

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 74, Number 8

Beltsville, Maryland

August 2026

National Night Out Returns to Beltsville on August 4

By Rick Bergmann

Beltsville residents are invited to come together with neighbors, law enforcement, and community organizations during **National Night Out** on **Tuesday, August 4, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Beltsville Library and District VI Police Station, 4319 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD 20705.**

National Night Out is an annual community-building event held across the country to strengthen partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The evening provides an opportunity for residents to meet the officers who patrol their neighborhoods, learn about public safety resources, and enjoy a fun-filled evening with family, friends, and neighbors.

The Beltsville celebration will feature activities for all ages, including community exhibits, demonstrations, children's activities, and opportunities to speak with police officers and representatives from local organizations. The event is designed to foster positive relationships, encourage neighborhood involvement, and promote crime prevention through community engagement.

This year's event will also include a special recognition of two longtime District VI Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) officers, **Corporal Jason Jones** and **Acting Sergeant Keith Hibbert**, who are retiring after years of dedicated service to the Beltsville community. Residents are invited to join in celebrating their careers and thanking them for their commitment to building strong relationships throughout the community.

Admission is free, and everyone is encouraged to attend. Whether you're new to Beltsville or have called the community home for years, National Night Out is a great opportunity to connect with neighbors, meet local first responders, and celebrate the partnerships that help keep Beltsville a safe and welcoming place to live.

Beltsville Resident Launches Griffiths Vocal Studio, Bringing World-Class Vocal Training Online

Peabody Conservatory graduate and Kennedy Center performer now accepting students of all levels

BELTSVILLE, MD — David C. Griffiths, a longtime Beltsville resident and classically trained baritone, has launched Griffiths Vocal Studio (griffithsvocalstudio.com), an online vocal coaching practice serving singers of all ages and skill levels — from teenagers preparing for school musicals to adults pursuing their passion for music.

Griffiths brings more than 30 years of vocal instruction experience to the studio, including a decade of teaching at the university level. He holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University, along with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology. His performance credits include the Kennedy Center and appearances before audiences of more than 70,000. In 2009, he was named Songwriter



David C. Griffiths, founder of Griffiths Vocal Studio, a Beltsville-based online vocal coaching practice.

of the Year by the International Songwriting and Song Association (ISSA), and he has composed over 300 original works.

"I launched Griffiths Vocal Studio because I believe everyone deserves access to excel-

lent vocal training — not just those near a conservatory campus," said Griffiths. "Whether someone is stepping onto a stage for the first time or refining a craft they've practiced for years, I want to meet them where they are and help them grow."

Students work with Griffiths one-on-one through private online lessons and receive access to a members-only community portal featuring instructional resources, automated check-ins, and direct messaging support between sessions. The studio is designed to offer the personalized attention of private instruction with the ongoing accountability of a coaching program.

In addition to his work as a vocal coach, Griffiths serves as Minister of Music at John Wesley

GRIFFITHS
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NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due

No Later Than:

August 19

Paper Out:

August 28

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Beltsville has been blessed with dedicated police officers who have served on the COPS Unit. Cpl. Jones and Cpl. Hibbert are retiring. Please join us at Police National Night Out as we celebrate Cpl. Jones and Cpl. Hibbert as they enter the next chapter in their lives. Police National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4th 6-8 p.m. at the Library/Police Department, 4321 Sellman Road, Beltsville.

Cpl. Jones served as a Patrol Officer in District III from 2006 to 2012, as a COPS Officer in Districts III and VIII from 2012 to 2023, and as a Patrol Officer in District VI from 2023 to 2024. He has served as a COPS Officer in District VI since 2024. Over his 20-year career, he has received several awards, including the Special Achievement Award and the District Commander's Award. Cpl. Jones says one of his most memorable recognitions came in August 2015, when he received a

NEWS YOU CAN USE
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Summertime! Camp Activities and learning about Dinos in Cub Pack 1031

By Regina Halper

This month a couple of scouts from Cub Pack 1031, and Regina Halper, attended Cub Day Camp at Allen Pond in Bowie. This year's theme was **Dinosaurs!** The scouts learned about Dinosaurs, played games, went fishing and hiked to the other side of the park!

On the 27th of June fishing event led by scouts from Troop 214G, most of the scouts caught fish!! We will be at National Night Out and finish the summer with a Rain Gutter Regatta! We are a family unit (boys and girls) of scouts from kindergarten to 5th grade and are interested in joining us — contact me at the email below!

Cub Pack 1031 is also selling Papa Johns Fundraiser cards again this year to earn money to offset our dues. It costs \$240 to pay for a year of scouting. The fundraiser card costs \$15 and \$10 of it goes to the scout. Look for them in your neighborhood or



The Morning Flag ceremony at Cub Day camp Friday, July 17th.

contact me at the email address below and we will get together with you. The cards are good until Sept 30, 2027.

Check out our website: <https://pack1031.org/> There you can find information on how to join our Pack. If you are interested in Cub Scouts at P1031, contact Regina Halper at [Pack1031cub-](mailto:Pack1031cub-scouting@gmail.com)

scouting@gmail.com or BeAScout.org 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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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of August 2001)

Troop 1033 "On the Go"

By Evan Flores

On Memorial Day weekend the Boy Scouts and parents of Troop 1033

went on an adventurous trip to Paw Paw, West Virginia. The Troop planned to canoe down the Potomac River, but the intensive rain that week made the water level too high. Instead, the Scouts hiked up a mountain and through the Paw Paw tunnel. The Troop was lucky that no big rain swept through the area.

Mrs. Nora Painter kindly taught a portion of the physical fitness merit badge, which is needed for

Eagle Scout. In June, it was off to a fun but wet trip to Cape Henlopen on the Delaware shore next to the Cape May-Lewes Ferry. The Scouts enjoyed a wonderful day at the beach with some minor showers. However, on the morning of the 17th, tropical storm Allison graced them with her presence as she pounded the area with heavy winds and rain, leaving some parts flooded. Even with the rain, a good time was had by all.

At the time of this publication, the Scouts will be returning from a week at Camp Goshen, where they worked hard (and played hard) toward completing requirements for merit badges.

Beyond the Headlines: Borgwardt Shares Its Side of the Story

By Jillian Schweitzer,
Community Correspondent

Much has been said, written and even shouted, at times, about the expansion that the Borgwardt funeral home plans to add to their building on Powder Mill Road. While community meetings were held, the owners have not said much beyond what was shared and I wanted to chat and see what the situation looked like from their side.

I got the chance to speak with Donna Borgwardt-Mabry, Donald Borgwardt's daughter and co-owner of the business. I noted that while this has made local news



Borgwardt's Funeral Home

on NBC4 recently (<https://tinyurl.com/bwnbc4>), and much had been

discussed on our town's Facebook page, there were still people in our community who may not have heard their reasons for expansion. She explained that "our community has been asking for it. In the ten years when we were first open, from 1985 to 1995, 90% of funerals were burials. Now cremations make up 52% of our business."

Currently, if a customer would like a cremation for their loved one, the preparation and funeral itself are both done at Borgwardt's but the actual cremation is done through a third party, in Virginia. Borgwardt's has partnered with this company for nearly the entire time they have been open and operating, but since many customers previously have been dismayed that their loved one wouldn't be cared for in one place, and would instead have to be moved, the onsite cremation expansion was planned.

Regarding the health concerns mentioned, Ms. Borgwardt-Mabry stated, unequivocally, "MDE

BORGWARDT
continues on page 3

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300944563420364/>)
and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.
Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com



Is Your Cat Drinking Enough Water?

After euthanizing more than 200 cats over five years, feline internal medicine specialist Dr. Madison Cole shared an important message: dehydration is one of the biggest health risks facing our cats.

Kidney disease is the leading cause of death in cats over seven years of age. About one in three cats will develop kidney disease during their lifetime, and the risk increases dramatically as they age. Sadly, most owners don't realize there's a problem until significant kidney damage has already occurred. Once that damage happens, it can't be reversed—only managed.

Why don't cats drink enough?

Cats are naturally prone to dehydration for several reasons:

- They evolved as desert animals. Wild cats obtained most of their water from prey, so today's cats have a naturally low thirst drive and often don't drink enough, even when fresh water is available.
- They hide illness. Cats instinctively mask discomfort and disease, making dehydration and early kidney disease difficult to detect.
- They can be picky about water. Some cats dislike the taste or smell of certain water sources or refuse to drink from bowls or fountains that aren't kept scrupulously clean.

What can you do?

The best way to support your cat's kidney health is to encourage hydration:

- Provide fresh, clean water every day.
- Wash water bowls and fountains frequently. (Some cats prefer ceramic, stainless steel, or glass bowls over plastic.)
- Offer water in several locations around your home, especially if yours is a multi-cat household.
- Keep water away from litter boxes and, for many cats, away from food bowls.
- Provide moisture-rich canned



or wet food (which is about 75–80% water).

- If your cat eats dry food, consider replacing some meals with wet food or adding a small amount of water or low-sodium, onion- and garlic-free broth to the kibble.
- Schedule regular veterinary checkups, especially once your cat reaches seven years of age.
- Many cats are attracted to moving water. Pet fountains can encourage increased drinking but only if the fountain is cleaned regularly and the filters are changed as recommended.

Recognize Early Signs of Dehydration: Watch for dry or tacky gums, sunken eyes, lethargy, loss of appetite, panting (rare but concerning in cats), and decreased skin elasticity (although this is less reliable in older or overweight cats).

Keep Cats Cool: During hot weather, ensure access to shade and air conditioning or fans when possible. Avoid strenuous play during the hottest parts of the day. Never leave a cat in a parked vehicle.

Monitor Cats at Higher Risk: Some cats are more prone to dehydration. This includes kittens and senior cats, nursing queens, and cats with chronic kidney disease, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, vomiting and/or diarrhea. These cats may need closer monitoring and,

in some cases, veterinary recommendations for supplemental fluids.

Know When to See a Veterinarian: Seek veterinary care promptly if your cat:

- Has repeated vomiting or diarrhea.
- Refuses food or water for more than about 24 hours.
- Appears weak, collapses, or is unusually lethargic.
- Has signs of dehydration that don't improve with drinking.
- Has a chronic illness and seems less hydrated than usual.

Cats can become dehydrated surprisingly quickly, especially when they are ill. Severe dehydration often requires treatment with intravenous or subcutaneous fluids administered by a veterinarian.

For healthy adult cats, the general daily water requirement (from food and drinking combined) is approximately **40–60 mL per kilogram of body weight**. Cats eating mostly canned food obtain much of this water from their diet, while cats eating only dry food need to drink substantially more water to meet their needs. Monitoring your cat's normal drinking, appetite, urination, and activity is one of the best ways to detect problems early.

A little extra attention to your cat's water intake today could help protect their kidneys and improve their quality of life for years to come.

it until you need it." I also asked about other possible expansions and she followed up with "Is the community going to need it?" Similarly, when I mentioned the new green burial practice set up in Silver Spring, human composting, (<https://tinyurl.com/efhcbw>) she replied with the same question. Only time will tell what services the community will need in the years and decades to come.

And since the other Beltsville crematorium is mentioned in this

conversation, I attempted to speak with folks at the Chesapeake Crematory over on Tucker Street, but was unable to get ahold of someone authorized to speak on behalf of the company by press time.

Borgwardt's has been in the community longer than I've been alive and I believe they want the absolute best for their customers. I, along with most of the community, will be waiting to see the next steps coming for the funeral home.



Bonnie Bartel

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BORGWARDT

continued from page 2

[Maryland Department of Education] will not give us a permit unless we meet all the guidelines for safety and air quality."

She said it's often hard to hear about all of what is offered by a funeral home, since when one needs their services, it's often the first time that person has entered a funeral home and it can be overwhelming. "You don't need

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Ask the Expert

BY ANDRE GIBSON,
CHAMPION HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Preparing Your Home for Sale: Home Improvements That Help You Sell Faster and for More Money

When you're preparing to sell your home, first impressions matter. Buyers often decide within minutes whether a property feels like "the one," and a well-maintained home can make a significant difference in both the selling price and the time it spends on the market. Investing in the right home improvements before listing your property can increase curb appeal, build buyer confidence, and help your home stand out in a competitive market. Start with your home's exterior. The outside of your house is the first thing potential buyers see, so make sure it creates a positive impression. Pressure wash siding, walkways, and driveways, clean the gutters, trim shrubs, and add fresh mulch to flower beds. If your roof is showing signs of age or damage, consider having it professionally inspected or repaired. A clean, attractive exterior tells buyers that the home has been well cared for.

Next, pay attention to entryways and outdoor living spaces. A freshly painted front door, updated lighting, and a clean porch can make your home feel more welcoming. If you have a deck, patio, or fence, inspect it for loose boards, peeling paint, or damaged sections. Simple

repairs or a professional cleaning can restore these features and make them more appealing to buyers looking for outdoor entertaining space.

Inside the home, focus on making the space feel bright, clean, and move-in ready. Repair holes in walls, replace damaged trim, touch up paint with neutral colors, and fix leaky faucets or squeaky doors. Buyers often notice small maintenance issues, and taking care of them ahead of time helps create the impression that the home has been properly maintained.

Bathrooms and kitchens are two of the most influential rooms when it comes to resale value. You don't always need a complete renovation to make an impact. Replacing outdated fixtures, installing new hardware, updating lighting, or refinishing cabinets can give these spaces a fresh, modern appearance without the expense of a full remodel.

Energy efficiency is another selling point that today's buyers appreciate. New windows, updated insulation, energy-efficient lighting, and a well-maintained HVAC system can make your home more attractive while helping buyers anticipate lower utility costs.

Finally, don't overlook professional inspections before listing your home. Identifying and addressing roofing, siding, gutter, chimney, or structural concerns before buyers discover them can help prevent delays during negotiations and reduce the likelihood of unexpected repair requests.

Preparing your home for sale doesn't necessarily require major renovations. Strategic improvements, routine maintenance, and attention to detail can significantly improve your home's appearance, increase buyer confidence, and potentially boost its market value.

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Thinking about selling your home? Contact Champion Home Improvements today for a free estimate and let us help you make your home market-ready.

Obituaries

Jolene Marie Goad

It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved Jolene Marie Goad, who left this world unexpectedly on June 23, 2026, at the age of 68. Jolene was born on January 18, 1958, in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she first graced the world with her gentle spirit and bright smile. She was the cherished daughter of Elinor and James Breen, who preceded her in death and whose love she carried with her throughout her life.

Jolene was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, who spent 40 beautiful years married to her soulmate, Jerry Goad, Sr. Together, they built a life filled with laughter, love, and countless cherished memories. Jolene and Jerry's union was blessed with five wonderful children: Teresa, married to Chris; Jerry Jr. (affectionately known as JJ); Laura, married to David; Kevin; and Cheryl. The joy of her family extended further as she became the proud grandmother to 14 adoring grandchildren, each of whom brought immense joy and light into her life.

Jolene's life was a testament to kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to her family. She had a remarkable ability to make everyone feel special, offering a listening ear and gave the best hugs.

Throughout her life, Jolene was known for her boundless energy



Jolene Marie Goad

and zest for life. She loved gardening alongside her husband, Jerry. Her garden was a reflection of her nurturing spirit.

Jolene's legacy is one of love, strength, and unwavering faith. She faced life's challenges with grace and courage, always finding a way to bring positivity and hope to everyone around her. Her laughter was infectious, and her warmth could brighten even the darkest of days.

As we bid farewell to Jolene, we hold onto the love she shared and the lessons she taught us. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will forever be etched in the hearts of all who knew her. While we mourn her loss, we celebrate the incredible life she lived and the indelible mark she left on this world.

Rest in peace, dear Jolene. You will be deeply missed and forever loved.



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A PRAYER

Ev'ry day the beauty and
abundance of this earth
Declares Your fullness, Lord!

Ev'rywhere one looks Your
wisdom's fashioned majesty
Puts us in awe and more!

Ev'rything You've made Your word
and pow'r sustains and keeps
From start until the end!

Ev'ryone with eyes to see
and open heart observes
The mercies You have sent!

Only hardened souls miss all the
gracious witnesses
Which daily of You speak.

Holy Spirit give us understanding
to receive
These with humility!
Amen.

Beckie Hutchings
7/0902026



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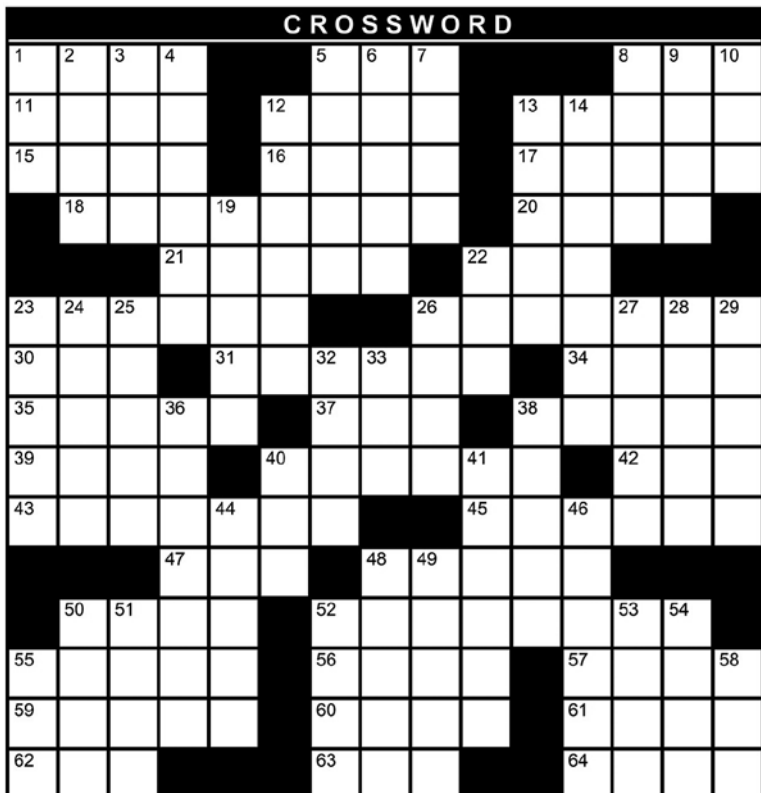
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Statepoint Crossword: History 101



ACROSS

1. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
5. Mary ____, businesswoman extraordinaire
8. Downloadable smartphone purchase
11. In ____ of
12. Greek salad staple
13. Appraisal
15. Law school prerequisite, acr.
16. "Once ____ a Time in America"
17. Dictum, pl.
18. * ____ press, Johannes Gutenberg's invention
20. "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay" singer
21. In need of a muffler
22. Make a choice
23. *Genghis Khan's ____ Empire
26. Intima, pl.
30. Fertility clinic stock
31. Tranquil
34. Famous Steeler coach, Chuck ____
35. Twisted cotton thread
37. Key next to spacebar
38. Like a gymnast
39. Naysayer's favorite prefix
40. Develop, as in story
42. ____-AFTRA
43. Famous fox of fable

45. Like a smell of soil
47. *World's first 24-hour TV news network, acr.
48. Molten rock
50. Smoke plus fog
52. *First Roman emperor
55. Part of foot, pl.
56. Chowder protein
57. Pelvic parts
59. Are not
60. *Homesteader's purchase, sing.
61. " ____ the good die young"
62. *Pres. during the Cuban Missile Crisis
63. It is
64. Fermented rice brew

DOWN

1. Pledge of Allegiance ending
2. Talk like Daffy
3. Eye drop
4. Day trip
5. Flat-topped military caps
6. Lack of muscle tension
7. Opposite of yin
8. Mushroom spore sacs
9. Benatar and Morita, e.g.
10. Money in Myanmar
12. Pointless
13. Take as one's own
14. * ____ Bull, Lakota's

19. Gallows' rope
22. *World War ____, 1914-18
23. Wisdom tooth, e.g.
24. Sheep-like
25. Highly unpleasant
26. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
27. Damp
28. Islam's Supreme Being
29. Lament for the dead
32. Writer Ayn
33. Rudolph's friend Hermey, e.g.
36. *One of Mount Rushmore presidents
38. *First President in the White House
40. Cremation ashes container
41. Peanut or pea, e.g.
44. Emotional turmoil
46. 2:1 and 3:1, e.g.
48. Defraud
49. Petri dish jellies
50. Feudal lord's servant
51. Humble and docile
52. Frozen bowl berry
53. Arm bone
54. *The ____ Road, ancient East-West trade route
55. Pilgrimage to Mecca
58. Pirate's "yes"

See Solution on page 6

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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L	I	E	U			F	E	T	A		A	S	S	A	Y			
L	S	A	T			U	P	O	N		D	I	C	T	A			
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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Help with insurance for storm-related damage

This summer has already seen several destructive storms come through our area. If you have suffered any damages from these storms or other natural disasters, the Maryland Insurance Administration can assist you. They are on standby to provide contact information for your insurer or by helping you with questions about how to file a claim. Please visit <https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Pages/postDisaster.aspx> to learn more.

Monarch Preschool Open House in north College Park

The Monarch Preschool, near Beltsville right off Route 1 on Rhode Island Avenue, is expanding. The school offers hands-on,

project-based learning and social-emotional development, before and after school care, a brand-new playground, and financial aid options. They will be hosting an open house on Monday, August 3rd from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM. They are located at 9606 50th Ave, College Park. You can find out more and RSVP on their website: <https://monarchpreschool.com/open-house/>

Young people, 16 years and older, have the right to work

Most people know that age discrimination against older people is illegal. But many, including employers, don't know that in Maryland age discrimination against young people is illegal too. Generally, 16 and 17 years can work legally with permission of their parents and a work permit.

Meanwhile all 18, 19, and 20-year olds can legally without a permit. But some employers in Maryland continue to say they won't hire anyone under 21 or under 18. If you or someone you know have been the subject of age discrimination in the workplace or application process, please contact the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights. See steps on how to file a complaint at: <https://mccr.maryland.gov/complaint-investigative-process/start-complaint-inquiry>

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 me at jim.rosapepe@senate.maryland.gov or call (410) 841-3141.

When the School Bell Rings, Families Shouldn't Have to Worry About Their Finances

For many families, the first day of school represents a fresh start—a new grade, new teachers, and new opportunities. But before students ever walk through the classroom doors, parents are often face hundreds—or even thousands—of dollars in back-to-school expenses.

From laptops and calculators to backpacks, uniforms, sports fees, transportation, and classroom supplies, the cost of education continues to climb. At the same time, many families are navigating uncertainty as changes to federal education funding and financial aid programs continue to impact schools and household budgets. As schools adapt and resources shift, parents are increasingly filling the gap themselves.

At Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, we believe families should be focused on preparing their children for success—



not worrying about how they'll afford everything on the school supply list.

For nearly 60 years, our credit union has been a trusted financial partner to individuals, families, and businesses throughout Prince George's County. As a member-owned financial cooperative, every decision we make is guided by one simple principle: doing what's in

the best interest of our members and the community we serve. Unlike for-profit financial institutions, our mission is to help people build stronger financial futures through competitive products, personalized service, financial education, and meaningful community investment.

That commitment is why we

FINANCES
continues on page 10

RIGHT: Griffiths performing a duet with his 12-year-old daughter at the "My Story of Hope" concert at Southern Asian Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, MD, July 2026.

FAR RIGHT: Griffiths directing a full choir and band before a standing audience at the "My Story of Hope" concert.



GRIFFITHS

continued from page 1

United Methodist Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland, a role he has held since 2024. Over his career, he has served more than 30 congregations in music ministry roles. He is also the founder of Content Creating Academy, a social media

management and coaching agency, and co-founder of the Hope & Change Network.

Griffiths Vocal Studio is now accepting new students. To learn more or to schedule a lesson, visit griffithsvocalstudio.com.

About Griffiths Vocal Studio

Griffiths Vocal Studio is an

online vocal coaching practice founded by David C. Griffiths, offering private voice lessons and community-based support for singers of all levels. Based in Beltsville, Maryland, the studio combines conservatory-level training with accessible, personalized instruction. Visit griffithsvocalstudio.com to learn more.

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Transitions

Now that the Primary Election has passed and Michelle García has been certified as the winner of the District 1 County Council seat, with no opposition in the General Election, expect her to take office on Monday, December 7. As my longtime Chief of Staff, the transition will run smoothly, and there should be significant continuity. We started transition meetings shortly after the election and are regularly discussing matters so that we do not take contradictory positions that will lead to course correction when December arrives. District 1 is fortunate to have Michelle as the next Council Member, and she is already stepping up to be fully ready on day 1.

Updates on the Resurfacing of Cherry Hill Road

As I shared in June, the County's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) has reported that Cherry Hill Road, from the Montgomery County line to Powder Mill Road, will be repaired and restriped by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) after the current utility project is completed.

My team was initially informed of WSSC's White Oak Water Main Replacement Project in December 2025, at which point the projected completion was June 2026. The projected completion is now set for Fall 2026. I will continue to monitor WSSC closely to ensure this is completed as soon as possible.

Save the Dates

I am excited to announce the last two District 1 Shred Days of my tenure. Shred Days have been among the most popular events that we hold. Start going through your paperwork so you are ready come September. The upcoming dates are Saturday, September 12 at Beltsville Academy, and Saturday, September 19 at Montpelier Elementary School in Laurel.

Council Legislation

I was pleased to be a co-proposer of Council Resolution CR-66-2026, a 2-year moratorium on data centers to provide sufficient time for the County Council to develop and implement appropriate policies, procedures, and regulations.

Council Bill CB-074-2026 concerns Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The General Assembly has mandated that every County enact a zoning law that allows



(From left to right) Chief of Staff Michelle García presenting a proclamation to Acting Principal Michelle Campbell for James E. Duckworth Elementary School, celebrating their groundbreaking as part of Phase 2 of the Blueprint Project through Prince George's County Public Schools.

homeowners to build an additional dwelling unit on their property. CB-074-2026 seeks to do this, although Draft 1 is rather basic and should be amended to address parking, stormwater management, and potential overcrowding issues. This will be a much-discussed bill this Fall.

CB-048-2026 and CB-071-2026 (Prohibited Home Businesses and Vehicles) are companion bills that I have proposed to strengthen the prohibition on illegal businesses in residential communities by altering the definition of business vehicles to include more of the vehicles that businesses have been using to avoid the general prohibition on home businesses. The bills also increase the penalties for violations.

Bills to Enhance County Enforcement: There are many things prohibited by the County Code with the intent of promoting strong communities. But, as we know too well, getting actual enforcement can be difficult. Council Chair Oriadha has proposed a suite of bills on which I am a co-proposer that, together, are intended to improve resident quality of life.

CB-041-2026 (Clean Corridors and Rapid Response Act) for expediting removal of illegal dumping and litter in designated areas.

CB-042-2026 (Clean Communities Transparency Dashboard Act) creating a website Dash-

board to inform residents of the County's illegal dumping and litter clean-up efforts.

CB-043-2026 (Vacant Property Maintenance and Abatement Act) strengthening enforcement of housing and property standards on vacant properties and providing for administrative citations for unmaintained vacant properties.

CB-044-2026 (Illegal Signage Enforcement Act) strengthening enforcement against the placement of illegal signs and illegal objects in County rights-of-way and requiring public utilities to remove illegal signs and objects placed on their infrastructure.

CB-045-2026 (See It, SNAP IT, GET PAID Act) establishing a Prince George's County Beautification Enforcement Incentive Program where residents who report violations may receive a portion of fines collected to enhance the aesthetic conditions and environmental quality and well-being of the County.

If you have any questions about these bills or resolutions, or if you have ideas for a bill or resolution, please contact us. You can find the bills and resolutions (with background documents) on the County Council website (<https://pgccouncil.us>) under the "Legislation and Zoning" menu.

Contact Us

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Solution on page 8

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

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.pgiparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

CUB CORNER

Two dates: Sat., Aug. 15 and Sun., Aug. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each day. Kick off National Aviation Day with an early celebration of Orville Wright's birthday! Enjoy a reading of *How People Learned to Fly* by Fran Hodgkins and discover how the Wright brothers took their very first steps toward creating the airplane. After the story, young aviators can create their own paper bowler hats (just like the Wright Brothers wore) and design paper airplanes to test in our paper plane launcher. This program is recommended for children ages 3 – 6. FREE! No registration is required; includes museum admission.

STEAM HOUR

Two dates: Sat., Aug. 22 and Sun., Aug. 23 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! Perfect for budding engineers and aviation enthusiasts, this interactive program allows visitors to design and build their own creations. Drop in anytime during the hour. This program is ideal for learners ages 6 – 12 and is FREE with museum admission. No registration is required.

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.
- **Contact us** for more information regarding events in the month of August.

STORY TRAIL

Daily, from sunrise to sunset (except Tuesdays, only until 4 p.m.). All Ages. Explore a seasonal children's book, displayed page-by-page in weather-protected, child-height boxes outdoors along the paved Loop Trail that are near the outdoor bathrooms.

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). Ages 3 – 10, with an adult. Crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration. Registration is strongly recommended: Call 301.497.5772 during regular business hours. For large groups please contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

MONARCH MAGIC CENTER

Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the Visitor Center is open. The monarch butterfly season is here! All ages. This is a fun and educational exhibit. See the various stages of this fascinating insect's life cycle in person! You can also see the monarch butterfly life cycle video. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, call 301.497.5772 when the Visitor Center is open and sign up for a Butterfly Team overview presentation.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

Free. All ages. Open when the building is open. The art gallery is next to the bookstore. • **August artist:** Photographer Casey Hall.

FAMILY FUN

This educational exhibit is open to individual study from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. All ages. • **August theme:** Colors in nature. There are so many pretty colors in nature! But why? Are they just to make the world more beautiful, or do the colors serve a purpose? Come find out the answer through hands-on activities, games, and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

WINGSPAN GAME DAY

Two dates: **Fri., Aug. 14** and **Sat., Aug. 22** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. 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.

WILD BIRD MEET & GREET

Sat., Aug. 28 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join us in the Visitor Center lobby on the last Saturday of each month for a drop-in Meet & Greet with a live bird of prey. Bring your camera and your questions. All ages.

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)

The August meeting will be Wed., Aug. 5 at 10:30 a.m. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information about the meeting, contact Ms. 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. • Please make lunch reservations two weeks in advance of each 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.

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., Aug. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. 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 AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 – 3.

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

MOVIE: ICE AGE (PG)

Wed., Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. Enjoy a free screening of *Ice Age* (PG) at the library. Relax and watch the film on the big screen with others in the community.

LEGOS: BRICKS AND BEYOND

Two Wednesdays, Aug. 5 and 19 at 3:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

READY 2 READ ART: CAVE PAINTINGS

Thur., Aug. 6 at 4:30 p.m. Ages 3 – 5. Celebrate *Summer Prince George's* this month by diving into the colorful world of art with stories about the library and reading. Afterwards create artwork of your own of cave paintings, while supplies last. Registration is required.

MOVIE AND CRAFT

Thur., Aug. 11 at 2 p.m. Enjoy a free screening of *Mr. Peabody and Sherman* (PG) at the library. Relax and watch the film on the big screen with others in the community while creating hieroglyphic bookmarks.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Aug. 10 at 4 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

PREVENTING BURNOUT IN THE WORKPLACE

Tue., Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. Explore strategies to manage stress, improve focus, and maintain work-life balance. Learn about executive functioning, identify burnout triggers, and build practical habits to support productivity, better sleep, and overall well-being.

CAREER TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS FOR TODAY'S WORKFORCE

Wed., Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. Explore a world of new skills for the workplace and beyond. Learn about continuing education programs at Prince George's Community College, including noncredit courses, career training, and certifications. Discover the Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship for eligible students pursuing employment, licensure, or skill advancement.

TAP INTO YOUR NETWORK: LINKEDIN

Wed., Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. Learn to use LinkedIn to build professional connections, strengthen your online presence, and advance your career goals. Participants will explore profile-building strategies, networking tips, job-search tools, and ways to engage effectively with professionals and employers online.

GET HIRED: INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES

Tue., Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. Learn practical interview techniques to help you succeed in today's job market. This program covers interview preparation, common questions, professional communication, and interview do's and don'ts. Participants will build confidence and gain strategies for pursuing a new job or transitioning into a new career.

Suduko Solution from page 7

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Odds and Ends

I am on vacation this so I offer a collection of technology odds and ends for this month's column. I guess I could call it, "Rockets, VMs, and Emulators".

Reusable Rockets

I am in Florida and had the chance to watch the Falcon 9 rocket lift off from Cape Canaveral. The Falcon 9 is built by SpaceX and is powered on a mix of liquid oxygen and kerosene. The Falcon provides a measure of reusability as the first of two stages returns and lands either near its launch pad or on a barge out in the ocean. The second stage continues to orbit and is designed to fall back to earth and burn up in the atmosphere during the return. The Falcon Heavy uses two side boosters which can both be recovered landing on barges or nearby landing pad.

Blue Origin also demonstrated its ability to land and recover the primary stage of its New Glenn rocket and China also recently demonstrated a recoverable rocket. The Chinese catches the first stage in a net floating on a barge. The new SpaceX rocket under development is designed to return the first stage called the "Super Heavy" and catch it in what they call "chop sticks". Also, it is expected to be able to safely return the rest of the vehicle safely to earth as well.

When the Space Shuttle was built it was also designed to be reusable and much of it was, but the cost to refurbish the reusable parts was too much to be practical. So why is everyone looking to create reusable rockets? It's because it significantly reduces the cost to send things to space. This makes it practical to put 10,000 satellite constellations into orbit and do more science and support multiple space stations and more.

Virtual Machines and Emulators

I enjoy playing computer games. I still like to play games that I have owned for decades, like Civilization 2. These games were designed to run on Windows 95 and do not run on the current versions of Windows. My solution is to run them on a Virtual Machine (VM). A VM is software that emulates hardware allowing this virtual hardware to run its own software and operating systems. On a VM installed

onto my computer I can install Windows 95, or Windows 98, or Windows XP for example and run my older games. I can also run a virtual Windows 11 on a Linux system with a VM that supporting the virtual hardware required.

A virtual machine typically runs on physical hardware, like your computer. I can (and do sometimes) run Linux on a VM running on my Windows computer or run Windows on my Linux computer. I also sometimes run 3 or 4 virtual machines on the same physical machine all at the same time. I also pay for services allowing me to rent VM services on the "cloud" and build and test things like new websites.

But what if I want to play a game from the old days of the Commodore 64? VMs typically run on a physical machine whose hardware is close to the VM that is being emulated. An emulator will emulate the hardware directly in software. This works well for older and slower hardware like emulating the 6510 CPU of a Commodore 64 that runs at a 1 MHz speed on a modern Core i7 running at 4 GHz (about 4000 times faster). A Commodore emulator would also need to emulate all of the other chips in the Commodore including the sound, the graphics, the ROMs, and any peripherals needed like a floppy drive. Doing this allows the VM host to provide a truly virtual Commodore 64.

Emulation has been successfully used to emulate many devices like game consoles, arcade video games, and even pinball machines. MAME (the Multi Arcade Machine Emulator) is software that provide emulations for more than 10,000 old arcade machines. It is free and open-source software but, the game ROMs need to be acquired legally. The ROMs are the code that runs the games.

More Notes

There are a few good VMs that can be downloaded freely. I have used VirtualBox from Oracle for many years and is available for both Linux and Windows. Windows includes Hyper-V if you are using Windows Pro.

Until next time
I hope you all have a great rest of your summer.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

quarterly award for participating in a Double Dutch competition. The videos from the event eventually went viral, receiving national and worldwide attention.

A/Sgt. Kenneth Hibbert (#3101) has received numerous honors throughout his career. His recent recognitions include the 2025 Prince George's County Police Advisor/Mentor of the Year Award, the 2025 Explorer Program of the Year Award, a 2025 Governor's Citation from Governor Wes Moore, and a 2025 Maryland General Assembly Citation. In 2018, he was nominated for the National Association of Police Organizations' National TOP COPS Award and received a Certificate of Nomination presented by Vice President Michael Pence in recognition of his outstanding achievement in law enforcement.

Cpl. Kenneth Hibbert received two awards on June 16, 2021, at the annual Prince George's County Police Officers Awards Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes officers from the municipal police departments, the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department, and the Prince George's County Police Department for their outstanding service.

Cpl. Hibbert received the Prince George's County Police Department's 2020 Community

Police Officer of the Year Award. He also received the countywide Police Chiefs' Top Community Police Officer of the Year Award for 2020, an honor voted on by the police chiefs from across Prince George's County.

Additional honors and recognitions received by Cpl. Hibbert include:

- A 2015 Prince George's County Council Proclamation presented by Councilwoman Mary Lehman.
- A 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama.
- The 2014 Explorer Program of the Year Award.
- The 2014 Police Advisor of the Year Award.
- A 2015 Prince George's County Council Certificate of Recognition.

Cpl. Hibbert served as President of the Explorers Regional Association (PBAA – Potomac Boundaries Area Association), representing Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia, from 2017 through 2024.

He also served as a Crisis/Hostage Negotiator from 2012 to 2026 and has spent 17 years with the Community Policing Unit at the Beltsville/Laurel Station. Throughout his career, he has received numerous certificates and awards from schools, churches, civic associations, and businesses

at the local, county, and national levels. He has proudly served 20 years at the Beltsville Station.

I cannot begin to count the many lives that Cpl. Hibbert and Cpl. Jones have touched throughout their careers. Our community has been truly blessed by their service. The many awards they have received for "doing their job" demonstrate that they consistently gave far more than what was expected. Their commitment, compassion, and dedication have left a lasting impact on countless individuals and on the Beltsville community as a whole.

Cpl. Hibbert and Cpl. Jones have succeeded because they were more than just police officers—they became trusted members of the community, mentors, role models, and friends. Ralph Waldo Emerson expressed the meaning of success best:

What Is Success?

*To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the approval of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed

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Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church Announces Closure of Regular Food Distribution Program

By Rick Bergmann

Emmanuel United Methodist Church has announced that its regular food pantry distribution program has come to an end following changes to its primary source of food donations.

For many years, the church's food pantry has relied on food provided through the Capital Area Food Bank. The organization recently informed the church that it is ending its partnership with Emmanuel United Methodist Church as it shifts

its resources toward organizations serving a larger number of households. Church leaders said recent federal funding reductions contributed to the Capital Area Food Bank's decision to prioritize larger distribution partners, leaving smaller food pantries, including Emmanuel's, without a regular source of food. The decision affects neighbors who relied on the church's pantry and highlights the challenges facing smaller community food assistance programs.

As a result, the church has discontinued its regular food distribution program. While the weekly pantry is no longer operating, Emmanuel United Methodist Church remains committed to serving the community and will continue to provide emergency food assistance to individuals and families experiencing a food crisis who contact the church directly.

The church is also exploring the possibility of offering a limited food distribution program in November through donations collected by the Boy Scouts. Additional information

will be shared on the church's Facebook page as plans are finalized.

Church leaders encourage anyone in need of ongoing food assistance to seek help from other local food pantries and community organizations that continue to provide regular food distributions throughout the area.

"While we are saddened that this chapter of our food pantry ministry has come to an end, we remain grateful for the opportunity to have served our neighbors over the years," the church said in a statement. "We thank our volunteers, donors, and community partners for their faithful support and remain committed to helping those facing food insecurity whenever possible."

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, Emmanuel United Methodist Church may be able to provide emergency food assistance. Those in need are encouraged to contact the church at office@eumcbeltsville.com to arrange a time to pick up available food. For years, the church's food pantry served local families by providing groceries to individuals and households facing food insecurity.

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Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!
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NEED FOOD ASSISTANCE?
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Those in need are encouraged to contact the church at office@eumcbeltsville.com to arrange a time to pick up available food.

Emmanuel UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Beltsville, MD

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

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

BACC Services

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

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

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

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Office calling HOURS:
Mon through Thurs
9 am to 4:30 pm

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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.



FINANCES
continued from page 6

offer our Back-to-School Loan—an affordable financing option designed to help families manage education-related expenses without relying on high-interest credit cards or other costly borrowing options. Whether you're purchasing school supplies, replacing uniforms, buying a new laptop, or covering extra-curricular fees, we're here to help make the start of the school year a little less stressful.

Our support doesn't stop at the branch.

Throughout the summer, Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union is investing directly in students and families across Prince George's County. From sponsoring backpack and school supply giveaways to supporting local back-to-school events and partnering with community organizations, we're committed to helping every student begin the school year prepared and confident. These initiatives are part of our ongoing mission to strengthen the communities where our members live, work, worship, volunteer, attend school, and own businesses.

When you choose a local credit union, you're choosing an institution that reinvests in its community. Your deposits help support loans for local families, homebuyers, entrepreneurs, and neighbors, creating opportunities that strengthen our local economy. Every new member helps expand our ability to serve more people and deepen our impact throughout Prince George's County.

Education has always been one of the greatest investments we can make in the future. By helping families navigate the financial realities of back-to-school season today, we're helping students begin the year with confidence and creating stronger communities for tomorrow.

This back-to-school season, if your family needs a financial partner you can trust, we're here to help—because supporting our community has been our purpose for nearly six decades.

Your Community. Your Credit Union.

Let me start with some good news. Last issue I spoke about some school children that were kidnapped in Oyo State Nigeria. The good news is that the week of July 11, the abducted school children and some of the teachers abducted in May were rescued by a joint task force of security personnel. Appreciation goes to the police, soldiers and others involved in the rescue. Sympathy goes out to those who suffered a loss of life throughout the ordeal.

FIFA World Cup. I have tried to resist the temptation to write in-depth about this, but I just want to comment on the atmosphere created by the fans, in the last month here in America. A lot of friendships and memories have been made. From the Scottish fans with their bagpipes, to the Dutch and their Orange Bus, to the Norwegians and the famous rowing. I am based in Dallas and it was hilarious the other day to see fans from Australia literally take over a Walmart that is located opposite the stadium. Hundreds of them walked into the Walmart, singing and chanting, and then law enforcement was called in, and they were seen walking out, while singing. Appreciation to the professional manner in which the matter was handled. (A search of social media will show the chaotic scenes).

The stories of the 2026 FIFA World Cup have not fully been

shared. Expect a lot more stories to flood social media. Congratulations to Spain for winning it all.

We all like to travel. Africa, to some persons is on the bucket list of destinations. Well, let me share the story of Shawanda Vickers, an American based on the East Coast. She visited South Africa in 2022 and had such a great time and decided she had to return to the continent of Africa – but this time she took some friends along to have a great cultural experience. That experience led to the formation of her travel experience program, Summers In Africa (www.summersinafrica.com).

She has now taken groups to many African countries. Visit her website for more details. They fly out of New York for their trips.

In this issue, I share the experience of Angela Anglin, who has been on some of the trips.

My experience was absolutely awesome. It was above and beyond my expectations. The people were very welcoming and treated us like royalty. On my visit trip was to Kenya. We visit the Museum of KENYA-NAIROBI. Our day out on the Masai Mara Village was life changing. The culture and lifestyle of the people was amazing. The Safari of Masai was amazing, the animals were huge but yet beautiful. We witnessed a hungry take down of prey by some female lions. I absolutely loved seeing the

elephants. They were nice and I'm an Alabama Roll Tide fan (their mascot is the elephant). Our tour guide company.

We visited a vineyard, Leleshwa Vineyard! We got to walk the fields. Looked at the different types of grapes and we were able to taste four different types of wine. Oh, and the group enjoyed appetizers and cheese and bread to complement the winery choices. After that we were served a steak meal with seasoned vegetables. The meat was from their local meat house.

Our second trip was to Egypt. We sailed down the Nile River, while dining. We also visited the Pyramids (Pyramid Papyrus Institute). The rest of our day was spent riding camels. Omg the Blood Pressure from that experience...

Summers in Africa is a Whole Spiritual experience and I wish many people could visit the continent and see for themselves.

The experience has empowered me to give honor and respect to the people and their culture. I am glad that I was able to see the Motherland (Africa) with my God-given eyes.

I'm grateful to Shawanda Harris Vickers for having the vision to share her experience with others and for us to see, touch and feel the Mother Land (Africa)."

That's The Jive. Again, if you want to read and see more, go to her site: www.summersinafrica.com.

Club News

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

Our members feel a little lost since we could not meet since June. But I'm sure the kids had fun in "our" room for their "kids camp".

We will be meeting on Thursday, **August 20** with songs from Dan & Cheryl DeVito. They are a terrific couple and we look forward to hearing their songs again.

In September, we had to change the monthly meeting date to **September 10 (second Thursday)**,

since so many of our members will be going on the trip to Massachusetts with Diamond Tours.

Our speaker on Sept. 10, will be talking about "how to keep more of your money during retirement". I hope people are interested in hearing this for themselves or someone in their family near retirement age.

We will still have our regular light refreshments, 50/50 chance, New to You table and a chance to sign up for our remaining 2 trips.

I look forward to the Christmas show.

We will be losing our treasurer and membership chairwoman at the end of the year. They have served well, but will still come to meeting and remain members. We appreciate their services.

"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of the earth." H.D.Thoreau

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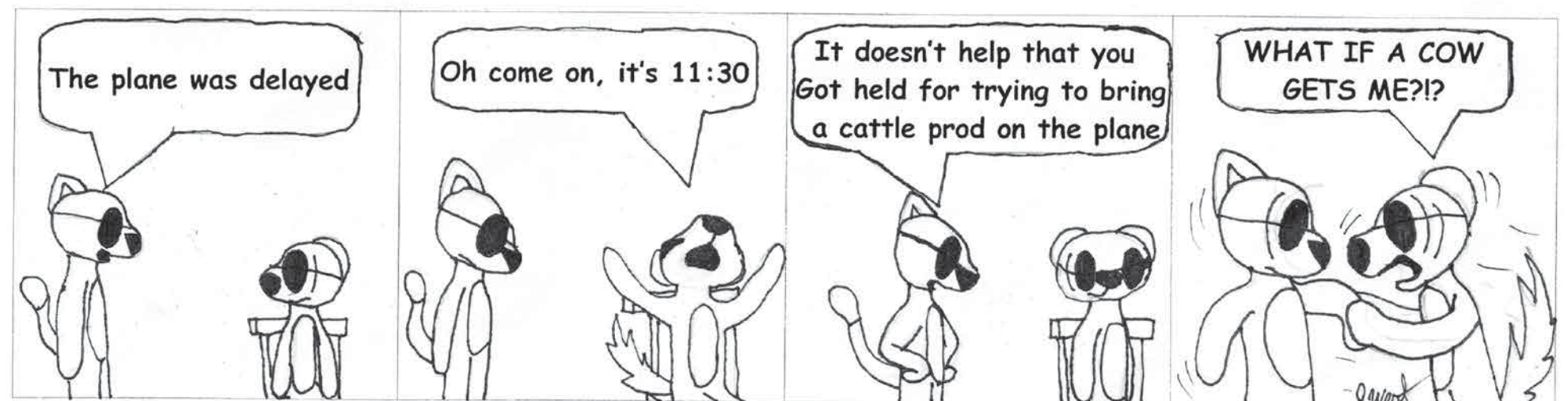
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Contact Gary Kingery



Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO By Joseph West



Look Down for Dinosaur Fossils In and Around Laurel

By Mark Tomassoni

Did you know that Greater Laurel is a hotbed of dinosaur and early mammal species? Just look down. Fossils may be under your feet in your own yard.

Dinosaur Park in Laurel.

Just a short distance from downtown Laurel and the Patuxent Research Refuge is Dinosaur Park off Contee Road near U.S. Route 1. The Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) owns and operates Dinosaur Park. This site preserves an Early Cretaceous deposit, dating to ~115 million years ago, and is one of the best dinosaur fossil sites on the U.S. East Coast. The Cretaceous Period lasted from ~145 million years ago to 66 million years ago, spanning about 79 million years. It was the final and longest period of the Mesozoic Era and concluded abruptly with the famous asteroid impact that wiped out all non-avian dinosaurs.

Dinosaur Park preserves a rare "bonebed" with animal and plant remains, including:

- *Astrodon* (Maryland's state dinosaur — a large plant-eating sau-



Astrodon johnstoni. Discovered in 1858 at Dinosaur Park in Laurel, MD. Source: Natural History Society of Maryland.

- roropod)
- *Priconodon* (armored nodosaur dinosaur)
- *Acrocanthosaurus* (apex predatory theropod)
- *Deinonychus* (a feathered raptor)
- Ornithomimoids (the ostrich-mimic dinosaurs)
- Other animal fossils (crocodiles, turtles, fish, snails, and clams)
- Plant remains (ancient *Sequoia* relatives, cypress, cycads, and early flowering plants)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Richard Snowden and other early colonists began mining the iron ore (siderite) in the Muirkirk region. Iron furnaces located throughout the region melted down the ore to produce iron and steel used in construction and manufacturing.

In 1858, African American miners working in open pit mines were the first to discover dinosaur fossils in Maryland. These fossils were passed on to Phillip T. Tyson, the Maryland State Agricultural Chemist, while visiting the iron mines to produce a geologic map of Maryland.

In 1887, paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh sent John Bell Hatcher to Maryland to search for more dinosaur remains from the Muirkirk deposits. Hatcher recovered hundreds of fossils, which were eventually transferred to the Smithsonian Institution after Marsh passed away. Arthur Bibbins, a geology professor at Goucher College, was also a prominent collector in the Muirkirk region, although he primarily focused on fossil plants.

In December 1995, the M-NCPPC acquired 22 acres encompassing several sites that expose the Muirkirk deposits. The park protects these sites from development and unrestricted collecting, while also providing an outdoor laboratory for community science. The public is invited to work alongside professional and amateur paleontologists to help uncover and preserve new fossil discoveries.

The late Dr. Peter Kranz was

one of the leading proponents of the site and led efforts to name the *Astrodon johnstoni* as the Maryland state dinosaur in 1998.

Dinosaur Fossils at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Along with Dinosaur Park off Contee Road, amateur paleontologist, Ray Stanford, identified dinosaur tracks in 2012 near a parking lot at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). Dating to over 100 million years ago, the site consists of a large 8' x 3' sandstone slab with dinosaur and mammal tracks, potentially containing 70 distinct tracks from eight species, including:

- Nodosaur (heavily armored, four-legged herbivorous dinosaur)
- Sauropods (long-necked plant-eaters)
- Theropods (bipedal carnivores)
- Pterosaurs (flying reptiles)
- A variety of small mammals

"The concentration of mammal tracks is orders of magnitude higher than any other site in the world," said Martin Lockley, paleontologist with the University of Colorado, Denver. "This is the mother lode of Cretaceous mammal tracks" potentially containing 26 distinct mammal footprints. Some of the

small tracks are so unusual that scientists named a new ichnospecies (*Sederipes goddardensis*) based on them.

Why This Is Important. These footprints capture a snapshot in time when animals walked across muddy ground that later hardened and preserved their prints. Because they record behavior (movement) rather than just bones, these fossils are especially valuable to understand how dinosaurs and early mammals interacted in their environments. The find was formally published in Scientific Reports (January 31, 2018).

Keep Looking Down. So, next time you are walking around a stream bed in Laurel or Patuxent Research Refuge, keep looking down for unusual stone features. You may uncover the next major dinosaur that roamed what we now call Laurel. However, please keep in mind that it is illegal to collect fossils on M-NCPPC property without a permit. If you do come across a fossil on park property, report the find to the M-NCPPC Paleontology Unit at dinosaurpark@pgparks.com.



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