An All Volunteer Newspaper

Beltsville, Maryland Vol. 69, Number 3 March 2021



Cub scout Kyle T and his Eagle Scout brother Kacey, attend Mass at St Josephs

Cub Pack 1031 Celebrates the **BSA Birthday**

By Regina Halper

Each February Boy Scouts of America celebrates the "birthday" of Scouting. Cub Scouts have a Blue and Gold party - this year we will do it over Zoom with cake in a mug and scavenger games. We also attend our religious services in uniform. This year we could do it in person or virtually.

Since September we have done 56 hours of service in the park and collected over 100 cans for the St. Joseph's pantry. Our scouts are halfway to completing their ranks - some even closer! We are working on our indoor requirements and can't wait until we can be outdoors completing our hikes and outdoor adventures!

For the coming year, our families will be working on achievements on Zoom with our den along with monthly meetings in the outdoors, and we keep it fun! We are out in the parks and on the trail when we can, wearing our masks, cleaning our hands, and staying 6 feet apart.

If you are interested in discovering the fun of Cub Scouts, please contact Regina Halper at Pack1031cubscouting@gmail.com for more information.

Prince George's County Public Schools Plan to Begin Hybrid Learning in April

By Rick Bergmann

On Wednesday, February 17, Prince George's County Schools CEO Monica Goldson announced that PG County schools will begin to offer hybrid learning to students who choose to return will begin doing so in April. According to Goldson families will be sent a survey to select to either continue virtual learning for the remainder of the school year or begin hybrid instruction two days a week in April. The due date for that survey will be February 28.

The hybrid model will contain two days of in-person learning and three days of virtual learning. Students will be divided into two groups during this time. Goldson said "I believe that our plan to implement hybrid learning, where students have two days of in-person learning and three days remotely, will help to meet the needs of many of our students, and will ensure that we continue to prioritize health, safety, equity and excellence" in a video statement released by the CEO.

Staff will begin returning in March to prepare. In a separate interview Prince



Prince George's County CEO speaks about the re-opening plan in her video statement.

George's County Educators' Association President Theresa Mitchell Dudley said she is thankful the school district is waiting until April to reopen. According to Dudley, "It has been hard for people to get vaccines, and people have been scrambling. So, this gives us time to get the vaccines. It gives us the time to look at the reopening plans in the building to make sure that people are safe."

School will not look like it did in the past. According to the reopening guide on pgcps. org "As students enter the classroom, the teacher will inform the student which desk to go to, desks

will be numbered. Desks

will be forward-facing and staged to maintain social distancing at least 6 feet apart. [Teacher desks] will be staged to allow staff to visually monitor in-person students along with engaging distance learners. The use of lockers and/ or cubbies and coat racks will be prohibited. All students must wear face coverings while inside PGCPS facilities and while being transported by PGCPS Department of Transportation." If a student refuses to wear a mask they will be assigned to distance learning at home. You can read the full reopening guide at https://www.pgcps.org/ reopen-pgcps.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

March 17

Paper Out:

March 27

On the Agenda



Karen Coakley

By President Karen M. Coakley

Please join us on Wednesday, March 17th at 7 pm. for The Beltsville Citizen's Association's next virtual meeting where our guest speakers will be representatives from the fire department. The Beltsville community has had over five house fires in the past year. Two of them were deadly and no two were alike. Hopefully, everyone will learn one new safety tip or one new preventative measure to practice in their homes and the tips will prevent one more house fire or one more death.

If you have a specific community concern that you would like to discuss a future meeting please let me know. Details for our March meeting will be shared a week prior to the meeting. Look for the virtual meeting information on the Beltsville News Facebook page and Nextdoor.com or you can simply email contact me at karenmcoakley@gmail.com or 301.741.7672. Mark to calendars for the 17th!

This Land Is Your Land

By Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

This Land is Your Land was written by Woody Guthrie, in 1940, while traveling from California to New York. Like last months' offering, this song is also outside of my usual 1960's to 1990's genre. I was in the process of cleaning up my notes for what I was going to submit for this month, when this title dropped in my spirit. The words are catchy and appropriated during a time of division and unrest in our country. The chorus is,

> "This land is your land; this land is my land.

From California to the New York Island. From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters. This land was made for you and me."

called "God Bless America For Me," written in response to Berlins' "God Bless America. Guthrie wondered how God could bless a country where people were in need, standing in relief lines, hungry, and out of work. Several sources about Guthrie questioned his supposed ties to the Communist Party. His reported lack of discipline to the demands of the party

made that claim inconsistent. One definition of communism is: a system in which goods are owned in common and are available when needed. Which is different than capi-This song was originally talism where currently the two main systems are in conflict, therefore the root of our nation's problems.

> Two verses were excluded when the song was rewritten in 1944. One verse speaks of a "No Trespassing signs" prohibiting free movement. The other verse says, "In the squares of the city, in the

> > **YOUR LAND** continues on page 6



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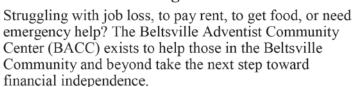


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Spring Maintenance Checklist for Homeowners

(StatePoint) As the weather warms, there are a few maintenance tasks every homeowner should consider completing. Use this checklist as your guide:

Outdoor Upkeep

- · Wash window exteriors for a better view.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper water flow. Neglecting this task for too long can cause rot, mold and damage to your foundation.
- Get your patio or deck in tip-top shape for outdoor living. Sweep and hose it down. Remove patio furnishings from storage. Wipe down surfaces and vacuum cushions (or launder them if they're machine washable).
- Inspect lawn equipment and tools for needed maintenance, repair, and fuel refills.



(c) Oranat Taesuwan / iStock via Getty Images Plus

- Mow the lawn. Trim the edges.
- After the next rainfall, inspect your yard for standing water, which can damage your home and invite mosquitoes. Consid-

er hiring a landscaper to level out an uneven lawn.

HVAC Maintenance

- Change HVAC filters at least once each season (ideally monthly). Dirty filters make equipment work harder and cause more wear and tear on equipment. They also increase your energy bill and lessen
- According to Energy Star, 20-30 percent of the air that moves through the duct system of a typical home is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts. Consider professional duct sealing for improved energy efficiency and lower bills.
- naces and air conditioners bear the ENERGY STAR logo. If not, consider a new unit. A properly sized and installed ENERGY STAR air conditioner uses up to 20 percent less electricity than older models, and doing so may make you eligible for a Federal Tax Credit.
- home's cooling system a preseason tune-up so that everything is running efficiently by the time warmer weather arrives. You know the "personality" of your heating or cooling unit best, so be prepared to provide the technician with important information. No fact is insignificant, as it may help them diagnose and fix a prob-

indoor air quality.

Check to see whether your fur-

Have a technician give your

MAINTENANCE continues on page 3



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

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Circulation

14,000 copies published monthly; 10,000 mailed in the 20705 zip code (total saturation) and 4,000 pick up copies available at the Beltsville library, community center, selected stores, and churches.

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Kitty Post By Sallie Rhodes



It's Kitten Season! How Can You Help?

By Sallie Rhodes

If you see young kittens living outside, please contact Beltsville Community Cats (BCC) immediately. If you see a newborn kitten, it is very important to keep it warm. Create a warm nest as described below while you wait for a response from BCC.

- If the kitten is wet, dry it using an absorbent towel and/or a hair dryer, set on low. Keep your hand between the warm air and the kitten, rubbing the kitten continuously. If the kitten is dry, create a warm nest as directed below.
- Place the dry kitten in a small box lined with a towel or flannel. Put another towel or flannel over the baby. Put a heating pad set on low under 2/3 of the box, leaving 1/3 off the heating pad. This provides a cooler place to crawl to if the kitten gets too hot. If no heating pad is available, fill a plastic bottle with hot water. Wrap it in a towel and place it next to baby. Or, pour a cup of dry white rice in a small sock, knot the end and microwave for about 30 seconds. Check to ensure it is a comfortable temperature and



put it in the nest with the kitten. Check frequently. Reheat as needed.

- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FEED A NEWBORN KIT-TEN! Never give a kitten milk. The most important thing is to keep the baby warm until a BCC volunteer can take over.
- Call (240-444-8353) or email BCC immediately at hello@ beltsvillecats.net.

If you love kittens but aren't ready to make the long-term commitment of adopting one, consider fostering for BCC. If you telecommute, this is your chance to have a furry friend in your workplace! We do prefer fosters who live in or near Beltsville. Visit https://www.beltsvillecats.net/rescue to apply to foster BCC kittens.

MAINTENANCE

continued from page 2

• Be sure that all HVACR installation and maintenance is performed only by a qualified professional. Read company reviews and ask the contractor if they have technicians certified by North American Technician Excellence (NATE). NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated knowledge of today's increasingly sophisticated heating and cooling systems. To find a NATE-certified technician in your area, visit Natex.org.

Safety

 Carbon monoxide, often referred to as the "silent killer," is odorless, colorless and tasteless. Protect your family by

- changing the batteries on your carbon monoxide detectors and ensuring you have a detector on each level of your home. When changing a furnace filter, make sure the new filter is correctly positioned and the access panel is securely fastened. Have your home's furnace inspected and serviced annually by a NATE-certified technician.
- Likewise, test all the smoke alarms in your home and replace batteries as needed. The National Fire Protection Association recommends smoke alarms on every level of the home, including every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area.

A little seasonal maintenance can go a long way to a safer, more beautiful, and more eco-friendly home.



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Obituaries



Bauchan, Gary

It is with deep sorrow and much love that the family of Gary R Bauchan, PhD announced his passing on January 12, 2021 due to complications from COVID.

Born in East Grand Rapids and raised in Wyoming, Michigan, Gary graduated from Godwin Heights High School (Wyoming 1972), Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, 1976, B.S.), and St. Cloud State University (MN, 1978 M.A). He completed his doctorate in cytogenetics at Michigan State University, 1982.

In 1980 he was married to the love of his life, Francine. The couple relocated to Beltsville, Maryland in 1982 where Gary spent 38 years working as a leading research scientist at the USDA. During that time, he has authored and co-authored a total of 253 publications including 182 peer reviewed papers, in addition to 71 symposium articles, popular press articles, training videos, book chapters, and conference abstracts. Gary received more than 70 invitations to give presen-

tations at scientific meetings, at universities, and at national and international conferences in the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, and the United Kingdom.

Gary spent the first 25 years of his career with ARS as a plant geneticist conducting research in cytogenetics, and during that time became recognized as a worldwide expert in alfalfa (also known as lucerne). Beyond being used as a garnish in salads, alfalfa's most extensive use is as an essential crop for foraging animals worldwide, and Gary's research contributed to genetically improving yields as well as disease and pest resistance for this pivotal plant. He was elected the President of the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference in 1992, served on the conference executive committee from 1988 until 2008, and had received an Honorary Membership from the North American Alfalfa Conference in 2010 for "Outstanding contributions to the advancement of alfalfa improvement" by the membership of the conference.

In 2007, Gary was selected as the Director of the Electron & Confocal Microscopy Unit (ECMU), which provides collaborative assistance for Beltsville NEA scientists and ARS collaborators in need of high-resolution imaging for their research. In 2012, he coordinated the move of the ECMU into a newly renovated space for state-of-the-art electron transmission microscopes where his leadership was the catalyst for increasing production of the unit, evident by 146 peer reviewed publications plus 60 other publications in the past 12 years.

Gary's ability to utilize the unique technology of Cryo-scanning electron microscopy has greatly influenced the field of microscopy particularly the field of acarology (the study of microscopic mites). Gary supervised a team of researchers who discovered the true feeding source of the Varroa mite on honey bees, which was featured with a colorized cover image and a publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in 2019. Gary loved teaching and mentored many scientists throughout the years, many of whom Gary and his wife Francine hosted for dinners and holidays.

In addition to his scientific work, Gary was a faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in

Beltsville. A parishioner there for 38 years, Gary was extensively involved in parish life, catechesis, and evangelization. As leader of the Prayer Apostolate of Mary Immaculate, Gary organized and led First Saturday devotion to Our Lady and her most Holy Rosary. Gary was also committed to supporting St. Joseph's Catholic School, including years coaching CYO teams in various sports. Gary particularly relished dressing up as St. Nicholas for various Church and school events to the great delight of adults and children alike.

Beyond his service as a scientist and parishioner, Gary was also extensively involved with Boy Scout Troop 1033, including ten years as Scoutmaster where on his watch 26 scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, having completed the requirements for 21 merit badges and organizing and leading an extensive service project that benefited the community. Gary aided the Scouts in being a counselor for 30 different merit badges.

Gary loved camping and hiking, and besides trips with the Scouts he also took numerous multi-week camping trips with his family to the various national and state parks found across the entire United States.

Gary was an avid baseball fan, much like his father, and he passed this interest down to his sons as well. He loved to make visiting scientists from other countries feel welcomed by bringing them to experience baseball games. He was forever a Tigers fan but loved going to Camden Yards to see the Orioles play and became a fan of them, too. Gary always kept his old binocular case with tickets to the games he went to throughout the years.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years Francine (nee Kloc) and three beloved sons, Stephen, Philip (Maureen), and Gregory, as well as two beloved grandchildren, Josephine Cyrena and Peter Athanasius. Gary is also survived by his father, Roy G. Bauchan and treasured sisters, Jenny Bauchan, Wendy Bauchan, Nancy Poelman and Tracy Davis and was preceded in death by his brother Timothy and mother Barbara Ann.

Gary Bauchan was a man of true devotion, excellence, and service. He will live on in the hearts of those that knew him and lasting memories to those he left behind.

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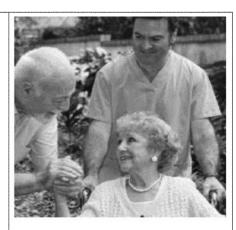
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5. T in Greek	56. Decanter

8. Tarzan's mom, e.g.

11. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi,

12. Ingredient in talcum powder

13. Spectator

15. 5,280 feet

16. Tiny river

17. Note taker

18. *Last NCAA basketball winner

20. Any day now

21. Antiquarian's concern, pl.

22. Diana Ross and Michael

Jackson movie, with The

23. Saw a nightmare

26. Caribbean rattles

30. Witch's spell

31. Flocked-to destinations

34. Goo or slime

35. Plural of ostium

37 Leo mo

38. Eurasian goat-like antelope

39. Showing signs of use

40. "Yo, _

42. *Nothing but it

43. Wrap a baby

45. *____elimination

47. Outrage

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48. Fraternity K

50. One of the Bridges

57. In a frenzy

59. Threesome

60. Turkish monetary unit, plu-

61. Dumpy establishment

62. Common conjunction

63. New York time

64. Male deer

DOWN

1. Singular of #1 Across

2. Rikers Island weapon

3. Burkina Faso neighbor

4. Himalayan mountaineer

5. Tarnish

fair in love and war

7. *School with most NCAA basketball titles

8. Choir member

9. Hammer part

10. Blunder

12. Sad, to mademoiselle

13. Radio studio sign

14. *Mid-major school that's become major powerhouse

19. Kind of ray

22. Is no longer

23. Arabian sailing vessels

24. Restart from seed

25. Uncredited actor

26. The Wise Men

27. Acting as a prompter

28. Snow impression

29. Eric Heiden's "shoe"

32. *Oklahoma State's super

freshman ____ Cunningham

33. Mixed breed puppy

36. *2021 NCAA Tournament

location

38. What Edward Scissorhands

does

40. Stout relative

41. Dream big

44. Ancient Celtic priest

46. Water nymphs

48. Fuzzy fruit, pl.

49. Deflect

50. Sanders' campaign slogan

"Feel the

51. "National Velvet" author Bagnold

52. Expunge

53. Fail to mention

54. Scotia preceder

55. School-related org.

58. Liquor store pony

See Solution on page X

Winter Weather

I left Maryland in 2019, delighted to leave the snow behind. Working 12 hours outdoors in that weather was no joke, and crazy me, would wear shorts and a short-sleeved shirt all year. Doing deliveries in the worst part of West Baltimore, people left me alone, as they figured that somebody of my ethnic background in shorts, something was not right, mentally. I got cursed out a lot. To be honest there were days I was cold, but I would pretend. It helped me survive doing deliveries in West Baltimore (go on You Tube and do a search for "The Wire" – that was my delivery route for 12 years, before I moved to Dallas). I can write a book on things I have seen. Back to my snow story. As I

type this, we are at home on a weather induced lockdown – it has snowed all day. It is still snowing. Dallas and snow are a strange couple. There are lots of roads made out of concrete so in weather like this, driving is a treacherous task. It is too cold and not worth the risk, so people are home. We may not even go to work tomorrow, February 15, as there is practically no snow removal and temperatures will hit zero degrees and add the wind chill to that and it is another story.

We take things for granted in Maryland. Be happy that the little things done by the County, go a long way in helping to make life better.

Last week we had a light rain



that froze over, and the roads were terrible, so early Thursday morning we had the pile up just outside of Fort Worth involving over 100 cars and 6 deaths. The tragedy took place in the express lanes of I35, and sadly the portion of road where it took place is not motorist friendly. The speed limit there is

75 mph. However just before the point of the accident, there is an incline, so it is normal to gas up a little bit more and as one comes over the brow of the hill, all that would be visible are car lights, and instinctively, you hit the brakes and it is all over. Co-workers of mine who use that road to go home said, that stretch is like no man's land, which explains why the pile up happened so fast.

May the souls of those who lost their lives in that accident, rest in perfect peace.

We are just coming off a double winter storm in Dallas and believe me, this has been an experience. Before the storm, there was last minute panic-buying. Long lines of cars trying to buy firewood, stores running out of some items due to panic buying – thankfully I always buy and stock up things, so I did not have to do that. Always make sure I got flower, sugar, bread, water, and toiletries. Some stores had lines of people waiting outside in 15-degree weather to go in and buy stuff.

The snow has fallen over the last 72 hours and the worst appears over. Some are slowly

getting back power as. The biggest danger is frozen pipes.

Folks, always plan ahead for contingencies. Keep certain emergency supplies readily available. Also, always fill up your vehicles with gas, in case there is a delay in gas stations getting their supply, as is the case right now in some parts of Dallas. (By the time this is published, things should be back to normal).

DRIVERS: Dallas drivers are definitely something else. The day after the first snowstorm, we were called into work at FedEx. My one-hour commute took me an additional thirty minutes. The scary thing is that I was doing 20 mph on the road and a lot of users were driving fast and passing me. Some may have felt that driving a 4 x 4 on ice and snow is exciting and after-all, the truck is invincible on ice. Even a man in a BMW 5 series flew past me on a local icy road and I was just praying he would not spin and hit me. I have an SUV, so I am fine, but still caution was imperative.

Have a great month of March ahead. That's the Jive!

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YOUR LAND

continued from page 1

shadow of the steeple, near the relief office, I see my people. And some are grumblin', and some are wonderin' if this land's still made for you and me." To me, it is a call for equity, humanity, unity and for social justice, to address the division and divisiveness in our land.

In my faith tradition there is verse in the Bible that calls us to rebuild what is ruined, raise up foundations, repair the breach and restore the streets we live on. To straighten democracy, we must make a commitment to see each other as good and worthy, like the true God see us. Then together we will pray, "God Bless America, the Land that was Made for You and Me." If you desire to explore ways to rebuild, raise-up, repair and restore, start with fellowship. Our church has members of the three major political parties, and several cultures. We know that it is possible to work together when we put the welfare of all people over politics. If you feel the same, join us. We meet virtually for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am Meeting ID: 851 2578 5976 Passcode: 850888 One tap mobile +13017158592, Bible Study on Wednesdays, and Check-in to chat on Thursdays. More information can be found on our webpage www.eumcbeltsville.com or our Facebook page www.facebook. com/groups/EUMCBeltsville/. Until next time:

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COVID Vaccinations for Beltsville residents

As you know, COVID-19 vaccines are in high demand and short supply. Because of chaotic management by the Trump Administration and the state Health Department, by mid-February, Maryland trailed more than forty states in getting vaccines in people's arms. And Prince George's, where the virus has been most dangerous, has trailed the rest of the state.

It's been inexcusable. That's why Delegates Peña Melnyk, Barnes, Lehman, and I, together with Councilmember Dernoga, have been pushing the State, the County, and the federal government to clean up their acts — quickly. We've convinced them to expand vaccination sites and increase doses in our area. The Biden Administration is untangling federal red tape, increasing supplies to Maryland, and boosting vaccine production nationally.

But we need to do more. The Delegates and I are sponsoring legislation to overhaul vaccine distribution (and COVID testing and tracing) in Maryland. If you have suggestions, please let us



Senator Jim Rosapepe

know. And our US Senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and US Congressmen Steny Hoyer and Anthony Brown are working hard to pass President Biden's COVID relief plan by mid-March.

Because the facts on the ground are rapidly changing, feel to contact us if you have questions. Email 21stDistrictDelegation@gmail.com

Maryland General Assembly passes the RELIEF Act and Recovery Now Amendment

In February, my colleagues and I passed legislation to help vulnerable small businesses and our Beltsville neighbors.

- Repeal taxes on unemployment benefits
- Funding 47 new unemployment insurance caseworkers to process claims
- Support small businesses and nonprofits with sales tax credits of up to \$3,000 per month for four months. This relief will directly help more than 55,000 Maryland small businesses
- Help local schools reopen safely
- Erase housing debt of about 5,000 people or provides emergency housing for 30 days for 5,555 people
- Job placement for 3,600 Marylanders

Do you need health insurance?

This tax season get connected with free or low-cost health insurance! The Easy Enrollment program for uninsured Marylanders is part of the Maryland income tax form. Answer the new questions on your Maryland state tax return by April 15 to find out your health insurance options at the Maryland Health Connection. Learn more at www.MarylandHealthConnection. gov/EasyEnrollment

Reminder: Scholarships to College

Each Senator and Delegate is allocated funds for scholarships to students in our district who attend Maryland colleges. There are so many deserving students in Beltsville. With college tuition a struggle for many families, we need to do everything we can to help hardworking students get a good education. We can't help everyone with Senatorial Scholarships, but we can certainly help some.

To apply online for a 2020-2021

Senate scholarship, students should visit www.21stDistrictDelegation. com/college-scholarships, and the deadline to apply is Friday, July 9. A separate Delegate scholarship application from Delegates Ben Barnes, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, and Mary Lehman is on that page as well. Information on other financial aid for Maryland college students can be found at www. mhec.state.md.us.

Contact us

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



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Pi Day - March 14th

March 14th is Pi Day. Pi is the number that represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. In other words, the distance around the outside of a circle divided by the distance of a straight line through the center of the circle. This number is close to 3.14159 or 355/113. Pi is an irrational number which also means there is no end to the number of digits to the right of the decimal point. Pi is important in most mathematics including geometry, trigonometry, and calculus. Pi day is observed on March 14th since 3.14 approximates the value of Pi. It is typical to find discounted pizza and various fruit pies on Pi Day. Also Pi Day is traditional; day for the Raspberry Pi organization to release new computers and

for the computers to go on sale.

Raspberry Pi Foundation

The Raspberry Pi Foundation is a charitable group formed by people from the University of Cambridge in England who were concerned about the quality of students entering into computer science programs. It seems that children who grew up with inexpensive home computers like the Commodore 64, Timex Sinclair, Acorn computers were arriving at college with a better background than today's students. The thinking was that a solution could be had by creating a small inexpensive computer that could be connected to a TV and included a built-in environment to learn pro-





This image shows this column being edited with LibreOffice on a Pi $4\ 4$ Gig computer and the Beltsville News website in the background.

gramming and other Science and Technology skills. This computer had to be inexpensive enough for everyone to afford and yet powerful enough for people to learn how to program in languages like Python, C, C++, and Java. The original Raspberry Pi provided the bare computer board for \$35. It needed an SD memory card, any old cell phone charger with a micro-USB connector for power, a USB keyboard and mouse like to ones common to today's desktop computers and a standard cable to connect to a TV. It included 2 USB ports an Ethernet port, a connector for speakers, and both HDMI for modern TVs and a composite video port for older TVs. It wasn't too hard to find all of the extra pieces needed to make a fully working computer in the neighborhood trash. Over the years the Raspberry Pi Foundation has released many accessories for the Pi computers including cameras, video screens, cases, official keyboards, and mice. These are not needed to use the computer, but the sales help fund the charity. They have also released many different computers that range in price from \$4 to \$80 to address the growing needs of the Raspberry Pi communities.

New Raspberry Pi Computers

I have written several columns over the years talking about the Raspberry Pi computers. The Raspberry Pi Foundation releases new computers and gear fairly regularly but there has been a lot new since I last wrote about the Pi so I thought I would bring you up to date. At the beginning of 2020 they released the PI 4 with 8 Gigabytes of RAM for \$79. They also discontinued the 1 Gigabyte Pi 4 model and lowered the price of the 2 Gigabyte Pi 4 model to \$35. There is also a 4 Gigabyte model for \$49. The Pi 4 models all include a quad-core CPU, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capability, a gigabit Ethernet port, two USB 3 ports, two USB 2 ports and two micro-HDMI connectors allowing connection to two monitors or TVs at one time. They still use an

inexpensive SD memory card for data storage but can now also boot from any USB drive.

At the end of last year they released the new Pi 400 kit. This a complete computer built into a keyboard with all of the capabilituies of the 4 Gigabyte Pi 4. The kit includes everything needed to use the computer except the TV or monitor and sells locally for \$100. The software with every Pi includes eveything we have discussed plus the Libre Office office suite, Mathmatica, a powerful math package, and the Chromium web browser.

The latest addition to the Pi family is the Pi Pico. The Pico is not a full computer running the Linux Operating System like the other Pi computers. It is a microcontroller with limited resources but more inputs an outputs. These are great for building things like robots and weather stations. The Pico is an alternative the Arduino boards that are often used for these types of projects. The Pico sells locally for about \$4.

Older Pi Computers amd Wrap Up

Many of the older Pi computer models are still around as well. The Pi model B3+ can often be found for \$29 and the Pi-0W with built in Wi-Fi can be bought for \$10. If you don't need Wi-Fi the Pi-0 is still normally priced at \$5. The Pi-0 computers are a great solution for small computer-controlled projects.

I always look forward to Pi Day because math is cool, and the Pi computers typically go on sale. Have a great Pi Day and I will be back in March to talk about my next technology topic.

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Backyard Antics

Seeds and suet sat in sunshine Waiting for the appetites Of the backyard companies whose Hunger urged them t'ward this sight.

First, the feathered flying creatures Landed to partake of bites, But were scattered by the furry Lords who exercised their rights.

Ev'ry time a squirrel would conquer
Therein lay a constant plight
As another snuck behind him
Causing him to run in fright.
O'er again and o'er again this
Scene played out throughout with fights
Being won by those contestants
Willing to assert their might.

All these antics entertained us While we watched in great delight Seeing our Creator's humor, Built in Nature, brought to light.

Beckie Hutchings 2/09/21



From the Office of Councilmember Tom Dernoga

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Currently Prince Georges County is providing free-of-charge COVID vaccinations to any citizen over the age of 65. Our office has received many calls from constituents who are having trouble getting scheduled for a vaccination. One of the significant challenges is that there are multiple sources of the COVID-19 vaccine - none of them are coordinated with each other so you must sign up on each waiting

Prince George's County Sites: To receive a COVID-19 vaccination from the Prince George's County Health Department, you must fill out a Pre-Registration form. The Health Department screens the applications for eligibility and then contacts you to schedule an appointment. The form is on-line at https:// covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/ or you can call 311 and press # to have someone help you register.

The County is providing vaccinations at Cheverly Health Department, Sports and Learning Center (Landover), and Bock Center (Ft. Washington) and the Laurel Beltsville Senior Activity Center (effective Feb. 17). Appointments for all the County sites are done through the pre-registration. When you are of your choosing.

State of Maryland Sites: The State of Maryland also is operating multiple vaccine clinics. The state-run facility at Six Flags in Largo is the closest to Beltsville. The State of Maryland site, www. Marylandvax.org, provides a list of all state-run sites. You may sign up for any location. Appointments come and go so you need to check regularly filling out the form each time you log in.

Local Drug Stores: Each store uses its own method. You must go to each one to look for appoint-

Hospital Sites: Several hospitals are also offering the vaccine including Doctor's Hospital in Lanham, Adventist Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, and the University of Maryland Medical System. You must check with each one.

Prince Georges County Public School (PGCPS) System

FY2022 School Board Budget: Work is underway on the FY2022 Prince George's County School Budget. The school board held several public hearings ear-

contacted you may not get the site lier this week. If you were unable to attend or speak, I wanted to reassure you that there will be more opportunities to be heard. The County Council will hold two budget hearings in April and May. The budget timeline as available at https://offices.pgcps.org/budget/ index.aspx?id=303617. A copy of the full proposed budget can be found at https://offices.pgcps.org/ budget/index.aspx?id=335342

> **School Boundary Initiative:** If you were unable to attend a meeting during Phase I and want to learn more about the Boundary Initiative, you may view a recording of a public meeting or browse the presentation slides. They are available on the PGCPS web site at https://www. pgcps.org/about-pgcps/boundary.

To keep up with all development in District 1, my office keeps an active spreadsheet which you may access at https://bit.ly/D1develop-

Contact Us

Please keep in touch! Email us at councildistrict1@co.pg.md.us or call 301.952.3887. Se habla Español. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Tom-DernogaD1

3 Hacks to Make Spring Cleaning a Breeze

(StatePoint) Time for your annual spring clean? Make sure you're equipped with the right tools and strategies. Here are a few cleaning hacks to help ensure a smooth and easy process.

De-Clutter First

Reducing clutter in your home means fewer objects to launder, dust and wipe down, and should be the first step of your spring clean. Start with dressers and closets. As the seasons change, you'll likely be reorganizing them anyway in order to stow winter items away while making spring and summer garments readily accessible.

As you do your seasonal swap, have bags and labels on-hand to sort items by what you are keeping, what you plan to donate, and what needs to be recycled or discarded. Use the same organizational method to pare down knickknacks, books and other odds and ends as you tackle pantries, shelving and more. Take this opportunity to wipe down shelving, particularly surface areas with food, dust and other residue build-up.

Streamline Your Clean

These days, disinfecting hightraffic areas of the home should be top of mind. However, it doesn't have to be complicated. Streamline the task by selecting cleaning products that are safe for use on a wide variety of household surfaces, and can be used around kids and pets.



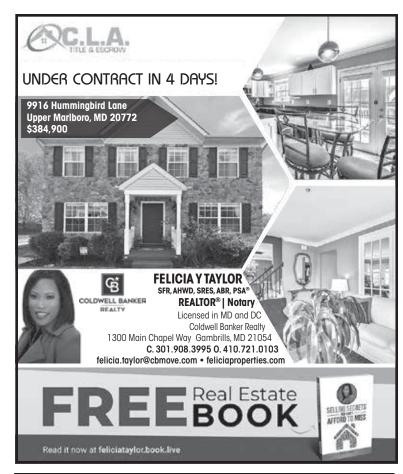
Consider stocking your cleaning arsenal with an easy-to-use product such as ARM & HAMMER Essentials Disinfecting Wipes, which kills cold and flu viruses, along with MRSA, strep, staph, E. coli, salmonella and kleb. Available in Lemon Orchard and Renewing Rain scents, these wipes provide citrus-based disinfection that clean without harsh chemicals, and are safe for use on stainless steel. sealed granite, finished hardwood, tubs, shower walls, toilet exteriors and hard nonporous surfaces of car interiors. To learn more, visit armandhammercleans.com.

Use Household Items

A true deep clean is not just about what meets the eye, it's also about what meets the nose. Unfortunately, certain nooks

and crannies of the home have a sneaky habit of odor build-up. Squash problem areas with a versatile, essential item you probably already have on hand -- baking soda. Place an opened box in your fridge to absorb unwanted odors, swapping it out every month or so. Do the same in pantries where food items like onions and garlic are stored in order to neutralize their strong smells. You might also try using ARM & HAMMER Garbage Disposal Cleaner, which are capsules containing baking soda. Leaving behind a citrus scent, they are a useful tool in combatting kitchen sink odors.

A few essentials and some smart cleaning strategies is all you need to give your home some TLC this spring.





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Crossword Solution from page 5



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FEBRUARY 2021

Calendar of Events

Please check with individual facilities for current updates. **Admission requirements may be** instituted, and regular hours of operation are subject to change.

AREA EVENTS

LAUREL-BELTSVILLE SENIOR **ACTIVITY CENTER**

The building is still closed. Any updates to the social calendar will be posted when they are available.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE VISITOR CENTER

GET READY FOR SPRING

Come take a walk weekly—or more often-and watch the grounds transition from late winter to spring during the month of March. Free admission and free parking. Social distancing and face coverings are required. All dogs must be kept on a leash for their own safety as well as that of other visitors and wildlife. Address: 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708. The entrance is accessed from Powder Mill Rd. between the Baltimore—Washington Pkwy. and Rt. 197. Regular hours of operation for the trails and grounds are: Open daily from sunrise to sunset, except for federal holidays.

VISITOR CENTER

The building is still closed, but staff members are at work. Contact the Visitor Center for information regarding plans for reopening in the future. Main phone: 301.497.5772. Join our e-mail list by contacting timothy_parker@fws.

gov. For future volunteer training (ages 18 and up), contact Diana Ogilvie at 301.497.5565 or Diana_Ogilvie@fws.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

The building is closed until further notice. Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave., near Sunnyside Ave. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. NAL is on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/ National_Ag_Lib. See NAL.USDA.gov for links to digital exhibits and for more information.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EXHIBIT

The online exhibit continues. George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist whose importance lies in his practical work supporting African-American farmers and his advocacy for specific crops such as peanuts and sweet potatoes. This exhibit showcases the 38 Tuskegee Institute Experiment Station Bulletins held by NAL that were written by George Washington Carver during his tenure as Director. The exhibit also includes a selection of U.S. Department of Agriculture historical publications relevant to Carver's Bulletins. See www.nal.usda.gov/exhibits/ ipd/carver/.

AN ILLUSTRATED EXPEDITION OF **NORTH AMERICA**

In 1832 naturalist Prince Alexander Philipp Maximilian (1782-1867), ruler of the small state of Neuwied, Prussia [now in Germany], conducted one of the earliest expeditions to the American West to record the natural history of the region. Accompanying him were Swiss-born artist Karl Bodmer, who produced numerous drawings illustrating their travels, and David Dreidoppel, Maximilian's servant and a skilled hunter-taxidermist. Although Maximilian and Bodmer were not the first to explore the American West and record their observations, they were the first team combining a trained, dedicated scientist with an especially skilled illustrator, whose collaboration resulted in a work of unique historical, scientific. and aesthetic importance. See www. nal.usda.gov/exhibits/speccoll/exhibits/ show/an-illustrated-expedition.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY

Check the library's current status at www.pgcmls.info/branch/location/ Beltsville, Inquire about curbside pickup. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next to the police station. Main phone number: 301.937.0294.







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Club News

College Park Unit # 217 Welcomes Spring

By Ivy Christoffers

What challenges will we be facing in the next few months? The past year has proved to be difficult for many. New methods have been improvised to address what used to be very simple. As I look around, I ask myself what else can I do to make life a little easier for my fellow citizens? Then my phone rings and who is calling? Another scam artist. It seems the I.R.S. is going to arrest me for fraud. Really? And a few days later the Naval Federal Credit Union is coming to get me because of fraudulent checks? I have never been associated with

the Naval Federal Credit Union. It seems I have a bull's eye on my phone for scam artists. Isn't life hard enough without having to cope with these crooks?

Now let us address the American Legion Auxiliary. We have collected the Americanism Essays from the participating schools, and they will be going to the judges in mid- February. It is always a hard job to choose the winners from such excellent essays, but our judges are retired schoolteachers who look forward to the challenge. We are fortunate to have

There is a Department Executive Committee (DEC)meeting scheduled for February 20 at Post 109 in Baltimore and a special coming place to spend a few hours with friends.

Our next Southern Maryland District meeting is February 28 in Mayo. All meetings are both in person and virtual because of the limit in attendance.

Keep our troops in your prayers and continue to seek God's blessing on our great country.

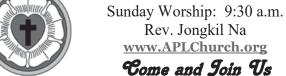
DEC meeting to be held at College Park Post # 217 on March 6. Yes, our post home is again open. You are invited to visit and check out the new renovations. Our post home is a really beautiful and wel-

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Beltsville News

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How and Why to Build a Raised Garden Bed This Season

(StatePoint) Fairly easy to construct and even easier to maintain, raised garden beds are a great way to raise plants and vegetables in the comfort and convenience of your backyard.

In a recent episode of the Exmark Original Series, "Done-in-A-Weekend-Extreme," landscape designer and show host, Doug Scott, spoke to organic gardener Joe Lamp'l of "Growing a Greener World" about the ins and outs of raised garden beds. Here are some of the top insights and tips Lamp'l shared:

- Why use raised garden beds? A raised garden bed can help facilitate the ideal growing environment, as most people don't have that perfect soil naturally in their yard. Their accessibility makes them easier to work in and maintain. Plus, they're a nice architectural design element in any landscape.
- What's the ideal size? The main rule of the thumb applies to width. The bed should be wider than 4 feet, as you never want to compact the soil when working. Length however, is based on personal preference and needs. As far as height is concerned, you want the roots to be able to grow out and down as much as possible -- 6-inches at minimum. While 12-inches is common, anything higher is a bonus.
- What materials work best? readily available and economical material and will likely last the longest, however, being an organic gardener Lamp'l prefers untreated hardwood, as it lasts almost as long and doesn't contain chemicals. Other materials you have around the home and yard, such as rocks, old tubs, etc., can work too.



Raised garden beds create visual interest and an ideal growing environ-

your raised garden bed on level ground, in full sun exposure near a water supply.

DIY Instructions:

To build a 10-foot x 4-foot x 18-inch raised bed, you'll need:

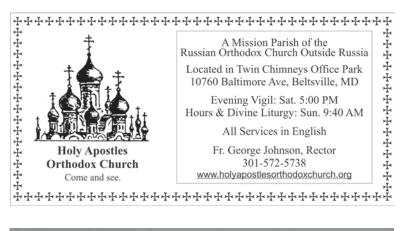
- Nine 6-inch x 6-inch x 12-foot cedar timbers
- Tape measure, t-square and marking pencil
- A saw and extension cord
- One box of 10-inch heavy-duty exterior wood screws
- Ten 24-inch x 1/2-inch rebar
- Twenty 10-inch galvanized timber spikes
- Sledgehammer
- Impact drill and long drill bit
- Level
- Hammer
- Shovels
- Treated lumber is the most Hardware cloth, wire cutters and fence staples
 - Work gloves, safety glasses and
 - Wheelbarrow (to transport soil)
 - 1. Begin by cutting six, 6 x 6 timbers, each measuring 10-feet 6-inches in length. And six, 6 x 6 timbers, each measuring 4-feet 6-inches in length. Drill rebar holes in each timber.
- Where's the best location? Build 2. Once the first layer of bed

has been placed, leveled and squared in your desired location, fasten the corners using 10-inch wood screws. Secure the entire layer to the ground with 10 pieces of rebar.

- 3. Place the second layer of timbers, staggering the corners and fastening them with wood screws. Secure this layer to the first with ten 10-inch galvanized spikes.
- 4. Install galvanized cloth to prevent burrowing pests from eating earthworms and destroying plants.
- 5. Place the third layer of timbers (following above directions.)
- 6. Fill with soil and plants.

For more tips and complete build instructions, check out "How to Build Raised Garden Beds" by visiting Exmark.com/backyard. Exmark's Backyard Life is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners make the most of their backyard. There you can also access other series, including "Prime Cuts" and "Dream Yards."

For an amazing crop this season, take a cue from the professionals and build a raised garden bed for best results.







APRIL 4, 2021 SERVICE @ 11AM | EGG HUNT @ 12PM

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parish office for schedule

St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School

www.stjosrcs.org

Principal: Dr. Janine Bertolotti

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

We are Physically Separated, but Spiritually Connected.

Join us for Online Worship every Sunday at 10 AM

Go to https://www.facebook.com/stJohnsZionParish/Live/ Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday; Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom Youth Sunday School Online via Zoom Contact the Church office if you are interested in any of these resources

We are a beacon of Christ's love offering Hospitality and sustenance to all on their Spiritual way.



DUNAMIS WORSHIP CHAPEL INTERNATIONAL

Experiencing the Fullness of God!

Beloved, we welcome you to the month of March which speaks of the glory of God in its fullness. The number three stands for wholeness, new life, and completion. In Christ, we are unabridged and through Him, we shall experience the fullness of His glory. "For in Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been made whole. He is the head over every power and authority." Colossians 2:9-10. Because we have accepted Christ, we can fully manifest His glory, power and authority.

Please join us at Dunamis Worship Chapel International as we experience God's love, through fellowship, communion, and the propagation of His word for continuous spiritual growth. If you are in need of prayers, please contact us by dialing the number listed below and we'll be delighted to assist you as you grow in Christ.

Feel free to join us in any of our scheduled services listed below.

SUNDAYS:



1st Service 9 am 2nd Service 10 am

3rd Service 11 am 4th Service 12 pm

MONDAYS - FRIDAYS

911 Miracle Morning Prayer: 6 am-7 am

TUESDAYS

Word Encounter and Communion Service: 7 pm-9 pm

FRIDAYS:

Prophetic and Miracle Service: 7 pm - 9 pm

LAST FRIDAYS OF EVERY MONTH:

Night of Dunamis: 8 pm-12 Midnight

4715 Sellman Road Unit G Beltsville MD 20705 **301-937-1101** • www.dunamischapel.com

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Engaging Our Community REV. DR. JALENE C. CHASE 11416 CEDAR LANE BELTSVILLE, MD 20705 301.937.7114 † OFFICE@EUMCBELTSVILLE.COM WWW.EUMCBELTSVILLE.COM

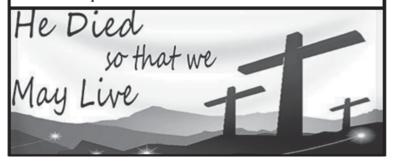
Zoom Virtual Worship Service on Sundays 9:30 am - 10 am Fellowship and 10 am - 11 am Worship Time Sign Language Interpretation Available During Worship

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Due to COVID-19 we are not meeting in person. You can join us for digital worship by clicking on the link on our home page.



Our doors may be closed but our work in the community isn't done! If you need food, come to our DRIVE UP FOOD DISTRIBUTION on March 27 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. This is for anyone in need, no questions asked!



First Baptist Church of Beltsville (SBC)

4700 Odell Road **Beltsville, MD 20705** 301-937-7771

www.fbcbeltsville.org

Keith Holland, Pastor

Recorded Services are Available on YouTube by Searching for FBC Beltsville

Sundays:

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

Wednesdays:

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

*Nursery provided for infants to 2 years old.

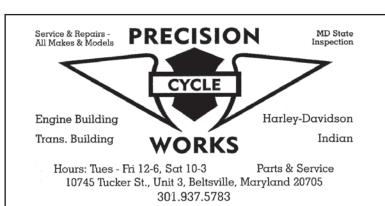
5 Hobbies to Keep Your Body and Mind Healthy and Happy

(StatePoint) As the pandemic continues to restrict many of the places you are able or inclined to go, finding ways to stay active is important for keeping the body and mind healthy and happy. Here are some ideas for new hobbies

- Learn a language: Bonjour! ¡Hola! With an array of online language classes and tutorials available at your fingertips, learning a new language is more accessible than ever. Start now while you fantasize about a post-pandemic vacation overseas.
- Play an instrument: Learning to play an instrument is not only a great distraction for the current moment, it can provide you with years of joy as your skill develops. Consider starting your musical journey on a Casiotone keyboard. By connecting the keyboard to the free Chordana Play app, you can easily learn to play your favorite songs from downloaded MIDI files. Once you've mastered the instrument, the portability of the keyboard will come in handy, whether you play solo or join a band.
- Become a home chef: From sushi to soufflé to dumplings, there are likely a range of dishes you have never attempted making at home. Tackle your culinary bucket list, one-by-one.
- Go hiking: There is no better hobby for staying fit and communing with nature than hiking, which works every muscle of the body, boosts cardiovascular health and even improves mood and mental well-being. Track your hike using a wearable tech tool geared for outdoor enthusiasts, such as a watch from the Casio's Pro Trek line. Quad Sensor technology packs all the measurements you need into one compact hiking watch, including a compass, altitude/barometer and temperature measurements, along with an accelerometer that tracks step count. Calorie calculations use both step count and altitude information to take upgrades and downgrades into consideration, and data is recorded by the Pro Trek connected app.
- Volunteer: At a time when many people are struggling, consider volunteering your time to serve those in need. There are plenty of safe, socially distant volunteer opportunities, from delivering meals to the homebound, to video conferencing with socially isolated seniors to helping boost adult literacy via remote tutoring.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, staying busy and positive may take creativity. However, discovering new hobbies and pursuits you love can nurture the body, mind and soul.

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