

The Beltsville News

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER NEWSPAPER

PUBLISHED BY THE BELTSVILLE-VANSVILLE DISTRICT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Vol. 60, Number 4

Beltsville, Maryland

April 2012

Allen Family Notable in Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department

The Fire Department is a family matter with the Allens, including Robert "Pops" Allen, Sr., his son Robert "Bobby" Allen, Jr., and his grandson, Robert "Pinky" Allen, III. All are members of the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD). Because of his father's influence, Pops has three brothers that, at one time or another, were volunteer firefighters in Prince George's County. Bobby, Jr., has more than one cousin who is a firefighter in various jurisdictions. And one relative is working to publish a book that documents the extended families

ALLEN
continues on page 6

Beltsville Briefs

Good Friday Fish Dinner Scheduled for April 6 at American Legion Post #235

American Legion Post #235 and the Ladies Auxiliary are pleased to announce the Post is offering Good Friday fish dinners on Friday, April 6, starting at 11 a.m. The cost is \$12 and dinner includes fish, three sides and a roll. Baked goods will be on sale, too. Come and enjoy a fresh, fabulous, Friday fish dinner. The Post is located at 7813 Muirkirk Road, Beltsville, Md.

Please Donate Blood

The Beltsville Lions cordially invite your participation in their quarterly blood drive on Tuesday, April 24, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, Md. Professional staff of MedStar will conduct the blood donations.

The donations are done in a

BELTSVILLE BRIEFS
continues on page 5

Effective with the May issue, News Director will be Carissa Schorback as Ted Ladd turns over the reins to her. Carissa can be contacted at bvnews-director@yahoo.com. Ladd will continue as Advertising Manager.



Lilly is Home

By Kelly Parker, Co-Founder of PAWS New England

PAWS is thrilled to announce the last of the missing PAWS dogs. Lilly, is finally home after 262 days in the wild. Lilly is an elderly black lab mix that got away from her adoptive family on June 28, 2011, near the Beltsville Community Center. Lilly had only arrived to in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area a mere two days

LILLY continues on page 4

A Science Lesson Inspired by Dr. Seuss

By Sandra Freeman

A great science lesson for Mrs. Rossman's fifth-graders and Mrs. Freeman's kindergartners was making oobleck from the Dr. Seuss book titled *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. In the book, the king is bored with plain old rain and has his magicians create a green substance that falls instead. For our lesson, oobleck is one part water to two parts cornstarch. When squeezed the mixture hardens to a rubbery ball, yet when held in the air it drips and runs like a liquid. It is the opposite of ketchup that is difficult to force from the bottle when

SEUSS
continues on page 12



Police Explorer Post 600 Activities

By Leda Rose Rodriguez

How did you spend Presidents' Day? It was a good day to get out in the sun and the Beltsville Police Explorer Post 600 did just that; 25 fun-loving teens shook off the chilly breeze with some brisk sports in Chestnut Hills Park, at Sellman and Montgomery Roads.

Since physical fitness and fun are important aspects of the Explor-

ers, they played kickball, basketball, football, munched bagels for lunch, donated by Einstein's Bros, and just hung out.

Police Explorers is a county-wide program, similar to ROTC, with a focus on preparing students for careers in law enforcement. Beltsville's Post 600, with students mostly from High Point, is the largest Explorer post in the county.

Samuel Coreas, 15, in 10th

grade, has been in Explorers for 18 months and has achieved the rank of captain. He often represents Post 600 at community events.

"I'm happy to represent our Post because we are such a good group. When I go to a community event, we always help them. We have the highest community service hours of

ACTIVITIES
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NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due
No Later
Than:
April 18
Paper Out:
April 28

On the Agenda

By President Karen M. Coakley

Please join us on Wednesday, April 18th when representatives from the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) will present the impact of the proposed Intermodal Train Transfer Facility. I strongly encourage the entire community to attend and voice concerns. If the Beltsville location along Sunnyside Edmonston up to Powder Mill Road were chosen, that would mean 900 tractor-trailer trucks per day in our community. The obvious problem is total gridlock. Other negative impacts would be on air quality, research done at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and response time for emergency vehicles.

The goal of this HIA is to use the findings and recommendations to improve both the consideration of health and the implementation of specific mitigation measures to protect health in the final project decisions. For more information about NCHH and the HIA, visit <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/BaltimoreWashingtonRailIntermodal-FacilityHIA.aspx>.

District 6 Police Programs
Thursday, April 5th at 1 p.m. at the Seniors Coffee House at the Laurel Senior Center. This is a Safety program for seniors. Cpl Scruggs will discuss "Real CSI topics" used by the police.

Spring is here Please keep the following in mind. The Speed limit throughout most of our communities is between 25-30 miles per hour. We do not live along a race-track; SLOW DOWN. Watch for children riding bikes and walkers. FYI drivers are supposing to STOP for people who are in crosswalks.

Air Conditioner Theft if you see someone working on your

ON THE AGENDA
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25 Years Ago in the Beltsville News

By Phil Whitman

Extracted from the April 1987 issue

Two Eagle Scouts Announced

The Eagle Board advanced **Jason McGehee** to Eagle Scout on Jan. 14, 1987.

Michael L. Kelly passed all requirements for Eagle Scout on Feb. 3, 1987.

Distinguished Award

George Meurer earned a Distinguished Award for his photo, "Arch Angel" in the Atlanta awards for best photographs.

Engagement Announced

Joyce Frances Franzak was

engaged to marry **Joseph Edward Cox** of Hyattsville, Md.

Service News

Mark A. Delbrook of Beltsville, Md., a member of the Army National Guard, completed his one station unit training at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Marine Lance Cpl. **Luis A. Martinez** returned from a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean.

Spec. 4 **Anthony R. McElroy** completed a U.S. Army primary leadership course.

Pamalea Q. Wills, U.S. Army, was promoted to the rank of Specialist Four.

Marine Pvt. **Michael E. McAdams** reported for duty at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Obituaries

Robert E. Preble passed away March 6, 1987.

Vincent N. Cascio passed away March 6, 1987.

Sebastian J. Meyer passed away March 7, 1987.

John Warren Smith, Jr. passed away March 15, 1987.

Kelly Anne Worden passed away March 22, 1987.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Please support **Zabrina Epps** for School Board. She understands the importance of a quality education. She believes our schools need adequate resources and partnerships to thrive. She has over a decade of solid budget and education experience. She is ready to work on our behalf, for all our children in Prince George's County. I am supporting her because she is **READY** to make a real difference.

Chonya Johnson
Parent & Community Advocate

Easter

Easter eggs
Yellow, blue, pink,
Crocus, glorious
daffodils,
White blossoms
everywhere.

Nature
is celebrating
with each one of us
this year's
Joy of Awakening,



the Renewal of
our Faith.

Happy Easter!

@Ingeborg Carsten-Miller

Beltsville News

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

News: **Carissa Schorback**, Bvnewsdirector@hotmail.com, P.O. Box 1607 Beltsville, MD 20704-1607. 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:

937-6796 **Ted Ladd**, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705

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Distribution: 937-7765 (other) **Carolyn Scarcia**

Editor Emeritas: **Sally Ehrle**

Staff Listings

Managing Editor: **Phil Whitman**

News Director: **Carissa Schorback**

Classifieds: **Evelyn Adkins**

Circulation: **Carolyn Scarcia**

Advertising Manager: **Ted Ladd**

Business Manager: **Evelyn Adkins**

Supporting Staff Members: **Jim Butcher**, **Karen Coakley**, **Ceil Maloney**, **Elizabeth Olson**, **Bill Raulin**, **Doris Shirey**, **Nancy Thrush**, **Ann Wistort**, **Doris Wray** and **Ivy Christoffers**.

Circulation

14,000 copies published monthly; 10,000 mailed in the 20705 zip code (total saturation) and 4,000 pick up copies available at the Beltsville library, community center, selected stores, and churches.



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Neighbors in the News

Cub Pack 1031 Races at Their Pinewood Derby

Scouts from Cub Pack 1031 gathered in the upstairs hall at the Beltsville Fire Station to run their annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday Feb. 18. Scout parent John Camarano and his brother-in-law, Charlie Robinson, ran the races and it was a fun time with pizza, snacks and lots of racing.

Girl Scout siblings helped oversee the concessions and sold Girl Scout cookies, pizza, snacks and juice. Our Committee Chair Eric Saathoff, who helped the scouts cut out their cars, was on hand



Tiger Scout Winners, Michael B. and Corey K.



Wolf Scout Winners, Christopher K. Xavier R. and Tyler P.



Bear Scout Winners, Daniel S. Steven C. and Charles B.

for repairs. Volunteers from the University of Maryland service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, helped with registration and judging.

There were tight races and tons of scout spirit. Everyone cheered for each other and had lots of racing fun. Good job, Scouts and thanks volunteers.

Pack 1031 meets on Mondays in the Beltsville Academy cafeteria and always welcomes first- to fifth-graders looking to have fun, fun, and fun. This year's kindergartners will be eligible to join beginning on June 1, when all the scouts graduate to their next rank. For more info contact Regina Halper at r.halper2@verizon.net.



Webelos Winners, Surya P., Daniel F. and Luis C.

Behnke Nurseries Partners with Emmanuel Food Bank of Beltsville

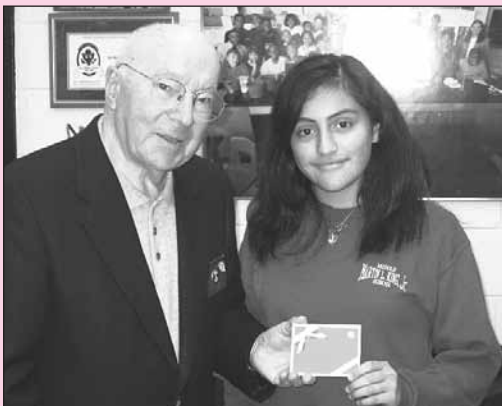
Alfred Millard, President of the Behnke Nurseries Company, Inc., has authorized the Emmanuel Food Bank of Beltsville to plant and maintain a Community Garden at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville, Md. The garden space will be planted with seedlings personally donated by Elizabeth (Cissy) McKenzie, Behnke's store manager. Emmanuel Food Bank of Beltsville is managed through Emmanuel United Methodist Church located at 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, Md.

The Garden will be planted and tended by members and volunteers from Emmanuel Food Bank. Harvested produce will be donated to needy families in surrounding

communities.

The Emmanuel Food Bank has provided much-needed food and clothing to over 300 families and the homeless in Beltsville, College Park, Laurel, Md., and surrounding areas since May, 2011, with help from donations, grants and sponsors like Behnke's.

People in the community interested in helping are invited to volunteer in assisting with garden-planting/harvesting, donating food or clothing, or helping with distribution of goods to families the fourth Saturday of each month. Contact the Emmanuel Food Bank at foodbank@emmanuelumbeltsville.net or call 301.937.7114 for more information.



Joselyn Fuentes, a sixth-grade student at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, submitted the winning art poster from that school, competing for the International Lions Organization's Peace Poster Contest. The College Park Lions Club (CPLC) was the local chapter

sponsoring three schools in Prince George's County, including MLK. Fuentes's poster was the only poster among the three schools that was forwarded to compete against schools in other areas, but it was subsequently defeated. Fuentes is shown in the picture receiving a \$50 gift certificate from Lion Robert Smaldore of CPLC. Fuentes says she loves artwork, especially art related to the subject of peace.

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Paint Power

Paint is still the most affordable decorating option around. Think about this way. You can buy a gallon of paint, which covers about 400 square feet, for less than going out for dinner. And if you are adventurous enough to do the painting yourself, you just saved yourself the cost of the labor. The paint experts at Will's Home Decorating (www.decoratmaryland.com), Michael Richards and Valerie Kabelac, can show you how a new vibrant paint color can have an immediate impact, instantly updating your room. The beauty of it is that it can be done in one day this weekend if you preplan by purchasing the paint and supplies ahead of time.



Michael Richards and Valerie Kabelac will help you.

There are a lot of paint manufacturers, but no doubt Benjamin Moore Paint is the best out there. Featured at Beltsville's Will's Home Decorating, Michael explains why Benjamin Moore Paint is superior to other brands. As Michael explicates, "Benjamin Moore is the only paint to buy. Not only does it offer tantalizing hues but it also has low and no VOC paints and the full spectrum Color Stories line that has multiple pigments without using gray or black. Plus it has multiple finishes ranging from flat, matte, and eggshell to pearl, satin and semi-gloss. It is also exceedingly durable and very washable with the exception of the Super Spec and Regal flat finishes." In addition, Benjamin Moore's "green," eco-friendly Aura and Natura lines use a no VOC tinting system. This distinguishes it from other manufacturers who advertise low or no VOC paint, but then add tints to the paint that are loaded with harmful chemicals. Tints are added to the can of paint in order to make the color that you selected. For expert advice on selecting the perfect paint color and finish, stop by Will's Home Decorating and see Michael or Valerie. Shop local, Shop Beltsville!!!

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Neighbors in the News

Daisy/Brownie Troop #6379 Activities

By Kim Beach

Our troop has been very busy during its first year. We are at ten Daisies and four Brownies getting ready to bridge in May. We have eight Daisies bridging to Brownies and one bridging to Juniors.

For Thinking Day, we learned about England and even had a visitor come to our last meeting and share the flag, coins and pictures of the country, along with a song and game.

Girl Scouts celebrated its 100th Birthday on March 12, so we had a ceremony and potluck dinner in the organization's honor. The girls received their petals and badges and showed off their artwork to the parents. The girls closed by singing Happy Birthday to Girl Scouts and blew out the candles from the



Girl scouts singing Happy Birthday and blowing out the candles. Happy Birthday Girl Scouts: Christina, Grace, Analise, Caiya, Fiona, Carly, Demya, Caiya, Tiara, Kayla, Alexis, Katie, and Erin

ceremony. Great job, girls. All had a wonderful time.

We look forward to going to the Tudor Place Museum in Georgetown in April, a Build-a-Bear workshop to make Girl Scout Bears, and, to end the year, we will be attending Rock the Mall in Washington, D.C., for the Girl Scouts' 100th

birthday; more than 200,000 people are expected to attend. We will also be meeting our pen pal troop the night before Rock the Mall for dinner in Washington, D.C., as their guests. We look forward to all these fun and upcoming events for the remainder of the school year.

LILLY

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before from the PAWS sanctuary in Missouri. She was a worst case scenario to lose: timid, desperately fearful of people, and completely unfamiliar with her surroundings.

PAWS volunteers immediately launched into action. We organized massive volunteer searches with up to 30 people and placed over 2,000 posters and fliers in the greater Beltsville area. We then arranged for three humane traps to be monitored by motion detected cameras and checked by incredible volunteers three times a day. We sent out 1,000 postcards to the neighbors through [Pet Harbor](#), and three rounds of automated telephone messages through [FindToto](#). Every animal control unit, veterinary clinic, police station, fire department, highway department, school and church were notified. Thousands of emails went out to Yahoo message groups and local rescue groups. A [Help Us Find Lilly](#) blog and [Facebook page](#) were created.

When all of that didn't work, we flew her best dog friend, Cheyenne, from Vermont to Washington, D.C., with a volunteer pilot through [Pilots-n-PAWs](#) to aid in the search. Thousands of dollars were spent and an entire community was looking for a black mutt that had once been dumped on the side of the road and shot at by an uncaring owner.

During the first month, we received multiple phone calls reporting sightings. But as time went on, fewer and fewer calls came in. Our last reliable sighting was Sept. 9, 2011. After that, things went dead for seven long, painful months. We kept trying different ideas to continue to reach out to the public, but none of our efforts yielded anything. That all changed on March 7.

A lovely woman named Sylvia called and said, "I think I may have been feeding your dog for the last

six months."

Sylvia's description of Lilly was impeccable, down to the speckled white spots on her feet. She said she had noticed a timid black dog who started coming to her property in late September and eating the food she put out for the birds and squirrels. She said the dog would never allow her to approach, but had become quite comfortable lounging in her yard for hours on end. She had named the dog Lucky and noticed a sign at the grocery store with "Lucky's" picture on it, but the sign called the dog "Lilly."

We frantically ran to the property to put up cameras as Sylvia said that Lilly arrived every day between 7 and 9 a.m. The following morning, when the picture of Lilly appeared on my cell phone, I burst into tears. I had dreamed of the moment I would receive a new picture of Lilly, alive and safe. Shaking all over, I made phone calls to the volunteers who had spent more than 300 hours searching for her. Volunteers who had never even met Lilly and never even knew me prior to Lilly going missing. I called her previous foster Mom in Missouri who could not speak and sobbed with excitement.

Not willing to risk anything going wrong, we hired Steve Hagey who owns [Detect a Pet USA](#) and has been trapping elusive animals for the last 10 years. Steve uses an elaborate enclosure system over the course of two to four days using seven-foot high wiring camouflaged in the environment the dog would come to on a day-to-day basis. He would place a piece of fencing and then judge the dog's comfort level with the use surveillance and photos. As long as the dog was comfortable, he would continue to put up the enclosure piece by piece. When it was finally complete, he would monitor the enclosure from afar and use a remote control to close the small gate that led into the enclosure, effectively capturing the lost dog.

He began the project on Tuesday. Lilly was not at all fazed. By Wednesday, Steve sent a message saying that he believed Lilly would be captured late Thursday night or early Friday morning. The next 48 hours were some of the longest of all of our lives. We agonized that something would go wrong. But Steve remained steadfast and quietly went about his job. On Thursday afternoon, Steve sent another message letting us know that the enclosure was complete and he was now on the property to monitor the trap until Lilly was captured. None of us slept that night and when Steve called me at 3:36 a.m. to say, "Kelly, we have her. She's safe!" I could hardly think straight. So many things go through your head at once. You think you must still be dreaming. You think that it is too good to be true. You think that maybe another dog must be caught... And then you find yourself operating in automatic pilot, "Oh my god, Steve—thank you. I'll be there in 20 minutes."

The drive to Beltsville to get Lilly was a blur. Nine months of agony, the side stories, all the people who have helped you get to this moment, flash in a completely illogical sequence.

My heart was beating so hard when I arrived at Sylvia's house. Lilly was in a humane trap wide-eyed, but calmer than I would have ever imagined her to be. Sylvia was speaking to her in the most gentle and soothing voice. We carried her trap to the garage where she was transferred into a crate and placed in the car.

And then, at 4:30 in the morning, five people who had never known each other prior to Lilly's adventure cried, laughed, and uttered the phrase, "I don't believe it," at least 700 times. Lilly looked on cautiously, and, when she got tired of

LILLY

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Neighbors in the News

Holy Week and Easter Celebrations at St. John's Church

Holy Week and Easter observances have been expanded this year at St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville, Md. Holy Week worship services begin on Sunday, April 1, with Palm Sunday blessing and distribution of palms at 8 and 10 a.m. The 10 a.m. Palm Sunday service includes a festive procession around the church with the palms waving to the beat of our festive songs.

Holy Week observances continue on Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. with a new Stations of the Cross service that will include artistic renditions of each station. Dance, rap, sculpture, painting, clay and other artistic renderings will be used to convey a contemporary message of each station of the cross, as they represent our own life experiences. Resident artists from St. John's have led sessions each Wednesday evening during Lent to develop the 14 stations of the cross. The service on Wednesday, April 4, will culminate the work done by parishioners during Lent. Everyone is invited to participate in this very unique Holy Week experience.

On Thursday, April 5, "Maundy Thursday" will be observed with a "Seder Supper," at 7 p.m., to remember Jesus' observance of the Passover at the Last Supper. The

Seder Supper will include a light dinner, prayers and song. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of dinner; however, everyone is invited and encouraged to come to this very special service, without worrying about cost, to remember Jesus' last night as mortal man on earth. The Seder Supper will be followed by a traditional service of Stripping the Altar, removing all ornamentation in the church, in preparation for Good Friday observances.

On Good Friday, April 6, at noon, St. John's will repeat its Stations of the Cross service, held previously on April 4, with the artistic renderings of each station. Again, everyone is invited to participate in this unique Holy Week worship service. At 7:30 p.m., St. John's will have a traditional Good Friday service, remembering Jesus' journey to Calvary and his crucifixion. The service will include solemn songs, sermon and prayers.

Festive celebrations will begin on Easter Sunday, April 8, at St. John's. Our first Easter celebration will be a sunrise service at 6:15 a.m. in the church cemetery. This special, early service is a well-beloved tradition that encourages community participation. Clergy from Emmanuel United Methodist Church, and St. John's Epis-

copal Church, both in Beltsville, Md., will lead the service. The service will include traditional Easter music, a short sermon, and prayers. The sunrise service is expected to last no more than 20 minutes, and will be followed by an Easter Breakfast in St. John's Episcopal Church's Parish Hall for all to enjoy. Festive worship services, with music, sermon, and communion follow at 8 and 10 a.m. A continuous brunch will be served following each worship service on Easter Sunday morning. After the 10 a.m. Easter worship service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children 11 and younger. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers during the 10 a.m. worship service.

All Holy Week and Easter Sunday services are open to everyone. The St. John's family swings our doors wide open with a warm welcome to everyone, not just during Holy Week and Easter, but all year long. We look forward to having all who seek God come and journey with St. John's through our Holy Week and Easter worship services and activities.

Saint John's Episcopal Church is located at 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Md., at the corner of Powder Mill Road and Baltimore Avenue.

Beltsville Briefs

(Cont. from page 1)

very efficient manner and waiting time is kept at a minimum. Please consider donating if you are able to do so. You could give no better gift to someone in dire need of a transfusion.

If you are able and interested in helping with a blood donation, please call Lion Ted Ladd at 301.937.6796 or e-mail ted-ladd02@aol.com to schedule a time, or you may just walk in. Appointments are at 15-minute intervals starting at 3 p.m.

Basket Bingo

St. Joseph's Parish will conduct a Basket Bingo on Friday evening, April 27, in the parish hall at 11011 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, Md., from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (non-smoking). Come join us for this fun-filled event. Bingo winners will receive specialty baskets, pottery and home accessories. There will be door prizes and raffles, too. Tickets are available daily for \$12 in advance at the school and parish offices or for sale at the door. Refreshments are available.

St. Joseph's Spring Pig Roast and Concert

St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 11007 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, Md., will host a pig roast with music and dancing on Saturday,

April 28, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Dinner will include a platter of spare ribs, pulled pork on a bun, baked beans, cole slaw and potato salad (**no substitutions**) provided by TJ's of Calverton, plus a dessert and a beverage.

Dinner will be \$15 per person and **all reservations** must be made and paid for by **April 22**. There will be **no** dinner tickets sold at the door. The dinner will be served from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dinner reservations may be made at the rectory office on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and after weekend Masses on April 14 & 15 and April 21 & 22.

Chickenhawks Rock will provide music from 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets for just music and dancing will be \$10 and may be purchased at the door. There will be a cash bar serving beer and wine.

Please join us for an evening of camaraderie, good food and lively music.

Save the Date for St. John's 2012 Strawberry Festival

Mark your calendars for St. John's 2012 Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a silent auction, yard sale, delicious food, baked goods and strawberries, kids games

and lots of fun. St. John's is located at the corner of Route 1 and Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Md. We look forward to seeing you there.

VBS at First Baptist Church of Beltsville

Looking forward to an exciting and adventurous summer? Spend a week in Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church of Beltsville. Come soar with us as you earn your wings at *Amazing Wonders Aviation*. You will encounter God's awesome power as we fly to some of the world's greatest natural wonders. Children age fourth through sixth grade will hear Bible stories about God's awesome and amazing power and learn how God wants to give us everything we need through His power, glory, and everlasting mercy. This one week adventure is absolutely free and kids will learn and share through Bible stories, crafts, games and motivating music. Our adventure is June 25 to 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. First Baptist Church of Beltsville is located at 4700 Odell Road, Beltsville, Md., 20705.

To register for Vacation Bible School or obtain additional information on our program, you may contact the church office at 301.937.7771 or visit our website at: www.fbcbeltsville.org.

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Neighbors in the News

Maryland Offers Property Tax Relief for Homeowners Based on Total Household Income

By Susan and Bob Newland

One of the best ways to have more money is to never pay it out in taxes in the first place. The State of Maryland helps in that regard in several ways. One way is through the Maryland Homeowner's Tax Credit program that can reduce property taxes for qualified applicants. At the end of this article, we provide you web addresses to obtain more information. In the rest of this article, we are providing information that may be of value to you concerning the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program. We will tell you about another program in our next article.

What is the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program?

The State of Maryland has developed a program that is available to all homeowners regardless of their age and the credits are given where the needs are based upon the person's household income. This program allows credits against the homeowner's property tax bill if the property taxes exceed a fixed percentage of the applicant's household gross income. In other words, it sets a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon the household income.

General Requirements:

The applicant must meet the

basic requirements:

Applicant must own or have a legal interest in the property

The dwelling on which the applicant is seeking the tax credit must be their principal residence where they live at least six months of the year, including July 1, unless the applicant is a recent home purchaser or unless the applicant is unable to do so because of health or need of special care.

The net worth not including the value of the property on which the applicant is seeking the credit or any qualified retirement savings or individual retirement plan must be less than \$200,000.

The applicant must report total income that includes combined gross household income before any deductions are taken. Generally, eligibility for the tax credit will be based upon all money received in the applicant's household in a given year. Supporting documentation that includes a copy of the current year tax return, a copy of the sources of income, social security, W-2s and retirement income are to be submitted with the application. For those applicants who are not required to file a tax return, the income documentation will suffice.

The credit is based upon the amount by which the property taxes exceed a percentage of income according to a chart. Applicants

may be eligible for this credit if their household income ranges from \$0 to \$60,000 annually.

When and how do you apply?

The Homeowners' Tax Credit is not automatically granted and each person must apply and disclose his or her household income. The person must apply every year by no later than September 1 on a standard application supplied by the Department of Assessments and Taxation. However, it is to your advantage to submit the application by May 1 so that any credits due you can be deducted before hand from the initial July tax bill. Applications, known as HTC - 60 forms, are available as of February each year at the local assessment offices and at most public libraries or by calling the Tax Credit Telephone number at 410.767.4433 or 1.800.944.7403. You can download the application from the State of Maryland web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/htc.html>

Look for our next article on a topic that may be of value. The Renter's Tax Credit program can put cash money in eligible pockets up to \$750 per year!!!

—Susan and Bob Newland, Certified Public Accountants, Financial Planners and Tax Preparers located in Twin Chimneys by Wendy's on Route 1.

ALLEN

continued from page 1

and their involvement in the fire service.

Clifford Allen was a father to nine children and a volunteer firefighter at the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department. When Robert was about 16, the elder Allen informed his youngest son he needed to get out and meet some people. Knowing his father spent a lot of time at the firehouse, Robert decided he could have some fun and meet people at the same time, so he joined the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department. Back then, weekly dances were held at the Branchville VFD Community Hall, and it was there he met the love of his life. They were married shortly thereafter and soon started their family. Pops served the Branchville VFD for more than 20 years, however, when the family moved to Beltsville, Md., Pops transferred to BVFD so he wouldn't have to travel as far to get to the firehouse; he has been a member at BVFD for more than 30 years now.

Bobby, Jr., can remember his father taking him to the firehouse as a toddler where he hung out with



From left, Robert "Pops" Allen, Sr.; Robert "Bobby" Allen, Jr.; and Robert "Pinky" Allen, III

the firemen and made friends with the other kids. Growing up, the firehouse was a regular part of his life, so it was only natural that as a student at High Point High School, he joined the Prince George's County Fire Cadet Program, and when he was old enough he, too, joined the volunteer fire service. At first, because he knew most of the people there, he became a member at the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department. However, after a few years of going back and forth, he again followed his father and transferred to BVFD and has been a member here for more than 25 years.

Robert Allen, III, or Pinky, as he's known at the firehouse, did

not grow up under the influence of the fire service like his father did. In fact, his father says he rarely, if ever, brought Pinky to the firehouse to just hang out. However, Robert, III, did grow up seeing his father and grandfather run off to the firehouse when the whistle blew. When he turned 18, he decided that he wanted to be part of that, too, and it was no surprise to anyone, except maybe his father, when Pinky made the decision to join the BVFD.

Today, all three Allens are active members at BVFD. Even though he has more than 50 years of volunteer fire service, Pops can still be found at the firehouse almost every day cleaning or fixing something. Bobby, Jr., is the Assistant Fire Chief, and in 2011, Pinky was one of the top ten most active firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians at BVFD. Thanks to family dedication like the Allens, and understanding from those family members who are not in the fire service, volunteer fire departments such as BVFD are able to provide continuous Fire and EMS service to their communities.

Obituaries

Sigler, Virginia

Virginia S. Sigler, 87, of Winchester, Va., died Monday, March 19, at Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury, a retirement community in Winchester, Va. She was the wife of the late John S. Sigler, who passed away March 23, 2003. She was born August 25, 1924, in Hunterstown, Pa., daughter of the late George E. and Laura M. (Fleming) Slaybaugh. The Siglers raised a family and lived for more than 20 years on the Government Farm in Beltsville, Md. They retired and moved to Delaware in 1986.

Virginia completed nurses' training at Frederick Memorial Hospital in 1945 and was a registered nurse for 20 years at Prince George's Memorial Hospital while residing in Beltsville, Md.

Virginia is survived by her daughters; Carol A. Joyce (Jon) of Berryville, Va., Norma Jean Parks

(Randle) of Harbeson, Del., Susan S. Phillips (Lee) of Hamilton, Va., and a son, John D. Sigler (Sharon) of Boaz, Ala., six grandchildren: Sandra Gallagher, James Parks, Benjamin T. Parks, Melissa Sibert, Evan Phillips, and Elizabeth Phillips; five great-grandchildren; and three brothers; Bennard Slaybaugh of Finksburg, Md., Paul Slaybaugh of N.H., and Ray Slaybaugh of Littlestown, Pa., also survive her.

Daughter, Alice M. Parker, and brothers William Slaybaugh, George Slaybaugh, and Harold Slaybaugh preceded Virginia in death.

Interment on Saturday, March 24, at 11 a.m. in Pines Church Cemetery, New Oxford, Pa. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Ave., 7th floor, New York, N.Y., 10001. Memories may be shared at www.feiserfuneralhome.com.

[feiserfuneralhome.com](http://www.feiserfuneralhome.com).

Thomassen, Elizabeth Burke

Elizabeth Burke Thomassen of Beltsville, Md.; beloved wife of George W. Thomassen; mother of Mary Jane (William) Thomassen, George W. (Christine) Thomassen, Elizabeth (Pete) Matthews, Paul J. Thomassen and the late Robert A. Thomassen; sister of William and James Burke; grandmother of Claire, James, Jill, Eric, Jay and Eli; also survived by 3 great grandchildren; Family celebrated mass of Christian burial at St. Joseph's Catholic Church 11007 Montgomery Road Beltsville, Md., on Tuesday, March 6, at 10 a.m. Father Thomas Weisbecker officiated; Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Arrangements by Borgwardt Funeral Home.

Editorial

Rock Your Conscience

By Jacqueline Turcios, High Point High School Senior

Millions of children worldwide are deprived of a childhood through their involuntary participation in sex trafficking, a modern form of slavery. High Point High School's Student Government Association (SGA) endeavored to aid in the dissolution of this clandestine enterprise by holding a benefit concert on Thursday, March 15, with the help of the non-profit organization, Love146.

The event consisted of speakers and performers who informed the audience of the cause. The event was free, but graciously accepted

donations for Love146. The goal was to make an impact and spark a desire in students to contribute to humanity and justice. Stephanie Jean, senior and Rock Your Conscience committee head, hoped for people to "open their eyes to injustice."

The benefit concert, known as Rock your Conscience, is an annual event hosted by SGA in order to encourage students to take part in helping the world through any small action.

Jean chose the topic of sex trafficking because, "It's important for everyone to know what's going on. Children are being hurt, and their futures, destroyed." Jean

immersed herself into this issue because she wanted to help others as she would want them to help her.

According to love146.org/love-story, the organization Love146 received its name when its cofounders traveled to Southeast Asia to go undercover for an investigation at a brothel. While at a brothel investigating, the cofounders were looking at children being auctioned off. The cofounders were observing the listless, traumatized children, when one child caught their eye. This child was a girl who seemed

CONSCIENCE

continues on page 10

Riderwood's Free Speaker's Bureau Accepting Spring Speaking Engagement Requests

Riderwood's Free Speaker's Bureau is now accepting spring speaking engagement requests from civic, nonprofit and business groups. Riderwood officials are available to speak anytime, anywhere, on all aspects of retirement.

"We want to provide people with information that will help them excel spiritually, socially, recreationally, intellectually and physically as they, and/or their friends and family members, approach retirement and transition into their new lifestyles," said Chip Warner, Executive Director of Riderwood.

To schedule a date and time for Riderwood speakers to come to your group please email Mel.Tansill@Erickson.com.

Riderwood (www.Riderwood-

Village.us), which has nearly 3,000 residents, is the nation's largest continuing care retirement community. It sits on 120 acres which stretch across Prince George's and Montgomery Counties.

Riderwood offers extensive wellness and prevention programs, balance assessment, fall prevention programs, and fitness and aquatics centers. Also, there are more than 200 resident-inspired and resident-led clubs, committees and interest groups in these categories: art, cards, computers and technology, dance, faith-based and interfaith, film, fitness and sports, games, gardening, lifelong learning, music, literature and philanthropy.

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Neighbors in the News

Memories of Beltsville

By Linda Clem

I look forward to reading the Beltsville News every month. It keeps me informed and up-to-date on what's going on in Beltsville. When my parents first came to Beltsville, they lived in an apartment/boarding house. Two of us little Kidkiffs (as my Aunt Mary called us) were there. My brother, Tom, was born in May 1948. I was born in 1949. That house was owned by E. Horton, Sr. He was my father's uncle by marriage.

My parents built a home over on Rose Dale Lane in Beltsville, Md., in the early 1950s. I attended school at Beltsville Elementary,

Chestnut Hills Elementary, Beltsville Junior High and graduated from High Point High School.

One of my fondest childhood memories includes celebrating my July birthday at the Beltsville Fire Department Carnival held in July. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is all just for me," of course not realizing it was for everyone. It still brings a smile to my face today. Thank you, Beltsville Fire Department of the 1950s and 1960s. Another memory includes the Beltsville Drive-In—that was a big "to do" back then. Dad and Mom loaded us five little darlings in the old Chevy and off we were to the drive in. We played on the swings and the sliding board. We always had a box of popcorn to share. Those were the days, my friend.

Happy Birthday Greetings to my relatives in Beltsville and Laurel:

The following had birthdays in March:

Ray Midkiff, Sr.

Doug Midkiff, Sr.

Lisa Midkiff Puckett

Elva Midkiff Brocht

In Memory of Cecil Midkiff (my father)

In memory of Georgia Midkiff (my mother)

In memory of Jane Curatolo (my mother-in-law)

This Irish poem is in honor of their birthdays:

May your troubles be less

May your blessings be more

And may nothing but happiness

Come through your door

WARNING

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This Year Just Because They Weren't Sure Which Forms
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(Don't Let Uncle Sam Keep Your Hard Earned Money This Tax Season!)

Congress has passed some very confusing tax laws! To protect yourself from filing an "incorrect" tax return this year and missing out on a ton of cash that is supposed to be YOURS, you better call a tax professional to help you get ALL the money you deserve back from the IRS!

Hi, my name is Bob Newland and I have been a tax professional in this area for 27 years. I have an office on Route 1 near Wendy's, and an experienced "hand picked" staff. Robert C. Newland & Associates will not only prepare your tax return, we will help you keep the highest amount of money legally possible, **AND**, if we prepare your return, **We Will Electronically File Your Tax Return with the IRS AND the State of Maryland for FREE!**

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Club News

Women's Community Club of Beltsville

The April meetings of the Women's Community Club of Beltsville are scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at Three Brothers Pizza in Beltsville, Md., and Monday, April 9, at 12:30 p.m. at Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane, Beltsville, Md. We are a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to serve the Beltsville community. Women of Beltsville are invited to join us; we are always looking for new members and community support for our mission. If you would like more information about our club, please contact Elaine Chabot, President at ecchabot@aol.com.



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Club News

College Park Unit #217 Welcomes Spring

By Ivy Christoffers

What happened to Mother Nature this year? Did we have a winter? Spring flowers and blossoming trees a month earlier than usual? It didn't even get cold enough to kill off the germs. Have you seen how many have shed their garments and are showing so much skin? I predict they will soon be in their physician's office looking for a cure for pneumonia.

The members of Unit #217 held a very successful Coach Bag Bingo in March to raise funds for The College Park Scholarship Pageant. This took place at the Moose Club on Metzert Road. We have held our pageant at this Moose Club for several years and appreciate their cooperation in the

use of the hall.

We also held our Girl's State interviews for students from High Point High School and Northwestern High School. Let us hope we do as well as we did in 2011 when we sponsored the young lady who ended up Governor of Girl's State and represented the program throughout the state. Brianna did a wonderful job in completing her duties.

Do we have any bingo players out there? We have bingo on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with big cash pay offs. Why not come out and try your luck? There is also shot-gun bingo at 6 p.m. on Monday evening. Along with all that, we serve dinner several times a week. Call 301.441.2783 to check out the menu.

Do you like to dance? We hold dances every Friday evening, and the bands are really good. Do you have a special function on the horizon? Why not check out our hall and our catering capabilities? You will find us easy to work with. Welcoming you and your friends is our specialty.

Are you eligible for membership in the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons Of The Legion? We have a membership drive in full swing.

Give some thought to who bought and paid for the freedoms we enjoy. God bless our Military, past and present.

Happy Easter. Now that Lent is over, go ahead and eat that chocolate.

Beltsville VFW Post Aids Devastated Post in Illinois

The Beltsville Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post recently contributed \$1,000 to Gallatin VFW Post 558 of Ridgway, Ill. The Ridgway VFW Post shares a building with the American Legion. The building was severely

damaged by a tornado on March 1; the roof was torn off, and insurance will not cover everything lost. Post 558 intends to assist Post members who need help, as the town was almost completely wiped out.

The Commander of VFW Post 558 is manager of the Ridgway, Ill., police department and is a Vietnam veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

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Club News

Stayin' Alive at the College Park Moose Lodge with Music of the '70s and '80s

The **Women of the Moose #1262** is proud to present a Charity Event, *Stayin' Alive*, on Saturday, April 14. The live band, **Due Process**, will play and sing the hits of the '70s and '80s for your listening and dancing pleasure. Dig in your attic or basement to find those old bell bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, go-go boots and headbands and you'll be right in style; or come as you are.

A delicious full dinner with dessert buffet is included in the ticket price. Dinner will be from

6-7:30 p.m. and music from 8 p.m. until midnight. There will also be a performance by professional dancers and a silent auction. All for just **\$15** in advance or **\$18 at the door**.

This is a benefit sponsored by the WOTM for Health Awareness Month. Proceeds will be donated to the children at Mooseheart and the seniors at Moosehaven. Come out, have fun, and relive the memories of the '70s and '80s while helping this worthy cause.

Las Vegas Night will be

held on Saturday, April 21, at 6 p.m. There will be board games, whiskey wheel, and cake wheel. You can actually buy a horse, name it, and cheer for it on the video screen for only \$10. You could be a winner. Food will be available at nominal prices and admission is free.

The College Park Moose Lodge #453 is located at 3700 Metzert Road, College Park, Md. **For tickets and/or information for these events, please call 301.935.5525.**

Beltsville Garden Club

By Louise DeJames, Publicity Chair

The Beltsville Garden Club will hold a general meeting on, Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the James E. Duckworth School, 11201 Evan Trail, Beltsville, Md.

Come celebrate spring with guest speaker Amy Brecount White as she demonstrates how to improve and enliven your communication skills using the Victorian language of flowers. She will discuss the literary origins of the language, read excerpts from her novel, and assemble tussie-mussie messages. Her

first novel, *Forget-Her-Nots* brings the language of flowers magically to life in the hand of a fourteen-year-old girl.

Amy is a writer and teacher who frequently presents her novel and demonstrates the language of flowers at botanic gardens, schools, garden clubs and book groups. She lives and gardens in Arlington, Va.

Please join us for this informative speaker. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Bring a plant or plant-related material for the club's door prize table. The public is welcome and admission is free.

For more information, contact Louise DeJames at 301.890.4733 or visit our website at www.beltsvillegardenclub.org.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 1122 Northern Prince George's County

Our monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Building, Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, Md. Call the office for directions at

301.441.1096 and dial "0." The speaker will be C.J. Onyeji, a physical therapist from the Professional Sports Care & Rehabilitation Association. Come and learn which exercise will do the most

for you. Prospective members welcome. Executive Board meeting follows the Chapter meeting, and Chapter members are invited to attend.

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Barbara Schofield

Some of our members enjoyed a trip to the Wayside Theater to see *Smoke on the Mountain*, and everyone said they had a wonderful time. We have a couple new members, Dolores Deutsch and Barbara Victor. We love to see

and welcome new faces. I would like to thank the volunteers who helped in the kitchen in Jan. and Feb. Everyone did a wonderful job. The audit committee did the audit and Hugh Gribbon passed with flying colors. Our last meeting of the month was all about get-

ting ready for Beltsville Day. It is the *only fundraiser of the year, so we need everyone's help; even it's only an hour or so. Beltsville Day is May 20th. The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.*

CONSCIENCE

continued from page 7

defiant and whose spirit had not yet been broken. She was only identified by the number 146. Later, when a rescue was attempted, the girl who wore number 146 was no longer there. The organization named itself after that girl who left a great impression and sparked the growth of an organization.

Love146 employs two core programs, Prevention and Aftercare.

The Prevention efforts are

focused into three global areas; Asia, U.S., and Europe. The program reaches out to at-risk and vulnerable youth through schools, group homes, and law enforcement.

Aftercare uses a biopsychosocial approach to help a person deal with the damage that has been committed and reintegrate himself/herself back into society. The biopsychosocial approach assumes that an illness affects the biological, psychological, and social components of life, and,

therefore, deals with hardship in each of these aspects.

Love146 encourages people to volunteer in order to help spread their vision, which is, "the abolition of child sex slavery and exploitation. Nothing less."

Denora Naulty, senior, hoped for this event to touch the hearts of many and go beyond the community. Naulty yearned for students to see, "how the world works in other countries and how we can appreciate what we have here in America."

Club News

By Ivy Christoffers

It has been some time since we have graced these pages, so I will try to bring you up to date, beginning with our latest meeting where we welcomed Assistant Governor Anna Mae Kobbe from College Park Rotary and John Wilkerson from Bladensburg Rotary. We also had three guests we hope will accept invitations to join our club, Valerie Kabelac, co-owner of Will's Decorating, Paul Zurkowski, President of GBBA and Frank Cockrell, a local philanthropist. The prior meeting, we were pleased to welcome Miss Sara Gabriel and Mr. Benneth Chuckwu, students from High Point High School, who, in February, attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp in Edgewater, Md. It was gratifying to hear how much they enjoyed the weekend and how the experience had made a positive impression in their lives. It is our pleasure to sponsor two students from High Point each year and Past Rotary President, Mrs. Nancy Randall, has chaired this event for several years.

In January, we enjoyed Bob Pelletier from the Potomac Club who was accompanied by Sandra McMakin from Alberta, Canada. They were promoting the upcoming curling tournament that will be held in our area April 1-6. The Potomac Curling Club plays at The Ice House on Old Gunpowder Road. Curling dates from the 1500s.

On January 17, several guests were in attendance. President Eleanor's friend, Jane, gave an update on the Lubuto Project. Beltsville Rotary Club was one of the first to sponsor this library project for the street children in Africa and it is now being picked up by others and continues to grow. Byron, a friend of Howard Phoebe, spoke of his upcoming third assignment to Afghanistan and the importance of working with the youth of all cultures, especially in war zones. Our charter member, Karl, introduced Bob Frederick, who owns Apollo Distribution that warehouses and installs household

Beltsville Rotary Update



Beltsville Rotarian Nancy Randall with High Point students Benneth Chuckwu and Sara Gabriel

appliances in the area for G.E. and Amazon.com. John Moynihan brought Paul Zurkowski who spoke of the Greater Beltsville Business Assoc. Paul leads a monthly meeting of these business owners. Sonja Festerling brought her daughter, Stephanie, the general manager and Alfred Millard, the President of Behnke's Nurseries. They look forward to working with the Rotary Club in the future. We have held our Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser there for several years. And successfully, I might add.

On Jan. 24, we heard updates on RYLA, the bag tax and the letters received from the students at Beltsville Adventist School on dictionaries we provided each third grade student.

On Jan. 31, we had another leader in the Beltsville community become a member of the Beltsville Rotary Club. It was my honor to lead the induction service that welcomed Karen Coakley to our club. She is an activist for all the citizens of the Beltsville area and is familiar to everyone. Karen spoke of her real estate business and her knowledge of the greater Washington area, her passion for working with the police department and their at-risk youth program. Karen will definitely be an asset to our club.

We continue to meet on Tuesday at noon at The Holiday Inn in College Park, Md. Why not drop by and check us out?



On Sunday, February 12, members of Cub Pack 298, Pack 1031, Troop 1033 and Girl Scout Troop 4129 celebrated Scout Sunday at St Joseph's Church. Fr. Rose celebrated the Mass. Webe-los Olamide O. served and Teresa J. did

the responsorial. Thanks also go out to Christina O., Joseph M., Jack S., Tyler P., Kyle T. and Daniel F. who brought up the gifts.



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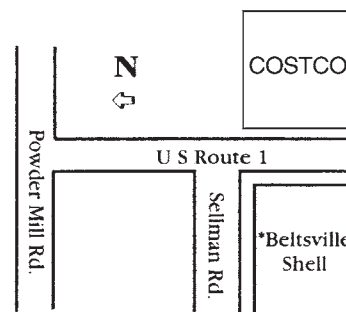


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Club News

Women's Community Club of Beltsville Scholarship Program

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville announces the 2012 scholarship program. 2012 Essay Contest, Application for Scholarship To further your education endeavors in college or trade school.

Student Name: _____

Student Address: _____

Student Telephone # or e-mail address: _____

Student Identification #: _____

Current School: _____

Requirements:

Beltsville Resident — Previous recipients of this scholarship are not eligible to apply.

High School Graduating Senior or 1st Year College or Trade School Student

36 or more Community Service Hours

Completed Application, Attachments, and Essay

Attach on separate paper:

1. List school activities, community service activities, awards, leadership positions held, etc.

2. Write an essay of not more than 400 words on "Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and your future goals."

3. Letter of Acceptance to College or Trade School. (This is to be turned in later in order to send scholarship to correct school.)

Please return application with attached documents to:

Women's Community Club of Beltsville
2012 Scholarship Program,
c/o Emmanuel United Methodist Church
11416 Cedar Lane
Beltsville, MD 20705
by April 16, 2012.

Masonic Lodge To Hold a Public Open House

Birmingham Lodge #188, A.F.&A.M. will sponsor an all day event open to anyone interested in the fraternal organization. The Open House will take place on Saturday, May 5th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Food, beverages and entertainment will be provided for all visitors. Men and their families (children welcome) are encouraged to attend, with no obligation, to learn about the ageless fraternity and what community efforts are supported.

The history and traditions of Freemasonry date back to antiquity, with the singular purpose of making good men better. The

tenets of our fraternity - Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth - have stood the test of time. This Masonic heritage has been passed down through the ages with centuries of traditions, promoting community involvement and the building of friendships that last a lifetime.

Birmingham Lodge #188, A.F.&A.M. has maintained its presence in Beltsville, MD since Nov. 1891, and has a rich history of community support and service. During the Open House several programs will be explained, along with information about the CHIP program (Child Identification Program), and other community ser-

vice programs.

Through fellowship, charity, education and leadership, Freemasons are making their lives, and their communities, stronger by the day. We invite you to learn more about us and ask your questions. Please visit us during our Open House.

The Beltsville Masonic Lodge (Birmingham Lodge #188) is located near the intersection of Powder Mill and Edmonston Roads. More information about Masonry may be obtained at the following websites: www.AskAMarylandMason.org or www.birmingham188.org.


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SEUSS

continued from page 1

it has been refrigerated. A wonderful video is found at science cafe when you google oobleck and an ABC newscast sheds light on this scientific phenomenon. We made 4 large tubs (10 pounds of cornstarch) and took them outside. We did not add food coloring, to keep clothing safe. We played with it outside, exploring its properties, collaborating in small groups with our fifth-grade friends. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss.

Share Your News!



Send your neighborhood news items to tedladd02@aol.com.

United Vision

By Jamie Elie and Heidy Mendoza, High Point High School Seniors

Football players put away the seasonal gear to help the community give someone the joy of Christmas in April. At High Point High School, Mr. Brian Cannady, Investigative Counselor, and Mr. Sylvester George, security guard, face another successful year in their mentor program called United Vision. This program reaches out to students to give them an opportunity to express themselves, plan their futures, and give back to their society.

United Vision currently plans to give back to their community by putting together a project called "Christmas in April" with the Prince George's County Police, District of Columbia National Guard and U.S Army.

The goal of the project is to, "Give back to the community in order to become one community within a community," stated Cannady.

Although most members are athletes, the program is open to students who would like to join. Aside from mentoring, United Vision goes to different communities to assist various organizations and the police department just to understand the value of helping each other. They involve themselves in voluntary clean-ups, fill out job applications, work on their college resumes and other tasks.

"The Mentor Program is open to the public. The program gives the students opportunities to express themselves, figure out their dreams, and give them college opportunities," said Cannady.


During their Tuesday meetings, which consist of 40 to 50 people, their main supporters, the National Guard, speak to the kids about the value of life and how to get through their struggles. George expressed the program "teaches kids how to become productive kids in today's society." He also stated the program gives the kids a

chance to become successful in the real world, whereas he never had a program like United Vision to guide him. George is a retired Prince George's Corrections Officer who was a part of the program "Safety Children" in the corrections facility. He expressed that he wanted to give back what wasn't given to him when he was young.

The program offers different job positions at different locations such as Six Flags America in Largo, Md., and other summer jobs. The program provides community service for students who are freshmen, sophomores, juniors and even seniors who haven't completed their hours.


"Plan your work, work your plan," said Cannady.

United Vision will always be open to youth at High Point High School. "We want the kids to bring a friend; we're here for the students. This program is open to everybody, male and female!" exclaimed George.



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School News

Students Working at Riderwood Receive Scholarships

Thirty-five high school students from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties received scholarships to help them attend college at a ceremony on Tuesday, March 20, at Riderwood Retirement Community, where they have worked part-time. Riderwood residents raised a total of \$210,000 during the past two months to show their appreciation of the students' work and to help assist them financially in their post-secondary education.

Each student will receive a \$6,000 scholarship. The students are from High Point High School, Paint Branch High School, Springbrook High School, James Hubert Blake High School, Montgomery Blair High School, John F. Kennedy High School, Sherwood High School, and Bladensburg High School.

"Many of our scholarship recipients have worked hard for the past two years to maintain their grades while working at Riderwood for 12 hours a week," said Fiona Divecha, the community's Philanthropy Manager.

"Most students are the first generation in their family to attend college. We, as a community, want to make an impact on the future of these young adults and feel we can do that by encouraging them to further their education," continued Divecha. "Not only do students receive scholarships at the end of their tenure at Riderwood, but our residents build relationships with them, ask them about school, and encourage them to keep working hard. Our residents are good role models for the young adults and serve as examples for what a good education can do for one's life."

Since 2002, more than \$1.5 million in scholarship money has been awarded to students who work part-time at Riderwood.

This year's scholarship recipients are listed above.

| First Name | Last Name | High School |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Nicholas | Adjei | High Point |
| Jose | Aguilar-Arevalo | High Point |
| Senovi | Amegnaglo | Springbrook |
| Henry | Aparacio | Blake |
| Abigail | Asantewaa | Blake |
| Mahlet | Belay | Blair |
| Jade | Burns | Paint Branch |
| Andy | Cruze | Springbrook |
| Zubin | Das | High Point |
| Stacy | Fuentes-Perez | Springbrook |
| Sara-Ruth | Gabriel | High Point |
| Janelle | Gray | Paint Branch |
| Jennifer | Johnson | High Point |
| Shifali | Kapoor | Paint Branch |
| Genevieve | Koomson | Paint Branch |
| Adamatu | Koroma | Blair |
| Handakina | Lintiso | High Point |
| Khadijah | Mansaray | Bladensburg High |
| Orlyse | Mballa | Paint Branch |
| Nyakeh | Minah | High Point |
| Bummah | Ndeh | Paint Branch |
| Rajan | Negassa | Springbrook |
| Adanna | Nwaro | Springbrook |
| Selasi | Ocloo | High Point |
| Ibukun | Oluremi | Blake |
| Olivia | Oriaku | Springbrook |
| Branden | Palma | Springbrook |
| Staline | Sipanze | Sherwood |
| Solome | Tesemma | John F Kennedy |
| Janney | Ukaegbu | Paint Branch |
| Joann | Valentine | Blake |
| Tracy | Velazquez | Blake |
| Daniel | Villard | Springbrook |
| Cadijah | Walcott | Blake |
| Michael | Young | High Point |

Calverton's Young Authors

Calverton's Young Authors continue to meet once a week after school to explore their creative energies. The Young Author, Laura Espinal, who is in her second year with the program, submitted the following two original poems. Mrs. Wood would like to again thank Target for their monetary grant to support fine arts for students in Prince George's County.

In the Blink of an Eye
 Written by the poet Laura Espinal

Where the Light Touches
 Written by the poet Laura Espinal

and you're on your way to jump the broom.
 You blink,
 and you're a mother of twins
 You blink,
 and the cycle begins again.
 In the blink of an eye

Where the light touches,
 Imagination wanders.
 Truth speaks
 Ideas giggle and tickle
 Thoughts dance

Where the light touches,
 Smiles smile
 Babies laugh
 Flowers bloom
 Hearts touch

Where there is no light
 The opposite prevails

I choose to live in the light

School News

High Point High School PTSA Thanks Jain Society

By Linda Diasgranados High Point High School PTSA

The High Point High School Beautification Group and Ecology Club thanks the Jain Society of Metropolitan Washington for their generous grant of \$501.00.

The Jain Society's donation will definitely help us in our recertification as a Green School and beautify our school grounds for our students and community.

The donation will provide the students with the funds to purchase flowering plants, annuals and perennials, mulch and small shrubs. The High Point High School Beautification Group and Ecology Club students will plant them in front of the school.

Once again, we would like to express our gratitude for the Jain Society's generous contribution and community involvement in our school.

Strategies of Local Home Invaders

By Jeannine A. Carter

One evening, about 18 months ago, as daylight was turning to dusk, my front doorbell rang. I skipped down the stairs and had my fingers around the deadbolt lock but I hesitated. I shouted through the steel front door and the glass storm door, "Who is it?"

There was no response and I repeated my question. A man's voice replied, "It's Joe!" I asked him, "Joe who?" Once again the voice said, "You know, Joe!"

I exclaimed that I did not know anyone named Joe. I hadn't realized there were two men at the door until I heard one convince the other to leave my front stoop, and to hurry about it.

By the time I looked out of the front window they were long gone. Once upon a time I was a very trusting and friendly person, but over five years of living in a beautiful neighborhood tucked between Powder Mill Road and North Lincoln Avenue, I am forced to put up my guard time after time.

The second incident of this nature occurred about six months later, and the ensuing examples happened so close together the time frame is sketchy. Another nice evening in late summer: The doorbell rang and having remembered the last incident I didn't hesitate to ask who was there. A woman's voice said, "Ma'am, we're taking a survey."

"A survey?" I asked, "What kind of survey?"

A man's voice chimed in: "Oh, you must know what a survey is. We ask questions and you answer them!"

I used the harshest voice I could muster and told them to leave. As they scampered away I heard the man tell the woman, "Well, that didn't work!"

A few weeks later I watched a man exit a small pickup truck parked two mailboxes away from my house. The truck had a small aluminum freezer attached to the bed. Having purchased premium meats and seafood from a similar gentleman in my previous home, I couldn't put my finger on why I didn't answer the door.

Maybe the fact that he parked so far away and mine was the only house he approached made me uncomfortable. He rang the doorbell repeatedly. My neighbor was sitting across the street in his truck and shouted to the "meat salesman" there was nobody home at my house. I watched the guy get into his truck and drive out of the neighborhood, never stopping at another house.

Quite recently the bell rang and I tiptoed downstairs and peered between the blind slats. A young man dressed all in black, a hood covering his head and most of his face, stood at the door. He rang the bell two more times, then knocked. I watched him run off, but as he did I noticed he wore bright red Chuck Taylor shoes, maybe something an ill-meaning intruder shouldn't wear.

The last incident occurred at the very end of January. I was preparing to go to a party and a few interior lights were on. Perhaps the man who rang the bell surmised I was home, or maybe it didn't matter. I asked who was there. No reply. I tried again and again. A man's voice informed me he lived around the corner and wanted to give me invitation cards. I emphatically informed him I was not going to answer the door to anyone I didn't know, and to please leave the invitations between the doors. Once again, by the time I got to the window, he was gone. Half an hour later I opened the door, and there were no invitation cards there.

Go figure.

My neighborhood is very "private." Few people socialize, sit on their front step on a nice evening and they keep their blinds and drapes drawn. There have been a few attempts to establish a neighborhood watch but there isn't enough participation. I suppose I should play along, behaving like a turtle with its head hidden in a shell. The problem is some of the situations I experienced happened during the day.

I do not want to live like that. I am proud of my home, and I like it when I approach the house after

INVASION

continues on page 18



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School News

Calverton Elementary Celebrates Black History Month

By Becky Cavallo

Calverton students and staff ended their month-long celebration of Black History by holding a program that gave the audience a sense of the impressive contributions and rich history of African-Americans from the 1600s to today. The program was performed twice; first on Wednesday, Feb. 29, for the pre-kindergartners, kindergartners, first- and second-graders, and then again on Thursday, March 1, for the older grades. The small multipurpose room was rimmed with parents and staff members equally excited to see the show. The back of the



Melyssa Ankoma-Sey and Sophia Dada serve as narrators for Calverton's Black History Program

Sharnece Avril eloquently recited a poem by Eloise Greenfield celebrating the courage and grit of Harriet Tubman in *Harriet Tubman Didn't Take No Stuff*, followed by staff member, Mr. Hamilton, who read the moving *Ode to Nat Turner* by T. Thomas Fortune in his deep baritone voice.

Music teacher, Mrs. Reed, directed fifth grade chorus members in a medley of African American songs that included, *Let My People Go*, *Wade in the Water*, *On My Way to Freedom Land*, *Free at Last*, and *Little David Play on Your Harp, Allelu*.

Melyssa and Sophia summarized the effects of the Civil War and the Civil Rights movements in the lives of all Americans, then the fourth and fifth grade students sang *Lift Every Voice and Sing* while Mrs. Arbach directed them and some audience members joined in.

While the narrators explained the contributions of many famous African Americans, students depicting these great heroes stood on stage to help the audience envision them. Jesse Owens, Muhammad Ali, astronaut Mae Jemison, Whitney Houston, and Michael Jackson all graced the Calverton stage, and all did a wonderful job depicting the character they were

Reason Why), performed by principal, Mrs. Sloan, fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Bravo, and two fourth grade students, Mariama Jalloh and Kimani Gandy. The poem expresses deep pride in the history of the African people and the strength of African women; it set the tone for



Katherin Molina and Laura Espinal dance to "Wade in the Water"

stage was decorated with posters of famous people, and books with African-American history themes lined the stage.

Vice principal, Mr. Daniels, welcomed the parents, students and staff to the program, then turned the show over to the narrators, Melyssa Ankoma-Sey and Sophia Dada. The well-spoken fifth-graders gave a short summary of African-American roots in the American colonies. The first performance was a dramatic recitation of Nikki Giovanni's poem, *Ego Tripping (There May Be a*



Calverton dancers perform "Wade in the Water"

the talented performances that followed.

A group of students in chorus followed, performing an African call and response song. Music teacher, Mrs. Arbach, sang a line and the choral students responded by singing the same line. Fourth-graders accompanied the song by playing on African instruments. Audience members were invited to join in.

Next, an energetic dance was performed to the spiritual, *Wade in the Water*, evoking a time when slaves spread information about freedom and hope by gathering together to sing. Two fifth grade girls, Katherin Molina and Laura Espinal, began the dance with white parasols and flowing white dresses, followed by a group of young ladies dressed in white who leaped and swayed to the haunting music. Two more young ladies made the water flow along the front of the stage by rippling blue cloth in front of the performers.

portraying.

The final musical number was the ever-popular Temptations' *My Girl*. Christian Tejada, Jhoan Romero, Nathan Nana, Ramez Antar, Eyole Wuno and Ce'Quan Crawford performed the smooth moves of those musical greats.

Sophia and Melyssa ended the program by talking about the historic accomplishments of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Barack Obama. After the show, Mrs. Sloan applauded Mrs. Donnella, Mrs. Reed, and Mrs. Arbach for their contributions to the program, introduced the hard-working stage crew, and thanked Mrs. Lazard, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Donmoyer for all of their much appreciated assistance. She also thanked the performers who worked so hard and had even given up recess time to practice their parts. Everyone's hard work and dedication helped make the program a great success.

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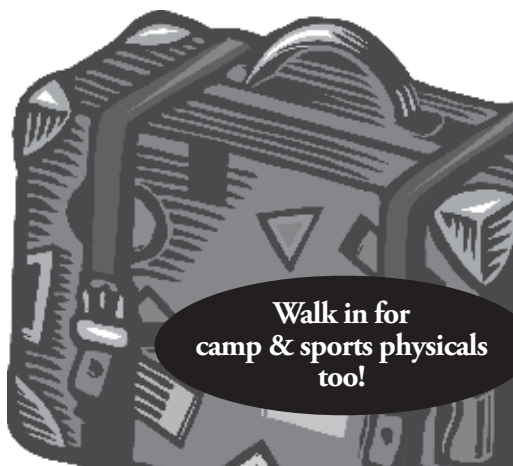


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School News

From the Hilltop – High Point News

The members of the concert choir participated in Catholic University's Choir Festival Day on Friday, Feb. 17. Unfortunately, there were a few students who were unable to attend the all-day affair. The students were adjudicated for their performance and earned an overall rating of excellent. They also attended a choir clinic, participated in a choir workshop, had a campus tour and ate lunch at the University Union. Catholic University is located in Northeast Washington, D.C., on the campus of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Students attending were Ruth Achu, Edward Adutwum, Jacqueline Bonilla, Victoria Campos, Marisol Cartagena, Brady Cusack, Darius Cortez, Jair Francis, Persuannette Fermin, Tiffani Lawrence, Melissa Lazo, Crystal Mendenhall, Lorena Rodriguez, Wendy Rodriguez, Adiat Saba, Deja Sumler, Huguette Tsgong, Lauren Thomas, Anisha Vattappara, Brandon Wells and Ackera Williams. Malachi Howard, who played the cello and accompanied the choir's performance, also attended. Ms. Priscilla Coleman directs the High Point High School Choir. Thank you Ms. Coleman for a job well done and congratulations to the choir for their rating of excellent.

Coach Andrew Vernor's wrestling team competed in the Prince George's County Wrestling Championship Tournament Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18 at Charles H. Flowers High School. The team placed fifth in the tournament. For the first time in many years, the "Point" had two first place finishers. Junior Denis Robles, won the gold in the 106-pound weight class, and senior Ayele Gebrehana did the same in the next weight class (113). Kaleem Smith, a junior, finished second among those in the 170-pound class. Macred Gbenro (220) and Ben Yacoubou (285) finished fourth in their respective groups. Their outstanding finishes qualified them for the 3A/4A Maryland State Regional Tournament at LaPlata High School in Charles County. After making it through the preliminary rounds on Friday, March 24, Denis Robles and Kaleem Smith both took home fourth place finishes on Saturday. The fourth place finishes qualified them for the Maryland State Championship Tournament Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, at Cole Field House on the campus of the University of Maryland in College Park, Md. Congratulations to the wrestling team for an outstanding season and best of luck to Denis and Kaleem at Cole.

On March 23, the High Point Bocce Team traveled to Hagerstown Community College in Washington County to compete in the Maryland State Unified Bocce Tournament. The extraordinarily long day resulted with the Eagles returning to Beltsville, Md., late Friday evening

with a silver medal for finishing in the tourney. Bocce is a unified Special Olympics varsity sport where students with disabilities participate alongside fellow students without disabilities. The following students represented High Point in Hagerstown, Md.: Erica Belshay, Chaniqua Bond, Lauren Fernandez, Sara-Ruth Gabriel, Kelly Hernandez, Zoila Lopez, Yogi Patel, and Yolande Pokam. The coach of the team is Mr. Dan Peabody, who is a 12th grade counselor. What made the day extra-special was the team lost its first three regular season games, only to rebound by winning its next five to eventually finish with a 5-4 record. Way to go, team!

In mid-February, the school received outstanding news from the Testing Department regarding The Formative Assessment Systemic Test (FAST). The Algebra FAST test scores improved by 16 percentage points, which was more than any other school in the county. Kudos to Math Teacher Coordinator, Julie Snyder, and the whole team of math teachers, for their commitment to strive for excellence. The High Point's math team is setting the standard for the county. The English FAST scores also went up to almost 85 percent Proficient and Advanced, which was four percentage points above the county average. Finally, the Science scores increased 11 percentage points over the same period last year. The FAST was administered both first and second quarters. The purpose of the countywide exam is to measure students' progress in mastering goals that will be tested on the HSA in three content areas: English 10, Biology, and Algebra-Data Analysis. We are definitely within reach of making Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) this year because of teamwork and dedication on the part of all teachers across the curriculum.

Cicero has been quoted in saying, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." He certainly would be happy to hear the good news from "the Point's" Library Media Center. Media Specialist Linda Langr recently ran a circulation check and is happy to report that 200 more books were checked out in February 2012 (675) than in February 2011 (462). Print is, indeed, alive and well.

The Drama Club, under the direction of Ms. Betty Smalls, debuted a mini-series on WHPS, the morning TV show, to help students see how poor decisions can often lead to dangerous and even tragic situations. The episodes will run over the next couple of months. The goal of the vignettes is to encourage students to make better choices.

Wednesday, March 7, two of High Point's finest gave an outstanding presentation to the school's ninth-graders. Paul Monteiro (Class of 1998) and Demisse Habtese-

lasie (Class of 2010) addressed a very important topic, *Achieving the Dream: Pathways to Success*. The two shared their knowledge and insight with more than 550 students. They encouraged them to take advantage of every opportunity that High Point's staff and club sponsors offer to improve and prepare themselves for life after high school. Paul is a graduate of Howard University Law School and currently serves as Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Demisse is in his second year at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., and will serve as a White House intern this summer. Thank you Paul and Demisse for "paying it back."

High Point has its very own chess expert on staff. Community Resource Instruction (CRI) paraprofessional and High Point graduate (Class of 1986) Mr. Jeff Wilson has been on top of his chess game for many years. He played his first game when he was five-years-old. When time permits on weekends and during summer vacation, he plays up to 100 computerized games a day. He refers to chess as being karate for the brain. He has graciously volunteered his time and skills over the past four years to teach chess strategies to Youth With Purpose (YWP) students. Mr. Wilson also handled the purchasing of quality chessboards for the YWP program. His efforts to help our students master the game and become better analytical thinkers are greatly appreciated.

Finally, a team of five seniors placed third out of five teams in the management portion of the Maryland ProStart Invitational, a culinary arts and management competition put on by the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation. Their business plan called for a new restaurant located on a river walk in a fictional town. The restaurant was built around a sports theme, calling it Champions Riverside Café and Bakery. Each student earned a scholarship package worth \$25,000 or more. Congratulations and thanks to Rachel Healy, Rosa Hernandez, Tiera Stephens, Reema Taylor, Leslie Valencia and Ms. Barbara Hughes for bringing honor to High Point, the Family and Consumer Sciences Department and the students in the ProStart Program. Also, a special thank you goes out to Mr. Michael Alfaro, a High Point grad and Staff Development Manager at Riderwood Village. Mr. Alfaro was the team's mentor. His knowledge and expertise helped to focus the team's attention on the finer points of their presentation.

Until the next publication of the Beltsville News, good things will continue to happen at "the Point." The view from the hilltop is a bright one and getting better.

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School News

High Point High School PTSA

By Linda Diasgranados High Point High School PTSA

The High Point PTSA has been very busy these last two months. In February, Councilwoman Mary Lehman came and spoke to the parents about the Secondary School Reform. Many parents, the PTSA, and staff members at High Point were not happy with the High School Reform that would have moved several programs out of High Point and placed them at other schools. High Point teacher Barbara Hughes spoke about several of the programs that were slated for removal. Luckily, with the help of the community, High Point staff members, Councilwoman Lehman's office, Karen Coakley, Karen of TJ's Restaurant, Riderwood staff,

and a host of other supporters, we have been told that the programs slated to be moved will be staying at High Point High School. Kudos to these groups that worked at the 11th hour to keep these programs at High Point High School. Last week architects toured High Point and we will be getting a totally refurbished kitchen. They also looked at the greenhouse and we will be getting a total expansion of the greenhouse. Thank you community. In February we had our baseball team come to our meeting to speak with us. As many of you may know, High Point High School has one of the best baseball and softball teams in the county. The last couple of years our baseball fields have fallen on terrible times. The team lacks bleachers, they don't have an adequate dugout or storage facility for equipment and the list goes on and on. Assistant Coach Jim Cheney and some of the players came to our PTSA meeting and showed the parents blown-up pictures of the conditions of the fields. At our March meeting, we were informed the county has come out to help our players and our field is slowly but surely being rebuilt to standard. We still have a ways to go but we are seeing some improvement.

At our March meeting our football team coach, Andre Brown, came and spoke to the parents. Coach Brown is trying to rebuild our football team and is looking for bare essentials for the players; donations of any kind would be appreciated even wrist tape, or a used camcorder to tape the students. Coach Brown is also trying to raise money so the kids can attend some of the summer passing leagues. He hopes that with hard work and determination things will start to change for the football team. We also had Ms. Humphrey from guidance come and speak about May graduation and next year's classes for students. The PTSA has been very fortunate to have many speakers come and speak with the parents. A year ago we might have seven to ten parents come out to our PTSA meetings this past year we have had an average of 60 parents come to our PTSA meeting. We also have more than 100 members signed up. Our remaining meetings for the school year will be April 10, May 8 and June 12. The High Point PTSA would like to thank the students, administration, and the community for its support. We have been working very hard together and we have truly had an amazing and positive year.

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LILLY

continued from page 4

the chatter-laid her head down in the crate and drifted off to sleep.

I'm sure many more details will come to mind as the days go on, but all that matters right now is that it is raining and Lilly is inside

where she is nice and warm. We invite you to follow Lilly as she transitions to a life back inside on [her blog](#). Here you will find her first pancake breakfast, her reunion with Cheyenne, and photos of her sleeping comfortably on every dog bed in the house.

INVASION

continued from page 15

dark and the interior is warmly lit and inviting.

During the spring and summer while working in the yard alone, many strangers approach me to sell magazine subscriptions or donate to a local church. It feels very awkward to shoo them off. My front door is likely open because I am in and out.

Unfortunately, I see a time coming when I will shut myself in on a beautiful spring day, afraid to wash

my car or plant flowers.

Please never open your door if you don't know who it is. Parents and guardians who do not want to be a victim of a home invasion should never answer the door if they are not familiar with the visitor.

Use your dead bolt locks and secure the deck or patio doors as well. Criminals have many methods to fool us. That is what they do, it is their area of expertise. And if you can - if your neighbors are friendly enough - try to familiarize yourself with those nearby, because you never know when you may need them.

ON THE AGENDA

continued from page 1

neighbors air Conditioner call them to make sure this is a scheduled service call. If you cannot reach them call the police because Air Conditioners are being stolen!!

Break-Ins and Theft from Autos. Please pay attention to strange cars in your neighborhood. Write down the tag number and description of the car. DO NOT leave valuables in your car!

Crime Updates sign up at

www.crimereports.com.

Yard Sale Signs PLEASE take them down after your yard sale. Do not leave them up as trash for the community.

I can be reached at 301.937.3490 or karenmcoakley@msn.com if you have a community concern or would like to receive community updates. VOTE ON APRIL 3RD. Mark your calendars for the April 18th Beltsville Citizen's Association meeting 7 p.m. at Beltsville Academy. Bring a Friend ...Bring a Neighbor.

Calendar of Events

AREA EVENTS

Please contact the individual facilities for any changes in hours of operation due to inclement weather.

MONTPELIER MANSION & ART CENTER

9650 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel. Call 301.377.7817 for information on events. TTY: 301.699.2544. E-mail: montpeliermansion@pgparks.com. Contact the Art Center at 301.377.7800 for information on art and photography classes. The mansion grounds are open from dawn until dusk every day of the year.

DAYS AND HOURS FOR TOURS IN 2012

The mansion is open Thursday – Tuesday and is closed on Wednesday. Guided tours resume this month and take place at 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. Self-guided tours are available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fees: \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, and \$1 for children 5 – 18. Children under age 5 are admitted free.

DINOSAURS INVADE THE MANSION!

The exhibit continues until Sunday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. See the remains of dinosaurs, plants, and early mammals from Laurel's own, rare deposit of fossils that are 100 million years old. The fees are included with paid admission to the mansion.

FESTIVAL OF HERBS, TEA, AND THE ARTS

Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entry to the festival is free. This year's theme is *Teas of the World*, so there are lots of international treats in store. Fee: \$12.50 for timed tickets to the tea, regardless of age. Tours of the house will be free.

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Dr., College Park. Call 301.864.6029 for information on more events. TTY: 301.699.2544. Museum admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, and \$2.00 for children. Children under 2 admitted free. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for major holidays. Tours for groups of 10 or more are available by appointment.

PIONEERS ON THE PAINT BRANCH EXHIBIT

The exhibit continues until Sunday, May 27. It celebrates and honors the men who created the first Army Aviation School 100 years ago. FREE with museum admission.

LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707. Contact the center to learn about classes and special events. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387. TTY: 301.446.3402. Regular hours of operation: Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed on Sunday.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

Please contact the individual facilities for any changes in hours of operation due to inclement weather.

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, April 24, 3-6:45 p.m. at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville. Sponsored by the Beltsville Lions in cooperation with MedStar Health Blood Donor Services. Please call Ted Ladd, 301.937.6796 to make an appointment.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CLUB OF BELTSVILLE

Monday, April 9, 2012 12:30 p.m. at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

10301 Baltimore Ave. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for federal holidays. NAL is one of four national libraries of the United States, with locations in Beltsville, MD and Washington, DC. It houses one of the world's largest and most accessible

agricultural information collections and serves as the nexus for a national network of state land-grant and U. S. Department of Agriculture field libraries. Call 301.504.5876 for information on basic services, resources, and special events. Free and open to the public. See NAL at www.nal.usda.gov or on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib.

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PLANTING TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Saturday, April 14 at 12 noon. There's more to attracting hummingbirds and butterflies than pretty flowers. Learn how plants attract and provide essentials for these fanciful additions to any garden. Free.

SELECTING AND CARING FOR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Saturday, April 14 at 1:30 p.m. Learn about proper feeder care, what food is best, and what kinds of feeders are available. Free.

PRUNING BASICS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS

Sunday, April 15 at 1 p.m. Learn how to properly prune your trees and shrubs. Free.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Regular operating hours are: Monday – Tuesday from 1 to 9 p.m., Wednesday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Sunday.

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

The Annual Poetry Contest concludes with the Annual Poetry Reading on Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. Submit your original poetry for a chance to win. Pick up your applications at the Information Desk. The deadline is Saturday, April 7 by 5 p.m. Ages 6 and over.

CHESS CLUB

Tuesdays, April 10 and 24 at 6 p.m. Chess for all ages and levels. Everyone welcome. Come to learn or just to play and have fun.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

STORYTIME

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, and fingerplays. Ages 3 – 5.

GOOSEY LOOSEY

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, fingerplays, and Mother Goose Rhymes. For newborns to 18 months with caregiver.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Saturday, April 14 at 2 p.m. Build your child's confidence in reading. Bring a favorite book or choose one from the library. Read to a specially trained therapy dog that will be glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required. Please contact the Beltsville Library for more information. Ages 6 – 12.

FAMILY GAME ON!

Tuesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. Families are invited to join the library for a night of video games and board games.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

SPRING BREAK GAMING TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, April 4 at 2 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of tournament gaming featuring Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. Brawl. Registration begins at 2 p.m. and the tournament will begin at 2:30 p.m. The winner will win a prize courtesy of the Friends of the Library. Ages 11 – 18.

HUNGER GAMES: A LIVE ACTION ROLE PLAYING EVENT

Thursday, April 5 at 2 p.m. Join us for an after-

noon at the Cornucopia, where there will be battles, challenges, and ultimately, one winner. Can you survive the Hunger Games? Registration required. Please contact the Beltsville library for more information. Ages 11 – 18.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

FRIENDS OF THE BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. William P. Young's *The Shack: A Novel*.

EREADER FAQS: BORROWING EBOOKS AT YOUR LIBRARY

Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Learn more about the Kindle, the NOOK Color, and the iPad, and how to download eBooks to your devices.

AFTERNOON BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, April 17 at 2 p.m. Eric Foner's *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD

Thursday, April 26 at 9:10 a.m. Registration required.

BELTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Program Specialist is Michael Hansborough. Contact him at 301.937.6613 or Michael.Hansborough@pgparks.com for more information. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation are: Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except for Xtreme Teen events), Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except for Xtreme Teen events), closed on Sunday.

STRATEGY GAME CLUB

Every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy board games and strategy games and tons of fun. All ages. Free.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Monday, April 2 to Friday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Enjoy arts and crafts, games, sports, and lots more. Before and After Care is available for an additional charge. Fee: \$100 Residents, \$120 Non-residents. Ages 5 – 12.

LET'S MAKE A KITE

Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Celebrate National Kite month and join us as we host a kite making workshop here at the community center. Pre-register by Saturday, April 14. Fee: \$3 Residents, \$5 Non-residents. Ages 5 – 12.

LIVE ANIMAL SHOW FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Thursday, April 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Join us as we have some of our scaly and furry friends come visit us from the Mt. Rainier Nature Center. Ages 3 – 5. Free.

XTREME TEENS REGULAR EVENTS

Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ages 13 – 17. FREE with valid Center ID card.

VANSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

6813 Ammendale Rd., Vansville. The Director is Jeremy Weiss. Contact him at 301.937.6621 or Jeremy.Weiss@pgparks.com for more information. Fax: 301.937.6623. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation are: Monday – Thursday from 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except for Xtreme Teen events), and Sunday from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

PIANO BAR HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, April 12 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Listen to the piano man sing us a melody at the Gwendolyn Britt Senior Activity Center. Enjoy a fun Happy Hour with great live music, delicious buffet style food, and great people. Reservation required by March 29 (call the center to check on availability). Departure from Vansville

CALENDAR

continues on page 20

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School News

Reading Incentive Program at High Road Upper School

At the beginning of the school year, the staff at High Road Upper School (HRUS) created a new program designed to spark student interest in books and literature. The program, titled the Reading Incentive Program (RIP), has been designed and spearheaded by Aliciamarie Johnson and Shemika Owens. They are joined by a growing staff committee, which now has a number of enthusiastic members, including Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Alexis, Ms. Amy, Ms. Bryant, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Hicks.

The program uses a combination of individual and group activities. Students will be rewarded with a lottery ticket each time an observer catches them engaged in reading a book. Monthly drawings of these tickets will be held dispensing awards such as gift cards, movie passes, homework passes, etc.



Classes compete in quarterly reading projects and activities such as Stop, Drop, and Read book clubs, Battle of the Books, and the annual High Road Upper School Book Fair.

Ms. Johnson states "We hope to

ignite the desire to read in each of our students so that their lives can be enriched academically, socially, and professionally."

HRUS is gearing up for an exciting month, as High Road Reads continues.

Recently the school celebrated the importance of reading throughout the month of March in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. The month was full of exciting events and activities geared toward reading. The students and staff decorated the halls and bulletin boards with reading themed décor. The entire building looks like one giant Dr. Seuss book. Activities will include weekly book clubs on Tuesdays, as well as drawings for prizes, and Stop, Drop, and Read each week, where students and staff alike will stop what they are doing and take a time-out for reading. Special events will also include the third annual book fair with a special guest speaker, which will be held on March 29 from 12:30 to 2 p.m., as well as the first High Road Spelling Bee, which will take place on March 28. Committee leader, Ms. Johnson, shared, "March is going to be an exciting month of reading events that will hopefully motivate and inspire students to read."

CALENDAR

continued from page 19

Community Center at 2:30 p.m., returning at 5 p.m. Ages: 60 and up. Free.

MAGICAL BOOM

Tuesday, April 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ever think science and magic don't mix? You will see them actually come together hand-in-hand for our entertaining magic-science show! Bring out the whole family because after the show we're blowing the roof off by building an active volcano. Registration ends Wednesday, April 11. Maximum registration is 50 and we encourage families (five individuals max per family) to sign up. All ages. Free.

EASTER EGG DECORATING

Friday, April 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Pick your favorite colors and put your personal touches to vibrant and tasty eggs! Ages 10 - 17. Free.

XTREME TEENS REGULAR EVENTS

Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ages 13 - 17. FREE with valid Center ID card.



Share Your News!

Send your neighborhood news items to tedladd02@aol.com.

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

HAVE YOU HEARD THE REAL EASTER STORY?



Come Experience the story at Beltsville Church

You've always known there was more to Easter than bunnies and candy, but what exactly? Why do we celebrate a man's death on a cross? And what does it have to do with people today? At **Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church** we want you to know the real story, because Easter has the power to transform your life! This Easter season join us for two special programs that will help you get a look back at the origin of this holiday, and at a moment that changed the world. You'll love what you learn. -Pastor Kermit

TWO EASTER SERVICES

Saturday, March 31

9:30 AM and 12:00 noon "Oh, What a Savior"
A special Easter cantata sung by the Beltsville Church Choir

Saturday, April 7

9:30 AM and 12:00 noon "The Lamb Wins"
Easter worship service with live music and children's special events and a sermon by Pastor Kermit

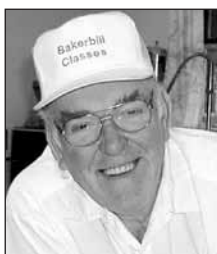
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Baker Bill

STUFF 'N THINGS

I have a new toy, a video camera, have posted stuff on Facebook, and have been getting a lot of feedback. At my age, I'm working hard to understand the new technology. I still do not have a cell phone. I spent a lot of money on some but never made a call nor received one, just a bill each month. I do not own an iPod. I do have a type of tablet, a Nook by Barnes & Noble. This is great. I have read 20 books in the last 16 months. I like it because I can increase the font.

Baking tip: I know why your cake mixes come up to a point or any cake for that matter. It's easy. Your oven is too hot. Buy a thermometer and check your oven. To do this, place the thermometer and set oven to 400 degrees. The thermometer will tell you the exact temp. Older oven aren't necessarily always colder; many get hotter over time, and with cake a few degrees means a lot. Oh, by the way, do not try to frost the just made cake, even if cool. Freeze it

first; yes, freeze it. This cuts down on the crumbs in the frosting. And be sure to trim off the point on the bottom layer. If you would like to try one from scratch, check out bakerbill.net recipes. Just push control + p to print. Just a quick follow up: the frozen cake will thaw in minutes due to the high sugar content. Recipe below.

Here's a question asked of me now and again. What is the difference between bleached flour and unbleached flour? First off, the answer is really nothing. When we hear bleach we think of Clorox. No Flour is washed in bleach. Bleaching is what the sun does to the patio or any colored surface. They run the milled flour under sun lamps to make it whiter. That's it.

Yellow layer cake; it is easier than you think:

In a medium bowl place, 1-1/2 cup sugar, 1 stick of oleo, measure in 2 cups cake flour (or all-purpose) 1 tablespoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 2 table-



spoons vanilla. Stir. Add 3 eggs beaten and 1 cup of milk slowly. Now whip at high speed for 2 minutes. Then add another cup of milk and stir in until smooth; divide into 2 greased cake pans. Bake in 370-degree oven for approximately 20 minutes until no wet spots; just lightly touch with finger.

As usual everything I write is my opinion. If you have another one, drop me a line at bakerbill2010@hotmail.com.

Saying for the month by Dan Sanford: "Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want."

—Bill Raulin aka bakerbill.net

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY



QUEEN'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7410 Old Muirkirk Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
The Reverend B. Kevin Smalls, Pastor



Join us for Worship This Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Meditation in the Chapel - Stop in for personal prayer & meditation
Good Friday, April 6, 2012, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. "The Seven Last Words"
Saturday, April 7, 2012, 7:00 p.m. "The Empty Cross" – A Play
Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship at 6:39 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Church School Easter Program at 9:00 a.m.

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10:15 BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!
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JOIN US THIS EASTER SEASON FOR OUR HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY APRIL 1: PALM SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:15

THURSDAY APRIL 5TH: MAUNDAY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7:00PM FOLLOWED BY OUR TRADITIONAL SEDER TASTING

FRIDAY APRIL 6TH: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

SUNDAY APRIL SERVICE: CELEBRATION OF EASTER SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:15
CHILDRENS EASTER EGG HUNT AT 10:15



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Sunday: 11:30 a.m. Worship Service

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Saturday 10:00 a.m. Breakfast Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

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- Christian Education/Sunday School 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Devotion & Prayer 10:45am
- Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am
- Intercessory Prayer Wednesday 7:00pm
- Christian Education/Bible Study Wednesday 7:30pm
- Holy Communion 1st Sunday (During Morning Worship)
- First Friday Night Prayer (every month) 9:00pm

ACTIVITIES

continued from page 1

all the Posts in the county," Coreas said.

"I want to be an FBI agent," said Amanda Vasquez, one of a handful of female Explorers at the park. Vasquez, 16, is in 11th grade at High Point. When asked what she likes best about Explorers, she replied, "I like doing the scenarios."

"Scenarios are role playing situations like traffic stops, domestic violence calls, and bomb simulations. They give us some idea of how police work every day," Coreas said.

High Point senior Jason Lee, who has been an Explorer since grade school, says he likes having a chance to get out of the house.

"I have more social interaction with other people. It helped me to be more outgoing and not so shy. I needed some pushes," Lee said.

Lee has plans to attend Full Sail University in Florida in the fall.

As the cadets went inside the station for a bagel break, Coreas acted as a tour guide. He pointed out the Explorers meeting room, where they gather every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. The meetings start with a homework session, and then the cadets do physical training, drills and scenarios. Explorers also offer summer camps and competitions to enhance their physical strength and training.

Coreas pointed out a large bulletin board bursting with pictures from Explorers community events and fun activities throughout the year. They hosted a Christmas party and a Halloween night event. They recently had a car wash to raise funds.

The Explorers have created a commissary of sorts, with snacks and drinks for officers and guests who frequent the station house. The commissary helps raise much-needed funds for Explorers activities.

"For us to get funding for anything, it is 100 percent donated," said Officer Kenneth Hibbert, lead adviser of Post 600. "Anything we get, we put toward trips and uniforms. It is \$65 for a uniform."

"If you want to make a donation you can call the station and ask for me. We are a 501(C)3 organization so anything [you] give is tax deductible," Hibbert said.

The Police Explorers are open to students from all area schools and Hibbert and other officers visit schools to introduce the program to students. Enthusiastic cadets also invite friends to join.

"We have guidelines for the kids who want to join," Hibbert said. "You have to have 2.5 GPA and want to be a role model in your community. You have to want to be a police officer or join the armed services—and to go to college."

"If their grades fall below 2.0," Coreas said, "they can go to the Pal Program, where students get homework help to raise their GPA. Once they get their grades up, they can come back to Explorers."

"Those who are interested in joining Police Explorers can come to a Tuesday night meeting and see what we do," Hibbert said.

First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

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301-937-7771

www.fbcbeltsville.org

Keith Holland, Pastor

Easter Activities and Worship

Palm Sunday Worship, April 1

9:45 a.m. Bible Study (for all ages)

*11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

*6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

*6:00 p.m. Kidz Choir/Missions

*6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 5, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 6, 12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Church Open for Prayer

Easter Sunday, April 8

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

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HELP WANTED

MEALS ON WHEELS OF COLLEGE PARK - serving Beltsville, Adelphi, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt and College Park - needs volunteers to help pack daily meals for seniors and those who cannot cook for themselves. We also need drivers Monday thru Friday. Packers work from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Drivers and runners work from

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please, we need help. Won't you volunteer to work one day a week, once or twice a month or whenever you can? Please call Monday thru Friday, 301-474-1002 to help and for more information. 6/12.

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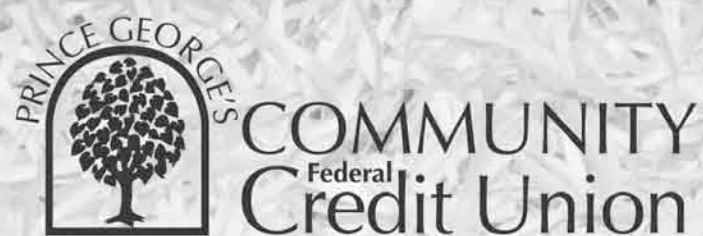
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