. He then became a successful entrepreneur, procuring several Arnold Bread routes, first on Capitol Hill, then Georgetown, two in Alexandria, Virginia, and also fitting in a route selling Entenmann’s baked goods in Hagerstown as well. The neighbors delighted in receiving free bread from Taylor. His trucks could be seen leaving his home each morning at 5:00 a.m., with one of his children in tow and likely a neighborhood child as well. It was said that a many neighborhood children got the opportunity to grow up sleeping in bread trays on the way to work with Mr. Taylor. As a business owner, Taylor drove the world-famous thoroughfares of Capitol Hill, meeting and greeting folk from the halls of Congress to the streets of Pennsylvania Ave. No one was a stranger. His motto was to “meet a new friend each day, make a new customer each day.” Soon after, because of his knowledge in the science of cooking, Taylor was hired as a chef at Mike Palm’s Restaurant, called by the Washington Post, “one of Capitol Hill’s best-known restaurants.” As younger children, we recalled going to the restaurant as a family, excited to see that the person actually cooking for the important people of Capitol Hill was our dad, Marcellous Taylor.

In the time that he carved out a living, Taylor and Shirley seemingly wove a culture of academics, history, athletics, and hard work into the DNA of our fam-

ily. We can all recall the times where he would load up his truck, or sporty 2-seater car, taking us to our weekly games with the Beltsville Boys and Girls Club. If it was related to our schooling, both parents emphasized the importance of understanding our history. When bussing came to our African American community in 1971, some of the children of Vansville left our beloved Chestnut Hills Elementary School and went on to attend Bond Mill Elementary School. We were not totally welcomed by everyone at the new school, but Taylor and Shirley, along with the parents of the neighborhood, fought to make our transition equitable and competitive. When we subsequently returned to Beltsville for middle and high school, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School was newly built, and we felt like we were back home. The years at High Point High School arrived and once again, the children of Vansville received the best that Beltsville had to offer. High Point’s Principal at the time, Mr. Tracy, was long remembered as saying, “If it is to be, it is up to me!” Little did anyone in Beltsville know that a child of Vansville, and Marcellous and Shirley Taylor, Dr. Lori Taylor would grow to be a principal at Beltsville’s own and our alma mater, High Point High School.

A favorite season of Taylor’s entrepreneurial life was bringing his children into his business. From working on the bread truck, as his sons and daughters, we learned how to run his business. As a family, we were weekly participants at the D.C. Open Air Farmers Market, where they sold bread and home baked goods. Early in the mornings, three days a week, after dropping off stacks of bread, Taylor made deliveries to the stores, and his wife and children ran the bread stand. In the early 1980’s, due to a health scare, Taylor had to take off for several weeks. One of his daughters, along with Shirley and several neighbors, picked up the helm and ran his routes until he was able to safely return to work. Taylor’s influence on those around him was significant enough that when he retired, he sold a portion of his route to a son of the neighborhood as well to his son-in-law.

Once Taylor retired from the bread business, his work life pivoted to him starting his own contracting business. He began purchasing more land, which eventually led him to building his own four-story rowhouse style apartment building as well as completing several semi-constructed homes. Additionally, using his knowledge with the science of agriculture, Taylor once again pivoted his skillset, and began his landscaping business. He purchased his beloved blue tractor, and set about designing yards, concrete barriers, and teaching others about plants.

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See Solution on page 13

TAYLOR

continues on page 13

Pi-day 2026

Pi-Day, a traditional day to celebrate the number Pi, arrives on March 14th. The date (3-14) corresponds to the first three digits of the number Pi. The number of Pi is an irrational, infinitely non-repeating number, representing the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Pi approximates as 3.14 or better as 355/113 giving us six digits of accuracy as 3.14159. We usually write Pi as the Greek letter Pi π. Type the character Pi on a US Windows keyboard by holding down the Alt-key and entering 227 on the number keys.

Pi-Day is also the traditional day for the Raspberry Pi organization to release new computers and devices for their computers. A lot has happened in the Pi world so I thought I might give some updates.

The Raspberry Pi Foundation

The Raspberry Pi Foundation is a charitable group formed by people from the University of Cambridge in England. The founder felt that making a very inexpensive computer could make them more available for children to learn more about computers. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote computer science education.

The foundation started by creating a computer that sold for \$35. Raspberry Pi Ltd controls engineering, designing and building the hardware, and runs the sales operations. The Foundation owns the majority of Pi Ltd.

The Pi Organizations also supply free software to make the computers useful and help people to learn to use and program the computer. The computers include programming languages like Python, Java, and C++ for example.

The Raspberry Pi Computers

The original Raspberry Pi seems basic compared to the Pi computers available today. With a few notable exceptions, each generation of the Pi computers tends to be two to four times faster than the previous one. The chart below lists the primary pi models, their date when introduced, the current production status, and some notes about major features.

Series Model B	1st Introduced	Status	Notes
Flagship			
Model B 1	Feb. 2012	Discontinued	256/512 MB Ram, LAN
Model B 1+	Spring 2014	Discontinued	512 MB Ram, LAN
Model B 2	Feb. 2015	Discontinued	1 GB RAM, LAN
Model B 3	Feb. 2016	Discontinued	1 GB RAM, LAN+Wifi
Model 3 B+	Pi Day, Mar. 2018	Refreshed	1 GB RAM, LAN+Wifi
Model 4 B	June 2019	Refreshed	1/2/4/8 GB of RAM, LAN+Wifi
Model 5	Sept. 2023	New	1/2/4/8/16 GB of RAM, LAN+Wifi

I have not included the A series or the Compute Modules in these lists.

The newest Model 5 now has a 16GB option for RAM at a current price of \$205. This makes the computer very expensive and is due to the sudden rise in memory costs. It also offers 1 GB and 2 GB Ram configurations at \$45 and \$59 respectively (Microcenter).

Memory costs has also caused the appearance of a 1 GB Ram configuration of the Pi 4.

All Pi's from the Pi 3 model B include 64-bit quad core CPUs. Earlier Pi's were 32 bit. The Model Pi 3, Pi 4 and Pi 5 also include Bluetooth capabilities and two micro-HDMI connectors for connecting two monitors or TVs.

Zero series are smaller than the B series but offer the same computing power as the original Pi B 1. I especially like the Pi Zero series for monitoring tasks. I also have two setup as cameras.

Series Model Zero	1st Introduced	Status	Notes
Pi Zero	Nov, 2015	Current	
Pi Zero W	Feb, 2017	Current	With Wifi + Bluetooth
Pi Zero WH	Jan, 2018	Current	Wifi, BT, and installed headers
Pi Zero 2 W	Oct, 2021	Current	Faster new Quad-core CPU

The big note here is that the new Pi Zero 2 W not only has Wifi and Bluetooth but also adds a new quad core CPU making it faster.

Pi Keyboard series

Raspberry Pi added new, fully configured, desktop computers built into a keyboard and based on the model-5 computer board. The latest model (the 500+) comes with 16 GB of RAM, 256 GB of SSD disk storage, and a new backlit, tactile, mechanical, and keyboard.

The previous model (the 500) less of everything, 8 GB RAM, and SD card slot instead of SSD disk, and a chiclet style keyboard.

The older Pi 400, built on the model 4, provides a complete computer with mouse, keyboard, cable, power supply, and memory card with pre-installed software for \$89. Just plug it into your TV and you

Keyboard Series	1st Introduced	Status	Notes
Pi 400	Nov, 2020	Current	4 GB RAM, Kit \$89
Pi 500	Dec, 2024	Current	8 GB RAM, Kit \$139
Pi 500+	Sep, 2025	Current	16 GB RAM, \$259

Pico Series	1st Introduced	Status	Notes
Pico 1	Jan, 2021	Current	
Pico 2	Aug, 2024	Current	Both ARM and RISC-V cores
Pico 2 W	Nov, 2024	Current	Added wireless

are ready to go. It's even less expensive than your old Commodore 64.

Raspberry Pi branded monitors sell separately for another \$100 for all of these computers.

Pico Series

The Pi Pico series is not a full featured computer but is a micro-controller developed by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Unlike a computer, microcontrollers do not typically support a full operating system. Instead, designed for use in embedded systems, these things might support washing machines or mechanical toys for example.

The Pico series provides affordable devices to use for robotics studies and other embedded types of projects.

TECH SENSE
continues on page 13



MICHELLE GARCIA

DEMOCRAT FOR COUNTY COUNCIL

Michelle Garcia is an experienced public servant and longtime Beltsville resident who has been delivering results for our communities for nearly 20 years. Michelle puts people first because she refuses donations from lobbyists, developers, businesses, or PACs.

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Joseline Peña-Melnyk

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STATE SENATOR

Jim Rosapepe

STATE DELEGATE

Ben Barnes

& MORE

DISTRICT 1 PRIORITIES:

Youth & Senior Wellness

Healthy Environment

Mary Lehman Ben Barnes

An Inclusive Economy

Community Safety

2026 Democratic Primary

MAIL BY **JUNE 20**
MAIL-IN BALLOT

JUNE 23
ELECTION DAY

JUNE 11-18
VOTE EARLY



Learn More
ABOUT OUR CAMPAIGN

MICHELLEJGARCIA.COM

AUTH: FRIENDS OF MICHELLE GARCIA | MARITZA GARCIA, TREASURER

Calendar of Events

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com
 Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and some holidays (double-check with the museum regarding the specific holidays). Special events may have different costs and hours of operation. General admission: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children and Students with ID/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. For special events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

YOUTH AVIATORS: PILOTS MODULE

This module consists of four Saturday sessions: Mar. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. **Participants must be able to commit to all four Saturdays of the program.** Take off into the fundamentals of piloting in this session of the Youth Aviators Program. Participants will explore key topics from the Private Pilot FAA Knowledge Exam through interactive lessons, test their knowledge along the way, and connect with experienced pilots. Students will also get hands-on experience using flight simulators. Cost: FREE. Ages 12 – 18.

WOMEN IN AVIATION TOUR

Two dates: Sat., Mar. 7 and Sun., Mar. 8 from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each day. Discover the vital role women have played in powered flight, beginning with Katharine Wright in 1903. Explore the groundbreaking achievements of female pilots with ties to College Park Airport, and engage in a conversation about the opportunities and challenges women face in aviation careers. Cost: FREE. Ages 8 and up.

STEAM HOUR: WINGS FOR VAL ROBOTICS]

Two dates: Sat., Mar. 28 and Sun., Mar. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day.
 Join our educators at this hands-on activity table where creativity takes flight! Drop in anytime during the hour for a special STEAM Hour to learn the basics of block coding with Ozobots and then test your skills with our air race challenge. Can you plot the fastest course for your bot? No registration is required. Cost: FREE with museum admission. Ages: 6 – 12.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset daily, except Tuesdays when they close at 4 p.m. Regular business

hours for the building are Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Federal holidays.

- **Free admission, parking, exhibits, and programs.**
- **Miles of walking trails.**
- **Great for birdwatching and photography.**
- **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.
- **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS

Invitation to enjoy educational species exhibits, the grounds and trails, bird blind, and pollinator gardens. There is a patio for picnics. Send your questions to Jason at michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

Sunrise to sunset daily, except only until 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. All ages. This is an outdoor self-guided nature-challenge game on the grounds. Download free phone app at home first. Complete challenges and earn a patch. Play: <https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge>.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

10 a.m. to 12 noon (35-minute time slots, on the hour). Free. Ages 3 – 10, w/adult. Crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration.

- **March theme:** Frogs and Toads—Amazing amphibians! Registration is strongly recommended: Call 301.497.5772 during regular business hours. For large groups contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

HOLLINGSWORTH WILDLIFE ART GALLERY

Free. All ages. Open when the building is open. The art gallery is next to the bookstore.

- **March** artist: Amanda Spaid, who specializes in fine art and illustrations.
- **April** artist: Barbara Dahlberg, who specializes in art quilts.

WINGSPAN GAME DAYS

Friday, Mar. 13 and Sat., Mar. 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Ages 12+. No experience needed. Play the award-winning board game and learn more about birds! Use our game or bring yours and sign in at the Front Desk to play.

LAUREL–BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, next to the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387.

Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Wed., Mar. 4 at 10:30 a.m. There will be a short business meeting followed by entertainment from Guitarist and vocalist Bobby Walters. He has performed at the Laurel Farmers Market and at other local venues. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information about the meeting, contact Pary Harris at 240.893.6738.

- The LSFC office is open Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 301.206.3380.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The Wed., Apr. 1 meeting will celebrate our 60th Anniversary. For this reason, **the LSFC requests that April lunch reservations be made during the March meeting**—call the office for details.
- Trips planned for 2026: *Be sure to register early since many trips sell out in advance!*
- Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

NARFE MEETING

Wed., Mar. 4 at 1 p.m. The Laurel Chapter 422 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will have a presentation by our new CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield account consultant Jennifer Malave. On her retirement, we thank our previous FEHBP account manager Julia Wright for her years of service to our chapter. For more information contact Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

ROSIE THE RIVETER ASSOC. MEETING

Sat., Mar. 28 at 11 a.m. Address: First United Methodist Church at 424 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707. The Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association celebrates Women's History Month with a presentation in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker is Susan Horst from the Montgomery County Business and Professional Women. She is also a Past State President of BPW/MD and a member of Laurel ARRA Chapter. Join us to learn about memorable women who impacted American History, especially during World War II. Handicapped accessible. For more information contact Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)]

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Website: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>; online information products are always available. NAL is on X at https://x.com/National_Ag_Lib. The

National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences. See nutrition information for every stage of life at <https://www.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. 19 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. 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 is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Meets every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Volunteers provide homework help for 1st – 6th graders. Please register online at <https://www1.pgcmis.info/events>.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Two dates: Sat., Mar. 14 and Fri., Mar. 20 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Each child will read for 15 minutes to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. First come, first served.

PROGRAM FOR TEENS

TEEN ACTION GROUP (TAG)

Two dates: Mon., Mar. 16 and Mon., Mar. 30 at 4 p.m. Earn community service hours while making a real impact! Join TAG to contribute to your community, meet new friends, and have your voice heard at the library.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 – 3.

LEGOS: BRICKS AND BEYOND

Meets every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Build, create, and explore with legos! With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

KIDS CREATE: SONIA DELAUNAY SPONGE PAINTING

Mon., Mar. 23 at 4 p.m. Have fun making art and crafts while learning new skills. With easy-to-follow steps, kids will create their own unique projects to take home.

STEM-FUN: BASKETBALL TOWER

Thur., Mar. 26 at 4 p.m. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities! Celebrate March Madness by designing and constructing a tower that can support a basketball only using newspaper and masking tape! Ages 8 – 12.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

ENGLISH CLASS: BEGINNER / CLASES BÁSICAS DE INGLÉS

Meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Are you starting your journey to learn English? This class is designed for beginner-level learners who want to practice and improve their skills. Registration is required.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Mar. 9 at 4 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Join us for Needlework Social where you can bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

MOVIE

Sat., Mar. 21 at 1 p.m. Celebrate Women's History with us by viewing a showing of *Fried Green Tomatoes*, rated PG-13. This movie is a comedy-drama that explores the various stories of two women who form an unlikely friendship. Runtime: 2 hrs., 10 mins.]

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Tue., Mar. 23 at 6 p.m. *Understanding Scams and Frauds:* This workshop aims to educate participants about different financial scams and frauds, how to identify them, and how to protect themselves. Participants will acquire practical knowledge that will enhance their financial security and confidence.

NETWORKING AND SOCIAL MIXER

Sat., Mar. 28 at 1p.m. You're invited to join local professionals, entrepreneurs, and aspiring business owners for a networking event where you'll have the opportunity to spotlight your business or area of expertise, make valuable connections, and enjoy light refreshments. Everyone is welcome, so come dressed to impress and ready to connect! **Registration is encouraged.**

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 Albums and 45s from 50s, 60s, 70s
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Club News

Beltsville Young At Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

By the time you read this, I hope all the snow and ice we've had will be just a memory.

We have many new things to add to our meetings this year that I think you'll enjoy. We are offering three new trips (please bring a check to reserve your place), including a five-day excursion to Cape Cod. We will also have a "New to You" table with many gift items for you or a friend, and a hearty game of Bingo where you can win money.

We will continue to offer light refreshments, a 50/50 drawing, and opportunities for you to volunteer during the meeting. Of course, to enjoy all of this, you need to

attend at least once to see if you like us—you will!

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. The business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a singer, speaker, Bingo, or another activity for everyone to enjoy together. We usually finish around noon. Meetings are held at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road.

For more information, call Lois at 301-498-9736. Please leave a message with your phone number, and your call will be returned. We hope to see some new faces in the new year.

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength."

— Corrie ten Boom

TECH SENSE

continued from page 11

The Pico compares favorably with systems like the popular Arduino devices but for less cost making it ideal for students. While these devices do not have a built-in operating system like Linux, they do support programming using languages like C and MicroPython. They include software development environments that make programming easy on these devices.

The Raspberry Pi Foundation designed the chips and made the chips available to others. This allows other companies to develop a number of special boards to address a number of purposes.

Pi Software

Raspberry Pi provides Raspberry Pi OS, customized version Debian Linux based on the current Trixie release. They also provide easy tools to install the operating

system using a Windows, Linux, or Apple computer. You can even use another Raspberry Pi computer to install the OS. Simply copy the Raspberry Pi Imager software onto your computer. Then put an SD card into the computer and follow the easy instructions. The same program works for setting up the Pico development environment as well. Updates are very easy too.

The full installation of the Pi software includes a complete office suit, the Chromium browser, programming tools, games, email clients, and more. All of this is free. If you prefer another operating system, there are many others available to download and install.

Wrap Up

This completes this year's Pi-Day column. I hope you enjoyed it. Hopefully soon, the snow will be gone, and the April flowers will come quickly.

Sudoku Solution from page 10

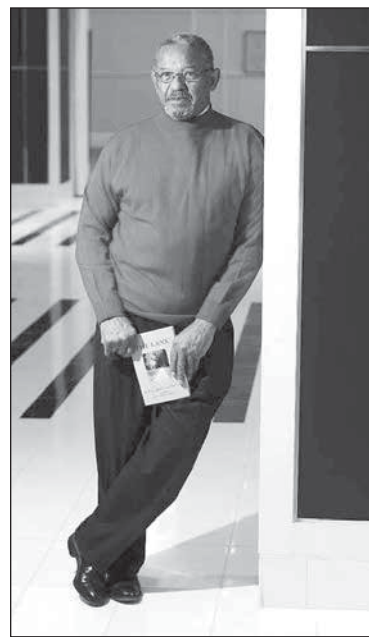
6	5	2	7	8	4	1	9	3
9	7	4	2	1	3	6	5	8
3	8	1	6	9	5	2	4	7
4	9	7	8	5	1	3	2	6
5	1	6	3	7	2	4	8	9
8	2	3	9	4	6	5	7	1
2	4	9	1	3	7	8	6	5
7	3	5	4	6	8	9	1	2
1	6	8	5	2	9	7	3	4

TAYLOR

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When age met the wisdom of years, Taylor picked up his pen and began to write. Life was his muse, and his first book, *The Lane - The Beginning*, was published in 2012. It is a fictional story that closely resembles the life of Taylor. An excerpt from the book states, "the main character is a young boy who was on a journey, struggling to find and understand himself and his relationship to everyone and everything around him. Michael, the young African American boy was, 'born in the early part of the 20th Century in the rural mountains, before the United States of America's entrance in WWII.' This story follows Michael through his trials and tribulations, dealing with issues of race between his best friend, Ronnie, who was white and shared Michael's age. The majority of these conversations, episodes, tragedies, joys, events, take place on, "The Lane", where it all began."

In 2024, Taylor published,



"Returning Down the Lane." In this sequel, the main character, Michael, "Continues to struggle with dichotomies between love and hate, life and death, equality and inequality, causes him to rely even more on his fantastical animal-like, but very real, mentors, who always came to Michael in

times of his greatest need, in times when he suffered the most." In this book, Michael is now older than he was as the main character in *The Lane-The Beginning*." He has a better understanding that while 'things happen', he is still left with pain and confusion about how and why." After publishing both books, Taylor began writing poetry where he has now settled in this latest occupation. Both friends and family have now come to enjoy the emails and texts with Taylor and his sometimes daily inspired poems, detailing the dreams, his wishes, and the years he's spent taking in what the universe has offered him.

Now, as a resident of many years in Vansville, there have been many events to look back upon, some not very fondly, and others, nostalgically. Taylor has seen the burning of the house owned by Hester King, the founder of the first Prince George's County Branch of NAACP, founded in

TAYLOR

continues on page 14

Church News

Easter Egg Hunt at the First Baptist Church of Beltsville

The First Baptist Church of Beltsville will host a Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the church, located at 4700 Odell Road in Beltsville. The event is open to children ages 2-12 and will feature games,

refreshments, and plenty of eggs for participants to collect.

Organizers invite families from throughout the community to attend and celebrate the Easter season together. Children are encouraged to bring a basket for collecting eggs. Church leaders

note that the event is designed to provide a fun, family-friendly opportunity while also highlighting the meaning of Easter.

For additional information, community members may contact the church office at 301-937-7771.

IF IT'S
REAL ESTATE,
IT'S
ROBERTA!!



TAYLOR
PROPERTIES

175 Admiral Cochrane Dr. Suite 112 Annapolis, MD 21401

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\$493,000

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

NEIGHBOR

continued from page 1

provided clothing, and called 911. First responders arrived quickly and transported him to Laurel Hospital, where he was treated for cold-related injuries. At that point, no one knew who he was, and he was temporarily considered a John Doe.

Soon after, details of the situation were shared in Laurel MD Connect, asking if anyone recognized the man or had information that could help identify him. Community members began sharing the post, comparing details, and connecting it to a missing person report that had been released earlier that same day.

Because of those connections, the man was identified as a 74-year-old Laurel resident who suffers from dementia and had wandered away from home. The information was quickly relayed to police, allowing them to connect him with his family and ensure he continued receiving proper care.

There was no drama or debate surrounding this moment, just neighbors paying attention and stepping in when something didn't feel right. In a time when so much online conversation feels divided or unproductive, this was a reminder that community, at its best, is still simple and human.


This story may not travel far beyond Laurel, but it says a lot about who we are here. When someone needs help, people notice, speak up, and show up — and sometimes, that makes all the difference.

TAYLOR

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1935. He himself was at home and witnessed the attempted cross-burning in his own front yard in 1998. He has also seen the growth and development of a new culture in Van Horn Estates. As one of the longest residents of the neighborhood, Taylor reminisces about the friends he has made over the years, many who have passed on. He also smiles when he meets or sees new neighbors who come to greet him. Whether it's the new family who purchased the parsonage home from Historic Queen's Chapel UMC, or neighbors across the street who look in surprise as he speaks to them in their native language. But he is most proud of his next-door neighbor who is also his youngest son. They are connected by more than blood, but a shared backyard and a stake in their shared community.

When Marcellus Taylor, Sr. is not looking out of his back window into his yard or his son's yard, you may find him seated in his driveway, along with his dog, Zee, waving to those who walk or drive by. Taylor welcomes his local neighbors to stop and say hello. Taylor, aka, "The Professor" has a wealth of knowledge to impart, a recipe to share, and a smile to welcome anyone back home to Vansville.





ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
 Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

Join us for meaningful worship, inspiring music, and a warm, welcoming community.

Can't attend in person? Watch our live broadcast at www.eumcbeltsville.com

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

 **Upcoming Events** 

March 6-15: UpStage Artists presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*
 March 18: 7pm UpStage Artists Auditions for *American Son*
 March 21: 10am-2pm The United Women in Faith present *A Call To Prayer and Self Denial*
 March 22: Monthly Potluck following worship
 March 28: 8am-11am Free Food Distribution - all are welcome

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done." ~PROVERBS 19:17

Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor
 (301)937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com
www.eumcbeltsville.com
 Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>
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Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Come and see.

A Mission Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia
 Located in Twin Chimneys Office Park
 10760 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD

Evening Vigil: Sat. 5:00 PM
 Hours & Divine Liturgy: Sun. 9:40 AM

All Services in English


Fr. George Johnson, Rector
 301-572-5738
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org

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



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

Come and Join Us
 Located in the Beltsville Professional Center



St. Joseph Catholic Church
www.stjosephbeltsville.org

Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo
 Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez

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

Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever
 St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org
 Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
 Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am

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

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
 301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
 The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

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

To view services online:
 Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
 Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

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

Our Mission: To Share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.



First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

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

You are welcome to join us for

Easter Activities & Worship Services



Community Easter Egg Hunt
 Saturday, March 28
 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 For children ages 2 – 12 years

Palm Sunday: March 29 *11:00 a.m. worship service

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5
 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 *9:45 a.m. Bible Study (for all ages)
 *11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 *Childcare available for children up to 3 years old



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Recently, we heard about the unfortunate incident in Chesapeake Bay, where a truck went off the bridge into the river, and the driver sadly lost his life. The vehicle in question belonged to Perdue Farms, a company that deals with poultry. May the soul of that gentleman rest in peace.

Normally, I would not comment on this, but what I found very disturbing was the way some folks chose to respond to the news. I was reading comments on some of the blogs and a lot of people chose to make light of the event. A life was lost, but some used this sad situation to make light of the incident. Out of respect to the late driver (whom I don't know), I won't repeat some of what was said. Nothing vulgar, just extreme lack of sensitivity.

Is this how we now value human life? Social media likes? Most of those people will not see this article, but I am hopeful that at some point, there is self-reflection and that we show an element of reverence in times of loss.

As somebody who drives on the road a lot, I understand some of the challenges drivers face. Driving a car is relatively easy. A small truck is an entirely different situation. I am talking about the smaller U-Haul type and above. You have got to deal with cross winds, people cutting you off and more. In 2019, when I left Maryland and relocated to Dallas, I drove the Penske 26-foot truck with my wife's car in tow. Pushing off from Beltsville

that August night, I drove down Powder Mill Road, to New Hampshire Avenue and then onto the highway. For two days, I drove on highways and smaller roads. Top speed was 55 mph and experienced the challenge that truck drivers go through daily. Uneven road surfaces, impatient drivers cutting me off, heavy rain and storms, but the greatest challenge was dealing with driver fatigue set in a few times. My son (then 16 years old) and I drove across the country, seeing interesting places but more importantly accepting the fact that truck drivers have a very challenging time on the roads.

So please, next time you see a truck driver, just remember that they face a tough time on the roads, whether it is local roads or highways.

Now for some exciting news. Since 2025 I have delved deeper into the entertainment scene, working as a publicist for some emerging artistes. I have a reggae artiste, Virgil Hodge and an R & B/ Afrobeats artiste, Nyinee. Virgil is based in the Caribbean and Nyinee is in Nigeria. When it rains it pours, lol. (laugh out loud --- a term used on the internet a lot). Both artistes have new music that is out. **Nyinee has released a new single, Tolotolo**, which talks about a lady choosing to be intentional in her quest for love --- wanting real love and not infatuation-type love. (Tolotolo is a word used by the Yorubas in Western Nigeria to describe a turkey,

which tries to imitate the Peacock that traditionally spreads its wings and shows off its true colors. **Then there is Virgil Hodge, who released a new single, Love Me Right, featuring Dejour.** Let me tell you about Virgil Hodge. She is a former Olympian representing St. Kitts-Nevis. This Adidas-sponsored professional athlete attended Texas Christian University, TCU, where she left a mark that earned her a spot in the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame. She opened for Jennifer Hudson in 2025 at the St. Kitts Music Festival and later in the year, had performances in Canada, Dallas, Houston and Miami. She continues to grow and just as she did in track and field, is rising in the music scene.

Please show your support for my artistes by adding their music to your playlist. It is available on all streaming platforms, and you can see Virgil's performance on YouTube. Thanks in advance. Finally, I also have a soul music artiste, Eva! Bittersuite is based in Maryland and is available for private events and concerts. She also has music on all platforms, including YouTube.

As I wrap this up, I must mention that I was honored to meet Sir Earl Toons, last weekend while covering a music event in Dallas. He is an original member of Kool and the Gang, and he co-wrote two of their songs that most of us dance to a lot, Celebrate and Ladies Night.

That's the Jive.

SCOUTING

continued from page 1

are given opportunities they might not otherwise have.

While Scouting is often associated with outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing, these experiences represent only a small part of the program. Scouts also learn essential life skills, including cooking, first aid, teamwork, and leadership. In addition, they are encouraged to give back to their community through ser-

vice projects, charity drives, Eagle Scout projects, and other outreach efforts. These experiences help young people discover their place within their community and the wider world.

Emmanuel United Methodist Church has been a community partner with Troop 1033 for more than 60 years. In addition to providing meeting space, the church offers ongoing support for the troop's mission. According to Scoutmaster Kresge, Emmanuel is "a community partner that helps to

support our goals of raising young people who are resourceful, honest, responsible, respectful, and positive."

The members of Emmanuel take great pride in their longstanding partnership with Troop 1033. Over the years, the church and the troop have worked together on projects that benefit both organizations and the broader community. They look forward to many more years of shared service, growth, and scouting in Beltsville.

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The Beltsville News**

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Why a Credit Union Is a Smart Partner for Your Financial Planning

Financial planning isn't just about numbers on a spreadsheet. It's about building a life—funding milestones, managing debt wisely, protecting your family, and creating long-term stability. Where you choose to bank plays a powerful role in how effectively you can reach those goals. Choosing a credit union can make a meaningful difference in your financial journey.



The Power of a Member-First Financial Partnership

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives. That means they are owned by their members—not shareholders. Earnings are typically returned to members through lower loan rates, reduced fees, and competitive deposit products.

This structure supports a relationship-based approach to financial planning. Instead of focusing on quarterly profits, credit unions focus on helping members strengthen their financial health over time.

Smarter Rates That Strengthen Your Debt Strategy

One of the biggest barriers to

effective financial planning is high-interest debt. When interest rates are high, more of your payment goes toward finance charges rather than principal reduction.

A promotional 2.99% Visa® Credit Card Balance Transfer can be a powerful strategic tool when used responsibly. Lower rates can help members:

- Reduce interest paid over time
- Accelerate debt payoff
- Consolidate higher-rate balances
- Improve monthly cash flow

When interest costs decrease, your money can work harder for you—whether that means building emergency savings, investing for

retirement, or funding life goals.

Building or Rebuilding Credit with Intention

Strong credit is foundational to effective financial planning. It influences loan approvals, interest rates, housing options, and even insurance premiums.

A Credit Enhancer Loan with Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union —available to members after one year—can serve as a structured, disciplined way to build or strengthen credit. These types of loans typically:

- Establish a positive payment history
- Encourage consistent savings habits

- Demonstrate responsible borrowing behavior

For members working to improve their credit profile, this can be a practical step toward qualifying for better loan terms in the future—whether for a vehicle, mortgage, or other major purchase.

Homeownership can be one of the most powerful wealth-building tools available. Over time, as you pay down your mortgage and property values grow, you build equity.

Home Equity Lending Options can allow members to responsibly tap into that equity for strategic purposes, such as:

- Home improvements that increase property value
- Debt consolidation at potentially lower rates
- Education expenses
- Major life investments

Used wisely, home equity can become part of a broader financial strategy rather than an emergency fallback.

Personalized Financial Guidance That Moves You Forward

Financial planning is not one-size-fits-all. A credit union's relationship-driven model allows for:

- Personalized conversations about your goals
- Education on products and strategies
- A long-term partnership approach

Whether you are focused on eliminating debt, building credit, funding a renovation, or preparing for retirement, having access to the right financial tools, paired with guidance, creates a stronger foundation.

Final Thoughts

Your financial institution should be more than a place to deposit checks or swipe a card. It should be a partner in your financial journey.

A credit union's member-first philosophy, competitive rates, and personalized approach can provide both the tools and the support needed to move from short-term decisions to long-term financial confidence.

Financial planning is about intention—and having the right partner can make all the difference.

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