

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 72, Number 4

Beltsville, Maryland

April 2024



Anacostia Watershed Society Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 20, 2024

By Regina Halper

The Annual Earth Day cleanup organized by Anacostia Watershed Society will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 10 AM to 12 Noon. Regina Halper of Cub Pack 1031 will oversee the Little Paint Branch Trail Cleanup. Sign in and registration and

EARTH DAY
continues on page 2

Cub Pack 1031 Finishing up Achievements and Doing Service

By Regina Halper

On March 18th, Cub Pack 1031 learned about Fidos for Freedom, a Laurel based therapy and assistance dog group that trains dogs to help their owners and to visit patients and comfort them. The Scouts had a wonderful time at the meeting getting to know the three dogs who visited us.

The Pack is working to complete our advancements and move on to elective achievements. The younger scout dens learned about multiple ways of communicating by using codes, braille and fingerspelling. The Bears built a bird house, and the older scouts are working on advancement and finishing Aware and Care with the visit of Fidos for Freedom.

In April, we will be getting the Arrow den ready to bridge over to Scouts BSA. The rest of the dens will be completing their required achievements and looking forward to Day Camp! For the first time since 2018 - there will be a Cub Day Camp! We are excited!

We also will be volunteering at the Anacostia Watershed Earth



Cub Scouts meeting Sydney, an assistance dog, and its owner

Day cleanup on April 20th. Look for our article about signing up for the cleanup. We need lots of volunteers!

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 meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings. We are happy to be meeting in our usual place and learning about engineering, nature, doing service and hiking in the outdoors.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

April 17

Paper Out:

April 27

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Beltsville neighbors, a Dear Friend to Our Community is moving on to the Next Chapter in their Lives. They say there is a season for everything. As a child I would go with my mother down the driveway to the Spicknall family home. Mrs. Spicknall was waiting to sell fresh corn and tomatoes. The family home sits back off Old Gunpowder Road. As an adult I looked forward to the opening of the market. Spring, summer and fall, like many of you I was a regular. Buying flowering plants, herbs, and vegetables to plant in my yard. Summer and fall to buy fresh fruit and vegetables. Apples, pumpkins & Christmas trees too. This is the market that everyone knows. As a long-time community advocate for Beltsville, I saw another side of the Spicknall Family. The family that gave many teenagers over many years their first job. The family that was there to lend a hand, provide fresh produce for families in need. Dona-

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 7

Pishi

By Nancy Feissner, Volunteer for Beltsville Community Cats

I am one of the Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) volunteers who help take care of the foster cats we showcase in the habitat at the Petco in Laurel. I would like to introduce you to a special cat that is housed there now. Meet Pishi. For over a year, life has been a bit rudderless for Pishi. He's been in three homes and is now eager to find the forever home that he needs and deserves.

I've met only a few of the unique cats referred to as dominant cats. They do not want to be around other cats. They often get along quite well with a dog. When one of these cats is adopted, they basically move in, make themselves at home, and treat you like their butler.

Seriously. They will bond with a family or a single person. They'll follow you around your



Pishi, the white and caramel colored kitty looking for his forever home? Can you help?

home, watch you do chores, tell you when it's time for dinner, run, and play. Then, just when you think they'll pass out from all the exercise, they want to be cuddled

PISHI
continues on page 3



A Message from Spicknall's Farm Market

The Spicknall's Farm Family is deeply saddened to announce that we will not be opening this year. The decision has been very emotional and did not come easy. We cannot thank our neighbors, friends & customers enough for your years of patronage, loyalty & memories. We are grateful to have served you for many decades. Finally, to everyone in the farming community, a special thank you. We couldn't have done it without you, especially over the last two years.

Love and Blessings, The Spicknall Family

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Letter to the Editor

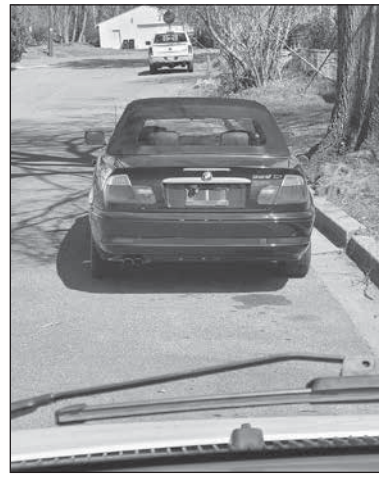
Latest Update on County Revenue Being Wasted

The Blue Nissan Murano, First Ticket #24-00004294 on 01/18/2024 - Second Ticket #24-00006890 on 01/25/2024 where 1st. Citation was issued - Third Ticket #24-00012419 on 02/21/2024 2nd. Citation issued. WAS FINALLY REMOVED ON March 8, 2024.

Which for Environmental Reasons, left behind an oil slick and parts on the roadway, which neighbors tried to clean up.

We Move On to the New MO. for these Automotive Businesses that have been ALLOWED to Dump these Illegal and Unauthorized Vehicles on our Residential Streets.

In the middle of the night on 03/17/2024, three vehicles pull up on Caroline Ave. Two are parked



Abandoned vehicle on Caroline Ave.

real close behind a neighbors vehicle, to hide the fact they have NO TAGS. They drive off leaving a Red BMW and a Blue BMW Convertible. In the middle of the

night on 03/18/2024 they come back and remove the Red BMW and remove the tag on the BLUE BMW. The Neighbors vehicle was removed exposing the Blue BMW with NO TAGS.

So the latest Ticket Number #24-00020008, Now goes to Abandoned Vehicles instead of Parking Authority.

So! Let's see which Agency of the County will NOTIFY which ever Business on Rt. 1 that's Dumping these Vehicles, before the County get's to come out and Remove it? More Revenue Wasted.

You Know, The County Executive just announced a shortfall in revenue in the County's Budget and is looking for places to cut??

County Residents
Speaking Out,
C.F.J.

EARTH DAY

continued from page 1

brief training will be at the head of the trail at the Beltsville Community Center.

Signup began on the Anacostia Watershed Earth Day site on March 4, 2024, but you are not too late, go to <https://bit.ly/3TJ2Ueu>

Online registration is preferred

and necessary to receive a T-shirt, but limited walk-in registration will be accepted. This is a family friendly event, and kids are welcome! However, all participants under 18 must also have a parent/guardian to consent to your participation during registration.

If you are under 18, this event counts for Student Service-Learning Hours (SSL)! If you bring

your forms, site leaders and we will sign off on your hard work.

Anacostia Watershed will provide gloves, bags, and all the supplies needed for the cleanup. We just need volunteers. Wear sturdy closed toe shoes and long pants and expect to get dirty. Also bring a water bottle and a small snack for everyone in your family.

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

News: Rick Bergmann, editor@beltsvillenewstoday.com, 8 Center Street, Laurel, MD 20723. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if photo is to be returned. Accepted material may be edited. Letters to the Editor on local topics are encouraged. Names may be withheld upon request.

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301-257-3408 Ted Ladd, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705 • tedladd02@aol.com

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Circulation

Hard copies may be picked up at more than 50 locations in greater Beltsville, including the Beltsville Library, Wawa, Beltsville Community Center, Spicknall's Farm Market, schools, churches, restaurants and more. Many receive a monthly pdf of the paper via e-mail at no charge. To receive copies by email, go to www.beltsvillenewstoday.com, and enter your e-mail address.

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(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300944563420364/>)

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Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com

WILL YOU REMEMBER ME

A day may come, Beloved One,
We both aren't eager for;
The ravages of time will snatch
Youths' strength and so much more.

Perhaps effects of illness leave
Us weak relying on
Each other for new patience to
Endure 'till we are gone.

Chorus:

My prayer is we will be
Still full of love, hearts faithful, true.
Will you remember me,
When I cannot remember you?

Because those close to us may not
Be able to be there,
God brought us to this precious state
His sufferings to share.

He made us one though life may shake
Our bodies to the core;
May what we know of Him take hold
And keep our union sure.

Chorus:

My prayer is we will be
Still full of love, hearts faithful, true.
Will you remember me,
When I cannot remember you?

Beckie Hutchings
2/22/2024

Caring for a Pregnant Feral Cat

Caring for a pregnant feral cat is a task that requires a delicate balance of providing support and space while respecting her natural instincts. One of the initial challenges is ensuring that the feral mom feels safe and comfortable in her temporary home. This involves creating a quiet and secluded area where she can rest and prepare for the arrival of her kittens.



Once the feral mom is settled, the next step is monitoring her closely without causing unnecessary stress. This is where a pet camera becomes an invaluable tool. It allows you to keep an eye on her from a distance, ensuring that she is doing well and preparing for the birth process.

The anticipation of birth brings about a mix of emotions, from excitement to nervousness. It's important to remember that nature often knows best, and interfering too much can lead to unnecessary stress for the mother cat. Observing from afar and stepping in only when necessary, and possible, is key during this stage.



When the time for birth arrives, it's crucial to be prepared. While you cannot control the outcome, you can ensure that the environment is conducive to a smooth delivery. Providing a warm, clean, and comfortable birthing area with plenty of towels and blankets is essential.

After the kittens are born, the focus shifts to monitoring their development and ensuring they are nursing well. This involves gently handling the kittens to check their weight and overall health every day. Tools like a long-handled litter scooper or a soup ladle can be used to safely move the kittens without causing harm or distress to the mother cat.

As the kittens grow, the role of the caretaker evolves into support-

ing their development while still allowing the mother cat to take the lead in caregiving. This includes providing a nutritious diet for the mother to support milk production and ensuring the kittens are gaining weight appropriately.

Overall, caring for a pregnant feral cat is very similar to caring for a pregnant pet cat. It is a labor of love

that requires patience, compassion, and a deep understanding of feline behavior. By striking the right balance between support and non-interference, you can help ensure a healthy and happy outcome for both the mother cat and her kittens.

If you have experience caring for pregnant cats and/or newborn kittens, consider volunteering for Beltsville Community Cats (BCC). We need foster homes for pregnant mother cats, mother cats with very young kittens, and neonatal kittens that need to be bottle fed. If you just want the joy of fostering a young kitten or an adult cat with no special needs, BCC needs you too. Contact BCC at 240-444-8353 or rescue@beltsvillecats.net.

PISHI

continued from page 1

and sleep with 'their' humans. Indeed, his previous foster said that Pishi is the most loving cat he has ever met.

Just one story for now to show how cool Pishi is. While at the Laurel Petco, I was showing Pishi to two children. The door to his 'habitat' is open and the kids are petting him. Pishi is ultra friendly and does not shy away from anyone, even all the dogs that are roaming in Petco! The kids are petting Pishi's soft, pretty coat of white and caramel patches. He suddenly leaps, lands in the middle of Petco, runs all the way across the store. He runs up and down a few aisles and under the

shelving. Now this may seem funny, but his safety is at risk and so is my neck if I lose him! Luckily, a smart, professional, experienced Petco employee knew exactly what to do. Nick kindly asked all the onlookers in the store's front section to back away. She then asked folks to be quiet for just a few moments. AND THEN... wait for it... Pishi came out from under the shelving and pranced across the width of the store right back to his Petco habitat.

Smart, fearless, and outgoing. Won't you share Pishi's story and help BCC find him a forever home? Learn more about him on BCC's Pet Finder page at: (<https://www.petfinder.com/member/us/md/beltsville/beltsville-community-cats-md506/>).



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- Professional Counseling

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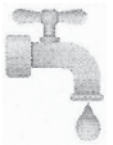
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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News issue of April 2017)

By Ted Ladd

Scouts Go Climbing

By Gary Bauchan,
Assistant Scoutmaster

The Boy Scouts of Troop 1033 traveled to Columbia, MD to Earth Trek, which is an indoor climbing facility. The Scouts learned from the Earth Trek instructors and the watchful eyes of Scoutmaster Rick Deery, Assistant Scoutmasters Budhan Pukazenthi and Kevin Deutachio and the Den Leader and Cubmaster from Pack 202 in Greenbelt, MD the correct way to put on a harness and helmet, tie themselves in with a proper figure eight knot and relay commands



Scouts go climbing at Earth Trek in Columbia, MD

for belaying. The Scouts practiced their skills in the one-story instructional area before they applied them to the three-story climbing walls. Boy Scouts Mike, Kyle, James, Surya, Jay, Edward, Sam, Abel, Joel, Vlad, Brian and Ryan,

along with Cub Scout Webelos from Pack 202 in Greenbelt joined in the climb. All achieved new heights in learning climbing skills and enjoyed the thrill of reaching the top of the building.

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Riderwood's Vast Array of Benefits offer Numerous Opportunities for Advancement

Silver Spring, MD - "Throughout my almost 20-year career at Riderwood, I've held every job in our security department," says Amanda Hidalgo, the Erickson Senior Living community's manager of security and emergency services. "During that time, I've enjoyed both support from my supervisors as well as competitive benefits, that allow me to grow in my field while providing financial security for myself and my family."

This support is one of many reasons why Erickson Senior Living



Amanda Hidalgo, the Erickson Senior Living community's manager of security and emergency services

continues to attract and retain dedicated staff members. A recent study by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans found that "employers whose engagement levels are high offer attractive benefits including paid leave, health insurance, retirement, and health and well-being incentives."

Riderwood's comprehensive total rewards go beyond typical employee benefit plans. In addition to offering multiple health care plans and choices, employees receive a full range of support to help build their careers while enjoying an enviable work-life balance. Other competitive benefits include tuition reimbursement, 401K with company match, generous paid time off, online training classes, and a wide range of discount programs.

"Riderwood takes immense pride in both our numerous, competitive benefits as well as our supportive and collaborative work environment," says executive director Dee Dee Gray-Weaver. "This environment empowers staff making them feel valued while fostering innovations and opening doors to career development and expanded job opportunities."

Amanda began serving the Riderwood community as a security floor officer and EMT, responding to emergency calls. Over the course of several years, she was promoted to security dispatcher, before embarking on the leadership track.

"I received great support from my managers who really helped navigate my career and motivate me," she says.

One of the benefits Amanda enjoyed the most was the scholarship she received from Riderwood to help fund her pursuit of a



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RIDERWOOD

continues on page 7

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Statepoint Crossword: Shakespeare

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
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68					69				70			
71					72				73			

ACROSS

1. Type of help center
6. Fake tooth
9. What geysers do
13. Lagoon wall
14. Acronym, in brief
15. Syrup producer
16. Papal court
17. It often comes with Aloha!
18. External
19. *Richard III: "A horse! A horse! My ___ for a horse!"
21. *Romeo and Juliet: "Parting is such sweet ___"
23. Animal's nose
24. Fail to mention
25. Capone's family
28. *Hamlet: "O, this is the poison of ___ grief"
30. Soap froth
35. Iris holder
37. "He ____, She Said"
39. ___ Apso
40. Cheap form of payment?
41. Bert's roommate
43. Not in favor
44. Hipbone-related
46. The Destroyer, in Hinduism
47. Thomas the Engine's warning
48. "Heart of Darkness" author
50. Brewer's kiln
52. Beer choice
53. Not a verb
55. Comic cry
57. *The Tempest: "We are such

- stuff as ___ are made on"
60. *As You Like It: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely ___"
64. Primatologist's concern, for short
65. "This land is your land"?
67. *Macbeth: "Our ___ master's murder'd!"
68. Scoundrel
69. Hi ___ monitor
70. Wombs
71. "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
72. Teacher's favorite
73. Got ready for a close up

DOWN

1. Nordstrom's outlet
2. Purse for the red carpet
3. Cape on Tierra del Fuego
4. Set straight
5. Like a knife
6. Comes before a storm?
7. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
8. Spectrum maker
9. Wild ox of India
10. Plotting (2 words)
11. Multitude
12. Having Everything Revealed, singer and songwriter
15. *Hamlet: "When we have shuffled off this ___ coil"
20. Corpulent

22. Tin Woodman's "medicine"
24. "Two cents"?
25. *Twelfth Night: "If ___ be the food of love, play on"
26. Convex molding
27. Nigeria's western neighbor
29. Listening devices
31. *Hamlet: "To be, or not to be: ___ is the question"
32. Capital of Vietnam
33. Bar by estoppel
34. Indian restaurant condiment
36. Petri dish filler
38. Prima donna
42. Artist's tripod
45. High tea sandwich
49. P rignon's honorific
51. Destroy a document (2 words)
54. Seize a throne
56. City in Japan
57. Type of sailing vessel
58. Capital of Latvia
59. Outback birds
60. "Blast from the ___"
61. "The ___ of Tammy Faye," movie
62. Uncommon
63. Went down slippery slope
64. Cathode-ray tube
66. *Merchant of Venice: "But love is blind, and lovers cannot ___"

See Solution on page 6

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3 Reasons to Build a Deck This Spring

1. A Deck Enhances the Value of Your Home

Few things add hard value to your home more than outdoor living areas. Experts agree that a deck offers a 100% return in value. You'll get back every cent you spend building a deck when you sell your home, and the additional curb appeal will help you sell it faster. Do-it-yourself and you'll realize an even greater return on your investment. Decks are the hottest trend in the home-buying market.

2. Party Time!

If you like to host parties for friends, a deck is the perfect way to add functional space where people can gather and still breathe freely. Decks are less claustrophobic than crowded rooms, and spills and other potential damage are less costly to repair or clean up. Add an outdoor grill or a portable bar and raise the level of a simple deck to a real outdoor entertaining space.

3. A Deck Adds Outdoor Enjoyment

Decks give a whole new perspective to outdoor comfort. Far from the simple porches of the past, modern decks offer a versatile and comfortable way to enjoy your own little slice of nature. Strategically placed plants offer privacy and a feeling of nature even in the city. Enjoy the wood under your feet, the greenery around the edges and the open sky to create a peaceful haven to escape from the stresses of life.

Decisions - Decisions - Decisions

Building a deck can be a sizeable investment. Consult a professional to decide which products are easiest to work with if you intend on building it yourself. Remember to follow local building codes and HOA regulations when building your dream deck.

Today there are several mate-



sure-treated wood but require less maintenance. Cedar and redwood decking can be left untreated or stained to maintain their color.

- **Tropical Hardwoods:** Woods like Ipe, Cumaru, and Tigerwood offer exceptional durability and resistance to rot, insects, and decay. They are dense and require special tools for installation, but they provide a luxurious and long-lasting decking option.
- **Aluminum Decking:** Aluminum decking is lightweight, durable, and resistant to rot, mold, and insect damage. It requires minimal maintenance and comes in various colors and finishes.
- **Modified Wood Decking:** Some manufacturers offer modified wood products that have been treated to enhance durability and resistance to moisture, rot, and insects while maintaining the look of natural wood.
- **Bamboo Decking:** Bamboo decking is an eco-friendly option that offers durability and resistance to moisture and insects. It comes in different colors and styles and requires minimal maintenance.
- **Stone or Tile Decking:** Stone or tile decking provides a unique and durable option for outdoor spaces. Materials such as slate, granite, or porcelain offer durability and resistance to weathering, but installation can be more complex and costly.

When choosing a decking material, consider factors such as your budget, desired aesthetics, climate, maintenance preferences, and intended use of the deck. It's also essential to research the specific characteristics and maintenance requirements of each material to ensure it meets your needs and expectations.

rial options available beyond pressure treated lumber. Stop by your local retailer to touch and feel the exciting new choices that are becoming more and more popular.

- **Pressure-Treated Wood:** This is one of the most affordable options. Pressure-treated lumber is chemically treated to resist rot, decay, and insect infestation. However, it requires regular maintenance such as staining or sealing to prolong its lifespan.
- **Composite Decking:** Made from a blend of wood fibers and recycled plastic, composite decking offers durability and low maintenance. It resists rot, warping, and insect damage. Composite decking comes in a variety of colors and styles, mimicking the look of natural wood.
- **PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) Decking:** PVC decking is made entirely from synthetic materials, offering excellent resistance to moisture, mold, and mildew. It requires minimal maintenance, typically only needing occasional cleaning. PVC decking comes in various colors and styles.
- **Cedar and Redwood:** These natural wood options offer natural beauty and resistance to decay and insects. They are more expensive than pres-

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Crossword Solution from page 5

R	E	H	A	B		C	A	P		G	U	S	H	
A	T	O	L	L		A	C	R		M	A	P	L	E
C	U	R	I	A		L	E	I		O	U	T	E	R
K	I	N	G	D	O	M		S	O	R	R	O	W	
		N	E	B		O	M	I	T					
M	O	B		D	E	E	P		L	A	T	H	E	R
U	V	E	A		S	A	I	D		L	H	A	S	A
S	O	N	G		E	R	N	I	E		A	N	T	I
I	L	I	A	C		S	I	V	A		T	O	O	T
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	D	R	E	A	M	S		P	L	A	Y	E	R	S
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R	O	G	U	E		R	E	S		U	T	E	R	I
T	W	A	S			P	E	T		P	O	S	E	D

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From the Office of Council Chair Tom Dernoga

Registering to Vote

You can register to vote once you turn 16 and obtain your permit. Furthermore, a registered 17-year-old is permitted to vote in the Primary Election if they turn 18 on or before the General Election. Citizenship of the United States and residency in Maryland are additional prerequisites.

Once registered, you are prepared for future elections if you keep your address current. If you relocate, remember to inform the Board of Elections within 30 days of your address change. Registering in advance is crucial as you cannot register on election day. The registration deadline is 21 days before the election.

To update your registration details, you can either send a letter with your new address or complete the English or Spanish Voter Registration Application and mail it to Prince George's County Board of Elections, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo.

Teal Day in April

Counseling helps people navigate challenging life situations, such as the death of a loved one, divorce, natural disasters, school stress, and job loss. It provides insights to manage mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. April is Counseling Awareness Month, and Teal Day is the second Friday of April. Those you see wearing their teal shirt in the community reaffirm their support and awareness of the importance of counseling and self-care for counselors. Countywide, you may contact dial 9-8-8 for assistance if you or a loved one are experiencing thoughts of suicide or a mental health crisis. Mental health specialists are available 24 hours a day to provide immediate assistance and referrals for long-term support.

In Beltsville, the Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC), off of Ammendale Road, connects residents with a licensed professional counselor on their team who is partially funded by the county so that individuals who need counseling on a sliding scale based on income can still take advantage of this service. To take advantage of this service or find out more information, you may contact BACC directly by calling 301-937-8119 or contacting



Michelle García, Chief of Staff (first from right), Genesis Báez, Constituent Services Specialist (second from left), to Council Member Dernoga, along with Laurel City Mayor Keith Sydnor and Cheverly Council Member Christopher Wade, join Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Beltsville for their 2024 Career Day.

our office, and we will assist with making the connection.

Your wellness is essential and critical to a happy life. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Earth Day 2024

Earth Day is on Monday, April 22, and is celebrated to demonstrate support for environmental protection. As many of you know, our team prides itself on doing many things to aid in creating a more sustainable future for the residents of District 1.

We encourage you to learn more about some of the sustainability programs and legislation in Prince George's and to make small life changes that have huge impacts, here are a few:

The Council passed a Plastic Straw Ban that went into effect in 2020, banning straws and stirrers that are not reusable or meet the home-compostable standard, cutting down on plastic straw litter in the environment and that which clogs our waterways and harms the wildlife in our Chesapeake Bay. Patronize places that comply with this legal standard, and if you come across a business that may need to be reminded of this law, let us know.

The County Council passed the Better Bag Bill that went into effect on January 1, 2024. Contact our office or look out for our next Free Reusable Grocery Bag Giveaway at one of our District 1 grocery stores to get a free grocery bag and learn more about the legislation that makes them necessary.

On March 20, 2024, the Council celebrated MeatOut Day. We heard from food activists, District 1's First Lady, Lenora Dernoga,

and others to learn more about the harmful impact the meat processing industry and overconsumption have had on our environment and health. Then, we all enjoyed a delicious vegan meal and dessert from NuVegan Cafe and Catering, College Park. To learn more about Meat Out Day, visit bit.ly/PGC-CMeatOut.

Growing Green with Pride

Join the County and other volunteers at various locations throughout the county on Saturday, April 27th, Earth Day, from 8AM to 12PM to help beautify our community by cleaning, weed removal, and planting, RSVP at <http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen>

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>

Join our District 1 eNewsletter List

Don't miss out on resources, local initiatives and activities, important development and legislation, countless community events, and more. Sign up for our bi-weekly eNewsletter: <https://bit.ly/D1eNewsOptIn>

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, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1

RIDERWOOD

continued from page 4

criminal justice associate degree at Prince Georges Community College.

"The scholarship was very helpful in achieving my goals," she says. "I was a single mom for a long time, and had it not been for the scholarship, I would not have been able to earn my degree."

Even as Amanda continued to receive promotions to various management positions, including supervisor, assistant manager, and now as manager, she finds the balance needed to care for her growing family.

"I met my husband Jose at Riderwood, and since that time, we've had two children together," she says. "I find that I am able to

balance the demands of my family and my career. Family is very important here and, as a result, I find that I have the support I need when unexpected things happen, as they do with families."

In addition to enjoying health-care benefits for herself and her family, Amanda also takes advan-

RIDERWOOD
continues on page 14

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

tions to various nonprofits in our community. Farming is not an easy life; many variables create ups and downs. The Spicknall Family has decided what I know was not easy. They will not be opening this year.

2023 was their last season. Spicknall's Market has been a wonderful family business! A wonderful Beltsville business. A wonderful friend to Beltsville. I am going to miss seeing my friends! I wish the entire Spicknall Family love and laughter as they move on to the next season of their lives.

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

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Treasure Hunt
(In-door / Out-door
Yard Sale)

Saturday, April 6, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Treasure Trove

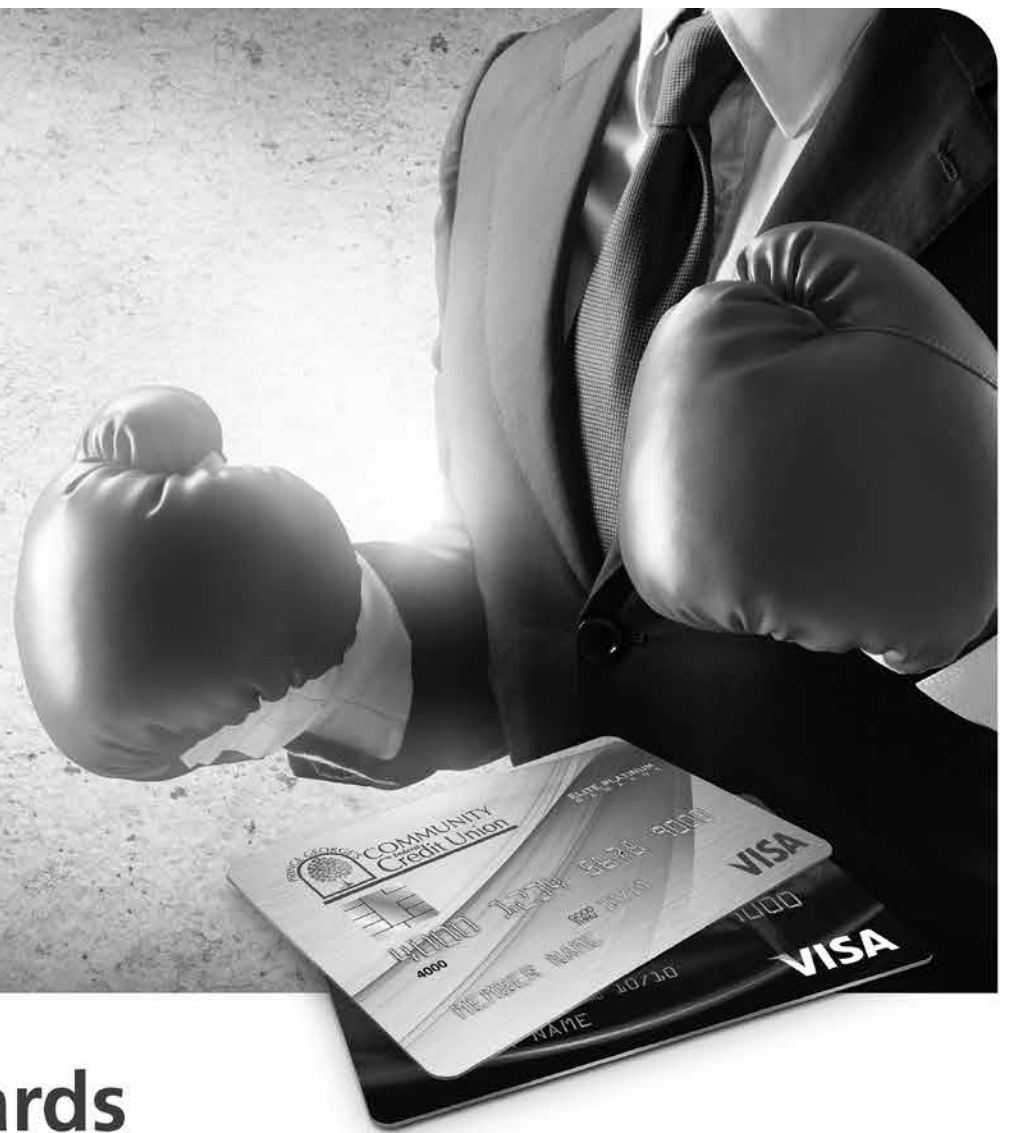
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Along with celebrating 70 years in business, Orndorff & Spaid is proud to reach the milestone of 180 full-time employees and continue an in-house operation.

Members of the Orndorff & Spaid team attribute the company’s success to staying dedicated to the founding member’s vision. Throughout the years in the roofing industry, Orndorff & Spaid has remained committed to building a team of experienced personnel, performing quality work, and operating a well-maintained fleet. With these core principles in place, along with a profound focus on customer satisfaction, Orndorff & Spaid looks forward to serving the DC, MD, and VA area’s commercial roofing needs for many more years to come.



Fleet & Equipment

Top Left: Field/Office Staff

Top Right: Second & Third Generation Family Members and Management Staff

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Join me and my wife Sheilah for a Celebration of Spring Saturday, April 13th!

Each year, my wife Sheilah and I host a Winter Brunch for our friends and my constituents. This year, it got snowed out! So, we've rescheduled it for April 13th. The Special Guest will be Dr. Robert Gallo, Founder of UMD Institute of Human Virology and co-discoverer of the virus which causes AIDS.

I hope you can join us in Gambrills, in the Anne Arundel part of the 21st District. If you would like to join us please go to winterbrunch.com or call 240-712-4646 and RSVP!

When: Saturday, April 13th, 2pm – 4pm

Where: Village Commons Community Center
1326 Main Chapel Way
Gambrills, MD.

We look forward to seeing you!

Senate and House college scholarships for Beltsville students

This spring and summer, Delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I will award college scholarships for Beltsville students. Applications for the scholarships for school year 2024-25 are posted on the 21st District Delegation website. The application will automatically go to Dels. Barnes, Pena-Melnyk, and Lehman. You will need to fill out a separate application with my office, for the Senatorial Scholarship. In the meantime, please make sure you have a Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) account and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) when it becomes available. 21st District Delegation Website: <https://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/college-scholarships>. If you have questions, email my office at jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us or call at 410-841-3141.



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

Maryland Health Easy Enrollment Program

During this tax season, you will be able to sign up for health coverage through the Easy Enrollment program.

Check a box on your tax return if you would like the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the state agency that runs Maryland Health Connection, to estimate your eligibility for coverage. If you file your taxes by April 15, this selection launches an easy process that will help you enroll.

How it works:

1. Check the Box. A question on your state tax forms (502 and 502B) will ask if you want to share some of your information, like your household size and income. By checking the box on the tax return, you are giving permission for the Comptroller to share information with Maryland Health Connection Text

2. File your taxes. If you check the box, Maryland Health Connection will check to see if you may be eligible for free or low-cost health coverage.

3. Receive a letter. Shortly after you file your taxes, the state will mail you a letter explaining your eligibility for free or low-cost health coverage. Many Marylanders qualify for savings. In fact, 9 in 10 Marylanders who enrolled through Maryland Health Connection last year got savings. You will have 35 days from the date on your letter to sign up for a health

plan and access these savings.

4. Enroll through Maryland Health Connection. Once you receive your letter you can login into your account or create an account to explore your health plan options and enroll. When you begin your application, a new Special Enrollment question will ask if you or a household member received a "Tax Time SEP" notice. If anyone in your household is already enrolled, you can still add uninsured household members under "Reason for Change."

5. Get help by phone. A certified navigator from Maryland Health Connection may call you to offer free help enrolling. Find a navigator in your county. Or call 1-855-642-8572 to apply. Deaf and hard of use Relay. Remember, you only have 35 days to enroll!

Maryland's Law Protects Your Health Insurance Coverage

Maryland law gives Maryland consumers the right to appeal a decision that denies you insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment. If your health care provider has determined that certain medical treatment is needed, but your HMO or health insurer does not agree, you have the right to appeal to the Maryland Insurance Commissioner who has the authority to overturn your health plan's decision if your treatment is determined to be medically necessary.

How to File an Appeal Online:

1. File a complaint online via the Maryland Insurance Information secure consumer portal or by e-mail to agcomplaints.mia@maryland.gov.

2. Download the forms to be completed by hand. The complaint forms should be as complete and detailed as possible and accompanied by copies of any documentation relevant to your case. These forms can be found at this link: https://insurance.maryland.gov/Consumer/Documents/lh-a_gcomplaintform08-17rev.pdf

3. Life and Health/Appeals and Grievance. The complaint form includes an Authorization for the release of Medical Information. This form is required so that health care providers, insurers, and other relevant parties can share your medical information with our investigator in order to make a determination in your case. The completed forms may be mailed or faxed to the agency as directed below:

Submitting a Written Letter

If you choose to just send a letter, please include or provide the following:

- Your name, address, daytime and evening phone number
- Name of your insurance company, type of insurance (auto, homeowners, fire, etc.), policy number and claim number (if applicable)
- Name of any other insurance company, agent, adjuster, etc. involved in your problem (provide as many names and phone numbers as possible)
- A copy of your health insurance card or your policy.
- A completed and signed Medical Records Release form
- A detailed explanation of the problem or situation
- Copies of any documents that you think are important for the investigator to review. Do not send originals.
- Mail or fax this information to:

Maryland Insurance Administration Attn: Consumer Complaint Investigation Life and Health/Appeals and Grievance
200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2700
Baltimore, MD 21202
Telephone: 410-468-2000 or 1-800-492-6116
TTY: 1-800-735-2258

If you need help filling out these forms or would like to submit them to an agency representative, please visit the Maryland Insurance Administration at one of their Consumer Outreach locations.

AARP Free Tax Preparation Services

AARP Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to anyone of any age, especially persons aged 50 and older or who cannot afford paid service. Tax-Aide in northern Prince George's is at the Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery St., Laurel, Maryland 20707, on Wednesdays, February 14, 2024, through April 10, 2024, from 9:30 AM through 2:00 PM, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 240-473-2955 on Monday or Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

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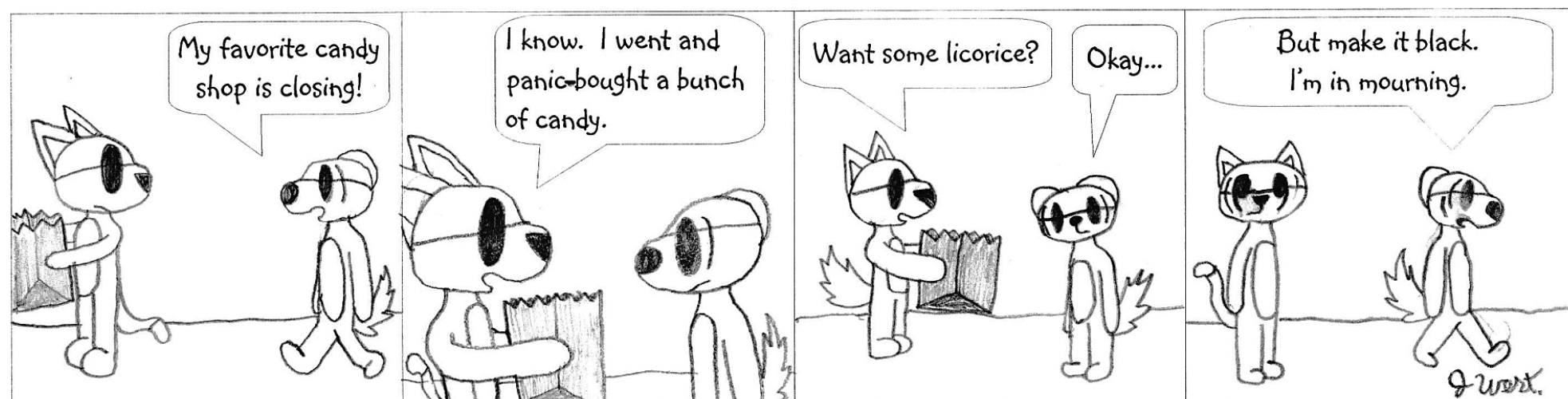
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Contact me

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.

Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO

By Joseph West



Raspberry Pi

It has been a little over two years since I wrote about the Raspberry Pi Computer. I missed Pi Day this year because I was still writing about printers. But there has been a lot of news in the Raspberry Pi World, so I thought I would catch everyone up.

Pi Day is a traditional day to celebrate the number Pi, a very important number in mathematics. It is also the traditional day for the Raspberry Pi organization to release new computers and devices for the computers.

The Raspberry Pi Foundation

The Raspberry Pi Foundation is a charitable group formed by people from the University of Cambridge in England. The founder felt that making a very inexpensive computer could make them more available for children to learn more about computers. The foundation then created a computer that to sell for \$35. Adding a few things like a keyboard and mouse and connecting to the home TV made it very inexpensive.

They also supplied free software to make the computers useful and help people to learn to use and program the computer. The computers include programming languages like Python, Java, and C++ for example.

The Raspberry Pi Computers

The original Raspberry Pi seems basic compared to the Pi computers available today. With a few notable exceptions, each generation of the Pi computers tends to be two to four times faster than the previous one. The chart below lists the primary pi models, their date when introduced, the current production status, and some notes about major features.

All Pi's from the Pi 3 model B include 64-bit quad core CPUs. Earlier Pi's were 32 bits. The Pi 4 and Pi 5 also include Bluetooth capabilities and two micro-HDMI connectors for connecting two monitors or TVs.

There are also several other specialty models. The Pi Zero was first released in 2015 sold for \$5. The Pi Zero-W followed by adding Wi-Fi networking. The newest Pi Zero is the Pi Zero 2 W, released in 2021 and enhanced using a similar 64-bit CPU as in the Pi 3 series. Both Wi-Fi Pi Zeros also have Bluetooth support.

There is also a Pi 400. This is a complete computer with mouse, keyboard, cable, power supply, and memory card with the software pre-installed for \$100. Just plug it into your TV and you are ready to go and it's less expensive than your old Commodore 64.

In January 2021, the Raspberry Pi Foundation released the Pi Pico

Model name	1 st Introduced	Status	Notes
Raspberry Pi Model B	Feb. 2012	Discontinued	256/512 MB Ram, LAN
Pi Model B+	Spring 2014	Discontinued	512 MB Ram, LAN
Pi 2	Feb. 2015	Discontinued	1 GB RAM, LAN
Pi 3 Model B	Feb. 2016	Discontinued	1 GB RAM, LAN+Wifi
Pi 3 Model B+	Pi Day, Mar. 2018	Refreshed	1 GB RAM, LAN+Wifi
Pi 4 Model B	June 2019	Refreshed	1/2/4/8 GB of RAM, LAN+Wifi
Pi 5	Sept. 2023	New	4/8 GB of RAM, LAN+Wifi

series. The Pico is a microcontroller similar in some aspects to an Arduino microcontroller. It does not have a full operating system but it has the ability to program and reprogram and is usable as a device controller. The Pico is programmable in two developer languages, C, and MicroPython. In June of 2022 the Pico W version was released adding Wi-Fi-wireless support.

Another set of specialty models are the computer modules. These plug into another board and bring the Raspberry Pi computing capabilities to that system. They are very popular for embedding into IoT devices and other equipment.

New Pi News

The newest Pi model is the Pi 5, released just this past September 2023. This Pi is about 3 times faster than the original Pi 4, and adds a PCI connector allowing the addition of a SSD Storage card for high-speed storage. The Pi 5 can boot from the SSD working like some of the more traditional computers. Another addition is a real-time clock to keep time when turned off and a shutdown button. Yes, that's right the typical way to turn off older Pi models was to unplug it. The Pi 5 offers a choice between 4 GB or 8 GB of RAM, but they were not able to keep the standard \$35 price, for the first time the list price for the Pi 5 is \$60 for the 4 GB model and \$80 for the 8 GB model. The Pi 5 needs cooling to prevent overheating. There is a special case made for the Pi 5 that includes a fan to keep the CPU cool. The Pi-5 also needs more power so there is an official USB-C power supply to provide the 27 watts needed to power the computer.

Pi Accessories

The Raspberry Pi Foundation offers a number of official accessories for the various Raspberry Pi computers. These include things like cases, keyboards, mice, and power supplies as basics. But there are also devices like audio amplifiers, sensor boards, touch screens, various cameras, and TV Decoders. They added a cooler for the Pi-4 when they discovered that it a cooler really helped. For the Pi 5 they added a cooler to the official Pi case and a special active cooler for those that need it and don't use the case. Most of the "official" gear is red and white (go Terps!) with the occasional black case.

Hats are boards that easily attach to the Pi boards to add more features. For example, I have

a Pi that wears a small two" by 3" screen "hat" that I can use to provide output. Hats exist to provide Power over Ethernet (POE), provide high quality stereo sound, backup power, and other features. The specifications for build hats are publicly available make it easy for people to make their own. The Pi Zeros offer a similar specification called a bonnet for the same purpose. This has made it possible for other companies also make Pi accessories, including portable games machines.

Pi Software

The Raspberry Pi Foundation provides a Linux operating they call Raspberry OS (formerly Raspbian). Raspberry OS is based on Debian Linux. Debian Linux is the base for Ubuntu. The foundation provides downloads for 32 bit, 64 bit, and legacy version of the software for every Raspberry Pi that has been released supporting machines going back to 2012. That is better than Apple and iOS. Patches appear regularly and install easily from either the command line or the Graphical User Interface.

The full installation of the Pi software includes a complete office suite, the Chromium browser, programming tools, games, email clients, and more. All of this is free.

If you prefer another operat-

ing system many other vendors provide them, including Ubuntu. Several turnkey solutions also exist to turn your Pi into a dedicated appliance, like a network storage appliance, a media center, a household ad blocker, or even a "magic mirror".

Wrap Up

This completes this month's column. The first Thursday in May is world change your passwords day inspiring my annual change your password column.

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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. **More events can be seen at collegetparkaviation@pgparks.com.**

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING

Mon., Apr. 8. View the solar eclipse at College Park Aviation Museum. Pop by after school or take a late lunch to witness this astronomical event! Viewing glasses will be distributed while supplies last. *This program is weather dependent*; it starts at 1:30 p.m. The total eclipse occurs at 3:20 p.m. Cost: Free. All ages. For more information about this event, call 301.864.6029 or see www.pgparks.com/event_list/solar-eclipse-viewing.

HOME-SCHOOL DAY: COSMIC QUEST

Tue., Apr. 16. Two sessions: a) The morning session is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and b) The afternoon session is scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reach for the stars at College Park Aviation Museum's Spring Home-School Day! Travel through the cosmos as we unravel the mysteries of the universe. Explore the wonders of space, from planets to galaxies, and the spacecraft that help us venture beyond our planet. Through hands-on activities, captivating crafts, and mesmerizing experiments, discover the secrets of the cosmos. This program will ignite a child's passion for space and provide skills and knowledge to navigate the galaxy. Cost for each session: \$6. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pgparks.com/event_list/home-school-day-cosmic-quest. For more information: 301.864.6029 or see collegetparkaviation@pgparks.com.

***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.

SHORT FILM SCREENING

Tue., Apr. 2 through Sat., Apr. 6, at the top of each hour all day, each day. We will host screenings of the short film *Conserving the Nature of America in the Face of Climate Change* in the Visitor Center auditorium. Viewers will learn some of the ways the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working to address the most compelling natural resource challenge of our generation.

FAMILY FUN: HABITATS & ADAPTATIONS

Fri., Apr. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready. All ages, no registration required. Learn about different habitats at Patuxent Refuge and around the world, and how animals have adapted to survive in even the harshest environments. Explore self-paced interactive games, crafts, and activities for all ages

MEET THE AMERICAN KESTRAL

Sat., Apr. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. The American kestrel is one of North America's smallest birds of prey. An expert hunter, the American Kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess to catch its prey. The program will take place inside the Visitor Center.

SAVE THE DATE

The Wild Bee & Flower Festival is planned for Sat., May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., *rain or shine*. Come celebrate Maryland's native bees and flowers! There will be fun for the whole family. Learn about our native bees and receive native plant gardening advice. There will be nature walks and talks, discovery crafts, and native seed planting activities. Some activities and exhibits will be indoors; others will be outdoors, weather permitting. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Patuxent. For more info contact the event's co-chairs, Liz Humes and Helen Lowe Metzman, at liz.humes@gmail.com and helometz@hotmail.com.

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., Apr. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. A short business meeting will be followed by a Magic Show by Eric Henning. 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 (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, No admission fee. *Call the office for the holiday schedule.*

• Monthly luncheons: Advance reservations and payment are required (a minimum of two weeks in advance is requested). Contact the LSFC office to check on availability.

• Please note: *Our May 8 meeting is cancelled* because the room where it is normally held is being used for primary elections voting.

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. 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.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Apr. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. **Our inclement weather policy: If P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet.** The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2024. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Special note: The Beltsville Branch Library will be **closed from Sun., Mar. 31 through Mon., Apr. 29** due to carpet cleaning and painting projects. The April Beginner's English Class has been transferred to the Laurel Branch Library Large Meeting Room A (Dorothy Height Room) located at 507 7th Street, Laurel, MD 20707. All other classes have been cancelled for April.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

BEGINNER'S ENGLISH CLASS

Are you learning English and would like to practice the language? This club is for Beginner level English-language learners. ¿Estas aprendiendo ingles y te gustaría practicar el idioma? ¡Esta clase es para estudiantes de inglés de nivel principiante listos para aprender en persona! For more information contact the **Call Center at 301.937.0294 and ask for Arianna Gomez**. Here are the dates:

- 1) Wed., Apr. 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 2) Wed., Apr. 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 3) Fri., Apr. 12 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- 4) Wed., Apr. 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 5) Wed., Apr. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 6) Fri., Apr. 26 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.




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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 and events 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. 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 EXHIBIT & RECEPTION

The featured artists for April are photographers Jane Gamble, Beth Howell, Jane Marsh, Rena Schild, Elaine Starr, and Kathrin Swoboda. Their exhibit is called *Nature Through Women's Eyes*. Please note: **A reception for the artists will be held on Sat., Apr. 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Visitor Center.** 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.



The Cast of UpStage Artists Much Ado About Nothing

UpStage Artists Announces Cast for Much Ado About Nothing!

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists, Beltsville's very own community theater troupe, is boldly going where it has never gone before—it's performing Shakespeare! UpStage is putting on its first Shakespearean show, the classic Much Ado About Nothing. They are excited to try something new with this play, it's a chance to allow its pool of actors to grow. Some of the cast you have seen before, and some are new to UpStage's stage, and they are all fantastic.

Much Ado About Nothing is one of the world's oldest romantic comedies, which

makes it ideal for a date night out to the theater. It's a play that has something for everyone. In the show, everyone can see that confirmed bachelor Benedick and headstrong Beatrice are meant for each other—except for Benedick and Beatrice themselves! While their friends try to trick the bickering pair into admitting they're in love, their young sidekicks Hero and Claudio start a romance of their own. But will false accusations, broken promises, and even a nutty and bumbling police force prevent a happy ending? Come out to the production and see.

The cast for Much Ado

includes Joseph Battley (Don John), Stacey Saunders (Balthasar), and Peter Rouleau (Don Pedro) from UpStage's February Production of A Raisin In The Sun. Rose Coates (Ursula) who was in A View From The Bridge last season, her son Peter Coates (Watchmen) who has been in UpStage's children's production of the Wizard of Oz and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever will be gracing the stage once more as well. Also returning is Neil Swanson-Chrisman (Dogberry) and Belts-

CAST

continues on page 14

Kudos to UpStage Artists Production of A Raisin In The Sun!

By Lenny Dinerman

Beg pardon, but I simply could not resist the urge to pen a highly favorable review of Upstage Artists most recent production of, "A Raisin In The Sun."

Kudos to all for their focused efforts in bringing about one of the best dramatic performances I have yet seen in community theater.

The set was tastefully done & very inviting. It made me feel as though I were living in the Younger's abode right along with them. I was mainly impressed however with the wide range of emotion displayed by the show's talented cast, most notably Elizabeth Lynne Ellis Wiggins, Stacey Saunders & Melvin Smith as "Mama" Lena, Ruth & Walter Lee Younger respectively. Tiffany Carletta was a breath of fresh air as Beneatha Younger & Binta Kassambra as little Travis Younger was in a word, delightful!

The supporting roles of Mist-ers Asagai, Murchison, Bobo & Linder were convincingly portrayed respectively by Antoine Avery, Joseph Battley II, Edward



The Cast of UpStage Artists A Raisin In The Sun. Back Row (L-R) Peter Rouleau, Antoine Avery, Melvin Smith, Joseph Battley II, Edward Crews. Fron Row (L-R) Tiffany Carlotta Smothers, Elizabeth Wiggins, Binta Kassambra, Stacey Saunders

V. Crews & Peter Rouleau.

I'd be remiss if I failed to mention the admirable contributions of Sound Technician Susie Mendelsohn, Stage Manager Joanne Breen, Stagehand Harsha Vardhan & of course Director Rick Bergmann. Next up for Upstage Artists this

season will be Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" directed by Anna Fitzmaurice, premiering May 31st & ending 10 June 2024. All performances are held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705. Hope to see you there!

Laurel Chapter of American Rosie the Riveter Association presents Rearview Mirror

By Pat Farmer

Get In the Mood and Swing into Spring with a 1940s musical presentation performed by Rearview Mirror, Saturday, April 27, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 424 Main St., Laurel. Sponsored by the Laurel Chapter of the American Rosie the Riveter Association,

this free event will take you back in time to the songs of the era of World War II when the Rosies joined the workforce on the home front to help the war effort. Doors open at 1 p.m. Light refreshments served. Handicapped accessible. For questions, contact Pat, 240-762-3895.

REARVIEW MIRROR
continues on page 14

Club News

The Beltsville Young at Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

This year has been anything but usual. As seniors, we know patience and perseverance, but the weather has not made this time of year easy to get together.

Our refreshment chairman, Carol Kosadar, has moved to Florida. We will miss her, but we have two ladies, Maria Halli and Ann Marie McCarron, who have stepped up to satisfy our mid-day munchies with some of their contributions. We look forward to it.

Our new directories are ready to give out. Total Copies on Main Street in Laurel did a great job of assembling the books. I hope we

have some new members to add as an appendix soon.

Our April entertainment will be "Supreme Temptations" with some lively Motown tunes. May will be home-town boy, Johnny Seaton, rescheduled from January.

Shirley Denell has a list of the trip for this year (bring a check to pay when you sign up), and we have new items on the Ways & Means table plus a chance to win with 50/50 drawings. Please "spread" the word of the club. Call me with any questions at 301-498-9736. "Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence." Hal Borland


Beltsville News

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*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 News CHURCH DIRECTORY

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You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.

PRAY
Loving God, we live in the mystery of the new life you promise in Jesus and the new life that surrounds us every spring. Help us connect with people we don't usually see. Make us one whole and holy people. Amen.


Come out and find a bargain April 6 at the United Women in Faith's Community Yard Sale from 10 am to 1 pm.
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Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources

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



REARVIEW MIRROR

continued from page 13

The mission of Laurel ARRA, one of two chapters in Maryland, is to preserve the history and legacy of the Rosies, and to educate the public about their contributions during WWII. Their service to the country was invaluable in winning WWII, having produced 296,429 airplanes, 102,351 tanks and guns, 87,620 warships, 47 tons of artillery shells, and 44 billion rounds of small arms ammunition. The Rosies' long-overdue recognition will be realized on April 10, 2024, when they will be collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony at the US Capitol. The Medal will be on display at the National Museum of American History.

CAST

continued from page 13

ville's own Susie Mendelsohn (Verges) who both starred in Arsenic and Old Lace last year. Also, Neil was one of the stars of The 39 Steps. There are also several new faces gracing the stage this time around. They include Peter Eichman (Benedick), Margaret McCabe Janicki (Conrade), Laurel Miller-Sims (Borachio), Matthew Murray (Claudio), Jim Pasquale (Antonio/Friar), Megan Prichard (Margaret), Julia Purdy (Hero), and Jacqueline Youm (Beatrice). The director for this production is Anna Fitzmaurice, an UpStage Board Member and actress, who has appeared in UpStage Productions including And Then There Were None, Arsenic and Old Lace, and A View From The Bridge. Show dates for Much Ado About Nothing are May 31, June 1, 7, 8 2024 at 7:30 pm and June 2 and 9 at 2 pm. Tickets are just \$10 and will go on sale in the middle of April. If you want to learn more about UpStage Artists or have questions you can always go to their website www.upstageartists.com or contact them at info@upstageartists.com.

RIDERWOOD

continued from page 7

tage of Erickson Senior Living's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), offering counseling and other health benefits. She also enjoys her daily interactions with Riderwood residents who, like her supervisors, support and encourage her personal advancement. "It's amazing how supportive everyone is and how much they want the staff to grow and succeed," she says. As she embarks on her 20th year as a Riderwood employee, Amanda is grateful for the continued support and numerous benefits she enjoys. "When it comes to opportunities and support at Riderwood, the sky's the limit," she says.

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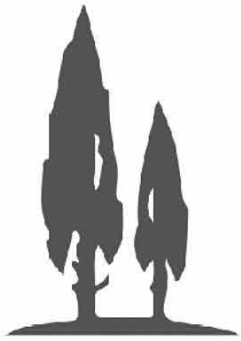


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