

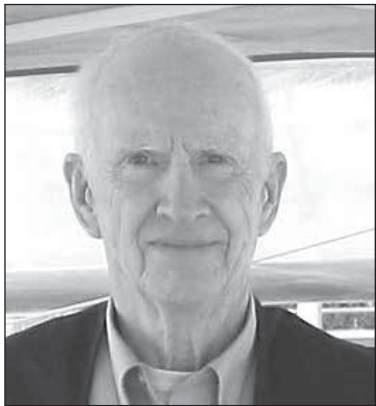
The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 74, Number 7

Beltsville, Maryland

July 2026



Ted Ladd, Advertising and Business Manager

Behind the Headlines: Ted Ladd Reflects on Beltsville and The Beltsville News

By Jillian Schweitzer

Our profile this month is of our very own Ted Ladd! He is *The Beltsville News's* Advertising and Business Manager.

When did you get started with *The Beltsville News* and what is your role now?

I was asked to help editor Walter Sadler during mid-1997 with ads in the paper. I visited Mr. Sadler and provided some limited aid until August 1997, when Mr. Sadler passed away at age 85. At this point, I became the advertising manager. I currently serve as advertising and business manager.

How has Beltsville changed and stayed the same over the years?

There have been changes in the demography of Beltsville. Traffic can be heavy at times. The small-town image remains.

What is a memorable memory of an event in Beltsville?

The TORNADO of September 24, 2001.

Any other stories you'd like to share?

Walter and Marion Sadler assumed responsibility for the paper when I first met them. Computers were not used. Articles, letters to the editor, photos and other input would be mailed to them or placed in a box on the Sadler's front steps. The material would be organized, edited as necessary, and Walter and Marion would lay

TED LADD
continues on page 10

Two Years: Going Strong

By Jillian Schweitzer

It has been two years since Thomas and Sharon Procida opened their grocery outlet store in Calverton. I joined them at the store to see how they felt after two years of being in this community. It didn't take long at all to hear their thoughts: "We are blessed to be in this community!" The enthusiasm was palpable in talking to both of them.

I learned that when in training to lead a story, you can request a particular one, but there is no guarantee you'd get



Thomas and Sharon Procida, owners of Calverton Grocery Outlet

the one you want, but lucky for the Procidas and us, they got their first pick in Calverton. And the

return on their choice has been nothing short of wonderful.

"The support of the community has been amazing. We even saw local customers while on a cruise and they thanked us for being here. And we said, no, thank you! Everyone bringing a friend or a family member has helped get to two years."

The store currently has thirty-five employees, including some folks in training for their own stores. There is a lot of promotion from

GOING STRONG
continues on page 2

Summertime! Outdoor Activities For Cub Pack 1031

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 is having a fun time doing our summertime activities! We went to the Baysox game, stomped rockets, a small nature and picked up trash along the Little Paint Branch Trail and Frisbees!

Coming up on the 27th of June scouts from Troop 214G are leading a fishing day at Cash Lake. We have plans to do hikes, biking, National Night Out and finish the summer with a Rain Gutter Regat-



CUB PACK 1031
continues on page 10 Webelos scout tossing frisbees with her denmate and family

A Thank You to Our Community for Embracing *American Son*

By Rick Bergmann

As the director of UpStage Artists' recent production of *American Son*, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended one of our performances over the past two weekends.

Community theater thrives because of the support of its audiences, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who chose to spend an evening with us. What makes your support especially meaningful is that *American Son* is not an easy play. It asks difficult questions, explores chal-



Ned Kieloch and Tiffany Jackson in UpStage Artists production of *American Son*

lenging realities, and encourages conversations that can sometimes be uncomfortable. Yet time and again, audiences in our community demonstrated a willingness to engage with those topics thoughtfully and respectfully.

every performance worthwhile.

I am incredibly proud of our cast and crew, who dedicated themselves to presenting this powerful work with honesty, com-

Theater has long been a place where people can come together to experience stories that entertain, inspire, challenge, and sometimes even unsettle us. *American Son* was a production designed not only to tell a compelling story but also to encourage reflection and dialogue. Your willingness to join us on that journey made

THANK YOU
continues on page 4

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

July 22

Paper Out:

July 31

National Night Out 2026 Seeks Local Businesses and Vendors

By Rick Bergmann

The Prince George's County Police Department is inviting local businesses, organizations, and vendors to take part in National Night Out 2026, a community-building event designed to strengthen relationships between residents, businesses, and law enforcement.

This year's event will take place on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**, with vendor setup beginning at **5:00 p.m.** Participation is being offered **free of charge**, providing local businesses with an opportunity to showcase their products and services while supporting a positive community event.

National Night Out is an annual nationwide initiative that promotes community partnerships and neighborhood engagement. Organizers say the event will feature activities and entertainment for all ages while encouraging residents to connect with one another and with local public safety officials.

Participating businesses and organizations will have the opportunity to:

- Build relationships within the community
- Showcase their business or services
- Support efforts to create a safer, stronger community
- Participate in a family-

NNO
continues on page 10

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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of July 2001)

Bucca Makes the Grade in National Youth Choir

This past March (2021) in Williamsburg, VA, the musical organization OAKE (Organization of America KOD-ly Educators) held its annual Conference and

choir performances. Allison Bucca of Beltsville was chosen to sing in their National Youth Choir, directed by Ken Boucher. Her proud parents, Paul and Stacy Bucca of Beltsville, wish to congratulate her excellent performance.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This article is in follow-up to the April and May articles regarding the plans to build a crematorium addition to the existing Borgwardt Funeral home located on Powder Mill Road, Beltsville. Since the May article, the funeral home has applied for an Environmental Permit with the Maryland Department of the Environment, for the last required permit in the process prior to construction. If no one has shared with you the many potential health hazards and other downsides of constructing a crematorium in a residential area, please educate yourselves on the "Dangers of Crematoriums in Residential Areas" & "Real Estate Values & Crematoriums".

As mentioned in prior articles, "Citizens Against The Crematorium In Residential Beltsville" have gone door-to-door to share this

information. In most instances, community residents have heard nothing on these plans, with none of them ever being provided any information of the potential health risks associated with the burning of up to 350 bodies per year. The fumes that will be released from the approved 37 ft smoke stack on the top of the building you will see while driving down Powder Mill Road, contains harmful substances including **Sulfur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Mercury from dental fillings, and radioactive substances** potentially harmful to humans and the environment. We have also visited a number of public and private schools, churches, businesses, play grounds, and other establishments. Everyone we have spoken with has expressed significant concerns with building in the currently planned residential area.

The current "Environmental

Justice Score" of the surrounding area of the Borgwardt Funeral Home location is **83.3**, with 100 being the worst. This is due to being in close proximity to I-95, I-495, BW Pkwy, and the Beltsville Industrial Park (currently a crematorium on Tucker Street), and other factors. With the addition of another crematorium, this number will increase and the smells from the cremated bodies will not be pleasant.

This project is moving forward at a rapid rate, so if you have concerns, you need to become engaged quickly. By clicking on the below QR Code, you can register as being a person of opposition with the MD Dept. of the Environment, and they will keep you updated on future happenings. You can also send an email to **StopCrematorium@gmail.com**.

Deborah Baggett

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

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

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Jason Inanga, Elizabeth Olson, and Nancy Thrush.

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and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.
Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com

GOING STRONG

continued from page 1

within and even from the customer base! But Tom and Sharon are adamant: "This is our forever store." Their future plans include getting more diverse stock for the store and making it the community's one stop shop. The store customer base has even doubled since the first year.

In a county that often has high turnover for stores and storage facilities (Beltsville has three that I can think of just off the top of my head!), it's a welcome sight to see a store with items our citizens actually need that wants to be a main staple in our community.

It was a joy to talk to both Tom and Sharon and the lovely folks who said hello to me while I was browsing (I even went home with a highland cow garden gnome-I can't resist anything with a highland cow on it!) and I feel confident that this wonderful store will be around for years to come.

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Seven Wonderful Cats Ready to Bring You Joy and Love!

Kittens are awfully cute, but there's a lot to be said for adopting an adult cat who is past the crazy-energy stage and can show you a quieter kind of love. Here are seven adult cats ranging from 1 to 4 years of age who are ready to bring love and endless entertainment into your home. If you might be interested in adopting one of these little sweethearts, please reach out to Beltsville Community Cats via email at hello@beltsvillecats.net.



understand her gentle nature. Calliope is a very polite and well-behaved cat; she never scratches furniture or tries to jump up on counters, instead waiting patiently for her food to be delivered to her. She gets along well with the other cats in her foster home, but she would also do fine as an "only cat." Calliope is an amazing feather wand warrior and loves to cuddle afterward, and you can hear her purr from across the room!

old girl is still learning that the world can be a safe and comforting place - but with patience, calm, and a quiet home, Berta begins to blossom. Allowed to get to know you at her own pace, Berta will approach you with soft curiosity, gently sniffing to see if you might offer her a chin scratch — and when you do, you'll see her whole body relax in peace. She does enjoy the company of other cats and could be a great companion to a friendly feline friend.



Montana

This spirited and sweet 1-year-old is a big personality in a small package! After a unique start to life — spending her days around guard dogs at a local industrial yard — Montana decided it was time to trade concrete for cozy blankets, gentle pets, and an endless supply of snacks. Montana is a champion cuddler who gives the best morning snuggles, loves batting around toy mice, and thrives on connection with her people.



Chase

Chase is a happy and upbeat 2 year-old boy who is a delight to be around. Chase just LOVES being totally and completely involved in everything going on in the household. Once Chase is comfortable with his people, then a shy wallflower he is not. Moving furniture? Chase will supervise. Sweeping the floor? He is ready to help. Chase is hilarious and makes his foster parents laugh every day. He is so interested in what his people are doing that he borders on being nosy! Chase would do well with active but gentle children and also does great with the resident dog in his foster home!



Plum

Plum has a warm, outgoing, and happy personality and would make an outstanding companion for someone seeking a calm and affectionate cat. This 4-year-old gal enjoys curling up in cat tree cubbies but would much rather cuddle with you! Plum loves to sit in laps, is so grateful for attention, and joyfully reciprocates the love her humans give her.



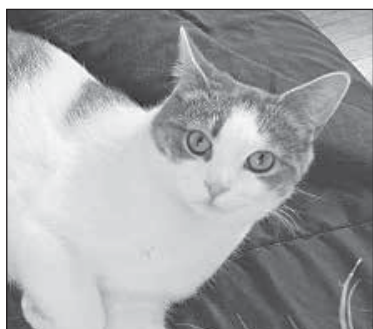
Oreo

This darling little guy, just barely out of kittenhood, still has a playful streak and goes wild for toy springs and wand toys—watching him pounce is pure joy. Like many cats, he can be a little shy at first, but give him a bit of patience and 1-year-old Oreo will happily show you his sweet, affectionate nature. Oreo enjoys cuddling with his people, mixes well with other cats, and would make a wonderful companion in a calm, loving home.



Rico

This handsome 2-year-old gentleman is the kind of companion who makes coming home extra special. Rico loves waiting for his people from his favorite window perch, keeping watch until the moment you walk through the door—then he's right there to greet you. Affectionate and gentle, he enjoys being close by and soaking up attention. With his loving personality, he's the perfect mix of playful and relaxed. He loves toys, chasing strings, and turning everyday moments into fun. Rico does well with dogs and older, respectful children.



Berta

Berta is a gentle soul with a heart full of love — once you earn her trust. This sweet, shy 1-year-



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It is Fence Season!

Installing a New Fence Is One of the Best Investments for Your Home

A new fence is more than just a boundary around your property—it's an investment in privacy, security, curb appeal, and long-term value. Whether you're replacing an old, worn-out fence or installing one for the first time, the right fencing solution can dramatically improve the look and functionality of your home.



One of the biggest reasons homeowners choose to install a new fence is for privacy. A quality privacy fence creates a peaceful outdoor environment where you can relax, entertain guests, or spend time with family without worrying about neighbors or passing traffic. Vinyl and wood privacy fences are especially popular because they provide excellent coverage while enhancing the appearance of the property.

Security is another major benefit. A professionally installed fence helps define your property lines and provides an added layer of protection for children and pets. It can also discourage unwanted visitors and make your home feel safer. Gates with secure latching systems offer additional control over

who enters your yard.

In addition to practical benefits, a new fence can significantly increase your home's curb appeal. An attractive fence complements your landscaping and exterior design, making your property stand out in the neighborhood. Whether you choose classic wood, low-maintenance vinyl, elegant aluminum, or durable composite materials, the right style can enhance the overall aesthetic of your home.

Today's homeowners have more fencing options than ever before. Wood fences offer timeless beauty and can be customized with different heights, stains, and designs. Vinyl fences require minimal maintenance and resist rot, insects, and weather damage.

Aluminum fencing provides an elegant appearance while maintaining visibility, making it ideal around pools or decorative landscapes. Composite fencing combines durability with modern styling and is designed to withstand the elements for years.

Before beginning a fence installation project, it's important to check local building codes and homeowner association (HOA) requirements. Property line verification and any required permits should also be addressed before construction begins. Hiring an experienced contractor can help ensure the project complies with all local regulations and is installed correctly.

Professional installation offers several advantages

over attempting a do-it-yourself project. Experienced installers have the proper equipment and expertise to set posts securely, maintain straight lines, and ensure gates operate properly. A professionally built fence is more likely to withstand severe weather and provide decades of reliable service.

Routine maintenance will also help maximize the life of your investment. Wood fences may require periodic staining or sealing, while vinyl and aluminum fences typically need only occasional cleaning with soap and water. Regular inspections can identify minor issues before they become costly repairs.

Whether your goal is increased privacy, improved security, enhanced curb appeal, or better functionality, a new fence is one of the smartest upgrades you can make to your property. By selecting quality materials and working with a reputable contractor, you can enjoy a beautiful, durable fence that adds value to your home and enhances your outdoor living space for many years to come.

Emmanuel UMC Extends Thanks for Successful Community Yard Sale

By Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Emmanuel United Methodist Church would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and supported the church's annual Community Yard Sale on Saturday, June 13.

The event brought together neighbors, families, local organizations, and visitors from throughout the area for a day of fellowship, bargain hunting, and community spirit. From household treasures and unique finds to homemade baked goods and lunch offerings, the yard sale provided something for everyone while helping strengthen connections within the Beltsville community.

The church is especially grateful to the many volunteers who spent countless hours collecting donations, organizing merchandise, preparing food, setting up displays, assisting shoppers, and cleaning up after the event. Their dedication and hard work made the day possible.

A special thank-you is also extended to the volunteers and supporters of Beltsville Community Cats, whose participation helped raise awareness of their ongoing efforts to care for and advocate for community cats throughout the area. Their presence added another meaningful dimension to the event and highlighted the importance of neighbors working together to support both people and animals in our community.

Emmanuel United Methodist Church has long been committed to serving the Beltsville community through worship, outreach programs, community events, and partnerships with local organizations. Events such as the annual yard sale help strengthen those relationships while providing a welcoming space for neighbors to connect.

The church looks forward to continuing its mission of service and hospitality and hopes to welcome everyone back for next year's Community Yard Sale.

On behalf of Emmanuel United Methodist Church and Beltsville Community Cats, thank you for making this year's event a wonderful success.



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BELTS26

THANK YOU

continued from page 1

passion, and professionalism. Their efforts were rewarded by audiences who listened, reacted, reflected, and often stayed afterward to share their thoughts and experiences.

One of the greatest strengths of community theater is its ability to bring people together from different backgrounds and perspectives. Throughout the run of *American Son*, we witnessed that firsthand. Whether audience members agreed with one another or saw the story through different lenses, they shared the experience together—a reminder of the important role the arts can play in fostering understanding and conversation.

On behalf of everyone at UpStage Artists, thank you for supporting local theater and for embracing a production that invited us all to think a little deeper. We are honored to be part of such a thoughtful and engaged community, and we look forward to welcoming you back for future productions.



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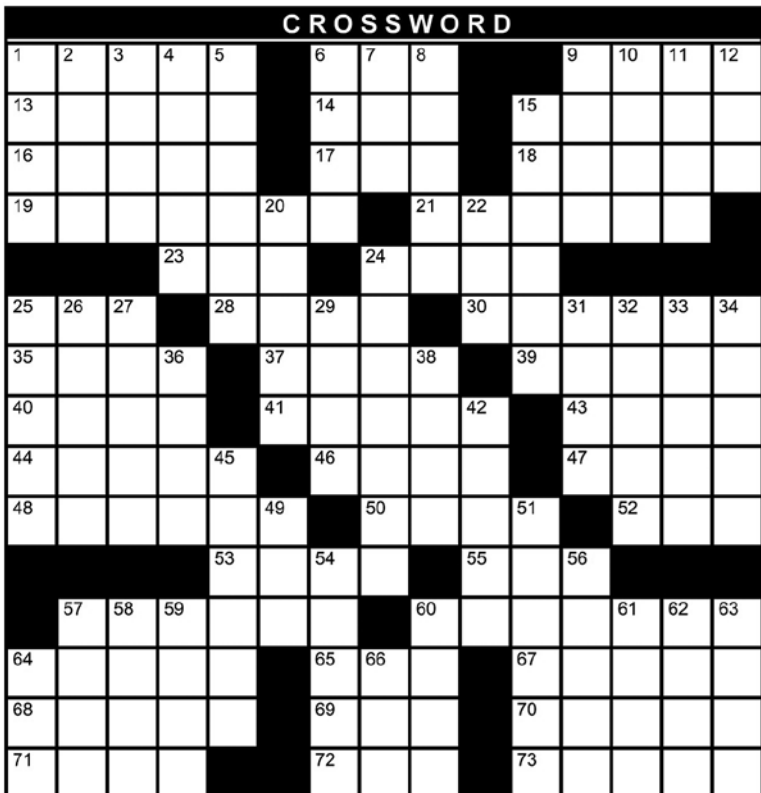
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Statepoint Crossword: 4th of July



ACROSS

- 1. Dagger's partner
6. Elephant party, acr.
9. Do like volcano
13. Fire (2 words)
14. Pro football org.
15. Jonas Salk's conquest
16. Like a Harvard building?
17. ET carrier
18. Bedeck
19. *Tasty Fourth of July outings
21. *Float processions
23. Black gunk
24. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
25. The Jackson 5's 1970 hit
28. Caffeine source
30. TV classic " ___ Heroes"
35. Folio page
37. Abel's big brother
39. Fortune teller's card
40. Rank in British peerage
41. Archipelago parts
43. Head for (2 words)
44. Besech
46. Impermanent employee
47. Prayer's end
48. Gardener's trimmer
50. Part of speech
52. Am is to I as ___ is to we
53. Calista Flockhart's husband
55. Likewise

- 57. *Salad tuber

- 60. * ___ Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest
64. Nonsense
65. Female gametes
67. "A Doll's House" playwright
68. Cuckoo
69. Opposite of guzzle
70. Cuckoo for what puffs?
71. Eyelid affliction
72. Driver's aid
73. Giving a once-over

DOWN

- 1. Hair holder
2. First name in jeans
3. Auricular
4. ___ provocateur
5. Island off Alaskan coast
6. Wildebeests
7. *For most, the 4th is a day ___
8. Onomatopoeia for splash
9. *Drink at a barbecue
10. Weary walk
11. Ireland, once
12. *Patriots ___ over Loyalists
15. Long John Silver's pet
20. Crocus, pl.
22. Ooh partner
24. Last part (2 words)

- 25. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
26. Famous Memphis street
27. Felt concern
29. *"...twilight's ___ gleaming"
31. Lady of "A Star is Born"
32. Smell
33. Post-it user
34. *"Born on the Fourth of July" director
36. *Popular July 4th decoration
38. Captain of Nautilus
42. Phlegms
45. Sully one's reputation
49. Go bad
51. Public announcement
54. Fowl perch
56. Exclamation of delight or dismay (2 words)
57. Bridge, in Paris
58. Colloquial approval
59. Ditty
60. Back of neck
61. Ascus, pl.
62. Ne
63. Glitch
64. Part of O.H.M.S.
66. Strive

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Join us in Laurel for July 4th Parade and Fireworks

Looking to spend July 4th in the community? Come out to the Laurel Independence Day Celebration! The 21st District Delegation will participate in the parade that starts at 3 PM. There will also be vendors, field events, and a fireworks show at 9:15 PM. Go to laurel4th.org for more information.



center permitting through June 30. Further questions on what will happen after that date can be directed to the office of the County Executive, County Council, and Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement. The Task Force's final report and recommendations can be read here.

Plug-In Solar to Fight Climate Change

Maryland continues to be at the forefront of exciting new environmental legislation. We passed a new law to allow you to use plug-in balcony solar energy systems at 1,200 watts or less. That's equivalent to four solar panels! If a device is above 390 watts, residents must notify their electric company and provide wattage and safety certification of their device. This may also require installing an automatic locking disconnect switch. Devices with power output of 391 watts or less are exempt from the certification requirements. Utilities are not allowed to impose interconnection fees, or require extra equipment from customers.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network recommends that larger systems be installed by an electrician to meet legal requirements. They estimate that a plug-in solar system will pay for itself within two years of going online, and will continue to lower energy bills for at least 15 years after that. See here for more information: <https://ccanactionfund.org/every-single-thing-in-the-utility-relief-act/>

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 me at jim.rosapepe@senate.maryland.gov or call (410) 841-3141.

21st District Delegation Gets 97% Rating from Maryland League of Conservation Voters

The League of Conservative Voters has released their yearly score sheet for the Maryland General Assembly. I am proud to announce that our delegation has continued to maintain our 97% lifetime scores. (Nobody is perfect! A few of us missed some votes.) Go to <https://www.mdclc.org/press/2026-scorecard-press-release> for more details.

Reminder: Fireworks Are Illegal

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department encourages residents to attend approved public fireworks displays offered throughout the County, handled by a licensed fireworks professional. While certain types of fireworks may be legal in some neighboring jurisdictions, Prince George's County has banned the sale, possession, and use of all kinds of fireworks, including sparklers, by residents in hopes of preventing needless accidents and injuries.

Penalties for law violations include a fine of up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail. To learn more go to https://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/public_safety/index.php

Data Centers In Prince George's County

Recently, I've gotten inquiries about the construction of data centers in Prince George's County. I and the rest of the 21st District Delegation share your concerns on data centers' impact on the environment and electricity billing. This is why my colleague, Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk, introduced the Utility RELIEF Act, which my colleagues and I strongly supported. The Act places data centers under strict financial safeguards that will prevent consumer electricity rates from increasing. The new law also requires the state to prepare a comprehensive analysis on the environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in Maryland. Governor Wes Moore signed the bill into law this April. We will continue to protect our district's environment and safety as we learn more about the effects of new data centers on our communities.

The County Office of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement oversees the consideration process for data center projects in the county. Currently, the County Council is considering recommendations made by the Qualified Data Center Task Force earlier this year. On April 23, 2026, County Executive Aisha Braveboy issued Executive Order 10-2026, which extends the moratorium on data

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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Obituaries

David Frederick Murray

Formerly of Beltsville, MD. On Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Beloved husband of the late Rita Wasilewski Murray for forty-four years; Loving father of Rachel Murray, Rebecca Slebodnik (Donald), Eileen Murray-Kraft (Amy), Amy Weber (Robert), and Leanne Serra (Patrick); Special uncle of Lynn Barber (Greg) and their son, Jeremy; Grandfather of Evan, Liam, Samantha, Caroline, Leonie, David, and Hayley; preceded in death by sister, JoAnn Crockett



David Frederick Murray

and his grandson, John Cayce; Relatives and friends visited with the Murray at BORGWARDT FUNERAL HOME, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD on Tuesday, June 9, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Funeral service was held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday, June 10, at 11:00 a.m. Interment Parklawn Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to the above-named church.

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

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Concrete Spilled on Rhode Island Avenue

Since January 2026, my team and I have been in touch with the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) to advocate for a remedy for the concrete tailings that spilled along Rhode Island Avenue between Powder Mill Road and Baltimore Avenue. Several Beltsville residents have contacted me to express concern about these driving conditions.

DWP&T has examined the roadway a couple of times and responded that due to the thickness of the concrete tailings spill it is difficult to physically remove without doing damage to the roadway surface. However, thanks to continued community complaints and continued advocacy by the District 1 staff, DPW&T has now agreed to look at other options for removing the tailings. We will keep watch on this matter.



(From left to right) District 1 School Board Member Dr. Tiffini Andorful, Ms. Yvette Korvin, Liya Shewakena, and Council Member Dernoga celebrating Ms. Korvin's 37 years of service as a High Point High School teacher.

"Prohibited Home Business" Legislation Introduced

I recently proposed Council Bill CB-048-2026, "Prohibited Home Businesses", on May 26, 2026, in order to strengthen enforcement against illegal home-based businesses. This legislation includes:

- Expanding the responsible parties to include "owner of record, tenant, lessee, or occupant".
- Establishing the definition of "Prohibited Home Business" to include "Vehicle Repair, Servicing, or Maintenance, or any business that adversely impacts the residential character of the neighborhood".
- Establishing the following civil monetary fines (for which each day a prohibited home business violation continues shall constitute a distinct civil violation): 1st Violation is \$1000; 2nd Violation (within a 24-month period) is \$2500; 3rd and Subsequent Violation is \$5000.
- Establishing that, for any violation constituting a Prohibited Home Business, the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) may issue a citation immediately upon verification and shall not be required to grant a grace period.
- Establishing that civil fines, penalties, and the cost of abatement may be recorded as a lien upon the property.

CB-048-2026 has been referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (TIEE) Committee for further review. If enacted, we can

make it harder to conduct illegal business operations in residential areas that continue to see ways to avoid enforcement by the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE). Track the progress and read the bill at tinyurl.com/CB-048-2026.

Staying Cool and Safe in Extreme Heat

With the extreme heat of Summer, it is important to stay cool and hydrated. Please be aware of your local Cooling Center. In Beltsville, this is the Vansville Community Center, located at 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, 20705. The Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, located at 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, 20707, will also serve as a cooling center. You can utilize this interactive map to locate cooling centers in District One and throughout the County: tinyurl.com/CoolingCenters2026.

Here are suggestions to help cope with extreme heat: drink plenty of fluids while avoiding alcohol, caffeine, and overly sweet beverages. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothing. Avoid direct sunlight, wear sunscreen, and stay in cool, shaded locations whenever possible. Avoid salty foods or beverages that can lead to dehydration. If you have to engage in physical activities, do so during the morning and evening when temperatures are cooler, and take breaks to cool off. Also, be sure to protect your pets by keeping them cool, well-hydrated, and never leaving them in a parked vehicle. Stay

safe and take these precautions to protect yourself, your family, and your pets during periods of extreme heat.

Heat-related health issues include heat cramps, which can then lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat cramps manifest as muscle pain and extreme cramping. Heat exhaustion manifests as dehydration, cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin, extreme weakness, nausea, headaches, vomiting, and faintness. Heat-stroke manifests as body temperatures over 105 degrees Fahrenheit, dry and red skin, a rapid and weak pulse, fast and shallow breathing, convulsions, disorientation, delirium, and potentially heat-induced coma. To address heat cramps, stop all activities, find a rest area, drink fluids (avoid caffeinated products and alcohol), and wait for a few hours before resuming activity. Heat cramps can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If you experience heat exhaustion again, drink fluids, find a cool, shaded resting place, and seek medical attention if symptoms do not improve within one hour. If you are facing heat stroke, cool off with cool, wet towels to lower your body temperature and call 911. Be careful when giving fluids; do not give fluids if the victim refuses water, vomits, or has fainted.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch by emailing us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or calling 301-952-3887.

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 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Solution on page 8

Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

Address: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.6029. Fax: 301.927.6472. E-mail: collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com. Regular hours of operation: Open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and some holidays (double-check with the museum regarding the specific holidays). Special events may have different costs and hours of operation. General admission: Adults/\$5; Seniors/\$4; Children and Students with ID/\$2 (1-year-old and under, free). The museum exhibit area highlights 10 unique aircraft and objects relating to the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. For special events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TAKE TO THE SKIES: LIVING HISTORY TOUR

Saturday, July 11, 2026 11:00 am - 11:45 am. Ticket Price: \$5 Children/Students with ID; \$10 Adults Non-Resident; \$7 Children/Students with ID; \$13 Adults
Age: 16 & up recommended, all ages welcome
Experience the thrill of being a World War II combat pilot and walk in the footsteps of the Tuskegee Airmen. Led by a military historian clad in World War II period attire, discover the stories of the 992 Tuskegee Airmen who earned their "silver wings." In the face of segregation and adversity, the Tuskegee Airmen became pioneers in aviation, destroying stereotypes and opening doors for future African American aviators. Explore the Tuskegee connections to the Civilian Pilots Training Program, Columbia Air Center, and their legacy in modern aviation. Registration required. Includes museum admission. https://www.pgparks.com/event_list/tuskegee-airmen-take-to-the-skies-living-history-tour

JULY 2026
Calendar of Events

RUNWAY RHYTHMS SUMMER MUSIC SERIES: THE HYATTSVILLE JAZZ COLLECTIVE TRIO

Saturday, July 25, 2026 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Free Soak up the sounds of summer as local musicians bring the museum courtyard to life! Pack a picnic, spread out on a blanket or lawn chair, and enjoy great tunes and snappy beats. Rotating food trucks will be on-site with tasty bites for purchase. Sponsored in part by Riverdale Park Arts and the Field of Firsts Foundation. FREE! No registration required; includes museum admission.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset daily, except Tuesdays when they close at 4 p.m. Regular business hours for the building are Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Federal holidays.

- Free admission, parking, exhibits, and programs.
- Miles of walking trails.
- Great for birdwatching and photography.
- 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.
- Weather closures: Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

STORY TRAIL

Daily, from sunrise to sunset (except Tuesdays, only until 4 p.m.). All Ages. Explore a seasonal children's book, displayed page-by-page in weather-

protected, child-height boxes outdoors along the paved Loop Trail that are near the outdoor bathrooms.

- The book for **June** is *Bugs for Lunch/Insectos Para El Almuerzo* by Margery Facklam.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS

Invitation to enjoy educational species exhibits, the grounds and trails, bird blind, and pollinator gardens. There is a patio for picnics. Send your questions to Jason at michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

Sunrise to sunset daily, except only until 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. All ages. This is an outdoor self-guided nature-challenge game on the grounds. Download the free phone app at home first. Complete challenges and earn a patch. Play: <https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge>.

MONARCH MAGIC CENTER

10 am-4 pm, Wed.-Sat. [S]. Full-color video: monarch butterfly life cycle. All ages. 2025 season's monarch-release data available. Interested volunteers: Call; sign up for "Butterfly Team Overview Presentation."

HOLLINGSWORTH WILDLIFE ART GALLERY

10 am-4 pm Wed.-Sat. [S]. All ages. July: Local multidisciplinary artist Keith Kozloff dedicates his exhibit to Rachel Carson: findings at this refuge alerted her to the risks of DDT. Keith's exhibit partners w/Friends of Patuxent in July as a fundraiser and on Sat., July 25 with the Friends' Mini Fair. Reception w/light refreshments: July 25, 12-2 pm; Talk, 1 pm: on Carson, her advocacy for children & the wonders of nature.

FRIENDS OF PATUXENT'S LOCAL COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MINI FAIR

10 am-2 pm, July 25. [S]. All ages. The mini fair is part of the 90th-Year Anniversary celebrations for this national wildlife refuge! 20+ local environmental groups, live music, continuous film showings of "The Extraordinary Caterpillar," photography exhibit, children's activities, Jersey Mike's foods onsite for purchase. Visitor Center area. Rain or shine.

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. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, next to the University of Maryland Laurel 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)

The July Meeting will be Wednesday, July 1 at 10:30 a.m. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information about the meeting, contact Ms. Pary Harris at 240.893.6738.

- The LSFC office is open Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 301.206.3380.
- Please make lunch reservations two weeks in advance of each meeting. Call the office for details.
- Trips planned for 2026: *Be sure to register early since many trips sell out in advance!*
- Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Website: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/>; online information products are always available. NAL is on X at https://x.com/National_Ag_Lib. The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is one of five national libraries of the United States. It houses one of the world's largest collections devoted to agriculture and its related sciences. See nutrition information for every stage of life at <https://www.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

The Young at heart club will not meet in July.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Closed Saturday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is 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. See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SUMMER MEALS: PROVIDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mondays through Thursdays at 1:00 pm Kids and teens ages 2 to 18 can enjoy a free lunch while supplies last

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 – 3.

MOVIE AND CRAFT: "JURASSIC PARK"

Wednesdays July 8, 2:00 pm to 3:30 p.m. Free Unearth a story at your library this summer! Enjoy a showing of Jurassic Park with a special dinosaur eye craft during Summer Prince George's! Closed Captioning will be available for each movie showing in the series, and Spanish Closed Captioning will be available upon request. Register at <https://www.pgcmis.info/event/16364534>

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5.

STEM FUN: FOOSBALL TABLES

Thursday, July 23 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities! Celebrate the 2026 World Cup this year by engineering your own foosball table and learning the mechanics of how it works! Register at <https://www.pgcmis.info/event/16515613>

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Monday, July 13 at 4 pm. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

GET HIRED: INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES PRESENTED BY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Tuesday, July 14 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Learn practical interview techniques to help you succeed in today's job market. This program covers interview preparation, common questions, professional communication, and interview do's and don'ts. Participants will build confidence and gain strategies for pursuing a new job or transitioning into a new career. Register at <https://www.pgcmis.info/event/16710826>

WORK LIFE BALANCE: PREVENTING BURNOUT IN THE WORKPLACE PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION

Tuesday, July 28 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Explore strategies to manage stress, improve focus, and maintain work-life balance. Learn about executive functioning, identify burnout triggers, and build practical habits to support productivity, better sleep, and overall well-being. Register at <https://www.pgcmis.info/event/16513864>

Sudoku Solution from page 7

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Coreutils

In June, we discussed editors across several generations, computers, and operating systems. This month Microsoft announced an implementation of a Windows version of the GNU Core Utilities typically called Coreutils.

Many of these individual utilities go back to the original UNIX and its variations over the years. Combining these packages as they are now didn't happen until 1992 when the GNU team decided to call them the Coreutils.

This month, Microsoft decided to release a mostly compatible version of Coreutils to "mostly" work on Windows. The idea was to make it easier to maintain and support scripts written for Linux that could also run on Windows. Microsoft is also rewriting the code in Rust, which is a new language with big security benefits. The Linux community has an open discussion on replacing their implementation with a new Rust version as well. Canonical, the creators of Ubuntu Linux are in the process of rewriting the complete set of Linux Coreutils into Rust.

What is Coreutils?

Coreutils is a collection of typically small utilities implemented as command line tools to support useful administration and man-

agement tasks. Command line tools are those that run on the DOS command line in Windows. These tools frequently appear on Linux, UNIX, Mac OS, Chrome OS, and Android systems. These tools are organized into three primary groupings, File Utilities, Text Utilities, and Shell Utilities. Most Coreutils implementations also follow the POSIX standards for UNIX like systems allowing script execution on all POSIX supporting systems.

What are these utilities?

There are over 100 utilities, and I am not going to list them all, but I will list some of the more important ones.

File Management

These utilities work with managing files on the system.

- ls – List the files in a directory. Similar to dir in DOS.
- cp – Copies files from one directory to another. Similar to DOS copy.
- mv – Moves a file from one directory to another. Similar to the DOS move command.
- rm – Removes a file from a directory. Similar to DOS del command
- mkdir – Creates a new directory. Similar to mkdir on DOS.
- ln – Creates a symbolic link to

an existing file. Similar to the DOS mklink command.

- touch – update a files time stamp or creates a new empty file. No DOS equivalent.

Text Utilities

These utilities relate to processing text files. Most of these do not have a DOS equivalent.

- cat – displays and concatenates multiple files.
- grep – processes general expressions outputting the results.
- sort – sorts the input outputting the
- awk – used for data extraction and report generation.
- sed – A stream editor used to edit the input returning the edited result
- head – returns the first lines of an input file.
- tail -.-returns the last lines of an input file.
- wc –word count counts the number of words in the input

Shell Utilities

These utilities provide system operations. The shell is what we think of when using the command line. Linux has many variants on the command line. Examples include bash (the Bourne again shell), csh (the "C" shell), zsh (The "Z shell), dash (Debian Almquist Shell), ksh (the Korn shell). Each of these was created to address

specific needs. The commands support all of these shells.

- echo – Echo simply repeats the command line.
- date – returns the system date and time.
- whoami - repeats the current user identity.
- uptime – outputs the length of time the system has been operating.
- kill – stops the requested process

Dual Booting

Over my career, I have used both Windows and Linux often at the same time. People created many tools to run both Windows and Linux on the same machine. Initially the primary way was to dual boot the computer. You could run one system or the other but not both. This has changed over the years and I still use some of them.

Cygwin

Cygwin is a free and open source tool that allows most Cygwin programs to operate directly on Windows. The developers created code to intercept the kernel commands from Linux and translate them to the windows functions. Over the years, support for many Linux applications appeared for Windows via Cygwin. I typically only use the Linux command

line in my Windows PC since I have many Linux computers and my primary use is to run scripts.

Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)

Microsoft eventually created a system that allowed Linux to run under Windows 10 by providing the Linux systems calls in the Windows kernel (WSL1). Now Microsoft has implemented a lightweight virtual machine via Hyper-V to support the entire Linux kernel. Known as WSL2, this gives users the ability to choose from multiple Linux versions.

Virtual Hosting

I personally avoid the WSL systems because I experience problems when trying to run systems on a Virtual Machine when Hyper-V activates. I tend to use Oracles Virtual Box VM on Windows. I have experimented with others but this one seems to work best for my applications. Moreover, it's free and open source. I also use some VM's running on Linux hosts.

Over and Out

I hope you enjoyed the column this month. Feel free to send suggestions for future topics. In the meantime, enjoy a great summer.

Strategic Ways to Reduce Your Taxable Income

(StatePoint) Have you ever lamented how much of your earnings go to taxes? One way to ensure that more of your money benefits you and your future is by making strategic contributions to tax-advantaged savings accounts.

By opening and contributing to a Health Savings Account (HSA) and Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can substantially reduce your taxable income. Not sure if these accounts are right for you? Consider these insights from Fidelity:

HSAs

An HSA is an account that can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses, including copays, prescriptions, and a lot more. It's "tax-advantaged" because your contributions reduce your taxable income; the money isn't taxed while it's in the account, even if it earns interest or investment returns; and as long as you use your HSA funds for qualified medical expenses, you won't owe taxes when you take money out of the account. This triple-tax advantage is powerful, but it's not the only reason why HSAs are so popular. Unlike a flexible spending account, an HSA is not "use-it-or-lose-it," meaning it doesn't need to be spent within


a certain timeframe. If you don't need the money in your HSA for current medical expenses, you can save and invest it until you do. Just keep in mind that to open and contribute to an HSA, you'll need to be enrolled in an HSA-eligible health plan.

IRAs

An IRA refers to a tax-advantaged account designed to help you save for retirement on your own, independent of an employer. There are several types of IRAs, but when people say "IRA" alone, they often mean a traditional IRA. That's a type anyone with earned income can open and contribute to. Traditional IRAs allow you to save on income taxes now and pay them later in retirement, when you could be in a lower tax bracket and therefore owe less in taxes. Because an employer-sponsored savings plan might not be enough to accumulate the savings you need due to annual contribution limits, investing through an IRA could help you save more for the future.

Before opening an IRA, check out a few different firms that offer them. Find out whether they offer helpful support and a user-friendly experience, plus whether they charge any fees or minimums.

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IF IT'S REAL ESTATE, IT'S ROBERTA !!!

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LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
What do these guiding words describe for the U.S.?
First, let our minds remember why men came this way
When they re'lized this earth was a much larger place.

For wanting to adore their awesome Lord and Christ
Much persecution fell upon the Christian life,
So humble Pilgrims full of Resurrection news
Left ev'rything to follow all their Bible's views.

Without constraints of legalism or the sword
To rob them from obeying all their Savior's words
Not only for themselves, but for the ones they met

Intentions were to share their faith as they went West,

Of course, some came with only their self-centered dreams,
But since the Fall of man in Eden, Evil's schemes
Have tried to ruin all the Great Creator's plans
In spreading His salvation message to all lands.

Although our Nation has not always done what's right
Perfection's not attainable within our might,
However, there are many still within our midst
Who freely lay their lives down in exalting His.


Without their courage, faithfulness, and godly prayers

Each generation could not have helped take us where
This world has benefitted, even to this day,
Through kindnesses bestowed through us by Heaven's grace.

Pursuing happiness is more than circumstance;
It's seeking blessings in the only One Who can
Provide the satisfaction to enjoy the means
God's given for this time and for eternity.

Beckie Hutchings
4/08/2026

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

Join us for meaningful worship, inspiring music, and a warm, welcoming community.


Can't attend in person? Watch our live broadcast at www.eumcbeltsville.com

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Upcoming Events

Monday, July 6: Office closed for 4th of July
Sunday, July 12: Monthly Potluck following Service
Saturday, July 25: 8am-11am Free Food Distribution - all are welcome

Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor
(301) 937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com
www.eumcbeltsville.com
Find us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>
Follow us on Instagram @eumc_beltsville



A Mission Parish of the
Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

Located in Twin Chimneys Office Park
10760 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD

Evening Vigil: Sat. 5:00 PM
Hours & Divine Liturgy: Sun. 9:40 AM

All Services in English
Fr. Christopher Johnson, Rector
443-472-0512
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Come and see.

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
10774 Rhode Island Avenue
301-937-7646



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Jongkil Na
www.APLChurch.org

Come and Join Us
Located in the Beltsville Professional Center

IF YOU NEED HELP WE ARE HERE!
Si necesitas ayuda, estamos aqui!
301-937-8119
www.baccmd.org

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



BACC Services

- Job Counseling Assistance
- Rental & Utility Assistance (on a case by case basis)
- Food Supplement
- Professional Counseling

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

- 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

Food and financial assistance HOURS:
Tues and Wed 9 am to 2 pm.
Office calling HOURS:
Mon through Thurs
9 am to 4:30 pm

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

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

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



CUB PACK 1031

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ta! We are a family unit (boys and girls) of scouts from kindergarten to 5th grade and are interested in joining us – contact me at the email below!

Check out our website: <https://pack1031.org/> There you can find information on how to join our Pack. If you are interested in Cub Scouts at P1031, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com or BeAScout.org for information. We are a family scouting unit. During the school year we meet at Beltsville Academy for our den meetings and in the summer, we meet at least twice a month mostly in the parks.

TED LADD

continued from page 1

out the paper on their dining room table. When the paper was laid out, the resulting draft would be delivered to a Hyattsville print shop. There, the input would be physically transferred to a large linotype machine, letter-by-letter. I delivered the draft paper to the printer on one occasion and witnessed a worker atop the linotype machine. How times have changed.

NNO

continued from page 1

friendly event designed to bring neighbors together

The event is being coordinated by the Prince George's County Police Department's Beltsville District VI Station. Those interested in participating as a vendor or seeking additional information may contact **PFC Alvelo** at Joalvelo@co.pg.md.us, **A/SGT Hibbert** at Kchibbert@co.pg.md.us, or call the **Beltsville District VI Station** at **301-937-0910**.

Organizers encourage interested vendors to reserve their space early and help make National Night Out 2026 a successful celebration of community spirit and partnership.

For more information, contact the Beltsville District VI Station.

Bring Back Our Children (and Teachers). It has been about a month since a group of school children and a few teachers, were kidnapped in Oyo State, Nigeria. A few years ago, we had the case of over 300 school girls getting kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. We have a problem in Nigeria – insecurity! It is time to call a spade what it is. I typically do not write about politics, but the government in Nigeria needs to do something about the growing insecurity situation.

I grew up half my life in Ibadan, Oyo State. My late father was a University lecturer at the University of Ibadan, and my mother (who is from St. Kitts-Nevis in the Caribbean) taught music at the International School on the same university campus. I had somewhat of a sheltered life, growing up. In my teen years, I started exploring the city more as I was able to go about on my own. I never once had to live in fear of my environment.

As a child, we would roam the streets of the University campus, playing (till the street lights came on --- our cue to go back home). I cannot begin to imagine what the kidnapped children (Elementary School age) are going through mentally, living in presumably rough conditions, exposed to the elements and more. The trauma they have been put through is going to be with them the rest of their lives. Praying they are found alive and rescued, how do you now send them back to school to learn? What resources are going to be put in place for them to reintegrate into the regular learning

environment? The questions are many and answers are few?

As politicians, now I am speaking directly to those in authority in Nigeria – how do you go to sleep at night, knowing an economically challenged family is missing a child or children? A community has lost custody of their innocent children, due to insecurity. How do we expect these children to grow into leaders?

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Politician, you owe it to the country and to the communities, to provide a safe and comfortable enough environment for our children to be able to go to school, learn and do other things that children do, so they can have fond memories to look back on.

A lot of my elementary (primary) school peers and I are still in touch with each other. We have a group on WhatsApp, where are able to share memories that make us look back at our childhood and say those were some of the best years of our lives. Some of us have been friends from before we could walk, and thanks be to God, in 2026, we can look back and laugh. We share memories how nicknames were created way back then in the 1970's and those names still identify with some of us, till today. We enjoy meeting each other's families and telling each other's kids, things about their parents that they find fascinating. We still remember birthdays, the first crush at that age, birthday parties and more. You my dear reader, also have memories I am sure you hold dear, to this very day.

So, what are those children

going to talk about later in life? We were in captivity and had to sleep in harsh conditions, eat and drink in an unhealthy environment? Will they say that the political leaders failed them, when it mattered the most?

If you are a Nigerian, reading this, you need to start asking the questions to those in positions of authority, "When will you bring back the kidnapped school children? You can sleep in a nice bed, on a nice pillow and even go under a blanket for additional warmth. A school child does not have that luxury. A school child cannot eat breakfast and then walk playfully with their peers to school, eager to start a new day, filled with new educational challenges. A brother or sister has to walk past an empty bed, as their sibling has been kidnapped.

So, my dear politician, enough of the talking and workshops and seminars and articles. The time for real action is here. We owe it to our children, their siblings, their cousins, their parents and the immediate communities.

Please, bring back the children and double please, let us allow the children to grow up enjoying their childhood. Provide a safer environment for them. These are the doctors and other professionals that will be taking care of some of us when we are older. We owe them a better childhood. I may not be in a position of authority, but I have a voice. You have a voice too and collectively we can echo the cry, "bring our school children back."

That's the Jive!

Classifieds • Call 301-257-3408

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VOLUNTEERING

CALLING ALL CAT LOVERS!

Do you enjoy cats and can spare one hour a week? Beltsville Community Cats would love for you to join our awesome Colony Support Team to help feed kitties and experience their gratitude firsthand! Contact 240-444-8353 or email hello@beltsvillecats.net 01/27

HELP WANTED

PERSON TO DO YARD WORK. Call 301-937-0476

HELP WANTED

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll, Tax Planning, Preparation & Representation Budgets, Analyses, Support Services, NPOs & Govt. Contract Compliance, Indirect Rates, DCAA, Incurred Costs, Submission, DCAA & More. 30Yrs+, Incorporations & Entity Choice Selection Audits, Reviews, Compilations Plus Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance Services. inforequest@bai-tech.com When CPA Experience & Results Matter. Call 301-608-2248. https://bai-tech.com. Creating Powerful Business Affordable Solutions For America & Beyond. 01/27



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9218 Baltimore Blvd.

(301) 441-2783

College Park, MD 20740



Contact Gary Kingery

Club News

Beltsville Young At Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

June was a good meeting, despite the heat that returned. We DO NOT MEET in July because the Community Center uses the community room for their "Kids

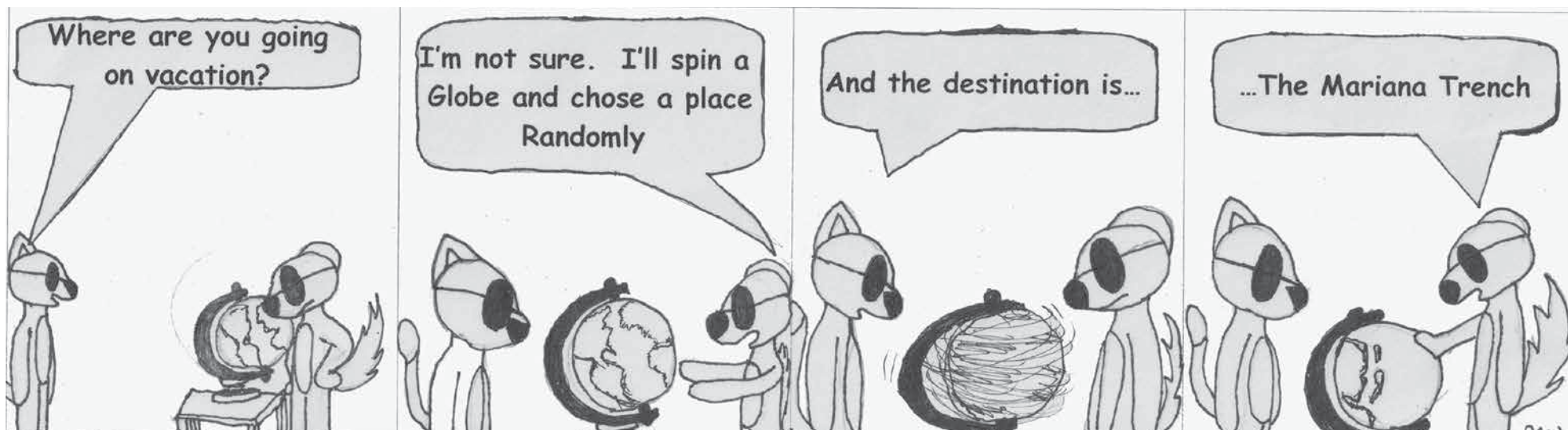
Camp."

I don't know yet what August will bring to the Beltsville Young at Heart Club, but I'll let you know later in July.

If you have questions, call me

at 301-498-9736. "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You, too? I thought I was the only one.'" — C. S. Lewis

Boospherous Boonipherous Bojangles Barnaby III, a.k.a. BOO By Joseph West



Fire Up True American Flavor on the Grill to Celebrate America 250

(StatePoint) As the nation marks the 250th anniversary of American independence, backyards across the country are gearing up for a milestone summer — and the grill is once again at the heart of the celebration.

From the 4th of July to Labor Day weekend and everything in between, Bear Mountain BBQ is helping you turn up the flavor all season long. Bear Mountain BBQ's premium, all-natural, American-made hardwood products transform any grill — gas, charcoal, electric or pellet — into a flavor engine, helping everyone from first-time grillers to seasoned pitmasters make unforgettable meals.

Bear Mountain BBQ Gourmet Blend Pellets offer a rich smokiness and the perfect balance of flavors for all of your favorite dishes. Try this low-stress, high-reward viral recipe from the Grill Dads for one of the easiest ways to get overnight brisket right.

Ingredients:

- 1 whole packet brisket (12–16 pounds)
- Kosher salt
- Coarse black pepper
- Garlic powder
- Beef tallow (collected during the cook)

Steps:

1. Trim your brisket: Trim the fat cap down to about 1/4 inch. Remove any hard, waxy fat that won't render. Round out the brisket by trimming off any thin edges or sharp corners that could dry



out during the cook. You're aiming for a smooth, even shape so it cooks consistently. If your setup allows, place a drip tray under the brisket to catch rendered fat — this is the beef tallow that you'll use later.

2. Season your brisket: Season generously on all sides with kosher salt and coarse black pepper. Add garlic powder. Make sure everything is evenly coated.
3. Smoke overnight: Preheat your grill to 200 degrees F using Bear Mountain Gourmet Blend pellets. Place the brisket fat-side down or facing the heat source. The idea that fat cap up "self-bastes" the brisket is a myth. Fat-side down protects the meat and intramuscular fat from the more direct, intense heat coming from below in the pellet smoker (smokers have heat coming from the side). Let the brisket go over night. No spritzing, no wrapping, no checking. This is where the ease comes in — low tem-

perature, steady smoke and time doing the work for you.

4. Increase temperature and continue cooking: In the morning, increase the smoker temperature to 250 degrees F. Continue cooking the brisket unwrapped. Now you're focused on rendering. Press on the fat cap — when your finger goes in easily and doesn't bounce back, that's your cue to wrap.
5. Wrap with beef tallow: Place the brisket on top of butcher paper or foil, then pour roughly a cup of reserved beef tallow over it. Wrap it tightly, making sure everything is sealed well. Return the brisket to the smoker at 250 degrees F.
6. Cook until probe-tender: Continue cooking until probe-tender. You'll typically land somewhere between 198–205 degrees F internal, but the real test is feel. You want it to feel like it is sliding into room-temperature butter.
7. Rest the brisket: Remove the brisket from the smoker and let it rest, wrapped, on the counter for at least 1 hour, until the carryover cooking stops and the internal temperature begins to drop. Then transfer it to a 140 degrees F oven or a cooler. You want the internal temperature to come down below 160 degrees F. The ideal slicing temperature is between 140–160 degrees F. You can hold it in this range for several hours as long as

your holding temperature stays around 140.

8. Slice and serve: Separate the point and flat, if needed. Slice the flat against the grain into thin slices. Slice or cube the point depending on preference. You're looking for slices that hold together, are fully rendered, and pull apart easily.

Want to fire up even more flavor to celebrate 250? The American tradition of robust wood-smoked flavor comes through with limited-edition Bear Mountain Red, White & BBQ pellets. This precise blend of hickory and oak is the perfect accompaniment to this recipe for the Grill Dad's Backyard BBQ Chicken: bearmountainbbq.com/blogs/recipes/grill-dads-backyard-bbq-chicken. Smoked slightly hotter to get that crispy skin, then finished with a nostalgic BBQ sauce glaze for a classic backyard flavor, this recipe celebrates good ol' American BBQ.

Bear Mountain BBQ's pellets are sold in-store and online at retailers nationwide, including Amazon, Lowe's, Academy, Tractor Supply, HEB, Home Depot and more. To gear up for a summer-long celebration and for more recipes, visit bearmountainbbq.com.

"This summer, celebrate tradition and make every cookout a worthy celebration with the best wood and the best flavors," says Levi Strayer, director of cooking for Bear Mountain BBQ.



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