

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 9

Beltsville, Maryland

September 2025



Getting ready to launch our stomp rockets!

Cub Pack 1031 Rockets and Rain Gutter Regatta!

By Regina Halper

Cub Pack 1031 has been busy! This August we launched rockets at NASA Goddard Visitors Center on August 2nd and took part in National Night Out here in Beltsville and met six potential new scouts! On Monday, August 18th we will be launching our annual pack made Raingutter boats in Raingutter regatta!

Check out our new website: <https://pack1031.org/> There you can find information on how to join our Pack.

I do recommend that families contact me and come by

to a prearranged pack event to see if your child is interested in joining our Pack. We have scouts from several area schools and are happy to welcome new scouts, especially in the summertime and in the fall when we start our annual program.

If you are interested in Cub Scouts, contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com 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.



Calverton Grocery Outlet Owner, Sharon Procida, presents a check to The Rainbow Community Development Center. Photo by Thomas Procida.

Owners of Calverton Grocery Outlet Raise Money for Local Non-Profit

By Rick Bergmann

The owners of Calverton Grocery Outlet, Thomas and Sharon Procida, along with their customers were able to raise \$1300 for The Rainbow Community Development Center in Silver Spring.

According to their website (<https://www.rainbowcdc.org/>) the Rainbow Community Development Center's mission is to

to build better lives for those in need through Safety Net Services: Emergency Food Pantry, Eviction Prevention, Prevention of Utility Cutoff, and Temporary Emergency Shelter.

It's wonderful seeing local businesses give back as part of their presence in the community.

NEXT ISSUE:
Submissions Due
No Later Than:
September 17
Paper Out:
September 26

News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

With the school year now underway, drivers in Beltsville are reminded to be extra cautious on the roads. Children are walking to school, crossing streets, and boarding school buses. Safety must come first.

By law, drivers must stop when a school bus's red lights are flashing. The same applies at stop signs, red lights, and flashing red lights. Yet, too often, drivers roll through or ignore these rules. Remember: when making a turn, you do not have the right of way until oncoming traffic has passed.

Speed is another concern. On most roads in Beltsville, the speed limit is 25 to 30 miles per hour, with the exception of parts of Powder Mill Road and Route 1. Slowing down saves lives.

In addition to school traffic, drivers should also be aware of emergency response vehicles. The Temporary Prince George's County Beltsville Fire Station is scheduled to open soon at the corner of Montgomery Road and Sellman Road. Fire trucks and ambulances will be exiting from 43rd Avenue and Montgomery Road.

When you hear sirens—espe-

COAKLEY

continues on page 8



Joseph West and his creation, BOO!



The Beltsville News Celebrates Two Years of Comics From Local Comic Writer Joseph West!

By Rick Bergmann

This month marks the 24th edition of Boosipheous Boonipheous Bojangles Barnaby III aka BOO, the comic created by local comic writer Joseph West! His first appearance was in our September 2023 edition of the Beltsville News. We here at the Beltsville News are proud of Joseph and his talent. We can't wait to see what the future holds for this young man!

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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past

By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of September 2000)

Romanello Receives National Award

By Diane Sills

Beltsville resident Connie Romanello received the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Ralph C. Wilson award for her many years of volunteer service in recreation and parks. The award was presented at NRPA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Council meeting held in the new Sports and Learning Center in Landover, MD. NRPA and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County leaders attended as did volunteers and professionals from the seven state mid-Atlantic Regional Council.

Although this seldom-given award is usually presented at the National Recreation and Park Association's annual Congress in October, the award was presented locally so Romanello, who has Lou Gerig's disease, could receive the award in person. Her husband, Victor, son Charles, daughters Rita Fuller and Anna Lembo, son-in-law Tony Lembo and grandchildren Lisa and Victor Lembo also attended the ceremony.

The Ralph C. Wilson Award, named for a beloved NRPA trustee, has been given to only a few individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary contribution to service, dedication, resources and time as a National Recreation and Park Association volunteer.

Prior to the award presentation, Mary Wells-Harley, Executive Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, spoke of Romanello's role as a founder, charter member and board member of the Prince George's County Park and Recreation Foundation, now known as the Prince George's Community Foundation. "Connie's continual work and legislative efforts have made a difference in the quality of life of the citizens of this county," Wells Harley said.

Award presenter, Dean Tice, Executive Director of NRPA, said Romanello has been a tireless worker with invaluable contributions to the NRPA. Her dedicated volunteer service includes and precedes his 15-year term as executive director. "There is nobody more deserving of this award than Connie Romanello," Tice said as those in attendance rose in a standing ovation.

Neighbors in the News

Former Fire Chief, Tiffany Green, Placed on Paid Leave During Investigation

By Rick Bergmann

An investigation into pre-employment practices in the Prince

George's County Fire Department. Former Chief Tiffany Green has been placed on paid leave while

the investigation is taking place. Chief Green retired from her position on July 1 and transitioned into the role of county assistant deputy chief administrative officer of public safety. Since transitioning into this role, the hiring practices during her time as fire chief have been called into question.

It was discovered that there were several people recruited into the PG County Fire Department Academy with incomplete background checks. Complete background checks are supposed to be department policy. Deputy chief administrative officer of public safety, Melvin Powell has directed that investigation be done by a separate public safety agency.

County Executive Aisha Braveboy's office released the following statement once this information was reported, "Tiffany Green, who accepted a new role with the County, had been placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation into pre-employment practices in the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department."

At the moment, the academy has paused recruiting until the investigation has concluded.

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An All Volunteer Newspaper

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Editor Emeritas: Sally Ehrle

Staff Listings

Managing Editor/News Director: Rick Bergmann
Advertising Manager and Business Manager: Ted Ladd

Supporting Staff Members: Karen Coakley, Rebecca Hutchings,
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Exploring the Physiology of a Cat

There are many fascinating and quirky facts about cats that you might find interesting. This article focuses on interesting facts about a cat's physiology and how these unique differences impact a cat's behavior.

Purring mystery: Cats purr for more than happiness. Purring can be a self-soothing mechanism when stressed, ill or in pain. Cats purr at a frequency between 25-150 Hz, which can promote bone healing and tissue regeneration.



Chattering: Cats have been known to "chatter" or "chirp" at birds. The sound is thought to be either a sign of frustration at not being able to reach the prey, or a form of mimicry to lure birds closer.

Unique "righting reflex": Cats can twist their bodies up to 180 degrees in mid-air to land on their feet, thanks to two factors. First, cats have unusually flexible spines because they have more vertebrae than most mammals. A human has 206 bones, and a cat has around 230, depending on tail length and number of toes. Second, cats have a vestibular system in their inner ear that acts like a balance sensor.

Toe variety: Most cats have 18 toes, but some "polydactyl" cats can have 28 or more.

Night vision: Cats can see at light levels six times lower than humans due to a high number of rod cells in their retinas.

Whisker radar: Whiskers (vibrissae) are so sensitive they can detect changes in air currents, helping cats navigate in darkness.

Backward claws: A cat's

claws curve backward, making climbing down trees tricky—they usually back down.

Jacobson's organ: Located in the roof of the mouth, it allows cats to "taste" smells (that funny grimace after sniffing something is referred to as the *Flehman response*).

Third eyelid: Cats have a nictitating membrane that helps protect and moisten the eye.

Super sniffers: Cats have around two hundred million scent receptors (humans have about five million).

Taste blind to sweets: Cats lack taste receptors for sugar; sweet things are invisible to their palates.

Super jumpers: Cats can jump up to six times their own height in one leap.

Righties and lefties: Most male cats favor their left paw, while most females favor their right.

Check out future Kitty Post for more interesting facts about cats.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) invites you to join us for two upcoming events.

A fundraiser at **Restaurant 198:** Wednesday, September 17th, 5:00 – 9:00 pm
[15540 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866, 301-723-7270]

We are excited to have Elliott Gayle, a musician from San Antonio, TX, performing from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Restaurant 198 will donate a portion of your total bill to BCC.

BCC's Fall Yard Sale and Adoption Event: Saturday, October 18, 10am – 2pm
[Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Ln, Beltsville, MD 20705]

Can't make the fundraiser or the yard sale, consider donating to BCC (www.beltsvillecats.net/donate) or volunteering for BCC (email hello@beltsvillecats.net).



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Summer Time Blues

The summer of 2025 will best be remembered for the sweltering heat. In the design world though, well-known local designers, Michael Richards and Valerie Kabelac of Will's Decorating in Hyattsville are exuberantly celebrating the sudden industry-wide rejuvenation of cool shades of blues, injected into the newest selections of wallpaper and fabric patterns. According to Michael, "exciting shades of blues have been ever-present in Benjamin Moore's fabulous paint palette, but you could not find any coordinating blues in bedding, wall coverings or drapery fabrics over the last two years, until recently. As a result, my clients were unable to update their rooms if they were using blue tones."



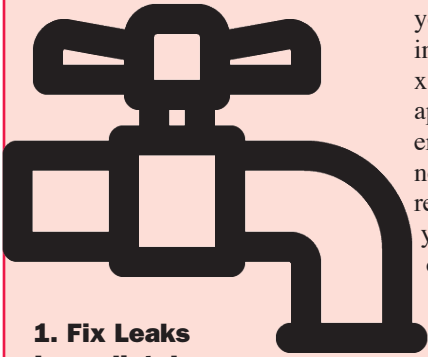
Michael Richards and Valerie Kabelac

Not anymore though. Over the last three months, many fresh, vibrant shades of not only blues, but also striking introductions of greens and yellows can easily be found.

Stop by Will's Decorating to peruse the latest summertime blues and other color trends in-home fashions. Will's has been the one stop design shop for custom draperies, valances, reupholstery, Hunter Douglas blinds, wallpaper, flooring, Benjamin Moore paint, artwork, mirrors and furniture accent pieces for 51 years. Their experienced designers, Michael and Valerie, offer personalized design consultations and are delighted to assist you in formulating and implementing a design plan that will bring "WOW" into your home. Call 301.937.6100 today and make an appointment to get started on your design project.

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What is that sound? Is your faucet dripping? How about we save some money and the planet? Saving money on your water bill is not only good for your wallet but also for the environment. Water is a precious resource, and reducing waste can lead to significant long-term savings. Here are practical tips and strategies to help you lower your water bill without sacrificing comfort or cleanliness.



1. Fix Leaks Immediately

One of the most effective ways to reduce your water bill is to fix leaks as soon as you notice them. Even a small drip from a leaky faucet or running toilet can waste hundreds of gallons of water per month. Regularly check faucets, showerheads, toilets, and irrigation systems for leaks. In many cases, repairs are inexpensive and easy to do yourself.

2. Install Water-Efficient Fixtures

Upgrading to water-efficient appliances and fixtures can lead to substantial savings. Look for

products with the WaterSense label, a certification by the EPA for water efficiency. Low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and dual-flush or low-flow toilets can significantly reduce water use. Many local utilities even offer rebates for installing these products.

3. Be Smart About Landscaping

Outdoor water use can account for a large portion of your water bill, especially during warmer months. Consider xeriscaping, a landscaping approach that uses drought-tolerant plants and minimizes the need for irrigation. Use mulch to retain soil moisture, and water your lawn early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Drip irrigation systems are more efficient than sprinklers because they deliver water directly to the plant's roots.

4. Use Appliances Wisely

Dishwashers and washing machines use a lot of water, so it's important to run them only when they're full. Choose the eco or water-saving cycle when available. If you're in the market for a new appliance, consider high-efficiency models that use less water and energy. Front-loading washing machines, for example, typically use less water than top-loading ones.

5. Adjust Everyday Habits

Small behavioral changes can add up to big savings. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes by hand. Limit shower time to 5–10 minutes. When rinsing fruits or vegetables, do it in a bowl rather than under running water. You can also reuse water from cooking (like pasta water) to water plants once it has cooled.

6. Monitor Your Water Usage

Keep an eye on your water bill each month to track your usage. A sudden increase could indicate a hidden leak or inefficient water use. Some utilities offer smart water meters or online dashboards that show real-time usage data. This information can help you identify problem areas and adjust your water habits accordingly.

7. Collect and Reuse Water

Consider installing a rain barrel to collect rainwater for outdoor use. This free source of water can be used for watering gardens, washing cars, or even flushing toilets with proper setup. Reusing gray water (from sinks, showers, or washing machines) is another way to cut water use, though it requires more planning and may be subject to local regulations.

By adopting these strategies, you can lower your water bill significantly over time while also contributing to a more sustainable future.



Email Security 2025

Security on personal computers has gotten worse over the years. Between email, text messages, various social media, AI and mega-companies with sloppy software developers and bad practices the world is becoming less safe.

Email and Spam

It is important to be able to recognize email spam when it arrives. Most email providers have tools that can eliminate many spam emails, but emails still sneak through. Spam email can be annoying and dangerous. The following email is portion of a real, typical, and dangerous email spam. The line numbers are references for discussion.

At a first glance, this may look innocent.

— Example of Email Spam —

1. Norton Service Update

- <dataqy59@gmail.com>
8/11/2025 1:38 PM
2. Done and Dusted – Norton Payment Complete
3. To nortonbillinginfo@no-reply.com, jaxxen999@comcast.net and 451 others
4. NortonLifeLock
5. INVOICE
NO:#JC9361728405
6. Date: August 11, 2025
7. Dear Norton User,
8. You have received an order on NortonLifeLock
9. Please Note: The charge will appear on your account statement as 'NortonLifeLock Inc. f you have a question about your order status, please call us at +1 (###) ###-####
10. For your convenience, we have included a copy of your order below.

— End of Example of Email Spam —

First note the email says it comes from “Norton Service Update”, but when I reveal the source address, it shows dataqy59@gmail.com. It is very unlikely that Norton would use gmail.com to send its business correspondence. Another note is that this same message went to 451 others. Apparently with the same invoice number and other details not shown in the snippet above. It appears that the real purpose of this is to get you to call the number (hidden) to cancel the \$250 charge (not shown). The person on the other end will likely try to collect personal information like name, address, phone and credit card numbers. Other clues are that I do not have a Norton Account, “Done and Dusted”, is not a typical phrase for this type of business letter.

I can also look at the mail source (an option on most email clients) and see a list of the 451 other recipients. Any professional email service would have used BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) to hide the other recipients, making them invisible to the others. Looking at these addresses it also reveals that the targeted users are all Comcast users. I believe Comcast use to be better than this, detecting the

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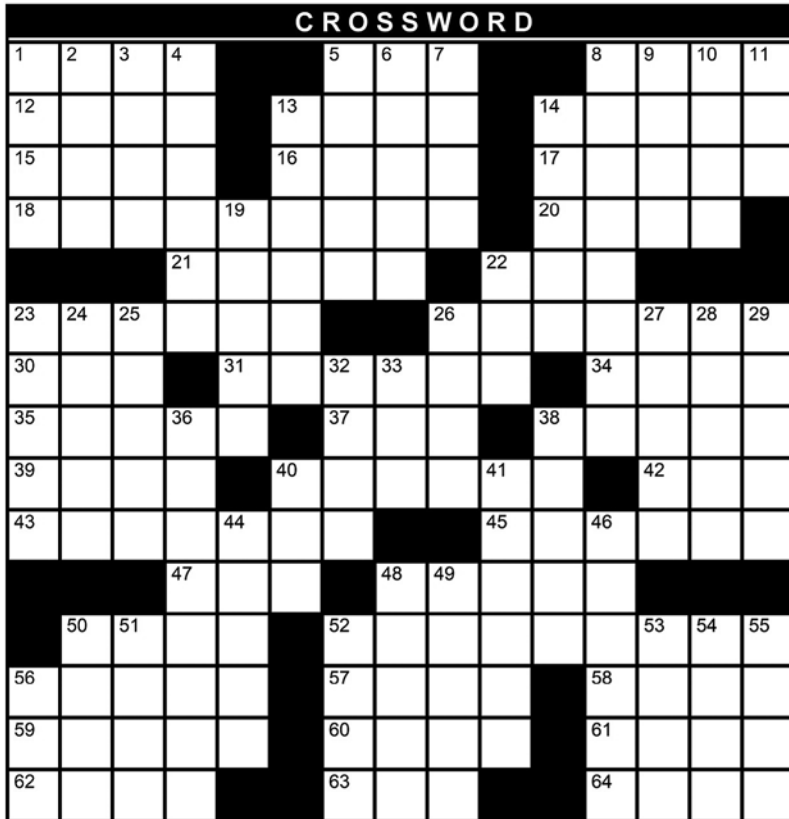
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VALID ALL OF SEPT 2025



BELTS25

Statepoint Crossword: Circus



ACROSS

1. *The Coaches ____ or The AP Top 25 ____
5. *Super Bowl halftime performer Kendrick Lamar's genre
8. 1/168th of a week
12. Purse to match a gown
13. Karl of politics
14. Model builder's wood choice
15. *YDS, TD or INT
16. Black like certain tree
17. *Last season's NFL MVP
18. *Worth 6 points
20. Way, way off
21. Owl cries
22. Come and ____ it
23. Ape
26. Stucco or aluminum on a house wall, pl.
30. "Wheel of Fortune" request
31. Bette Green's "Summer of my ____ Soldier"
34. Stag, not doe
35. Like an uncomfortable mattress
37. European Economic Community
38. *NFL Hall of Famer Greene or comedian Hart
39. Seed coat
40. Cylindrical flower cluster
42. Stir or fuss
43. City in Illinois
45. #10 Down's counterpart
47. Small dog's bark

48. Adams of "Summer Of '69" fame
50. *Point value of a safety in football, pl.
52. *Worth 3 points in football (2 words)
56. Behind a stern
57. Raise the roof
58. Classroom parasites
59. Blooper
60. Actor and singer Kristoferson
61. Some are slippery
62. Scraps
63. Ballpark fig.
64. Dark loaves

DOWN

1. Bothersome one
2. *Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Graham
3. Molokai party
4. Leeches, alt. sp.
5. R2-D2, e.g.
6. Declares to be true
7. *College, home to football's Nittany Lions
8. *Football intermission
9. Paella pot
10. Addict
11. *What the NFL's Jim Brown famously did
13. Fixed up

14. Bleated
19. Hoagie, alt. sp.
22. Bathtub hooch
23. Green side
24. Accustom
25. Imitate
26. *Quarterback's downfall
27. The N of U.S.N.A.
28. Move smoothly
29. Mister in Madrid
32. ____-view mirror
33. What Harry and Sally did
36. *Pre-championship games
38. Work the dough
40. High tea vessel
41. Bucolics
44. Gustatory sensation
46. Hook, line and sinker person
48. Coffin holders
49. Rekindled
50. Type of ski lift
51. Drift like aroma
52. Type of fish net
53. Like acne-prone skin
54. Climber's destination
55. It's more, to some
56. Don McLean: "A long, long time ____..."

See Solution on page 6

UpStage Artists Brings *Kong, The Eighth Wonder of the World*, to the Stage This October!

By Rick Bergmann

Most of us know the story—even if we've never seen the movie. A group of filmmakers set sail for a mysterious island, where they discover a prehistoric world of dinosaurs and natives who worship a colossal figure known only as Kong. Kong, of course, turns out to be a 40-foot-tall gorilla who takes a shine to Ann, the actress traveling with the crew. After kidnapping her, Kong is captured himself and hauled back to New York, where he escapes, seizes Ann once more, and climbs the Empire State Building—only to meet his tragic end.

But what about the hotel room right next to Ann's on that fateful night in Manhattan?

That's where *Kong's Night Out* begins—and UpStage Artists is bringing this hilarious backstage parody to life this October. The play imagines what was happening just a few doors down while Kong was sweeping Ann off her feet—literally. Because every great story has a backstory.

At the center is Myron Siegel, a second-rate Broadway producer who desperately wants to be first-rate. Unfortunately, he's spent his career being thwarted by



The Cast of *Kong's Night Out* sitting down to read the script together before beginning the rehearsal of this phenomenally funny play!

his archrival, a famous showman known for spectacles about terrifying jungle beasts. Their rivalry runs deep—their fathers feuded before them—and Myron is determined this time will be different.

As the play opens, Myron

learns that his rival has booked a theater directly across the street from his own. Nobody knows what the mystery production will be, but everyone agrees—it's BIG. Myron rallies his eccentric entourage—his sharp-tongued mother, a

tough-talking gangster, his nervous Hungarian investor, and his starry-eyed niece fresh off the bus from Buffalo—to uncover the secret and save his show.

The cast is a mix of fresh faces and veteran UpStage performers:

Neil Swanson-Chrisman as Myron Siegel

Lisa Troshinsky as Sally Charmaine

Laila Anderson as Daisy

Cam Haffenden as Little Willie

Elisabeth Dorman as Bertille Siegel

John Cholod as Sig Higginbottom

Sophie Ellison as Ann Darrow

Louis Zammichieli as Carl Dennon

Ed Brennan as Jack Driskel

Kong's Night Out is directed by Beltsville News's own Rick Bergmann.

Show Details:

Tickets: \$10 at www.upstageartists.com

Dates: October 11, 12, 17 & 18 at 7:30 PM; October 13 & 19 at 2:00 PM

Venue: Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

Get ready for a wildly funny night at the theater—one you won't soon forget! (*Rated PG-13 for language and adult themes; not recommended for young children.*)



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Crossword Solution from page 5

P	O	L	L		R	A	P		H	O	U	R			
E	T	U	I		R	O	V	E		B	A	L	S	A	
S	T	A	T		E	B	O	N		A	L	L	E	N	
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A	R	I	L		C	A	T	K	I	N		A	D	O	
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G	A	F	F	E			K	R	I	S		E	L	M	S
O	R	T	S				E	S	T			R	Y	E	S

Obituaries

Peters, Frances Grace

Frances Grace Peters, 99, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at her home in Beltsville, Maryland. Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Edith Fox and Charles Edward Sell, and her four older siblings, Thelma, Clyde, Edgar, and Flora Sell. Most importantly, she has been reunited with her husband and beloved, Melville Hindle Peters.

Born in Taneytown, Maryland on November 7, 1925, to devoted farming parents, Frances was the youngest of five children. Her childhood was rooted in family — from helping at Sell's Ice Factory to riding alongside her father as he drove the town's school bus. After graduating from Taneytown High School, she commuted to Baltimore during the week to work at the Victory Factories during World War II. During this time, she met the love of her life Melville "Mel" Peters when he flew into Taneytown. After many persistent requests, Frances agreed to a date — and what followed was a love story that led to their marriage on October 2, 1946.

The newlyweds relocated to Beltsville, Maryland for Frances and Mel to open their family real estate business. During this time, Frances became a real estate agent, and ultimately the bookkeeper for the real estate, appraisal, and residential construction branches of Mel's entrepreneurial spirit. Frances was the quiet strength in the marriage, as her unwavering loyalty and trust in Mel's adventurous spirit made her his confidant, critic, and biggest advocate.

Frances had a deep love for travel and enjoyed many trips with her husband and close friends. In an era when cruising the French Riviera or dancing in the Caribbean was a grand endeavor, she and Mel did it all — joyfully and fearlessly. When not venturing around the world, they could often be found cruising the Chesapeake Bay with friends and family. Their adventures in life, business, and marriage continued all the way up to Mel's passing in 1992, and she continued her remarkable accomplishments and never sought accolades, but their legacy of love continues to speak volumes with the memories she shares of them together.

Frances and Mel were blessed with two children, Myra Peters Kovach-Byers (Les) of Springfield Virginia, and Melville Edward Peters (Martha) of Cambridge, Maryland. The love and importance of their family was the cornerstone for the multiple generations of family gatherings and memories created at their home in Beltsville and on the family farm on the Eastern Shore in Taylors Island, Maryland.

Though Frances was always busy as the business accountant well into her 90's, one of her most treasured experiences was being a grandmother and great-grandmother. Frances is survived by four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, Melville Patrick Peters (Cordelia) and their children Bennett, Westley, Abigail, and Greyson of Highland, MD; Natalie Kovach Miskimins (Sean) and their children Vivian and Evelyn of Ellicott City, MD; Kimberly Jean Morgan (James) and their children Tomlinson and Everett of Raleigh, NC; Mary Frances Kovach Waller (Stephen) and their son Bruce of Glen Burnie, MD. Frances cherished her time with her generations of grandkids. With her exceptional cooking and thoughtful guidance, she filled both their hearts and their stomachs. Frances will be forever remembered as a strong-willed, resilient, competent and quietly devoted and loving woman who lived life on her own terms and demonstrated the importance of family.

The family extends gratitude to Edith, Proscovia, and Belinda, whose care, kindness, warmth, and love for Frances allowed her to spend her final year in comfort and with dignity.

Visitation was held on August 14, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Donald V. Borgwardt Funeral home in Beltsville, Maryland. A burial mass honoring her life was held on August 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Stephen Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Maryland with interment to follow at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Maryland. To further honor Frances' legacy, donations on her behalf to the Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department would continue to support the impact she has had on so many.



Frances Grace Peters

TECH SENSE

continued from page 4

email was targeted to their customers, and then blocking them.

Attachments

If you do not have a reason to trust and email please never open any attachments. These are files, attached to an email, with the ability to carry all kinds of bad things. If you need to inspect it, download it and do not open it. Scan the downloaded file with a good virus-scanner and then decide if you still want to open it. Since I need to do this sometimes, I download it to a special and isolated machine, where I can use anti-virus software and other tools to examine the files first.

Do not trust photos, documents, or PDF attachments, again only if you know and trust the actual sender. Recently a file compression utility was distributed, that caused compressed files to include malware. Unsuspecting users then sent these files as email attachments without the sender even knowing about the malware. The recipients received the malware-tainted files. So scan before you UnRAR or Unzip and so on.

What Should You Do?

I have been dealing with these types of messages for years. I can recognize these types of messages quickly and only need deep examination of a few each week (remember that I also have a large number of active email accounts).

I send these emails directly to my spam or junk folder. I might have to process hundreds of spam mails a week. If the email is clearly spam, then I immediately mark it as spam. This will flag it and prevent message from repeated receipt by you and others.

If you are not sure, delete it. If you need to examine it delete it first and then examine it from within the deleted or trash folder. Files in these folders normally reduce the harm that the message can do, so you can inspect it if needed.

Domain Blocking

Domain blocking is a practice that prevents access to domains if they are blocked. Many tools can do this. I typically use OpenDNS. You can also use firewall settings and tools like Pi-Hole.

Domain blocking can also reduce the receipt of unsafe emails. My email setups typically block all .ru (Russia), .cn China, .in (India), and .jp Japan emails. I do not expect any legitimate emails from any of these countries. I do



21st District Democratic Team
Rosapepe
Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Ben Barnes
Mary Lehman

Beltsville's State Legislators – Standing Up for Working Families!

We're going to keep BARC green!



***Trump wants to close Beltsville
Agricultural Research Center. We're
fighting to keep it open — and green!***

Founded in 1910, BARC is America's premiere agricultural science institute and one of the top in the world. And, at 6,500 acres, it is the largest green space in northern Prince George's county.

BARC's more than 500 employees, many of them our neighbors, should not be DOGED, its scientific research destroyed, and its acres of open space developed. Because of a state law Jim and his then colleagues wrote in 1993, if any BARC land is ever sold, it is automatically zoned as agricultural open space. No shopping centers, no truck stops, no high rises, no Trump Hotel and Golf Resort!

We're fighting to keep that law and working with our County, State, and Congressional leaders to protect BARC in every way we can.

E-mail us at 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com, call us at (240) 712-4646, or visit our website, 21stdistrictdelegation.com.

From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga

Subregion 1 Master Plan Amendment for Konterra & the Surrounding Area Town Hall

On Monday, July 28, our office held a Town Hall on the Subregion 1 Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for the Konterra and the Surrounding Area at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center. We had a large turnout, with almost 400 residents who attended in person. Councilmember Dernoga, Scott Rowe from the Community Planning Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Planning Board, Jim Soltesz from the engineering firm SOLTESZ LLC, Jay Mittal, SVP Operations & Strategy from the University of Maryland Capital Regional Medical Center, and Caleb Gould and Chris Hatcher from Konterra Realty, presented and facilitated this meeting.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/D1KonterraResources> for the complete list of resources and information about the proposed Konterra development. Within the



Council Member Dernoga's Team Pairing for 400+ Guests at the Konterra Town Hall (left to right)- Daniel Douglas, Liya Shewakena, Katherine Fuentes, Nathan Arbach, Genesis Báez, Michelle García, and Mary Cook

online folder, the public information is posted for you to review.

Details about the Subregion I Master Plan and Minor Plan Amendment

After six years of pressure

from Councilmember Dernoga, a "Minor Plan Amendment" for Subregion 1 will be initiated by the Planning Department. It will cover a large portion of Council District 1. The current Master Plan for our area is the Subregion I Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment approved in 2010.

A "Minor Plan Amendment" will be implemented since a complete revision of the Subregion I Master Plan would take approximately three years and may fail to address many key issues. This process will primarily focus on the undeveloped properties in and around Konterra. The Minor Plan Amendment should take approximately 15 months to complete, taking into account preliminary research, analysis, and public participation.

Additional preliminary steps include M-NCPPC staff and consultants identifying priority implementation actions in the current plan, and engaging in an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Subregion I. Then, M-NCPPC staff and the consultants will identify proposed

changes that should be made to the existing Subregion I Master Plan.

The official "Initiation" of the Minor Plan Amendment will occur early next year, and M-NCPPC will issue its proposal for the Amendment. A "Joint Public Hearing" must be held within 60 days. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/D1KonterraResources> for all the information about the proposed Konterra development, including files for the Subregion I Master Plan and Section Map Amendment approved in 2010, and the Minor Plan Amendment files.

Reminder: Stop for School Buses

Please remember to stop for all school buses as we begin the 2025 School Year. If you see a school bus parked with flashing lights and the stop sign out, you could be fined \$250 if you do not stop and are recorded by the school bus's camera. If a police officer stops you, the fine will be \$570 with an additional three-point penalty on the driver's license. All drivers must stop at least 20 feet away from the bus until the stop

sign closes and the bus resumes motion.

Children are most vulnerable to being hit when they are waiting for, boarding, or exiting a school bus. This "danger zone" extends 10 feet from each side of the bus. When a bus is preparing to stop, it will begin by flashing its yellow lights. When the bus stops, the stop-arm signals and flashing red lights are visible to drivers.

Drivers must come to a complete stop if they are traveling in the same direction as the school bus, regardless of whether the road has one lane, multiple lanes, or a center turn lane. They must also stop if they are traveling in the opposite direction, and the road does not have dirt, grass, or a physical barrier median separating the lanes.

Back to School Vaccines at High Point High School: Saturday, September 27

A free back-to-school vaccine clinic is coming to High Point High School on Saturday, September 27, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Flu, COVID-19, and any school-related vaccines will be administered at the vaccine clinic event. Students ages 4 - 18 will be able to receive service. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/D1HPHSVaccines> to schedule an appointment. There are a limited number of available appointments.

Join our District 1 Newsletter

We will email you about twice a month to provide you with updates on local happenings and, on occasion, alert you to important county news. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/D1eNewsletterOptIn>.

Contact Us

Please keep in touch. You can email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301-952-3887. Se habla español.. Follow us on Facebook, X, Threads, and Instagram: @TomDernogaD1.



Karen M. Coakley

You know me . . .

I know Real Estate!



BELTSVILLE Welcome Home to Spacious Split Level on .76 acre lot! Updated kitchen & bath Explore the possibilities! **\$600,000**



BELTSVILLE Rare Find Cozy Rambler on Large private lot with oversized 2 car garage **\$515,000**

COAKLEY
continued from page 1

cially near the intersection of Sellman and Montgomery—pull over safely and allow emergency vehicles to pass. Seconds matter in an emergency.

Safe driving is everyone's

responsibility. A few extra moments of patience can prevent accidents and protect lives.

The Temporary Prince George's County Beltsville Fire Station will be opening in the near future. It is located at the corner of Montgomery Road and Sellman Road. Fire

trucks and ambulances will exit from 43rd Avenue and Montgomery Road.

Drivers, please pay attention! When you hear sirens near the intersection of Sellman and Montgomery Road, pull over, and allow emergency vehicles to pass.

TECH SENSE
continued from page 6

not block the US domain or other domains that might send me legitimate messages. Your list may of course be different.

Unsubscribe

Another easy way to stop email, especially ads is to unsubscribe. Do you really need three or four emails a day; from your travel

loyalty club, used car sales, or companies wanting to clean your ducts? These legitimate businesses should provide a link to disconnect you from future emails from that company. Goodbye Disney emails. If they do not provide the unsubscribe link then it is spam so mark it as so and then your email system should block it from then on.

Ending Bad Email

As far as email goes, it is bro-

ken. There have been changes over the years but the basic tools are still broken. They have remained broken for decades. Large companies including: Microsoft, Google, and other large IT companies are responsible. Alas, the phone system has been broken even longer and I don't expect to see it fixed either.

Karen M. Coakley
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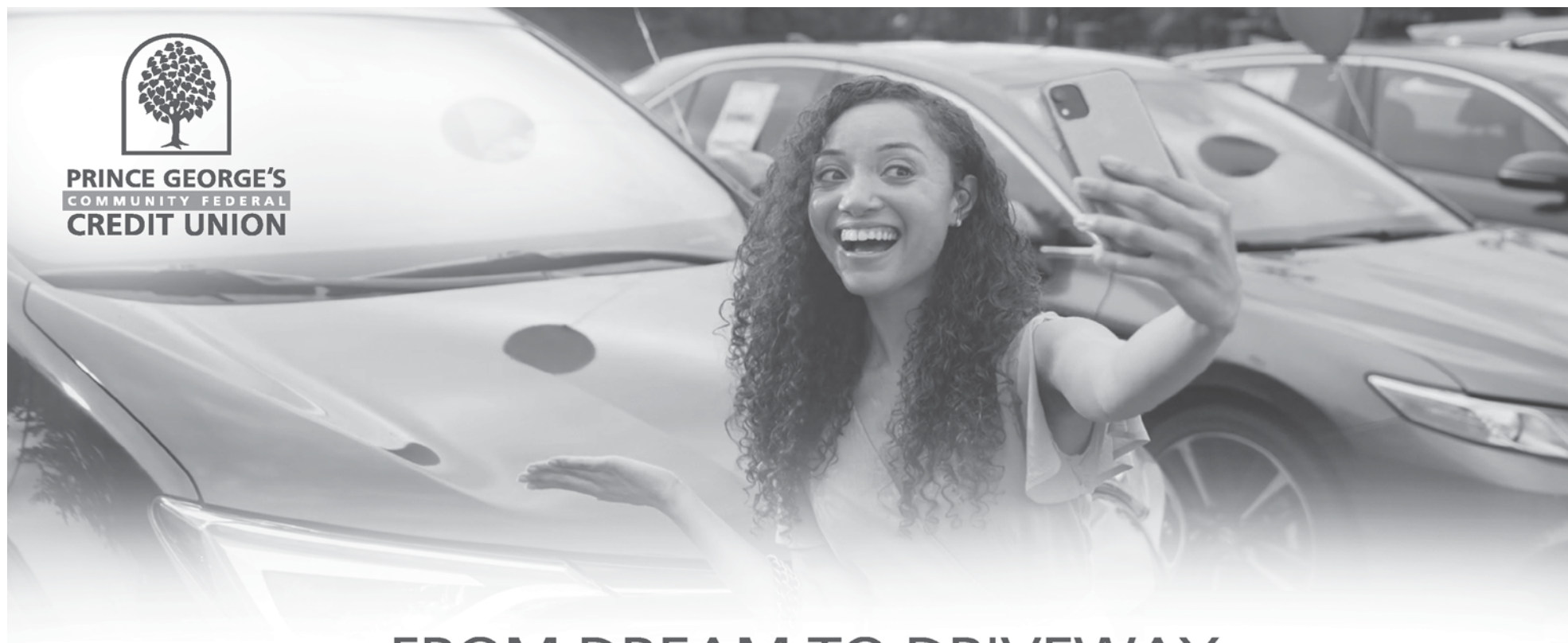


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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER 

Federally insured by NCUA

National Night Out in Beltsville



Photos from National Night Out which took place at the Beltsville Library on August 5, 2025. All photos were posted to the Beltsville News Facebook page!



Rosapepe's Report to Beltsville

Protecting the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

As you may have heard, as part of Donald Trump's attack on our people, our state, and science, he wants to close the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Founded in 1910 and expanded by FDR's New Deal, BARC is America's premiere agricultural science institute and one of the top in the world. Its more than 500 scientists and other employees work every day to improve agriculture and nutrition, as well as fight pollution and climate change.

And, at 6,500 acres, it is the largest green space in northern Prince George's county.

Together with our County, State, and Congressional leaders, delegates Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Ben Barnes, Mary Lehman's and I are going to fight this attack tooth and nail.

BARC's employees, many of them our neighbors, should not be DOGED, its scientific research destroyed, and its acres of open space developed in a Trump Hotel and Golf Resort!

When I was a State Delegate, I worked with then-Senator Art Dorman and Delegates Pauline Menes and Tim Maloney to pass a state law that keeps BARC's 6500 acres green — even if Trump and his accomplices sell it.

Here's what the Maryland law, passed in 1993, says the Prince George's County Council must do, sitting as the District Council on land use and zoning matters:

"If the United States Department of Agriculture sells any portion of the property known as the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the district council shall place and permanently maintain the land in a zoning classification of agricultural open space immediately after the transfer of the land to the buyer."

As we fight all aspects of the closure, we will do everything in



Senator Jim Rosapepe

our power to safeguard BARC, its employees, and this treasured open space in Prince George's County."

Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics

As we prepare for the new school year, Prince George's County Public Schools and the Health Department are hosting free Back-to-School Vaccine Clinics. These events will include food, backpack giveaways, and family fun, while helping students get the immunizations they need to start school healthy and strong.

Weekend clinics will be held at:

Largo High School
August 24, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

James Madison Middle School
September 13
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

High Point High School
September 27,
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

I encourage every family to take advantage of this opportunity to protect your children and set them up for success this school year.

What's Next in Our Community

Below is a fall roundup of nearby happenings:

Emancipation Day 5K

Laurel, Sat., Sept. 6, 8:00 AM
Kick-off the day with purpose by joining the 13th Annual Emancipation Day 5K Run/Walk at Alice B. McCullough Field. Whether you're racing or strolling, it's a great way for Beltsville families to honor our shared heritage and support local health services. Instagram <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5K>

Laurel Pride Day

Laurel Lake at Granville Gude Park, Sat., Oct. 11, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM

Celebrate community and inclusion at this family-friendly festival featuring music, dancing, food, and local vendors. It's a joyous reminder that Beltsville stands together with our neighbors in unity. <https://laurelpride.org/>

College Park Day

College Park Aviation Museum & Airport, Sat., Oct. 18, 12:00–6:00 PM

One of our region's biggest festivals, this event is filled with live music, a kids' zone, arts & crafts, a helicopter fly-in, museum exhibits, food trucks, and more. A perfect fall day trip for Beltsville families. <https://www.collegeparkmd.gov/284/College-Park-Day>

Beltsville may not be the exact address, but these events are just around the corner—and a wonderful way to connect, celebrate, and support our larger community.

Contact me

Please let me know if there are other issues you have questions or thoughts about. And, of course, feel free to be in touch if I can be of help to you. Just email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com or call 410-841-3141.

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www.baccmd.org



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

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

BACC Services

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

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

Neighbors in the News

A Letter To The Community and The Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture's plan to dismantle the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) would destroy the mission of the Department of Agriculture. BARC has been leading research into improving what we eat since 1910. Moving BARC would not save money. It would be very costly to relocate the many complicated research projects currently underway. It would set back important research and would harm our Country's farmers, our food source. Contrary to

the Department's assertions, the cost of living in not high in Prince George's County where BARC is located. Please do not destroy what has taken so many years to develop and continues to improve the lives of so many people.

My Father, Robert N Stewart, worked at BARC. He developed the poinsettia from a delicate wild plant into the sturdy, long lived plants you enjoy everywhere at Christmas. If he would have been forced to move his research in the middle, it would have set his

research back many years. He created a business that currently generates approximately \$250 million in retail sales annually. Most poinsettias are grown domestically. My cousin who owned a nursery said he was able to keep his employees year-round instead of as seasonal workers because of the poinsettia business. This is just one small example of how BARC has improved lives.

Maren Mayhew

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 hours of operation. Cost: 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 special events see www.pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY HOUR

Sun., Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Explore the museum in a calm, sensory-friendly environment designed to support comfortable learning for all families. During our Sensory-Friendly Hour, we offer additional tools and resources to help create a welcoming experience, while limiting admission to ensure a quieter, more spacious setting. **Registration is required by Sat., Sept. 6.** Pre-registered families will receive “pre-visit” materials to help them prepare for their visit, including a social narrative, sensory map, and tip sheet. Ticket Price: \$2 per person, FREE for children under age 2.

SATURDAY STEAM HOUR

Sat., Sept. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join our educators at this hands-on activity table where creativity takes flight! Perfect for budding engineers and aviation enthusiasts, this interactive program allows visitors to design and build their own creations. Whether you're constructing airplanes, airports, or inventing something entirely new, Saturday STEAM Hour encourages you to dream big and bring your ideas to life. Drop in anytime during the hour for an opportunity to explore the wonders of aviation through play. This program is ideal for learners ages 6 – 12 and is FREE with museum admission. No registration required.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

Main phone: 301.497.5772. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore–Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Free admission and free parking. Events are free of charge unless otherwise stated.

- There are five miles of walking trails.
- 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.
- No food and no drinks are for sale.

There are water-bottle refill stations in the Visitor Center, when it is open.

- Educational exhibits, family activities, auditorium, wildlife art gallery, pollinator gardens, and bird blind.
- Cash Lake seasonal fishing (licensed).

• Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds in September are: open daily from sunrise to sunset, *except for closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Closed all day on federal holidays and may close early the day before.*

• **Weather closures:** Hours of access may be altered as needed to clear roads and grounds.

• If you have special accommodation needs, please notify us in advance. For large groups or getting on the Visitor Services e-mail list, contact michael_cangelosi@fws.gov. For registration and information call 301.497.5772 during regular hours of operation. Registration is also available online at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/events>.

THE BUILDING & BOOKSTORE

Main phone: 301.497.5772. More information and events can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent and at <https://friendsofpatuxent.org/>. Current regular hours of operation for the Visitor Center are: open Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and federal holidays (*and the building may close early the day before a federal holiday*). The bookstore is open Wed. – Fri. from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sat. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

The featured artist for September is photographer Bruce Goodman, who specializes in birds and wildlife. Regular hours of operation for the art gallery are the same as those for the Visitor Center. The gallery is adjacent to the bookstore. No registration required. All ages.

AGENTS OF DISCOVERY

Sunrise to sunset daily. Exception: Tuesdays, until 4 pm. All ages. Self-guided outdoor nature-challenge game via phone app: download the free app before coming. Earn a patch for completing the challenges. Game directions: <https://fws.gov/media/agents-discovery-patuxent-research-refuge>.

SUPPORT FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wed. – Sat. All ages. Schools and organizations offering summer camp programs are welcome to visit. Endangered species exhibits can accommodate 45 youths at a time; our back patio is great for picnics. Questions: email Jason: michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Calendar of Events

FAMILY FUN

Regular hours of operation Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all month long. This is a drop-in program for independent study—come and go as you wish. Hands-on learning activities, games, crafts. No registration required. All ages.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

Hours of operation are Wed. – Sat. at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12 noon. Duration: 35 minutes, each session. Ages 3 – 10, with adult. The program provides crafts, puzzles, games, nature exploration, and a free booklet. Cost: Free. Group arrangements are possible.

• **September theme:** *Butterflies & Moths*. Registration is strongly urged—call 301.497.5772. For large groups, e-mail Jason: michael_cangelosi@fws.gov.

MONARCH MAGIC

Wed. – Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. See a full-color video about the life cycle of monarch butterflies.

Also check for volunteer opportunities: call 301.497.5772 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. and leave a leave message for Barrie.

WINGSPAN GAME PLAY

Sat., Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wingspan is a beautiful, award-winning board game all about birds. In Wingspan, each player controls a small wildlife refuge. Your goal is to populate your forest, grasslands, and wetlands with a flourishing array of birds. Join us for a friendly game-playing session and learn more about North American birds in the process! Experienced and new players ages 12+ are welcome. Instruction will be provided for those who need it. Feel free to bring your own game if you have one. Registration is required.

TAILS TO THE TRAILS!

Sat., Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Bark Ranger Program Kickoff! Let's get tails to the trails! Join us for a fun-filled grand opening event that promises to be a delightful experience for both you and your dog. The event will feature dog treats: They deserve it! 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.

2025 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST

This is a two-day-long event: **Thur., Sept. 18 and Fri., Sept. 19, starting at 10 a.m. each day.** Come watch the judging in person on one or both days! It is FREE to attend. All ages. The Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest is one of the most successful conservation programs in our nation's history. Duck Stamps are vital tools for wetland conservation, with ninety-

eight cents out of every dollar spent on Duck Stamps going directly to wetland habitat conservation.

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)

Wed., Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting followed by a speaker from the Laurel Library. Reservations for our monthly luncheon are due two weeks before the meeting. Contact the LSFC office for reservations and more information **Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at 301.206.3380.

• 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.

NARFE LAUREL CHAPTER 422 MEETING

Wed., Sept. 3 at 1 p.m. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will have a guest speaker: Xavier Frink, who is the Outreach Coordinator for the Consumer Protection Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. The presentation will go in-depth about scam prevention and how to properly submit a complaint. For more information and late updates contact Pat at 240.762.3895.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/National_Ag_Lib. We continue to serve our customers remotely during regular business hours. Online information products are always available at NAL.usda.gov and Nutrition.gov. Get *MyPlate* nutrition information for babies and toddlers via the free Amazon Alexa app. To learn more, visit www.myplate.gov/myplate-assistant.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

Thur., Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Address: the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. 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. Membership fees are \$15/person for 2025. Contact Lois at 301.498.9736 for more information.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Closed Sun., Aug. 31 and Mon., Sept. 1 for Labor Day. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. See www.pgcmlls.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Program Room. Bring your toddler and enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays, and more! Ages 2 – 3.

SPANISH-ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Program Room. Stories, fingerplays, and songs will be presented in Spanish and English. Edades 3 a 5. Se presentarán cuentos, actividades de “Fingerplay,” y canciones en inglés y español. Ages 3 – 5.

TAIL WAGGIN' TUTORS

Sat., Sept. 13 and Fri., Sept. 19 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day in the Children's Area. Build your child's confidence as they read to specially trained therapy dogs. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Each child will read for 10 to 15 minutes. Ages 5 – 12 years old.

LEGOS: CREATIVE CLUB

Wed., Sept. 17 and Wed., Sept. 24 at 3:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

SIP AND PAINT: SALVADORAN FOLK ART

Thur., Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. Let your creativity flow as you paint your own masterpiece inspired by Salvadoran folk art. Enjoy a fun, relaxed atmosphere with all the painting supplies you need and sip on a delicious refreshment.

CALENDAR
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Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

Beltsville Community Cats and Emmanuel United Women in Faith Join Together for Annual Indoor Yard Sale

It's time to mark those calendars! The weather is changing, pumpkin spice is getting added to everything, and The Beltsville Community Cats and Emmanuel United Methodist Church's Women In Faith are hosting their annual fall indoor yard sale. There will be bargains galore! Everyone should be able to find something at a great price. There will also be a hot lunch cooked and sold by the women of Emmanuel. But don't just come for the food, conversations, and bargains, come out to meet the stars

of this event, the kittens and cats looking for their forever homes! Beltsville Community Cats will have volunteers there to introduce you to these wonderful and sweet animals! So come on out and join them for this annual event on Saturday, April 19 from 10 am – 2 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

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MARYLAND HOUSING STATISTICS

For more information: MDRealtor.org

JULY 2025

UNITS SOLD ↓

-9.6%



6,736 2024 → **6,086** 2025

Units represents sales settled in that month.

AVERAGE PRICE ↑



\$511,267 2024 → **\$532,404** 2025

The **average** sales price is the weighted average of sales prices in the county, calculated by weighting the price of homes by the number of homes sold.

MEDIAN PRICE ↑



\$445,000 2025

The **median** price is the middle value of the prices of all homes sold in the period.

\$432,800 2024

UNITS PENDING ↓

6,394 2024 → **6,256** 2025



ACTIVE INVENTORY ↑



14,501 2025

Units that remain on the market

14,425 2024

MONTHS OF INVENTORY



2.6 2025

2.6 2024

MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET ↑



13 DAYS 2025



8 DAYS 2024

NEW LISTINGS ↓



8,418 2024

6,869 2025

Prince George's County Home Market:
Home Values Hold Steady as Sales Ease with Seasonal Slowdown and Mortgage Rates Continue Downward Trend

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville

The Women's Community Club of Beltsville provided school supplies and backpacks for Beltsville Academy and Calverton Elementary School.

Please join us for our September meeting on Monday, September 8th 7:00 p.m. 11705 Roby Avenue, Beltsville. We can be reached at womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

I made a mistake with our entertainment for our August 21 and September 18 meetings. August was a speaker from the Prince Gorges Police on "Senior Scams". A subject I think all of us are considered about, despite our ages.

The September 18 meeting will have singer, Steve Flynn, bringing melodies from Frank Sinatra and others from his era. Our first time listening to Steve, so it should be entertaining.

Our October 16 entertainment is a new bluegrass/country group that I'm looking forward to hearing for the first time. We know several of their members, but not the new venue.

November will be our Anniversary potluck on Nov. 20, a week before Thanksgiving, and December 18 will be an interesting "San-

ta Bingo" game with prizes. I'm working on January 2026, so any suggestions would be appreciated.

We will continue with our monthly light refreshments, 50/50 chances, trip sign-ups, Ways & Means table ("Good stuff cheap"), and friendly conversations.

We are meeting on the **third Thursday of each month** (except July) at the **Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road** in Beltsville, Maryland. I start the business meeting at **10:30 am** and the speakers/entertainment starts at 11:00 am. We usually finish by noon-12:30 pm.

If you ever need or want more information, please call Lois at 301-498-9736. She's President and usually knows what's going on. "Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized." A. Armitage

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

CALENDAR

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GAME ON: LOTERÍA Y MÁS

Tue., Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m. Gear up for an exciting time filled with friendly competition this Hispanic Heritage Month! Enjoy playing a wide variety of common Latin American games like Loteria, Balero, and Dominoes—there's something for everyone!

STEM FUN:

PELÉ FOOSBALL TABLES

Thur., Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. Dive into the world of science, technology, engineering, and math with fun, hands-on experiments and activities. Inspired by soccer legend Pelé, this session celebrates his Afro-Brazilian heritage for Hispanic Heritage Month. Design, decorate, and play your foosball game while learning about Pelé's legacy. Ages 8 – 12.

KIDS CREATE:

PAPER BAG PIÑATAS

Mon., Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. Have fun making art and crafts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month while learning new skills. With easy-to-follow steps, kids will create their own unique projects to take home.

PROGRAM FOR TEENS

TEEN ACTION GROUP (TAG)

Mon., Sept. 8 and Mon., Sept. 22 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Do you need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in your community, gain friends from around the area, and make your voice heard in your public library! Ages 13 and up.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

WORKFORCE RESOURCE TOOLKIT

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Explore Workforce Resources such as LinkedIn Learning, Brainfuse JobNow, LinkedIn, and Learning Express Library. Participants will gain key skills needed to navigate each resource to advance them in their career path. Registration required.

NEEDLEWORK SOCIAL

Mon., Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Are you interested in getting to know more people in your community with similar interests? Bring in any needlecraft you are working on while getting to know those around you.

WHAT MAKES PEOPLE LAUGH

Sat., Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. Make laughter the center of this Welcoming Week celebration. Linda Mitchell Thompson and Laura Murray from the National Museum of Language bring to you *What Makes People Laugh*. An exploration of international humor, including a presentation with examples of jokes from multiple countries and languages around the world.

SAVE THE DATE EVENT IN OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. ¡Puro Ritmo! The Musical Journey of Salsa—Presented by the National Museum of the American Latino. Let's explore the upcoming music exhibition from the Smithsonian National Museum of the

CALENDAR

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First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

4700 Odell Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7771
www.fbcbeltsville.org
Keith Holland, Pastor

Abundant Grace; Abundant Life; Abundant God!

Sundays:

Sunday School for all ages	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Children's Church (4yr -4th gr)	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Adult Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 p.m.
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Rev. Jongkil Na

www.APLChurch.org

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www.stjosephbeltsville.org

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Deacon: Rev. Mr. Armando Jimenez

Adult, Youth and Children Faith Formation
reled@stjosephbeltsville.org

Director: Mrs. Helene H. Stever

St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School
www.stjosrcs.org

Principal: Mrs. Erin Meunier

11007 Montgomery Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
301-937-7183

Masses: Sat Vigil 5:00pm, Sun's 8:30am*, 10:30am, and 12:15pm (Spanish)
Monday-Friday 8:00am; Wed 9:30am; and 1st Sat's 8:00am

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



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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

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hope and change lives.



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BELTSVILLE, MD

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Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor
11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705
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Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM

Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned

You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page or website.
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

A Prayer for September

Dear God, bless the new month of September. Open the gates of heaven and let all of the blessings—spiritual, emotional, and relational—flow freely. Break any old patterns and show me new possibilities. Amen

Upcoming Events

September 14: Potluck following service

September 27: Food Distribution 8am-11am

October 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19: UpStage Artists Presents Kong's Night Out

October 18: Yard Sale sponsored by The United Women in Faith and Beltsville Community Cats 10am-2pm



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

It feels so good to be back. First of all, I must apologize for my absence last month. I mixed up deadline dates and by the time I remembered, it was too late to submit my article. So, my dear reader, I am sorry.

I had a brief visit to Beltsville on the July 4 weekend. I arrived from Dallas in the morning, and had to cover an event, the US Premiere of a Nigerian film, Aso Ebi Diaries, which was held at the Greenbelt Cinema. The sold-out event was a lot of fun and had the Greenbelt Mayor in attendance.

Labor Day is September 1, and we will be taking the film to Houston, Texas, for a showing there.

After a hiatus for many years, I am back in the media, doing what I love the best --- writing and marketing. I thank Beltsville News for the opportunity to do this column, which has kept the fire in me going. So, as I said earlier, it feels good to be back. I now publish a monthly newsmagazine, THE NAIJA BRIDGE --- aimed at promoting arts and culture and bridging the gap between Nigeria and the diaspora. In addition to this, I am re-establishing contact with media colleagues in the Caribbean, growing my media contacts here in the US as well as Nigeria. I also do media and marketing

for some artistes, and trust me, it keeps me busy but is very fulfilling.

There is something about journalism that has always kept me intrigued. I still find myself picking up copies of newspapers and magazines. Recently, I was buying a copy of the local paper here in Dallas, and the gas station attendant looked at me with a puzzled look. He did not have to ask questions --- the look on his face displayed the questions on his mind. I responded to his stare and said, yes, people still read newspapers. There is a lot of information in them and not all of us are built for staring at our phones all day.

Looking back, I remember my love for newspapers. My late father would bring home newspapers from work and leave them in the living room. I would read them to get familiar with what was going on in the community --- politics, sports and business, in no specific order. On Sundays, I would walk 35 minutes to the vendor to buy the newspapers and then read through them as I walked home. I wasn't allowed to read the papers in the house, until after Dad had finished reading them. I think it was like five or six newspapers every Sunday.

Growing up in Nigeria as a teenager, there was a tradition

where the newspaper vendor stands were unofficial citadels of learning. Young and old would gather there to argue and discuss current affairs. The vendors would let you read the newspaper, but you had to pay for reading them. So, if a newspaper costs \$1. If five or more people read the newspaper, the cost to read might be 25 cents each. He would make more than the sale value of the paper, especially on a weekend. Trust Nigerians to find an ingenious way of making money.

The other thing the vendors would do is "marry" the newspapers that they sold. I'll explain. The Guardian was and still is a very popular daily. A newspaper like The Observer or The Herald would be slow on sales on any given day. Rather than be stuck with a lot of copies of a paper that is not selling off, the vendors would tell you, "Today, if you want The Guardian, you have to buy The Observer or The Herald with it." So, in other words, you buy a newspaper that you do not want to get the one you want. That's just the way it is.

So, to those of you who read newspapers and magazines that some of us still take or time to write for, thank you for your patronage. Well, time to wrap up. Have a great month.

CALENDAR

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American Latino. Opening in Spring 2026, this bilingual exhibition explores how Afro-Cuban music evolved into a signature sound in the United States and traces the roots and rise of salsa music through nearly 300 objects.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On September 27, 2025, at 11:00 AM, The Knights of Columbus Prince

George's Council 2809 will host our annual .1K Run/Walk. This event directly supports Special Olympics Maryland, and features a grueling downhill .1-kilometer course, complete with mid race hydration station. After finishing the race, participants are welcome to take part in a BBQ picnic with food and beverages. Register at <https://www.kofc2809.org/1k/> The Knights of Columbus Prince George's Council 2809 is proud to

announce that tickets to our annual Crab Feast are now on sale! The crab feast takes place on September 28th, 2025 at 12:30 PM. The menu includes all you can eat crabs (cooked on site), corn, pit beef, hot dogs, sides, and soda/beer. We are expecting to sell out, so get your tickets today! Ticket prices go up on September 14th, so act fast. Tickets are available at <https://www.kofccrab-feast.com>

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

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HELP WANTED

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHER'S RETIREMENT COMMUNITY in Beltsville MD is looking for a part-time registered nurse. Flexible schedule of weekdays and rotating weekends. Please send all inquiries to: Ginny McKnew RN at lsln@fscdena.org 10/25

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 01/26

 Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

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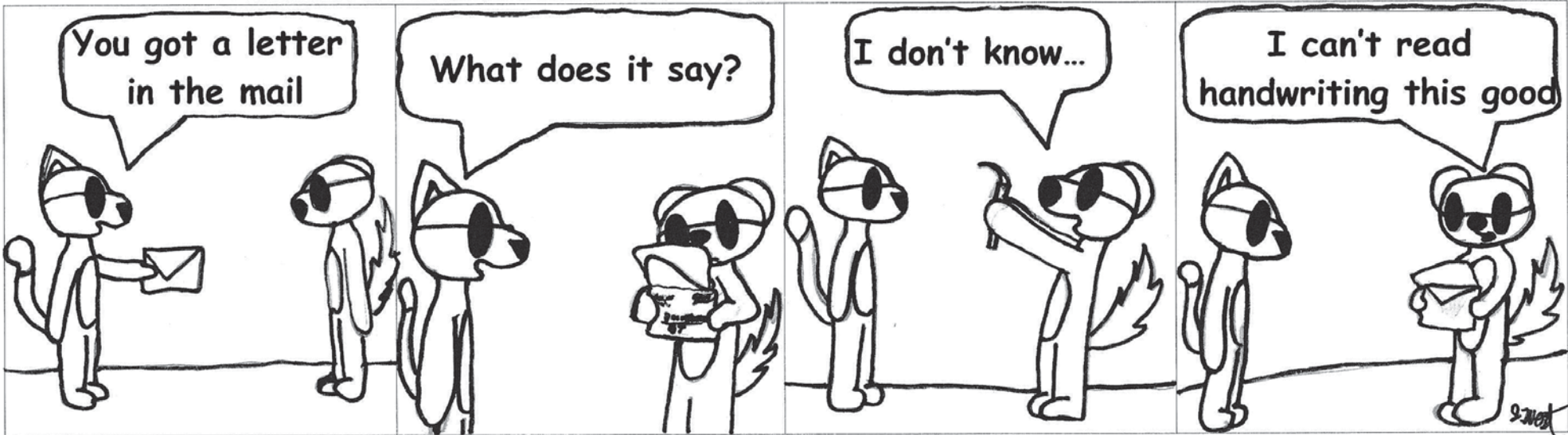
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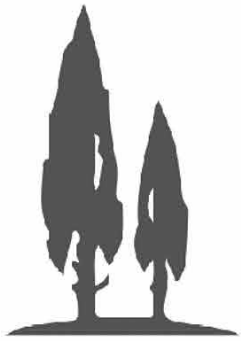
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