Cub Pack 1031 Fun in the Summertime!!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 has moved to summertime mode. We went fishing on the first free fishing day and saw an enormous snapping turtle. It kept eating and saw an enormous snapping turtle on the first free fishing day and saw an enormous snapping turtle! We went fishing for the first time in 2019 and it was great to be back. Soon we will be hiking and biking on the trails around the area and doing some fun outdoor activities.

If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature, camp two times a year and do service. We meet during the school year at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings. In the summer we will be out and about in the parks learning about nature, doing service, and hiking outdoors.

Interested in helping support our pack? We will be asking the community to help us raise money to cover the increased cost of scouting by purchasing Heroes and Helpers Donations which will be distributed by council to community “heroes” through the NCAC Popcorn campaign. We are also interested in getting grants and donations from community businesses. Please support us when we contact you about helping us out. We are not part of the Troop’s mulch sales.

Prince George’s County Animal Services Division has a 65% Save Rate for Shelter Dogs and Cats, According to Annual Data Report from Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society, a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of cats and dogs in shelters by 2025, recently released its annual data report which gives the most accurate and comprehensive national overview of the number of dogs and cats that enter and exit shelters in a given year. Prince George’s County Animal Services Division took in 5,354 animals in 2022 and 65% were saved, while 1,361 were killed (1,126 dogs, 235 cats).

Targeted programming proven to save more lives, including partnerships between no-kill and not yet no-kill shelters, as well as shelters and rescue groups, cat and big-dog-focused initiatives, and advocacy work generally can help fix the problem. Best Friends occasionally embeds staff members in shelters that are struggling in order to help the shelter implement lifesaving programs. Despite Best Friends allocating some of this support to Prince George’s County Animal Services Division, there was limited success as the practices were not fully embraced or implemented.

Individuals can help save lives by choosing to adopt from a shelter or rescue group instead of purchasing from a breeder or store, spay or neuter their pets or rescue group instead of purchasing from a breeder or store, spay or neuter their pets or rescue group instead of purchasing from a breeder or store.

Students Win Americanism Essay Contest sponsored by College Park American Legion

American Legion Unit 217 in College Park held the Americanism Essay Contest which the children had to write about “What Patriotism Means To Me.” All the winners were from Holy Redeemer School in College Park. Grades 3-8 submitted essays. The winners read their essays at The American Legion’s Memorial Day luncheon after the Ceremony at the Veterans corner at Route 1 and Greenbelt Road. Congratulations to all the winners.

2023 Americanism Essay winners at Unit 217, College Park, MD. Pictured at Memorial Day luncheon. (Left to Right) College Park Mayor Fazlul Kabir, Unit and District 5 1st place – TJ Every, Anishan Gage and Levi Cantwell (Levi also MD State 1st place)

City of College Park Announces Appointment of Alan Hew as District 1 Councilmember

June 13, 2023, College Park, MD – The City of College Park’s Mayor and Council has appointed Alan Y. Hew as District 1 Councilmember to fill the vacancy left after Fazlul Kabir was elected Mayor in the City’s Special Election. Passed by Council motion on June 13, Mr. Hew will begin his tenure as District 1 Councilmember immediately. “I welcome Mr. Hew back to City Council as a District 1 Councilmember,” said Mayor Kabir, “his work and service in the community is commendable and we look forward to having him join Council on the dais.”

Mr. Hew previously represented District 4 as Coun-
Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

From the Beltsville News issue of June 2008

By Ted Ladd

Kaylene Klingenstein Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy

Kaylene Le Klingenstein, 21, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis on May 23, 2008. At the Naval Academy she was captain of the women’s lacrosse team and earned a GPA of 3.5. Kaylene will be commissioned to the USS Hopper, DDG 70, in Pearl Harbor as the engineering training officer starting on June 23, 2008. She recently toured Europe, including Greece, and Italy. Kaylene graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, class of 2004. She is the daughter of Kim and Keith Klingenstein of Beltsville.

Matthew Hudson Received President’s Award

Matthew Hudson has attended Calvert High School since kindergarten and now is ready to move on to MLK Middle School. He has always worked hard to be the best. There is never a day that you don’t see Matthew smiling. He loves to play and have fun. Matthew had some wonderful teachers at Calvert that he will truly miss. On May 29, 2008, there was a 6th grade promotion for children moving on to middle school. Matthew worked very hard this year and it really showed on that day. Matthew was given many awards. He received the President’s Award for “Outstanding Achievement in Education” and was given an award from Senator Jim Rosapepe. Matthew, you have done an excellent job, and your whole family is very proud of you. Good luck in middle school. We love you very much. Matthew you are Matthew Hudson the best to us!

Riderwood Residents Support Student Employees’ Educational Goals

Student Scholar Awards at Riderwood

Silver Spring, MD - Spring has sprung—and so have the pathways to college for a number of Riderwood staff, thanks to the Student Scholar Awards at Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, MD.

Dedicated student workers are being recognized and set up for success through these scholarships, funded by generous donations from community residents. This year, over $291,000 has been awarded to assist 60 scholars which includes high school seniors and employees already working toward their degrees. Each scholar receives at least $2,000 per semester.

“Our student workers really appreciate these impactful awards” says Philanthropy Manager Maria Aghguigian, who attended the Student Scholar ceremony that recognized the recipients. “The relationships that our student workers foster with residents are rewarding. They learn life lessons that they wouldn’t discover in any other job!”

To qualify for a scholarship, a student must work 1,000 hours during a two-year period, maintain good academic and professional standing, and plan to attend a college.

Erickson Senior Living communities continue on page 7
The Importance of Spaying and Neutering Your Pet Cat(s)

As responsible pet owners, it is essential to consider the health and well-being of our feline companions. One crucial decision every cat owner should make is to spay or neuter their pets. Spaying refers to the surgical removal of a female cat’s reproductive organs, while neutering involves the removal of a male cat’s testes. Below are some of the reasons why spaying and neutering cats is so important.

Population Control

The primary reason to spay and neuter cats is to control the ever-increasing feline population. It is estimated that millions of cats end up in animal shelters each year, many of which are euthanized due to the lack of suitable homes and/or lack of space in the shelter. By spaying and neutering cats, we can prevent unwanted litters, reducing the number of stray and homeless cats.

Health Benefits

Spaying and neutering provide several health benefits for cats. In females, spaying eliminates the risk of uterine infections and significantly reduces the chances of breast cancer, which is often fatal in cats. Male neutering prevents testicular cancer and lowers the risk of prostate problems. Spaying and neutering can also reduce behavioral issues such as aggression, spraying, and roaming.

Improved Behavior

Unaltered cats can exhibit behavior problems associated with mating instincts. Male cats, when unmated, tend to mark their territory with strong-smelling urine, become more aggressive, and may attempt to escape in search of mates. Unspayed females can experience heat cycles, attracting male cats and causing behavioral changes. Spaying and neutering help calm these instincts, leading to more docile and content pets.

Longevity/Quality of Life

Spayed and neutered cats generally live longer, healthier lives. They are less prone to specific types of cancers and reproductive-related diseases. Neutered males are less likely to engage in fights, reducing the risk of injury and contracting infectious diseases. Spayed females are spared the potential complications of pregnancy and delivery.

Financial Savings

Spaying and neutering your cat can lead to significant financial savings in the long run. The cost of the procedure is relatively low compared to the expenses associated with caring for a pregnant cat, raising a litter of kittens, or treating various health conditions that may arise from not spaying or neutering.

Spaying and neutering are vital responsibilities of pet ownership and of colony caretakers. By choosing to spay/neuter both pet and free-roaming cats, you are contributing to population control efforts, protecting the health of the cats, improving their behavior, and promoting a longer, happier life. Remember, it’s never too early to spay or neuter your cat, so consult your veterinarian and make a responsible choice. If you are taking care of community cats or need help finding low-cost spay/neuter options for your pet, contact Beltsville Community Cats (240-444-8353 or hello@beltsvillecats.net).

Financial Assistance

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation
**Senate Scholarship Deadline July 7th**

Maryland has a variety of scholarship programs to help our college students. One of them provides legislators with the authority to award scholarships to residents of our districts. We are now accepting applications for the 2023/2024 academic year through July 7th. To be eligible, students must have attended a Maryland high school and, in most cases, attend a college in Maryland. For more information, go to mmec.maryland.gov. To submit an application, go to www.21stdistrictlegislation.com and click on the college scholarship tabs.

**Dinosaur Park Open Houses**

During the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, Dinosaur Park hosts an open house for visitors of all ages to participate in scientific discovery. The summer programs run from 10 AM to 2 PM on the following dates: July 1, July 15, August 5, August 19. More details are available at https://www.mnccp.org/3294/Visitor-Information.

**Overnight Lane Closures at the US 1 Bridge over I-95/I-495 Interchange in College Park**

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) began performing maintenance and repairs at the US 1 bridge over Beltway interchange in College Park. The work is being done from 10 PM to 5 AM, Sundays through Thursdays, and is expected to be completed by late summer, weather permitting.

Drivers can expect temporary ramp closures and detours within the interchange and shoulder closures on I-95/I-495. The ramp from southbound US 1 to the I-95/I-495 Inner Loop will be controlled with a yield sign while crews close a single lane beneath the bridge to make repairs.

Additionally, drivers can expect a single-lane closure on the acceleration lane on the I-95/I-495 Inner Loop. Crews will install a concrete barrier to close the right shoulder on the I-95/I-495 Inner Loop under the bridge for the duration of the project. The work is a system preservation project to ensure the bridge has decades of useful service life. Customers with questions may contact the SHA District 3 Office at 301-513-7300 or toll-free at 1-800-749-0737.

**Facing Rental Eviction?**

If you are facing eviction due to delinquent rent and have a court summons, court judgment, Warrant of Restitution, or Warrant for Possession, you may be eligible for the Prince George’s County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

For assistance, call the ERAP Hotline at (301) 883-6504, then press 9, and a customer service representative will help you or e-mail your information and one of the documents listed above to: ERAP@co.pg.md.us (Include the eviction date in the Subject Line if an eviction is scheduled.)

If you’re eligible for assistance, ERAP can pay up to 18 months of late rent or provide funding to help you relocate.

**Note:** The Emergency Rental Assistance Program has not re-opened. Funding is available for eligible renters with a pending eviction. Requirements to be eligible to apply for emergency assistance: The renter must be scheduled by the Sheriff for eviction, or there must be an active Warrant for Possession that would allow the Sheriff to evict, or the renter received a court summons or court judgment. Rental property located in Prince George’s County, Prince George’s County residents faced financial hardship arising because of or during the COVID-19 public health crisis. More information is available at https://www.princegeorgescounty.md.gov/3703/Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program.

**Farmers Markets near Beltsville**

Local produce travels a shorter distance to get to residents, producing fewer greenhouse emissions from truck exhaust.

- **College Park:** The Hollywood Farmers Market at the Hollywood Shopping Center runs every Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM until November 18.
- **Laurel:** Located at 378 Main Street, the Laurel Farmers Market runs every other Thursday from 3 - 7 PM until September 28.

**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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Statepoint Crossword: Independence Day

**ACROSS**
1. Kind of illusion
2. Perched
9. Island near Java
13. Old West pack animal
14. False statement
15. Opposite of atonal
16. Hailing from the East
17. Supply with weapons
18. “____ death do us part”
19. *Frank
21. *Popular celebratory get-together
23. Many, many years
24. Scott Hamilton’s “court”
25. Gross National Product
28. Abundant
30. Bantoid language
35. Bakery unit
37. Cutlass maker
39. Two in eighteen
40. Milk’s favorite cookie
41. Muslim ruler honorific
43. Hyperbolic sine
44. Iranian money, pl.
46. Nancy Sinatra’s boots
47. Fill to satisfaction
48. *Certain Doodle
50. Argo’s propellers
52. Feather glue
53. Give temporarily
55. Porridge grain
57. *Roman firework
60. “The Star-Spangled Banner”
63. Opposite of neo-
64. Glass margin
66. Continental money, pl.
68. Opposite of #17 Across
69. Go for the gold
70. “Silas Marner” author
71. Mexican money
72. Not yang
73. Down and out

**DOWN**
1. __ constrictor, anagram
2. Word on a door
3. Duet plus one
4. Angry
5. Large California bird
6. Smelting waste
7. Stuff of inflation
8. Adagio and allegro, e.g.
9. German city on Rhine river
10. Con
11. Not of the cloth
12. Down with a bug
15. ____ someone ____ bed
20. Satirical publication, with The
22. Calligrapher’s purchase
24. “*From the ___ forest to the Gulf Stream waters”
25. *Old ___
26. Waterwheel
27. Hymn of praise
29. *Popular decoration
31. “*Rockin’ in the USA” band
32. Certain church member
33. Yiddish busybody
34. Theater guide
36. Kind of rock
38. Heroic tale
42. B on Mendeleev’s table
45. “Where ___ is heard a discouraging word…”
49. Sushi restaurant staple
51. Shiny cotton
54. High-strung
56. Car rack manufacturer
57. Charlie Chaplin’s prop
58. “Oh, my!”
59. Agrippina’s slayer
60. “I’ll second that”
61. Great Lake
62. State of mind
63. One in a litter
65. *King George ____
67. Farm structure

See Solution on page 11
Prince George’s County Budget

The County Council recently adopted a balanced $5.4 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Of the $5.4 billion of General Funds expenditures, 62% supports the Board of Education, almost 20% supports public safety, and the remaining 18% supports the rest of County Government operations. The Council also adopted budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) FY 24 Operating Budget is $913 million, and the Capital Improvement Budget is $683 million. Additional budgets that the Council is responsible for approving include the Revenue Authority budget of $46.33 million and the Redevelopment Authority budget of $534.50 million.

A few key Operating Budget enhancements directed by the County Council include increased funding for:

- Library system - Increase in the County’s contribution to support Sunday hours and the Books from Birth program
- Senior Meals Program
- Senior Housing Assistance
- Emergency Rental Assistance

A few key Capital Budget enhancements directed by the Council include increased funding for:

- More Firefighters/EMS Personnel
- Recruitment funds for the Sheriff
- More Neighborhood traffic safety studies
- Staffing to support the Nuisance Abatement Board

In the Capital Budget, the Council increased the proposed funding for street repaving by $4.5 million to $40.5 million, $2.1 million is being added to Street Lights and Traffic Signals bringing the amount to $4.95 million.

In addition, I arranged some improvements in the scheduling for the high-planned (and continually delayed) replacement for High Point High School. Because of overcommitting, the school system has been pushing to build a new North Adelphi High School first (at 2,600 seats) and then rebuild High Point (also 2,600 seats). However, due to escalating construction costs, High Point will likely continue getting delayed due to the lack of funding. I demonstrated that both schools only need to be built at 2,000 seats, reducing construction costs by nearly $100 million and making it feasible to build both schools. Also, $8.57 million has been added to this year’s capital budget to start the High Point Project. Making this progress would not have been possible without the assistance of our District 21 Legislative team.

I also have good news about the $444.95 million and its Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Operating Budget at $444.95 million and its Capital Budget at $135.79 million.

- M-NCPPC is discussing with the Cross Creek HOA to purchase the former Cross Creek golf course and convert it into an arboretum and walking trails. $2 million of M-NCPPC and State funds have been allocated.

- The Beltsville-Laurel Area Sports Park has been allocated $3.1 million.

With regard to M-NCPPC funds for municipalities and sports and recreation groups, we have obtained the following:

- Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club - $30,000

If you have any questions regarding the budget, please contact the District 1 Office.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. Email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301.952.3887. Se habla Español. On parle Français. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1

How Video Games Help Boost Military Morale

(StatePoint) For military members, video games are not just a fun way to unwind during downtime, they can provide much-needed stress relief and an opportunity to connect with friends and family.

For these reasons, video games have had a place in USO centers over the past four decades – from the early days of standup arcade games and pinball machines, to today’s modern video game consoles and livestreaming. In fact, the USO has taken its gaming initiative to the next level by outfitting more of its locations with dedicated gaming spaces, equipped with all the latest technology, as well as by hosting in-person and online video game events. Here are the top ways these initiatives benefit service members:

- **Combatting isolation**: In recent surveys, time away from family because of military service is a top concern within the military community. Through gaming, military members can connect with loved ones back home.
- **Stress relief**: About half of military and veteran video gamers specifically play video games in order to deal with military-related stress. Research conducted by the Department of Veteran Affairs shows that gaming can improve mental health by helping veterans cope with combat-induced trauma, by alleviating stress and by providing opportunities to bond with others.
- **Building camaraderie**: Gaming often encourages collaboration and can be an important way to socialize and make friends with fellow service members. USO locations are outfitted with a variety of gaming equipment and consoles designed specifically so that groups of service members can play together. This is significant, as studies show that playing video games on teams and with others can improve teamwork in daily life.
- **Breaking barriers**: Gaming allows service members of all ranks to step away from the chain of command and be on equal footing as they compete against and alongside one another. And thanks to dedicated spaces at USO centers around the world, such as the 2,500 square-foot facility gaming center on Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida, service members and their families can work in daily life.

(c) USO Photos

(c) USO Photos

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(c) USO Photos
5 Ways to Live Your Best Travel Life This Summer

(Statepoint) Summer travel is heating up despite packed airports, crowded destinations and rising prices. In fact, 80% of Americans are planning to travel as much or more than they did last summer, according to a new Harris Poll survey from T-Mobile.

No matter where you’re going, here’s how to watch your wallet while making the most of your adventures.

Plan Ahead: With international travel restrictions lifted, global bookings have surged by over 200% compared to last year, according to AAA. And some of the most popular destinations searched for on Google Flights for this summer are London, Cancun, Paris and Rome. If you’re planning to travel internationally and need a passport, estimated processing times are 11 to 13 weeks instead of the usual 8 to 10 due to a uptick in applications and demand. So, get going! 

Be Flexible: If you can avoid traveling during peak summer travel season from mid-June through August, try booking during the “shoulder season,” which is the time just before and after. For this summer, travel experts recommend booking travel in September to reduce cost.

Stay Connected: Reliable wireless when traveling is no longer a luxury, but an absolute necessity, with 95% of American travelers in the T-Mobile survey saying it’s a travel essential. Some phone plans — like the new Go5G Plus from T-Mobile — give customers built-in travel benefits and coverage that works the minute you arrive. With free in-flight Wi-Fi and free high-speed data in more than 215 countries—the journey is seamless from start to finish and all included in the price of your monthly plan. To learn more about T-Mobile’s travel benefits and their new Go5G plans, visit t-mobile.com/cell-phone-plans.

Pack Smart: An estimated 2.2 million bags were lost or mishandled on U.S. airlines in 2022, an increase from 1.4 million in 2021, according to the 2022 Air Travel Consumer Report. If you’re nervous about checking your luggage, place an Apple AirTag in your bag or luggage to know where it is at all times. Some bags, like T-Mobile’s limited edition Un-carrier On, even come packed with the tech you need to ensure a smooth trip, including a power bank and smart tag device.

Use Points: According to T-Mobile’s Harris Poll survey, nearly half (47%) of summer travelers used miles, points or rewards to book their summer travel this year and nearly two-thirds of all travelers (66%) rely on discounts and deals when booking travel accommodations. Certain credit cards give you points or miles to use for future travel when you sign up. If you’re a T-Mobile customer, you can save up to 40% on select hotels and car rentals by booking through T-Mobile TRAVEL from Priceline. Most bookings come with free, flexible cancellations so you can plan with peace of mind.

Americans are eager to travel this summer, and with a little planning, nothing should get in the way of some much-deserved R&R.

video games

continued from page 6

lies can enjoy state-of-the-art systems and games at no cost.

• Engaging with the community: In addition to local gaming events at its individual centers, the USO hosts larger online gaming competitions, which are often livestreamed via Twitch. These competitions, which are occasionally open to the public and sometimes feature high-profile professional gamers, serve as a means for active military to engage with members of the community, bridging the civilian-military divide.

“Gaming’s ability to give service members a break from the pressure and responsibility of their daily missions, while building community and strengthening bonds, goes straight to the heart of our mission,” says Callum Fletcher, USO director of Global Gaming Operations. “Although video games are, in fact, games, for America’s military, they can be so much more.”

Club News

The Beltsville Young At Heart Club

Our June potluck was a great gathering. A variety of food and no one left hungry. I would like to THANK all the members who helped with the set-up and clean-up. Such an event takes many hands to make it a pleasant day. We even had time at the end for 9 people to plan Bingo and win some money.

Since we cannot meet again till September, I’m trying to find some entertainment for the fall months. Any recommendations for singers, dancers, or small group performers would be greatly appreciated. I have a limited budget; you would entertain from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm. At the Beltsville Community Center at 3900 Sellman Road. You can contact me at 301-498-9756; leave a message if needed and I’ll get back to you with details.

Women’s Community Club of Beltsville

By Karen Coakley

Several of the teenagers from Police Explorer Post 600 and Cpl. Hibbert joined the Women’s Community Club of Beltsville for their end of year dinner.

RIDERWOOD continued from page 2

lege, university, or trade school. The Student Scholar Awards are just one of the many ways that Riderwood supports mission-driven staff members who are eager to further their education.

Aghgugian adds, “The scholarship program is a wonderful program for students working at Riderwood. In addition, staffers who want to advance their knowledge in their line of work can apply for tuition reimbursement.”

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It’s BBQ Season. Do You Know Where Your Beef Came From?

(StatePoint) As barbecue season heats up, you may be wondering how to square your love for T-bone steaks and spareribs with your concern for the environment. The good news? Science is delivering new, game-changing solutions to tackle the environmental footprint of the beef and livestock industries.

The Problem

Approximately 9 million dairy cows, 90 million beef cattle, 60 million swine and billions of poultry in the United States produce more than 100 times more organic waste than humans; but where human waste makes its way to a septic tank or sewage treatment plant, livestock waste is usually spread untreated on the ground as fertilizer. While this practice has short-term agronomic benefits, it’s ultimately a major contributor to a number of environmental and health issues. Phosphorous, nitrogen (mostly as ammonia), pathogens and bacteria from manure run off the soil and pollute waterways. This nutrient runoff fuels increasingly toxic algae blooms in fresh, estuary and coastal salt waters, creating areas where most aquatic species can’t survive. What’s more, the highly mobile and volatile nitrogen from ammonia in animal waste can become airborne, a difficult and expensive to control problem that poses significant health risks to humans.

Finally, the 1.5 billion tons of manure generated in the United States annually also plays a major role in climate change. Manure emits carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, all of which are potent greenhouse gases.

New Solutions

An advanced livestock waste collection, treatment and recycling system from Bion Environmental Technologies Inc. is transforming manure from a liability to an asset. It starts with an innovative barn design that houses the livestock, collects waste, and feeds the treatment system on a continual basis. This patented technology not only provides comprehensive waste treatment that neutralizes pathogens, bacteria and ammonia and minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, but also produces superior organic, and climate- and water-smart, fertilizers with a low carbon footprint, as well as generates clean water and renewable natural gas.

Typical beef production uses an extraordinary amount of water, particularly from crops for feed. With Bion, 30% of the waste stream is processed into recycled, clean water. And, thanks to precise application of organic and climate-smart fertilizers produced by the system, the resulting soil is healthier with a better balance of nutrients.

BEEF

continues on page 13
This month I thought I would revise an article I wrote about phishing three years ago. This year I am thinking about my vacation and fishing, so I thought about writing about phishing. I wrote the original article in September of 2020. I thought it might be a good time to consider some of the major recent attacks that have occurred through fishing.

Phishing is a form of social engineering where the goal is to collect sensitive information about a person using subterfuge. Normally this is done by mimicking a company or a person through communication channels such as email, text messages, or spam telephone calls. The amount of compromising personal information over the years allows these perpetrators to personalize the communications making them appear authentic.

Spear phishing attacks target specific individuals or small groups of people. These attacks typically include specific information to make the communication seem to be legitimate. The information is being tried to collect includes passwords, social security numbers, bank account numbers, and credit card numbers. Sometimes phishing emails have been used to have direct payments made to the emailer and verify your credentials. They may even show the first few digits of your bank card numbers, even if they say they need to pay the bill. You might get a call that claims you are late on your bill and you need to pay it immediately, and you can pay with a credit card over the phone, or even pay with gift cards. Just hang up and call the real company if you think the story might be true (it will not be). If you have a phone blocker, add this number to the block list.

Do not give donations over the phone to anyone that calls you. If you feel the cause is worthy, ask them to send you information in the mail telling them you will decide then and will mail a check. Do not commit to an amount. I also suggest you look up the calling organizations; many are actually political action committees or other frauds and not charities.

Never purchase bank or credit cards to pay someone who calls you. Legitimate organizations do not accept gift cards as a form of payment. Never put cash in the mail even if they tell you “Your nephew was arrested in a remote city and needs cash for bail”. Never meet someone to pay a debt someone calls you about on the phone.

Tech Sense
By John Bell

Protect Yourself

So how do you protect yourself? First make certain that your email service provides a spam filter. If you are using Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, MSN, or Outlook these large providers will automatically recognize a lot of these emails and filter them out making them as spam. Many email services block images and links for email senders that are not recognized. Even so a few dangerous emails will still get through.

For these, look at the full email address of the sender, not just the name. Does the part of the email address after the @ match the domain? If the email claims to be from mybank.com does the email address have @mybank.com at the end? If not, it is suspicious, don’t open it; just mark it as SPAM. Look for misspellings and grammatical errors. Most business communications are carefully reviewed before being sent. Scammers often have limited experience writing in English and typically make errors. If you see these errors, the message is suspect.

Never click on a link or image in an email even if it is from someone you know. If you recognize the business, then go directly to their website by typing the URL in the browser address bar. You can also use a whois service to lookup the domain.

If you are positive, you know the person (remember their email may have been compromised) contact them and ask them to verify the email and then copy and paste the URL into the browser address bar. Again, do not click the link that appears in the email. The issue with phishing has become so dangerous for companies; they have started to send fake phishing messages to their employees to help them learn to recognize the threat. If an employee clicks on a link or otherwise responds to the phishing message, the employee gets training, learning to recognize these types of emails.

To further protect yourself, make sure you are using Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) on all of your important accounts. MFA will require that you enter a number generated by an authenticator application like Authy or Google Authenticator or receive and enter a number received by text message, email, or a voice message over the phone. Also, be prepared to change your password if fooled into revealing it to a fake website.

Phone Phishing

Phone phishing has become much more serious as well. Today almost all SPAM calls are phishing. This includes callers claiming to be from the cable companies, utility companies, and solar roofing companies. Just hang up. If you think there might be a chance the call is real, tell them you will call them back and then call the listed number for the company, not a number that the caller offers. Never give them bank or credit card numbers, even if they say they need to pay the bill. You might get a call that claims you are late on your bill and you need to pay it immediately, and you can pay with a credit card over the phone, or even pay with gift cards. Just hang up and call the real company if you think the story might be true (it will not be). If you have a phone blocker, add this number to the block list.

Do not give donations over the phone to anyone that calls you. If you feel the cause is worthy, ask them to send you information in the mail telling them you will decide then and will mail a check. Do not commit to an amount. I also suggest you look up the calling organizations; many are actually political action committees or other frauds and not charities.

Never purchase bank or credit cards to pay someone who calls you. Legitimate organizations do not accept gift cards as a form of payment. Never put cash in the mail even if they tell you “Your nephew was arrested in a remote city and needs cash for bail”. Never meet someone to pay a debt someone calls you about on the phone.

Text Message Phishing

While less common, SMS and MMS text messaging services are also used for phishing attacks. If you do not recognize the source of the message, then block it on your phone. If you continue to get messages from the same source reply with the word STOP. If the messages continue contact your phone provider. Do not reply except with a simple STOP. Do not give the sender any information, do not follow or touch any links. Most of the phone companies are offering free blocking of text messages once you have marked the messages as SPAM.

Final Notes

When I receive spam mail, I label the email as junk mail so that any further emails from the company would immediately go to my SPAM folder.

Next month is “Back to School” and then I hope to start a series on spreadsheets. Until then, keep your information private, and stay safe and healthy.
**COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM**

Address: 10855 Corporate 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 (7-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibits area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. Please contact the museum regarding additional activities and updates to COVID-19 protocols.

**MARYLAND AVIATION FESTIVAL**

Sat., July 22 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Explore a variety of STEM and aviation-themed science labs and short hands-on activity. These activities are ideal for learners ages 8 – 12. This month, explore flight in mythology while learning about flyers like Icarus and Hermes. Then, enjoy a short video while creating your own flying sandal! No registration required. Cost: Free with museum admission.

**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. Contact the center for updates to hours of operation and current COVID-19 protocols. Address: 7120 Conner St., 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., July 12 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting and Holy Burnham from the Montpelier House Museum will speak on Slavery Resistance in Maryland. eydav Blonge: 12 noon each Tuesday (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, no admission fee.

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.

**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. Current social distancing and face covering requirements match those of Prince George’s County. 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. 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, ART GALLERY, & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting them at erths@gsw.gov. More information can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent. The Visitor Center and the art gallery are open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, and federal holidays. The art gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. The featured artist for July 2023 is photographer Jean Phillips. The bookstore is open Tuesday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**EASY BUTTERFLY-HABITAT GARDENS**

Sat., July 9 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All ages, registration required. Learn how to provide basic habitat for attracting common native butterflies and birds to your yard. In this class we will look at on-line resources available to help you invite more wildlife to your yard. Some free native plants may be available.

**FAMILY FUN: WELCOME WILDLIFE TO YOUR YARD**

Fri., July 21 and Sat., July 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration. As houses and shopping centers continue to replace wildlife habitat, the birds, bugs, and animals need new places to live. Why not welcome them to your back yard? You don’t need a big yard—even a small balcony can provide a mini-habitat. Come learn various ways to attract and help wildlife while you enjoy hands-on activities, games, and crafts. There will be something for everyone! This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you’re ready.

**POLINATORS IN A POT**

Sat., July 22 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All ages, registration required. How do you create a wildlife home in the limited space of a patio or deck? Join in on this informative session and adopt a native plant grown at the USGS Bee Lab.

**KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER**

Tue. – Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. Registration is strongly recommended. Activities are designed for: 1) Children ages 3–5, with parent/guardian in attendance; 2) Young Special Needs populations, with adult support; and 3) Young English-language-learners, with adult support. Older siblings are encouraged to join with parents and work with their younger sibling(s) to help them understand and complete the activities. The theme for July is Nocturnal Animals. Find out who’s on the prowl when you’re asleep, and learn about Maryland’s night creatures.

The theme for August is Timber! Who likes rotten trees? Whether birds, mammals, insects, or vegetation like rotten trees best, is anybody’s guess!

**MONARCH MAGIC!**

The Monarch butterflies are back and the Monarch Magic Center is open Tue. – Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See what these amazing creatures and their various stages of development from eggs to caterpillars to butterflies. If you would like to join our Monarch Team and help us support these beautiful, magical wonders of the sky, please call Bambi, or leave a message with your phone number at 301.497.5772.

**Check Out the 3D Virtual Tours of Our Homes Listed Below:**

The Market is Sizzling! Inventory is Low! Thinking of Selling? Give Me a Call!

**Special Financing Programs with Closing Cost Assistance!!! Call for Details**

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**Calendar of Events**

**July 2023**

**MAYOACH MAGIC!**

The Monarch butterflies are back and the Monarch Magic Center is open Tue. – Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See what these amazing creatures and their various stages of development from eggs to caterpillars to butterflies. If you would like to join our Monarch Team and help us support these beautiful, magical wonders of the sky, please call Bambi, or leave a message with your phone number at 301.497.5772.

**BELTSVILLE LIBRARY**

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at 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 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.

**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. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at 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.

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**BELTSVILLE SUMMER EVENTS**

The library will be closed on Tue., the 4th of July in observance of Independence Day.

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at 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 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.

**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**READY-2-READ PRESCHOOL STORYTIME**

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 to 5 years old.

**SPANISH READY-2-STORYTIME**

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

**CALENDAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 15**
In short, more abundant crops are produced, less water is used and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Along with environmental stewardship and resource efficiency at the forefront of the technology’s design, experts have been retained to ensure that animal accommodations, hygiene, care and feeding are all optimized for animal health and welfare. To learn more, visit bionenviro.com.

“Today’s consumers want sustainable, transparent and ‘better for you’ food,” says Bill O’Neill, Bion’s CEO. “Through innovation, we are bringing real beef to tables that is both sustainable and ethical.”

Maryland Housing Statistics May 2023

- **UNITS**
  - **2023**: 6,657
  - **2022**: 8,781
  - Change: -24.2%

- **AVERAGE PRICE**
  - **2023**: $486,112
  - **2022**: $483,703
  - Change: +0.5%

- **MEDIAN PRICE**
  - **2023**: $411,000
  - **2022**: $405,000
  - Change: +1.5%

In 2023 the pending units are 7,350.
In 2022 they were 8,772.

In 2023 the active inventory is 7,891.
In 2022 they were 10,044.

In 2023 the months of inventory is 1.3.
In 2022 they were 1.2.

STILL A GREAT TIME TO SELL!
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Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources
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Wednesdays:
Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 p.m.
*Childcare available for children up to 3 years old

Share Your News!
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News Director
Rick Bergmann at editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com

Send Your News!
Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

HEW continued from page 1
citizen from 2013 to 2015 and has served on several City Committees including the Bee City USA committee, the Committee for a Better Environment, Animal Welfare Committee and the Redistricting Commission.

As a result of the May 6 Special Election, Dr. Kabir’s District 1 Council seat became vacant when he was sworn in as Mayor. In accordance with the City Charter, the vacancy may be filled by appointment within 30 days of the Special Election (by June 15) by majority vote of the Council. 12 residents applied to be considered by the Council to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Hew will serve as a Council member until the end of the current Mayor and Council term of office. The next City of College Park General Election will be held on November 5, 2023. All Mayor and Council seats will be up for election and the new two-year term will begin in December 2023.

SAVE RATE continued from page 1}

pets, foster kittens or an adult dog, volunteer, donate, and advocate for proven lifesaving programming for pets. In Prince George’s County, individuals can also advocate for elected officials to update outdated ordinances that prevent field and shelter service teams from returning lost animals to their homes, create barriers to adoptions and costly breed restrictions, and urge the County to embrace modern animal services practices.

To help with lifesaving, there will be a free pet adoption event on Saturday, June 24 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro. Adoption fees will be covered by Best Friends.

“We’ve made great progress and there is still momentum for our achievable goal, despite the small dip in lifesaving in 2022. 2025 is only two years away, so now is the time to support your local shelters. Together, let’s make every shelter and every community no-kill by 2025,” added Castle.

SAVE RATE continued from page 1
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Masses: Please contact parish office for schedule
Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org
Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever
St. Joseph’s Regional Catholic School
www.stjosephrcs.org
Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

St. Gregory of Nyssa
Byzantine Catholic Church
(Alternating) 9, 11 am Sunday Liturgy. Schedule, Bulletin, Facebook:
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CALENDAR
continued from page 12

SUMMER READING PROGRAM CONTINUES
The program will go through Thu., Aug. 17! All ages. Register in-person at the branch or online at https://wrl1.pmcl.org/sr. Prizes available while supplies last.

FREE FOOD: SUMMER MEALS
For ages up to 18 years old. Come receive a free lunch. Available Mon.–Fri. at 1 p.m. (except Tue., July 4).

FAMILY MOVIE
Thur., July 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Come see Turning Red.

ANIMALS OF KUNG FU
Thur., July 13 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Come meet some animal ambassadors whose movements inspired the katas of martial arts, and learn moves named after these animals! Presented by Echoes of Nature.

STEM-TASTIC
Tue., July 18 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Dinosaur Eggs and more!

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS
NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL
Mon., July 10 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

I PAY CASH FOR OLD RECORDS
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licensed attorney Naomi Littlefield. 202-
246-1072. littlefieldnaomi@gmail.com. 09/23

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2023 • The BELTSVILLE NEWS • Page 15
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