

# The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 72, Number 1

Beltsville, Maryland

January 2024

## Calverton Based “Paths for Families” Welcomes Debra Cook as Director of Development

Baltimore (Dec. 7, 2023) and Washington, D.C. – Paths for Families, formerly Adoptions Together and FamilyWorks Together, the leading adoption and family well-being organization in the DMV region, is proud to announce the appointment of Debra Cook as the new Director of Development. Cook succeeds Margo Devine, who has served with distinction and heartfelt dedication for the past 14 years.

As an adoptive parent through foster care herself, Cook brings personal passion and professional experience to the role. With 20 years of nonprofit management focused on fundraising, strategic planning, and fostering philanthropic relationships, her impressive track record includes significant roles at prominent institutions such as the National Association of Health Underwriters, the Smithsonian Institution, and the YMCA of Los Angeles. Cook’s

**PATHS**  
continues on page 3



Cub Pack 1031 and our pack winners!

## Cub Pack 1031: 2023 Pinewood Derby Race!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 held their 2023 Pinewood Derby on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, finally back at the Beltsville Community Center. We had wonderful helpers and great races! Many thanks Sean H. and the P1031 parents

for helping it come together! We had winners at each den level and the Grand Prize winners were Arrow Kyle Tarbrake in 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Bear Rowan Massengale in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Tiger Rosa McDougal in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. There were many exotic cars such as Rosa’s Garden car, Anya’s lit up

Pond car and two Hershey Bar cars!

We also collected 20 toys for Toys for Tots which Breanna and David H helped drop off at the donation house at Ikea. This teaches us to think about others

**RACE**  
continues on page 4

**NEXT ISSUE:**

**Submissions Due**

**No Later Than:**

**January 17**

**Paper Out:**

**January 27**

**News You Can Use**



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

## Troop 1033 Tested Their Orienteering Abilities

By Oliver Szczepanski

Orienteering is a skill that is used to find out where someone or something is using just a map and a compass. Using a combination of a map’s geographic features, such as forests, shrublands, and waterways, and a compass’s directional information, a person can figure out where they are, where they need to go, and how far away they need to go. This makes orienteering a very useful skill for someone to know. Last October 28th your local Scouting Troop, Troop 1033, tested their orienteering abilities at the Jug Bay Natural Area of Patuxent River Park in Southern PG County. This competition was one of two run every year by the Baltimore Area Council, who run many different events throughout the year to promote fun and learning in the Scouting program. The lead organizer was



Scoutmaster Kevin D’Eustacio, who had witnessed Dave Linthicum, volunteer event chair, claim that there were over 600 scouts at the event and had received an email listing all the troops involved.

Dave Linthicum, a former State Department Cartographer.

While there, they competed against 44 other troops, totaling over 600 scouts. During the competition, the Troop competed in two different sections: a com-

petition in pairs and an overall troop competition. Four scouts in the troop placed 8th and 7th out of the over 300 pairs at the event for the first section. The troop then finished fifth in the overall competition out of the 35

troops in the large troop division, an incredible achievement. In the pairs competition, the scouts had to walk along a predetermined

**ORIENTEERING**  
continues on page 2

## HAPPY NEW YEAR BELTSVILLE!

One of my wishes for the new year would be a drop in crime. Having said that the bandits and crooks are out there. Please try not to become a victim. Do not leave anything of value in your car and lock it. Turn your outside lights on at night, park in a well-lit area, and consider getting a steering wheel lock. We need to pay attention to our surroundings.

On a happier note, our community has numerous wonderful non-profits who help those in need year-round. We also have “unsung heroes” who silently give back to our community. They are the people who deliver food for Meals on Wheels, coach and/or mentor children, and our neighbor who has been picking up trash on Sellman Road! My wish is that we all try embracing Random Acts of Kindness.

Wishing Everyone a Safe! Healthy and Happy New Year!  
Karenmcoakley@gmail.com



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## Happy New Year from the News Director

Happy New Year everyone! It's hard to believe but in August of 2024, I will have been the news director for 11 years. The Beltsville News and Beltsville community has seen a lot of changes in those 11 years. We've lost several friends like Baker Bill, Scout Master Gary Bauchan, long-time treasurer Evelyn Adkins, 25 Years Ago writer Brother Phil, Jim Butcher, and many more. We've survived a pandemic and everything that came along with that. We've seen long-time businesses like Behnke's Nursery, TJ's of Calverton and Old Line Bistro close their doors but we've seen many new businesses come in and

take their place. There have been new community groups and non-profits such as Resident's for a Better Beltsville, Beltsville Community Cats, and UpStage Artists. Beltsville has changed a lot since August of 2013.

The Beltsville News has also changed. We became an online presence with our website and social media accounts, we have added several new columns including Tech Sense and Jason's Jive, we have given space to Joey West, a young man and budding cartoonist, to showcase his artwork, and we have covered hundreds of local events. Beginning this month, we are also adding a

new column, *Ask The Expert* by Andre Gibson of Champion Home Improvements. This is a monthly home improvement column. We are excited to see what's next!

Although change can be hard and frightening sometimes, it is inevitable. We don't move forward without change. We don't find and experience new things without change. We don't learn from and engage with new people without change. So, here's to looking forward to a wonderful 2024 filled with joy and prosperity, even if it means there is a little change in our lives.

Happy New Year,  
Rick Bergmann

## Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News issue of January 2009)

By Ted Ladd

### Vansville Community Center Grand Opening

On December 8, 2009, the Vansville Community Center celebrated its Grand Opening with a gymnasium dedication honoring Joseph L. Briscoe. Joseph Briscoe served as the Vansville Heights Citizens Association President for more than 60 years. He saw the need for an elementary school in the Vansville

area and worked tirelessly for over 20 years to see this dream come to pass. While many were involved in the effort, it was Mr. Briscoe's driving force that helped make it a reality. He lobbied to have the gymnasium built in addition to the new elementary school. The Maryland Capital Park and Planning Commission and Prince George's County Board of Education approved the addition of the gym. Mr. Briscoe is a true testament to the saying than one person can make a difference.

## The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Editor Emeritas: Sally Ehrle

#### Staff Listings

Managing Editor/News Director: Rick Bergmann

Advertising Manager: Ted Ladd

Business Manager: Ted Ladd

Supporting Staff Members: Karen Coakley, Rebecca Hutchings, Jason Inanga, Elizabeth Olson, and Nancy Thrush.

#### Circulation

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### ORIENTEERING

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path and try to mark on their maps where they thought they were along the way. They then scored points based on how close they were to the actual positions. Congratulations to Antoine and Kevin for placing 8th and Jason and Marcelo for placing 7th in this event! In the overall troop event, the troop had to send scouts out to find markers that were on their maps, collect a stamp to show that they had found the correct marker, and finally return to cash in their points before time was up. This event typically ends with scouts pouring out the forest during the last few minutes, all rushing to not miss the deadline.

The troop typically does well at these competitions, and this was one of its best performances in years. Considering how many scouts were at the event in total, the troop is very proud that four of the eight scouts from it that came placed 7th and 8th in the pairs. If this sounds fun, and you are aged 11-17, please consider coming to one of the meetings. The troop meets on Sundays from 6-7:30 at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church on Cedar Lane. If you have any questions, email Scoutmaster Kevin D'Eustachio at [kdeustachio@gmail.com](mailto:kdeustachio@gmail.com).

## Share Your News!

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# Should I Feed My Pets Grain-Free Food?

By **Stephanie Stulich**

For 15 years, a growing number of pet owners have been persuaded that grain-free foods are a healthier choice for our beloved pets. The justification is that feline and canine animals in the wild did not evolve to eat grains – rather, their diet consisted mainly of meat. However, pet food companies commonly use grains (wheat, corn, rice, etc.) which are cheaper than meat.



Data from a Pet Food Institute (PFI) study published in 2020 indicates that corn products account for over 20 percent of ingredients, by volume, in dog and cat food. If you read the ingredient labels, some popular, low-cost dry foods list corn first, meaning it is the largest volume ingredient.

Currently, no scientific evidence indicates that grain-free foods are in fact healthier for our pets. The Food and Drug Administration is currently studying whether such foods may be linked to heart disease in dogs. This study was launched after a group of veterinary cardiologists in Baltimore noticed increasing numbers of dogs diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM), particularly in breeds not known to be genetically predisposed to DCM. Other cardiologists began reporting similar observations. Many of the dogs had been fed grain-free foods, and many were found to have low blood levels of taurine, an essential amino acid. So far, the FDA has said the

research is inconclusive. While the research was done on dogs, one may assume some correlation for cats.

The concern is about the ingredients that are substituted for grains in grain-free pet food. Other plant-based carbohydrates (e.g., peas, lentils, and potatoes) are used instead of corn. These carbohydrates are not typically eaten by canines and felines in the wild. Researchers have hypothesized that these formerly uncommon pet food ingredients may interfere with the body's absorption of the taurine in their food.

My own personal experience with heart failure in cats has been distressing. In 2022 we lost two pet cats and one foster cat to heart failure. All were young (between 1-3 years old). All had been fed grain-free dry food, as well as canned food. Our veterinarian informed us of a possible connection between grain-free food and heart disease. We immediately changed the diet of all our pets. In November an adopter reported that his seemingly healthy, 2-year-old cat suddenly died of a heart attack. This cat had also been eating a popular grain-free dry food (as well as canned food).

Having four young cats die of heart issues so close together was shocking. As a former researcher by profession, I recognize there is not scientific evidence that grain-free foods cause heart disease in dogs or cats – but our experiences made us realize that there is also no scientific evidence supporting the use of grain-free pet foods.

You may notice that some canned cat and dog foods now say they are “grain-free.” This seems to be mainly a marketing gimmick since canned foods have never been high in grain. So, our family is only avoiding grain-free dry foods at this time. For both wet and dry foods, we focus on whether the first ingredient(s) are “real” meat rather than animal meal or by-products. We have found reasonably-priced cat foods that meet these criteria – not the cheapest, but also not the most expensive.

If you are considering whether to make a switch to or away from grain-free pet foods, the best advice is to consult with your veterinarian, who can help you make choices that give your pets the best chance of a long and healthy life.

Cook's unique position as both a development officer and an adoptive parent brings invaluable perspective and passion to her role: “I am very excited about the future and the opportunity to work with my colleagues and the community that is Paths for Families. It was a deeply personal decision; I understand first-hand the critical need for the services we provide, and I look forward to representing the organization and advocating for healthy families in our community,” she said.

As part of the Senior Leadership Team, Cook's responsibilities will include a broad range of initiatives focused on foster-

ing a philanthropic culture that upholds the organizational values and advances impact on families, children, and the greater adoption and family well-being landscape.

As a lifelong resident of the Washington, DC area, Cook is eager to connect with professionals, organizations, and individuals who share the commitment to making a difference through philanthropy. “I am excited to build bridges for the organization and look forward to collaborating with like-minded individuals and organizations who are passionate about a shared vision to support every child, every family, every step of the way.”

## **PATHS**

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expertise in securing grants, driving philanthropic initiatives, and building a culture of philanthropy is well-aligned with the mission of Paths for Families.

“We are honored to have Debra join our team,” said Paths for Families' Founder and CEO Janice Goldwater. “I believe having a passion for this mission along with personal experience is a special combination; and paired with her professional background, we feel very lucky to have Debra to shepherd us into the next phase of growth and impact.”



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**Ask the Expert** BY ANDRE GIBSON, CHAMPION HOME IMPROVEMENTS

# Welcome to Ask the Expert!

Happy New Year Beltsville. Let's talk home improvements. I will be bringing you helpful tips and ideas in the coming months related to having a healthy and efficient home. The temperatures are dropping outside so let's jump right in and start with replacement windows.

New windows are a key investment that brings a variety of benefits to your home. From enhancing the aesthetic appeal of your house to providing practical advantages such as increased energy efficiency, noise reduction, better ventilation, and improved security, new windows are a game-changer that can transform your home into a more comfortable, peaceful, and secure space.

There are many features and benefits of replacement so let's go over a few of the major ones: The first is Natural light. Light is essential for a healthy living environment. Light can boost your mood, improve your sleep, and even enhance your immune system. New windows are designed to let in more natural light, which can have a significant impact on your overall well-being. By letting in more sunlight, you'll feel more energized, focused, and productive. New windows let in the soothing sunlight while offering UV protection. Older windows often lack UV protection, which can be harmful to your skin and



furniture. New windows come with special coatings that block the harmful UV rays, protecting you and furniture from damage.

Better air quality is a significant concern for many homeowners as well. Poor air quality can cause respiratory issues, allergies, and other health problems. New windows can help improve the air quality in your home by allowing for better ventilation. With improved ventilation, you'll be able to breathe easier and enjoy a healthier living environment.

Another concern with older windows is they can be difficult to maintain, requiring frequent painting or repairs. New windows are

designed to be low maintenance, with materials that are easy to clean and durable. This means you'll spend less time and money on window maintenance and more time enjoying your home.

And maybe something you haven't thought about is how windows can have a significant impact on the environment. By reducing your energy consumption, you'll be reducing your carbon footprint and helping to protect the planet. Many new windows are made from sustainable materials, making them an eco-friendly choice for your home.

Having new windows also can add significant value to your home. If you're planning to sell your home in the future, new windows can be a selling point that attracts potential buyers. They can also increase the curb appeal of your home, making it more attractive to passersby.

Along with the presentation of your home, noise pollution can be a significant problem in urban areas. Planes, Trains and automobiles are quite noisy. It can affect your sleep, your health, and your overall quality of life. New windows are designed to reduce these outside annoyances, making your home a more peaceful and enjoyable space. Think about upgrading to new windows to bring peace and quiet to your home.

New windows are important for a variety of reasons as we have explained, but if you would like more information on replacement windows and energy savings tips and tricks, check out the DOE website at Energy.gov

And as always If you have another home improvement question, feel free to reach out to the expert and email us at (info@mychampionhome.com) or give us a call at (301-277-7200)

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**RACE** continued from page 1

during the holidays. Pack 1031 did over 290 hours of service in 2023. We are a Gold level JTE unit and this year we grew from 9 scouts to 17 scouts, and we are excited for the new year!

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



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**Statepoint Crossword: Year In Review**

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
19				20		21	22					
		23				24						
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48				49		50			51		52	
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57	58	59	60				61			62	63	64
65					66	67		68				
69					70			71				
72					73			74				

**ACROSS**

1. \*Herald, Idalia or Ophelia
6. Do this in the bud
9. Parts of play
13. Cocoon dwellers
14. Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.
15. Alexandre Duma's "The Black \_\_\_\_"
16. Concerning, archaic
17. Talking Heads' "And She \_\_\_\_"
18. Give a speech
19. \*2023 World Series winners
21. \*Imploded submersible's destination
23. \*Kali Uchis' "I Wish \_\_\_\_ Roses"
24. Don't step on it twice!
25. \*Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role
28. Winter window picture
30. Imprisons
35. Aphrodite's son
37. Hindu serpent deity
39. Toughness
40. Angler's hope
41. Stephen Curry, e.g.
43. Opposed to
44. Tastes like lemon
46. Seven-year desire
47. Turf alternative
48. \*Highest-grossing 2023 movie to-date
50. Chris Hemsworth's repeating

**DOWN**

1. Joust verbally
2. Cat food flavor
3. Word before sesame
4. Gangly
5. Type of shower
6. \*Company from which #57 Across retired, \_\_\_\_ Corp
7. Nest egg, acr.
8. Trattoria staple
9. Sign of a saint
10. Kin group
11. South American monkey
12. Design detail, for short
15. Sacred objects on a pole
20. Bitterly regretting

22. Dwight D. Eisenhower
24. Boat race
25. Meat on a stick
26. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
27. Post-it user
29. \*Site of tragic wildfires
31. Objectivity preventer
32. Declare invalid
33. Like 1950s style, today
34. \*"The Eras Tour" star
36. Balkan native
38. St. Louis attraction
42. Hindu garment
45. Combining two forms
49. What kneecap and leech have in common
51. Airbnb offering
54. Northernmost land, to the ancients
56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d'alhos
57. Lion's share
58. Beyond natural, in U.K.
59. Steak preference
60. Days, in Havana
61. \*Showtime's "\_\_\_\_": The Aftermath"
62. Certain social media message
63. A third of thrice
64. Infantry's last rows
67. \*\_\_\_\_-AFTRA

**See Solution on page 7**

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## Healthier Habits on a Budget This New Year

(Statepoint) This new year, creating healthier habits can be easy and affordable with proper planning. Whether you're resolving to improve your diet, relax your mind or give back to your community, you can use these tips from the team at Dollar General to help you meet your goals.

### Food and Fitness

If you are looking to improve your physical health in the new year, begin by making slight changes to your eating and fitness habits to aid long-term consistency. For example, use healthier alternatives in your favorite meals. Dollar General's Better For You recipes provide healthier and affordable options for breakfast, lunch, dinner and even dessert. Additionally, consider setting daily exercise goals, such as taking a morning walk or squeezing in a 30-minute strength training session during lunch. Workouts; don't have to take a long time to increase your energy and stamina.

### Nourishing the Mind

Taking steps to care for

your mental health can help decrease stress and improve your mood. Proper rest each night is fundamental. Work toward maintaining a consistent sleep schedule that includes waking up and going to bed at the same time. Next, find an outlet to express daily thoughts, such as updating a journal each night before bed. Finally, create time to practice enjoyable hobbies such as playing in a sports league, crafting or reading.

### Community Care

Getting involved in your community can be a healthy habit that benefits your and others' wellbeing. To get started, research local nonprofit organizations and choose one that connects to your values. Consider donating time, funds or products to help build strong relationships with neighbors and make a positive difference.

Through implementing these smart and affordable resolution ideas and strategies, you can help maintain a healthier lifestyle and improve your wellbeing.

## Obituaries



Harry Charles Brundick

### Brundick, Harry Charles

Long time Calverton resident, Harry Charles Brundick passed away at Brooke Grove Rehabilitation Center in Olney, on November 24, 2023. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather and will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Tricia, his 4 children and their spouses, and 9 grandchildren. Memorial Service was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Chapel (Randolph Rd) on December 21, 2023, at 2pm. Internment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



Ray Ehrle

### Ehrle, Ray

Dr. Raymond A. Ehrle, a 22-year resident of Annapolis, previously of Beltsville, died at his home on October 26, 2023, and was buried in his rural New York home cemetery on November 2.

Ray fondly remembered his ten-year Beltsville life. Living with wife Sally on Montgomery Road Ray regularly walked through the nearby park and took the short walk on Sunday to Emmanuel United Methodist Church. He knew and enjoyed his neighbors; he regularly attended a book club at the Beltsville library along with avid readers and some retired University of Maryland faculty. Ray was a food taster at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and participated in Baker Bill's baking class, later creating his own cookbook. The Montgomery Road home was used annually to host German American summer picnics and German American December holiday events.

He grew up in rural New York where he attended a one room school for seven years. He gradu-

ated from High School at age 16, worked on his father's farm and then entered the Army. He subsequently attended Syracuse University on the GI Bill receiving an AB in sociology. He received a ROTC Commission and upon graduation entered the USAF. Active duty and reserve time enabled him to retire as a Major. Overseas assignments included Newfoundland, Iceland and Eniwetok.

Dr. Ehrle received a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from George Washington University and a doctorate in Rehabilitation Counseling in 1961 from the University of Missouri. He gained practical experience as supervisor with the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center and then the U.S. Department of Labor. Dr. Ehrle then went to the University of Maryland to start a new Rehabilitation Counseling Graduate Education program for both Masters degree and doctoral students.

He remained active in professional organizations serving as president of the American Rehabilitation Counselors Association and the National Employment Counselors Association and founded the Journal of Employment Counseling. Ray has published over 120 articles, monographs and books. He was a licensed psychologist (District of Columbia and Maryland) and book reviewer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Ehrle then took a turn in private industry as Washington Representative for Teledyne Economic Development Co. Subsequently he returned to academia as Director of Research Support for the George Washington University Business School and retired in 1989. He frequently wrote his observations about life, society and the spiritual world.

Among other organizations Dr. Ehrle was a major contributor to the ATO Student Aid Fund, SGAS Research Fund, the University of Missouri McGowan Endowment Library Fund and the German American Museum in Washington, D.C.

Survivors include his wife of more than 50 years, Sally Allen Ehrle; son John; son Richard of Virginia, his wife Kate and children Christian, Elisabeth and William. His marriage to Betty Turner (deceased) ended in divorce. A grave site service was held in Cohecton New York.

Donations may be made to the Ehrle Paramedic Scholarship at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC); address: AACC Foundation, 101 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012.

### Morgan, Joseph A.

Joseph A. Morgan, 87, of Beltsville, MD, peacefully passed away at home Sunday morning Nov. 19th, 2023. Joe was born July 20, 1936, to Dolly Rose Anna

Gray and John Edmond Hall in St. Mary's county, MD.

Joe married the love of his life, Edna Tippet Morgan Dec. 7, 1961, who preceded him in death Aug. 27, 2023. Joe was employed as a Chief Engineer at Maryland Farms Condominium Association for over 45 years. He was fondly nicknamed "Mr. Maryland Farms" by many residents for his professionalism, dedication, expertise and friendly, outgoing personality. Joe served in the U.S.A.F. overseas and in the States in the 1960's.

He was preceded in death by his youngest son Wayne A. Morgan, both his parents, siblings William (Bill) E. Morgan, Martha (Julia) E. Morgan Herbert, Elmer J. Morgan, Herman T. Morgan, and Isaac (Ikey) W. Morgan.

He is survived by his two children, Joseph E. (Linda) Morgan and Janet Salvetti; 7 grandchildren: Justin Morgan Reeves, Joseph R. (Jamie) Morgan, Steven Salvetti, Jeffrey (Julie) Morgan, Ashley Salvetti, Dale Salvetti, Shelly Salvetti, and 6 (with one more on the way!) great grandchildren. Also surviving Joe is his brother Lewis M. Morgan (Bunny) and sister Elizabeth R. (Anna) Hall Morgan.

Joe, as a husband, father, father-in-law, pop-pops, brother and uncle was highly and fondly looked up to and admired for his strength, wise advice, unending sense of humor and helpful ways. He was gentle and strong all at the same time. He made us all laugh so much. Joe was a very tall man with big strong hands, he would give the shirt off his back and help in any way he could with those big strong hands. He was always right there for his family and friends until the end. Joe will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Visitation was held at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 2, 2023, followed by a prayer service at 11:00 at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD. The interment followed service at the Maryland National Memorial Park Cemetery at 12:00 noon, Laurel, MD.

### Stiggers, Rosa Lee (age 99)

On Monday, November 20, 2023, of Beltsville, MD. Beloved wife of the late Hobert Stiggers; mother of Linda Yancey (Lewis); grandmother of Gregory Stiggers; also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends visited with the Stiggers family at the Corinthian Baptist Church, Lanham, MD on Saturday, December 9, from 10 am. until the time of funeral service with Bishop James Martin officiating at 11 am. Interment will be held at a later date in Greenwood Cemetery, San Diego, CA.

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# Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

## Happy New Year! Join Sheilah and I for our Winter Brunch January 20th in Gambrills

**When:** Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm – 2 pm

**Location:** Village Commons Community Center, 1326 Main Chapel Way, Gambrills, MD

To RSVP, visit [www.Winter-Brunch.com](http://www.Winter-Brunch.com) or call 240-712-4646.

The Special Guest: Dr. Robert Gallo, Founder of UMD Institute of Human Virology and co-discoverer of the virus which causes AIDS.



Dr. Robert Gallo, Founder of UMD Institute of Human Virology and co-discoverer of the virus which causes AIDS, will be the guest speaker at Senator Rosapepe's winter brunch on Jan. 20.

## January 29th join the 21st District Delegation for our reception in Annapolis

Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the Maryland legislature. We hope you can join us and other neighbors Monday evening, January 29th, 6 to 8 pm, at Market House at 25 Market Space, near the Annapolis dock, for good food and good fellowship. We'll be joined by other state and local leaders who represent you. To RSVP, call 240-712-4646, or go to <http://bit.ly/District21Night>. If you'd like to stay after dinner, you can see the Senate or House in action at 8 pm. Just let us know when you RSVP. If you just want to come to dinner by bus with neighbors, reserve your seat when you RSVP. Buses will pick up in College Park and Laurel. Finally, if you have questions, just email [21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com](mailto:21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com) or call.



Senator Jim Rosapepe

## Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

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

## Senior Call Check Available to Maryland Residents

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

## Info on Affordable Health Insurance

Coverage from Maryland Health Connection can give you a sense of security and stability when parts of your life may feel unpredictable. Through January 15, 2024, you can shop and enroll in a 2024 health plan at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://MarylandHealthConnection.gov). Even if you've looked before, you can check out additional savings.

## What's new for 2024?

- You have four health insurance companies to choose from! This

year, Maryland Health Connection welcomed Aetna as a new health insurance company in addition to CareFirst, Kaiser Permanente, and UnitedHealthcare. No matter where you live in Maryland, you can choose plans from multiple insurance companies.

- Young adult savings have been expanded. Now, Marylanders ages 18-37 can get special discounts for 2024 health plans — on top of other savings available. Value plans give you the option for lower out-of-pocket costs.
- Value Plans are designed to have lower out-of-pocket costs when you use health care. For 2024, we revamped Value Plans to make the prices for standard healthcare services more transparent and more consistent across insurance companies. All insurance companies on Maryland Health Connection offer Value Plans. Value Plans use simple copays for most services and cover many services without requiring you to meet your deductible. Value Plans are a perfect fit for people with high prescription costs because they have lower caps on the amount you pay out of pocket for prescriptions. They also cover routine services for people with diabetes at no cost, including insulin, primary care visits, and specific labs.
- Medicaid- Open enrollment is for private health plans only. If you're eligible, you can apply for Medicaid anytime. If you are already enrolled in Medicaid, you will receive a notice before your benefits end.
- There are many ways to enroll. If you need help registering, we've got you covered. Trained experts are available to help you sign up for a health plan. Go to [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://MarylandHealthConnection.gov) to find free assistance near you. Get free help enrolling by phone or in person. Again, 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. Best of all, it's free.

## COVID info and help

MDGOVAX Call Center Services are transitioning to 2-1-1 Maryland. Marylanders can still receive information and referrals regarding COVID-19 resources by calling 2-1-1 or texting your zip code to 898 211..

## COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Homeowners

Are you struggling to keep up with your mortgage payments or other housing costs due to COVID-19 related financial hardships? The Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund may be able to help. Visit the State of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development website at <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/> or call the department at 301-429-7400 to check eligibility and get assistance with navigating the application portal.

## How to report potholes in Beltsville

Maintenance of State roads

(identified by number — Rt 1, Rt 212, etc) is the responsibility of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). Call 301-952-0555 to report a pothole on a State road. Other local roads are maintained by the County. To report potholes on them, call 311 (3-1-1) or 301-883-4748 or report it online at [PGC311.com](http://PGC311.com).

## 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](mailto:21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com) or call 410-841-3141.

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## Crossword Solution from page 5

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# 2024 Stallings & Prestandrea Scholarship Program

**Scholarship Application Period: January 1, 2024 - March 1, 2024**

Each year we salute the commitment and dedication of two Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union pioneers, Virginia Stallings and Cindy Prestandrea with our scholarship program.

**This year we will expand our scholarship program by awarding (4) \$2,500 scholarships to members that are:**

- Graduating from high school.
- Are enrolled in an undergraduate program at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Are enrolled in a graduate program at an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Have been accepted to an accredited trade or vocational school.

**Applications can be submitted starting January 1, 2024, and are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, March 1, 2024.**

Recipients will be announced in late March 2024.

Visit us online ([www.princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship](http://www.princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship)) to download the application packet and for details on how to submit your entry.



# From the Office of Council Chair Tom Dernoga

## 2024 Gavel Exchange

On Tuesday, December 5, the County Council convened to elect a new County Chair and Vice Chair for Legislative Year 2024. During the Gavel Exchange Ceremony, Council Member Wala Blegay and Council Member Dernoga passed their leadership to the new Council Chair, Jolene Ivey, and Council Vice Chair, Sydney Harrison. Following the adjournment of the ceremony, the County Council entered winter legislative recess and will reconvene in January 2024. Under new leadership, the Council will continue to navigate challenges, create solutions, and serve our people. You may watch the Gavel Exchange Ceremony by going to [bit.ly/41qARD8](https://bit.ly/41qARD8).



Council Member Tom Dernoga with Daija Yisrael, Constituent Services Specialist (left), at Beltsville's Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church's 155th anniversary.

## We All Have a Role to Play in The Snow

We have several cold winter months ahead of us with a good chance of snow, and Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) is ready. The Snow Plan Operation consists of over 250 vehicles and 352 trained personnel prepared to handle snowfall, from light snow to full bliz-

zards. To monitor the progress of snow removal and ice mitigation efforts, visit [bit.ly/3RqEFQ7](https://bit.ly/3RqEFQ7) to use DPWT's new Snowplow Tracker! Green indicates a road has been cleared and is a safe route for drivers. Red indicates the snow plan team has identified the need for snow or ice removal and will soon address that route. DPWT will also update the public on their social media platforms. The county is prepared for snow, and we all have a role in reduc-

ing the amount of toxic chemicals and debris in the snow, eventually melting into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Remove unnecessary salt from your property to reuse later. Be careful about which snow-melting methods you use, and take care of your storm drain. Protecting your storm drain or inlets from clogging is easy and preventable. You can start by consistently practicing the following: Remove debris and trash from the grates when you see them; Clear

debris from the curb line and on top of catch basins so stormwater can flow freely down the street and into the storm drain system; Do not dump trimmings, grass, or leaves over the inlet, ditches, or curb line. This will assist in preventing clogging. Report concerns to assist the Office of System Drainage Management operation by submitting a PGC311 Request. To submit a request, visit [pgc311.com/customer/servicetypes](https://pgc311.com/customer/servicetypes) or call 301-833-4748.

## Better Bag Reminder

The Better Bag Bill is in effect! After January 1, 2024, all retail businesses are prohibited from distributing single-use plastic carry-out bags. Restaurants will provide paper bags for leftovers and take-out. Other retail establishments will sell paper bags for 10 cents. However, we strongly encourage everyone to use durable, reusable bags. Make sure your home and car are stocked with reusable bags for your next trip to the grocery store.

## County-Wide Curb-Side Compost

Due to the successful imple-

mentation of the Curbside Food Scraps Composting pilot and three expansions, Prince George's County has launched Phase 4, the final expansion of the PGC Composts program, to eligible residents receiving County-contracted trash and recycling services.

The remaining residents will receive direct mail outlining their wheeled green cart and kitchen pail deliveries in the fall of 2023. All eligible residents will receive their materials by the end of January 2024.

Eligible households should look out for your postcard in the mail! There is no need for you to do anything. All materials will be delivered to your residence to start composting, including a 32-gallon wheeled green cart, a 2-gallon kitchen pail, a How-To Guide, a refrigerator magnet, a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and a list of acceptable compostable liners.

Use our online tracking tool by visiting [bit.ly/3thnqbT](https://bit.ly/3thnqbT) to determine whether you receive County-collected waste collection services. Eligible residents for com-

**DERNOGA**

continues on page 14



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# Late Holiday Shopping

Ok, so this could be for those late shoppers looking for technology stocking stuffers or it could be for those that are looking for things to purchase to enhance your gifts after the holidays are over. Each of these gifts should be practical, useful, and reasonably affordable.

## USB Thumb Drives

Frequently people ask me how to back up files to protect them in case of hard drive failure. The best answer is to copy them onto a USB. I don't always trust the cloud. I have lost cloud-stored files several times in the past. So, I also make periodic backups to thumb drives and external hard drives. Thumb drives (sometimes called flash drives) are inexpensively purchasable in sizes from 32 gigabytes (32 billion bytes of data) to 512 gigabytes. Once you have a thumb drive simply copy the Documents, Pictures, Music, and Downloads folders and your most important files will all be saved. If you use the "Public" folder for sharing, you can also copy the same folders for the C:\Users\Public folder.

Another way to use a thumb drive is to carry your music with you in your car. Make sure the thumb drive stores less than or equal to 32 gigabytes and fill the drive with your favorite music. Most cars less than 15 years old will play music from the thumb drive when inserted into the radio. Each thumb drive is like carrying 45 CDs with you in your car. Look for the owners-manual online to find the instructions for your car.

## USB Hard Drives to Lots of Data

I do work on my computers and sometimes I find the need to copy entire hard drives either to preserve them by creating an exact duplicate of the drive contents



or to create complete backups of the data stored on the drives. For these jobs, I use an external hard drive that connects using a USB connector allowing me to make complete copies of the computer I am working on. It also provides a lot of space to store bulky data like video collections.

## USB Add-Ons

Most laptop computers available no longer come with Optical Drives for DVD or Blue ray discs. I still need the occasional optical disk to install old software that isn't available on the Internet. I normally have at least one USB based optical drive to allow me to install the software or watch videos I own or play music on CD's that I record for the car. A USB Optical drive can make a good gift for some of us.

Recently I have run into the same issue where laptops do not include a network plug. They can only use Wi-Fi. Frequently I find the need to use an Ethernet connection, even if it is just for speed. USB based network adapters are inexpensive and typically support gigabit speeds. A great gift for a frequent traveler. Some even come with built in USB hubs and display connectors to connect to another monitor.

A USB hub is a device that allows attachment of multiple USB devices to the same hub.

Some hubs even include a plug to provide power to power other devices connected to the hub. A perfect gift for the computer user that doesn't have enough USB plugs on the computer.

## Sharing Photos

This Fall my wife and I scanned over 4,200 family photographs that have been handed down over a period of over 100 years. This took us an hour or two a few nights each week for a few weeks. We plan to send these to our families over the holidays by sending USB flash drives in the mail. Believe it or not this is much easier than downloading this amount of data over the Internet.

We have been scanning photos occasionally for years, but only a few at a time. When we agreed to tackle the project to scan thousands of photos, I realized we didn't have the right equipment to get the job done in a timely fashion. I decided to purchase a high-speed scanner from Epson. This new scanner easily scanned both sides of 36 photos in less than a minute and performed some basic corrections. Using some face recognition software, we were also able to identify many of the people found in the photos.

In the past, I have done smaller groups of photo scans using my

**TECH SENSE**  
continues on page 13

# Want to Achieve Your Goals? Write Them Down

(StatePoint) If you have a big idea, goal or dream about helping others, writing down your vision can help. Studies show you're 42% more likely to achieve your goals if you write them down.

Take it from Marcy Bursac. After reviewing thousands of handwritten entries, Pilot Pen selected her as the newest winner of the G2 Overachievers Grant, which rewards an exceptional individual who goes beyond their everyday job and responsibilities to make a difference in the lives of others.



Marcy Bursac, winner of the G2 Overachievers Grant.

A technical analyst at a cybersecurity firm by day, Bursac is also an author, podcaster, wife and mother. She has used her technological expertise to develop an app for "The Forgotten Adoption Option," her book and platform that helps facilitate adoptions for children in foster care. As an adoptive parent herself, she made it her mission to make it easier for other families to adopt children from foster care, helping to place as many as possible in loving homes.

"Some types of adoption are cost-prohibitive for many families and can take years," says Bursac. "The reality is that there are thousands of children who need a forever family today, and foster care adoption is an option that can make this dream more financially affordable for more families."

Marcy has already helped more than 12,000 families through the foster care adop-

tion process. She plans to use the grant money to fund her continued efforts to unite children in foster care with their forever families.

Inspired? Write down your own goals and aspirations and include all the little details required to bring them to life. Be sure to reach for a high-quality writing instrument like G2, the longest lasting gel ink pen. To learn more about the G2 Overachievers Grant competition or to enter or nominate someone you know, visit [G2Overachievers.com](http://G2Overachievers.com).

"We know firsthand that we are so much more likely to achieve our goals when we put pen to paper," says Ariann Langsam, vice president of marketing for Pilot Pen. "That's why we pride ourselves on both providing the tools that people can use to make a difference in the lives of others, and recognizing and amplifying the work of individuals who are making those efforts."

## Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III,





## Wellness Tips for a New You in the New Year

(StatePoint) If your list of New Year's resolutions is a mile long, you may be feeling overwhelmed and unsure where to start. Let these three essential wellness tips set you up for a successful year and give you the power, energy and determination you need to reach all your other goals.

### Make Time For Breakfast

Many people make the mistake of skipping breakfast, particularly if they are trying to lose weight. But breakfast is an essential part of your overall health and wellbeing, giving you the fuel and energy, you need to power the day until lunch. This is important to help kickstart your metabolism and regulate your hunger.

Think you don't have time to prepare a healthy breakfast? You're not alone. However, many are open to implementing this habit with quicker breakfast options that cut prep time in half. In fact, 51% of consumers agree that frozen breakfast foods are the most convenient option and 37% said they would eat frozen breakfast foods more often if they were healthier, according to market research from Mintel. Thanks to quick and tasty options like Eggland's Best Frozen Breakfast Bowls, made with hearty ingredients and ready to eat in minutes, there are efficient ways to enjoy a nutritious breakfast. Not only do the bowls taste great, but they are made with nutritionally superior Eggland's Best eggs, which contain six times more vitamin D, more than double the Omega-3s and 10 times more vitamin E compared to ordinary eggs, so you can feel confident that you're getting optimal nutrition before taking on the busy day

ahead. The bowls are available in three great tasting flavors, Sausage & Cheese, Salsa, Bacon & Cheese, and Loaded Potato Scramble, meaning you certainly won't get bored putting your new breakfast plan into action.

### Practice Self-Care

Between work, family life and other commitments, it can seem challenging to carve out time for yourself. But a little self-care goes a long way toward helping you recharge and better manage all your responsibilities and stressors. Whether it's going for a run, taking a yoga class, doing arts and crafts or reading a book, be sure to spend some time each week doing something that you love that makes you feel your best.

### Prioritize Sleep

Prioritizing sleep will improve every aspect of your physical and mental wellness and help you achieve all your other goals. Unfortunately, streaming devices, social media and other distractions make it all too easy to stay up later than you intend. Setting an alarm in the evening can serve as a gentle reminder that it's time to put down devices and start your bedtime routine, helping you create a more consistent sleep schedule. This will also eliminate exposure to blue light late in the evening, an environmental factor that has been proven to make it harder to fall asleep.

Achieving your goals starts with feeling your best. Make that happen in the New Year by prioritizing the most essential building blocks of health and wellness, from sunrise to sundown.



Eating a nutritious breakfast can help you reach your daily goals.



Riderwood Staff Members sign a banner thanking residents for their generosity.

## 2023 Staff Appreciation Fund Spreads Cheer to Hourly Staff Members at Riderwood

*Residents thank dedicated employees by contributing \$511,500*

Silver Spring, MD - 'Tis the season for cookies, cocoa, cheer—and recognizing staff members who go above and beyond for residents at Riderwood, the Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, MD, every day!

The 2023 Staff Appreciation Fund (SAF), made possible through generous contributions from warm-hearted residents, will be dispersed among eligible employees to thank them for providing industry-leading services that enhance the community's

engaging, worry-free lifestyle.

This year alone, Riderwood residents contributed a historic high of \$511,500 to the SAF.

"I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all the residents who contributed to the fund this year," says Philanthropy Manager Maria Aghguiguan. "It's the relationships between residents and staff that make Riderwood the vibrant, welcoming community it is."

More than 1,175 dedicated hourly employees, including dining associates, security officers,

maintenance workers, housekeepers, and medical and nursing assistants, attended a SAF Celebration Day on December 5.

Thanks to these meaningful relationships, Riderwood's culture is always this merry and bright.

"Our staff members show up with smiles on their faces, and that doesn't go unnoticed by residents," says Aghguiguan. "It's their positive energy, in addition to their hard work, that helps residents thrive."

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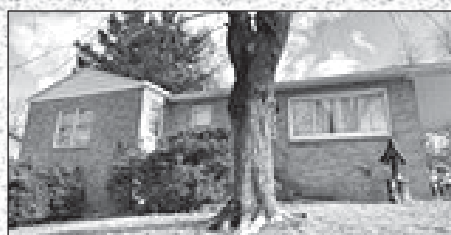
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PEACE, HOPE, JOY AND HAPPINESS!**



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

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. All dogs must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. There are five miles of walking trails. Regular

hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for federal holidays*. See the Friends of Patuxent website for more information at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>.

## THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

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

## ART GALLERY

The featured artist for January is photographer Wade Stephen, who specializes in birds. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore.

## KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

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

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

- **January theme:** Foxes, coyotes, and dogs. While all three of these animals can be found in Maryland, there are huge differences when comparing these canines! Come and learn about these fascinating animals!
- **February theme:** Moths. How can you tell if an insect is a butterfly or a moth? What is the difference between a cocoon and a chrysalis? These questions and more will be answered as you discover everything you ever wanted to know about moths and their life-cycles.

## PLAN AHEAD FOR FAMILY FUN

*Tracks in the Snow*—a Family Fun event—is scheduled for Fri. and Sat., Feb. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. Tracks in the snow tell us the animals at Patuxent are staying busy, even when it's cold outside. But who made those tracks? What were they doing? And how do they stay warm? Come learn more about wildlife

in winter through hands-on activities, games, and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

## LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

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

## LAUREL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB (LSFC)

Our next meeting will be Wed., Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting and a speaker on *Hearing Loss & Aids*. Interested people can contact the LSFC office for more details on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380. **Please note our inclement weather policy:** Our meetings and Bingo follow the P. G. Co. school policies. If the schools are delayed by 2 hours or are closed, then we will not have meetings or Bingo on those days.

- Every Tuesday Bingo: **12 noon each Tuesday starting Jan. 9** (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee.

## Save the Dates:

- Wed., Feb. 14: Our meeting will include a speaker from the Buffalo Soldiers in celebration of Black History Month. The Buffalo Soldiers were U.S. Army regiments that were primarily comprised of African Americans and were originally formed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to serve on the American frontier.
- Wed., Mar. 13: Our meeting—in celebration of Women's History Month—will have Mary Ann Jung portraying Rosie the Riveter

## BELTSVILLE EVENTS

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/#!/National\\_Ag\\_Lib](http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib). We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at [NAL.usda.gov](http://NAL.usda.gov) and Nutrition.gov. Get MyPlate nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit [www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant](http://www.myplate.gov/myplateassistant).

## YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. Our meeting will feature entertainment by Beltsville man Johnny Seaton. If you've never seen or heard him, come and enjoy his great voice. **A reminder about our snow policy: if P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet.**

The Beltsville Young at Heart Club is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2024. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

## BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

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

## PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

### KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Meets on three Tuesdays: Jan. 16, 23, and 30 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each evening. Volunteers provide homework help for 1<sup>st</sup> graders through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Please register online at <https://www1.pgcmlls.info/events>.

### STEM-TASTIC

Keva Planks: Thur., Jan. 18 at 4 p.m. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Acompañenos a explorar la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemática. Ages 8-12.

### PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### SPANISH-ENGLISH READY-2-READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 – 5 years old.

### PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### WORKFORCE RESOURCE TOOL KIT

Wed., Jan. 10 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Explore workforce resources such as LinkedIn Learning, Brainfuse JobNow, and Learning Express Library. Participants will gain key skills needed to navigate each resource to advance in their career path. **Registration required.**

### NEW CAREER PROFESSIONAL PHOTO

Wed., Jan. 17 from 5:30 p.m. to p.m. Start the New Year with a new professional look. Get a free LinkedIn Profile professional headshot at the Beltsville Branch Library. **Registration is required.**



Bette Deller

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# Women's Community Club of Beltsville



Women's Community Club of Beltsville...Santa's Workshop 2023. Getting the packages ready for Santa!!!

## TECH SENSE

continued from page 10

flatbed scanners. I loaded these images into electronic photo frames and gave the loaded frames as gifts. These might show shared vacations or collections of family members as they grew up from babies to adults.

This story leads to several potential gift ideas: send photos, framing is nice but even putting a couple into holiday cards is good. Send electronic photo frames with memorable scenes. Send videos on a flash drive to share special

events. On the higher end, buy a scanner as a gift for those that would be inclined to share their photos. Most people don't have thousands of photos to share but if they do, a high-speed scanner can make this practical.

### USB Cables

One last suggestion, between USB-A (common USB-A 3.x (blue interior), USB-B (mostly printers), mini-B (smaller devices and older phones), micro-B (old phones and chargers), USB-C (where the world is moving), Apple's lightning cable (dying) and several less

common and mostly dead variants almost everyone can use extra USB adapters and cables at various lengths.

### Happy New Year

So, it turns out, all of my gift suggestions were USB related. That was not my intention when I started out. Still, I hope these were good ideas, especially the cords. I hope everyone had a great 2023. It was certainly better than the last few years with COVID. I wish you all a Happy 2024 and if I missed it a Merry Holiday Season!

# The Beltsville Young at Heart Club

by Lois Hamilton

I am a little glad that 2023 is coming to an end and excited that 2024 will be much happier for many. We have gained many new members each month, even with not meeting in July and August due to Park & Planning needing our community room. But we have also lost several older members who have been with the club for over 20 years. But as Albert Einstein quoted— "learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow."

Our January 18 and February 15 meeting will be back to our regular format, with entertainment, 50/50 drawings, refreshments, and our Ways & Means

table but no trip sign ups until March due to the fickle weather in Jan. and Feb. We will also get back to playing Bingo at some meetings. Our January crooner will be Johnny Seaton, a Beltsville raised young man that is very talented.

We meet at 10:30 at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road and usually end by 1 or 1:30. If you need any additional information, please call me at 301-498-9736 and I will get back to you. As the President, we try to be accepting and friendly to anyone (55 years & older) who would like to join us on the third Thursday of each month.

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**St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School**  
[www.stjosrcs.org](http://www.stjosrcs.org)  
Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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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.

# Beltsville Lions Activities

By Ted Ladd

The Beltsville Lions celebrated the holiday season with their annual Christmas Party on the evening of 6 December. It was a great evening of camaraderie and friendship. Three winning tickets in the annual holiday raffle were drawn that evening. Lion Deedee Musachio has organized the holiday raffle for several years and it has proven to be a good fundraiser for the Lions Club. All funds collected from the public, including those from this

fundraiser, are used for community service activities in the Beltsville area.

These 40 members of the Beltsville Lions Club wish you a happy and joyous New Year of 2024:

Nancy Abernethy, Nick Barbieri, Fatima Barrie, Jimmy Bello, Stephanie Brandon, Ruth Louise Bryan, Angela Casegnol, Dr. Jalene Chase, John Claye, Karen Coakley, Charles Deegan, Bobbie Deegan, Camillo DiCamillo, Dinah DiCamillo, Ginger Hand, Ann Marie Hanson,

Mary Ann Hanson, Kevin Kennedy, Dr. Andrea King, Ann Ladd, Ted Ladd, Mary Lawson, Paul Malengo, Vicky Malengo, Suzie Mendelsohn, Ellsworth Messersmith, Deedee Musachio, Mike Musachio, Kaushal Patel, Lalit Patel, Mihir Patel, John D. Perkins, Michael Richards, Andy Rolle, Kuert Straubinger, Ervin Whitehead, Mae Whitehead, Max Zelaya, Greg Zerbe and Rick Zerbe.

## Share Your News!

Send your article submissions to News Director  
Rick Bergmann at [editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com](mailto:editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com)



# Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

## DERNOGA

continued from page 9

post collection will see "Organics and Yard Trim Day - Monday" listed when searching their street address. For eligible households that do not receive materials by February 2024 or find the information with your address incorrect, please contact PGC311.

### Join our District 1 Senior Living Newsletter List

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

### Contact Us

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

## MEASURES

Someone said, "The end of things is better than the start." Though there's joy that rises with the dawn to lift the heart, Darkness quickly follows when the sun slips past the sea, And the time for rest and reckoning of the days deeds.

As the door begins to close when ev'ry year is o'er, We make plans to use the next one wiser than before; To avoid the deep regret of failure to meet goals, Hope speaks up with promises of new things for our souls.

But unless we understand the way of God's commands, One may find we've wasted all the labors of our hands. Sober contemplation joined with great humility Can prepare us for grave measures of eternity.

This remembering that we, at best, are brief as grass, Will help us to use each day as if it were our last; Then when Heaven calls out names to reap their life's rewards, Those in Christ will realize the favor of the Lord.

Beckie Hutchings  
12/13/2023

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



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**Wednesdays:**

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## Jason's Jive By Jason Inanga

This month I am dedicating my column to a young lady in Beltsville, who has consistently excelled in many areas. Recently, her mother made a post on Social Media, advising that the daughter, a graduate of the Beltsville Adventist School on Ammendale Road is excited about the prospect of travelling to New Zealand with the Takoma Academy Choir, to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games. The School participated in 2018 and won 1 Gold and 2 Silver medals.

Ten choirs from the US participated that year and won a total of 14 medals. Takoma Academy is the only choir from Maryland that will participate in this event that is held every two years. The challenge is to raise \$300,000 for the trip, for the students to compete in this world-renowned event. Through a variety of fundraising efforts this year, the Takoma Academy community, the Choral students and their parents, are working diligently to raise funds. They need to raise 70% of their goal by March 15, 2024. Tax receipts can be made available upon request for donations.

So I am requesting your support: <https://gofund.me/c2ac14f5>. Before you donate, please read more about this special Belts-

ville young lady, who has quietly inspired other young ladies in her school and church.

So let us meet 17-year-old Hannah Joy Tobias, or HJ as we call her. I have known HJ since 2007 when I first moved to Beltsville, MD from the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts. We met, I connected with her parents, and we have been good friends ever since. I even had the honor of teaching HJ and some of her set at church (I did Children and Youth Ministry at the Beltsville SDA Church for many years). A very responsible young lady and leader, having come through the Pathfinder Club, she continues to aspire to greater heights, and I am optimistic that in the years to come, she will be able to look back and give of her time and resources to the Beltsville Community that is home to her.

HJ has been singing and performing since the age of two years old. She sings because she sees it as an outlet. She sings when she is happy as well as when she is sad. I have known her to be a very confident and assertive person. Not afraid to engage you in a conversation.

HJ sees trips like this as good exposure for her and her peers. They learn responsibility through the planning that goes into being

ready for competitions like this. The effort creates team spirit, perseverance, responsibility and dedication. It takes many hours of practice, commitment and diligence to get the job done.

They want to bring home the gold this year and the support of the community is needed to get them there. For those who pray, they also want your prayers for success and a safe event.

In 2020, the school had to back out of the event after all the planning and hard work, due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

HJ is like a second daughter to me. Let us help in any little way to contribute to her gofund me effort to help raise funds for their trip. In addition to competing, the students will have an opportunity to visit and learn about the people and culture of New Zealand and Australia, as well as participate in service projects.

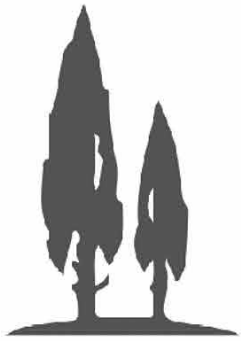
So I will end by posting the link again. Click on it to read more about the choir, see videos of past performances. Even if you are not able to donate at this time, kindly support the school through your presence at their concerts. <https://gofund.me/c2ac14f5>. Merry Christmas and have a great, prosperous and safe transition into 2024.



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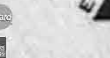
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