

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 12

Beltsville, Maryland

December 2025

Firehouse Updates!

By Jillian Schweitzer

As we all know, we now have the temporary station up and running and the new administration in place, but Station 31's future is still up in the air.

I was invited to attend a meeting at the Fire Services Building in Landover Hills on October 27. In full disclosure, these updates were shared in the newly renamed Facebook group, but I wanted to provide a more holistic update.

The career staff have since departed Station 31 for the temporary station next to the library and park, leaving in very early November. As of this writing, there is no timeline or plan for their return to Station 31.

Money seems to be the driving force (to say nothing of the former fire chief's motives) behind many of these issues. The volunteers have repeatedly offered to use the leftover grant money (secured for installing the elevator at Station 31 — work scheduled to begin in January 2026!) to fix whatever issues the county deems urgent based on the assessment. At the October meeting, that idea

FIREHOUSE
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Successful Community Walk on November 19

By Jillian Schweitzer

I, along with a few other Beltsville residents, was invited to join a Community Walk to talk through the length of Rhode Island Avenue—from the corner of Sellman Road (by the post office) to the open space near Bank of America—to discuss needed changes and possible beautification efforts.

This meeting was an offshoot of the Route 1 planning meeting, which took place about a year and a half ago at the community center. There has already been input from stakeholders, including WMATA and DPWT, and all involved seemed interested in moving the project forward.

Almost 15 people attended the

WALK
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Come Out and Share a Slice of Pizza With Santa!

Looking for a holly-jolly way to kick off the holiday season? Grab your appetite and your festive spirit—because Santa is making a special stop in Beltsville, and he's hungry for pizza!

On December 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department (4911 Prince George's Avenue) is hosting its annual Pizza with Santa event, and you're invited to join the fun. This family-friendly afternoon is the perfect chance

PIZZA
continues on page 2



Come out and enjoy some pizza with Santa on December 13 at the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department!

Emmanuel United Methodist Church is Working To Feed It's Neighbors

By Rick Bergmann

The Bible teaches that feeding your neighbors is a profound act of love—an expression of generosity that honors God. Scripture reminds us that when we provide food and care to those in need, we are serving God Himself, who promises to bless those who show compassion to the poor. Isaiah 58 calls us to “share your food with the hungry,” and this November, Emmanuel faithfully lived out that call.

On November 2 and 16, Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville offered free lunches to anyone in our commu-

nity who wished to receive one. Neighbors from Beltsville and the surrounding areas joined us for a warm meal and warm fellowship. On November 22 they were also able to provide food for Thanksgiving through their monthly food distribution.

For more than a decade, Emmanuel has been committed to feeding its neighbors, and it is a joy to see that tradition continue. The Beltsville Community offers a heartfelt thank-you to Pastor King and to every volunteer who helps make these ministries possible. Your service reflects the love of Christ in action.



Members of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville work to feed those in need.

Pack 1031 Scouting for Food Drive Collects 500 lbs. of Food for Beltsville!

By Regina Halper

Beltsville was fantastic in helping the Pack and Troop 1033 collect food for the food pantries at St. Joseph Catholic church and Emmanuel UMC church. The Pack collected over 500 lbs. of food and the troop collected 2000 lbs. The pack will collect toys for Toys for Tots in December in the pack. A Scout is Helpful!

The pack is now working on Citizenship and Fitness achievements. The Bears raised the flag and learned about the parts of



Scouts sorting cans of goods at St. Josephs for the food pantries at St Joseph's and Emmanuel United Methodist churches. Donations are always welcome at the pantries.

NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due

No Later Than:

December 17

Paper Out:

December 29

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The holidays are here! The Beltsville community is blessed with wonderful nonprofits that help those in need all year long—and every one of them can use support. The most obvious way to help is through financial donations, but giving your time is just as valuable. Youth groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Boys & Girls Club, our community churches, the Lions Club, and the Women's Club all provide a variety of services that make Beltsville a better place. Contact information for each group can be found in Our Beltsville News. And yes—even the Beltsville News can use your time and support! Giving the gift of your time to any of these organizations is truly a gift to our entire community.

While many of us are preparing for the holidays or celebrating with friends and family, remember that bandits and crooks are also out there. Please try not to become a victim. Have packages delivered to your office, a FedEx or UPS location, an Amazon Office, or an Amazon Locker. Do not leave anything of value in your car—

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 5

Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

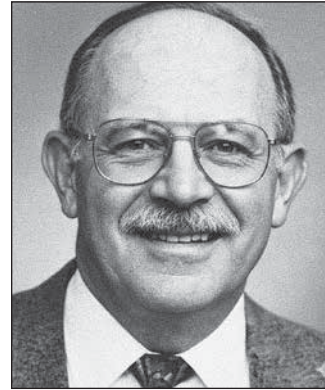
By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of December 2000)

Maryland Senator Art Dorman Com- mended for 30 Years of Service

At its annual meeting, on November 10-11 (2000) the Legislative Advisory Council of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) commended Maryland state Senator Art Dorman for 30 years of service on the council.

"Senator Dorman has 35 years of



MD Senator Art Dorman

exemplary service in the Maryland House of Delegates and Senate. His legislative and education expertise has benefited members of the Legislative Advisory Council since 1970, and everyone associated with the Southern Regional Education Board owes him a debt of gratitude," said SREB President Mark Musick.

Dorman first was elected to the House of Delegates in 1965. He was elected to the Maryland Senate 10 years later.

FIREHOUSE

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was not embraced, but it was not completely dismissed. The cost of the temporary station and its installation was also discussed, and documentation shows a range from \$2.3 million to \$4 million. There is also a three-year lease on the land where the temporary station is located.

One of the biggest surprises was that the new administration is having an incredibly difficult time finding documentation showing how money was spent during the previous administration on firehouse issues, including precisely how much was spent on the tem-

porary station. During the October 27 meeting, Senator Rosapepe was present and was extremely upset by this and said he wants detailed follow-up as soon as possible. Representative Penamelnik was also on the call, as was someone from Representative Barnes's office. As of this writing, I have not heard any updates on the location of the missing documentation.

The November 6 meeting was a walkthrough of Station 31. Both Captain Barnes and Deputy Fire Chief Gill attended. DFC Gill confirmed that he is working through the original assessment paperwork and plans to meet with the fire chief soon to discuss

which items are urgent and which can be postponed.

This new administration does seem to care about fixing issues and working with the volunteers (they at least showed up, which is more than the previous fire chief did!), so I'm hopeful for good outcomes — but we will see what happens.

I will keep everyone updated after each meeting I'm able to attend!

PIZZA

continued from page 1

for kids to meet Santa, share their wish lists, enjoy a warm slice of pizza, and snap a few photos with the jolly guy himself.

Bring the whole family—there's a price point for everyone:

- Ages 3 and under: Free
- Ages 4-6: \$5
- Ages 7 and up: \$8

It's a great way to support the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department while giving your children a magical memory to start the season. Whether you're stopping by for a quick hello or making an afternoon of it, you're sure to leave smiling (and a little fuller than when you arrived!).

For more details, visit beltsvillefd.com.

Mark your calendars, grab your camera, and come share a slice with Santa!

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

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located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church**

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Kitty Post



Meet Beltsville Community Cats — And Discover How You Can Make a Difference

By Sallie Rhodes

If you’ve ever spotted a free-roaming cat in Beltsville and wondered who was looking out for it, the answer is simple: **your neighbors.** Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) has been quietly—and powerfully—changing feline lives since 2019, and now we’re inviting more caring people to join us.



How It All Started

BCC was established in March 2019 as a program under Laurel Cats. With a \$2,000 donation, a committed group of volunteers, and generous mentoring, we launched a Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) program to humanely manage Beltsville’s free-roaming cat population.

But TNVR was only the beginning. As we trapped cats around Beltsville, we ran into kittens young enough to be socialized and placed into loving homes. That’s how our Rescue Program evolved—powered entirely by people who opened their homes and hearts to kitties who just needed a little time and loving care.

As word about BCC got out, we began hearing from residents who were already feeding and caring for community cat colonies. Some offered to volunteer and their involvement yielded our third essential program: **Colony Support.**

Today, these three programs—TNVR, Rescue, and Colony Support—work together seamlessly, supported by dedicated volunteers and ongoing education efforts pro-

moting the importance of spaying and neutering all cats, free-roaming and pet cats.

A Community Effort with Big Results

In just six years, BCC has grown into a fully independent, all-volunteer nonprofit. Thanks to support from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Prince George’s County Council, Petco, Athletes for Animals, and generous local donors (individuals and businesses), we’ve been able to expand our reach and care for more cats than ever.

Our impact so far:

Over 2,400 cats have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

Over 1,000 cats and kittens have entered our Rescue Program—most of whom are now living happily in forever homes.

About 130 outdoor cats currently receive daily food, water, and shelter through our Colony Support Program, spread across 20+ commercial and industrial sites. The fact that the number of cats being fed in our managed colonies has gone down from 170 in 2020 demonstrates the effectiveness of our TNVR efforts.

Every one of these numbers represents a life changed—and they happened because people like you stepped forward to help.

A New Chapter — And a Chance to Get Involved

As BCC enters 2026, we’re preparing for an important transition: our long-time President is stepping down, and new leadership will take over in January. It’s an exciting moment to grow, re-energize, and welcome new volunteers who care about animals and community service.


CATS

continues on page 4



Bonnie Bartel
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**Holiday
Cheer**

With holiday music in the air and the festivities beginning, family and friends will be arriving before long. Now is the time to get your home looking its best for holiday entertaining. There are several things that you can do to quickly update your interiors that is sure to evoke a “WOW” from your guests. Wallpapering with a neutral tone on tone pattern or with a simple geometric design above the chair rail in the dining room will create warmth and interest. A large novelty mirror with an unusual shape will accentuate the wallpaper while brightening the room. There is still time to order new drapery panels, sheers and blinds for the windows that will give a finished look to any room. Will’s Decorating (www.decoratemaryland.com) in Hyattsville has a great selection of inexpensive in-stock wallpapers, special order wallpapers, draperies and Hunter Douglas blinds and novelty mirrors and lamps. Will’s also does reupholstery and has lots of beautiful fabrics to choose from.



*Michael Richards and
Valerie Kabelac*

Michael Richards, the owner of Will’s Decorating, recommends taking a good look at your dining room, kitchen and family room chairs. You don’t want your guests taking notice of stained or tattered chairs. Freshen it up with a new fabric. Six dining room chair seats only takes three to four yards of fabric. If the seat is caving in you probably just need new padding. Your chairs can look like new in no time. Will’s does expert upholstery work and can do the makeover quickly. For more expert advice on what you can do to spruce up your home this holiday season call for your FREE design consultation at Will’s Decorating with Michael.

Happy Holidays
From Michael & Valerie

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Fixing Up a Home for Holiday Cheer

As the holiday season approaches, many people feel an urge to refresh their living spaces and create an atmosphere filled with warmth, comfort, and festive charm. Fixing up a home for holiday cheer is not just about adding decorations; it is about setting the stage for meaningful gatherings, peaceful moments, and traditions that bring joy. Preparing a home for the holidays involves thoughtful cleaning, cozy enhancements, and decorative touches that transform an ordinary space into a welcoming seasonal retreat.

The first step in creating holiday cheer is to start with a clean and organized home. Decluttering helps open up space for decorations and reduces stress, allowing the true spirit of the season to shine. Simple tasks—like tidying surfaces, packing away unused items, and giving floors a fresh sweep—can drastically improve how a home feels. Some people even treat this moment as an annual reset, donating what they no longer need. A clean environment feels both refreshing and inviting, making it easier to appreciate the beauty of holiday décor.

Once the space is clean, add-



ing a sense of coziness is key. The holidays are often associated with warmth, so enhancing comfort helps set the right mood. Soft blankets draped over couches, plush pillows in winter patterns, and warm lighting from lamps or candles create a soothing environment. Many people switch out lightweight summer items for heavier fabrics, like flannel or wool, to bring in a sense of seasonal comfort. Even small changes, such as using scented candles that evoke pine trees, cinnamon, or vanilla, can trigger

nostalgic feelings and add to the holiday atmosphere.

After building a comfy foundation, the fun truly begins with decorating. Holiday décor varies widely depending on personal taste and traditions, but it typically involves elements like wreaths, string lights, ornaments, and seasonal centerpieces. A decorated tree often becomes the heart of the home, glowing softly in a living room and drawing people together. Placing greenery on mantels, hanging stockings, or arranging festive

figurines can add charm to any room. Outdoor decorations, such as lights along the roofline or a cheerful welcome mat, extend the holiday spirit to the exterior of the home and share cheer with neighbors and guests.

In addition to décor, many people find joy in creating areas that encourage togetherness. A dining table dressed with a holiday runner, candles, and a centerpiece invites family meals and meaningful conversations. Setting up a hot-chocolate station or a small corner for board games adds opportunities for fun and bonding. These small touches make the home not just beautiful but memorable for those who gather inside it.

Finally, fixing up a home for holiday cheer is as much about the feelings within it as it is about the physical space. Playing seasonal music, baking favorite recipes, and creating traditions help deepen the sense of joy. A home prepared with care becomes a place where people feel welcomed and connected. By combining cleanliness, coziness, and creativity, anyone can transform their space into a warm haven that celebrates the magic of the holiday season.

CATS

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You're Invited

Our **Annual Volunteer Meeting** will be hosted in early-mid January (details will appear in the January 2026 *Beltsville News*). It's open to anyone who wants to learn more about BCC and explore how they might fit in. It's an opportunity to meet some of our fabulous volunteers.

Your Community Needs You — and So Do the Cats

BCC is built entirely on compassion, teamwork, and the belief that every cat deserves safety and care.

If you've ever wanted to make a real difference—whether by fostering, trapping, feeding, organizing, staffing community events, or leading by joining our board—consider joining BCC.

Whether you have an hour a week or a few hours a month, there's a place for you here. Help us protect free-roaming cats in Beltsville and the surrounding areas. And become part of the story that keeps this community strong and humane.

For questions or to get involved sooner:

hello@beltsvillecats.net

240-444-8353

Because every cat deserves a chance. And sometimes, that chance is **you**.

FOOD DRIVE

continued from page 1

government and learned about the American symbols including the American flag and how it changed, the Liberty Bell, the Eagle, the American Rose, the National Motto -E Pluribus Unum (out of many one) and looked for them on each of our coins.

Check out our new website: <https://pack1031.org/>. There you can find information on how to join our Pack. If you are interested in Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet at least twice a month mostly in the parks.



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The Beltsville News

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BELTS25

Spreading Cheer, Easing Stress: A Holiday Loan Helps Residents Celebrate with Confidence

For many families across Prince George’s County, the holiday season is a time of joy, togetherness, and tradition — but it can also be a time of financial pressure. From gift-giving and travel to long-awaited home upgrades and festive gatherings, holiday expenses can add up quickly, leaving many community members searching for practical, affordable solutions.

Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union (PGCFCU) is stepping in once again to support local households with its annual **Holiday Loan**, designed to bring peace of mind and financial flexibility during the busiest season of the year. This year’s offer runs from October 1 through December 31, 2025, giving members plenty of time to prepare, plan, and celebrate without stretching their budgets thin.

The Holiday Loan features a competitive 10% APR and a comfortable 24-month repayment term, making it an accessible tool for families looking to stay on track financially while still embracing the magic of the season. Unlike many high-cost holiday financing options, PGCFCU’s program is built with members in mind — offering pre-



dictability, transparency, and a practical pathway to managing seasonal costs.

The loan’s versatility is one of its strongest advantages. Members often use it to:

- Shop for meaningful gifts
- Cover travel to see loved ones
- Host festive gatherings
- Tackle small home renovations before guests arrive
- Bridge temporary financial gaps during the winter months

By providing a simple and affordable lending option, PGCFCU continues its mission of being the “Heart of the Community,” especially when financial support matters most.

Local residents interested in

applying for the Holiday Loan are encouraged to submit their applications between October 1 and December 31, 2025, to take full advantage of this seasonal opportunity.

As Prince George’s County prepares for another season filled with gratitude, joy, and community spirit, PGCFCU’s Holiday Loan stands as a reminder that financial wellness doesn’t have to take a back seat to celebration. With thoughtful planning and the right support, holiday wishes really can come true.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must meet credit union membership and creditworthiness requirements.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

COLLEGE PARK, Md—University of Maryland Choral Activities presents the 24th annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, at 8 p.m. at the University of Maryland’s Memorial Chapel in College Park, Md. The festival is modeled after the historic Christmas Eve tradition presented by King’s College of Cambridge, which is broadcast by National Public Radio.

Conductors Kenneth Elpus, Eric Beomjin Kim, Kevin Crouch, Michael Hudlin, Trevor Tran, and Julie Huang Tucker will lead host choirs UMD Treble Choir, Tactus, and

the University Chorale along with Festival Organ and Brass. Guest performers include student-led vocal ensembles Voix de Chanson and Freunde Music, plus the Glorystar Children’s Chorus. Readers from the university and community will join the artists, and audience participation is encouraged during performances of traditional Christmas carols.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$15 for senior (62+) tickets, and \$10 for students and youth. Call 301-405-2787 or visit: <https://theclarice.umd.edu/events/festival-lessons-carols-umd-choral-activities-0>



COAKLEY continued from page 1

and lock your car! Turn on your outside lights at night and park in well-lit areas. Consider using a steering-wheel lock. When you are out shopping—especially during the holiday season—if you return to your car to drop off

packages and are not leaving the shopping center, move your car to another parking spot before going back inside.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Karen Coakley
301-741-7672
karenmcoakley@gmail.com

Statepoint Crossword: Happy Holidays

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- 1. Shapeless form
 - 5. Hot springs resort
 - 8. Not square
 - 11. Private theater box
 - 12. Relating to ear
 - 13. Rome’s Colosseum, e.g.
 - 15. I ____ you so!
 - 16. *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?
 - 17. *”Auld Lang Syne” poet
 - 18. *Partridge’s perch (2 words)
 - 20. Vegas numbers
 - 21. New Zealand’s indigenous people
 - 22. Fuss
 - 23. Tabby’s favorite herb
 - 26. More so than swell
 - 30. Big-headedness
 - 31. Resembling an ape
 - 34. John Wayne Gacy’s ____ the Clown
 - 35. Photographer Dorothea of “Migrant Mother” fame
 - 37. Type or kind
 - 38. Like a sheep after a haircut
 - 39. D’Artagnan’s weapon of choice
 - 40. Superlative of #33 Down
 - 42. U.S. central bank
 - 43. Wilma and Fred’s hometown
 - 45. *Latke’s main ingredient

- 47. Word of possibility
 - 48. Turning token taker
 - 50. Exclamation of sorrow
 - 52. * ____ Odbody of “It’s a Wonderful Life”
 - 55. Raspberry drupelets
 - 56. Sainly glow
 - 57. Letter opener
 - 59. Hunts for food
 - 60. Banana leftover
 - 61. Guesstimate phrase
 - 62. *Color on a Kwanzaa flag
 - 63. Not divisible by two
 - 64. Scholarship criterion
- DOWN**
- 1. Deli acronym
 - 2. Chicago’s central district, with The
 - 3. Gawk at
 - 4. Wish harm upon, arch.
 - 5. One of The Beatles
 - 6. Pileus, pl.
 - 7. “The Road Runner” corporation
 - 8. Group of cows
 - 9. Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.
 - 10. *”The Nutcracker” step
 - 12. Certain cephalopod, pl.
 - 13. It’s sometimes humble
 - 14. *Chuck Berry’s “Run, ____, Run”

- 19. Reason to strike
- 22. Grass bristle
- 23. Famous one, slangily
- 24. Open-mouthed
- 25. Like a well-defined muscle
- 26. Hot alcoholic beverage
- 27. Washing sponge
- 28. Type of heron
- 29. Rondeau, alt. sp.
- 32. *Santa’s beverage of choice
- 33. Not well
- 36. *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum
- 38. Fur shawl
- 40. Extremely unfriendly
- 41. Plane trick
- 44. Reprieve in a desert
- 46. Muscle to bone connector
- 48. Skidded
- 49. Weighed
- 50. 4,840 square yards
- 51. Told an untruth
- 52. Head of family
- 53. Wrap in waxy cloth
- 54. Comfort
- 55. Financing acronym
- 58. Stewart of “Maggie May” fame

See Solution on page 6

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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Obituaries



Elsie Cline

Cline, Elsie B.

Elsie Cline (née Bruno) went to be with the Lord surrounded by the love of her friends and family in her home on November 17, 2025. Born September 15, 1932 in Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late Herman C. Bruno and Margery A. Bruno (née America). She had 2 sisters, Margery Basile and Jean Moser, who preceded her in death. She is survived by a brother, Ronald Bruno of Norristown, PA.

Elsie began working for the federal government in Washington after graduating high school. She held many jobs over her working career and retired as an assistant to a Federal judge of the US District Court of DC. After retiring she worked at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville until the time they closed their doors.

In addition to work she was an active volunteer at the churches she attended, was a Girl Scout leader for many years for her daughters' troops and delivered many a meal for Meals on Wheels to mention a few of the places she gave her time to.

Elsie is survived by 4 daughters, Patricia Alderton of Nathrop, CO, Karen Neel (Mike) of Felton, DE, Sandra Fleri (Piero) of Shepherdstown, WV and Deborah Cline of Savage, MD, 8 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elsie's name can be made to a charity of your choice.

Landicho, John

John Landicho, 93, of Beltsville, MD, passed away peacefully October 20, 2025, at Sterling Care Hillhaven. John was born to Fortosa (Encabo) and Martin Landicho on August 19, 1932, in Palo Alto, CA. John grew up in Los Altos Hills, CA and graduated from Mountain View High School. He supported himself working various jobs as a student and went on to college at San Jose State University and where he excelled as a student-athlete, joined a fraternity, and continued working to pay for his col-



John Landicho

lege tuition. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1954. His goal was to go to graduate school but unfortunately was drafted in the Korean War and served at the Presidio in San Francisco and overseas at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe based in Rocquencourt, Yvelines, France where he worked in US Army Intelligence. He relocated to Washington, DC after his active-duty service in the US Army and started his career at US General Accounting Office in 1957 and continued to his retirement in 1994. He was recognized and awarded many times for his distinguished service and outstanding career at GAO. He was responsible for GAO audits of the activities of US Postal Service, Department of Commerce, SBA, the Appalachian Regional Commission and national defense procurement, logistics, and readiness. He testified before various committees and sub-committees of the House and Senate regarding issues of government spending. During his tenure there, he earned his MBA at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business Administration, received advanced training at the Federal Executive Institute (Charlottesville, VA) and the Brookings Institution.

John was very active as well in his home life as a member of the Calverton Citizens Association, as treasurer on the board of directors at Calverton Swim Club and various roles on Calverton's Swim Team. He also had his 5 children on the swimming team for years who worked as lifeguards and swim instructors. For recognition of his many years of service to the Calverton Swim Team, an award was named in his honor, "The John Landicho Award" to the swimmer who showed the most spirit!

He was also very active at both St. Joseph's Parish and School in Beltsville. John and his wife, Cora, served in many roles and ministries for the Church and School since 1965 and for the Archdiocese of Washington, DC as well. He was also active as a volunteer at Good Counsel High School

where his three sons attended and at Holy Names High School where his two daughters attended. John was also a past member of the Knights of Columbus at Prince Georges Council 2809 in College Park serving as Grand Knight and member of the Color Corps.

John is survived by his wife of 66 years, Cora, his children Thomas (Lisa), James, (Kathlyn), Anne Marie, Edward (Joan), Theresa (Robert), his 9 grandchildren, Marc, Alex, Sean, Carmen, Greg, John, Alicia, Dan, and Mike. John was also uncle to Eleanor Linda Granillo (Henry), JoAnn, Samantha, Nicole, and Ted and great uncle to Vincent, Samuel, Alethea, Peter, Daniel, Kasha, Mario. He also is survived by his brothers Richard (Ivonne), Phil, Nino, Joe Cabigas (Jen), and sister Linda Cabigas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Martin and Fortosa, his brothers Petronilo (Pete), David, and sister Anita.

Throughout his professional career, he traveled to many overseas assignments in Germany, Spain, Mexico, and Vietnam and other countries too numerous to mention. When he was serving in the US Army in France, he toured many parts of Paris on his free time including visiting the Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral. After retiring from federal service, John continued to travel with Cora to the Philippines, Jerusalem, Italy, Scandinavia, and Russia. But the time he loved most was his time at his house in Ocean Pines, MD. He took many vacations and extended weekends there and enjoyed time with his family and friends going to the beach or fishing and crabbing at the bay. There were many fond memories of eating seafood and various other dishes prepared by Cora on the back deck of that Ocean Pines house!

He had a great sense of humor, and all were welcome to his house in Calverton. There were always the sounds of laughter coming out of the kitchen. He could always be found do yard work at all times of the year or working on home projects. He was always on top of his cars with maintenance and cleaning so if you had to buy a used car from someone, you'd get a great deal from him. He will always be missed deeply by his family and all his friends in his professional and personal life for his upbeat attitude, sense of humor, reliability, his generosity, and most importantly his wisdom and advice.

The funeral service was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Beltsville on October 20, 2025 and internment with military honors was at Gates of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD.

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Let me know if you need help

With the recent federal government shutdown, rising prices, and continued attacks on federal workers and immigrants, many families in Beltsville are suffering. Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnik, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, I, and our staffs are ready to be of assistance. We can't solve every problem but will try to find you help you need. Just contact me at the email or phone number at the bottom of this column.

Maryland health insurance exchange opens through January 15

If you have a private health plan through Maryland Health Connection, you can renew or change your plan through January 15, 2026. You also can shop and enroll in a 2026 health plan at MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

There are many ways to enroll. If you need help registering, trained experts are available to help you sign up for a health plan. Go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov to find free assistance near you. Get free help by enrolling by phone or in person. Again,



Rosapepe

this year, Maryland Health Connection offers Broker Connect. You can talk to an authorized insurance broker in 30 minutes or less. A broker will call you to discuss your private health plan options.

Senior Call Check Available to Maryland Residents

Are you home alone? Would you like someone to check in with you daily? If you are 65+, the Maryland Department of Aging offers you a free service for an automated daily phone call at a scheduled time. If you do not pick up after three attempts, the service

will call an alternate person on your behalf to check on you. You must have an active landline or cell phone to participate in the program. Sign up online here or by phone at 1-866-502-0560.

How to help the state clean up highway litter

Highway maintenance is a year-round effort and priority of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). Litter removal is a significant aspect of MDOT SHA's highway maintenance program. Litter comes in many forms, is ugly and a hindrance to other maintenance activities. It can be dangerous to highway users and highway crews; it is harmful to our waterways. Learn more about MDOT Litter Pickup Program and request litter removal at <https://roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/index.aspx?PageId=358>

Contact me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if I can be of help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 410-841-3141.

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M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Welcomes New Commissioner Dr. Billy Okoye

LARGO, MD – The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) welcomes Dr. Billy Okoye as a member of the five-member Planning Board. Appointed by Prince George's County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy and confirmed by the Prince George's County Council following a public hearing, Okoye was sworn in on Monday, November 17, 2025. Okoye succeeds former Prince George's County Planning Board Vice Chair, Dorothy Bailey, whose four-year term will end on June 15, 2027. Okoye will join Chairman Darryl Barnes and Vice Chair Manuel Geraldo for the meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025.

“On behalf of M-NCPPC and the Prince George's County Planning Board, we welcome Commis-



Dr. Billy Okoye

sioner Okoye to the Commission,” said M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Chairman Darryl Barnes. “His experience in business, community advocacy, real estate, and technology will offer a new dynamic to our forward-thinking Planning Board and award-winning agency.”

“My professional journey has given me a practical ground-level understanding of our County's vision for growth as outlined in the 2035 plan – the guiding framework for sustainable and equitable development across communities,” said Commissioner Okoye. “I look forward to our collaborative work to revitalize the inner beltway neighborhoods into vibrant, transit-oriented economic hubs that attract jobs and opportunities.”

In addition to serving on the Prince George's County Planning Board, the Planning Board members work with their colleagues on the Montgomery County Planning Board and meet monthly as the M-NCPPC's full Commission. Together, the commissioners have oversight of decisions for the Montgomery and Prince George's region.

HALL RENTALS

(CATERING)

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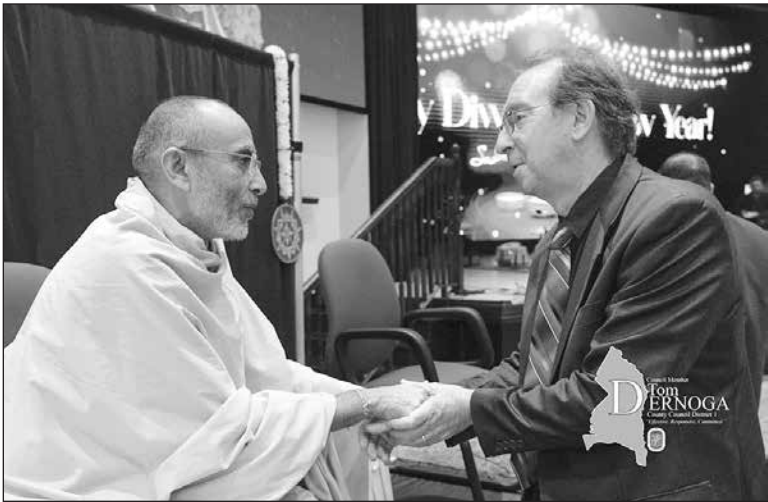
Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com

Preparing for Winter Storms

As winter approaches, please pay attention to all weather advisories and winter storm warnings! During winter storms, the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) prioritizes primary, secondary, and residential county roads to provide “passable” conditions. Stay on top of DPW&T in active snow operations by entering your address on the Snowplow Tracking website at PGCTrackSnow.com. Explore further details on what to expect during a winter storm at tinyurl.com/WinterStormDPWT.

During a snow and ice event, residents are asked to wait 48 hours after the precipitation has stopped to report dangerous roadway conditions or snow removal to PGC311 (by calling 3-1-1, visiting PGC311.com, or utilizing the PGC311 App, which you can download via your phone’s App Store).

To fully understand the County agencies’ plan for Winter 2025, sign up to attend the Virtual Snow Summit on December 11, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. This meeting will feature presentations from agency leadership, emergency management officials, and other partner organizations that play a vital role in ensuring public safety and service continuity during win-



(From left to right) BAPS Sadhu Pujya Viveknidhidas Swami and Council Member Tom Dernoga celebrating Diwali at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Beltsville, for which this year’s theme is Unity. Photo courtesy of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir.

ter weather events. Visit tinyurl.com/DPWTVirtualSnowMtg2025 to register. Visit dpwt.mypgc.us to access the presentation after the meeting.

Reporting Downed Trees, Branches, and Power Outages

As winter arrives, please report all fallen trees, fallen branches, public power outages, and other storm-related concerns to PGC311. If your issue is not addressed promptly, don’t hesitate to contact our team and share your service request number at 301-

952-3887 or CouncilDistrict1@co.pg.md.us. We will assign your case to a team member who will follow up with the appropriate agency.

Support Families in Need for the Holidays

With the holidays around the corner, this is a perfect time to give back to community members in need. The LindaBen Community Food Hub hosts food and diaper distributions several times each month. They are located at 10739 Tucker Street, Suite 222, Beltsville, 20705. Each Tuesday and Wednesday, from 4:30 PM

to 6:00 PM, they offer food and diaper distribution. Each Saturday, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, they offer food distribution. Please consider signing up to volunteer for a 2 or 3-hour shift at tinyurl.com/LindaBenVolunteer.

The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) houses a food pantry for individuals who are unable to get assistance through food stamps or whose food assistance is insufficient. BACC accepts donations of canned goods only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. They are located at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, 20705. Please consider donating canned goods to support BACC’s food pantry.

The Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville hosts a monthly Community Food Distribution on the 4th Saturday from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, free for all in need. They are located at 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, 20705. The next giveaway will be on Saturday, December 20, 2025. They are in need of volunteers to assist with distribution. Please contact them at 301-937-7114 or office@eumcbeltsville.com to volunteer.

If you are in need of food assistance or a Holiday meal, please explore our list of ongoing food assistance in District 1 at tinyurl.com/D1FoodAsst. For further assistance, please reach out to us.

Learn about Permitting with the Planning Department

The Prince George’s County Planning Department hosts a monthly “Brown Bag Series” covering various Development Review topics at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Largo Headquarters, along with a virtual option. For the December 2025 session, the focus will be on permitting. This will be on Tuesday, December 9, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Register at least a week in advance at pgplan.org/brownbag.

If you have any questions, contact the Planning Department at 301-780-2231 or Marian.Honeczy@ppd.mnccppc.org.

Join our District 1 eNewsletter

We will email you about twice a month to provide you with updates on local events and, on occasion, alert you to important county news. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/D1eNewsletterOptIn>.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. You can email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español. Follow us on Facebook, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1.

Chefs Share Their Secret Ingredients for the Holiday Season

(StatePoint) Every family has at least one perfect dish featuring a secret ingredient or special cooking technique, and it’s these twists on tradition that make all the difference.

That’s why this holiday season, the McCormick brand is partnering with famed bakery Milk Bar and award-winning founder and CEO, Christina Tosi to inspire home cooks by sharing their best-kept baking secrets. Through their collaboration, they’re creating an exclusive, limited-time McCormick x Milk Bar Eggnog English Toffee Cookie available at select Milk Bar locations starting 11/28. A fresh take on timeless holiday flavor inspired by the comfort and creaminess of eggnog and the buttery crunch of English toffee, this golden cookie features hints of McCormick cinnamon and nutmeg and the rich flavor of vanilla extract, complemented with a layer of icing topped with English Toffee Finishing Sugar. Here, they’re sharing the recipe for fans to make at home:



Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 12 minutes
Makes 18 cookies.

Cookie Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, softened

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 whole egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/3 cup McCormick English Toffee Finishing Sugar

Icing Ingredients:

- 1 cup confectioner’s sugar
- 1 tablespoon milk

Directions:

For the cookies, preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line two large

baking sheets with parchment; set aside. Mix flour, pudding mix, cinnamon, salt, baking powder, baking soda and nutmeg in medium bowl; set aside.

Beat butter and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer on medium-high speed 2 to 3 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add egg, egg yolk and vanilla; beat 2 to 3 minutes longer or until well blended, scraping sides of bowl, as needed.

Gradually add flour mixture, beating on low speed just until dough comes together, up to 1 minute. Stir in English Toffee Finishing Sugar, mixing just until combined. Scoop dough in 1/3-cup portions onto prepared baking sheets, placing about 2 inches apart.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes until cookies have spread and edges are golden brown. Cool on pans 1 minute. Transfer to wire racks to cool at least 10 minutes.

For the icing, whisk confectioners’ sugar and milk in small bowl until smooth (add additional milk or confectioners’ sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, to reach desired consistency).

Spread icing on cooled cookies and sprinkle with additional English Toffee Finishing Sugar. Let stand 5 minutes to allow icing to set.

Recipe Hints: To spice things up, substitute 1 teaspoon McCormick Rum Extract and 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract in place of just vanilla. For a little extra crunch, substitute turbinado sugar or sugar in the raw in place of light brown sugar. No vanilla pudding mix? No problem! Add an additional 1/4 cup flour in place of the pudding mix.

More baking secrets and inspiration can be found by visiting www.mccormick.com/the-cookieconfidential.

And as you prepare all the other festive treats of the season, remember that details matter. Be it flour, sugar or flavorings, don’t skimp on the good stuff, and don’t be afraid to give everything from desserts to cocktails and mocktails that unexpected edge with secret ingredients like brown butter and peppermint extract.

They're fighting for us.



21st District Democratic Team
Rosapepe

Joseline Peña-Melnyk

Ben Barnes

Mary Lehman



Our Social Security

As soon as Musk and Trump started attacking Social Security, we passed a law for our Attorney General to go court to protect Marylanders' **Social Security, Medicare, and Veterans benefits.**

Our Families

Protecting working families on the job and at home is our top priority. We've voted to raise the **minimum wage**, boost apprenticeships and **college** for young people, increase **retirement savings** options — and fight for **federal workers** and contractors.



Our Neighborhoods

Green space is important for every community. That's why we're fighting to protect the **Beltsville Agricultural Research**, the **UMD Golf Course**, the **Patuxent Wildlife Refuge**, and **Two Rivers** from a landfill. And why we work for state investment in neighborhood parks.

Our Democracy

No kings — not in 1776 and not now. To protect Marylanders, we passed laws to keep Trump's hands off our **personal data** and **our homes**. And we've boosted funding for our State Attorney General to go to court every time Trump tries to violate the Constitution.



E-mail us at 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com. call us at (240) 712-4646, or visit our website, 21stdistrictdelegation.com.

GOD WITH US*

More than just a baby,
Or a poor girl's child;
More than momentary
Choirs in the wild.

More than foreign sages
Bearing gifts of gold;
More than waiting ages
For time to unfold.

More than words of promise
Giv'n to Abraham;
More than hopes of prophets
Ache to see God's plan.

Heaven's heart was opened
Vuln'rably to bare

Depths of love unspoken
Only Christ could share.

Pow'ed by His perfection
To erase our sin,
Graced through resurrection
Born anew within.

Faith to enter Eden
Once again with joy,
'Cause we've been made like Him
By Emanuel's* Boy.

Beckie Hutchings
11/01/2025

Be Alert to Scammers While Traveling for the Holidays

(StatePoint) Holiday season travelers are a key target for scammers, and criminals are looking to cash in on you being distracted. Visa has observed an uptick in 2025 of sophisticated, travel-related scams where well-known travel providers are convincingly impersonated, and, according to a McAfee Travel Report, one in five Americans has fallen victim to a travel scam.

Artificial intelligence has made it easier to be duped by fake websites, calls, email and texts. Even just ordering car service can open you up to being scammed by impersonators that may contact you directly through an otherwise trusted app.

Here are scams to watch for while traveling:

Fake QR Codes. Scammers will replace real QR codes with fake ones to redirect your phone to a malicious website.

Juice Jacking. If you plug a phone or laptop into a public charging station, hackers can potentially compromise the outlet to transfer malware to or steal data from a connected device.

Hacked Luggage. Smart luggage with built-in USB chargers, GPS tracking and digital locks can be hacked. Scammers can locate your bags and unlock them remotely.

Maintaining vigilance is the best way to avoid trouble while traveling, but here are some additional preventative measures you can take:



(c) g-stockstudio / iStock via Getty Images Plus

- **Apply Scrutiny.** Be suspicious of anyone emailing, calling, messaging or approaching you in person, possibly in a company uniform, claiming to need your personal information.

- **Take Control.** Keep your personal information, payment cards and devices with you under your control.

- **Verify Contact.** Before responding to an email, call, text or voice message, disconnect and research contact information to verify legitimacy.

- **Look for Tampering.** Be leery of QR codes that appear to be affixed by a sticker. Also watch for skimming devices on gas pumps by jiggling them. If there is any movement, don't insert your card.

- **Check Websites.** If you scan a QR code, a web link will appear. Review it carefully for anomalies and type in a legitimate website

address rather than clicking the link.

- **Charge Cautiously.** Use your own charging adapter and cable instead of public USB ports.

- **Secure Devices.** Keep Bluetooth and Wi-Fi turned off on all devices – even smart luggage – when not in use. When using the internet, opt to connect through data roaming rather than public Wi-Fi and use a VPN whenever possible.

- **Wait to Post.** Don't post your travel photos showing you are away from home until you return.

For more information on best practices to help prevent fraud, visit PNC's Security and Privacy Center.

By taking the necessary precautions, you can help protect yourself and make the festive season a time of good cheer rather than crisis.

Karen M. Coakley

*You know me . . .
I know Real Estate!*



Can You Make a Child's Holiday Merry & Bright?

Beltsville Businesses & Residents Please join me by supporting The Women's Community Club of Beltsville. Times are tough and more families need help this Holiday Season. **The Women's Community Club of Beltsville** is coordinating their annual 2025 holiday food and gift drive.

You or your organization can support us through monetary contributions, gift cards (like Aldi's, Lidl's, Grocery Outlet, Walmart, Marshalls, TJ MAXX, Target, Kohls, or Visa), or by sponsoring a family directly. The Women's Community Club of Beltsville is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. **Donations can be sent via PayPal through our email address at (womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com).** Or mail a check to: **Women's Community Club of Beltsville P. O. Box 1607 Beltsville, Maryland 20704-1607**

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville has sponsored charitable activities in Beltsville for over 100 years!

Please contact Karen Coakley at 301-741-7672 or womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com with questions.

Thank you for supporting the Women's Community Club of Beltsville

Please like us, follow us, and share this holiday drive on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068832288067

**WISHING BELTSVILLE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY FAMILY
TO YOUR FAMILY!**

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Doctors' Tips to Stay Healthy and Safe This Holiday Season

(StatePoint) The holiday season is a joyous time to reconnect with family and friends, but it can also throw your wellness routines out of alignment. Doctors advise prioritizing healthy choices now so you can start 2026 feeling your best.

"Amid the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's easy to lose sight of our well-being, overindulge in food and drink, and feel stressed. A little awareness and a few healthy habits can go a long way in helping you and loved ones enjoy the season in good health," says Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

For a healthy and happy holiday season, the AMA recommends the following tips:

1. Watch what you eat. Pay attention to labels and avoid ultra-processed foods, especially those high in added sodium, saturated fats and sugar. Consider having



(c) Marcos Elihu Castillo Ramirez / iStock via Getty Images Plus

a healthy snack before the big meal or offer to bring a healthier dish for the holiday spread. Drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages, and eat nutritious, whole foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables alongside richer holiday dishes.

2. Prioritize your mental health.

Factors such as holiday spending and navigating time with extended family can bring on extra seasonal stress. Get sufficient sleep and exercise, and don't hesitate to talk to a mental health professional

HEALTHY

continues on page 14

Tech Gift Ideas 2025

Last month's column focused on gifts to help get along with Microsoft's cancellation of Windows 10. This month I will go over some other technology gifts. We have seen many of these before. Some have changed, and all are still good suggestions.



Simple Photo Cameras

I still use my old electronic cameras (mostly from Canon). We also still have several Kodak brand cameras from when Kodak was still a camera company. Yes, I have a good camera on my phone but many phone cameras have limited capabilities. These small cameras offer advantages including better zoom options, better lenses, and more control over lighting and focus settings than most phones.

This year my daughter asked me for a camera to take with her on her trip to Europe. I found a reasonably priced new Kodak camera, under \$80. It seemed to be perfect for her. Other similar old camera brands like Minolta are also available. I believe this is a good way to introduce people to photography.

Pi Zero 2 W

I am a believer in the use of small computers to learn how to use computers and to create new useful computer tools and projects. I also believe that they are fun. The Raspberry Pi series of computers are great for these purposes. One of the smallest is the Pi Zero 2 W. The Pi Zero



series is best to learn the use of the Linux command line. It is possible to use the Pi Zero 2 to create retro video game platforms that can run games from the old arcade machines and Atari's, and Commodore 64 systems. The still inexpensive Pi 4 can even run newer games. The Pi Zero 2 W sells for the same \$15 as the original Pi Zero and the basic Pi 4 with 2G of memory sells for \$45.

Three-D Printers

New Three-D printers have improved over the years. The latest printers support multiple colors and are easier for beginners to learn how to use. The Bamboo series offers a range of 3D printers with a very basic model selling for under \$200. Enclosed printers are available online for less than \$300.

Bluetooth Devices

Bluetooth Speakers connect to other devices using wireless technology common on most mobile phones. The speakers can provide louder and higher quality sound than your phone can provide. Waterproof speakers can even allow listeners to music from the phone while showering. Bluetooth car adapters can let your older car radio play music from

your phone as you drive.

Technology allows other devices to connect to the phone and exchange data. Many earphones use Bluetooth to connect to the phone instead of using wired headsets for example.

An OBD II Code Scanner allows you to find out why your check engine light is on. The scanner plugs into the OBD II port found beneath the steering wheel and a Bluetooth scanner uses Bluetooth to connect with a phone or tablet. Once connected the scanner can read the codes generated by the car and show the reason for the check engine light. Apps on the phone or tablet can then describe the most likely issue and describe the best repair. Find these devices online for less than \$20.

Car Jump Starter

These little devices use a lithium battery that can store enough power to jump-start a car. The cost of these devices has dropped by as much as 25%. The devices can be recharged in a running car or using a household 120-volt outlet. The devices hold their charge for about 6 months and are handy to recharge phones. A good idea to keep with a car emergency kit. Available at many online and

department stores for between \$40 and \$100

Electronic Photo Frames

Prices on Electronic Photo Frames have dropped substantially this year with some being available for under \$40. The devices look like a regular picture frame, but the photos change every few seconds. When I give these, I try to load them with family photos.

Voice Assistant

Yes, there are still a few voice assistants on the market. Last year I purchased the new Amazon Echo Pop because I wanted to be able to turn the lights on and off in my office without using my phone. I also find it useful to play music while I am working. The Pop currently sells for about \$22 on sale. The Echo 5 with a small 5-inch video screen sells for about \$55. It allows me to see who is at the front door. Yes, I can do this with my phone if I can find it, but I always know where the Echo is located. The echo devices also work as a household intercom system.

Yes, there are other voice devices available, but I believe the Echo devices are the best value and provide exactly what I need. I do not currently use the new Alexa+ features.

Video Games

I am not going to cover games consoles other than point out that there is a new Nintendo Switch 2. Instead, I will point out that there are three major outlets to purchase games online: Steam, Epic, and GOG. Steam gift cards are easy to find in many stores making it easy to gift a game as a gift without the need-to-know which game the receiver wants. Most of these are computer games but sometimes platform games are available as well.

GOG is interesting because it provides a large number of older games that have been updated to play on modern hardware.

There is also a service called "Humble Bundle". They offer games, some utility software, and a limited selection of eBooks. Humble Bundle offers discounted games and gives an amount from each purchase to charity. I purchase most of my games and many of my books on Humble Bundle.

Happy Holidays

I have run out of space. I hope I have brought a few good gift ideas for you this year. Tech Sense returns in January. In the meantime, I wish Happy Holidays and a bountiful New Year to everyone.

BELTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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hallrental@beltsvillevfd.com
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PARTIES, BRIDAL SHOWERS OR ANY OTHER OCCASION

WALK

continued from page 1
Community Walk. Michelle Garcia also participated and noted that she and her team walked the same path a few weeks ago to compile their own list of suggestions. The Parks and Planning representative leading the effort took thorough notes on all the groups' ideas, which included adjusting speed limits, adding roundabouts, various beautification efforts (including actually having trash cans emptied!), installing murals, and

shifting part of the road closer to Bank of America to allow for a sidewalk on the opposite side.

This meeting was just the beginning of a longer process, but the overarching theme that emerged from the walk was the need for safety: slower vehicle speeds, bike lanes, more walkable spaces, and so on.

When asked about next steps, our group leader from Parks and Planning, said they needed to work with the Permits team to begin the process, as mod-

ifications will require approval. There will be further community updates (and I will attend as many future meetings as I can and share information). They also stated that some improvements will be implemented as a test run—likely centered around the Bank of America area for about ten days—so Parks and Planning can gather data and adjust as needed. This test run will likely take place in the spring.

Looking forward to the next steps!



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News



Calendar of Events

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

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

SANTA FLY-IN

Sat., Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for a festive day filled with holiday cheer from around the world! Experience magic, fun, and family with Santa as he makes his annual return to the museum and flies in—weather permitting—for a day of holiday merriment. Be dazzled with The Berwyn Ballet's excerpts from *The Nutcracker* and explore how other cultures celebrate winter traditions with fun and festive crafts and activities. Sign up to visit with Santa (bilingual) and purchase treats from local food vendors.

- Advance registration required by Dec. 3. Field of Firsts (FoFF) Members: E-mail Collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com

Events are scheduled as follows:

- 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.: *The Nutcracker* with Berwyn Ballet School
- 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Activities & Crafts
- 11 a.m.: Santa fly-in (weather permitting)
- 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Photos with Santa (Santa speaks English & Spanish; photo slot registration required)
- 3 p.m.: Santa fly-out (weather permitting)

Cost: \$10/Resident; \$13/Non-Resident; FREE for FoFF Members.

Note: Photo slot registration is currently full. A first-come, first-served standby line will be available to accommodate guests who were not able to reserve a slot.

HOLIDAY PLANES & TRAINS

Three dates: a) Fri., Dec. 12, b) Sat., Dec. 13, and c) Sun., Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Board the *College Park Express* as we transform the College Park Aviation Museum gallery into a miniature holiday town from the past. Experience the holiday season and the thrill of our annual **Plains and Trains** program. Participate in a festive craft, see the museum's own train col-

lection, and meet and greet train hobbyists who will take you back in time to experience the sights and sounds of their train displays. All ages. Cost: FREE with museum admission.

SATURDAY STEAM HOUR

Sat., Dec. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join our educators at this hands-on activity table where creativity takes flight! Perfect for budding engineers and aviation enthusiasts, this interactive program allows visitors to design and build their own creations. Whether you're constructing airplanes, airports, or inventing something entirely new, Saturday STEAM Hour encourages you to dream big and bring your ideas to life. Drop in anytime during the hour for an opportunity to explore the wonders of aviation through play. This program is ideal for learners ages 6 – 12 and is FREE with museum admission.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset daily, except Tuesdays when they close at 4 p.m. Regular business hours for the building are Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Federal holidays.

- **Free admission, parking, exhibits, and programs.**
- **Miles of walking trails.**
- **Great for birdwatching and photography.**
- **All dogs must be kept on a leash** (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife.
- **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS

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

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

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

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

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

- December theme: Opossums
 - January theme: Otters.
- Registration is strongly recommended: Call 301.497.5772 during regular business hours. For large groups contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

HOLLINGSWORTH WILDLIFE ART GALLERY

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

- December art: *Land of the Fallen Giant*. Ann Rohlfing presents her photo studies of a storm-felled, 300-year-old Southern Red Oak tree as its return to earth generates life around it.
- January art: David Jonathan Cohen returns with his new photo exhibit, *In the Galapagos Islands*. See Galapagos giant tortoises, sea lions, marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and birds found only in the Galapagos.

WINGSPAN GAME DAYS

Fridays, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Ages 12+. No experience needed. Play the award-winning board game and learn more about birds! Use our game or bring yours and sign in at the Front Desk to play.

LAUREL–BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Masks are optional. Contact the center for updates. Membership is free for Beltsville residents who are 60 years old or older. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, next to the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center. Phone: 301.206.3350. Fax: 301.206.3387. Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability.

LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Reservations for our monthly luncheon are due two weeks before the meeting. **Contact the LSFC office for reservations and information about events planned for 2026.** The office is open Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; call 301.206.3380.

- Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

RFE CHAPTER 422 MEETING

Wed., Dec. 3 at 11:30 a.m. Join NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) Laurel Chapter 422 to celebrate the holiday season with a luncheon catered by Mission BBQ. The menu includes turkey, sliced brisket, sauces such as Memphis Belle, Smoky Mountain, and Texas Twang. Also on the menu are Granny's sweet potato mash, creamed corn, slider and cornbread combo, Peggy's peach cobbler, sweet tea, sodas, and water. Cost is **\$22** per person. Send your reservation and check payable to NARFE Chapter 422 Laurel **by Tuesday, Dec. 2** to the Treasurer: Stewart Saphier, 2901 Friendlywood Way, Burtonsville, MD 20866-1856. For more information, contact Secretary Pat Farmer at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2025. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Closed Wed., Dec. 24 and Thur., Dec. 25 for Christmas. Also closed Wed., Dec. 31, 2025 and Thur., Jan. 1, 2026 for New Year's. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Bring your toddler and enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! Ages 2 – 3.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Stories, fingerplays, and songs will be presented in Spanish and English. Edades 3 a 5. Se presentarán cuentos, actividades de

"Fingerplay," y canciones en inglés y español. Ages 3 – 5.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB | AYUDA CON LA TAREA

Two dates: Tuesdays, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Get the support you need with homework help and reading practice for students in grades 1 through 6. This is a great opportunity to boost your skills and gain confidence in your abilities. This program is especially useful for English Language Learner students, but all are welcome.

LEGOS: BRICKS & BEYOND

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at 3:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

MOVIE AND A CRAFT

Tue., Dec. 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Come see *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* [PG]. Make your own Harry Potter-themed ornament and bookmark! While you craft, enjoy the movie. (ALL AGES WELCOME.)

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Two dates: Sat., Dec. 13 and Fri., Dec. 19 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Boost your child's confidence by reading to friendly, trained therapy dogs! Whether they bring a favorite book or choose one from the library, each child gets 10 – 15 minutes of one-on-one reading time with a furry friend.

SAVE THE DATE: STEM EVENT IN JANUARY

Thur., Jan. 22 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. STEM Fun: Snowstorm in a Jar. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities! Explore making a project that sparks curiosity and creativity.

PROGRAM FOR TEENS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Dec. 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Connect with others in your community who share your love for needlecraft! Bring your current project and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere while exchanging tips, ideas, and conversation.

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

ENGLISH CLASS: BEGINNER / CLASES BÁSICAS DE INGLÉS

Wednesdays: Dec. 3 and 10 at 6 p.m. Clases básicas de inglés. Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This class is for Beginner level English language learners ready to learn in person. ¿Estas aprendiendo ingles y te gustaría practicar el idioma? ¡Esta clase es para estudiantes de inglés de nivel principiante listos para aprender en persona! Registration is required.

Share Your News!

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



© USO

How to Support the Military Community During the Holiday Season

(StatePoint) During the holiday season, Americans look forward to spending time with family. But thousands of service members will be spending the holidays deployed overseas – far away from their families and loved ones.

The USO supports service members throughout their deployments. Here is how USO Holidays programming delivers a piece of home to them, along with ideas for how you can get involved:

1. Care Packages: A care package might seem small in light of the challenges of deployment, but for many service members, they're a reminder that they're not forgotten by Americans back home. In addition to the contents of a standard USO Care Package, such as snacks or toiletries, USO Holidays Care Packages have festive treats and goodies, such as holiday candies, cozy socks and warm beanies, helping bridge the gap between home and the frontlines. This year, the USO will deliver thousands of holiday packages to service members deployed around the globe.

2. Holiday Traditions: Giving up treasured family traditions can be difficult. That's why USO Centers and USO Mobile teams host holiday meals for service members and their families, complete with special treats ranging from pumpkin and sweet potato pie to hot cocoa bars. The USO's annual Cookie Week celebrates the time-honored tradition of baking and decorating cookies, putting service members and military families in the holiday spirit wherever they are located. Other seasonal programming can include tree decorating, arts and crafts, holiday-

themed movie nights and ugly sweater competitions. Through these activities, service members stationed far from home can still make holiday memories. Bringing everyone together on special days fosters camaraderie and positivity, and provides a welcome break from the demands of military life.

3. Connections to Home. Staying connected to family during the holidays can be challenging for service members stationed overseas. The USO Reading Program enables deployed service members to record themselves reading a book to their child. Then, the recording and a copy of the book are sent to that service member's family.

4. Travel Support. As most people know, holiday travel can be especially taxing. Thousands of service members and trainees from military installations across the country participate in the Holiday Block Leave period, many traveling through some of the busiest airports in the United States to be with their families during the holidays. USO airport centers can alleviate some of that stress by providing a place to relax and unwind before the next leg of their journey.

To learn more about these programs and how to support them, and for ideas on how to reach out to the military community to express your thanks during the holidays and throughout the year, visit USO.org.

The holiday season can be an especially tough time of year for military families. Thankfully, anyone can get involved in the effort to help connect service members to the traditions and people they love back home.

Club News

Women's Community Club of Beltsville Holiday Giving Program

By Karen Coakley, WCCB Fund-raising Chairperson

Can You Make a Child's Holiday Merry & Bright?

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville is sponsoring **84 children from 30 Beltsville families** for Christmas this year.

We are asking our Beltsville community—businesses, schools, service organizations, social clubs, churches, and individuals—to help us **make a child's holiday Merry & Bright!** You or your organization can support us through monetary contributions or by directly sponsoring a child or family. The

Women's Community Club of Beltsville is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Donations can be sent via PayPal to womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.

Monetary contributions may also be mailed to:

Women's Community Club of Beltsville

P.O. Box 1607
Beltsville, Maryland 20704-1607

For questions or to schedule a donation pick-up or drop-off, please contact **Karen Coakley** at womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com or **301-741-7672**.

We all know there are Beltsville families who are less fortunate.

Thank you for helping us "spread a little sunshine" during the holidays and throughout the year.

If you would like to become a WCCB member, please email us at womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.

To see our list of activities, visit our Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/wccbf>

Throughout the year, we provide scholarship funds, beautify Beltsville through our Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Creek programs, plant bulbs, and partner with other community organizations to make Beltsville even better.

Beltsville Young at Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

Hard to believe the year is almost over. I pray that 2026 is better for everyone. Our November potluck was wonderful, with plenty of food and fellowship as we got to know each other better.

December will feature Santa Bingo, with prizes for the winners. We'll still have light refreshments, a 50/50 drawing, and information about our 2026 trips.

Dues of \$15.00 will be collected for next year (please make checks out to BYAH).

Johnny Seaton will be singing for us in January 2026, and in February we'll have an attorney speak about wills and trusts, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Treasured memories form a basis for today's choices, and by using faith's discernment, I've learned what matters and what lasts." — C.S. Lewis

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\$509,000

WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH, AND A NEW YEAR BLESSED WITH PEACE, HOPE, AND HAPPINESS.

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY




**Holy Apostles
Orthodox Church**
Come and see.

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

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



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www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org



**EMMANUEL
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BELTSVILLE, MD
Engaging the community

Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705
(301)937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com
www.eumcbeltsville.com
Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>
Follow us on Instagram @eumc_beltsville

Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
You can watch the live broadcast on our website
www.eumcbeltsville.com
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

 **Upcoming Events** 

December 3/4 - 7 pm UpStage Artists Auditions for *The Importance of Being Earnest*
December 20 - 8am-11am Free Food Distribution
December 24 - time TBD Christmas Eve Service


Merry Christmas

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



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

Come and Join Us
Located in the Beltsville Professional Center



St. Joseph Catholic Church
www.stjosephbeltsville.org

Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez
Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org
Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever
St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org
Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am
*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

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

To view services online:
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

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

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



First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)
4700 Odell Road Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

Please join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ at our



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24 at 6:00 p.m.**



O Holy Night

Sundays:	
Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays:	
Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.

HEALTHY

continued from page 10

when you need help managing stress.

3. Prioritize physical activity during this busy time of year. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity each week. Brisk walks, bike rides, hikes and family-friendly sports like basketball and touch football can provide easy, fun ways to get off the couch and elevate your heart rate. If you're traveling, don't forget to pack your sneakers!

4. Be prepared when traveling. Whether you're flying or taking a road trip, you might be tempted to grab convenient yet unhealthy food for the journey. Consider packing your own snacks, such as fresh fruits and vegetables or small portions of dried fruits and nuts. When flying, pack your medication in your carry-on bag instead of your checked luggage so it's easily accessible. Keeping medication handy will help you avoid missing a dose on busy travel days, especially amid flight delays. Stay hydrated and drink plenty of water during your flight as air travel can cause dehydration. And keep your body moving in-flight to avoid blood clots.

5. Make smart choices and plan ahead if you're driving. In December 2023 alone, 1,038 people died in alcohol impaired-driving crashes in the United States. If you plan to drink, always arrange for a sober driver or alternative transportation. And if you are the designated driver, commit to 100% sobriety. Also make sure to get plenty of sleep before your road trip as drowsy driving is responsible for an estimated 100,000 car crashes each year nationwide.

6. Vaccination remains the best protection against several serious respiratory viruses circulating this fall and winter, particularly as people are spending more time indoors and gathering for the holidays. The AMA encourages you to speak with your physician or other health care professional to determine which vaccines are best for you. The AMA offers infographics to help patients and physicians cut through vaccine confusion and foster open, honest conversations with each other. The infographics can be found at <https://ama-assn.org>.

7. Start New Year's resolutions early. Speak with your doctor or other health care professional about quitting tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarettes, and declare your home and car smoke-free to protect loved ones from secondhand smoke exposure.

"While you're celebrating this holiday season and reconnecting with family and friends, remember to take care of your health. Eating well, staying active, and taking precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses can help you enjoy the season and start the new year strong," says Dr. Mukkamala.



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Will Your New Smartphone Withstand Everyday Mishaps?

(StatePoint) With Apple’s latest smartphone lineup featuring the biggest physical redesign in years, you may be wondering if it’s time for a mobile device upgrade.

New rectangular camera housing on the iPhone Air and 17 Pro models designed to accommodate more advanced camera systems, and 4K video recording in the Pro models, among other fresh features, certainly make the idea of an upgrade appealing. But before purchasing a new device, first check out the results of Allstate Protection Plans’ Breakability Drop and Bend Tests. The independent evaluation used robotic testing equipment to evaluate how the iPhone Air and iPhone 17 Pro withstand everyday accidents. The tests can be viewed online and include the following results:

Improved Drop-Ability

Facing the Allstate Protection Plan’s DropBot, which drops devices 6 feet onto a sidewalk, both iPhones showed improved durability when dropped back-down, but still suffered significant damage when dropped face-down.

Face-down drop tests: Both the iPhone Air and 17 Pro shattered after one face-down drop. While both models remained fully functional, the damaged Ceramic Shield 2 front displays were too sharp to use with bare hands. Both iPhones would need their front screens replaced to be usable again.

Back-down drop tests: The iPhone 17 Pro survived one back-down drop with only cosmetic damage, including minor scuffing on its camera housing and along frame edges. The iPhone Air cracked across its rear panel after one back-down drop but was otherwise fully



functional. These results are a big improvement from previous glass-back iPhone models, and most likely due to the models’ new Ceramic Shield rear panels.

No Bendgate 2.0

iPhone Air’s slim design raised concerns of another Bendgate, which plagued iPhone 6 and Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge devices. But BendBot, which applies controlled pressure to measure breaking points, discovered bending isn’t an issue.

- The iPhone 17 Pro bent at 200 pounds of pressure and was fully functional after Allstate’s bend test. The iPhone Air bent at 190 pounds of pressure and was also fully functional after the test. Though both models bent at fewer pounds of pressure than the iPhone 17 Pro Max (240 pounds), they were still well above industry standards for bend durability and the stresses most users encounter in everyday use.
- Though the iPhone Air is 35% thinner (0.22-inch depth) than the iPhone 17 Pro, it was nearly as durable in the bend test. This may be due to added reinforcement from its rectangular camera housing and

titanium frame.

Watch the iPhone Air and iPhone 17 Pro take on the Drop-Bot and BendBot in a full results video on Allstate Protection Plans’ YouTube channel.

Damage Costlier Than Ever

Smartphones have become the single device people use to capture, store and share their lives. In fact, 82% of Americans say their phone has replaced their digital camera, according to Allstate Protection Plans research. With the iPhone 17 Pro starting at \$1,099 and repair costs reaching up to \$749 without AppleCare, and the iPhone Air starting at \$999 with repairs as high as \$699, protecting these essential devices is more important than ever. Visit AllstateProtectionPlans.com to learn how to keep your new device protected from real-world damage.

“Apple avoided another Bendgate, but gravity still wins,” says Jason Siciliano, vice president of marketing at Allstate Protection Plans. “If you’re spending more than \$1,000 on a phone, a case, screen protector and protection plan are smart investments.”

Classifieds • Call 301-257-3408

SERVICES

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL. Complete Clean Out - Garages, Homes, Construction Debris, etc. Licensed, insured, free estimates. Mike Smith 301-346-0840. 10/26

VOLUNTEERING

CALLING ALL CAT LOVERS!

Do you enjoy cats and can spare one hour a week? Beltsville Community Cats would love for you to join our awesome Colony Support Team to help feed kitties and experience their gratitude firsthand! Contact 240-444-8353 or email hello@beltsvillecats.net 01/26

HELP WANTED

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