

The Beltsville News

An All Volunteer Newspaper

Vol. 73, Number 7

Beltsville, Maryland

July 2025



Petty Officer 1st Class Samuel Olaitan, a native of Laurel, Maryland Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alfredo Marron, USNS Comfort

Laurel native serving aboard USNS Comfort supports Continuing Promise 2025

By Rick Burke, Navy Office of Community Outreach

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – Petty Officer 1st Class Samuel Olaitan, a native of Laurel, Maryland, with hometown ties to Lagos, Nigeria, is deployed aboard the U.S. Navy hospital ship, USNS Comfort, supporting Continuing Promise 2025.

Continuing Promise 2025 is an exercise focused on humanitarian assistance, medical readiness, and goodwill with six nations in the Caribbean, Central America and South America. The exercise runs from June to August, and more than 1,000 personnel participate.

Health services offered during Continuing Promise 2025 include general surgery, dental screenings and treatment, preventive medicine, medical evaluation, public health training, veterinary care and vision screening.

Olaitan graduated from Oba Abass High School in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2015. Olaitan also places a great deal of value on education, as evidenced by him earning an associate degree in information technology programming from Howard Community College, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Trident University and a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Phoe-

OLAITAN
continues on page 8

Calverton Grocery Outlet Celebrates a Wonderful First Year!

By Rick Bergmann

Since COVID, the Beltsville and Calverton area has experienced a lot of change. Many locally owned small businesses have closed — Spicknalls, TJ's, and Sierra Grill, to name a few. Then in 2022, we learned that the Giant in Calverton — a staple of the area for decades — would be closing and relocating to Cherry Hill Road in Silver Spring. It was a major blow, as Beltsville and Calverton already had few grocery stores nearby. Suddenly, doing your weekly shopping meant traveling to Laurel, College Park, or Silver Spring.

Then in April 2024, Thom-



Thomas and Sharon Procida, owners of Calverton Grocery Outlet, pose in front of the store the day the first "Coming Soon" sign went up.

as Procida and his wife Sharon introduced themselves on the Beltsville News Facebook page. They were the new owners of Grocery Outlet, the store that

would take over the former Giant location. Tom and Sharon made it clear from the start that they wanted to be part of the Calverton community. In their first post, they wrote: "We look forward to being part of the community!!! We look forward to meeting you all."

There were plenty of questions — many residents hadn't heard of Grocery Outlet before. The grand opening was set for July 11, 2024.

Tom and Sharon aren't originally from Maryland. Tom, a native of Long Island, New York, has over 25 years of experience in retail and 10

GROCERY
continues on page 6

UpStage Artists Brings Comic Book Fun to the Stage

By Rick Bergmann

UpStage Artists is always on the lookout for exciting and family-friendly productions, and this summer, they are diving into the world of superheroes with The Adventures of a Comic Book Artist: The Musical — a lively show designed for children and families of all ages to enjoy.

In this imaginative and unique musical, Stanley Leonardo Sappovitz dreams of becoming a comic book artist, creating heroes and villains for the comics he adores. Working as a janitor at Wonder Comics, Stanley eagerly hopes his boss, D.C. Wunderman, will one day discover his drawings and give him the break he has been waiting for. That break comes — but not quite as expected!

In a desperate attempt to save his struggling company, Wunderman purchases a set of magical pens said to bring any character drawn to life. When the artists at Wonder Comics accidentally create the villainous Doctor Shock Clock, chaos erupts. It is up to Stanley to save the day by drawing his own team of superheroes: the charismatic (if egotistical) Star Guy, the lightning-fast Triple Time, the eco-conscious Blossom, and the



(l-r front) Bailey A. as Stanley Sappovitz/Eraser man, Hayden S. as Star guy, Kaya V. as Blossom, Ozzy D. as Minuto, Journee D. as The Evil Dr. Shock Clock, and Emma F. as Minuto. (l-r back) Samantha M. as Wombat Woman and Binta K. as Triple Time in UpStage Artists The Adventures of A Comic Book Artist The Musical!

delightfully cranky Wombat Woman. The heroes battle Shock Clock and his sidekicks, the Minutos, but in the end, the day may be saved by the most unlikely hero of all — Eraser Man. Who will triumph? Come see the show to find out!

The cast of Comic Book Artist features talented young performers from Beltsville, Greenbelt, Laurel, and College Park. More than just an entertaining romp, it is a heartwarming story about discovering who you are and standing up for what is right.

The show runs for approximate-

ly 75 minutes and includes one 15-minute intermission. Tickets are just \$10 — a reflection of UpStage Artists' commitment to making live theater accessible to all. Performances will take place on July 25, 26, and August 1 at 7:30 p.m., and July 27, August 2, and August 3 at 2:00 p.m., at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Get your tickets at www.upstageartists.com. As a special bonus, all children in attendance will receive a free How to Draw book, while supplies last.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions Due

No Later Than:

July 16

Paper Out:

July 26

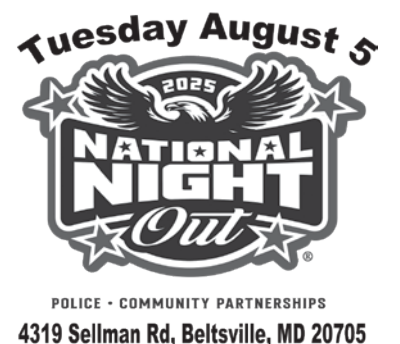
News You Can Use



Karen Coakley

By Karen M. Coakley

Please join the Police Officers from Beltsville Division 6 Police Station to Celebrate Police National Night Out. If your organization would like to participate, please contact Cpl. Hibbert at kchibbert@co.pg.md.us. Police National Night out is Tuesday, August 5th.



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Beltsville News: Blast from the Past By Ted Ladd

(From the Beltsville News issue of July 2000)

Deegan Receives Award

The National Association of Credit Union Supervisory and Auditing Committees (NACUSAC) has granted Charles C. Deegan of Beltsville its annual Golden Service Award in recognition of his outstanding service, dedication and leadership in the Supervisory Committee and the Credit Union Community. Deegan received his award in San Francisco on June 15, 2000, during NACUSAC's annual convention.

Deegan has served as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Prince George's County Employees Federal credit Union for five years. He

was nominated for the honor by members of his Supervisory Committee. Deegan attributes both his success as Chairman and his receipt of the award as indicative of the strong support he receives from members of his committee.

In addition to his credit union duties, Deegan is the treasurer of the Board of Trustees at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville and is the Republican Member of the Prince George's County Board of Elections. He is presently employed as the Fleet Management Manager in the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Fishing!! And Looking Forward to Bay Sox Game



Sam M and Dave George P and their families fish at Lake Artemesia on free fishing day.

So far this summer we went fishing on the free fishing day of June 7 and a scout's younger sister caught a Sunfish! It was only 4 inches long, so we released it back into Lake Artemesia. At the end of the month, we are going to the Bay Sox game! We tried to camp, but the 2nd week of June was wet, wet, wet. We will do it in the fall.

Later this summer we have are planning to bike and go hiking and launch rockets at NASA Goddard Visitors on the first Saturday of August. We will also be at National Night Out and out in the parks.

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 do 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 twice a month in the parks.



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

Advertising:

301-257-3408 Ted Ladd, 11722 Emack Rd., Beltsville 20705 • tedladd02@aol.com

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One year is \$20. Send check to Beltsville News, 11722 Emack Road, Beltsville MD 20705

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Unsung Heroes: Rethinking the Role of Community Cat Feeders

A shortened/personalized version of an article by Harry Eckman, Animal Services and Population Management Professional.

In neighborhoods across the country, community cats quietly exist on the edges of our awareness. And just as quietly, a small group of dedicated individuals shows up—every single day—to care for them. These are the community cat feeders.



You might recognize the scene: someone walks through a back lot or overgrown alley just as dusk falls, a grocery bag in hand. A handful of cats emerge—some bold and vocal, others watchful and wary—as food is laid out. It's a simple, compassionate act repeated in thousands of places every evening.

But who are these feeders, really? Often dismissed as eccentric or overly emotional, they're seldom appreciated for what they truly are: compassionate people stepping into a gap where no system exists. Rarely do they begin with a plan. Most start with one hungry cat, and one kind-hearted act. Over time, more cats appear, and the feeder's commitment deepens—not out of obligation, but because they feel responsible. The feeder grows to love the cats and wants the best for them.

Yet despite their impact, many feeders that don't have the support of a group like Beltsville Community Cats operate in a strange space—highly visible when someone wants to complain, but largely unsupported when they need help. They pay for food, sometimes for vet care, and often take on the responsibility of neutering. Their role can grow overwhelming, financially and emotionally. And when expectations aren't met—by neighbors, local authorities, or

even animal lovers—feeders are often unfairly blamed.

The truth? Feeders are not the cause of the community cat problem. They are a response to it. Their presence signals a failure in public systems to provide meaningful, humane, and sustainable solutions.

So, what if we changed the way we view and support them?

What if cat feeders, like those in Beltsville Community Cats, had access to community food banks, low-cost veterinary services, and spay/neuter vouchers? What if they were connected through neighborhood networks that helped share information, reduce duplication, and flag urgent needs? With training in basic animal care and health monitoring, they could become early responders—helping to prevent suffering and control populations before things spiral.

We don't need to ask more of feeders. We need to ask more of the systems that should be supporting them.

By integrating feeders into a broader community cat strategy, we can turn an overburdened informal role into a recognized, resourced, and respected part of the solution.

Feeding may start with kindness—but it shouldn't end in burnout. Let's build the infrastructure that lets their compassion go further.

Help Change Lives—One Paw at a Time!

Join Beltsville Community Cats' Colony Support Team and help care for over 130 community cats at more than 20 sites in Beltsville.

Just 1 day a week, you can provide food, water, and a little love to cats at one or two of the sites where Beltsville cat colonies depend on us. Work as part of a supportive team, stay connected via text, and help us keep these cats healthy and safe.


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Ask the Expert

BY ANDRE GIBSON, CHAMPION
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

When a Bathroom Renovation Goes Wrong: A Cautionary Tale of Poor Planning and Worse Execution

What was supposed to be a sleek, modern update to a tired bathroom turned into a costly disaster for the Jackson family of Collesville. Their story is a stark reminder of how easily a renovation can go off the rails when expectations aren't grounded in solid planning, or in reliable contractors.

The Dream

Like many homeowners, the Jacksons were eager to transform their dated 1980s bathroom into a contemporary retreat. "We had Pinterest boards, color schemes, everything," said Erica Jackson. "We imagined floating vanities, frameless glass showers, and matte black fixtures. We were excited to invest in something beautiful."

They hired a contractor recommended by a neighbor. Someone who seemed competent but didn't have a website or portfolio. "That should've been the first red flag," Erica admits.

The Reality

From day one, problems mounted. The demolition crew arrived two days late with no explanation. When they finally got started, they cracked a water pipe that flooded the hallway. "The plumber they brought in wasn't even licensed," said Erica. "We found out after the fact."

Then came the tile. The Jack-

sons had chosen an elegant porcelain tile, but what was delivered didn't match. "It looked like something from a discount warehouse—completely wrong color and texture," said Erica. Despite their objections, the contractor insisted on using it, claiming it was "close enough."

Perhaps the most frustrating failure was the installation of the shower. Improper waterproofing led to leaks that soaked the sub-floor. Within two weeks, mold began forming under the vanity. "We could smell it before we could see it," said Erica. "That's when we knew we had a serious problem."

Cutting Corners, Paying the Price

An independent inspector later found that corners had been cut at every step. The electrical outlets weren't up to code. The vanity wasn't secured properly. And worse, the contractor had used drywall in areas where moisture-resistant board was required.

The Jacksons spent over \$15,000 on the renovation and are now facing another \$12,000 in repairs. "We're basically paying twice for one bathroom," said Erica.

What Went Wrong?

The Jacksons' story isn't uncommon. "People often get seduced by low bids and promises of fast timelines," said Mike Elston, a home inspector with 20 years' experience. "But if a contractor can't provide credentials, references, and a detailed plan, walk away."

Some key lessons from their experience include:

- Always verify licensing and insurance.
- Get everything in writing, including materials, timelines, and penalties for delays.
- Don't pay in full upfront.
- Have a contract reviewed by someone who knows construction law.
- Ask to see prior work or speak with past clients.

Moving Forward

Though burned, the Jacksons haven't lost hope. They've since hired a licensed contractor to redo the job correctly and have filed a complaint with the state licensing board. "We want others to learn from our mistake," Erica said. "The bathroom of your dreams shouldn't become your worst nightmare."

Bottom line? A bathroom renovation is more than just new tiles and faucets—it's about trust, craftsmanship, and careful planning. Skip those steps, and you may find yourself literally flushing money down the drain.

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BELTS25

Statepoint Crossword: Fourth of July

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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ACROSS

1. Croat, e.g.
5. Reverential respect mixed with wonder
8. Island near Java
12. From where to eternity?
13. *”Land of the ____”
14. Rowed
15. Diabolical
16. Mideast bigwig
17. Unleashes
18. *Star-spangled banner (2 words)
20. Type of ski lift
21. *Day before Independence Day
22. Quilting party
23. Sherlock Holmes’ confidant
26. Formal dinner
30. U.N. working-conditions agency
31. Sextet plus one
34. Cancel
35. Holey confection
37. Electric swimmer
38. Frame job
39. Comparison word
40. Type of deodorant
42. Skater’s field
43. *Like “America the Beautiful” skies
45. Covered with a ceiling
47. Tennis do-over
48. Surfer’s stops

50. Not guilty, e.g.
52. *Yankee Doodle’s feather
55. *”To Freedom!”, e.g.
56. Tel ____, Israel
57. B b ‘s mother
59. Pseudonym
60. *Cup at a picnic
61. Do like exhaust pipe
62. Late George Wendt on “Cheers”
63. Give it a go
64. *Betsy of #18 Across-related fame

DOWN

1. “He said, ____ said”
2. Russian left
3. Pomegranate seed
4. South African grasslands
5. Knight’s protection
6. Odd and unusual
7. Like ghostly howls
8. *July 4th culinary tradition
9. ____ 51 in Nevada
10. Lecherous look
11. Dog tags
13. Felidae family member
14. As a rule
19. Casper, e.g.
22. Cricket club
23. Measurement
24. Hello, to Mr. Hand

25. Opposite of atonal
26. *Philadelphia’s Liberty ____
27. “ ____ death do us part”
28. Draw out a conclusion
29. Drank too much
32. Lowly laborer
33. What lintel and mantel have in common
36. *Personification of the U.S. (2 words)
38. Show contempt
40. Decompose
41. In eighth, book format
44. “The Second Coming” poet
46. Chemical cousin
48. Relish
49. In an unfriendly manner
50. Horseback sport
51. Bear’s hang-out
52. Sail holder
53. “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” captain
54. Part of an eye
55. Sun kiss
58. “The Extra-Terrestrial”-inspired toys

See Solution on page 6

Rosapepe’s Report to Beltsville

Protecting Beltsville from car theft, break-ins, and vandalism

In recent months, our community has been hit with a crime wave, much of it committed by juveniles. Hopefully, you personally have not been a victim, but too many of our neighbors have. Prince George’s Police are doing what they can to prevent this crime and catch the perpetrators. In the last two years, Delegates Peña-Melnik, Barnes and Lehman and I have worked with our legislative colleagues to help recruit more police, strengthen laws against violence, and increase accountability and rehabilitation for perpetrators, particularly juveniles. But, given the recent crimes in Beltsville, the Delegates and I are working with police, prosecutors, Juvenile Services, Councilman Tom Dernoga, and our colleagues to figure out what more we can do. Please let us know your ideas.

Resources for Impacted Federal Workers

The Maryland Department of Labor is accepting applications for the Federal Worker Emergency Loan Program, which offers a \$700 no-interest loan to Maryland residents who were recently terminated from federal employment due to mass layoffs, relocations, or closures and are experiencing financial hardship. Loans must be repaid within 180 days, with a



Senator Jim Rosapepe

one-time 90-day extension available upon request.

To apply, create an account and submit your application through the online portal: Apply at labor.maryland.gov/federalworkers/FWEloan

Tax Changes Take Effect July 1

Starting July 1, several tax changes will go into effect. These changes are part of Maryland’s plan to address long-term budget needs and include updates to both sales and income tax laws. To help taxpayers and businesses prepare, the Maryland Comptroller’s Office has provided helpful resources: www.marylandcomptroller.gov – Regular updates, official guidance, and webinars www.

mdtaxconnect.gov – Specific links and tools for taxpayers and businesses

More information about the 2025 tax changes can also be found at: www.marylandcomptroller.gov/individuals/2025-tax-updates.html

Cooling Center in Beltsville

As the weather gets warmer, the County has set up Cooling Centers to provide residents with a safe place to get out of the heat. Centers will be open anytime temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher. Cooling Center Locations will be open to the General Public: Weekday Hours of Operation (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.); During weekend hours, residents are encouraged to call the facility to confirm hours of operation.

Vansville Community Center - 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, Phone - (301) 937-6621. Additional Cooling Centers in Prince George’s County can be found at https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Maryland Insurance Commission to host a virtual public hearing

Without Federal subsidies, Health Insurance Premiums are likely to increase for nearly 300,000 Marylanders and could rise by an average of 17 percent in 2026 if Congress does not extend the federal subsidies currently set to expire at the end of this year.

Tips to Prevent Summer Slide

(StatePoint) Students of all ages are at risk for “summer slide.” The good news is that this seasonal phenomenon, where academic skills are lost or forgotten during the long summer break, is not inevitable. Here are a few strategies that parents can use to help their students confidently return to the classroom in fall:

Visit the library once a week: Regular library visits promote literacy and reading comprehension. They also demonstrate to students that reading can be enjoyable while giving them an opportunity to choose books that align with their interests. Investigate whether your local library is hosting a summer reading challenge or any other events that will encourage a reading habit.

Subscribe to a daily newspaper: Speaking of reading, you can help your student develop critical thinking skills while giving them a leg up in their history and social studies classes by subscribing to a daily newspaper or weekly news magazine.

Upgrade their math tools: Why wait until back-to-school shopping season to upgrade your student’s math tools? Encourage them to test prep, code and use their math skills throughout summer with a tool like the fx-9750GIII graphing



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calculator. With Natural Textbook Display and an intuitive icon menu, students will find its features — such as graph plotting, probability distribution, vector arithmetic and spreadsheets — incredibly easy to use. Capable of programming in CASIO Basic and MicroPython and approved for the SAT, PSAT, ACT and AP tests, the fx-9750GIII will be their go-to calculator for years to come, making this summer a great time to get acquainted with its interface.

Make conversation happen: Is your student taking a foreign language? Arrange for them to meet with a language partner so they can keep the conversation going throughout summer. Also, check out the wide variety of foreign language movies, music and other media available through streaming platforms, so

SUMMER SLIDE continues on page 10

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Crossword Solution from page 5

S	L	A	V		A	W	E		B	A	L	I			
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	O	L	D	G	L	O	R	Y		T	B	A	R		
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GROCERY
continued from page 1

years in hospitality. He's lived and worked in cities across the U.S., including New York City, Miami, and Charlotte, as well as two years on the beautiful island of Bermuda — where he met and married Sharon.

Sharon, a native of Bermuda, has traveled extensively and lived in several U.S. states including New York, North Carolina, Texas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. She brings with her three years of retail management experience, more than 20 years in office management, and a background as a trained nurse and midwife — having even delivered three of her four grandbabies.

When I asked why they chose to run a grocery store, they explained, "We've always felt held back by the corporate structure. Being an independent operator/owner has allowed us to put our own stamp on the business and create a very family-friendly atmosphere. We love the community we're in and

work with several organizations."

As with any new business, there were challenges. According to Sharon, the biggest hurdle was name recognition — getting the word out about the value Grocery Outlet offers. But there were bright spots, too. "Our greatest experience has been being out and about in the community and having people recognize us and what we stand for," Sharon said. "Also, being on a billboard — who would have thought!"

Grocery Outlet not only offers great prices and a warm, welcoming staff, but it also gives back to its customers. There were turkey giveaways at Thanksgiving, holiday contests like "Find the Elf on a Shelf" at Christmas (with gift card prizes for the first to find the elf), and the popular "Win What You Save" promotion. In that contest, customers drop their receipt in a box for a chance to win a gift card equal to their savings.

On social media, it's clear that Tom and Sharon do more than just run a grocery store — they're

community supporters. In just one year, they've partnered with a wide range of local groups and non-profits, including:

- The College Park Community Food Bank
- The Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department
- UpStage Artists
- Prince George's County Police Department
- Kingdom Fellowship A.M.E. Church
- The Rainbow Community Development Center
- The Beltsville Lion's Club
- St. Joseph Regional Catholic School
- Several local middle and high schools

They've quickly become key contributors to the Beltsville-Calverton community.

Calverton Grocery Outlet is located at 11615 Beltsville Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705. They are open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Stop by and get a bargain!

Tech Sense By John Bell

eBooks and Readers 2025

It is nearly July and that means summer vacation. Vacation for many of us means time to read for fun and relaxation.

It has been more than 5 years since I have covered eBook formats. I covered readers briefly during the last holiday season, so I will cover a little more detail this time around. I also covered some of my favorite Science Fiction eBooks (and movies) last July in a column titled Potpourri. I will skip them this time. However, I suggest that you visit Project Gutenberg to find free-to-read classics to read as you rest on the beach or in a hammock.

eBook Formats

Many file formats designed for eBooks have come and gone over the years. The Portable Document Format (PDF) has remained the most popular format. PDF documents can be easily printed and read from most computers and rendered to appear as the printed page. Most of my eBooks I have downloaded as PDF files because I can view them on almost every device I have including my phones, tablets, and computers. The documents also print on every printer I own. The PDF format was created by Adobe but has been an industry standard for many years.

MOBI was an early format adopted by Amazon as the basis for the Kindle format. Rarely found now Amazon replaced the MOBI format with the "AZW3" format (sometimes called "Kindle8"). Kindle holds a large market share for both eBooks and readers making "AZW3" a dominant format for eBooks.

Used on many readers, the ePub format is the official standard of

the International Digital Publishing Forum. ePub is the most widely based e-book standard that is based on XML files as opposed to PDF files. ePub provides support for audio book overlays allowing the audio to be synchronized with the current page in the book. Most eReaders handle ePub directly, but the Kindle can't handle compressed (zipped) ePub files and recommends they be tested before use.

Of course, two formats aren't enough because of comic books. Most modern comic books are in color with individual blocks showing both image and text. These images vary in size with multiple images on a page. It is common to show only one or a few images on electronic devices. This reflects the size of the viewing device. To work with comics the publication format collects each image, compresses them and stores them in a file archive. The file extensions identify the archiving and compression format. There are two popular formats in use. The CBZ format uses the free and open Zip file standard and the CBR format uses the proprietary RAR format. The other identifiers are CB7 for 7z format, CBA for ACE format, and CBT for Tar format. The images within the archive file can be stored in various formats as well. The most common are PNG, and JPEG/JPG. Although GIF, BMP, or TIFF can also be used. These are all common digital image file formats, each with different advantages and disadvantages.

Readers

EReaders are the hardware devices used to read eBooks. An eReader can be a dedicated hardware device or software running

on a computer, tablet, or phone. Most dedicated eReader devices use something called an eInk display. These black and white displays use very little power allowing eReaders to remain charged for days or weeks instead of hours. Some eReaders provide a headphone jack to stream music and have the reader read books to you aloud. There are various methods of adding books to the eReader. Some like the Kindle use Wi-Fi or mobile connections. Others use a connection to a computer to add books previously downloaded by the computer.

The Amazon line of Kindle readers are the most popular with many reviewers saying the current Kindle Paperwhite is the best product on the market. Kindle gives access directly to purchase ebooks from Amazon or access book through Prime or a subscription plan. You can also use the Libby application to borrow books from our local library. You must have a library card to do this. Amazon has recently started to sell color eInk versions of their Kindle readers.

Rakuten Kobo, considered by many reviewers to be the next best eBook reader, is an independent manufacturer, and doesn't lock you to the Amazon universe. Kobo primarily supports EPUB and PDF formats but it's possible to use conversion programs to read Kindle books.

The Barnes and Noble Nook is still around but has dropped in popularity. Ignored by most reviewers, the nook only represents about 10% of overall eBook sales. Nook has a number of models, some built by manufacturers like Lenovo. Some



Calverton Grocery Outlet

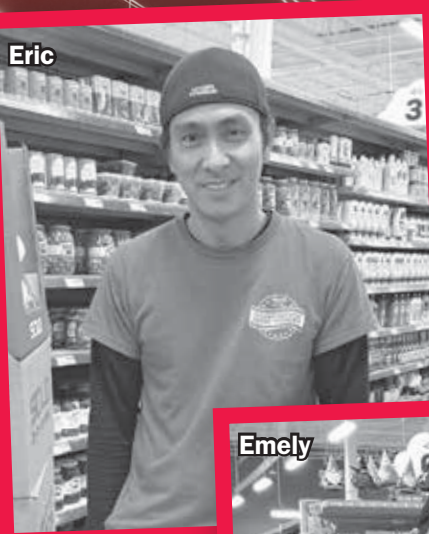
Please join us in celebrating our first year
in this wonderful community

July 12 and 13

11 AM to 2 PM

11705 Beltsville Dr., Calverton Md.

Eric



Tykeke



Emely



Vannessa



Yakntoro



Face
Painting

Music

Greg



Tom & Sharon Procida,
Independent owner operators



Rhonda



Patrick



Sara



Alex



Raffles

Spin
the
Wheel

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From the Office of Council Member Tom Dernoga



(From Left to Right) Sergeant Hibbert (Prince George's Police Department), Sergeant Pastorek (Maryland Transportation Authority), Former Commander Fisher (PGPD), Councilmember Tom Dernoga, Chief of Staff Michelle Garcia, Commander Lieutenant David Ramnath (MTA), and Corporal Jones (PGPD) at the Community Connection Food Truck at the Brick Yard on May 17, 2025

Thanking PGPD Major Fisher #2575 for 25 Years of Service

Our office would like to thank Major Jason Fisher #2575 from the Prince George's Police Department for over 25 years of service and congratulate him as he advances in his career. On Sunday, May 18, 2025, he began his new assignment and will no longer serve as the Commander of Beltsville Division VI. Major Baath is now the Acting Commander of Beltsville Division VI.

Since he began with the Prince George's Police Department at the end of 1999, he has directed virtually all aspects of organizational operations for over 200 full-time police personnel during his tenure. His sincere care for the community has kept Beltsville safe for all residents and led community engagement as the Commander of Division VI. He also cared for our local police officers, cared for the needs of our officers, maintaining the stability and longevity of Division VI when he served as the President of the Prince George's County Police Command Officers' Association. We all truly thank him for his years of committed service and wish him the best in his next assignment with the Police Department.

Staying Cool and Safe from Heat-Related Incidents

When extreme heat weather events bring unsafe and potentially fatal temperatures, it is critical to stay out of the heat, stay cool, and stay hydrated. The permanent cooling center for Beltsville is the Vansville Community Center, located at 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, 20705. Additionally, the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, located at 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, 20707, will also serve as a cooling center. Please see the list of cooling centers in District One and throughout the County here: <https://tinyurl.com/D1Cooloff>.

Unfortunately, six Maryland residents died from heat-related incidents in 2024, four of whom were Prince George's County residents. Let's keep our neighbors and families safe. First, make sure you know the warning signs of heat-related health issues. These issues include heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Heat cramps manifest as muscle pain and extreme cramping. Heat exhaustion manifests as dehydration, cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin, extreme weakness, nausea, headaches, vomiting, and faintness. Heatstroke manifests as body temperatures over 105 degrees Fahrenheit, dry and red skin, a rapid and weak pulse, fast and shallow breathing, convulsions, disorientation, delirium, and potentially heat-

induced coma. To address heat cramps, stop all activities, find a rest area, drink fluids (avoid caffeinated products and alcohol), and wait for a few hours before resuming activity. Heat cramps can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If you experience heat exhaustion again, drink fluids, find a cool, shaded resting place, and seek medical attention if symptoms do not improve within one hour. If you are facing heat stroke, cool off with cool, wet towels to lower your body temperature and call 911. Be careful when giving fluids; do not give fluids if the victim refuses water, vomits, or has fainted.

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

DERNOGA

continues on page 13



Karen M. Coakley

*You know me . . .
I know Real Estate!*

Beltsville Homes Sales from Bright MLS:

4419 Romlon Street \$196,000	4230 Brickyard Station Drive \$520,000
11316 Cherry Hill Road \$240,000	3105 Ellicott Drive \$610,000
12003 Beltsville Drive \$360,000	4218 Brandon Lane \$635,000
4316 Josephine \$460,000	7603 Barkwood Drive \$735,000



Karen M. Coakley

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Columbia, Maryland 21044

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REALTORS



OLAITAN

continued from page 1

nix. Olaitan is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership at Liberty University.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Nigeria.

"I learned discipline, hard work and that honesty will pave the way for you as part of the Nigerian culture growing up in an African home," Olaitan said.

Olaitan joined the Navy seven years ago.

"I learned to provide financial stability for myself and my family," Olaitan said. "I have two houses, multiple cars, a wife and kids. However, I still have goals and am not where I want to be yet, but the Navy has provided me with the opportunity to be financially stable."

Olaitan plays a key role in supporting the exercise as a personnel specialist.

"I work in the disbursing office issuing Navy Cash Cards to U.S. and foreign military personnel for them to be able to make purchases

of supplies from the ship," Olaitan said.

This is the 16th Continuing Promise mission. Since 2007, medical personnel have treated more than 601,000 patients and performed approximately 7,300 surgeries. When combined with veterinary services, subject matter expert exchanges, engineering projects, community relations events and band performances, Continuing Promise has positively impacted more people in partner

OLAITAN

continues on page 12



PGCFCU Member Veda Johnson

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\$5,000	\$232

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A SAFETY NET
FOR LIFE'S SURPRISES:
HOW A HELOC CAN HELP



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A Safety Net for Life's Surprises: How a HELOC Can Help

Life can bring exciting opportunities and unexpected challenges — from home repairs to tuition bills or debt consolidation. If you're a homeowner, a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) can be a smart, flexible tool to help you manage these costs when they arise.

What Is a HELOC?

A HELOC allows you to borrow against the equity you've

built in your home — the difference between what your home is worth and what you owe on your mortgage. It works like a credit card with a set limit, giving you access to funds as needed, up to that limit.

Key Benefits of a HELOC:

- *Affordable Monthly Payments*
Enjoy affordable monthly payments as low as 1% of your balance owed — for example,

if you have a \$25,000 balance on a \$50,000 HELOC, your payment would be just \$250 per month.

- *Flexibility for Ongoing or Unexpected Need*
You can draw funds as needed during the 10-year draw period, whether it's for a major expense now or an emergency later.
- *Only Pay for What You Use*
Unlike a lump sum loan, you only borrow (and pay interest on) the amount you actually use.
- *Potential Tax Advantages*
Interest may be tax-deductible, especially if the funds are used for home improvements (consult your tax advisor).
- *Cost-Saving Features*
At Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, members benefit from no out-of-pocket closing costs or appraisal fees, along with a 30-day rate guarantee on qualified applications.

When a HELOC Might Be Right for You:

- Managing large or unplanned expenses over time
- Funding home repairs or upgrades at your own pace
- Covering tuition or education costs as needed
- Consolidating higher-interest debt to lower your monthly payments

HELOC can be a smart solution if you're seeking flexibility and peace of mind, giving you access to funds for both planned projects and unexpected expenses. If a HELOC isn't the best fit for your situation, you may want to consider a fixed-rate term loan.

Whether you're ready to apply or simply want to explore your options, our Home Equity Specialists at Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union are here to help you find the solution that works best for your needs.

Stop by our Beltsville branch at 6985 Muirkirk Meadows Dr, Beltsville, MD 20705, email LaShawnda Gallmon at lgallmon@princegeorgescfcu.org or call us today at 310.627.2666 — we're ready to help you make the most of your home's equity. Visit www.princegeorgescfcu.org/home-equity for more information.



SAVE THE DATE!

Community

Health
and Wellness
Fair

Bring your walking shoes and join us for a one (1) mile walk on Saturday @ 8:00 a.m. to kickoff the Health Fair, weather permitting.

Saturday, August 9, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

FREE & Open to the Community

Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church
7410 Old Muirkirk Road
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
Rev. Dr. William E. Butler, Pastor
Church Office: (301) 210-9038
Website: www.qcumc.org



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION


CONTACT: Sondra Stevenson

QC, Outreach Ministry Team Leader

Email: sondrastev@aol.com



Joint partnership with Vansville Heights Citizens Association, Maryland Transportation Authority Police Department and Prince George's County Police Department



SUMMER SLIDE

continued from page 5

your student can stay immersed in their language of choice, even when class is out of session.

With a few measures designed to stem the tide of summer slide, you can help ensure that when your student returns to the classroom, they are prepared for the next level of instruction, not play-ing catch-up.

TECH SENSE

continued from page 6

are more like tablets, and some models include color capabilities.

Boox is a popular independent maker of eBook readers, offering both regular black and white readers and color products. Many reviewers write nice things about these readers, but my observation is that many actual users complain about the quality of the devices and customer service.

Color Readers, Tablets, Phones

The latest trend is now color readers. Color readers address the issue of reading magazines and comics, which require color to get the full value of their content. Recently, color eInk has become viable for eReaders. They provide the long battery life of the black and white eReaders but provide color images and text. However, the color display costs more and page turning, screen update response, seems to be slower.

Android or Apple tablets have become a popular alternative to eReaders. All current tablets support ereading software supporting the Amazon Kindle and the Barnes and Noble Universe. Google Play Books also provides a very good reader for both Android and Apple phones. I find my wife does a lot of her reading on her phone. She also

uses a Kindle device, and the software tracks her reading progress on both devices so when she switches her device the software automatically returns her to where she left off.

Reader Software

I have tried several reader applications, and I find I prefer the Google Play reader app that works for both regular books and comics. It also works on my tablet, my phone, and my computer.

Android also includes a number of choices for PDF readers. But, unlike an eBook reader, a pdf viewer doesn't keep a page mark tracking where you left off. I use Kindle software on my tablet for

books I acquire through Amazon, so I don't need to worry about the file conversion. I also find that the library program Libby also works well with the Kindle app.

Most of the books I acquire are in PDF or EPUB formats. I store these on my Google Drive so I can access them from any device, my phone, my tablet, or one of my computers. Most of today's computers and devices have PDF readers built in.

Tools for viewing other formats are easily found. Amazon makes its Kindle software available for Windows, macOS, Android and iOS. Boox, Nook, and Google also provide software readers for

most platforms. A simple search will find many others that are independent of manufacturers, and bo

Personal Choices

My personal choice for reading is a tablet. I have used many tablets over the years, and I find a 7-to-8-inch tablet fits me best. I like the color ability, since I enjoy reading both comics and magazines. I only get 8 to 12 hours before the tablet needs a recharge, but I can also watch movies, check email, and do all of the other things a tablet provides.

I have both Kindle and Google Books apps on the tablet, and I have tried several others. I person-

ally find the Kindle app to be better suited for how I read. The Google Play App, however, does a better job with the EPUB books I have. A few months ago, I read 18 EPUB books in a month on my tablet with the Google Play App. I borrowed and read a single book on Kindle. Both Amazon and Google provide tools allowing me to upload books from my collection into the apps. I can also access books from my cloud storage and read them that way.

Next Month

Next month, it looks like it is "back to school". Have a great vacation!

Church News

Summer Line

Dancing at St. Johns

St. John's Episcopal Church is hosting Summer Line Dancing with Dance Instructor Karen Stewart on Saturday mornings from 10 am to 11 am from July 12 to August 23! The cost is \$5 and you pay at the door. Children under 12 are free. St. Johns is located at 11040 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705. If you have any questions contact Suzanne at events@saintjohnsbeltsville.org.

St. John's Gospel Brunch Cruise

St. John's Episcopal Church is having a Gospel Brunch Cruise at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore (561 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230) on Saturday August 9 from noon to 2:00 pm. Boarding begins at 11:30 am and the cruise sets sail at 12:00 pm. There will be a delicious brunch buffet with various beverages, live DJ entertainment, rooftop games, and a full bar available (cash). Tickets cost \$160 for adults and \$100 for children ages 3-12. All proceeds benefit programs at St. John's Episcopal Church. If you would like to register, go to <http://bit.ly/448IhMK>. If you have any questions contact events@saintjohnsbeltsville.org today!



Comunidad Salud y Bienestar

Justo

Traiga sus zapatos para
caminar y únese a
nosotros para un
una (1) milla a pie
Sábado @ 8:00 a.m. a
inicio de la Feria de la
Salud, el clima lo permite.



Sábado, 9 de Agosto de 2025

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

GRATIS & Abierto a la comunidad

Iglesia Metodista Unida Queen's Chapel

7410 Camino viejo de Muirkirk

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Rev. Dr. William E. Butler, Pastor

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Exámenes de presión arterial

Exámenes de riñón

Exámenes de la vista

Donación de sangre de la Cruz Roja
Americana (con cita previa o sin
cita previa)

Apoyo, educación y recursos de salud
comunitaria

Entrenamiento NARCAN

Baile en línea de gospel

Y más

PARA MAYOR INFORMACIÓN

CONTACTO: sondrastev@aol.com



Asociación conjunta con Vansville Heights Citizens, el Departamento de Policía de la Autoridad de Transporte de Maryland y el Departamento de Policía del Condado de Prince George



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.

RUNWAY RHYTHMS: 123 ANDRÉS

Sat., July 26 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Get your feet tapping during our annual summer courtyard concert series with the Grammy-winning music duo 123 Andrés and their songs and concerts that get the whole family singing and learning—in Spanish and English! Picnics, picnic blankets, and lawn chairs are welcome and light refreshments will be available for purchase. Ages: all. Cost: FREE with museum admission.

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 July 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

Contact the Visitor Center for updates and late changes. 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. Any special hours of operation for the building and the bookstore are noted in the listings for individual special events.

HOLLINGSWORTH ART GALLERY

The featured artist for July is Jamie Downs, who specializes in photography and mixed media. 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. Cost: Free. 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.

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. Cost: Free. All ages.

KIDS DISCOVERY CENTER

The regular 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.

- **July theme:** *Dragonflies & Fireflies.*
- **August theme:** *Fish.*

Registration is strongly urged—call 301.497.5772. For large groups: email 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 this summer:** call 301.497.5772 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed. – Sat. and leave a leave message for Barrie.

YOUTH PHOTO CONTEST

The contest runs until Sat., Aug. 2. *Wildlife and Nature through Young Eyes:* Ages 5 – 14 years old (age as of July 31, 2025). Free to enter; prizes to be awarded. Original, unmatte, unframed, 4 x 6 size prints only (including from cellphone cameras); submitted in person. Parent/guardian and youth signatures required on entry forms. Entry forms available at the front desk.

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. Closed on Sundays and most major holidays. Address: 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, MD 20707, around the corner from the University of Maryland 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., July 9 at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room doors open at 9:30 a.m. We will have a short business meeting, and entertainment by High Caliber 5 (instrumental jazz). Reservations for our monthly luncheon are due two weeks before the meeting. Contact the LSFC office for reservations and

more information on Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 301.206.3380.

- **Please note:** Every Tuesday Bingo starts at 12 noon (doors open at 11 a.m.); fee for cards, NO admission fee. If any doubt about Bingo being held, call 240.788.2290.

BELTSVILLE EVENTS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY (NAL)

Address: 10301 Baltimore Ave. in Beltsville. Main phone number: 301.504.5755. 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/myplateassistant.

BELTSVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

Upcoming closure: Fri., July 4 in celebration of Independence Day. Address: 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, next door to the police station. The main phone number is 301.937.0294. TTY: 301.808.2061. *Ask a Librarian* telephone reference is available when the library is open; call 240.455.5451. Regular hours of operation are Mon., Thur., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tue. and Wed. from 12 noon to 8 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on most major holidays. **Contact the library for updates.** See www.pgcmis.info/location/Beltsville for online services and information about other county library branches and programs.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

LEGOS CREATIVE CLUB

Wednesdays: July 2 and 16 at from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided, and kids can let their imaginations run wild! Ages 5 – 12.

SPANISH–ENGLISH READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Thursdays: July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Program Room. Ages 3 – 5 years old. 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.

READY 2 READ STORYTIME

Mondays: July 7, 14, 21, and 28 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 years old.

FAMILY MOVIE

Tue., July 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a family-friendly movie: ***The Super Mario Bros. Movie*** in the Large Meeting Room. This movie is especially enjoyable for children up to age 12.

TAIL WAGGIN’ TUTORS

Sat., July 12 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. 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.

KIDS ACHIEVE CLUB

The program is on hiatus and will return in September.

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

TEENS CREATE: CANDY SHOES

Tue., July 1 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Use candy wrappers to design bold, creative shoe and sneaker art inspired by iconic candies. From Skittles® to Snickers®, it’s all about mixing sweet style with serious creativity. All materials are provided—just bring your imagination! Ages 13 – 18. Meet in the Large Meeting Room.

TEEN ACTION GROUP (TAG)

Mon., July 7 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. 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 – 18. Meet in the Large Meeting Room.

PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

CAREER PATHWAYS

Wed., July 16 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Life Lab. Are you considering a career change? If you are highly motivated, have strong interpersonal skills, and want to make a positive impact on the lives of others, you may be an ideal candidate for a career as a Financial Representative. In this role, you will work with clients in your community, understand their financial needs and goals, and recommend solutions to help them protect what matters most. This event is presented by Western and Southern Life. Ages: adults.

OLAITAN

continued from page 8

nations than any other deployment series in U.S. Navy history.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide service outside our communities and to make a difference internationally,” Olaitan said.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, “America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America’s Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom.”

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of

undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Olaitan has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

“What makes me proud is being able to get my master’s degree with the G.I. Bill, and making the rank of petty officer first class,” Olaitan said.

Olaitan serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation’s prosperity and security.

“Serving in the Navy means serving people, which gives me a sense of accomplishment,” Olaitan added.



The Beltsville Lions Club would like to say Thank You to Borgwardt Funeral Home that helped make Beltsville Day 2025 a Success! They were a Gold Donor!

Beltsville Young at Heart

By Lois Hamilton

I am writing this before our June 19 meeting and hoping that the heat does not discourage any one from coming to our Potluck at the Beltsville Community Center. The Center says their air conditioning is working, so I have my fingers crossed. This is just a get-together to chat and get to know each other better.

We do NOT meet in July because the Community Center uses our community room for their “kids camp”. But we will be back on August 21 with our regular meeting and entertainer- Steve Flynn- who does Frank Sinatra favorites, among

other songs. If this is “your era”, come and don’t miss him. We will still have our 50/50 drawing, Ways & Means table, refreshments, and trip sign up for upcoming travel.

We start at 10:30 am but come before that to see and meet everyone. We meet at the Beltsville Community Center at 3900 Sellman Road.

If you need more information about the Club, please call Lois at 301-498-9736. See you in our usual hot August in Maryland. I’ll keep you up to date on our fall speakers and entertainment next month. “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children.”-Native American Proverb.

The Women’s Community Club of Beltsville

By Karen M. Coakley

The Women’s Community Club of Beltsville has a few “Beltsville Maryland EST 1849” Navy Blue short-sleeved T-Shirts. We have the following sizes: 2 large, 9 Extra Large, 1 XX Large and 2 XXX Large shirts. If you are interested, please send an email to Womensclubbeltsville@gmail.com. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization



There are only a few Beltsville Maryland EST 1849 T-shirts left. Get yours before they run out!

DERNOGA
continued from page 8

Transitioning Your Federal Resume Workshop

Join Employ Prince George’s to prepare your resume for a shift to the private sector. This workshop will provide detailed guidance and assistance in transforming your federal resume into a targeted

two-page private industry resume tailored for your next career move. There will be a virtual session from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Monday, July 28. Register via <https://tinyurl.com/FedResVirtual>.

Join our District 1 eNewsletter

We will email you about twice a month to provide you with updates on local happenings and, on occa-

sion, 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.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STATISTICS FOR MAY 2025

May 2025	Year Over Year (YoY)	Month Over Month (MoM)
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$320,917,721	- 4.5% + 2.8%
Closed Sales	682	- 10.6% + 1.8%
Median Sold Price	\$453,995	+ 5.6% - 0.1%
Average Sold Price	\$472,491	+ 6.1% + 0.9%
Median Days on Market	14 days	+ 40% + 0%
Average Days on Market	29 days	+ 26.1% + 0%
New Pending Sales	831	- 2.1% + 2%

Prince George's County continues to outperform regional and national markets, offering affordability, diverse housing styles, and a high quality of life. Prince George's County continues to outperform regional and national markets, offering affordability, diverse housing styles, and a high quality of life.

STILL A GOOD TIME TO BUY AND SELL!!! SELLING AT HIGHER PRICES

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

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

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

BACC Services

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

On Site Agent of Dept of Social Services (DSS)

- SAIL: Apply for services on-line
- Food Supplement (FS)
- Medical Assistance for Families & Children (FAC)
- Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)
- Recertify—(Redetermination) -Dropoff documents
- Other DSS Emergency Assistance

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

We are celebrating our tenth year of operation

Beltsville News CHURCH DIRECTORY

ROSEPEPE

continued from page 5

Health insurers have submitted requests for rate increases between 8.1 and 18.7 percent for individual Affordable Care Act plans on Maryland's marketplace.

The MIA will host a virtual public hearing to hear from Marylanders on the proposed rate changes:

Public Hearing Log-In Information:

When: July 30, 2025, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ZoomGov Link: <https://maryland-insurance.zoomgov.com/j/1615565010>

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666

Webinar ID: 161 556 5010

If you would like to testify during the hearing, please email: healthinsuranceratereview.mia@maryland.gov. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on July 27, 2025 to be included in the hearing.

Reminder: Fireworks are illegal

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

Under Prince George's County law: It is illegal for any person to manufacture, possess, store, offer for sale, expose for sale, sell, discharge, use, burn, or explode any fireworks in Prince George's County, Maryland, except that an authorized display may be conducted by a licensed fireworks shooter. Penalties for law violations include a fine of up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail. To learn more go to https://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/public_safety/index.php

Last day to apply for Senate college scholarships for Beltsville students is July 4

Each summer, District 21 awards college scholarships to Beltsville students. The Senatorial scholarship application for school year 2025-26 is posted on the 21st District Delegation website. 21st District Delegation Website: <https://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/college-scholarships>

If you have questions, email my office at jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us or call at 410-841-3141.

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.

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

10774 Rhode Island Avenue
301-937-7646



Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Jongkil Na

www.APLChurch.org

Come and Join Us

Located in the Beltsville Professional Center

EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BELTSVILLE, MD

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Rev. Dr. Andrea Middleton King, Pastor

11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

(301)937-7114 † office@eumcbeltsville.com

www.eumcbeltsville.com

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville>

Follow us on Instagram @eumc_beltsville

Sunday Morning Hybrid Worship 10 AM

Both in-person and virtual worship are closed captioned

Zoom details can be found on our website

You can also watch the live stream on our Facebook page.

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

Upcoming Events

Free Food Distribution: June 26 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

UpStage Artists Presents The Adventures of a Comic Book Artist: A Musical for the whole family!: July 25, 26, August 1 at 7:30 pm and July 27 and August 2, 3 at 2:00 pm. Get your tickets at www.upstageartists.com

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

~Galatians 5:1



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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Orthodox Church**
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Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

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

All Services in English

Fr. George Johnson, Rector
301-572-5738
www.holyapostlesorthodoxchurch.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church

www.stjosephbeltsville.org

Pastor: Rev. Shaun T. Foggo

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.

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 • www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

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

To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>

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

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

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



Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

So much has happened in this month, which I feel is one of the shortest months of the year. Yes, it has 30 days, but still time seems to go so fast. So let me get right into it. This month, the week of June 13, history was made in the Eastern Caribbean when an Air Peace Boeing 777-300 flew directly from the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to the RLB Airport in St. Kitts, a ten-hour flight. Thup the item later e flight marked the first time direct air travel would be held between the two countries and it has the potential to boost trade, tourism and sports between the two continents. Presently to get from the Caribbean to Africa, one has to go through either the USA or Europe. Time will show to what extent this opportunity increases collaboration.

Nigeria, with a population of over 150 million people is referred to as the giant of Africa, while St. Kitts, with a population of over 42, 000 is viewed as a pivotal location in the Caribbean, relative to travel.

The world is a very small place. I went to high school in Nigeria (the International School, Ibadan – also called ISI). Back then it was a prominent school. Well, a few weekends ago, this month, I left home to go to DFW Airport and on the way made a stop at Burlington Coat Factory to pick up an item. The first branch I

went to did not have the item, so I mentally decided that I would head to the airport and at another time, pick up the item. While en-route, I realized that there was another branch less than two miles away, so I decided to pop in there. I found the item, joined the line to pay and had to wait for what seemed like an eternity as a customer had a lot of items and had slowed down the line (only one cashier was working).

A gentleman, definitely mid-50'ish came down the aisle to join the line. As he walked down, I casually looked at him and something seemed relatively familiar about this person. I proceeded to ask him a question and based on his response; it was who I thought it was. As he responded to my question, he asked me my name. I told him, "I doubt you will remember my name from ISI. Have not seen you since about 1983." His mouth opened wide in awe. His face lit up with a curious smile, as I guess he started going through a database of faces from school days.

We both paid for our respective items and then struck up the conversation from where we left off. As soon as I mentioned, "I am Jason Inanga," he opened his mouth wide. Next statement was, "how's your Mum?" I responded and told him she is doing fine. He started going down memory

lane – my Mother had been the music teacher at the school, and he remembered her and some of the musical presentations she had done – The Wizard of Oz, The Bride of Seville and Salad Days.

A few days after that, I went to a graduation party for a friend's son in Southlake, Dallas and ran into a 'big brother' I had not seen since 1978 or so. I had no memory of me, but he remembered me vividly. We grew up at church and as young people, we enjoyed skipping the service to play in the parking lot, which had a lot of fruit trees. Folks around us were stunned at the revelation.

So, I say all this to say that the world is indeed very small. You just never know how you are connected. There is no room for all this hatred and bitterness that we spew on each other.

If you watch Nigerian movies, history will be made on July 6th in Greenbelt, when a very popular new movie, 'Aso Ebi Diaries' premieres at the Greenbelt Cinema at 129 Centerway. The event starts at 6 pm with a red carpet and the actual film screening starts at 7 pm. It marks the start of Nigerian movies being shown at the movies here in the USA. If you are able to, please go experience the richness of the Nigerian culture. Do a google search about the word, "aso ebi." Well, have a nice one and happy Independence.

THE PULSE OF TIME

What a gift to us is time,
This measure of God's grace
Felt within our beating hearts
When He began our race.

Daily marking ev'ry year
In seconds, minutes, hours,
Though we do not know the sum
Allotted for our flow'r.

Certainly, it would be wise
To contemplate our ways
And, perhaps, seek Him Who gave
Us breath, why we were made.

"Where," you ask, "are words to guide
Our transitory paths?"
They are found within the Book*
Which ancients wrote to last.

Do not waste a moment, then,
For evil tells this life;
Greater things await the ones
Whose pulse abides in Christ.

*Bible
Beckie Hutchings
6/04/2025

Share Your News!

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

Classifieds • Call 301-257-3408

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Check us out on Facebook! The Beltsville News

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

HALL RENTALS (CATERING)

Luncheons—B'Day Parties—Anniversaries—Weddings

College Park American Legion—Post 217

9218 Baltimore Blvd.

(301) 441-2783

College Park, MD 20740



Contact Gary Kingery

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hallrental@beltsvillevfd.com



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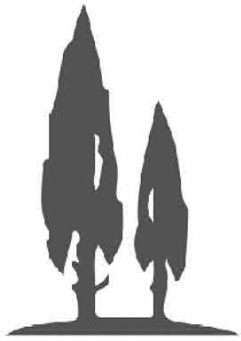
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