The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 74, Number 11 | Beltsville, Maryland | November 2026



Demonstrators line the roadside during Beltsville United's No Kings rally, which drew nearly 200 participants despite the cold weather.

No Kings Rally On October 17

By Jillian Schweitzer

Beltsville (hosted by Beltsville United) recently hosted our own #NoKings (the fourth since they started back in June 2025) and we had a great turnout, despite the cold weather.

We had almost 200 folks show up, from start to finish and many that I talked to said it was a great location (our October 2025 No Kings was next to the Burger King on Route 1) for many reasons, but also because it allowed residents at Riderwood to join.

There was also a reporter from Maryland Matters (another great publication to follow on our state) who interviewed folks; her write up is here: https://marylandmatters.org/2026/10/17/the-people-are-the-country-anger-over-trumps-actions-bring-out-beltsville-protesters/

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

November 18

Paper Out:

November 28

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen Coakley

Happy Thanksgiving, Beltsville!

While most of us are looking forward to the holidays, spending time with friends and family, shopping for gifts, and decorating, be thankful for all of those cherished moments.

Others are in various stages of the "long goodbye." I've taken care of and watched loved ones pass from Lou Gehrig's disease, cancer, and dementia. Each, in its own way, is a "long goodbye." If you have a friend or relative who is a caretaker going through the "long goodbye," fix dinner for the family, offer to do grocery shopping, or offer to just be there and listen.

The following about dementia was shared by a friend of mine recently:

"I don't ever want to go

NEWS YOU CAN USE
continues on page 9



Scouts getting their rank neckerchiefs for this year!!

Here Comes Cub Scouting 2026 at Cub Pack 1031

By Regina Halper

We had a great Join Scouting Night, with 2 new scouts joining us this year. Is your child interested in scouting? Contact me about stopping by to check us out. We meet on Mondays at Beltsville Academy at 6:30.

This year we are looking forward to all our scout activities: service projects including Scouting for Food! (November 7th new hang tag distribution and 14th pickup). This has always been a great source of donations to the food pantries at St Josephs Catholic Church and Emmanuel UMC. Pack 1031 and Troop 1033 are always happy to support the community.

We did a fall trash cleanup with Troop 1033 at the north end of the park on October 10th! We discovered how hard it is to

CUB PACK 1031
continues on page 4

UpStage Artists Brings Family Fun to the Stage with *Babes in Toyland*

Mother Goose characters, a scheming villain and a magical world of toys will come to life when UpStage Artists presents *Babes in Toyland, The Musical*, December 4–13 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville.

Featuring children ages 8–15 alongside adult performers, this community theater production brings generations together for a family show filled with music, comedy and adventure. It offers parents, grandparents and children an opportunity to enjoy live theater together during the holiday season.

The story follows Mistress Mary Quite Contrary and her

BABES IN TOYLAND
continues on page 3



Stacey Saunders, music director and choreographer for UpStage Artists' Babes in Toyland, works with young cast members as they prepare to bring the family musical to life December 4–13 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville.



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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News October 2001 Issue)

An article by Roy Labs entitled "Beltsville Loses Two Good Friends" cited the recent deaths of former Laurel Mayor Frank Casual and Council member Walter H. Maloney.

Michael Yung-An Yu of Beltsville shattered his personal best record by winning seven gold medals at Maryland's 22nd annual Senior Olympic Games. He also picked up a bronze and a silver medal.

Ann Alushin authored an article celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Beltsvilleville News, started in November 1952 by Boy Scout Troop 238 under the guidance of Robert Wester.

Neighbors in the News

Celebrating the Holidays Without Compromising Your Financial Future

Practical ways for Prince George's County families to manage seasonal expenses



As the holiday season approaches, Prince George's County families are preparing for celebrations, family gatherings, and traditions that make this time of year special. However, with everyday expenses continuing to compete for household dollars, financial planning is more important than ever.

For many families, financial stability is not measured by economic reports but by their ability to manage groceries, utilities, transportation, and other monthly obligations while making room for holiday expenses. With winter approaching and a new year around the corner, thoughtful financial decisions today can help prevent unnecessary stress tomorrow.

Five Ways to Make the Holidays More Manageable

1. Start with a realistic holiday budget. Before shopping begins, determine how much you can comfortably spend after accounting for regular household expenses. Include gifts, groceries, travel, decorations, and entertainment. Setting a total spending limit—and tracking purchases along the way—can help prevent surprises when January arrives.

2. Plan ahead for gatherings and family visits. Hosting relatives or preparing holiday meals can be expensive, particularly when grocery costs are already stretching household budgets. Consider sharing hosting responsibilities, organizing potluck-style gatherings, shopping sales, and planning menus in advance. Meaningful celebrations do not have to come with an overwhelming price tag.

3. Be mindful of convenient payment options. Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) services and credit cards can make purchases feel more affordable by spreading payments over time. However, multiple installment plans can quickly become dif-

FINANCIAL FUTURE continues on page 8

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

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

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(https://www.facebook.com/groups/300944563420364/)
and follow us at beltsville news on Instagram.
Check out our website: www.beltsvillenewstoday.com

Kitty Post By Sallie Rhodes

Volunteering Helps Cats—and You, Too!

Want to make a difference, meet people, and add more purpose to your life? Volunteer!

Research suggests that volunteering can improve mental well-being, reduce symptoms of depression, increase life satisfaction, strengthen social connections, and give people a greater sense of purpose.



At Beltsville Community Cats (BCC), your time and talents can save lives. Whether you foster adorable kittens and cats, feed colony cats, help our trapping team rescue cats, assist with administrative tasks from the comfort of your home, or support our many other activities, you'll be helping cats while enriching your own life! Join BCC's volunteer network and meeting new people, make life-long friends, feel wanted/needed, and have fun at BCC-sponsored events.

BCC Needs Your Help—NOW!

It's been a challenging year. Calls for help with community cats, kittens, and abandoned pet cats continue to grow, while several key volunteers have stepped down. As a small, all-volunteer organization, we cannot keep up without YOUR help!

Could you fill one of these important roles?

TREASURER

Our longtime Treasurer plans to retire in the coming months and will provide training and a gradual transition. Financial experience or QuickBooks knowledge is helpful but not required. We may even divide the responsibilities among two or three people!

COLONY SUPPORT

We provide food and water for approximately 120 cats at more than 20 managed colonies. We urgently need feeders! Even one day a week at one location makes a difference. Love cats but allergic to them? Feeding community cats lets you enjoy their company without bringing one home!

FOSTERING

Enjoy the fun of having a cat without a lifetime commitment! Foster kittens or adult cats and help them find loving homes. Most of our foster parents have pets of their own. Saying goodbye can be hard, but knowing you've helped save a life makes it worthwhile!

FUNDRAISING

Have a knack for social media, marketing, organizing events, or coming up with creative ways to raise money? Help us secure the funds needed for spay/neuter services and medical care for sick, injured, and abandoned cats.

CARING FOR CATS AT PETCO & PET SUPPLIES PLUS

Our adoptable cats in Laurel and Beltsville need daily care. Volunteers take one day a week—about an hour to feed, clean, and sanitize their habitat, and give the cats some love. It's a rewarding way to spend time with cats while helping them find forever homes!

TRAPPING, TRANSPORTING & OVERNIGHT CARE

Help us get community cats the veterinary care they need. No trapping experience? We'll teach you! You can also help by transporting cats to clinics or keeping them safe overnight before and after surgery. Every helping hand makes a difference.

YOU Can Make a Difference!

BCC needs volunteers to continue helping cats and kittens throughout Beltsville and the surrounding communities. You don't have to do everything—even a few hours of your time can change a cat's life!

Interested? Consider joining BCC for our Annual Volunteer Meeting on November 7th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville); or call or text 301-742-4442 to learn more.

Please step up, lend a hand, and become part of the solution. The cats are counting on us—and we're counting on YOU!

BABES IN TOYLAND

continued from page 1

sweetheart, Alan, as the villainous Barnaby plots to keep them apart. His schemes set off an adventure from Mother Goose Land, through the dangerous Spider Forest and into mysterious Toyland. Along the way, audiences meet familiar nursery rhyme characters, bumbling troublemakers and the Master Toymaker with his quirky assistants. With a book by Rebecca Ryland and music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur, the musical offers a playful journey through a storybook world.

Directed by Rick Bergmann, with music direction and choreography by Stacey Saunders, the production highlights the talents of local children, teens and adults. The cast's mix of ages reflects the spirit of community theater: people coming together to create something their neighbors and families can enjoy.

Evening performances are December 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are December 5, 6 and 13 at 2 p.m. All performances take place at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Individual tickets are $15. Families and groups can save with a bundle of five tickets for $50—just $10 per ticket, a savings of $5 per ticket and $25 overall.

Whether audiences are cheering on a young performer or discovering Toyland for the first time, *Babes in Toyland* promises a festive outing for the whole family.

For tickets and more information, visit www.upstageartists.com.

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado.



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Ask the Expert

BY ANDRE GIBSON,
CHAMPION HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Financing Your Dream Home Improvement Project: Make Your Vision a Reality

Every homeowner dreams of making their home more beautiful, comfortable, and functional. Whether you're planning a kitchen renovation, bathroom remodel, roof replacement, new deck, or energy-efficient windows, home improvements can enhance your living space and potentially increase your property's value. However, the cost of renovations can sometimes make homeowners hesitate.

The good news? Financing options can help turn your dream home improvement project into reality without requiring you to pay the entire cost upfront.

Why Consider Financing Your Home Improvement Project?

Home improvement financing allows homeowners to spread renovation costs over time through manageable monthly payments. Instead of postponing necessary upgrades or waiting years to save enough money, financing may allow you to start your project sooner.

For example, replacing an aging roof can help prevent costly water damage, while upgrading outdated windows may improve energy efficiency and indoor comfort. Financing can make these important improvements more accessible while helping you preserve savings for other expenses.

Popular Home Improvement Financing Options

There are several financing solutions homeowners can explore depending on their budget, credit history, and project requirements.

1. Home Improvement Loans

Personal home improvement loans can provide funds for renovations without requiring home equity as collateral. These loans typically offer fixed repayment terms and predictable monthly payments, depending on the lender.

2. Home Equity Loans or Lines of Credit

Homeowners with sufficient equity may qualify for a home equity loan or home equity line of credit (HELOC). These options can provide access to funds for larger remodeling projects, although your home generally serves as collateral.

3. Contractor Financing

Many home improvement companies, including Champion Home Improvements, LLC, offer financing options to help qualified homeowners complete their projects. Contractor financing can simplify the process by allowing homeowners to explore payment options while planning their renovations.

Financing approval, interest rates, and repayment terms depend on the financing provider and individual qualifications.

Choosing the Right Project for Your Budget

Before beginning your renovation, identify which improvements matter most to your household.

Consider projects that address immediate maintenance needs, improve safety, increase comfort, or enhance your home's appearance.

Popular improvements include:

- Roof Replacement: Protect your home from leaks and weather damage.
- Kitchen Remodeling: Create a more functional and attractive cooking space.
- Bathroom Renovations: Improve comfort, convenience, and accessibility.
- Decks and Patios: Expand your outdoor living and entertainment areas.
- Window and Door Replacement: Improve insulation, security, and curb appeal.
- Siding and Gutters: Help protect your home's exterior from the elements. A professional contractor can help you evaluate your options and develop a project plan that aligns with your priorities and budget.

Tips for Financing Your Renovation Wisely

Before accepting a financing offer, review the interest rate, annual percentage rate (APR), monthly payment, repayment period, and total financing cost. Ask about fees, promotional financing conditions, and any penalties for early repayment.

It's also wise to establish a realistic renovation budget and include an allowance for unexpected expenses.

Remember, the lowest monthly payment doesn't always mean the lowest overall cost.

Don't put your dream home on hold. Explore your options and take the first step toward a home you'll love for years to come!

CUB PACK 1031

continued from page 1

pick up the sequins – but we tried!

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-select Cub Scouts and enter 20705 and look for our pack 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 to hike, fish and do fun activities..

BREATH OF THE MORNING

Before the first beam of the dawn
Declares morn's on its way,
Deep darkness clothes the sleeping world
Within its restful grace.

Anticipation wakes my soul
Because once more I'll see
New mercies from God's holy throne
Spread 'cross the sky for me.

Breaths' wonder stirs my lips with praise,
Thanksgiving lifts my gaze,
Perhaps the Answer to my prayers
Will open eyes today.

Seeds I have sown in faith may rise,
My tears have watered them,
To wipe away the blindness which
Distracts the minds of men.

A constant harvest for the Son
Is gathered 'neath His rays;
Salvation touches ev'ry one
Whose hope's beyond the grave.

Majestic beauty floods my view,
Loves' light continues long
Invading ev'ry clouded heart
As birds burst into song.

O Great Creator, Mighty God,
Exalted is Your Name;
No one escapes Your judgments, Lord,
For righteous is Your reign.

Beckie Hutchings
9/18/2026

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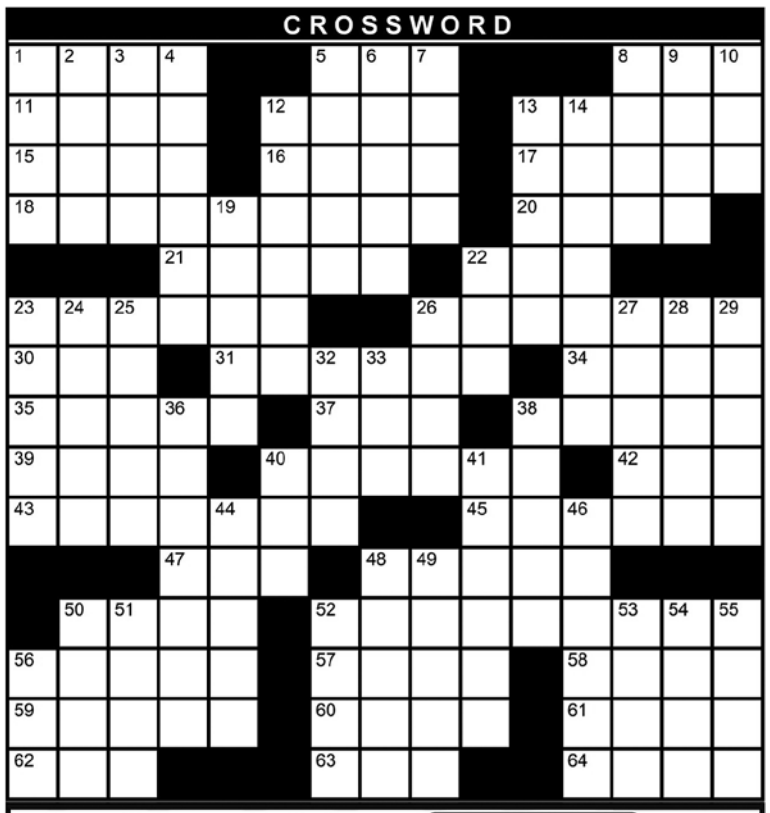
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Statepoint Crossword: Birds





ACROSS

1. Consumer
5. Drivel
8. Mary of direct marketing fame
11. Taxon, pl.
12. Mosaic piece
13. Speculate
15. Similar
16. Eye part
17. Belgian port city
18. *"The Birds" producer and director
20. *"Mourning" bird
21. Kicks out
22. *"Birds do it, ____ do it," sing.
23. "Hot" prefix
26. Suggest
30. Treaty of Rome org.
31. Dump
34. *Horus' mother
35. Spills over a container edge
37. Hole puncher
38. Finals
39. Type of balsam
40. Thumb, anatomically speaking
42. *New Zealand parrot
43. Suppresses
45. *Big Bird, e.g.
47. Shark part
48. Yo-Yo's instrument
50. Bleak
52. *Bird with largest wingspan
56. *Popular origami bird
57. Mongolian desert
58. *Hen to chick
59. Silly and scatterbrained
60. Affirm with confidence
61. Sailor's call
62. Number cruncher, acr.
63. Color
64. Totes

DOWN

1. D-Day beach
2. H. H. Munro's pseudonym
3. Sign of escape
4. Ill will
5. Basketball foot maneuver
6. Smart ones?
7. Reach a high
8. a,k.a. Kyiv
9. Green Gables resident
10. Hitherto
12. U of A home
13. Poet Nash
14. *Albus Dumbledore's companion
19. Dark fertile soil
22. Board of Directors, acr.
23. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.
24. Serf
25. Cause for food recall
26. Pay a visit
27. Japanese port city
28. Sand clock, e.g.
29. Test form
32. Vietnam's neighbor
33. *Parliament member
36. *Barbara's ____ Cereal
38. Glorify
40. Mightier than sword
41. Oblong cream puff
44. British sailor, slangily
46. Conventional
48. Garlic unit
49. What tide did
50. Golf club handle
51. Pro ____
52. Lab culture
53. Pearl Harbor island
54. Urban haze
55. Simon does what?
56. Public health org.

See Solution on page 6

Maryland Delegation Members Release Statement on Judge Ruling Halting Trump Administration Efforts to Close BARC in Beltsville, Maryland

October 14, 2026—*Beltsville, MD Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks and Representatives Glenn Ivey, Steny Hoyer, Kweisi Mfume, Jamie Raskin, Sarah Elfreth, April McClain Delaney, and Johnny Olszewski (all D-Md.) released the following statement regarding last night's ruling by a federal judge, temporarily halting the Trump Administration's efforts to close the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland.*

"As we've said time and again, this Administration's attempts to shutter BARC are not only unwise – they're illegal. BARC conducts critical research that helps farmers across our nation put food on the table for American families – including combatting serious threats to our agriculture, like cyclospora and avian flu. Last night's ruling from a federal judge made plain: the Administration's efforts are in clear violation of Congressional intent. We will continue fighting back against the Trump Administration's lawless attempts to close this facility, undermining its crucial research on behalf of American farmers and families."

The lawmakers have repeatedly stressed the importance of maintaining BARC, including, most recently pushing Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins on this matter in April. Additionally, they have raised this issue in Committee hearings with Administration officials and fought for language in Congressional Appropriations and the most recent Continuing Resolution.

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Crossword Solution from page 5

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Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Keeping BARC great — for now. Federal judge rules for Beltsville

As you know, Delegates Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman, and I are doing everything we can to protect the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, its employees, and its land. The coalition, including the State of Maryland, that has gathered to protect the facility has won a hard-fought victory: a federal judge has halted the Trump administration's plans to close the BARC until at least December 11. In his order, U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria found the federal government is "almost certainly" using funds in ways Congress didn't contemplate when it appropriated them. If the administration wishes to reorganize BARC facilities, it will have to seek Congressional approval in 2027. As of now, this means that the BARC will remain open and operational. We will continue to do all we can to protect our federal employees here in Beltsville.

Want to get paid to clear snow?

Our community needs you. Do you or someone you know want to work as winter weather professionals? The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is seeking dedicated vendors working as heavy equipment operators and snowplow drivers for this upcoming winter season. Vendor registration is open through February 2027. Please go to dpwt.mypgc.us for more information.



Maryland Transit Administration Hiring Police

The Maryland Transit Administration is hiring new police officers! Eligible candidates have at least a high school diploma or GED, have a valid driver's license, must be 21 years old prior to graduation from the police academy and must not have committed or been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor. The MTA hosts One-Day Try-out sessions twice each month in Baltimore to test physical and mental agility. Go to mta.maryland.gov/open-recruitment-mta-police-department to fill out an application and get next steps.

Maryland Launches New Job Training Search Website

The Moore-Miller administration has unveiled a new website that connects Marylanders with job training programs, adult education opportunities, career schools and pathways, and workforce development programs across the state. Currently, over 900 different opportunities from all over Maryland are listed on the site, with plans to continue to update and expand the list. Industries listed include hospitality, cyber and IT, construction, and transportation. You can take a look for yourself at benefits.maryland.gov/home/#/job-training. Search results include current contact information for training providers, and training providers can update their information by emailing TrainingDatabase.List@maryland.gov.

PGCPS School Bus Routes

My office has been closely monitoring ongoing reports of delayed or cancelled Prince George's County Public Schools buses. We have confirmed with PGCPS that they have altered some bus routes, which may lead to morning pick-ups being earlier than previously expected. If you have questions, please contact PGCPS's transportation office at 301-952-6570 or bushelp@pgcps.org. You may also contact our office if you have any concerns.

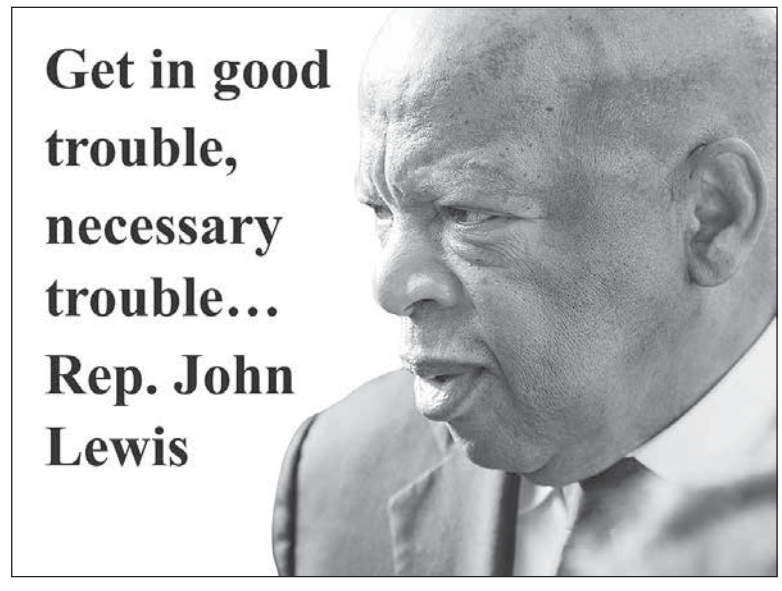
Need help with your water bill?

WSSC offers a number of different assistance programs for Prince George's County consumers, including credits, bill adjustments, and help with leakage repairs. To find out which programs you are eligible for, please visit wsscwater.com/assistance. If you are interested in the Customer Assistance Program, which may provide a credit of up to $319, you can contact the Prince George's County Department of Social Services at (301) 909-6300 or pgcdss.energy@maryland.gov.

Neighbors in the News

Make a Good Nuisance of Yourself

By Jillian Schweitzer



It's easy to despair when looking at events in Prince George's County, particularly in Beltsville.

We now have a reported $151 million deficit at the county level, a still-unresolved $39 million transfer between the county at large and the Parks Department, and an $8.6 million payment to a friend of County Council Member Oriadha. As of this writing, $7.6 million of that payment has been ordered returned.

Then there are lackluster (putting it kindly) trash, recycling and compost services; money for an entertainment space that seems unnecessary; a 311 system that is down more often than not; a lack of communication regarding the Station 31 BVFD assessments and the related "temporary" Fire Station 851 next to the library; and the abysmal busing system for students this year. That's to say nothing of BARC, although I'm grateful for the judge's recent stay on its closure.

Taken one by one, such events may seem innocuous, but collectively, they point to a picture of a community deeply unhealthy—not because the people don't care, but because the vast majority of

NUISANCE
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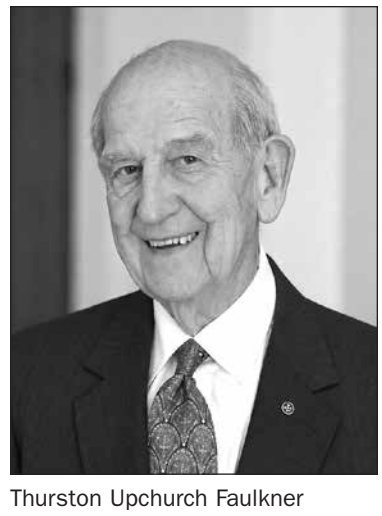
Obituaries

Faulkner, Thurston Upchurch

Thurston Upchurch Faulkner, 91, of Beltsville, Maryland, passed away peacefully at home on October 10, 2026.

Born on June 6, 1935, in Henderson, North Carolina, he was the son of the late Ernest Eugene "Genie" Faulkner and Sudie Lee Faulkner. After earning an associate's degree from Louisburg College, he played on the basketball team, and serving in the US Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Thurston moved to Arlington, Virginia, to begin his career with the Department of Defense. It was there that he met his future wife, Sally Harney. Following their marriage, the couple settled in Beltsville, Maryland, in 1970. Thurston later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Global Campus and continued his career in public service as a human resources manager with the National Security Agency.

Thurston was a longtime member of Calverton Baptist Church. He had a lifelong appreciation for classic cars and antiques and was an enthusiastic traveler. Among



Thurston Upchurch Faulkner

his favorite adventures were his dozens of voyages aboard the historic Delta Queen steamboat, where he became known as a "frequent floater," traveling the entire length of the Mississippi River multiple times. Other favorite destinations included Orlando, Florida; Williamsburg, Virginia; and Ocean City, Maryland.

Above all, Thurston will be remembered for his charm, charisma, and wonderful sense of humor. A natural storyteller, he delighted in sharing anecdotes and engaging in lively conversation. He never met a stranger, possessing the rare gift of making new acquaintances feel like old friends. His warmth, wit, and genuine enjoyment of people left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Thurston was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sally Harney Faulkner, who passed away on March 30, 2004, and his brother, Perry Faulkner. He is survived by his cherished companion of 18 years, Nancy Funk; his son, Shaun Faulkner and wife Katherine; his daughter, Jamie Faulkner and husband Bryce Jackson; and his granddaughter, Sarah Jackson.

Services were held at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland, on Sunday, October 18, 2026. The interment will take place at Davis Cemetery in Shipman, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers or planting a tree, donations may be made to the C & O Canal Trust in Thurston Faulkner's memory.

The link to donate is here: https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/COCanalTrust/OnlineDonation.html



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Neighbors in the News

UpStage Artists Announces a 2027 Season of Laughter, Drama and Friendship

By Rick Bergmann

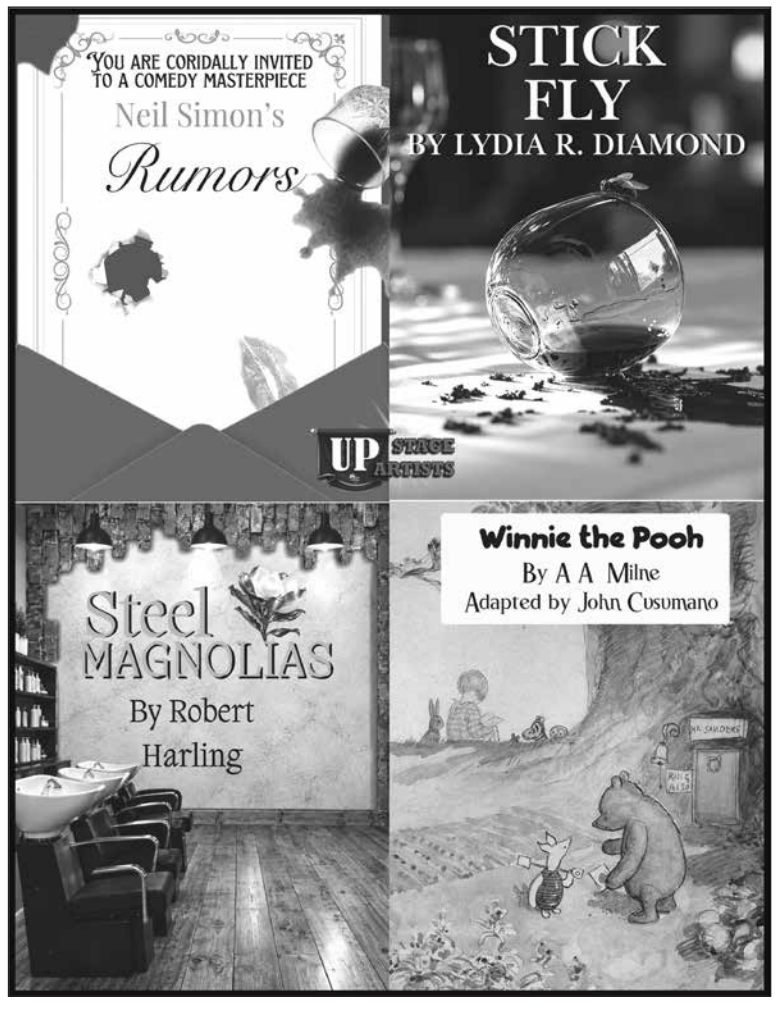
Outrageous comedy, complicated families, enduring friendships and a journey into the Hundred Acre Wood will take center stage in UpStage Artists' 2027 season. The Beltsville community theater company has announced four productions offering audiences a year of laughter, moving stories and family entertainment.

The season opens March 5–14 with Neil Simon's Rumors, directed by Rick Bergmann. A gunshot and a gathering of guests set the stage for a fast-paced farce filled with frantic explanations, tangled stories and hilarious misunderstandings.

Next is Stick Fly by Lydia R. Diamond, running May 14–23 under the direction of John Cusumano. Both funny and thought-provoking, the play explores family relationships, privilege, secrets and the desire to belong.

Robert Harling's Steel Magnolias follows September 17–26, directed by Nancy Somers. Blending humor and heartbreak, the beloved play celebrates friendship and the extraordinary strength of ordinary women as they support

2027 SEASON
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UpStage Artists upcoming season promises a little something for everyone!



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From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Subregion 1 Minor Plan Amendment Adopted

At the time this was submitted, the Subregion 1 Minor Plan Amendment (MPA) and the Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) were scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, October 27th, and I expect that to have occurred.

Based on the substantial amount of community input I have received over the past 15 months; I have been working with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to finalize the amendments. There are dozens of policy updates to the Master Plan text (some fairly minor and nothing truly earth-shattering) and 10 zoning changes. These amendments focus on future development and infrastructure in and around Konterra and north Beltsville. Key revisions or clarifications include reducing residential growth along the Ammendale Road corridor and also ensuring that provision for employment development does not open the door for data center development. Five of the zoning changes merely involved M-NCPPC or County-owned land being changed to Reserved Open Space (ROS). The full SMA report on the rezonings, including maps, is at *tinyurl.com/Sub1MPAFinal*.

Two significant rezonings involved Konterra South, which is between Ammendale Road and the ICC. 306.73 acres were rezoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Industrial/Employment (IE) to expand the Konterra business campus to take advantage of proximity to I-95 and the ICC. The IE zone is for light industrial uses. This property could have been developed with about 650 homes. In addition, 20.99 acres directly adjacent to this property were downzoned from RR to Agricultural and Preservation (AG), in order to preserve significant natural resources and the County's ecological balance. The Master Plan text requires wider stream buffers to expand separation for Franklin Farms.

The Tidler-Wardlaw properties (8.01 acres) at the corner of Old Gunpowder Road and Powder Mill Road were rezoned from Commercial, General and Office (CGO) to IE, to expand opportunities for research and development, and create employment opportunities along the I-95 corridor. Previously, there were unwanted attempts to develop these properties as apartments or townhouses.

For both of the rezoning to IE, I inserted into the Master Plan text and the SMA that "based on public testimony" these properties "shall not be a location for data centers." M-NCPPC fought me over this, arguing that a Master Plan cannot prohibit a use permitted within its zone. There is legal support to allow for this if County law provides for it. M-NCPPC argued that County law did not allow for Master Plans to override the zoning... so I quickly amended a bill that restricts data center development to also prevent data centers on certain properties if there is a conflict with the local Master Plan.



(From left to right) Jacob Sosa, Nathan Arbach, Katherine Fuentes, Mary Cook, Chief of Staff Michelle García, Council Member Tom Dernoga, Tina Ojo, Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Mareno, and Liya Shewakena at the final Community Shred Day of Council Member Dernoga's tenure on September 19th.

The final two zoning changes relate to the former Spicknall property. We have long been concerned that a developer would bring residential or data center development. A member of the BAPS Hindu temple bought the land from a residential developer and is proposing a religious campus with various community-oriented amenities. While most of the Spicknall property was zoned RR, 20.92 acres were zoned AG, and this would have complicated campus development. Therefore, these 20.92 acres were rezoned to RR like the rest of the Spicknall property. On the other hand, the BAPS temple property is 10.06 acres zoned CGO, which allows for apartments, townhouses, or retail. Even though BAPS had no intention of residential or commercial development, I did not want to take a chance, and it seemed like a fair action in light of the upzoning of the 20.92 acres zoned AG. In the end, all of the BAPS properties will be zoned RR and used for a religious campus.

The Master Plan and SMA text were amended to include provisions to encourage the BAPS development to provide public benefits, such as recreation multi-use fields, playgrounds, trails, and community garden space.

Apart from these rezoning items, Master Plan policies addressed increased need for transit and bike options, continuing the intent for single-family detached housing in Konterra along Old Gunpowder Road, limiting big-box retail in Konterra Town Center West, and much more.

PGCPS Listening Tour

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is developing an updated Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP), a 10-year plan to guide decisions for school facilities. This takes into account trends in population and enrollment, current building conditions, and the general needs of the school community to shape a long-term vision. To ensure sufficient community input, PGCPS is hosting a Listening Tour with a session in each Board of Education district.

Beltsville schools fall within Board of Education District 1. The District 1 session will be held on Thursday, November 12th, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Laurel High School, 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, 20707. Take this opportunity to share your feedback and register to attend at tinyurl.com/D1EFMPTour.

Support Families in Need for Thanksgiving Locally

With Thanksgiving around the corner, this is a perfect time to give back to community members in need. Please read below about how you can support various organizations across Beltsville.

The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) houses a food pantry and accepts donations of *canned goods only* on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They are located at 4220 Ammendale Road. Please consider donating to support BACC's operations.

The LindaBen Foundation, located at 10739 Tucker Street, serves community members through a variety of services, including a Community Food Hub, which is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM and Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Visit lindabenfoundation.org/en/community-pantry to sign up for volunteer shifts to support the Community Food Hub.

The Lifehouse Church at 12304 Baltimore Avenue operates a food pantry every 2nd and 4th Monday from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. They are in need of volunteers on these days to pack food boxes, direct traffic, set up, clean up, organize shelves, and more. Email info@mylifehouse.church to sign up to volunteer.

If you are in need of food assistance or a Thanksgiving meal, please contact our team.

Contact Us

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

FINANCIAL FUTURE

continued from page 2

ficult to manage. Before using financing, consider the total amount owed, repayment deadlines, and potential fees.

4. Explore financing options responsibly. For families who need additional flexibility, understanding available lending options can be helpful. Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union offers a **2026 Holiday Loan*** for qualified borrowers managing planned seasonal expenses. Available through December 31, 2026, the loan offers amounts ranging from $500 to $5,000, with a fixed 10.00% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and repayment terms of up to 24 months. A fixed-rate installment loan provides predictable monthly payments, allowing borrowers to incorporate repayment into their household budgets. As with any financing option, families should compare borrowing costs and avoid taking on more debt than they can comfortably repay.

5. Prepare for January before December ends. The beginning of a new year often brings expenses that can be overlooked during holiday celebrations, including utility bills, insurance payments, school-related costs, and existing debt obligations. Setting aside even a modest amount for these expenses can help families enter the new year with greater financial confidence.

The Greatest Gift Is Financial Peace of Mind

The holidays are ultimately about connection, generosity, and creating memories with the people who matter most. Celebrating responsibly does not mean sacrificing meaningful experiences; it means making intentional decisions that reflect your family's priorities and financial circumstances.

At Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, we believe financial preparedness is about more than access to credit. It is about providing our neighbors with the knowledge, resources, and financial tools to make informed decisions throughout every season of life.

As families throughout Prince George's County prepare to celebrate, remember that the most meaningful holiday traditions are not necessarily the most expensive. A thoughtful plan today can help create a stronger financial foundation for the year ahead.

Learn more about the 2026 Holiday Loan at princegeorgescfcu.org or call 301.627.2666.

**Loan Disclosure: All loans are subject to credit approval and applicable lending requirements. Holiday Loan amounts range from $500 to $5,000 at a fixed 10.00% APR, with repayment terms up to 24 months. Offer ends December 31, 2026. Terms and conditions apply. Contact the credit union for complete details.*

Do-it-Yourself Repairs: As American as Apple Pie



(StatePoint) For 250 years, generations of fixers have passed down a very American tradition: don't replace it, repair it. With crisp fall weather here, families across the country will be putting their weekends to work—together.

New research from Duck brand, maker of Duck Tape brand duct tape, finds that 87% of Americans say their family philosophy is rooted in resourcefulness—the belief that most things can be fixed with the right tools and know-how. In fact, when asked which phrase sounds most like their family, the top answer (29%) was simple: "We can totally fix this."

The do-it-yourself habit is inherited. Seven in 10 say watching or assisting a family member with home repairs during childhood shaped how they approach fixing things today, and 63% report that a parent was known as the go-to problem solver around the house. Nearly half (47%) credit Dad for teaching them how to make repairs, but the survey says that he's also most likely to turn a simple fix into an all-day affair (30%).

From yard work to seasonal decorating, 58% work on DIY and repair projects with family members at least once a month. It's not just about getting the job done, either—76% say it was a repair project that brought them closer to a family member in the first place.

DIY and duct tape are as American as apple pie. Ninety-three percent of Americans have purchased duct tape in the past two years and, with generations of know-how on their side, 98% report using duct tape as a trusted repair solution. Once duct tape is on the job, it tends to stay there—one in five admit a "temporary" duct tape fix became a permanent one.

"Whether it's a parent passing down their toolbox or a quick solution that turns into a forever fix, repair has always been part of how American families take care of each other," said Kerry Haugh, director of Product Marketing, Duct Tapes at Shurtape Technologies, LLC, the company that markets the Duck brand. "We see that spirit every day—the confidence that 'we can totally fix this.' That's why as DIY projects evolve, we're committed to creating tough, reliable and cost-effective tools for every repair."

Whatever your fall DIY weekends bring, you can use Duck Max Strength Brand Duct Tape, an easy-to-tear tape that's tough enough for every repair, and Color Duck Tape, a heavy-duty tape for discreet and aesthetic fixes. For more DIY inspiration, visit https://www.duckbrand.com/home-and-diy/home-diy.

Family fixes are a cherished American tradition. This fall, embrace the DIY spirit and get equipped with tough, cost-effective tools that get the job done right.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

continued from page 1

into a nursing home, but if worse comes to worst and I have no other choice because I'm well out of it, then these will be my wishes, to be upheld and respected.

If I ever get dementia, I'd like my family to hang this wish list up on the wall where I live. I want them to remember these things.

1. Every time you enter the room, announce yourself. "Hi, it's …" Never ask, "Do you know who I am?" That causes anxiety.

2. If I get dementia, I want my friends and family to embrace my reality, caregivers included.

3. If I think my dead friend is still alive, or if I think we're visiting my parents for dinner, let me believe those things. I'll be much happier for it.

4. If I get dementia, don't argue with me about what is true for me versus what is true for you.

5. If I get dementia, and I am not sure who you are, do not take it personally. My timeline is confusing to me.

6. If I get dementia and can no longer use utensils, do not start feeding me. Instead, switch me to a finger-food diet, and see if I can still feed myself.

7. If I get dementia, and I am sad or anxious, hold my hand and listen. Do not tell me that my feelings are unfounded.

8. If I get dementia, I don't want to be treated like a child. Talk to me like the adult that I am.

9. If I get dementia, I still want to enjoy the things that I've always enjoyed. Help me find a way to exercise, read, and visit with friends.

10. If I get dementia, ask me to tell you a story from my past.

11. If I get dementia, and I become agitated, take the time to figure out what is bothering me.

12. If I get dementia, treat me the way that you would want to be treated.

13. If I get dementia, make sure that there are plenty of snacks for me in the house. Even now, if I don't eat, I get angry, and if I have dementia, I may have trouble explaining what I need.

14. If I get dementia, don't talk about me as if I'm not in the room.

15. If I get dementia, don't feel guilty if you cannot care for me 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's not your fault, and you've done your best. Find someone who can help you, or choose a great new place for me to live.

16. If I get dementia, and I live in a dementia care community, please visit me often.

17. If I get dementia, don't act frustrated if I mix up names, events, or places. Take a deep breath. It's not my fault.

18. If I get dementia, make sure I always have my favorite music playing within earshot.

19. If I get dementia, and I like to pick up items and carry them around, help me return those items to their original place.

20. If I get dementia, don't exclude me from parties and family gatherings.

21. If I get dementia, know that I still like receiving hugs and laughing a lot.

22. If I get dementia, remember that I am still the person you know and love.

This is in honor of someone you know or knew who has dementia, and in honor of all those I know, love, and have lost, as well as those who are fighting dementia or Alzheimer's."

Someone once said that if you take care of someone with dementia, you lose them more and more every day: when they get the diagnosis, when they go through different stages, when they need treatment, and when they pass away.

This is called "the longest goodbye." As the brain slowly dies, they change physically and eventually forget who their loved ones are. They could end up lying in bed, not moving and not eating or drinking.

My Thanksgiving wish would be that at least one person would reach out to a friend going through the "long goodbye" and surprise them with a random act of kindness.

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Suduko Solution from page 7

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Seven Local Lives, Lasting Lessons

By Mark Tomassoni

A wounded Revolutionary soldier from Beltsville. A Scottish immigrant who rebuilt his life in what is now Greenbelt. A woman whose letters reveal the demands of managing an estate through grief and war. An educator who accepted a college presidency only if its farm would not use enslaved labor.

These seven lives connect familiar neighborhoods with the challenges of earlier generations. Their experiences offer lessons in courage, persistence, cooperation, and principle. Their accomplishments also require honest examination, especially where wealth and opportunity depended on slavery.

They lived during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but the questions their stories raise remain familiar: How do we begin again after loss? What can we build together? And when should our principles determine the opportunities we accept?



Source: Instagram

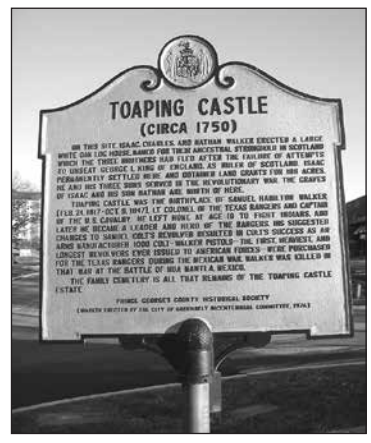
Rezin Beall (1723 – 1809). Experience in the Service of Courage

Beltsville's Rezin Beall, born in 1723, entered the Revolutionary struggle with considerable life experience. Local history places his birth at Turkey Flight Plantation, near Old Gunpowder Road. He had served in the French and Indian War before receiving a captain's commission in the Maryland Regulars in 1776.

He was already in his early fifties when the colonies declared independence. His age makes his story especially relevant to readers who wonder whether their most meaningful contribution must already be behind them.

At St. George's Island in St. Mary's County, Maryland, Captain Beall was seriously wounded during fighting with the British on July 17, 1776. Two days later, on July 19, he was wounded again while engaged with British ships on the St. Charles River. The following month, Maryland's convention elected him brigadier general of its Flying Camp militia, entrusting him with greater responsibility despite his recent injury.

Today's Lesson. For us, the lesson lies in General Rezin Beall's decision to participate. He could have stayed on the sidelines and avoided risking his life leading young troops. Instead, Beall brought experience to a cause with an unknown outcome. Are you facing similar unknown circumstances? In 2026, people make smaller but consequential choices daily when they accept community responsibility, mentor a younger colleague, or take on demanding work after retirement. A useful life can include more than one period of service.



Source: Wikipedia

Isaac (1721 – 1807) and Nathan Walker (1756-1842). Beginning Again. Serving Together

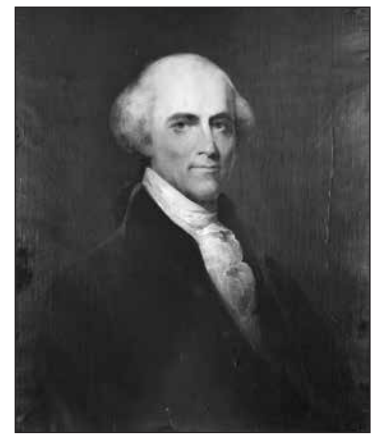
In Greenbelt, the Walker family cemetery preserves another connection to the Revolutionary generation. Isaac Walker, born in 1721, and his son Nathan, born in 1756, are remembered for their military service. Isaac served as a lieutenant. Nathan is a private.

Their home, Toaping Castle, stood at the center of a ~170-acre parcel in present-day Greenbelt. The historical marker is in front of a TGI Friday's restaurant at the corner of Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive. It states that only the family cemetery of Toaping Castle remains, located at the end of Walker Drive in the woods behind a large parking structure. The cemetery contains the graves of Isaac and Nathan Walker.

Isaac Walker survived the Jacobite defeat at Culloden in Scotland in 1746. He escaped to France, separated from his family, and sailed to America before his wife and son eventually joined him. This series of events conveys a powerful experience of political defeat, displacement, and the effort to rebuild.

Today's Lesson. Isaac's example speaks to anyone who has had to start over after losing a job, leaving a familiar place, or seeing a carefully made plan collapse. Establishing a new life takes practical work. People must find shelter, renew relationships, and meet daily responsibilities. Recovery often shows up in ordinary achievements before it produces anything celebrated.

Nathan's service adds a second generation to the story. His family had made a home in Greenbelt, and he helped defend the new country's independence. His rank reminds us that historical achievement depends on people whose names rarely appear in national textbooks. A private's contribution still mattered to the effort around him.



Source: Wikipedia

Henri Joseph Stier (1743 – 1821). Rebuilding Far from Home

The Riversdale mansion reveals another family uprooted by European conflict. Henri Joseph Stier, born in 1743, left Antwerp with his family in 1794 as French revolutionary forces approached. They brought valuable possessions, including an important painting collection.

Stier was wealthy, and his resources gave him options many refugees lacked. But displacement disrupted the family's home and expectations. Their experience reminds us that financial security cannot prevent every form of loss or uncertainty.

He eventually began construction of Riversdale in 1801. His younger daughter, Rosalie, married Maryland planter George Calvert in 1799, connecting the family to its adopted country. When conditions permitted most of the family to return to Europe, Rosalie chose to remain. Henri left her the house and property, and Rosalie and George completed the mansion in 1807.

Today's Lessons. Stier's preserved things he valued and undertook a substantial project in unfamiliar surroundings. Later, his daughter's choice required him to accept a family future different from the one he preferred. Rebuilding can mean both acting and letting someone we love choose a different path. Are you dealing with family opinions that differ from your own? The best course is to recognize that alternative opinions can strengthen your position.



Source: Wikipedia

Rosalie Eugenia Stier Calvert (1778 – 1821). Responsibility Through Grief and War

Rosalie, born in 1778, is compelling because her letters, later collected in Mistress of Riversdale, show us more than the finished mansion. They preserve the voice of a woman making decisions about property, family affairs, gardens, and finances while maintaining ties to relatives across the Atlantic.

Her father, Henri Joseph Stier, placed Riversdale in her name. At a time when women's legal and economic authority was restricted, that arrangement was significant. Rosalie actively protected her position and oversaw the estate. Her correspondence shows attention to the details on which larger plans depend.

Rosalie and George Calvert had nine children. Five survived adulthood, with four dying in infancy or childhood. Their fifth child, Charles Benedict Calvert, was the principal founder of Maryland Agricultural College, predecessor of today's University of Maryland, on part of the Riversdale estate. She also experienced devastating personal loss. The National Park Service records that a typhoid epidemic in 1813 took the life of her 17-month-old daughter. The following year, war reached the neighborhood. She observed the Battle of Bladensburg from Riversdale, and afterward George and enslaved workers helped bury the dead.

Today's Lessons. No inspirational account should make a child's death into a convenient step toward achievement. Grief does not become worthwhile because a person continues working. Rosalie shows us that suffering and responsibility can coexist, as families so often did before the 20th century. She continued managing affairs amid bereavement and wartime uncertainty, leaving a record that helps later generations understand both.

That world included slavery. Her administrative success depended in part on people denied freedom to direct their own lives. Their work and hardships belong in Riversdale's story alongside hers.



Source: Wikipedia

Calvert did not establish Maryland Agricultural College alone. The college's founding offers an enduring lesson that ambitious projects become possible when people combine their resources and abilities around a common purpose.

Charles Benedict Calvert (1808-1864). Turing a Sharing Vision into a College

A few miles from Beltsville stand a university that began with a practical question: What could farmers accomplish if scientific education benefited their work? For Charles Benedict Calvert, the answer deserved more than discussion. It deserved a college.

Calvert was born to George Calvert (1768 – 1838) and Rosalie Eugenia Stier Calvert (1778-1821) and grew up in present-day Riverdale Mansion, a 4,000-acre mansion. He became the leading founder of Maryland Agricultural College, the predecessor of today's University of Maryland. It was meant to prepare students to improve agriculture through scientific knowledge and practical training. The institution would connect learning with cultivating land and producing food.

But Calvert did not accomplish this alone. The college's founding offers an enduring lesson that ambitious projects become possible when people combine their resources and abilities around a common purpose.

The 1856 charter named nine founding commissioners, including Calvert. Among his partners were James T. Earle, John O. Wharton, Nicholas B. Worthington, George W. Hughes, Walter W. W. Bowie, Ramsay McHenry, John Carroll Walsh, and A. B. Davis. Representing several Maryland counties, they helped organize the institution and obtain financial subscriptions.

Their challenge was concrete. Supporters needed to raise at least $50,000 to buy a farm and build buildings. Robert Bowie traveled throughout Maryland seeking subscriptions, while a substantial donation from Maryland-born physician William

LOCAL LIVES
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Tech Sense By John Bell

November Hodgepodge

This month I provide a mix of various topics that I hope you find interesting.



Blocking Text based SPAM Messages

Last month we discussed SPAM. This month I will start with some common ways of blocking text messages that you do not want to receive. The first method, when a message you do not want arrives, respond with STOP in all uppercase. To not respond to any future messages from this source. If you have an Android phone, you can select the three-dot menu and hit "Block and Report SPAM" option. This will prevent any further text messages from that number. Finally, will go back to the three-dot menu and select "Trash". This doesn't remove the message for 30 days. To remove it immediately go to your picture and select it. That menu will also have a trash button. Select that button. Select all of the messages you want deleted and then select the trashcan with an X on it. This will permanently remove all of the selected messages with no way to recover them.

Older Android versions offer a "Delete" option instead of "Trash". Unlike Trash delete effectively removes the message immediately making it inaccessible. However, the data will stay in memory until overwritten by newer data.

I am not an Apple user, but I understand Apple has a filtering system to block unknown text and callers. However, my understanding is that this will also block unknown calls from schools, Doctors, Pharmacies, and other organizations that may have a legitimate need to call you but are not in your phone book.

Power Outages

We have had issues with power outages and lightning strikes for the entire 36 years that we have lived here in Beltsville. Over the years, we have added protection. For example, we have installed a full-house surge protector to prevent electrical surges from destroying our electronics. This has worked pretty well for us. Most lightning strikes haven't presented any problems. Same with transformer explosions and burnouts. When we did get a direct lightning hit all of our electronics survived but we did have to replace the whole house protector, but the warranty covered it.

I have also added Uninterruptable Power Supplies (UPS) to my office to keep my computers from losing data when the power goes out. This has been very useful. Frequently we get short power breaks that may last 10 to30 seconds. This is long enough to cause the computer to reboot or hang the program I am working on. It also causes me to lose my Internet connection or drop phone calls on my VOIP phone. The UPS doesn't stay on for hours but normally will keep things going for 5 to 10 minutes. Just long enough to keep things running or give my device enough time to shut down gracefully. Definitely with the $60 to purchase.

Television vs Streaming

I decided to turn my cable box on last week for the first time in a year to check the weather in western Florida. I had forgotten that I dropped most of the cable channels like Weather Channel. So, I turned off the TV and found what I was looking for on the computer. I haven't watched any programming on broadcast TV for nearly a year. In general, I don't watch sports and I don't like anything with commercials. Instead, I watch streaming channels. My choices are Netflix, the Disney+/Hulu bundle, and Prime. I pay a little extra, so I don't have to watch commercials.

I may do a short subscription (7 to 30 days) on a specific stream to watch a specific program. I got a good deal for another commercial free for a year at $24 and no commercials and I will probably drop it at year end unless they extend the deal. I also subscribe to one other channel because my wife gets a half price commercial free deal with shows we both enjoy.

I am now considering dropping all my cable programing since everything I enjoy watching is available for less than the cost of the bare bones TV on my minimal cable service. I can always add an antenna in my attic to get my local channels.

Dual Internet

This is my story about how I ended up with dual Internet service providers.

I like what I do and I often don't sleep at night. Sadly, my primary Internet provider likes to turn off my signal at 2:00 AM when I am working on my computer. I also went through a period, where this company was providing very unreliable service. My telephone service provider was also bugging me to change from my copper line to a FIOS phone connection. The phone company had become very poor at maintaining the copper lines, so I finally decided to change over to FIOS and added Gigabit Internet (in both directions) at the same time.

Now I have two primary networks in my home. One carries two networks, one for Internet of Things (IoT) the other for family computers. The other one has my computers, my Raspberry Pi's, and extra channels that I use to move things over when the other network is down.

This has worked well for me.

Next Time

Next month will be my Christmas episode and I expect we will discuss the cost of buying new computer gear.

LOCAL LIVES

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Newton Mercer encouraged the effort. By September 1857, subscriptions approached the required amount. Board members pledged the balance, helping the project move forward.

The college received its charter on March 6, 1856. In 1858, Calvert sold 428 acres of his Rossburg Farm, which became the original University of Maryland campus extending west from U.S. Route 1. Selling Price: $20,000 in 1858, or $820,000 in 2026 purchasing power. The $820,000 translates to ~$1,900/acre in today's money. When the college opened in 1859, its first class consisted of 34 white male students, including four of his sons.

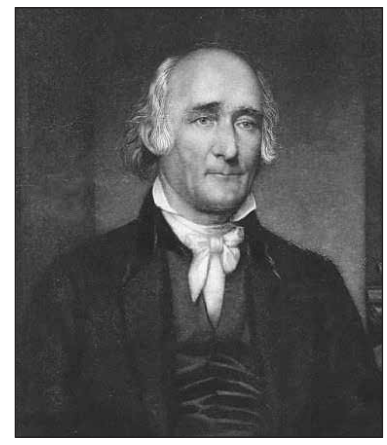
Calvert remained involved after the opening. As acting president in late 1859 and 1860, he helped increase enrollment and established a preparatory program for applicants who needed additional academic instruction. The vision required daily decisions, qualified teachers, and attention to students' needs.

Today's Lessons. This history also requires honesty about its foundations. The Calverts enslaved people, and the college arose from an economy sustained by enslaved labor. Its first students represented only a narrow portion of the population. Remembering those exclusions helps us recognize both the achievement and the people denied access.

The essential step is connecting those contributions to a shared goal. Where do you fit into addressing community or family needs? Calvert and his partners helped create an institution whose reach eventually extended far beyond their original agricultural mission. .

Benjamin Hallowell (1799 – 1877). Setting Conditions of Conscience

College Park offers one of the clearest examples of a principle expressed through a concrete decision. Benjamin Hallowell, born in 1799, became the first president of the Maryland Agricultural College



Source: Wikipedia

in 1859. A Quaker educator, scientist, and farmer, he helped shape the institution that would become the University of Maryland.

According to the university, Hallowell accepted the presidency on two conditions: the college farm would not use enslaved labor, and he would serve without salary. His opposition therefore became part of his appointment terms. He only served for one month as President and resigned due to poor health

The appointment also presented practical difficulties. The trustees announced his selection at the opening ceremony without first notifying him. Once at the college, he helped develop a curriculum covering languages, natural sciences, English, and mathematics. Illness forced him to resign after about a month. Hallowell is buried at the Sandy Springs Friends Meetinghouse cemetery.

Today's Lessons. Hallowell's brief tenure challenges the assumption that an important contribution must last for years. He could not control his health or remain indefinitely. He could decide what conditions he would accept and use his educational experience while he served.

Remembering Lives Close to Home

These stories give familiar places a deeper human history. Beall's Beltsville connection, the Walkers' Greenbelt homestead, Riversdale's surviving rooms, and Hallowell's College Park institution make lives approachable. They encourage visits, conversations, or further research into people whose experiences remain less visible.

Their successes were varied, and none erased life's difficulties. Beall served in a dangerous cause. The Walkers established a home and joined the Revolutionary effort. The Stiers adapted to displacement and family separation. Rosalie carried responsibilities through grief and war. Charles Benedict Calvert helped found the University of Maryland. Hallowell used a short appointment to express a lasting principle.

For today's readers, the invitation is practical. Offer your experiences. Take the next steps after a setback. Learn and preserve what you learn. Decide what standards guide your work. No one needs to wait for a grand occasion to do something consequential. Our neighborhoods depend on each of us to accept responsibility and act with care.

Mark Tomassoni writes about history and science from Laurel, MD. He can be reached at mtomassoni770@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2026

Calendar of Events

AREA EVENTS

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 the history of early aviation at the College Park Airport. For additional events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

BILINGUAL CUB CORNER
Two dates: Fri., Nov. 21 and Sat., Nov. 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each day.
- Waddle into a bilingual (English and Spanish) reading of ***Flight School*** by Lita Judge! Follow along as a determined little penguin dreams of flying despite the odds and discovers the importance of perseverance and believing in yourself. After the story, participants can get creative by making their own penguin buddies to take home.
- ¡Camina como pingüino hacia una lectura bilingüe (inglés y español) de ***Flight School***, de Lita Judge! Sigue la historia de un pequeño y decidido pingüino que sueña con volar a pesar de las dificultades y descubre la importancia de la perseverancia y de creer en sí mismo. Después de la lectura, los participantes podrán ponerse creativos haciendo sus propios amigos pingüinos para llevar a casa.

GREENBELT PARK EVENT

Address: 6565 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM: WELCOME TO WASHINGTON!
Every Friday night through Fri., Nov. 13. Location: Campfire Circle in Loop B. Program times typically begin in the evening around 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Join Greenbelt Park staff for a weekly program focused on how to visit Washington, DC and the special events happening throughout the city. Cost: Free to attend.

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.
- **Contact us** for more information regarding additional events taking place in November.

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.

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 free phone app at home first. Complete challenges and earn a patch. Play: https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER
10 a.m. to 12 noon (35-minute time slots, on the hour). Ages 3 – 10, with an adult. Crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration. Registration is strongly recommended: Call 301.497.5772 during regular business hours. For large groups please contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

MONARCH MAGIC
Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the Visitor Center is open. All ages. See the monarch butterfly life cycle video.

***WINGSPAN* GAME DAY**
Two dates: **Fri., Nov. 13 and Sat., Nov. 28** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day (Note: There are no dates in December). Ages 12+. No experience needed. Play the award-winning board game and learn more about birds! Use our game or bring yours and sign in at the Front Desk to play.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY
Free. All ages. Open when the building is open. The art gallery is next to the bookstore.
- November artists: Members of the Southern Comforters Quilt Guild present beautiful nature and wildlife-themed quilts, pieced in traditional original art and modern designs.

FAMILY FUN
This educational exhibit is open to individual study from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. All ages.
- **Theme for autumn:** Dirt—Dig it! Explore through hands-on activities, games and crafts for all ages. This is a drop-in program: come when you wish and leave when you're ready.

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 November meeting will be Wed., Nov. 4 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 November meeting will take place **Thur., Nov. 19** at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. The meeting is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. We'll have our usual light refreshments and 50/50 chance. The Beltsville Young at Heart Club meets on the third Thursday of each month (weather permitting) and is for residents who are 55 years of age and older. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Please note: The Beltsville Branch Library will be **closed all day Wed., Nov. 11 for Veterans Day** and will also **close at 5 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 25 and will be closed all day on Thur., Nov. 26 and Fri., Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving**. 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.pgcmls.info/location/Beltsville for our online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME
Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Ages 2 – 3.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. each day. Ages 3 – 5.

READY 2 READ ART: NATIVE CORN
Thur., Nov. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Ages 3 – 5. Celebrate Native and Indigenous Peoples Month with fun stories themed around a craft of monarch butterfly rings! After the stories, unleash creativity by crafting a themed masterpiece around native corn. It's a delightful way for little ones to appreciate art while having a blast! All supplies will be provided, so please register beforehand.

MOVIE AND A CRAFT
Tue., Nov. 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. See ***Brother Bear*** (free; rated G). Make a woven salmon, relax, and watch the film on the big screen with others in the community.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS
Two dates: Sat., Nov. 14 and Fri., Nov. 20 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Boost your child's confidence by reading to friendly, trained therapy dogs. Whether they bring a favorite book or choose one from the library, each child gets 10 to 15 minutes of one-on-one reading time with a furry friend.

STEM FUN: IROQUOIS WAMPUM CODING
Thur., Nov. 19 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities! Explore Wampum Coding through interactive challenges that spark curiosity and creativity.

PROGRAM FOR TEENS

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL
Mon., Nov. 9 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Connect with others in your community who share your love for needlecraft! Bring your current project and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere while exchanging tips, ideas, and conversation.

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

FREE HIV AND SYPHILIS SCREENING
Thur., Nov. 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Take charge of your health with free HIV and syphilis screenings from the Prince George's County Health Department. Open to adults and teens (ages 16+). No appointment needed—just stop by for testing in a welcoming and supportive environment. Walk-ins welcome!

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP
Wed., Nov. 4 from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Presented by Toastmasters International.
Enhance your public speaking and presentation skills to communicate with confidence and professionalism. We will cover speech organization, effective speaking techniques, audience engagement, and presentation delivery. Participants will develop and deliver their own speeches, practice voice, pacing, and nonverbal communication skills, and learn strategies for connecting with an audience.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB
Wednesdays, Nov. 4 and 18 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day.
Learning to speak English? Enhance your skills in a relaxed and welcoming environment! Join us to practice conversation, build confidence, and connect with others who share your interest in English. Once registered you will receive a reminder email.

BUDGETING, SAVINGS, AND GOAL SETTING: SESSION 1
Tue., Nov. 17 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Learn the fundamentals of managing money by creating a realistic budget, developing a savings habit, and setting achievable short- and long-term financial goals. Participants will explore practical strategies for making informed spending decisions and building a strong financial foundation.

The Beltsville Young At Heart Club

By Lois Hamilton

The year is almost over and that means some changes. I will be retiring as President in January of 2027 from the Beltsville Young at Heart. I will stay on as a member, but not an officer. We are also losing our Treasurer and membership Chairman, who will not be able to serve again. I will help the new President as much as possible, but we need someone else to run the monthly meetings (on the third Thursdays), so the program can continue and the club continue. I've already booked entertainment for January 2027. Please call me at 301-498-9736 if you are willing to serve the club.

Our November 19 meeting will be celebrating our 60th year in the community. We're having a potluck luncheon. You can bring whatever dish you'd like—all will be accepted and eaten. It could be an entree, fruit, vegetable, dessert, or anything you can bring to share. Bring a container if you'd like to take home an extra portion. We will not have entertainment (per say) but just get to know each other better.

You only have to be at least 55 years old to join us. Can live anywhere in Maryland and just like to meet senior citizens like yourself.

We start at 10:30 am till about 1 pm at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road. Plenty of parking. It is also where we leave for the trips planned for 2027. Buy a chance at 50/50 if you feel lucky and get information about what is going on in the area. We accept any suggestions for speakers, entertainment, Bingo, and any other ideas you can offer.

If you need any additional information, call Lois at 301-498-9736. Leave a message if I'm not home, I live in Laurel. I look forward to speaking with you.

Women's Community Club of Beltsville Annual Holiday Food, Gift & Fundraising Program 2026

By Karen Coakley,
WCCB Fundraising Chairperson

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville is coordinating our annual holiday food and gift programs, along with fundraising for other important community projects. We invite Beltsville businesses, schools, service organizations, social clubs, churches, and individuals to help us provide food and gifts to local families in need during the holiday season. Your generosity also supports scholarships, the Adopt-A-Road and Stream programs, the Beltsville Beautification Project, and partnerships with other Beltsville organizations. Throughout the year, families sometimes turn to us during times of crisis, and your support helps us respond when they need us most. We hope you will join us in supporting these worthwhile efforts.

For Thanksgiving, we provide each family with a meal gift card from Aldi. At Christmas, we also provide presents for children. We gratefully accept ***new*** toys and ***new*** clothing for children. Monetary contributions and store gift cards are also appreciated. *You or your organization are welcome to sponsor a child or a family*. As a certified 501(c)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible. A list of donors will be published in the Beltsville News unless you prefer to remain anonymous. Donations can be made through ***PayPal*** using our email address **WomensClubBeltsville@gmail.com.**

Monetary contributions and gift cards may also be mailed to:
Women's Community
Club of Beltsville
P. O. Box 1607
Beltsville, Maryland
20704-1607

The deadline for Thanksgiving donations is Friday, November 20th, 2026, The Christmas donation deadline is Monday, December 14th, 2026. Please contact Karen Coakley with questions or to schedule a pickup or delivery time for your donation: **WomensClubBeltsville@gmail.com** or **301-741-7672**.

We all know there are Beltsville families who could use a helping hand. Thank you for helping us ***"spread a little sunshine"*** during the holidays and throughout the year.

If you would like to become a WCCB member, please email us at **WomensClubBeltsville@gmail.com**.

To see a list of our activities, visit our **Facebook page:** https://www.facebook.com/p/Womens-Community-Club-of-Beltsville-100068832288067/

Gift card suggestions: Target, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Ross, Kohl's, Giant, Aldi, Lidl, Visa, MasterCard, Amazon, Walmart, or Grocery Outlet.

Free Fall Festival at First Baptist Church of Beltsville

The First Baptist Church of Beltsville will host a free Fall Festival on November 7, 2026, from 1–3 p.m. at 4700 Odell Road in Beltsville.

Families are invited to enjoy games, snacks, hayrides and a pumpkin patch. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fall fun. Admission and all activities are free.

Step Into the Season: Holiday Gift Ideas for Everyone on Your List



(StatePoint) The holiday season arrives differently for everyone. For some, it means busy calendars filled with gatherings, travel and celebrations. For others, it brings opportunities to slow down, focus on wellness or simply spend more time with the people who matter most.

No matter what your journey looks like, one goal remains the same: finding gifts that feel thoughtful, without stretching the budget. That's why many shoppers are focusing on practical gifts that deliver style, comfort and value long after the wrapping paper is gone.

One category leading the holiday wish list this year is boots. As temperatures cool and schedules fill with everything from family photos to festive outings, boots offer versatility that works throughout the season. From fashion-forward tall silhouettes to everyday ankle styles, today's options combine comfort and

GIFT IDEAS
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Associate Broker

E-mail: robertayaklich@gmail.com • Office: 301-970-2447

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY IS ACTIVE AND STRONG. HOMES THAT ARE PRICED RIGHT ARE SELLING QUICKLY. IN TIMES LIKE THIS, THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE GENERATIONAL WEALTH IS STILL VIABLE. TALK TO ROBERTA WITH YOUR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND YOUR SITUATION !!!

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

REAL ESTATE MARKET IS STRONG IN PRINCE GEORGE and MONTGOMERY COUNTIES !!!

Check us out on Facebook!
The Beltsville News

GIFT IDEAS

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style in ways that make them easy to wear long after the holidays are over. Seasonal favorites from brands such as Koolaburra by UGG, Timberland, Dr. Martens and Frye help wearers transition easily from everyday activities to special occasions.

For the runners, walkers and fitness enthusiasts on your list, athletic footwear remains one of the season's most practical gifts. Whether someone is training for a race, building healthier habits for the new year or simply staying active during a busy season, performance footwear delivers value every time it is worn. Popular running styles from Brooks, adidas and Nike offer the comfort, support and versatility needed to keep pace with both workouts and everyday life.

Of course, not every gift needs to come wrapped in a large box. Some of the most appreciated holiday surprises come in smaller packages. Accessories such as socks, hats, bags, shoe care products and shoe charms make ideal stocking stuffers while adding personality and practicality to everyday routines. They're also an easy way to add a little extra cheer to holiday shopping lists without adding a lot to the total at checkout.

As shoppers navigate gifting season, value continues to play an important role in purchasing decisions. Rather than choosing between quality, style and affordability, consumers are increasingly looking for retailers that offer all three. By focusing on gifts that can be worn and enjoyed well beyond the holiday season, you can feel confident you're giving presents that provide lasting value.

After all, the season is about more than finding the perfect gift. It's about celebrating the moments, milestones and traditions that bring people together. The right pair of shoes, boots or accessories may be just one part of the season, but it can help someone step confidently into everything that lies ahead.

To explore holiday-ready styles and gift ideas for every occasion, visit Rack Room Shoes in store or online at https://www.rackroomshoes.com/.

This season, discover gifts that help everyone on your list step into what's next.

2027 SEASON

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one another through life's joys and challenges.

The season concludes November 12–21 with Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne, adapted and directed by John Cusumano. Pooh and his friends will welcome audiences to the Hundred Acre Wood for a heartwarming adventure celebrating friendship and childhood imagination.

All performances will take place at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane in Beltsville. Tickets are $15.

For updates on performances, tickets, auditions and volunteer opportunities, visit www.upstageartists.com.

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM

11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BELTSVILLE, MD

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

Live broadcast at www.eumcbeltsville.com

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

Upcoming Events

Nov. 8: Potluck following service
Nov. 11: 3 - 4:30 pm Veterans Day Tea
(register at https://tinyurl.com/vettea)
Dec. 4-13: UpStage Artist's Presents Babes In Toyland

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

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Come and see.

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

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

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.



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

Beltsville Adventist Community Center

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

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

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

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation

NUISANCE

continued from page 6

leadership doesn't.

Taking a leaf out of John Oliver's book, what can we do now?

- **Keep the pressure on.** Immense pressure at the beginning of the firehouse debacle helped keep Station 31 open. National pressure helped secure the stay at BARC. And endless pressure is forcing the county to investigate and return money.
- **VOTE.** I know that by the time this issue comes out, Election Day will be very nearly here, but make sure you vote. Vote for the folks who could actually make a difference!
- **Follow the stories.** Things disappear from headlines at the speed of light these days, so look to local and national news sources. These include The Banner, The Washington Sun, NBC4, WJLA, Maryland Matters and Greenbelt News Review, in addition to the more commonly read The New York Times and The Washington Post.
- **Know who your local, state and federal representatives are—and BUG THEM.** I have their numbers saved in my phone and their email addresses saved in my inbox.
- **Connect with community groups.** For more information at the County Council level, follow Citizens for Accountability in Governance. They have a Facebook group you can join. Here in Beltsville, we also have Beltsville United.

Will these problems be fixed overnight? Of course not. But we each have a voice and a part to play. Many want to complain about the state of things, but we each have a chance to speak up, make a good nuisance of ourselves and help effect change.

Jason's Jive By Jason Inanga

I thank God I am alive to write this column. On October 20, in South Dallas, a driver ran a red light and nearly t-boned my vehicle as I crossed an intersection near the State Fair grounds. A split-second decision to slam on my brakes likely prevented a serious multi-vehicle crash. The experience was a stark reminder that driving in Dallas can feel less like a commute and more like a daily survival test, especially in an era of reckless driving, distracted motorists, and cell phone-fueled inattention.

My close call is a reminder of a growing problem on roads across America: distracted driving. Whether caused by texting, talking on the phone, eating, grooming, adjusting a navigation system, or simply allowing your attention to wander, distracted driving continues to endanger motorists, passengers, cyclists, and pedestrians every day.

The statistics are sobering. In Maryland alone, distracted driving contributes to nearly 48% of all motor vehicle collisions statewide. Although traffic fatalities dropped to a decade-low 480 in 2025, distracted driving remains one of the leading causes of preventable crashes. On average, it is a factor in approximately 197 fatal crashes and more than 14,800 injury crashes every year. Behind every number is a family dealing with loss, injury, emotional trauma, or financial hardship that could have been avoided.

Distracted driving is defined as any activity that takes your eyes, hands, or mind away from the primary task of operating a vehicle safely. While many distractions exist, texting remains among the most dangerous. At 55 miles per hour, reading or sending a text message can take a driver's eyes off the road for about five seconds. Safety experts compare that lapse in attention to driving the entire length of a football field blindfolded. Most drivers would never intentionally close their eyes while traveling at highway



speeds, yet many do the digital equivalent every day.

To combat this danger, Maryland law prohibits the handheld use of cell phones and electronic devices while driving. Because distracted driving is considered a primary offense, police officers can pull motorists over simply for holding or using a phone, even if no other traffic violation has occurred. The laws exist for a reason: too many lives have been disrupted or destroyed by preventable distractions behind the wheel.

Fortunately, avoiding distractions is entirely within a driver's control. Traffic safety advocates recommend placing phones in a glove compartment, back seat, purse, or trunk before beginning a trip. Drivers traveling with passengers can designate someone else to handle calls, texts, and navigation duties. Programming a GPS, adjusting mirrors, selecting music, and setting climate controls before shifting into drive can also eliminate distractions once the vehicle is moving.

If an important call, text, or email cannot wait, the safest option is simple: pull over in a safe location before responding. A delayed response may be inconvenient, but an accident can have consequences lasting a lifetime. No notification, social media update, or incoming message is more important than arriving safely.

For those who ignore the law, the penalties can be costly. Maryland drivers cited for distracted driving may face fines and points on their driving record, with even stiffer penalties when a distraction contributes to a crash. Drivers under 18 face particularly strict restrictions and can face license suspensions for violations. The legal penalties are designed not simply to punish bad behavior, but to discourage it before tragedy strikes.

The financial consequences often extend far beyond the initial ticket. Insurance companies view distracted driving as a sign of increased risk, and many drivers see their premiums rise substantially after receiving a citation. Nationally, distracted driving violations can increase insurance premiums by an average of 28% to 33%, adding hundreds of dollars to annual insurance costs. Some insurers impose increases approaching 50%, and those surcharges can follow a driver for three years or longer. A momentary lapse in judgment can ultimately cost thousands of dollars.

My near-miss in Dallas ended with nothing more than shaken nerves and a renewed appreciation for how quickly things can go wrong behind the wheel. Others are not always so fortunate. Every day, families receive phone calls that change their lives forever because someone chose to look at a screen instead of the road ahead.

As I drove away from that intersection, I kept thinking about how differently that evening could have ended. A few more feet. A second less reaction time. One wrong move by either driver. The outcome could have been tragic. That is the reality of distracted driving. It takes only a moment to cause a lifetime of regret. So the next time your phone buzzes while you're driving, let it wait. The message can wait. The call can wait. Your social media notification can wait. What cannot wait is your responsibility to the people sharing the road with you. Put the phone down, keep your eyes forward, and remember that getting home safely is the only notification that truly matters.

Was the driver in my case on his phone? I have no idea. Was he distracted as he approached the intersection, I have no idea. Suppose I had been distracted as I moved my vehicle? Food for thought.

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SERVICES

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL. Complete Clean Out - Garages, Homes, Construction Debris, etc. Licensed, insured, free estimates. Mike Smith 301-346-0840. 01/27

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

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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(CATERING)

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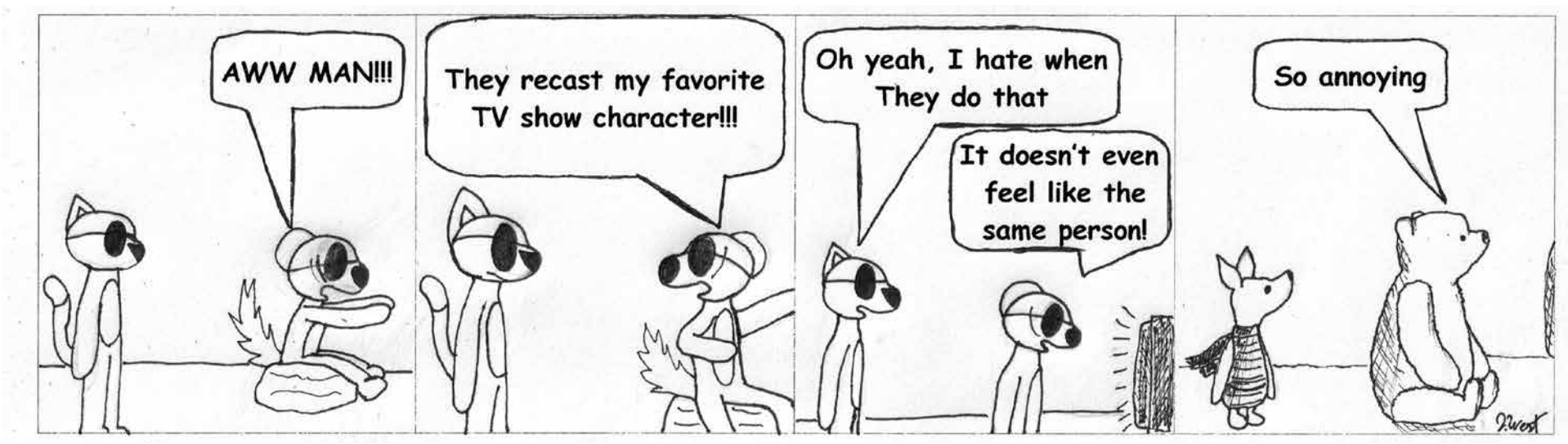
College Park American Legion—Post 217

9218 Baltimore Blvd. (301) 441-2783

College Park, MD 20740

Contact Gary Kingery

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



Four Tips to Build a Happy and Healthy Holiday Spread



(StatePoint) The holiday season is filled with special gatherings, beloved traditions and all kinds of delicious food. Whether you're hosting an intimate get-together or a house full of family and friends, a few thoughtful touches can help you create a festive spread that feels not only special, but also nourishing for your guests.

Registered Dietitian and Nutritionist Dawn Jackson Blatner shares four simple tips for serving easy, crowd-pleasing appetizers that are celebratory, nutritious and holiday table-ready.

1. Eat the colors of the season. Incorporate colorful seasonal ingredients like pomegranates, citrus, sweet potatoes, cranberries and fresh herbs to naturally create a gorgeous, festive holiday palette and add nutrition.

Even simple touches, such as adding pomegranate seeds to salads or garnishing appetizers with rosemary or sage, can bring festive pops of color without requiring an entirely new recipe.

2. Bring balance to the holiday table. Celebrations and get-togethers are meant for enjoying comfort food—some of which may be less healthy for you. That doesn't mean you should leave these festive dishes off the menu; instead, create balance around them. Add protein-rich foods, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, along with the seasonal favorites your family looks forward to every year.

Offering nourishing options alongside festive favorites gives guests the freedom to build a plate with the food they love, while keeping their bodies properly fueled and satisfied.

3. Give ingredients a second act. Choosing versatile ingredients that can be easily repurposed into meals and snacks helps reduce food waste and simplifies post-holiday meals.

For example, leftover roasted vegetables can be folded into an omelet, fresh herbs can brighten sandwiches and salads, and proteins can be an easy addition to grain bowls or wraps. Thinking beyond holiday meals can help you get more out of what you already have on hand.

4. Put a fresh spin on a holiday favorite. By adding in unexpected ingredients, such as bold herbs, you can elevate the cherished recipes guests know and love.

An easy way to put that advice into practice is with Eggland's Best Hardy Holiday Deviled Eggs—a protein-packed twist on a beloved appetizer that brings holiday flavors together in one crowd-pleasing bite.

Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs provide 6 grams of protein per egg and come peeled and ready to eat, making them a convenient option for easy holiday entertaining. Plus, they contain more than double the vitamin B12 and 25% less saturated fat compared to ordinary eggs, making them a nutritious addition to your holiday spread.

Ingredients:

- 12 Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs
- 1-2 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- 4 slices turkey bacon
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1-2 tablespoons spicy mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cranberry sauce, as topping
- Potato sticks, as topping

Directions:

1. Cook the turkey bacon as desired, crumble or chop it and set aside. In a small pan, melt the butter and cook the sage until softened, about 3-4 minutes, then set aside.

2. Slice the eggs lengthwise, set aside the whites and add the yolks to a bowl.

3. Mash the yolks with sour cream and mustard until you get a smooth paste, then add in sage, salt and pepper.

4. Pipe the mixture onto the egg whites until the filling goes over the top.

5. Add bacon, cranberry sauce and potato sticks for some extra cheer.

For more nutritional information and holiday recipes, visit http://www.egglandsbest.com/.

By focusing on fun, festive ingredients that fuel your body, you can nourish your friends and family and uphold all your favorite holiday traditions.

