Santa Tour 2017

Santa Claus has confirmed his route with the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department! Santa will begin his routes around 6:30 to 7 pm. Santa wanted to pass on a few tips so his trip to Beltsville can be enjoyable for everyone involved:
• If you meet Santa at the intersections listed below on the schedule, he will be able to meet more children and see more of Beltsville.
• Always use caution when visiting Santa. Please pay attention to the fire apparatus and stay out of the street.
• Sometimes Santa runs behind schedule by a couple of minutes, so be patient. He will

Scouting for Food Collection a Success!

By Gary Bauchan, Assistant Scoutmaster

The Boy Scouts from Troop 1033 and Cub Scouts from Pack 1031 of the Beltsville area collected 1,457 cans and non-perishable food items totaling 1,377 pounds. That is almost three-quarters of a ton of food. The scouts distributed 2,000 bags to Beltsville residents on Sunday, November 5, and picked up the food on Saturday, November 11. All of the food was donated to the food pantries at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and Emmanuel United Methodist Church, the sponsoring organization of Boy Scout Troop 1033. The scouts and parents contributed over 200 volunteer hours to distribute the bags and pick up the food. Great job, scouts! We especially thank the people of Beltsville for concerned community support.

Behnke’s Enters a New Era

By Jim Butcher

It’s been 87 years since an enterprising young German-born immigrant named Albert Behnke opened a small plant nursery for business in Beltsville. That first business would be named, appropriately enough, “The Albert Behnke Nursery.” A year later, young Albert Behnke would take for his wife a grant woman whose name was Rose Hausner. Together, the hardworking young immigrant couple would grow and expand Behnke’s Nursery. This is a photo of Albert Behnke Nurseries as it was called in the beginning. In the distance you can see the Lewis Family home, which is still there on Wicomico Ave. Behnke Nurseries is still located on this property in Beltsville, Maryland on US 1.

Catapult Learning Marks Relocation of Two Schools in Prince George’s County with Grand Opening Event

Special and Alternative Education Provider Opens Campus to Better Serve Students

Catapult Learning, a leading provider of special and alternative education solutions that generate academic gains and better life outcomes for students, hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the relocation of the High Road School and High Road Upper School in Prince George’s County, MD, at the start of this academic year. The schools’ new campus is at 9701 Philadelphia Court in Lanham, MD.

Part of the Catapult Learning family,
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Business at Behnke’s Remains Terrific, with So Many New Faces Stopping in Every Week, Says Stephanie Fleming. Yet After Several Years of Consideration, the Behnke Family Has Come to the Conclusion That It Is Time to Consider Alternate Uses for the Property. The Family Is Working Toward Repurposing the Property as a Residential Development That Would Be Compatible with the Surrounding Neighborhood and an Improvement to the Route One Corridor. With the Family Just in the Beginning Stages of this Long Process, Behnke’s Management and Buyers Are Already Ordering for the Spring 2018 Season and Working on Initial Plans for Spring 2019 Product Lines.


Behnke’s Garden Club Is a Way for the Nursery to Connect to the Gardening Community With Timely Gardening Information and Notice of Specials. Among Other Benefits, Members Receive the Behnke Weekly E-Newsletter, Which Is Filled With Tips, Gardening Advice, and Current Activities and Sales Along with Articles on the Behnke Family and Community Events. Joining Is Easy by Completing an Application Form Available at the Nursery or Online at Behnke.com. Website.

News: Rick Bergmann, Editor&Bnews@gmail.com, 11318 Big Horn Ct. Beltsville, MD 20705. 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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Please join our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/300944563420364/) and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.

Check out our website: www.beltsvilleanews.com

Neighbors in the News

Cub Pack 1031 is Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind

Cub Pack 1031 helped collect Scouting for Food donations from the neighborhoods around Beltsville Academy. The food was donated to the food pantries at Saint Joseph and Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

The scouts learned about expiration dates and how to sort the food by type to help the food pantries. The pack collected 330 lbs. of food.

Along the same theme, the dens are completing their duty to God adventures where they work to understand how to help our families’ faith communities and how the Scout Oath and Law reflect personal faith beliefs.

The Wolf Scouts are also learning about communication, the Bears about motion, and the Arrow den how to tie knots and lashings.

Next year, the pack will consider opening its unit to families with girls who are interested in participating in Cub Scout fun. We support the Girl Scout units in our area but realize that some families want to do family adventures.

Each year, the pack has activities such as camping, hiking, our annual pinewood derby, and campfires all year long. We also do participatory citizenship along Little Paint Branch Trail, our toy drive, and Scout- ing for Food. Along the way, we learn responsibility, play games, and have tons of fun. If you are interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts with your son, please contact Regina Halper at Pack1031CubScouting@gmail.com for more information.
Neighbors in the News

**Fire Prevention Poster Contest and Awards Program**

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 40th year of conducting a fire prevention poster contest and awards program for elementary schools. Poster judging occurred on October 7. Over 600 posters were received from the participating schools: Beltsville Academy, Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist, and Vansville Elementary School. Posters best communicating the fire prevention message were selected to receive awards. The students were honored at an awards ceremony held on October 22, 2017, at the Beltsville Fire Station.
Gifting Technology

It’s that time of year again where we help the non-technical spouse, sibling, or friend identify gifts for the techno-geeks in their lives. Let’s peek inside Santa’s bag to see what might be in there.

If You Didn’t Buy It Last Year

Last year, we talked about televisions, Raspberry Pi computers, 3D printers, and cell phones. These are all good gifts again this year, but the suggestions have changed.

The 3D printer space hasn’t changed much, but the prices are lower this year with several printers available for less than $200. The Monoprice Mini has earned a good reputation for a small 3D printer. It currently retails for $220 on Amazon and will probably be less than $200 for Black Friday sales.

Last year, the Raspberry Pi 3 for $35 and the Pi Zero for $5 were the latest tiny computers from the Raspberry Pi Foundation. This year, there is the Pi Zero W. The Pi Zero W adds WiFi and Bluetooth to the Pi Zero and sells for $10. Recently, I have found these computers on sale at Micro Center at $30 for the Pi 3, $5 for the Pi Zero W, and $1 for the Pi Zero. I wouldn’t be surprised to see these prices repeated for Black Friday.

Televisions have dropped dramatically in price this year with Amazon offering TVs for as little as $69 during its multiday Black Friday sale. This year you should skip considering the ordinary HD TV and go straight to the Ultra High Definition (UHD) High Dynamic Range (HDR) TVs. The prices of these newest technology TV’s have dropped to the point that they compete with last year’s prices for plain HD TVs. Where an HD TV offers a screen resolution for 1920 by 1080 pixels, the new UHD/HDR TV’s offers twice the number of pixels in each direction, horizontally and vertically (3840 by 2160 pixels). HDR expands the number of colors the TV can show and improves the contrast between light and dark, giving the TV a better image.

These TVs will downscale to watch the traditional TV sources, but to get the best picture, you will need UHD/HDR content. This is available through streaming sources such as Netflix and Amazon and through Ultra HD Blu-Ray disks play on an Ultra HD Blu-Ray player.

This Year’s Phones

Of course, all of the buzz this year is about the new Apple iPhones, the 8, 8+, and X and Google Pixel and Pixel 2 phones. Some reviewers say the Pixel 2 may be the best phone ever made, but the iPhone X (at over $1,000) may be the best phone ever made, with a lot of movies and TV on Google’s Chromecast Ultra (~$70) is the latest Chromecast device with these features. Amazon Fire TV Ultra adds UHD/HDR to the Amazon Fire but also adds the Alexa voice assistant to the remote control. Apple TV has a new model, the 4K ($180 to $200). If you have a lot of movies and TV on iTunes, then this may be the way to go because iTunes is not well supported outside of the Apple community.

Best Wishes

As usual, I have more to say than fits in the column. I wish a joyous holiday season to everyone and may this be a blessed time for you and your families.
Reminder: Health Insurance Deadline is December 15

Delegates Barbara Frush, Jose-
lina Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, and I want to be sure all working families can sign up for affordable health insurance. Despite all the proposals in congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is still in effect. Now—through December 15—is the time to learn about coverage—and other ways to save money on health insurance. Open enrollment runs until December 15. Be sure to enroll or change plans by visiting www.marylandhealthconnection.gov or call toll-free 1-855.642.8572.

Free Flu Shots for County Residents until December 29

Every year, the Prince George’s Health Department offers free flu vaccinations for county residents. Injectable flu vaccines are available, but you must have a health insurance card. Please call 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 301.858.3141.

Free or Affordable Local Activities for the Full-time Caregiver

By Maria Vogel

Two years ago my life took a 180 degree turn when I had my son and became a full-time mom. I went from having a demanding job to having a demanding newborn. Being a full-time parent has been an adventure and has come with its own challenges, and I have loved every minute of it! Now, some people may call me crazy for the following statement, but having a newborn was easier than having a toddler. Toddlers need to be entertained! Newborns are always cooperative, and at some point, I believe this will pass. There are plenty of very nice parks around and let your kid wander. They have to roam free and discover the world.

By Maria Vogel

As my son has gotten older, I have had to find daily activities to get him out of the house and active. The challenge is, of course, being able to do this on a daily basis without spending a lot or any money. There are plenty of very nice parks in the area, but the weather doesn’t always cooperate, and at some point, you just need a change of pace. So, here is my list of tried-and-true activities:

1) Storytime and other events and the local libraries. I love the Prince George’s County Library System. It has a lot of free programs for kids and a convenient app where you can find all the activities in one place. Living in the Chestnut Hills area of Beltsville, I have found that there are four libraries within a 15-minute drive: Beltsville, Laurel, Greenbelt, and Hyattsville. I tend to frequent their events most often, but I have also been known to go to events in Bowie, Bladensburg, and New Carrollton because they are only about a 25-minute drive. My favorite activity is Storytime on the Screen at the Old Greenbelt Theater on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The kids have popcorn and get a story and “movie” (a show segment like Daniel Tiger or Curious George) on the big screen. There is also a coloring sheet and crayons afterward.

If you are willing to drive a bit, you can find an age-appropriate storytime every morning of the week (except Sunday) if you cycle through the libraries. Not all Storytime librarians are “made equal,” so you may want to cycle through a few of them to find the ones that best suit your child and you. They also have some fun, random programs like Play and Grow done in conjunction with Infants and Toddlers of PGCPS, movie nights, evening Storytimes, Bibliobop Dance Parties, performances, and much more.

2) Open gym for walkers to 5 year olds at the Fairland Aquatic Center in Laurel. It is Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30–11:30 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 am–12:30 pm. The cost is $5 per visit. The kids basically get to run around and play in the gymnastics training gym. It has trampolines, a foam block pit, a large play floor with balls and hoops, a small “obstacle course,” and access to balance beams. If your child is having some gross motor development issues, this is a great space for working on some skills. It’s the best $5 I spend all week. My son never makes the 9-minute drive back to the house without falling soundly asleep. They do have some rules for the class, so call in advance and make sure you understand their requirements.

Side note: the Fairland Aquatic Center also has a fantastic playground. The jungle gym is very appropriate for a 2 year old because it’s not too far off the ground but is very large. It has a sand area, so bring some sand toys and let them have at it! It’s a great place to kill some time on a nice day.

3) IKEA. Yeah, I know this is an odd one. However, on a rainy, cold, hot, or humid day, it’s awesome. My son loves to wander around the showrooms. He can explore, open doors and cabinets, and on the furniture, use their kiosks to “build a couch”—all well supervised by me of course—so he doesn’t break anything. And there is always the actual “kids” play area. There is an actual “daycare” area where you can drop off your child, but I have never personally been able to do because there are height and potty training requirements my child doesn’t meet. Bonus: If you’re an IKEA family member (which is free and easy at their kiosks) you can pick up a free coffee at the cafeteria with no purchase necessary.

I always find a new food, candy, piece of furniture, storage solution, or even light bulb I need to pick up while I am there, so I don’t feel guilty about coming in for an hour or so of entertainment. On another note, my house is starting to look very much like an IKEA showroom, but that can’t be related, right?

Pro tips: Go around and park in the underground garage. It always has more available parking and keeps you out of the elements when walking to and from the store. Also, never go on the weekends; it’s a madhouse.

4) The play zone at Wheaton Mall. Or as we call it—Lord of the Flies. This is my farthest suggestion, but it’s totally worth the drive. The mall is a great place to get indoors and let your kid wander. They have those little cars that he can “ride” (my son still doesn’t know that they turn on) and a play zone where there are always other kids. Weekends there are NUTS (hence the nickname), so I stick to the weekdays.

Save the Date—2018 Winter Brunch

I hope you can join my wife, Sheila, and me for our Welcome 2018 Celebration on Sunday, January 14, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm, at College Park Academy (5751 Rivertech Ct, Riverdale). Families are welcome. Please RSVP soon at www.SenatorJimRosapepe.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Merry Christmas!

My wife, Sheila, joins me in wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and great New Year!

Contact us

Please let us know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. Moreover, of course, feel free to be in touch if we can help you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 301.858.3141.

Senator Jim Rosapepe

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Allen, Charles E.


Husband, father, Cub Scout leader, grandfather, Air Force staff sergeant, engineer, member of the American Legion, photographer, WSSC Retiree Committee member, usher at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. While his children were growing up, they went camping at Lake Sherando, and after camping days ended when their fourth child was born, they vacationed every summer in Ocean City, MD, with the Hyatt family. He had a “boat,” and the family would spend much of their childhood and adulthood cruising on the South and Severn River in Annapolis, MD.

He began his career working at a grocery store with his father, Frank, in the produce department, then enlisted in the U.S. Airforce and served at Sampson AFB, NY, during the Korean War. He met his wife Jean on a blind date. She was working with his sister Dorothy Hyatt at Acacia Insurance Co. He had beautiful handwriting, and the WSSC hired him as a draftsman. He was soon promoted to design engineer for the water and sewer department.

He retired from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in 1981. In fact, he was retired longer than he worked!

He enjoyed helping his children with home improvement projects; i.e., building a screened-in porch and finishing an unfinished basement for his daughter Lisa and son-in-law Jim; building decks for his sons, Bob and Mike, and a fish pond for his son Michael and his family in his home in Reisterstown, MD. His carpentry skills were self-taught, and he built a recreation room in their Beltsville home.

His love of gardening began as a child, swimming, and fishing in his Uncle Jim Allen’s farm pond near Mitchellville, MD. Eventually, the farm was sold for a housing development. The City of Bowie would preserve the pond as a historical landmark, incorporating it into what became “Allen Pond Park.” Charlie began working on his own backyard and built two landscaped fish ponds filled with koi, flowers, and goldfish along with a gazebo named “Allen Pond IL.” Also, Charlie designed an “unofficial park” across the street named “Allen Park, circa 2003.” His good friend Jack of Holland Gardens designed an artful sign after the September 2001 tornado. Their street, Brandon Lane, took a direct impact.

He also was a wedding photographer, Charles E. Allen Wedding Photography. He photographed hundreds of weddings. Charlie lived every moment he was on this earth. His grandson Matt had taken him to an Orioles game just weeks’ prior to his death.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Oct. 26. Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, MD. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the foundation thecamesteven.com and consider organ donation.

Charles E. Allen

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April 28, 2017 marked our 50th year in business, right here in your neighborhood! We have been located in the College Park, Greenbelt, and Beltsville area since 1967 and at our current location on Sunnyside Avenue in Beltsville since 1984.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with so many of you over the years. As 2017 comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to personally say thank you for supporting us for the last 50 years.

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mike McCartin, President
Ice Skating with the Yoo Club! Fundraiser at the Gardens Ice House

By Barbara Schofield

Do you like to skate on ice? If so, you do not want to miss out on this event! Kick off the Christmas season by joining the Yoo Club for a night of fun. On December 22, the Yoo Club will be hosting the Ice Skating! Winter Fundraiser with sponsorship from the Beltsville Lions Club. This night of fun will be held at the Gardens Ice House, located at 13800 Old Gunpowder Rd, Laurel, MD.

Half of ticket sales will go to the Youth Opportunity Outreach Program (The Yoo Club). These funds will help students purchase art supplies and photography and graphic design equipment for projects.

The Beltsville Young at Heart Club

The Young at Heart club had a wonderful meeting in October, the Season Players, a group of singers and dancers performed, and they were delightful. One of the Young at Heart members is also a performer with the Season Players. The Thanksgiving luncheon was also wonderful. Everyone enjoyed the food and friendship. There is a slate of new officers to be voted on at the December 7th meeting. The Beltsville Young at Heart wishes everyone a peaceful and loving holiday season. They hope to see all in the new year. For the holidays, here’s a quote from the Grinch, “What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

Johnny Seaton’s Christmas Show at the College Park Moose Lodge

Johnny and his band, Bad Behavior, will be performing at the College Park Moose Lodge on Saturday, December 9, from 7-10 pm. Johnny will be singing, in the style of Elvis Presley, Christmas songs as well as many other tunes made popular by Elvis. He will also include hits from other recording artists such as Tom Jones and Johnny Cash. Johnny Seaton is a Las Vegas-style showman! The show is a magnificent event that you will not want to miss, and it will really get you in the holiday spirit! The ticket price is $20 for the show only. An optional pork loin dinner with all the trimmings will be served before the show from 5 to 6:30 pm at the cost of only $10 for dinner. Tickets are on sale now, and this is a popular event, so don’t wait until the last minute to purchase them. Tickets can be bought in advance at the lodge.

The College Park Moose Lodge is located at 3700 Metzerott Road, College Park. For further information and reservations, please call 301.935.5525. Bring your family and friends to a wonderful, entertaining Christmas show!

Holiday Food, Gift & Fund Raising Program 2017

The Women’s Community Club of Beltsville is again coordinating our holiday food and gift programs as well as fund raising for our other important projects. We are asking Beltsville businesses, schools, service organizations, social clubs, churches, and individuals to help us provide food and gifts to needy families within our community for the holidays as well as funds for our other important projects. At Thanksgiving, we provide a meal for the entire family. At Christmas, we not only provide a holiday meal, but we also provide presents for children. Monetary contributions and gift cards can be mailed to: Women’s Community Club of Beltsville C/o Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD, 20705. Contact Karen Coakley with questions at Karenmcoakley@gmail.com or 301.937.3490.

The Prince George’s County Genealogical Society

The Prince George’s County Genealogical Society is pleased to announce its December guest speaker will be Ms. Heather Olsen. Heather is a longtime member of the society. She is an outstanding researcher, willing to answer questions and help others with their own research. Ms. Olson will be speaking about Using Associates to Identify Immigrant Origins—a Case Study. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 6, at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton, MD 20784. The session runs 7-9 pm and is always free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
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Do you believe in miracles? Seven Maryland American Legion Auxiliary members traveled to Buffalo, NY, to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival on October 25 where they were witness to many miracles. Imagine, if you will, a sightless, disabled veteran who, year after year, wins gold medals for his visual art. It boggles the mind. This is only one of many miraculous works of art produced by our disabled veterans.

In total, 118 disabled veterans were invited to attend this year's festival, which lasted for a week. These were all gold medal winners in their field of art. There were over 5,000 entrants from 136 V.A. medical centers who submitted entries. There are 53 categories of visual arts and 5 in performing arts.

The week was filled with tours of Niagara Falls, museums, and art galleries, as well as classes in jewelry making, origami, and other crafts. The evenings featured jam sessions, karaoke, photography, and great interaction between the volunteer staff and the artists. Many old friends caught up with each other, and just as many new friendships were formed. An art exhibit and a wonderful, live performance were held on Sunday before everyone departed on Monday for their homes across this great land.

The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion of Maryland are gold sponsors of this event and are recognized each year for their generosity. This year, we were awarded Corian cutting boards shaped as buffalos at the sponsor’s luncheon. It was my pleasure to accept, along with Meredith Beeg, the award for Maryland. This is a good time to remind you of our Maryland Veterans Creative Arts Festival that will be held on April 21, 2018, at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. This will be our eighth annual festival. Maryland was the first state to honor our veterans with their own festival. Now others are doing likewise.

We are officially now in the countdown to Christmas and New Year’s Eve, the ending of one year and the beginning of another. No matter how you celebrate the holidays, we know you will enjoy them even more if you attend one or more of the upcoming events scheduled for this month at College Park Post #217. On Friday, December 8, superstar Roddie McDowell and Nashville recording star Chet Reinert will be entertaining in our lounge with Ronnie Dove as MC. Tickets are $35 per person. Then on Sunday, December 17, Ronnie Dove and Cameron will be here with their big annual Christmas show from 2 to 6 pm. Tickets are $25. Also, would you believe it? Ronnie Dove and Cameron are returning on Dec. 30 with another added attraction, Cote Deonath appearing as Elvis.

A friend has an “orphan’s table” during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Her family never knows who will be joining them for dinner, but there is always someone who would dine alone if not for her compassion and generosity. May you be showered with blessings and may God continue to bless our great land, the home of the free because of the brave. Pray for our troops as they serve in the cause of peace around the world.
SCOUTS

continued from page 1

tributing the food. I am sure that the needy in the area will enjoy the fruits of our labor during the upcoming holiday season.

Scouts Compete in Orienteering

By Gary Bauchen, Assistant Scoutmaster

The 41st Annual Maryland Scout Orienteering Competition took place on Saturday, November 4, at Broad Creek Boy Scout Reservation north of Baltimore. A total of 70 units and 650 scouts took part in the competition. Four scouts including Walker, Vlad, Brian, and Kyle participated under the supervision of Scoutmaster Rick Deery and scouting parent Bob ’07G. Orienteering consists of scouts being able to read contour maps and use a compass to find their way around hill and forest, swamp and field, and river and valley to locate orienteering markers.

In the morning individual pair’s competition, the scouts are guided by a blazed path, and along the path, they have to locate six orienteering markers and place a dot on their maps as to the exact location of the marker. Points are awarded based on how close they are to the correct location of each marker. Two of our scouts, Vlad and Kyle, received 3rd place out of 225 pairs, fantastic!

In the afternoon troop competition, all of the troops are given the same topographical map with 50 locations marked on the map. The scouts paired up and devised a plan to locate as many of the 50 orienteering markers as they could in 90 minutes. Each marker has a unique paper punch that must be punched onto the corresponding numbered box and returned to the starting point. Troop scores will be provided at a later date. The fall weather was cool and crisp, and the scouts had a great time running around in the outdoors. They cannot wait to compete again next year.
MONTPELLIER MANSION & ART CENTER
9650 Muriel Rd., Laurel, MD 20708. Phone: 301.377.7817. TTY: 301.693.2544. Email: montpellemansion@pgparks.com. Contact the Art Center at 301.377.7880 regarding art and photography classes. Self-guided tours, including Holiday tours, of the mansion. Thurs. – Tue. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: $5/adults, $4/seniors, $2/children ages 5 – 12. Ages 4 and under. The mansion is closed on Wednesdays and selected holidays. The grounds are open from dawn until dusk every day of the year and access is free of charge. Contact the Mansion for information as well as events in December.

HOLIDAY TOURS
Tue., Dec. 5 through Sat., Dec. 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day that the mansion is open (closed Wednesdays and Christmas Day). See Montpelier dressed up for the holidays on these self-guided tours. Witness traditional-styled rooms decorated by local garden clubs. Also, The Artists’ Boutique will be open through Fri., Dec. 29 which features original ornaments, fiber art creations, and other artistic crafts.

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740. Phone: 301.864.0029. TTY: 301.693.2544. Regular hours of operation are Mon. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 December.

SANTA-FLY-IN
Sat., Dec. 2 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Watch Santa fly into historic College Park Airport with some help from the U.S. Park Police. Please contact Santa and the Art Center regarding classes and events for December. Membership is free for Beltway residents who are age 60 or older.

SLOT MACHINE CLOSING
Mon., Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Franklin Brown Recreation Community Center, 1733 Old Baltimore Pike, Beltsville, MD 20705 (located in the Vansville Park). The association meets on the second Monday of each month.

BEHNEK NURSES GARDEN CENTER
11300 Baltimore Ave. Please see Behnek’s for more information and events.

BEGINNER HANDS-ON BONSAI CLASS
Sat., Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Learn the basics of bonsai design with an eye on care and maintenance. Select a tree, learn how to transplant, and discover what the art of bonsai is all about as you create your very own bonsai to take home. This is a fully inclusive class. Registration required. Cost: $65, includes all materials.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY
HOLIDAY closures: 1) The library will be closed for New Year’s Day, Dec. 24 through Tue., Dec. 26, and 2) Sun., Dec. 31, 2017 through Tue., Jan. 2, 2018. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.937.0294. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Fri. from 9 a.m. to 9 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 December.

BELTSVILLE YOUNG AT HEART CLUB
Join us at the Beltsville Young at Heart Club 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, trips, 50/50 bingo, plus light refreshments. Questions? call Lois at 301.496.9736.

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.

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BELTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
Address: 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. Phone: 301.937.6613. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation are Mon. – Thur. 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. The Performing Arts Repertory Company will be providing a performance by the Performing Arts Repertory Company. Call for more information.

TAIL WAGGIN’ TUTORS
Three sessions: 1) Sat., Dec. 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; 2) Mon., Dec. 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and 3) Tue., Dec. 19 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Children read to a dog and gain confidence reading. Ages 5 – 12. For information, call or visit the branch.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS
ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB
Wed., Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Practice speaking English in a friendly environment. Classes on holiday for the rest of the December.

PAYING FOR CARE AND COLLS
Sat., Dec. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Financial workshop: Understand consumer installment loans. Sponsored by Suntrust.

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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.

BELTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
Address: 6815 Ammandale Rd., Beltsville. Phone: 301.937.6621. Fax: 301.937.6623. Spanish line: 301.445.4509. TTY: 301.445.4512. Regular hours of operation: Mon. – Thur. from 9 a.m. to 9 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 Xtreeme Teens: Fri. – Sat. from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact the center regarding events for December.

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.
As promised, this month it’s fruitcake! I had a good response to this last year. I lot of people wanted to make it but could not find the candied, diced fruit. One purchased the fruit on the web. I went over to Giant on the bus and talked to the produce manager. He assured me they would carry the one-pound carton of diced fruit.

Let me tell you about the fruit. In the carton, it looks all shiny and sweet, but it is not. The manufacturer candies the fruit with a sulfur compound that has a strong taste. That is why I say soak the fruit in the raisins and nuts to remove the sulfur, and it will no longer be shiny. Drain well and rinse. Set it aside and let it dry.

Now, let’s make the batter. In a fairly large bowl, place a 1/2 cup sugar, 1 cup all-purpose flour, and a pinch of salt. Then, stir in a 1/4 cup milk and one egg. Cream this well with a hand mixer for approximately 3 minutes. Next, stir in a 1/4 cup of Crisco oil. We have completed the making of the batter.

Now, dump the fruit mixture in the bowl and coat it all with the batter. Be sure all the fruit gets coated with the batter. Set your oven to 380 degrees. If you are baking in a shallow pan, it will take about 40 minutes. If it is a deep pan, it will take about an hour. To make sure your cake is done, there is a simple way: press the center lightly with a fork or spoon. It should be firm, not wet.

If you would like a more complete recipe with more details, go to my webpage, bakerbill.net, and click on recipes. To print the recipe, press (ctrl) P.

If you have any questions, you can always email me at bill@bakerbill.net.

Thank you for your emails, Baker Bill
They also have a super small bounce house “store” where you get 30 minutes for $7.50.

Bonus: There is a Costco food court open to the public for a cheap meal and a Target. (There is always something you need to pick up at Target, right?)

Pro tip: Park on the Target/Costco side parking lot. If you enter through the Costco door entrance, you can take the stairs down straight and be right at the play zone.

5) Events offered by the PG Parks and Rec. They have a very useful website with a ton of activities in the area. There you can find some events worth going to for free or a small fee. I have easily filled my weekends with events by spending a little time once a month going to the site. You can also take a look at the Montgomery Parks site for events in nearby Wheaton Park/Brookside Gardens (though their events almost always have a fee).

With these activities, I have always been able to fill my son’s days with one morning reading Storytime and some play-based activity in the afternoon no matter the season. Next time, I’ll share my “farther away or costly but totally worth it” options. Until then, we hope to see you around!

CATAPULT
continued from page 2

High Road Schools partner with public school districts to provide a supportive, structured environment for students withexceptionalities including but not limited to emotional and learning disabilities, autism, and ADHD. The combined High Road School campus in Lanham serves students in grades 1 through 12. Facilities include a new computer lab and larger gym space.

“We are thrilled to provide our students with more space and resources to help them learn and grow,” said Michelle Anderson, education director of High Road Upper School of Prince George’s County. “So many students thrive at High Road Schools, and the schools’ new campus only promises to bolster those positive outcomes.”

An integral programmatic component at the school is the Workforce Development Program for high school students, in which all of the High Road Schools in southern Maryland participate. The partnership with Prince George’s Community College will continue to provide job training, certification, and opportunities to gain experience in a variety of potential career paths like hospitality, information technology, and child care.

“At Catapult Learning, our mission is to help our students develop the skills they need to be successful inside and outside the classroom setting,” said Andrea Vargas, president of Catapult Learning’s Schools Division. “This relocation will enable us to better serve our students in Prince George’s County.”

First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)
4700 Odell Road Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771 • www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

Live Nativity
December 2 & 3 at 6-8 p.m.
(Rain dates December 9 & 10)

Christmas Cantata
December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Morning Service
December 24 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Sundays:
*Sunday School for all ages 9:45 a.m.
*Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Activities 6:00 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:
Adult Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 p.m.
RA’s, GA’s, Mission Friends 7:00 p.m.
Youth Fellowship 7:00 p.m.
SERVICES

RING CLEANING SERVICE - Small family owned business catering to you and your household needs. Friendly, reliable and trustworthy. Reasonable rates and flexible hours. Licensed and insured. Free estimate with appointment. Call Delores at 301-442-3032 or 240-280-1451. 12/17

TAX RETURNS - For businesses/individuals. Payrolls, Gerald Neumaier CPA, 301-953-1341; 301-776-6545. gncpa@verizon.net. 01/18

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL. Complete Clean Out - Garages, Homes, Construction Debris, etc. Licensed, insured, free estimates. Mike Smith 301-346-0840. 07/18

TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL. Pruning, land clearing, contact Bob Berra, 301-674-3770 or 301-384-4746. 12/22

BELTSVILLE LAWSNS - For all your lawn and landscaping needs. We are a full service, year around Beltsville business. We offer: topsoil trimming, gutter cleaning, yard cleanups, mowing, thatching, aeration, flowerbed edging and much more. Call Bill 301-455-4491. 01/18


FOR SALE

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AT LOW COST antique items, furniture, painter/construction/gardening tools, queen size bedroom set, Infrared Heat Sauna for 2 persons, 2 large Persian carpets, lace curtains, Savonarola chair, office chair, Roland digital piano, 2 mountain bicycles, electric exercise bike, kerosene heater, Champion juicer, insulator, etc. Will send photo upon request. Location is in Beltsville. Call 202-431-9813.

MOTORCYCLE WHEEL CHOCK available in Beltsville for $20.00. Call 202-431-9813

ORNAMENTAL INDOOR LARGE PLANTS in Beltsville $30 to $50. Call 202-431-9813.

FOR RENT

One bedroom in end unit townhouse in Beltsville. $650 per month all utilities included. Call 240-997-0265. 12/17

ED LUNDQUIST HOME IMPROVEMENT & REPAIR SPECIALIST (301) 775-9001

For all types of Jobs around your home

Painting Drywall Gutters Electrical Flooring
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Flooring Ceramic Tile Drain Cleaning Power Washing

NO JOB TOO SMALL

Beltsville Resident since 1985
Maryland Home Improvement License

BALLROOM RENTAL—Seats up to 400 Banquet Room w/dance floor—Seats 80
*COVERED PICNIC PAVILLION*
-Barbeque House & Horsehoe Pits in a private, secluded area
Weddings/Anniversaries * Birthday Parties Corporate Parties/Picnics * Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
*Quinceanera Celebrations*

COLLEGE PARK MOOSE LODGE #453
3700 Metzerott Road, College Park
Call 301-935-5525 ask for Jimmie

HALL RENTALS (CATERING)

Luncheons—B’Day Parties—Anniversaries—Weddings
College Park American Legion—Post 217
9218 Baltimore Blvd. (301) 441-2783
College Park, MD 20740
Contact Gary Kingerly

Reach your Beltsville neighbors with a low-cost classified ad in The Beltsville News

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Maryland Home Improvement License
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*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Holiday Loan Special is available for qualified borrowers. Loan subject to normal underwriting guidelines. Term limit is 12 months with a minimum loan amount of $500.00 and a maximum loan amount of $3,000. Representative payment example: A $3,000.00 loan at a fixed rate of 10.00% Annual Percentage Rate for 12 months would require 12 monthly payments of $265.00. Offer ends December 31, 2017. PGCFCU reserves the right to change or withdraw this offer at any time.