**Beltsville VFD Dedicates New Ambulance**

By Todd Reitzel

On December 10 the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department dedicated its new ambulance, the first one owned by the department since the 1970s. Prince George’s County owned previous ambulances used by the company.

“The new ambulance with its newer equipment will allow us to provide more consistent support to our emergency medical service (EMS) volunteers,” said Margie Dickey, the department’s president. “Many of our volunteers are EMS-only, and having this state-of-the-art equipment helps our volunteer base.”

The new vehicle is a Ford F550 XLT, and it features a Stryker Power-LOAD stretcher system. The system allows the volunteers to load and unload a patient without risking injury of the volunteers doing the heavy lifting, allowing personnel to focus on other areas of medical service.

The new vehicle cost the department $266 thousand, and the Stryker system cost an additional $30 thousand. The department now has three fire engines, one ladder truck, one ambulance, and three other vehicles. The department runs operations using citizen donations and purchases vehicles using a combination of State of Maryland grants and citizen donations.

For more information about the department, visit www.beltsville-vfd.com.

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**Another Door Opens at Laurel Mill Playhouse**

The holiday festivities are over, the gifts are unwrapped, and you are looking for something to do. How about coming out to see a show about an artificial intelligence who is responsible for accidentally destroying the world and trying to repopulate the earth with only four human beings and her two android assistants in a rundown fallout shelter? Doesn’t sound too complicated, does it? Oh, and did I mention this is a comedy?

Laurel Mill Playhouse’s 2019 season kicks off with Another Door Opens. Another Door PLAYHOUSE continues on page 4

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**Beltsville SDA Girls Win Basketball Tournament**

By Jason Inanga

Earlier this month, the girls basketball team of the Beltsville Seventh-Day Adventist School won the Maryland Excel Girls Basketball Middle School Tournament for 2018. The weekend invitational tournament was held in the gym of Spencerville Academy in Burtonsville.

Beltsville won all its games. The team was coached by Yoel Habtermariam of the Physical and Health Education Department of the school.

The girls basketball team of the Beltsville Seventh-Day Adventist School poses with their trophy.

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**The Darryl Davis Band to Perform in College Park**

Daryl Davis will be tickling the ivories just down the street on Saturday, January 5, from 8 to 11 pm! We are putting on a fabulous dance at the College Park American Legion! Your feet won’t stay still to Daryl’s boogie-woogie beat!! Tickets are $15.00 (cash only please) and can be purchased at the door. There will also be food and drink available for purchase.

The American Legion is located at 9218 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740.

The Darryl Davis Band, Daryl has worked with numerous other performers (The Coasters, The Platters, The Drifters, and many others. Daryl’s work with The Legendary Blues Band, Daryl has worked with the Baltimore Orioles, The Washington Nationals, The Washington Redskins, and many others. Daryl’s CDs CDs are available at all major online outlets, as well as at the Laurel Mill Playhouse, and the Beltsville SDA Church.

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**New Traffic Pattern at Maryland Farms**

By Jason Inanga

Construction work at the entrance to the Maryland Farms Shopping Center off Cherry Hill Road has been completed, and motorists are encouraged to exercise caution as they become familiar with the new traffic pattern to enter and exit the shopping center.

The shopping center, which, apart from being home to Popeye’s and Subway, also has some bars, an Indian Restaurant, Enterprise Car Rental, convenience stores, and a hair salon.

Traffic signals have also been erected at the intersection and are now operational. The enhancement is welcome because the intersection has always been a scene of accidents, typically caused by traffic coming over the brow of a hill at high speeds.
Per-Fit African Boutique Reopens on Powder Mill Road

In 2016, Per-Fit African Boutique’s location in Takoma Park closed due to an extreme fire. The owners lost everything. Now, after nearly three years, they have rebuilt all that was lost. They are excited to say Per-Fit African Boutique is open for business again, this time right here in Beltsville!

You can come and shop their new inventory. They have a large selection of authentic African clothing for women, men, and children as well as an abundance of fabric and lace. They have lots in store with plans to have events that support the local community.

The Per-Fit African Boutique is conveniently located at 4418 Powder Mill Rd, Beltsville, MD. The new location is centered right in the heart of Beltsville, just minutes away from Laurel and College Park, and hours of operation are 9 am–7 pm Monday–Saturday. Please note: the boutique will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day to observe the holidays.

Cub Pack 1031: A Scout is Friendly

For December, Cub Pack 1031 scouts and their families donated toys to Dr. Bear’s Toy Closet at Children’s National Hospital. The toys will be distributed to sick children at the medical center and their offices.

We also had our annual holiday party on December 17 where we made decorations and had a wonderful visit from the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department’s Santa. Many thanks to Al Schwartz for his last-minute arrangement for them to drop by.

This month, Tigers learned about nutrition. Bears complet-

CUB PACK 1031 continues on page 14

Beltsville News

Neighbors in the News

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Beltsville News
The Crescent Nursery and Summer Program

Est. 1959
11723 Chilcock Lane, Beltsville, MD
(301) 937-3133

Children 2-6 Years
and
Before/After School Program

Qualified staff. A caring environment. Specially planned programs. Snacks provided.
Open all year. All day.

The Beltsville Recreation Council along with the Beltsville Recreation Center and our judges from Councilmember Tom Dergona’s office and our sponsor the Prince George’s Community Federal Credit Union would like to thank the winners and other participants in the home decorating contest.

Devyn Devantier, Winner 1st place in the Beltsville Recreation Council’s Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Kim and Dean Thomas, Winner 2nd place (tied) in the Beltsville Recreation Council’s Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Hannah Ong, Winner 2nd place (tied) in the Beltsville Recreation Council’s Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Bonnie Bartel
301-343-8887
Call, Text or Email me for an appointment
Bonsnoburn@aol.com
Image Hair n Things
10611 Montgomery Rd
Beltsville, MD 20705

NEW YEARS SALE
January
1st thru 31st
Decorate for the New Year

20% Off
Art, Mirrors
& Furniture (non-sale items only)

$5.00 Off
regular retail
price per gallon
of Ben Moore
Paint
Regal, Natura,
& Aura

20% Off
Custom made
draperies,
valences and
upholstery
(fabric only)

Michael & Valerie wish our Friends and Customers a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!!

Will’s Decorating
10508 Baltimore Avenue,
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-6100
Bernota, Matthew Joseph
Matthew Bernota, a longtime resident of Beltsville, died July 5. He grew up in Beltsville where he attended Beltsville Elementary and High Point Jr. Sr. High School, from which he graduated in 1960. After earning a Master’s Degree in Education, he returned to teach at High Point. He taught social studies and was the department head when he retired. He married Mary Lou Howard Bernota, and their sons Chad and Drew are also High Point graduates. For a while, he worked for The Beltsville News. After Matt retired, he and Mary Lou moved to New Market in Frederick County where he was living at the time of his death. In retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his six grandchildren, traveling, golfing, and teaching adult education classes. Matt was instrumental in organizing many reunions for the High Point Class of 60, and he maintained many friendships from his years in Beltsville.

Courbon, Ernest
On Sunday, November 25, 2018, Ernest Courbon passed away. Husband of Mary Ann Courbron for 64 years, father of Cliff (Gina) and Michael Courbon, grandfather of Andy and Emily, brother of Diane Smith. Also survived by many other loving relatives. Friends and family called at Borg-by many other loving relatives. of Diane Smith. Also survived

Martin Sr, Herbert Notely “Bear”
A devoted husband and loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and loyal friend to many passed away surrounded by his family on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. Herbert “Bear” Martin Sr. of Beltsville born on August 18, 1940. He is survived by two sons, Marty Martin and Heath Martin (Cathy Martin); four stepchildren: Linda Halbritter, Terry Getty, Billy Halbritter, and David Halbritter; sister Diane Galliet; three grandchildren: Heather Martin, Nick Martin, Peyton Martin; and one great-grandson, Thomas John.

Bear had a great love for watching baseball; eating crabs and oysters; enjoying his cat, “Buddy”; and playing poker. A viewing was held on Sunday from 1 to 3 pm and 6 to 8 pm at Donald V. Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705 on Wednesday, November 28, from 4–8 pm. Interment private.

Dobrow, Paul Victor
Paul Victor Dobrow passed away on Friday, November 9, in Plantation, Fl. Paul was born in Torrington, CT, on August 1, 1927, and became a longtime Beltsville resident. After marrying his sweetheart, Theresa Slomski, in 1950, the couple moved to Beltsville, where he designed the house in which he raised five children. The home was directly across the street from St. Joseph Catholic Church, where Paul was an active parishioner. He was also active in the Toastmasters and the Knights of Columbus, eventually becoming a Grand Knight.

Paul worked for the Department of Defense as a value engineer. He traveled the world teaching other engineers in many countries like Germany, Japan, Italy, and Saudi Arabia, to name a few. He also designed and supervised wire-guided torpedoes for submarines.

In addition to these accomplishments, a major source of pride and enjoyment for Paul was one of his avocations—a weekly, one-hour radio show that played Polish music. It was called Paul’s Polka Party, and he featured “happy music for happy people.” His show served the Polish-American community in the Baltimore-Washington area for 13 years.

Paul’s first wife predeceased him in 1994 shortly after he retired. After a period of mourning, he moved to Plantation, Fl. During this time, Paul met a lovely redhead named Emily and fell in love again. The two married in April 2000. They spent over 14 years together before, sadly, Emily passed on.

Despite Paul’s losses, he always maintained an amazing sense of humor and Old-World charm. He was always ready to see the good in people and never passed up the chance to give someone a compli- ment. His children, Marcy Dobrow Rose and husband Tim, Paul Dobrow and wife Karen, William Dobrow, Laurie Dobrow, and Mary Dobrow; by grandchildren Shannon Field and husband Roberto, Paul Vincent Dobrow and wife Kristin, Joshua Rose and wife Alice, and Chelsea Rose-Pulitzer and husband Ryan; and by grandchildren Abigail Mackenzie, Griffin Geoffrey, Brody Arturo, and Adley Grace.

Goldman, Sandra Helen
On Tuesday, December 18, 2018 Sandra Helen Goldman of Beltsville, Maryland passed away. She was the beloved wife of Edward Goldman; mother of Christy (Matt) Tomlins and Amy Goldman; grandmother of Chase Tomlins; sister of Barry (Sheryl) and Bruce (Patricia) Springer; aunt of Jana, Jeff, Ryan, and Dean; preceded in death by parents, Roland and Helen Springer; Funeral service and interment private.

PLAYHOUSE
continued from page 1
Opens is directed by The Beltsville News’s own Rick Bergmann with Beltsville Resident Gary Heath helping out with set design and starring several local actors. It’s the best kind of comedy: quirky characters, strange situations, and laugh-out-loud dialogue all contained in one tiny fallout shelter. The show runs for three weekends beginning Friday, Jan. 4. Show dates and times are Jan 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 8 pm and Jan. 6, 13, and 20 at 2 pm. Tickets are $20 general admission and $15 for students 12 and under, seniors 65+, and active-duty military. You can buy tickets online at laurenmillplayhouse.org or at the door the day of the show. Laurel Mill Playhouse is located at 508 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707.
ACROSS
1. Most populous continent
5. Mayan language
8. *Bumpy winter transport
12. Spiritual leader
13. Ledger entry
14. In a cold manner
15. Deodorant’s target
16. African chieftain
17. Asiatic wild dog
18. *Used in fun winter fights
20. Overnight lodgings
21. *Whoville’s ____ beast
22. Tropical constrictor
23. E.B. White’s Little
26. What siren does
29. Not a thing
30. Bear the expenses of
33. Between larva and adult
35. In a fitting way
38. *Sudden stream
39. Between larva and adult
40. *Winter Gathering spot
41. Grey’s fifty
42. Middle-earth creature
43. No balance due
45. *Winter Gathering spot
47. Resident uncle?
48. Diarist Anne
50. *Christmas pudding raisin
52. *Done with #8 Across
56. *The stump of a ____ he held tight in his teeth...
57. Pout
59. Machu Picchu mountains
60. Snaky swimmers
61. Wild swine
62. Words from Wordsworth
63. Kind of humor
64. Southern stew staple

DOWN
1. Gone by
2. Wash froth
3. Fe
4. Light display
5. Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
6. Like a crooked kilt?
7. Lime-rich soil
8. *Hot chocolate add-on
9. One with biggest share
10. Olden-day elbow-related measurement, pl.
11. Do after tie
12. **No balance due
13. Formal discussion
14. “Bite the bullet,” e.g.
15. Bear the expenses of
16. African chieftain
17. Asiatic wild dog
18. Hot Buttered ____
19. Verbose
20. Overnight lodgings
21. *Whoville’s ____ beast
22. Tropical constrictor
23. E.B. White’s Little
26. What siren does
29. Not a thing
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55. Fahrenheit 9/11” filmmaker
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See Solution on page 6
Games

I ended my last column talking about games as Christmas gifts, and that has inspired me to write more about the state of electronic games today. The earliest popular video games that were released in the arcades of the 1970s include “Pong,” “Breakout,” and “Space Invaders.” These fairly simple games were built using discrete components and not the micro-processors that were just hitting the market at that time. Nolan Bushnell created Atari and hired a young electronic technician named Steve Wozniak to design the game “Breakout.” Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs later formed Apple Computers. Wozniak wanted to demonstrate that the game “Breakout” could have been done in software on his Apple computer, and so he wrote the game in Integer BASIC and gave it away with early Apple computers. Thus, computer gaming was born.

Atari had several hit arcade games and came up with the idea of offering them in a home version. The company built this machine on the same processor used by Apple. The Atari 2600 was a major success, and while not the first game console, it popularized the concept of what is now known as the game console.

Game Consoles Today

Today there are three major brands of game consoles. Game consoles are dedicated computers that typically plug into the family television and offer game controllers for user input. Most controllers are designed to be used with two hands and provide a mix of analog and digital joysticks and a number of buttons placed for easy access. Modern controllers give force feedback letting players feel actions in the game.

Early consoles only played games loaded on cartridges or discs. Modern consoles now allow games to be purchased, downloaded, and stored on the console. Some games require the console be connected to the Internet. An Internet connection also allows multiplayer games. However, it is rare to find a game on multiple platforms that allows cross-platform play for multiple players. A headset with a microphone is a must-have accessory for the online player.

Sony PlayStation

Sony creates the PlayStation series of games, the current model being the PlayStation 4 (PS4). There are two variants, the Slim model and the Pro model. The Pro model supports play in 4K resolution if you have a 4K-capable TV. There are also two drive options: 500 megabyte and the preferred 1 terabyte option. PS4 exclusive titles include “God of War,” “Uncharted,” and “Spider-Man.” Most people consider the PS4 to be the best gaming console technology available today.

Microsoft XBox

Microsoft creates the XBox series of consoles. The current models are the XBox 1S and the XBox 1X. The 1X is a more powerful platform supporting gaming on 4K UHD televisions while the 1S plays the current games but only supports 1080p HD output. XBox exclusive games include “Titanfall,” “Gears of War,” and “Halo.”

Nintendo Switch

The Switch, Nintendo’s entry into the console world, is both a portable game device and con-
Rosapepe’s Report to Beltsville

Join Me, My Wife Sheilah—
and UMD President Wallace
Loh—Sunday, January 27, to
Welcome 2019!

I hope you can join my wife
Sheilah and me for our Welcome
2019 Celebration on Sunday,
January 27, from 11:30 to 2 at
The Hotel at The University of
Maryland (7777 Baltimore Ave),
the new 4-star hotel on Route 1
just across from the university’s
main gate in College Park. UMD
President Wallace Loh is our spe-
cial guest. Families are welcome.
Please RSVP soon at www.Sena-
torJimRosapepe.com. We look
forward to seeing you!

Energy Assistance Grant
Funds Available to Low-Income
Households

The state of Maryland is taking
steps to ensure Marylanders will
no longer have to choose between
keeping warm and meeting their
other expenses. Depending on
your household income, you could
be eligible for a grant of more than
$1,000 per year to assist in paying
heating and electric bills. Annu-
ally, more than 100,000 house-
holds across the state enroll in the
program.

Households can qualify regard-
less of participation in other state
benefits programs. Residents can
apply for benefits on an annual
basis, with each grant year starting
July 1 and concluding on June 30
of the following year. Households
may apply at any time and reapply
once per year as needed. Applica-
cants do not need to be behind
on their bills in order to apply for
help.

Interested residents should sub-
mit a completed paper application
and the required supporting docu-
ments to their local energy office.
To apply for assistance or get fur-
ther information, customers can
contact their nearest energy office
by visiting dhr.maryland.gov/
OHEPLocal or by calling DHR’s
helpline at 800.332.6347. House-
holds can also apply online at dhr.
maryland.gov/benefits.

State Legislative Session
Starts January 9

Delegates Joseline Peña-Mel-
nyk and Ben Barnes, Delegate-
Elect Mary Lehman, and I will
be back in Annapolis representing
you in the 2019 Maryland legisla-
tive session starting on January 9.

Please let us know your opin-
ions on issues of concern and
contact us with any questions.
And, of course, feel free to be
in touch if the delegates or I can
help you. Just email 21stDistri-
ct.Delegation@gmail.com or call
301.858.3141.

Tech Sense

continued from page 6

The Switch has a gaming
“dock” that the console device
plugs into allowing game play
to occur on the television. The
console has its own screen, and
when removed from the dock, the
battery-powered console can be
used to play games on its built-in
screen. The Switch includes two
wireless controllers called “Joy-
Cons” that attach to the console
and are similar to the Wii con-
trollers. Like the Wii before it,
the Switch has good support for
family friendly and casual gamers.
Popular and exclusive titles for the
Switch include a new “Legend of
Zelda” title, a new “Mario Kart”
title, and “Super Smash Brothers
Ultimate.”

PC Games

PC gaming is gaming on the
personal computer. Here the Win-
dows PC dominates the market
with significantly more games
sold for the Windows platform
than Apple, Chromeb ook, or
Linux computers. This is because
Windows currently provides the
best graphics driver software for
high performance games. Also,
XBox and Windows development
resources can often be shared,
making it easy for developers to
target both platforms.

PC Game Distribution

Many PC games available
today are sold online through
distribution outlets. These out-
lets provide a means of selling
games to customers for publish-
 ers. Distribution platforms often
provided digital rights manage-
ment (DRM) allowing users more
freedom installing games for play
on multiple computers while pro-
tecting the publishers by making
piracy difficult. Additional tools
allow gamers to chat online as
they watch others play or provide
multiplayer environments.

Distributors

Steam is the largest PC game
distributor by far. Its application
provides game installation and
updating, live chat, and a web-
based DRM scheme that supports
offline play. Game publishers Ori-
gin and EA (Origin.com) teamed
up to create the Origin service.
Origin is similar to Steam but
mainly carries Origin and EA soft-
ware.

GOG (used to stand for “Good
Old Games”) (https://gog.com)
offers a mix of new and classic
games. Many of the old favorites
have been updated or paired with
emulation software allowing these
great games to work on modern
computers. Most GOG games do
not have DRM or copy protection
software making it easy to install
copies on your desktop and
your laptop computers.

Humble Bundle (https://hum-
bundle.com) is different in that
a part of your purchase price goes
to charity. You can pick the charity
or select one of Humble Bundle’s.
It offers special bundles of soft-
ware where you get to name the
price and determine how much
goes to charity.

Amazon games can be pur-
chased old style on media shipped
to your home or can be purchased
for download. Amazon remembers
the games you have purchased in
the past and suggests new games
for you to try.

Happy Holidays

Steam and all of these services
mentioned allow the purchase of
gift cards or instant Internet gifts
in case you need help to complete
your holiday shopping. I have run
out of space again this month.
I wish all a Merry Christmas, a
Happy New Year, love for your
neighbors, and joy for whatever
else you may be celebrating.

State Legislative Session
Starts January 9

Shelia and me will be back in Annapolis representing you in the 2019 Maryland legislative session starting on January 9.

Please let us know your opinions on issues of concern and contact us with any questions. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if the delegates or I can help you. Just email 21stDistrict.Delegation@gmail.com or call 301.858.3141.

Tech Sense

continued from page 6

The Switch has a gaming “dock” that the console device plugs into allowing game play to occur on the television. The console has its own screen, and when removed from the dock, the battery-powered console can be used to play games on its built-in screen. The Switch includes two wireless controllers called “Joy-Cons” that attach to the console and are similar to the Wii controllers. Like the Wii before it, the Switch has good support for family friendly and casual gamers. Popular and exclusive titles for the Switch include a new “Legend of Zelda” title, a new “Mario Kart” title, and “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate.”

PC Games

PC gaming is gaming on the personal computer. Here the Windows PC dominates the market with significantly more games sold for the Windows platform than Apple, Chromeb ook, or Linux computers. This is because Windows currently provides the best graphics driver software for high performance games. Also, XBox and Windows development resources can often be shared, making it easy for developers to target both platforms.

PC Game Distribution

Many PC games available today are sold online through distribution outlets. These outlets provide a means of selling games to customers for publishers. Distribution platforms often provided digital rights management (DRM) allowing users more freedom installing games for play on multiple computers while protecting the publishers by making piracy difficult. Additional tools allow gamers to chat online as they watch others play or provide multiplayer environments.

Distributors

Steam is the largest PC game distributor by far. Its application provides game installation and updating, live chat, and a web-based DRM scheme that supports offline play. Game publishers Origin and EA (Origin.com) teamed up to create the Origin service. Origin is similar to Steam but mainly carries Origin and EA software.

GOG (used to stand for “Good Old Games”) (https://gog.com) offers a mix of new and classic games. Many of the old favorites have been updated or paired with emulation software allowing these great games to work on modern computers. Most GOG games do not have DRM or copy protection software making it easy to install copies on your desktop and your laptop computers.

Humble Bundle (https://humblebundle.com) is different in that a part of your purchase price goes to charity. You can pick the charity or select one of Humble Bundle’s. It offers special bundles of software where you get to name the price and determine how much goes to charity.

Amazon games can be purchased old style on media shipped to your home or can be purchased for download. Amazon remembers the games you have purchased in the past and suggests new games for you to try.

Happy Holidays

Steam and all of these services mentioned allow the purchase of gift cards or instant Internet gifts in case you need help to complete your holiday shopping. I have run out of space again this month. I wish all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, love for your neighbors, and joy for whatever else you may be celebrating.
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Childhood days were fun, and I am sure a lot of you can relate to what I am about to type. We had the chance to travel and explore places, and I am one of those people. Talking to Yolanda, I realized it would be nice to write on this topic. Having lived half my life in Nigeria and the other half on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, I have seen the best of two continents. I would love to travel to Asia and Australia, but I don’t think I can handle those long flights. I know some of you do those trips two or three times or more a year. I don’t know how you cope. With my height (6 feet, 2 inches), there is not much legroom for me, so the long flights can be uncomfortable.

I love traveling to Canada from Maryland. I have cousins there, and my wife has siblings in Toronto. It typically takes us close to five hours driving across from Beltsville to Toronto (York). If you have not done this drive, you should. It can be a very scenic drive, depending on the route you take, and of course, when you get into Buffalo and approach Niagara Falls, you are greeted by one of the wonders of nature. On my next road trip, I will probably blog the drive because some of my experiences with you.

However, within Beltsville, I love to take nature walks. There is so much to see and explore. Driving past, we take a lot for granted. I enjoy seeing the squirrels run past and stare at me (always wish I could figure out what they think when they see us humans). One of my favorite trails is the short walk from the Beltsville Community Center on Sellman Road, crossing the footbridge, attempting to do some of the physio machines on the trail, and ultimately ending up by the stream or brook looking at the fish as they swim up and down, sometimes throwing a rock over the surface of the water or just jumping from rock to rock as I used to do as a kid.

Childhood days were fun, and I am sure a lot of you can relate to what I am about to type. We had nothing much on television, so our playground was the trees and open fields. We would climb trees for fun and go through the neighborhood picking fruits off trees. Fun times! If a neighbor had dogs, we would break up into two or three groups. One set would distract the dogs while the rest of us would go up in the trees to pick the fruit. When I was growing up on the University of Ibadan campus in Nigeria, all the fruit trees technically belonged to us the kids in the section of the university where we lived.

Our main sport was soccer, and the unofficial stadium was the lawns of Professor FMA Ukoli, a professor of zoology whose son, Robert, was a legend of our times on his bicycle always performing stunts. He also had a ten-speed bike, the only one around at the time. The rest of us rode Chopper or Grifters. (Let me throw this out there—Chinedu Echeruo, founder of App Hop Stop that was bought by Apple, grew up next to the Ukoli’s if my memory serves me right. On Sankore Avenue opposite them was Professor Tam David-West, a virology professor who would go on to become a federal minister of petroleum under the regime of then General Muhammadu Buhari.) Sade, the Grammy-winning artiste, also grew up down the road from us. We lived on one end of Saunders Road, and she and her parents lived in the second block of flats at the start of Saunders Road. She was a few years older and nothing special at the time—she was the daughter of Professor Adu (he was just a young lecturer at the time, like the rest of our parents). Their flat was later occupied by Mr. Lester Henry, a senior lecturer of Irish descent in the Department of Classics.

And then there is Marcus, a close childhood friend who rode a bicycle a few years ago, from the west coast of Canada to the east coast. We were best friends growing up in Nigeria (his dad is Nigerian and mother Canadian). When we saw each other by default in Toronto (2015), it was the first meeting in person since 1982. I will share highlights of his experience with you in 2019. I hope I can finish writing a book for him on his experience. Trust me: he has some interesting stories.

As I tell folk, be respectful to the police and appreciate what they have to deal with. As long as you have not broken any law, you have no need to be worried. Even this month when I was pulled over on Route 29 South with my last two children in the car, the Montgomery County Officer was cool. He was very professional, and as I explained to my children, the stop went well because, in my opinion, I made the officer comfortable. He could see I was in my FedEx Express uniform, my hands were on the steering wheel, my windows were down so he could see inside, and my inner lights were on. He asked if I know why I had been pulled over, to which I replied, no. He said I was driving the limit, and that when he changed lanes and got behind me, I eventually took off and hit 80 mph. I apologized and explained to him that I did not realize I had done that. I apologized for wasting his time. He asked for my license, and I told him it was inside my jacket and asked for permission to take my hands off the wheel and get it. He gave me the okay, took one look at it, and then asked me to be careful. He said hi to the kids and was on his way. My 13-year-old daughter was in the back seat, and I explained to her the experience with you.

JASON’S JIVE continues on page 14

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VALID JANUARY 1 – 31, 2019
Enjoying the Art of Bonsai

Please join the Beltsville Garden Club for a monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at 7:30 pm at the James Duckson Club for a monthly meeting. The meeting was by The Spirit of Love Choir from the Washington VA Medical Center. They were fabulous!

The next momentous event was the honoring of our Policeman of the Year on December 4, who was announced in last month’s column. On December 15, we had another catering event: the metro retirees’ holiday party. This was their third year with us. The catering/serving crew was beautiful, dressing in holiday attire and working in unison serving the 150 attendees. After the dinner was completed, the cleanup crew made short work of clearing the tables so the party could really take off.

Post and Unit 217 served the less fortunate of College Park through generous contributions to College Park Youth and Family Services. December 15 saw the holiday party of Southern Maryland District National Legion Auxiliary held at Chesapeake Post 206 in Chesapeake, MD. The entertainment was by The Spirit of Love Choir from the Washington VA Medical Center. They were fabulous!

Women’s Community Club of Beltsville 2018 Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Good and Gift Program

Our 2018 program provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for 40 Beltsville families and gifts for 128 children. We would like to THANK our partners who helped us “Spread a Little Sunshine” at Thanksgiving and Christmas 2018: Councilman Mary Lehman; Beltsville Academy; MLK Middle School; Calverton Elementary; Beltsville Adventist School; Emmanuel United Methodist Church and Women’s Group; Beltsville Baptist Church; Tabernacle of Faith Worship Center; The Jain Society; Christ Embassy Largo Children’s Ministry; Home Depot; Behrke’s; Olney Winery; Beltsville Lions Foundation; Greater Beltsville Business Association; District 6 Police Explorers and Cpl. Hibbert; Beltsville Area Girl Scout troops; Beltsville Boys & Girls Club; Geotech Engineers; Consumer Title; R & P Settlements; Movement Mortgage; O’Malley, Miles, Nylen & Gilmore-Attorneys at Law; Washington Overhead Door; Sun Services; Haley & Associates; Donald V. Borgwardt Funeral Home; Meyers, Rodbell & Rosenthal; Ann Anderson; Cabling Systems Inc.; Posh Fitness; Optimized Therma...
The "Bull Pen"

By Tracy Fuller

Did you know that the Beltsville-Adelphi Boys and Girls Club has an all-volunteer club in existence for over 60 years? Well, starting this year, "The Bull Pen" will keep you informed on the club’s achievements, the various sports programs, and much more ongoing with the club.

The club had a great 2018 season but is looking forward to an even better 2019. The club, as many of you are already aware of, is going through a transitional/rebuilding period. Yet, we are still striving to be a club of excellence.

To help in this rebuilding, we need your assistance. The Beltsville Bulls are always looking for coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers. Without those leaders in our community, our kids will not have the guidance and direction through those sports programs.

We are also looking for donations to enable more scholarships or lower fees for the players. Other proud sponsors of the Beltsville Boys and Girls Club include Jack-Shaw, Response Team 1, and the Peterson Group. Donations, no matter how large or small, are always welcomed and don’t have to be monetary; we need equipment for all sports or other youth sports-related, in-kind services.

Basketball

We’re looking forward to another successful basketball season in 2018-2019 because our 13U PGCBGC champions are looking to defend their title in the 14U division. The season is in progress, and the team is currently recruiting all student-athletes ages 8-16.

Girls' divisions: 8U / 10U / 12U / 14U / 16U.
Boys' divisions: 8U / 10U / 12U / 14U / 15U / 16U.

Tackle Football

The tackle football team is looking to continue to grow and build off another successful football campaign and looking for more 6U players and football coaches. The season resumes in July 2019, recruiting all student-athletes ages 4-14. Cost: $125, uniform fee: $3.

Spring and Fall Soccer

Our baseball program is looking to rebuild and grow. Beltsville is in the hunt for a new baseball commissioner. If you have experience playing or coaching baseball and are looking to run a youth sports program or team, please feel free to contact athletic director Rian Jackson. The season resumes in March 2019, recruiting all student-athletes ages 5-16.

Basketball

Congratulations to the Beltsville Bulls football program for winning the 2018 Prince George's County Boys and Girls Club tackle football county championship in the 14U division. This group of young men, their coaching staff, and the parents worked extremely hard over the season to pull out another county championship trophy for the Beltsville community.

Soccer

We’re looking forward to another successful basketball season in 2018-2019 because our 13U PGCBGC champions are looking to defend their title in the 14U division. The season is in progress, and the team is currently recruiting all student-athletes ages 8-16.

Girls’ divisions: 8U / 10U / 12U / 14U / 16U.
Boys’ divisions: 8U / 9U / 10U / 11U / 12U / 13U / 14U / 15U / 16U.

Tackle Football

The tackle football team is looking to continue to grow and build off another successful football campaign and looking for more 6U players and football coaches. The season resumes in July 2019, recruiting all student-athletes ages 4-14. Cost: $125, uniform fee: $3.
**January 2019 Calendar of Events**

**Montpelier Mansion & Art Center**
9650 Marirk Rd., Laurel, MD 20708. Phone: 301.377.7817. TTY: 301.699.2544. E-mail: montpeliermansion@ggcparks.com. Self-guided tours of the mansion: Thur. – Tue. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: $5/adults, $4/seniors, $2/children ages 5 – 18, free/ages 4 and under. The mansion is closed on Wednesdays and some special events. Hours: Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on most major holidays and some special events. Cost: $5/adults, $4/seniors, $2/children, free/age 1 and under. See MontpelierMansion.com for more information as well as events for January.

**College Park Aviation Museum:**
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Dr., Col-
lege Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.384.6029. TTY: 301.699.2544. Regular hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for most major holidays and some special events. Cost: $5/adults, $4/seniors, $2/children, free/age 1 and under. See CollegeParkAviationMuseum.com for more information as well as events for January.

**Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center:**
Special classes: The center will be closed from Mon., Dec. 31, 2018 through Sat., Jan. 5, 2019 for maintenance. Regular hours of operation: Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sunday and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Centret Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, around the corner from the Laurel Regional Hospital. Phone: 301.497.5887. Contact the Visitor Center for updates and information about additional programs and events for January. Regular hours of operation for the Visitor Center are: Fri. – Wed. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Thursdays and federal holidays. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, except for federal holidays. Cost: Free admission to the Visitor Center and its exhibits, grounds, and trails; other activities and events are free of charge if not noted. Space in public programs is limited. Registration is by phone only and is required unless otherwise specified; call 301.497.5887. Note: These public programs are designed for individuals/families/programs. Programs are subject to changes or cancellation due to weather or low participation. Please advise us of any special needs so that we may accommodate you.

**Volunteer Training:** Start training soon! Volunteers assist with running the visitor center, maintaining the refuge, and supporting wildlife management. Contact Diana_Ogilvie@usgs.gov or 301.497.5565 for more information. Assignments include:
- Meeting and greeting visitors and providing information;
- Operating the bookstore;
- Participating in wildlife surveys.

**Hollingsworth Art Gallery:**
The gallery is open when the Visitor Center is open. All ages are invited; no registration is required. The featured artist for January is photographer Blan-
dine Broomfield.

**Wildlife Images Bookstore & Blue Goose Passport:**
The bookstore is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the Visitor Center is open. Free stamping of the Blue Goose Passport for the National Wildlife Refuge System are available. Extra copies of the passports are for sale.

**Thursday Movie Matinee:** The featured movie for Thu., Jan. 10 is Mission: Impossible – Fallout. The featured movie for Thu., Jan. 24 is Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again. Start time is 10 a.m. and the end time is about 12 noon. Popcorn will be provided. Cost: Free.

**National Wildlife Visitor Center:**
10091 Scarlet Tanner Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore-Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Con-
tact the Visitor Center for updates and information about additional programs and events for January.

**Beltsville Events**

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**Screech & Kestrel:**
All Saturdays in January from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. each day. All ages, no registration required. Meet two of North America’s smallest birds of prey: the American kestrel and the eastern screech owl. Both are expert hunters. The American kestrel uses its acrobatic prowess, while the eastern screech owl is a stealthy silent hunter.

**Beltsville Library**
Holiday closings: The library will be closed Mon., Dec. 31, 2018 and Tue., Jan. 1, 2019 for New Year’s. The library will also be closed Mon., Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.937.0294. Regular hours of operation are: Mon. – Tue. from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wed. – Fri. from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sundays. Visit our library system website at www.pgcmls.info to check for weather-related and other special closings and to see our online library services.

**Program for All Ages**

**Chess Club:** Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Drop in to learn to play or improve your game. All ages welcome: children, teens, and adults.

**Programs for Children and Families**

**Ready 2 Read Preschool Storytimes:**
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

**Ready 2 Read Toddler Storytimes:**
Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. for ages 2 – 3 years old.

**Ready 2 Read Baby Storytimes:**
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and at 11:15 a.m. Ages birth – 2 years old.

**Kids Achieve Club:**
All Tuesdays in January from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Mentoring, reading, and homework help for kids in grades 1 – 6.

**STEM for Families: Weights and Measures:**
Wed., Jan. 2 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Join us for experiments in science, technology, engineering, and math as we explore weights and dimensions of various objects. Ages 5 – 12.

**Tail Waggin’ Tutor:**
Thu., Jan. 15 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat., Jan. 19 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 5 – 12. Children read to a specially trained therapy dog and gain confidence reading.

**English Conversation Club:**
Tuesdays in January from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Resumes will be featured on Tue., Jan. 15. Contact the library about topics on other Tuesdays. Learning to speak English? Join our club and practice speaking English in a friendly environment with people from diverse backgrounds.

**Beltsville Community Center**
Holiday closings: Contact the center for more information. Address: 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. Phone: 301.937.6613. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation are: Mon. – Thu. from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri. from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on Sunday. Hours of operation for Xtreme Teens and Pre-teens: Fri. – Sat. from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact the center regarding events for January.

**Beltsville Young at Heart Club:**
Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:15 a.m. Members must be at least 55 years old. Visit us three times and become a member. We have speakers, entertainment, triss, 50/50, bingo, plus light refreshments. Questions: call Lois at 301.498.9736.

**Women’s Club:**
Thur., Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. The club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except for July, August, and February.

**Strategy Game Club:**
Mondays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy board games, strategy games, and tons of fun. All skill levels welcome. Any game can be played as well as brought to the club to be played. Cost: Free. All ages.

**Xtreme Teens and Pre-teens Regular Events:**
Fridays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free with valid Center ID card. Ages 10 – 17.

**Vanvils Community Center**
Holiday closings: Contact the center for more information. Address: 6813 Ammandale Dr., Vansville. Phone: 301.937.6621. Fax: 301.937.6623. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation: Mon. – Thu. from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (except for Xtreme Teens), Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Hours of operation for Xtreme Teens: Fri. – Sat. from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact the center regarding events for January.

**Xtreme Teens and Pre-teens Regular Events:**
Fridays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Ages 10 – 17. Free with valid Center ID card.

**Share Your News!**
Send your article submissions to News Director Rick Bergmann at editorbvnews@gmail.com
Remembering Principal Tom Smith

The Vanssville Elementary School community is deeply saddened by the loss of former principal Mr. Thomas Smith. Mr. Smith opened Vanssville Elementary in 2008 and was the dedicated leader for 10 years until 2018. On Saturday, December 1, the school held a remembrance day for Mr. Smith. Current and former students read letters and poems, sang songs, and performed dances. Staff members sang “Lean on Me” as a tribute to Mr. Smith, what made us so far? Something that never keeps us apart. Hmmm…maybe something like your beautiful heart. Or maybe I’m just crazy, and I’m glad you had a rest easy. But here’s one thing that I know about you. You live us and you should know that we love you too! You wouldn’t want us sad a bit, you wouldn’t want us to cry. You wanted our happiness to completely fit. So we shouldn’t be sad, not right now, we should make our principal very proud! So look at the ray that has shown today, and know that… that’s Mr. Smith watching over what we have done, his beautiful heart will never be gone! We love you Mr. Smith! Mr. Smith will be missed by all that love him.

Stay tuned for next month to read about the 2019 Balls basketball season and much more! GO BULLS!!! AND JOIN THE STAMPEDEE!!!
CUB PACK 1031
continued from page 2
ed Roaring Laughter, Webelos invented games for Game Design, and some in the Arrow den worked on Maestro.

This year we have nine new scouts including three girls (as part of our family scouting program), we did 133 hours of service, went on two camping trips, went on a bike ride, went on at least four hikes, and had four campfires. We have a wonderful team of ten leaders who help make our pack go.

The pack has activities including camping, hiking, our annual Pinewood Derby, and campfires. We also do participatory citizenship along Little Paint Branch Trail, our toy drive, and Scouting for Food. Along the way, we learn responsibility, learn citizenship, play games, and have tons of fun.

If you are interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts with your child, please contact Regina Halper at Pack1031CubScouting@gmail.com for more information.

JASON’S JIVE
continued from page 9
to her what had just happened and went on to tell her that the stop went well because I did not try to challenge the officer or waste his time. I also told her that when she starts driving that she needs to be able to conduct herself in a respectable manner and also respect authority. I think I will speak with my friends at Prince George’s Police District VI on this issue for “Jason’s Jive” in 2019. Let them guide us on the proper way to go about a traffic stop.

Let me wind this “Jive” up. Happy New Year to you, my dear reader, and may you have a prosperous year! Please be safe, stay healthy, and be nice to those you meet along the way.

It has been fun writing for The Beltsville News, and I am hopeful in 2019 I will be able to feature a lot more of the community in the paper. In 2019, look for features on local businesses.

To Rick and the other staff at The Beltsville News, thank you for the opportunity to write once again. Happy New Year to you and your respective families. Dear reader, be safe until the next “Jive.”

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