

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Beltsville, Maryland

December 2023

Team Maryland Joint Statement on the Selection of Greenbelt for the FBI's New Headquarters

ANNAPOLIS, MD — Today, members of Maryland's federal, state, and local governments including Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Congressmen Steny H. Hoyer, Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes, Kweisi Mfume, Jamie Raskin, David Trone, and Glenn Ivey, and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks released the following statement regarding the General Services Administration's decision to select Prince George's County as the home for the new, consolidated FBI headquarters:

"This is a historic moment for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and our nation. For decades, the dilapidated J. Edgar Hoover Building has failed to meet the FBI's operational needs, which has undermined our national security. The once fabled building has crumbled before our eyes, with nets surrounding the facility for years to protect pedestrians from falling debris. Today's decision by the General Services Administration (GSA) will ensure we fulfill the FBI's dire, longstanding need for a new consolidated headquarters that meets the modern-day demands on the Bureau's work to protect Americans and our nation.

After a thorough deliberation process and consideration of stakeholder input, the GSA selected the Greenbelt site as the location for the new FBI headquarters. The GSA's analysis of the facts and its consultations revealed that the Greenbelt site is the most fitting site of the three final candidates when all factors were considered together.

We agree with the GSA's determination that based on merit the Greenbelt site is best suited to serve the present and future FBI and the dedicated public servants who work tirelessly to protect America and uphold the law. Considering

HEADQUARTERS
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Cub Pack 1031: Scouting for Food and Hiking in the Park

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 helped collect our Scouting for Food donations and sorted them at St. Joseph's Food Pantry with Troop 1033. Afterwards the Cubs gathered and cooked hot dogs and s'mores over a campfire! Many thanks to everyone in Beltsville who donated to our food drive!! The pack collected 725 lbs. of food and the troop collected 1270 lbs. for St. Joseph's and Emmanuel United Methodist Church food pantries!! Thank you, Beltsville!

Our younger dens went on a one-mile hike and looked for

CUB PACK 1031
continues on page 4



Scouts and parents helping sort food donations for Beltsville Food pantries. Thanks for your donations!

Felicia Willis Retires After 42 Years with the Prince George's Public Library System

By Rick Bergmann

Whether you have been a regular patron or an occasional visitor to the Beltsville Public Library over the last 4 decades, chances are you have met Felicia Willis. She was always there with a smile and a willingness to help answer your questions or to assist you with finding just the right book. She was a warm and welcoming presence to all of us who spent time there. Now, after 41 years with the system, she is retiring and gaining some much deserved me-time! According to Felicia, "When you're passionate about your job, you stay where you like."

Felicia started working for the library system in 1978 as a page. She actually got her start as a summer worker during high school. She took the job because it was close to where she lived, which allowed her to walk to work every day. In 1982 a position in building and maintenance opened up and she applied. But she wasn't going to stay in that position for too long and soon enough she applied to be a circulation assistant. This truly began her upward momentum in the system. She got to meet people in the system, went to meetings and trainings, and before long she



Felicia Willis will be missed but not forgotten at the Beltsville Library. Her legacy will live on in all of those whom she has touched. We wish her well on her retirement.

was on her way up. She is retiring from the system as a Circulation Supervisor 3, a position that was offered to her by Judy Cooper, and one she never saw herself doing. According to Mrs. Willis, "I never saw myself as a supervisor, I'm more of a doer than a dictator." In time, she grew more comfortable supervising people in her new

role.

According to Felicia, "I liked what I did--shelving books, talking to people. I've always been a people person, so I enjoyed it." After she got out of school, she applied for a permanent job and that was how it started. About every 2 years she moved up until she was at the top. She began working at the age of 14. Through her early years she met a lot of women who looked out for her. "You always need people to look out for you, it takes a village to raise kids," Felicia said. And even though those women are no longer with her, they taught her a valuable lesson in life which helped her throughout her career.

As Felicia's jobs shifted and changed, so did the library system. Paper library cards have become plastic library cards that you can hang on your keychains, paper receipts with pictures of the books you were checking out and a due date have given way to digital scans and email receipts and reminders. As the neighborhood has changed, activities such as story time have changed. There are several story times instead of

WILLIS
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NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

December 13

Paper Out:

December 30

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Having said that, the bandits and crooks are out there! Please try not to become a victim. Have packages delivered to your office, a FedEx, UPS, or Amazon office or locker. Do not leave anything of value in your car and lock it. Turn your outside lights on at night. Park in a well-lit area and consider getting a steering wheel lock. When you are out shopping, especially at this time of year, if you come out of a store and put packages in your car, but are not leaving the shopping center, move your car to another location. Bandits and crooks are watching for potential victims. We need to pay attention to our surroundings, so we do not become a victim.

On a happier note, our community has numerous wonderful non-profits who help those in need year-round. All of them can use some type of assistance such as financial donations or your time.

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 2



Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

(From the Beltsville News issue of December 2008)

By Ted Ladd

Al Doong Named Good Sports Adult Player of the Year

Al Doong, formerly of Beltsville, was recently awarded the 2008 Good Sports Adult Player of the Year at Turf Valley Country Club. The award recognizes a player's dedication, respect for teammates, leadership, academic effort, community service, attitude, commitment to practice, respect for coaches and respect for officials.

In June 2008, Al was guest speaker for opening ceremonies at the Relay for Life in Howard County, which is a 12-hour walk for the American Cancer Society, and he now is involved as a



Blast from the Past, in December 2008, Al Doong was awarded Good Sports Adult Player of the Year

committee member. Al also serves as an ambassador with the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Columbia Business Exchange and a member of the Laurel Board of Trade.

Al commented, "I enjoy meeting others and getting to know those in the community who are actually, making a difference in people's lives." Al is a health and wellness consultant with Isagenix International, the world's leader in nutritional cleansing, and shows people around the country how to enjoy a better quality of life by improving their health and their finances. His website is www.gettinghealthypac.isagenix.com. (Sadly, Al Doong passed away on 6 June 2020 at age 54.)

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Festival of Lessons & Carols

COLLEGE PARK, Md— University of Maryland Choral Activities presents the 22nd annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on **Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at 8 p.m.** at the **University of Maryland's Memorial Chapel in College Park, Md.** The festival is modeled after the historic Christmas Eve tradition presented by King's College of Cambridge, which is broadcast by National Public Radio.

Conductors Kenneth Elpus, Trevor Tran, Nathan Lofton, David Mann and Kobe Brown will lead host choirs UMD Treble Choir, Tactus, and the University Chorale, accompanied by organist Bryan Holten and

Festival Brass.

Guest performers include student-led vocal ensembles Voix de Chanson and FreundeMusik. Readers from the university and community will join the artists, and audience participation is encouraged during performances of traditional Christmas carols.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for senior (62+) tickets, and \$10 for students and youth. Call 301-405-2787 or visit: <https://theclarice.umd.edu/events/2023/festival-of-lessons-carols-umd-choral-activities>

Share Your News!

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

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

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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/>)

and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.

Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Youth groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Beltsville Boys & Girls Club, our community churches, the Lions Club, and Women's Club all provide a variety of community services for you to get involved with. Contact information for all of the groups can be found in our community paper. Yes, even the Beltsville News can use your support of your time. Giving the gift of time to any of these organizations is a gift to our community! If you have any questions, contact me at Karenmcoakley@gmail.com



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Holiday Hazards for Pets

December is a wonderful time for families as they celebrate various holidays throughout the month, followed by a New Year's celebration. Unfortunately, the holidays can be a dangerous time for our furry family members. We must keep a watchful eye on our pets during the holidays as our routines may be different, decorations and different foods abound, and friends and family come and go. Here are a few things to consider during the weeks ahead:

1. When you have visitors, keep an eye on your pet when they come and go to make sure your pet does not get out. Various social media sites regularly have postings about lost pets. Such postings may increase during the holidays.
2. Holiday plants are beautiful but can cause upset stomachs or even death. Always read about the plants before you put them within reach of your pets. Mistletoe and holly (vomiting, diarrhea), yews (very toxic – seizures, difficulty breathing), lilies (life threatening kidney damage), and poinsettias (gastrointestinal issues, vomiting) should be kept away from pets.
3. Tinsel and ribbons are very interesting to cats. They love to chew them. Cats that eat them can get a blockage in their intestines. Ribbons may be beautiful on packages, but they can be deadly to cats.
4. Christmas trees can also be dangerous. The needles of fir, spruce and pine trees can be mildly toxic to cats. Pine needles may be “fun” for cats to eat but they do not pass easily and can cause an intestinal blockage. Cats may also try to climb Christmas trees, causing them to fall.
5. Christmas tree water can be dangerous because it can contain bacteria, pesticides, and mold. Don't put additives into your Christmas tree water as it can make your cat sick. Cover your Christmas tree stand to prevent pets from drinking the water.
6. Pets are often curious about



ornaments that hang down from Christmas trees. Consider hanging wooden, metal, or resin ornaments on the lower branches. Ornaments made of glass can break and cut our pets as well as family members. Trim the tree as if you had a human toddler in the house.

7. Always watch to make sure that your pets do not chew lights and wires.
8. Alcohol can be poisonous to pets and can lead to coma and death. During the holidays when some people have more alcohol in the house than usual, be careful to monitor your drinks carefully.

With a little extra diligence and observation, we can keep the holidays happy for both two legged- and four-legged family members. If your pet does ingest something harmful and you can't get to a vet quickly, contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 for instructions on what to do.

Are you looking at the upcoming winter with dread? If you are not particularly excited about spending the cold days and nights hanging out at home, consider fostering a cat or some kittens for Beltsville Community Cats. Foster kitties are entertaining, warm, cuddly, and loveable. Fostering is a great way to experience the joys of pet ownership without making a long-term commitment. Having children help with foster kitties gives them something to do and a sense of responsibility. Want to learn more about fostering, contact BCC at rescue@beltsville-cats.net.



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

**FIND US at 4220 Ammendale Road, Beltsville MD 20705,
located in the house behind the Beltsville SDA Church**

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- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

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Holiday Cheer

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



Michael Richards and Valerie Kabelac

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

*Happy Holidays
From Michael & Valerie*

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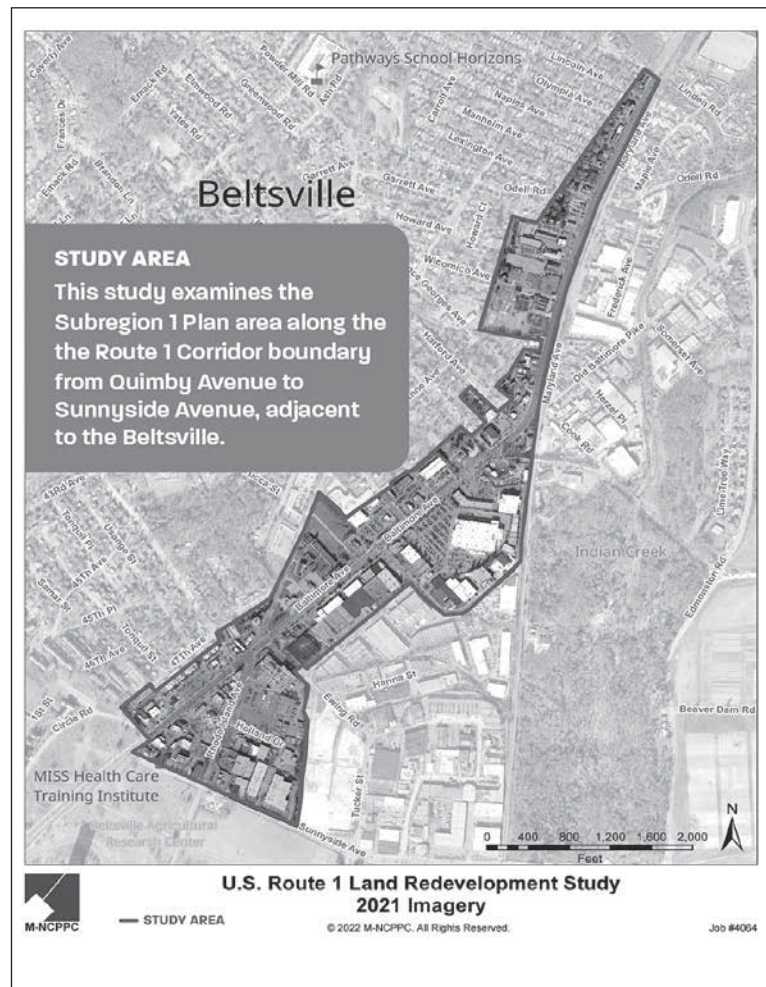
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Neighbors in the News

M-NCPPC to Host Meeting and Share Findings on the U.S. Route 1 Land Redevelopment Study

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will host a community meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, Maryland to present findings on the U.S. Route 1 Land Redevelopment Study. Planning staff will brief residents and area stakeholders on ways to improve the study area along the Route 1 Corridor boundary from Quimby Avenue to Sunnyside Avenue, adjacent to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the immediate surrounding neighborhoods. Event attendees will hear ways to make the area a thriving place to live and work, strengthen connections to places along the corridor, welcome new businesses and residents, and support the character of existing businesses and residents. The study recommendations are guided by feedback from community members through various means of participation including interviews, an online survey, in-person and virtual meetings, and a community workshop.

Interested participants should register for the workshop in advance. To access the link to the online registration form and additional details on the study (in Eng-



MNCPPC Route 1 Study Area

lish and Spanish), individuals may visit the Prince George's County

Planning Department's website: <https://pgplan.org/Rte1LRStudy>.

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CUB PACK 1031
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signs of nature and leaves. We found an Osage Orange in the park – we didn't even know there was an Osage tree in the park! They also made small birdhouses. The Bear den planted garlic cloves which will grow over the winter into garlic knobs. The Webelos dens worked on Engineer and a new Modular Design pin. We have several future engineers and adult engineering mentors in our pack!

Next month we will have our 2023 Pinewood Derby and get toys for Toys for Tots.

It is not too late to join, just contact Regina Halper at Pack-1031cubsouting@gmail.com for information. We are a family scouting unit. We learn outdoor skills, citizenship, STEM, nature and doing service. We look forward to having another fantastic year! We are back in Beltsville Academy for our den meetings. And happy to be meeting in our usual place and learning about engineering, nature, doing service and hiking in the outdoors.

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Statepoint Crossword: The 1980s

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
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63						64				65			

ACROSS

1. *"Heaven's on Fire" band
5. *Setting of "Cheers" TV show
8. Derive
13. "I'm ___ you!"
14. Gas station brand
15. Affirmatives
16. Image in Orthodox Church
17. *Robert Wagner or Stephanie Powers, on TV
18. *Vote for H.W. Bush, e.g.
19. *Weird Al's last name
21. Forum, pl.
22. Dog-___ book
23. Clingy plant
24. Spiky succulent
27. Accumulates (2 words)
31. Turkish military leader
32. Consequence
35. *Wintour of Vogue
36. Zoroaster follower
38. E in B.C.E.
39. #53 Down, third person singular
40. Do like exhaust pipe
41. Hertz' offering
43. Extra cost
44. Expert, in U.K. (2 words)
46. *Ricky Martin's boy band
48. Arrival time acronym
49. *Piano player Lee Curreri on

DOWN

1. Ornamental pond dweller
2. Deep black
3. Greek promenade
4. Shakespeare's output
5. * Lou Reed's "Home of the ___"
6. Like thick smoke
7. Campus military org.
8. Attractive to look at
9. *"Back to the Future" car
10. One on drugs
11. Cecum, pl.
12. Is, in Paris
14. "A horse is ____, of course, of course"

20. Resin-producing tree
23. Took the bait
24. *Christopher Reeve's sartorial style in "Superman II"
25. Old World lizard
26. Indigenous person from Suriname or Guyana
27. Surveyor's map
28. Mix-up
29. Not married
30. Promenade in Spain
33. Tournament ranking
34. Remains container
37. *Washington's volcano Mount ____
39. *Close of "The Big Chill"
41. Genetic initials
42. Entertained
45. Affirm to be true
47. Cavatappi or udon, sing.
49. Scapegoat's due
50. Fiber crop variety
51. Head of family
52. Deed hearing
53. Chew on
54. Schooner canvas
55. *TV's "Family ___"
56. Sound of explosion
59. *"Peggy ___ Got Married"

See Solution on page 8

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Plantify-ing The World

This month, Chair Dernoga and his Chief of Staff visited The Garden International to learn how urban farmers grow culinary mushrooms. Their mission is to ‘plantify’ the world. They strive to build restorative, sustainable systems that harmonize with nature. The Garden International believes it is time to cultivate ecosystems that feed the local community and the economy while using minimal natural resources and contributing to the health and well-being of the earth and all its inhabitants. They accomplish this by growing specialty gourmet mushrooms right here in Beltsville! You can stop in and check them out or pick up a mushroom kit for your family to start growing food at home with minimal effort. Visit www.thegarden.farm to learn more about how you too can visit and how else they are ‘plantify-ing’ the world! Specialty mushrooms, such as Fresh Lion’s Mane, Fresh Blue, Pink, or Golden Oysters, and Fresh Pioppino, to name a few, would be an excellent addition to any holiday meal.



Chair Tom Dernoga’s Chief of Staff, Michelle Garcia, at The Garden International in Beltsville.

Department of the Environment PGCLitterTRAK Progra

PGCLitterTRAK is a smartphone application developed by the Prince George’s County

Department of the Environment (DoE), designed to assist County residents, community organizations, and businesses in reporting trash and debris collected during individual and group clean-up events.

Information submitted through PGCLitterTRAK, including bags of litter removed, items collected, and litter pick-up locations, will assist DoE in meeting its trash reduction rate of **170,628 pounds per year** within the Anacostia River Watershed. Data provided will also help DoE develop real-time maps cataloging litter collected throughout the County. This easy smartphone app will take you through a series of questions that will allow us to collect data on your contribution towards a cleaner, greener Prince George’s County.

The PGCLitterTRAK map provides information on litter collection sites in Prince George’s County, which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/496nMCq>. To access the PGCLitterTRAK app, register through the PGCLitterTRAK User Sign-Up Form here

<https://bit.ly/405G1n8>.

Flu Shot

The County Health Department’s community flu clinic site is available to all residents. No appointments are required. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Injectable flu vaccines will be available to anyone ages six months and older. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/PGCflu>.

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The Best Holiday Gifts for Teachers

(StatePoint) Have some teachers in your life? Use this subject-by-subject holiday gift guide to help them level up their lesson plans:

History

Spark a vibrant classroom discussion every day with the History Channel’s This Day in History boxed calendar. Featuring brief explanations of extraordinary happenings throughout the ages -- from groundbreaking inventions to declarations of war -- teachers, and their students -- will be treated to a breadth of information that can deepen their understanding of world events, all before they even begin their official coursework.

STEM

The latest enhancement to the scientific calculator is the fx-991CW ClassWiz from Casio, a gift well-suited for any advanced high school- or college-level math, science or engineering instructor. With an all-new quadruple graded LCD display and intuitive design, users will be able to easily find their cursor while writing and modifying expressions. Its circular, convex buttons prevent the mis-keying of information, helping teachers ace their lectures and demonstrations. With the ability to store up to nine variables, which can contain integers, computations, and functions



(c) Rawpixel / iStock via Getty Images Plus

that will persist in the calculator’s memory between uses, teachers will be ready to pick up where they left off between class sessions. By partnering with the ClassWiz with an internet-capable mobile device, solutions can be graphed and visualized through ClassPad.net, a free online tool that supports student learning by offering a clean and versatile workspace for computation, graphing, geometry, statistics and more.

English

Keep English teachers excited about their subject matter with Book of the Month. This service offers subscribers a choice of one of five to seven fiction books each month. Books range from literary

HOLIDAY GIFTS
continues on page 14



(c) USO Photos

Brightening the Holiday Season for the Military Community

(StatePoint) As we enter the holiday season and Americans across the country look forward to spending time with family, thousands of service members deployed overseas – many to the Middle East in response to the Israel-Hamas war – will not have that luxury and will be spending the holidays far away from loved ones.

Here is how USO Holidays programming delivers a piece of

home to them, along with ideas for how you can get involved:

1. Care packages: A care package might seem small in light of the challenges of deployment, but for many service members, they’re a reminder that they’re not forgotten by Americans back home. Aside from standard USO Care Packages, which contain snacks or toiletries, USO Holidays Care Packages have festive treats and

goodies, such as holiday candies, cozy socks and a warm beanie, that help bridge the gap between home and the frontlines. This year, the USO will deliver 50,000 holiday packages to over 250 locations globally.

2. Holiday traditions: Giving up treasured family traditions can be difficult. That’s

MILITARY COMMUNITY
continues on page 10

Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

League of Conservation Voters says 21st District Delegation has 100% pro-environment voting record

All of the members of the 21st District Delegation have perfect 100% scores in this year's environmental scorecard. The legislative successes this year, which include the passage of the POWER Act, Community Solar program and the Clean Trucks Act, are important actions that set the stage for the urgent work ahead.

Season of Giving

Are you looking for a way to help local families during this season of giving? Here are some of our three largest local food organizations that could use your support to serve our neighbors:

Beltsville Adventist Community Center

Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) gladly accepts food donations for their food closet on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to noon, or call 301-937-8119 to make arrangements to drop them off directly. By providing canned goods and non-perishable foods, you may enable local children and families to have the kinds of nutritious meals they need to maintain health.

Women's Community Club Beltsville

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville (WCCB) invites Beltsville community members to donate funds, food, and gifts to support their efforts to serve families in need this holiday season. Any remaining funds will be used for future WCCB projects and to support community members in crisis situations. Help WCCB provide Christmas presents for children! The Christmas donation deadline is Monday, December 11. Monetary contributions and gift cards can be mailed to: Women's Community Club of Beltsville, P. O. Box 1607 Beltsville, Maryland 20704-1607. Contact Karen Coakley with questions and /or to schedule a pickup or delivery time of your donation. Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com or 301-741-7672.

From Maryland Health Connection

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



Senator Jim Rosapepe

What's new for 2024?

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

Young adult savings have been expanded. Now, Marylanders ages 18-37 can get special discounts for 2024 health plans — on top of other savings available. Value plans give you the option for lower out-of-pocket costs.

Value Plans are designed to have lower out-of-pocket costs when you use health care. For 2024, we revamped Value Plans to make the prices for standard healthcare services more transparent and more consistent across insurance companies. All insurance companies on Maryland Health Connection offer Value Plans. Value Plans use simple copays for most services and cover many services without requiring you to meet your deductible. Value Plans are a perfect fit for people with high prescription costs because they have lower caps on the amount you pay out of pocket for prescriptions. They also cover routine services for people with diabetes at no cost, including insulin, primary care visits, and specific labs.

Medicaid-Open enrollment is for private health plans only. If you're eligible, you can apply for Medicaid anytime. If you are already enrolled in Medicaid, you will receive a notice before your benefits end.

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

Again, this year, Maryland Health Connection offers Broker Connect. You can talk to an autho-

rized insurance broker in 30 minutes or less. A broker will call you to discuss your private health plan options. Best of all, it's free.

COVID info and help

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

COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Homeowners

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

Medicare Open Enrollment October 15 – December 7

Is it really that time again? Yes, it is. Open enrollment begins October 15 until December 7 so start researching those Medicare plans.

Researching Medicare plans is worse than going to the dentist for sure, and maybe worse than doing taxes. In any case, take the time to do your homework. If this is your first time or your 10th time, check out www.medicare.gov

A change for 2023 is the cost of insulin. A one-month supply of insulin will be capped at \$35 for those on Medicare Part B, and there is no deductible.

How to report potholes in Beltsville

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

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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Obituaries

Conway Weiss, Helen

Helen Conway Weiss was born in Baltimore, MD on August 25, 1921, and passed away on October 24, 2023. Her parents were Irish immigrants, and she was blessed with three sisters and one brother. She grew up in Baltimore and after graduating from Seton High School she went to work for the State of Maryland.

In 1947 she met her future husband, George William Weiss (aka "Bill"). They married December 4, 1948, and were together for 44 years until Bill died unexpectedly in 1992.

With their daughter Ellen, they moved from Baltimore to Belts-

ville in 1954. Leaving Baltimore was a challenge for her. There was no public transportation in Beltsville, so she had to learn to drive a 1950 Ford with a stick shift. She was a homemaker, a chauffeur, for kid's activities, a gardener (she knew her way around a lawn mower). She was happiest when she was cooking or doing some project - especially interior painting. Bill used to say if he stood still too long, she would paint him. She could lay down a bead of caulk as well as any professional painter.

A part of Helen never left Baltimore as evidenced by her loyalty to the old Baltimore Colts and then the Ravens. Since Bill

and Ellen outnumbered her, she did become a UMD Terrapin fan enjoying many tail gate parties. She declared that Baltimore had the best Maryland steamed crabs and crab cakes.

After Bill died, she continued the "snowbird" tradition spending the cold months in Florida where she made many friendships. The door was always open for anyone who wanted to stop by for a cup of tea.

As she moved into "very" senior citizen territory, she was constantly busy with some house or cooking project. Until the day she died, her cognitive skills were sharp. She never lost her interest in people and the world around her.

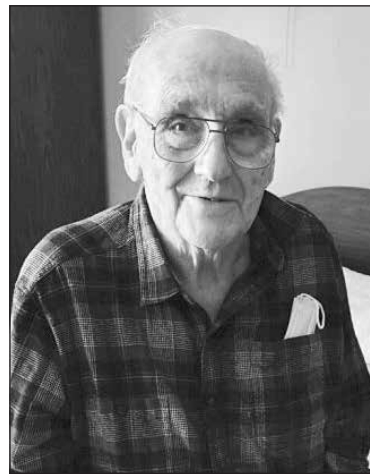
Helen is survived by her daughter, Ellen and son-in-law, Don Zebrauskas, and she is sorely missed. She was still remarkable at 102 years.

Webb, Elmo

Elmo Webb was born on August 10, 1928, and passed away on October 26, 2023. He is survived by his long-term companion, Lois Hamilton as well as his sons David and his wife Susan and Daniel and his wife Crystal. He has three surviving grandsons, Matt, and wife Tracy; Andrew, and wife Jaime; and Jason, and wife Katelin; as well as 7 great-grandchildren. Elmo and his late wife, Emma, are now finally reunited in Heaven.

Elmo was a dedicated member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. As he served in the US Marine Corp as well as the Army, he also later became a dedicated DC police officer and even worked in the White House as a secret service agent.

Elmo loved playing bluegrass



Elmo Webb



Dorothy "Dottie" Helen Roach

with his band, the String Busters. He spent much of his free time golfing, bowling, swimming, and exercising at the gym. He also enjoyed watching football and baseball on television, except when the Commanders or Nationals were losing. However, his loved ones don't know which was greater, his passion for sports, food, or traveling.

Elmo loved to travel often with Lois. They enjoyed Hawaii, Myrtle Beach, and Alaska to name just a few places. But nobody would argue that his greatest passions were his family and friends. Lois, and his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and daughters-in-law were clearly his joy. Perhaps Elmo is shining down living through his loved ones today.

Roach, Dorothy "Dottie" Helen

Dorothy "Dottie" Helen Roach of Howard County, MD, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, November 17, 2023. She was born on March 20, 1942, in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Michael Senko and Mary Skiba Senko. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, John David Roach, her son J. Michael Roche and his wife Tanya Spann Roche, her daughter Valerie Roche, and her beloved grandchildren Alec Roche and Sabrina Roche. She is also survived by her sister Mary

Margaret Fineran and her brother Thomas Senko and their spouses, as well as several nieces and nephews. As a Navy family, Dottie and John lived in many places including Sunnyvale, CA, Panama City Beach, FL, Jacksonville, FL and Virginia Beach, VA. They then settled in Beltsville, MD, for over 40 years, and Dottie worked as a secretary for the USDA Agricultural Research Service until she retired. Dottie's passions were music, art, swimming and dancing. She and John enlivened any wedding with their wonderful dance moves, and she enjoyed painting and listening to music as much as possible. She also loved spending time with her extended family, celebrating many birthdays, anniversaries and holidays together. One of her great joys was welcoming her grandchildren to "Nana camp" and being such an important part of their childhoods. Dottie was loved deeply and will be missed dearly.

Friend and family visitation will take place on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 10 AM to 11 AM, followed by the funeral service at 11 AM, both at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Interment will follow the funeral service at MD Veteran's Cemetery Crownsville, 1122 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, MD 21032.

Crossword Solution from page 5

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FBI

continued from page 1

cost to the taxpayer, equity, construction timeline, transportation access, and the FBI's mission requirements, we have long believed that Greenbelt is the best site for this crucial facility. We are pleased that the GSA arrived at the same conclusion. Our decades-long, bipartisan effort to bring the Maryland sites' many merits to the GSA's attention was never about politics. It was always about making the case for what is best for the FBI, our region, and the country.

Team Maryland has worked tirelessly to deliver this result together. Our close cooperation will continue as we break ground on this new headquarters and tackle other pressing issues facing Marylanders. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure the FBI has the best possible headquarters in the quickest timeframe so that we can facilitate a smooth transition to Prince George's County. We look forward to building a strong, productive partnership with the Bureau and its staff."

Out and About at Riderwood and the Local Community

Silver Spring, MD - "My friends jokingly say I am always involved with something, but they're right," says Ed Vilade, a resident of Riderwood, an Erickson Senior Living community in Silver Spring, Md. "I balance my time between activities on and off campus. I enjoy being busy, so I do what I can to fit it all in."

At Riderwood, Ed keeps busy by singing in two choirs and participating in a number of clubs and groups. In the larger community, Ed performs with an opera company, takes voice lessons, and plays golf with friends.

"Ed's experience exemplifies the way Riderwood residents enjoy the best of both worlds," says Sales Director Josh Runkles. "There's so much to do on campus, but Riderwood's enviable location in Silver Spring, Md., makes it easy to access both Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., for sporting events, arts and entertainment programs, and retail and dining options."

An artist's heart

Ed and his wife Alice moved to Riderwood seven years ago from



Members of the Riderwood Play Reading Group

nearby Bethesda, Md.

"At the time, I was singing in a chorus and one of the members, who was living at Riderwood, invited me to come over and sing," says Ed. "Alice and I liked what we saw. We looked around at a variety of retirement communities, but Riderwood was our top choice. We really liked the activities and the people."

After settling into their apartment home, Ed dove into community life. He joined two chorus groups at Riderwood: The Gentleman Songsters, a men's chorus performing Broadway show tunes

and favorite classics, and the Village Early Music Ensemble, a coed group singing musical selections from the 15th to 18th centuries.

Always looking for opportunities to exercise his love of performing, Ed also joined Riderwood's play reading group.

"Residents audition to perform in a play reading," he says. "I've performed in two productions and am currently directing a reading of Under Milk Wood, a 1954 radio drama by Welsh poet Dylan Thomas."

In addition, Ed serves as chair

of the Writers Guild, overseeing the publication and distribution of the group's periodic publication, Tales from Riderwood, filled with resident-written memoirs, fiction, and poems.

"I also work with Caring Connections, a joint effort between residents and staff members to educate residents on the important financial, medical, and legal issues we must confront to ensure peace of mind as we grow older," he adds.

Casting a wide net

In addition to his numerous on-campus activities, Ed juggles a full calendar of endeavors in the larger community.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, he joins a group of his Riderwood neighbors for a round of golf at Montgomery County Parks' Northwest public course. But it's his lifelong passion for the performing arts that keeps him the busiest.

"I was an aspiring actor and singer as a young man--I even had a few paying gigs," he says. "Fifteen years ago, I began performing with the Victorian Lyric Opera

Company, appearing in approximately 40 shows."

Recently, Ed performed in the company's productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S. Pinafore and The Sorcerer. He is currently busy rehearsing for Johann Strauss II's Die Fledermaus.

"I keep performing because they keep casting me. I may be the oldest tenor in captivity!" he jokes. "I can still hit a B, so I'm the designated top note performer."

To keep himself in first-class performing condition, Ed travels to Rockville, Md., each week for voice lessons. "I wouldn't be singing without the lessons," he says. "My teacher ensures I sing with the proper technique."

Many of Ed's neighbors appreciate the opportunity to see him on stage. For his most recent production, more than two dozen community members traveled together--via Riderwood's shuttle service--to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville to see him perform.

RIDERWOOD
continues on page 13



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Programming Languages

First Program

In 1976 I wrote my first computer programs in Fortran, a language that had been created in the 1950's to aid in scientific programming. The purpose of a programming language was to make it easier for humans to provide the instructions to control the actions a computer takes to solve a problem. The instructions were supposed to be easier for people to understand than the binary numbers that actually controlled the computer. A person would write the program in Fortran for example and the computer would compile the program into the ones and zeros that formed binary code. And yes, I did submit my programs on punch cards.



which started by showing people how to create their own Basic interpreters to run programs on their home-built microcomputers.

Technology Changes

The 1980's saw amazingly rapid changes to technology, including the hardware in computing and the languages used to program it. Pascal gave us a new learning language that compiled the code to binary like Fortran but gave us better tools for designing well written code introducing us to "structured programming". Then the University of California in San Diego (UCSD) gave us the P-Code engine. P-code was an intermediate code representing a virtual computer. The compiler would take Pascal source and convert it to p-code. The p-code then executed on a program that interpreted the p-code as if it were hardware. The Pascal program now runs on any hardware that runs the p-code machine. This same technique inspired the byte-

code machine used in the present-day Java programming language.

New languages were exploding all around. Lisp showed up inspiring experimentation in artificial intelligence and giving us the Emacs editor. C escaped from the Unix labs providing great system development tools. Smalltalk lets us begin exploring object orientation. Spreadsheets introduced a completely new way of creating solutions that does not even feel like programming.

Even Bigger Changes

It started slowly, hardly even noticed. First one computer was hooked up to a telephone with a modem and connected to another computer. Then people wanted this automated, and modem software started to include "scripting languages." This could automatically dial a number, run a script, exchange some information, then hang-up and repeat with a different computer. New protocols were created to exchange news, scientific papers, and other information. The telephone wires were replaced with higher speed network wires and then fiber optics. Soon we were all caught in the net, the Internet that is. Now we are seeing many new scripting languages.

Read the Script

Scripting languages often start to simplify common problems by

creating special purpose languages. Examples include control of a phone dialer by writing Procomm modem scripts, or an easier way to display a resume on a web page (PHP). We added Perl to simplify common administrative tasks and it ended up creating content for much of the early web. Visual Basic for applications turns our office tools into programming tools to help us handle repetitive tasks. JavaScript started as a scripting language to help make web page content more dynamic (as did PHP).

More Languages than the United Nations

There are many more languages out there that I have not covered (and won't). C has a younger Object-Oriented sibling C++ and another that the parents will not claim Objective-C. Pascal evolved into Modula, and Delphi. Ada is a great example of a language designed by a government committee. While Java seems to me to have evolved into what Ada should have been. There are languages I barely remember like Algol, Snobol, PL1, and Scheme. There are languages like Perl, which was great when you were writing code with it, but a year later you cannot remember what the code did. Sorry Perl fans, but I loved the language and now I find I can no longer read my old code,

so I seem to be better with Awk (yet another scripting language). Do we lisp when we code in Lisp? Is it OK if my fourth language was not Fortran and can I do that in reverse polish notation? Finally, how many variants of Basic do we still need? Feel free to look up all of these languages in Wikipedia.

Is There a Point?

Ok, first let me point out a couple of things. There are way more languages than I could ever hope to cover in one single article, also each language seems to have a sweet spot, where that language is the perfect language to solve a specific type of problem.

A lecture I like to give to classes of new programmers. I call it, "If all you have is a hammer, then everything looks like a nail." This is often my response to the question "why do I have to learn another programming language; I already know Java" (or any another language of the day).

My philosophy is the more tools you have the more types of problems you can solve well. As the blind man said to his deaf dog, "I see" as he picked up his hammer and saw.

I know this was not very holiday oriented, but I have wanted to write this article for a while, and I hope you enjoyed it. I wish all of you best wishes during this holiday season.

MILITARY COMMUNITY

continued from page 6

why USO Centers and USO Mobile teams host holiday meals for service members and their families, complete with special treats ranging from pumpkin and sweet potato pie to hot cocoa bars. Each December, USO Holidays Cookie Week celebrates the time-honored tradition of baking and decorating cookies, putting service members and military fami-

lies in the holiday spirit wherever they are located. Other seasonal programming can include tree decorating, arts and crafts, holiday-themed movie nights and ugly sweater competitions. Through these activities, service members stationed far from home can still make holiday memories.

3. Connections to home: Staying connected to family during the holidays can be difficult for service members stationed overseas, particularly for those in or near

regions in conflict such as Eastern Europe or the Middle East. The USO Reading Program enables deployed service members to record themselves reading a book to their child. Then, the recording and a copy of the book are sent to that service member's family.

4. Happy travels: As most people know, holiday travel can be especially taxing. Thousands of service members and trainees from military installations across the country participate in the Holi-

day Block Leave period, many traveling through some of the busiest airports in the United States to be with their families during the holidays. USO airport centers can alleviate some of that stress for service members and trainees by providing a place to relax and unwind before the next leg of their journey, along with all the comfort items they need.

To learn more about these programs and how to support them, and for ideas on how to reach

out to the military community to express your thanks during the holidays and throughout the year, visit uso.org/campaign/holidays.

The holiday season can look very different for service members and military families who must celebrate while separated from loved ones and home in all corners of the world. Bringing everyone together on special days fosters camaraderie and positivity and provides a welcome break from the demands of military life.

Boosipherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III,

a.k.a. BOO





The Women's Community Club of Beltsville and Volunteers helping make Montgomery Road a cleaner place!

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville Cleans Up Montgomery Road!

By Maren Mayhew

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville conducted its Adopt A Road cleanup of Montgomery Road on October 28. We then went to the Beltsville Community Center and planted

daffodil bulbs around the flagpole. Be sure to look for the flowers in the spring! This year we were accompanied by Robert Franc from the PGC County Office of Community Relations. Thank you for your help!

Beltsville Lions Club Activities

By Ted Ladd

Members of the Beltsville Lions Club participated in the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Fest celebration on 28 October. Lions Michael and Deedee Musachio were key to the club's involvement. Michael cooked hundreds of hotdogs for attendees while Deedee was kept busy with an information table and acquiring more food for attendees as supplies dwindled. They were joined by Lions Camillo DiCamillo and Ann & Ted Ladd.

District Governor Chris Wooters



District Governor Chris Wooters

ers paid an official visitation to the club on the evening of 1 November. Wooters told the club of his orientation toward helping others in need. His discussion had impact. In fact, one in attendance decided to join the club, and we are happy to welcome Linda Rossi as a new member. Linda's sponsor is Lion Karen Coakley.

Club members will meet on December 6 at their annual holiday party. Club members wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a Happy New Year of 2024.

The Women's Club of Beltsville

By Karen Coakley

The Women's Club of Beltsville is celebrating our 101st year! Would you like to learn more about us? Then join us for our next meeting on December 11 at 7:00 pm at the Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club, 11705 Roby Avenue. Light Refreshments will be served.

Holiday Food, Gift & Fund-Raising Program 2023

It is that time of year again for our Annual Food and Gift Program, as well as fundraising for our other important projects. We are asking Beltsville businesses, schools, service organizations, social clubs, churches, and individuals to help us provide food and gifts for needy families in the Beltsville Commu-

nity during the holidays. We would like to be in a position to provide assistance. The funds may also go towards some of our other projects and partners such as Scholarship/Leadership programs for teens, Beltsville Beautification, Adopt A Road, Partnership programs with Schools, the Police Department, the Fire Department and MNCPPC Beltsville Boys & Girls Club, to name a few. There are times during the year when families are in crisis, and they reach out to us for help. We hope that you can assist us in these worthy endeavors.

We provide Gift Cards from Aldi's at Thanksgiving. During the Christmas season, we provide presents by accepting new toys and new clothes for children. Monetary contributions and store gift cards (suggestions: TJMAXX, Marshall's, Amazon, Kohls, Ross,

Wal-Mart, Target, Aldi, Lidl, Safeway, Shoppers, Giant Visa or Mastercard) are also appreciated. You or your organizations are welcome to sponsor a child or a family. Contact Karen Coakley (Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com or 301-741-7672) with questions or to schedule a pickup or delivery time of your donation.

As a certified 501©3 organization, all contributions are tax deductible. Donations can be made through PayPal by using our email address Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com.

Monetary contributions and gift cards can be mailed to: Women's Community Club of Beltsville P. O. Box 1607 Beltsville, Maryland 20704-1607. To see a list of activities visit our Facebook page, search Women's Community Club of Beltsville.

December at the College Park American Legion Post 217

December at the College Park American Legion Post 217 is going to be HUGE!

Our annual Christmas indoor Bazaar will be held Saturday December 2 from 8-2. Come do your gift shopping for everyone. There will be crafts and more for sale.

On Sunday, December 10 our annual Christmas show will take place starring award winning Moses Snow, Camron Robertson, the Doug Lester Band as well as our own member, the Legend himself, Ronnie Dove. Tickets are \$35 per person. Food and drinks will

be available for purchase.

New Year's Eve will be rockin' again! By popular demand, our own Beltsville native, Johnny Seaton and his Bad Behavior Band will be here to entertain us on December 31 from 8 pm-12:30 am. There will be food, champagne toast, noisemakers, and hats as well as donuts and coffee for your trip home. Tickets are \$50 each, so come out and celebrate with us!

Call Tina 301-935-5308 for tickets or information about both shows.

Beltsville Young at Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

No one went away hungry. I can say that about our November 16 potluck meeting. We had a lot of take-home meals, too. Everyone seemed to be really pleased.

Our December 21 meeting will be a little different, too. Since it's so close to Christmas, we'll have a "goodies dessert" table with holiday sweets. Then we'll have a "Crazy Santa" gift give away. Bring a wrapped gift (not over \$10.00 value) and you'll have a chance to get one if you bring one. Please mark if for male or female. We'll sing Christmas carols if people want, but no entertainment. We will have 50/50,

Ways & means and membership fees of \$15.00 for 2024 for those who need to pay.

A Reminder about our snow policy is: if P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet. This will go for winter 2024 also.

Our January 18, 2024, entertainment will be a local Beltsville man named "Johnny Seaton." If you've never seen or heard him, come and enjoy his great voice. "There is a difference between INTEREST and COMMITMENT. When you're interested in something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results."

—K. Streiker

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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.

SANTA FLY-IN

Sat., Dec. 2. Santa lands at the airport between 10 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Activities and photos begin afterwards and last until 4 p.m. Enjoy crafts and activities in the museum and photos with Santa. Photos will be scheduled by reserved time slot. To reserve a slot, please send an email to collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Ages: All. Cost: \$5 per person (all guests over the age of 2 must have a ticket) To register: www.tinyurl.com/CPAMSanta2023. Field of First

Foundation members are free and do not need to reserve a ticket, but do need to reserve a photo slot.

TRAINS AND PLANES WEEKEND

Hours of operation: **Fri., Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.:** enjoy extended evening hours and activities as we kick off this annual tradition. Advance registration not required. **Sat., Dec 16 and Sun., Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.** The National Capital Trackers bring their fleet of model trains to the museum for the holiday season! Explore the magical displays and chat with train enthusiasts as you learn about the connection between trains and the College Park Airport. Cost: Free with museum admission.

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

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Contact the Visitor Center for updates. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.gov. 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

The featured artist for December is nature and landscape photographer Bill Reichhardt. The regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Tue. – Sat. at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. **Ages 3 – 10*;** *Parents are required to work with their child at each of the parent-led activities. Registration is strongly recommended; call 301.497.5760.* Children will explore and learn about nature and the environment through engaging, age-appropriate activities, crafts, and games. Older siblings are welcome to join with parents and work with younger siblings to help them understand and complete the activities. ***NOTE:** The Kid's Discovery Center is neither baby-proofed nor appropriate for children younger than 3-years-old, due to small items featured in the exhibits and activities.

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., Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m.

This will be our Holiday Party and will feature holiday tunes by the Sara Jones Duo.

- Every Tuesday Bingo: 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.

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., Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705. Since it's so close to Christmas, we'll have a goodies dessert table with holiday sweets. Then we'll have a Crazy Santa gift give away. Bring a wrapped gift (not over \$10.00 value) and you'll have a chance to get one if you bring one. Please mark if for male or female. We'll sing Christmas carols if people want, but no entertainment will be provided. We will have 50/50, Ways & Means, and membership fees of \$15.00 for 2024 for those who need to pay. **A reminder about our snow policy: if P.G. schools are late or closed, we DO NOT meet.** This will go for winter 2024 also.

- Save the Date: Our Jan. 18, 2024 meeting will feature entertainment by Beltsville man Johnny Seaton. If you've never seen or heard him, come and enjoy his great voice.

- The Beltsville Young at Heart Club is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

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

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Dec. 9 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Build your child's confidence as they read to a specially trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 15 minutes. First come, first served.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

Meets from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday through Dec. 12. Volunteers provide homework help for 1st graders through 6th graders. Please register online at <https://www1.pgcmlls.info/events>.

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY-2-READ STORYTIME

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

PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES

FAMILY ART TIME

Sat., Dec. 2 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Specifically for children who have autism or other exceptional needs and their families. Presented by Kyle's Art for Autism World, Inc., this program aims to spread autism awareness throughout the community while offering a creative and welcoming space for individuals with exceptional needs to express themselves through art.

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Dec. 11 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Join us for Needlework Social where you can bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

UPSTAGE ARTISTS PRESENTS THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids--probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem - and the fun - when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on! This is the perfect show for families. It's a great way to introduce your children to the joys of live theater! December 1, 2, 8, and 9 at 7:30 pm and December 3 and 10 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be bought online at www.upstageartists.com/tickets or at the door.



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How to Host the Holidays Affordably

(StatePoint) From getting your home ready for guests and finding the perfect gifts to preparing a delicious meal, the holidays can seem overwhelming and expensive – but they don't have to be. Take the following steps to save time and money on seasonal essentials.

Prepping Your Home

To get your home ready for holiday hosting, begin by decluttering surface areas such as tables and kitchen counters. Next, take an inventory and purchase any additional cleaning supplies you'll need for a deep clean. Remember, air care products like festive candles or sprays can freshen cleaned spaces. Next, decorate by sprinkling different holiday décor pieces in the rooms' focal points. For example, add themed table settings in the dining room and wrap holiday garland around fixtures such as the fireplace mantle or staircase.

Making the Menu

Food is a unifying component of any holiday celebration. To get started, set a menu that consists of a variety of appetizers, light snacks, side dishes, entrees and desserts to accommodate guests'



(c) monkeybusinessimages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

cravings and preferences. Consider using healthier variations of the season's comforting and tasty dishes with DG Better For You recipes, which include Potato Crusted Chicken and Green Bean Casserole. Before heading to the store, write your grocery list in advance and make a plan to purchase private brand products to stretch your budget further.

Gift Guide

Shopping for the perfect gift for everyone on your list can be easy when using DG's holiday gift guide found at dollargeneral.com. Consider placing three self-care products such as soap, a face mask and a bath bomb into a decora-

tive basket with tissue paper to shine on presentation. To have children of all ages jumping for joy, save on national toy brands at your local Dollar General such as Melissa & Doug, LEGO, Fisher-Price, Play Doh, Barbie, Pokémon, L.O.L. Surprise!, ZURU 5 Surprise and more.

For additional savings, use DG's app for digital coupons and weekly ads with new sales and promotions.

By planning ahead, you can celebrate this season in style and within budget, giving you more time to create lasting memories with friends and family!

WILLIS

continued from page 1

just one they have different ones for different ages in both English and Spanish. STEM programs and Dance programs have been added to the list of events offered at the library as well. The great thing, she pointed out, is that all these events at the library are free. The demographics have changed as well. The neighborhood has gone from mainly African American and Caucasian families to a much more diverse community.

A big shift is the culture of reading, people don't read as much as they once did. "Kids spend more time on their phones, which is why the library tries to offer programs to bring them in and encourage reading. According to Mrs. Willis, everything is moving towards downloading books and using Libby. Libby is a free app where you can enjoy eBooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines from your public library. This means that there aren't as many physical books in the library as there once were. But don't panic; if you still prefer physical books, the library will work with you to get a copy from other counties in MD or other states entirely.

Felicia is most proud of her moments as a teacher, a trainer, a leader, and a positive person who takes the initiative to do things that other people don't do. She says that at times she has felt like "a doctor, lawyer, a social worker, a financial planner, because people

always think I have it together." When she began in the system, she learned a lot from two powerful supervisors, Carol Alcorn and Lottie Keys. They taught her to stay focused, know your job, and do the best that you can do in that position. She has used those words of wisdom in her years at the Beltsville Branch. She stayed at the Beltsville Branch for so long because "it's a good place, a safe place."

Over her four decades, she has always had a kind word and advice for the children who spent time at the library. There were kids whose parents were working and with no other place to go they would come to the library and read. Many would stay until the library closed. She has parents that come back to the library now and thank her for helping their children. When we posted on social media that Felicia was retiring and that we had planned this article, Kathleen Morris posted "Felicia knew all my kids' names and what they liked to read."

The kids at the library weren't the only ones who benefited from Felicia's time at Beltsville. She has been the volunteer coordinator, helping high school kids earn their service-learning hours. Additionally, she has taught classes that educate senior citizens about using Chromebooks, among many other things.

I couldn't conduct an interview without asking the hardest question for a library employee: What books would you recommend? Felicia says she loves biog-

raphies, particularly Don't Block the Blessings by Patti Labelle and books by Kiki Swinson. "Reading is fundamental, you learn things and it helps you out in your everyday life. People don't realize that." She is also pleased that she was able to meet several authors, including Patti Labelle, Terry McMillan, and Stedman Graham (Oprah Winfrey's partner). She loves authors and meeting them was always exciting.

Now that she's retired, Mrs. Willis wants to travel with her husband, see her grandchildren, and just do what she wants to do. She plans to continue to volunteer once a week to help senior citizens learn how to use a Chromebook. She says "I'm going to do what I want to do; I'm not going to be tied down to a job. I'm going to get up when I want to, go to sleep when I want to--I just want to do me." Something we can all look forward to in retirement.

When asked about what advice she would give to people who want to work in the library, she said "it's an awesome place to work. It's a nice environment with great people who are so smart and so intelligent, and you can learn a lot from them. Come on down! There's no other place better than here [the library] to work." Felicia shared this quote from Henry Ford with me, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." I can't think of a more fitting tribute to Felicia Willis's legacy at the Beltsville Library.

RIDERWOOD

continued from page 9

The world at his feet

Remarkably, Ed also finds time to embark on at least two multi-week trips each year. This summer, the couple went on a boat tour of the Great Lakes, and they're looking forward to their upcoming trip to Scandinavia to celebrate Ed's birthday.

"We love to travel, and living at Riderwood makes it easy to do

so," he says. "We inform security, hire a cat sitter, and head out the door. We've been to Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, all over Europe, and around the U.S."

Looking forward to the New Year, Ed plans to continue traveling, performing, and contributing to community life at Riderwood.

"The best part about being busy is enjoying enriching experiences," he says. "I am very happy here!"

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Beltsville News

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Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever

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Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

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301-937-7183

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 11:00am;
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am

*The Mass on Sunday 8:30am is also live streamed, connect with us on Flocknote for the link. ** The Mass on Wednesday is only when School is open.

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

HOLIDAY GIFTS

continued from page 6

fiction to thrillers and even YA to interest readers of all kinds. As the gift giver, you can choose between a 3-, 6- or 12-book membership, which recipients can receive at their own pace. Who knows? Your gift may just motivate them to create their own after school book club that will inspire their students to engage with literature on a deeper level.

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When blameless Zechariah stood in prayer before the Lord, An angel, Gabriel, appeared to give a special word; "Your answer is Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a boy, Through John old prophecies will be fulfilled to bring great joy."

But Zechariah doubted what the emissary said, Perceiving things by his own eyes, and not by faith instead. "Well, shut my mouth," he thought, and that is just what Heaven did; He lost his speech until the child was born and put to bed.

How many times has God responded to our anxious needs, Done more than we've expected, and yet we're slow to believe? Our understanding limits Him, because our minds are small. The One Who made all things declares His mercies as He calls,

"Be like the little virgin to whom this same angel came Proclaiming she'd give birth to the Messiah; Jesus' name Would be heard 'round the world throughout the centuries because He'd take away the sins of man upon a Roman cross."

We celebrate His birthday in December ev'ry year; His resurrection gave clear witness why God's Son came here. Don't let your heart resist the message which this season brings God keeps His promises and always does more than we think.

Beckie Hutchings
10/31/2023

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



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Contact membership chairperson Ann Ladd at annladd1937@gmail.com for details



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Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned
Zoom details can be found on our website
You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.

Come see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" beginning December 1. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.upstageartists.com/tickets

Join us for our Christmas Eve Cantata from our Praise Team, Sunday December 24 at 11 am!



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Keith Holland, Pastor



You are invited to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus, Our Savior at a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 6:00 p.m.


Abundant Grace; Abundant Life; Abundant God!

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Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
*Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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Jason's Jive By Jason Inanga

I am so sorry for not being able to have a column last month. I had a few challenges at work as we had a top Corporate Executive spend two days in the Dallas Market and I had to shadow him, attend meetings, take photographs everywhere he went and then produce a few publications on some very tight deadlines. Kind of reminded me of my times as a Correspondent in St. Kitts, typing really fast to get breaking news filed and the challenge of using internet dial up to upload photos from my floppy disk (I used a Sony Mavica at the time).

A lot has happened in the past month. I officially launched my Public Relations and Marketing Company, Hibiscus Place Media and simultaneously got drafted into a few projects, the most notable being the African Cultural Film Festival, AFRICUFF, in Houston. You will hear me talk more about this as it was a great opportunity to network and create some alliances with key players in the Nigerian Film Industry (popularly known as Nollywood). One highlight of the Festival for me was meeting a top Producer/Director, Uzodinma Okpechi. He is seen as one of the stalwarts of Nollywood. The film festival coincided with the release of his latest project on Amazon Prime. The movie, Kamsi, is centered around Dozie and his daughter, Kamsi. While going about their

daily routine, Dozie (a widower) and Kamsi fall victims to gun violence. Kamsi is hit and her life is in immediate jeopardy. Dozie, as a father, now has to go outside his comfort zone to ... (oh you thought I will tell you everything about the movie? Lol. No, I will not, you have to watch it like I had to).

Kamsi, the movie was used to close the African Film Festival last month in Houston and it won many different awards, including Best Director and Best Actor (Wole Ojo). I will share brief comments from each of them, about the movie. Space is limited, but you can go to my LinkedIn Profile, Jason Inanga, to see a more in-depth interview, which sheds a lot of light on the socio-economic theme of the movie, which in reality is the danger that many face, daily, not only in Nigeria, but throughout Africa.

Here is an excerpt:
What motivated the movie?
 The motivation for KAMSI was that of rebellion.
 I was rebellious of a system in Nollywood that wanted every film to be a comedy because according to the exhibitors, that was what Nigerians wanted to see. I thought otherwise.

It appears you picked the right actors/actresses for the roles. What went into narrowing down your choices?

My Choice of actors was based on a single fact - Acting. I wanted Actors that could act either known or not. I wanted actors that would give believable performances such that it is easier for the audience to suspend their disbelief.

What do you want viewers to learn from this movie?
 The viewer walks away knowing that no matter what comes your way, you can cage a man but not his will.

Why did you put it on Amazon Prime and not Netflix?
 Amazon showed interest immediately when they saw the preview of the movie. For me, that says a lot.

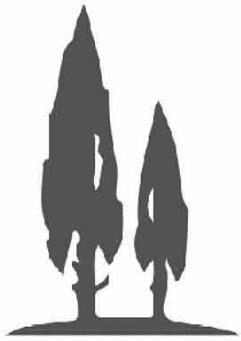
The making of a movie of this magnitude -- filmed in 2018 but released in 2023...What was going on behind the scenes, with the post-production? Kamsi was shot in 2018. It took 5 years to finish post-production because I ran out of finance. That's the life of an independent filmmaker. Finance is usually a struggle. So, I was editing in bits until I got over the line.

So, my dear reader, go read the rest of the interview on LinkedIn or better still, please watch the movie. Have a nice thanksgiving when it comes. I am excited as I will be hanging with friends from St. Kitts, I have not seen in over 20 years - we all live in Dallas. Eat in moderation and please stay safe.

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