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## City Officials

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City Manager  
**Tony Tomasello**  
[ttomasello@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:ttomasello@gaithersburgmd.gov)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The last remaining farm in our city is now the bustling community of Crown. Learn about the transformation of this one-time dairy farm into homes, shops and restaurants in this edition of *inGaithersburg*.

Last year more than 900 families received Thanksgiving and December holiday food and gifts thanks to the generosity of an entire community. Find out what's involved in coordinating a service program of this magnitude and how you can help.

Hundreds of feet running up and down an athletic field for thousands of hours each year can take their toll on the turf. Over the summer, a natural grass field at Lakelands Park was converted to synthetic, allowing for more use with less frequent maintenance. It's the first eco-friendly synthetic turf field on the east coast installed by a municipal government. Read about it in this issue.

There's much more to explore, from bicycle and pedestrian safety initiatives to the wealth of information now available on our new economic development website, [GrowGaithersburg.com](http://GrowGaithersburg.com), to the many physically and educationally enriching activities we offer for energetic toddlers. You'll find it all *inGaithersburg!*

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the residents of Gaithersburg for allowing me to serve you for the past 38 years, first on the Planning Commission, then on the City Council, and finally as your Mayor. Together we have witnessed the transformation of Gaithersburg into a vibrant, dynamic city that holds fast to the best traditions of a small, welcoming town. It has been rewarding to be a part of that growth, and I look forward to continuing to serve you as the District 3 representative on the Montgomery County Council if I am elected in November.

You'll find it all *inGaithersburg!*

Sincerely,  
Sidney A. Katz  
Mayor

The editorial content of *inGaithersburg* is produced by the Gaithersburg Department of Community & Public Relations

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# 21ST CENTURY LIVING ON A 19TH CENTURY DAIRY FARM

CROWN COMES TO LIFE *in*Gaithersburg



Downtown Crown under construction in late 2013.

It's official. The transformation of Gaithersburg from an agrarian community to an urban center is complete now that the last commercial farm has become Crown, a transit-oriented, mixed use development near the intersection of I-270 and Sam Eig Highway. Where once roamed cows and chickens, you'll now find rum bars, grocery stores, meditation gardens and unique living spaces.

From the mid-19th century until 1990, this 183-acre parcel of land operated as a dairy farm. Owned over the years by the England, Garret and Crown families, the England-Crown Farm included the two-story Victorian England House, the log Hunter House, and several dairy-related buildings and silos. At the petition of its owners at the time, Crown Village, the land was annexed into Gaithersburg in



Historic silos will become part of a City-owned park.

2006, but the economy conspired against the developers, and it sat untouched for several years. Purchased out of bankruptcy in 2010 by VII Crown Farm Owner, LLC, plans for the property sprang back to life, and Crown is now becoming the new urban center it was once envisioned.

"Twenty five years ago, when Kentlands was being built, 'mixed use' was a new concept in the planning and zoning world,"

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said Gaithersburg Planning & Code Administration Director John Schlichting. "We learned a lot in the last quarter century, and as plans for Crown were conceived, we worked with the developers to create something that combines the best of modern design and amenities with traditional concepts reflective of the importance Gaithersburg places on a strong sense of community."

The approved uses for Crown include up to 2,250 residential units in a variety of housing types, including apartments, condominiums, townhouses and single family homes. Divided into six "Neighborhoods," with development planned out over a 20 year period, Crown will accommodate up to 320,000 square feet of commercial and retail development as well.

One of the Neighborhoods (#6) includes a potential future school site, pending decisions for its use by Montgomery County Public Schools. Neighborhood #4 is set aside for use as a City Park. The City park site includes structures from the original



Late 19th or early 20th century view of Crown Manor House.



Several businesses are now open in Downtown Crown, with new ones opening every day.

farm, including a 19th century corn crib, two silos, a concrete block utility building, and a corrugated metal grain bin. The 19th century England-Crown House and early log house are close to the park parcel, but will remain in private ownership and are being rehabilitated. Plans for the passive five-acre City park are under discussion.

Bustling right now are Neighborhoods 1 & 2, which comprise Downtown Crown and the adjacent residen-

tial community. Anchored by LA Fitness and the 24-hour Harris Teeter grocery store, both of which opened in 2013, Downtown Crown is rapidly becoming a foodie's delight. More than a dozen fine dining and fast casual establishments are under construction, including Ruth's Chris Steak House, Paladar Latin Kitchen and Rum Bar, Ted's Bulletin, the Old Town Pour House, Coastal Flats, Chop't, Venti Tre, Smashburger, &Pizza, Asia Nine, Yogiberry, and La Madeleine, to

name a few. Several of the restaurants border Crown Park, a community green space for picnics, outdoor concerts and special events.

"A vibrant dining scene is important to Gaithersburg's economic health," said Tom Lonergan, Director of Gaithersburg's Office of Economic Development. "Not only do these establishments attract visitors to Gaithersburg, they are also important

See **CROWN**, page 19



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# TOUCHING LIVES FOR 20 YEARS

## THE GAITHERSBURG HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

As families come together to celebrate the holiday season, so does an entire community, set on making it a special time for those in need. The Gaithersburg Holiday Giving Program, part of a countywide effort coordinated by A Wider Circle, Inc., ensures all families have a memorable experience during the Thanksgiving and December holidays.

In Gaithersburg, the initiative started out as a Secret Santa program for City youth operated by the Recreation Department. Concurrently, the Community Services Division organized Thanksgiving food donations and a December toy distribution, while other faith-based and nonprofit organizations in the area hosted their own programs. Over the years, the need for coordination grew, leading to a countywide effort that minimizes the duplication of services while maximizing the impact of the collective resources.

This massive undertaking runs nearly five months from start to finish. Planning begins in August, quickly followed by outreach for sponsors and donors and the start of the family referral process from school counselors and nonprofit organizations. In addition to monetary donations, sponsors are recruited to “adopt” City families, providing food baskets at Thanksgiving and gifts for children in December. Groups and individuals are also sought to provide “stocking stuffer” items for family gift bags.

Throughout the giving season, more than 100 City staff and volunteers coordinate mailings, sponsorships, community dinners, and distributions. Monthly meet-



**LEFT:** A two-day distribution event in December provides families with gift cards, toys, food items, and family gift bags.

**ABOVE:** The program supplies families with complete Thanksgiving dinners.

**AS FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON, SO DOES AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY, SET ON MAKING IT A SPECIAL TIME FOR THOSE IN NEED.**

ing are held with the City’s counterparts serving other jurisdictions and countless hours are spent checking contact information, verifying the number of children in homes, and ensuring that there are no duplicates in the database.

Setting a record in 2013, the program served more than 900 households and 1,700 children thanks to the generosity of residents, local businesses, congregations, City employees, organizations,

schools, and volunteer community members.

Now in its twentieth year, it is anticipated that the number of referrals could increase once again, meaning more coordination and more volunteers. That’s where Community Services Program Coordinator Lisette Orellana comes in. In only her second year spearheading the program, she is ready for the challenging yet rewarding experience. “It is amazing to see so many people willing to donate to make someone else’s holidays a lot brighter,” says Orellana. “There is so much work to do, so much paperwork to fill out and complete, endless phone calls, and a lot of patience to coordinate the numerous volunteers, but there is nothing like seeing a family walk away with a bag of gifts and smiles on their faces.”

Orellana is already in the process of recruiting members for the newly formed City of Gaithersburg Holiday Giving Coali-

tion. This expanded effort will involve representatives from congregations, schools, nonprofits, and companies. "While we've always relied on others to provide donations, this is the first time an effort has been made to bring in outside members to help with the coordination," says Orellana.

The program would not be possible without the selfless dedication and countless hours of service by its volunteers. Showing extraordinary compassion, Paula and Ralph Bunge have been the foundation of the Holiday Giving program for nearly 20 years. The couple, which was recognized with the Distinguished Friend of Gaithersburg award in 2012, has come to feel like City staff during the giving season, assisting with solicitations, database maintenance, volunteer recruitment, and planning and implementing the very busy distribution nights.

"It has been our pleasure to serve with an amazing staff and volunteer team who want to share from their abundance," says Paula Bunge. "It is satisfying to see what can be accomplished when local

businesses, congregations, schools, and residents join together to provide a more joyful holiday experience for our families with limited resources."

Sharing a sense of community over a delicious meal is also part of the Holiday Giving Program, which helps older adults and homebound residents who might not otherwise be able to enjoy a festive Thanksgiving. City staff volunteers return each year to serve a full Thanksgiving meal donated by local caterers and restaurants to the senior residents at the Oaks at Olde Towne.

"It makes me feel good to help others who may not have anyone in their life to share the holidays with," says Human Resources Generalist Gilma Climaco. Legislative Affairs Manager Monica Marquina agrees. "I enjoy volunteering each year because of the warm welcome we receive from the residents. Their appreciation and happiness puts me in the true holiday spirit." Several congregations also join together to sponsor a lunch for seniors at Forest Oak Towers. Coordinated by Calvary Pentecostal Ministries and Victory

Christian Church International, a community-based Thanksgiving lunch is held at Gaithersburg Elementary School. More than 300 City residents were served and 75 volunteers assisted last year.

The program is a vital resource for families who are looking to provide essentials and gifts for their children. "Families truly appreciate the food, information and donations," says Community Services Division Manager Maureen Herndon. "When they share their thanks with hugs and tears, we know all the hard work that goes into this program is worthwhile."

The Gaithersburg Holiday Giving program serves families referred by social service agencies, school counselors and nonprofit organizations. Contact your school's counselor or local community organization for referral services. The program relies solely on the generosity of the community. For information on volunteering, partnering or donating please visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) or call Lisette Orellana at 301-258-6395 x2.

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# GrowGaithersburg.com

## BUSINESS DECISIONS MADE EASY

What do companies look for in determining office locations? It's not all about the cost per square foot of the space they're leasing, although that's certainly a factor.

"We know that we have an attractive community," said Gaithersburg Economic Development Director Tom Lonergan. "The key is making that apparent to the decision maker."

Increasingly those decision makers rely on a combination of metrics that they can easily contrast and compare in the digital world. From available property to wage information to quality of life to incentives, business owners filter through reams of data to determine their best course of action.

With a new online economic development presence, Gaithersburg is making it easier for that decision to result in a location or expansion into this community.

GrowGaithersburg.com made its debut in August of 2014. Built upon the same content management sys-

**"JUST LIKE OUR COMMUNITY,  
GROWGAITHERSBURG.COM  
IS DYNAMIC...."**

**LAUNCHING THE SITE IS  
ONLY THE FIRST STEP."**

**Tom Lonergan, Director**  
Gaithersburg Economic Development

tem platform as the City's new website unveiled this past spring, GrowGaithersburg.com is a clean, comprehensive, robust, easily navigable site that is designed to help employers, site consultants and commercial

real estate professionals find targeted information to aid in the decision-making process.

"It was really important for us to establish an identity for Gaithersburg's Economic Development initiatives," said Lonergan. "We have a lot to offer, and with this website we've packaged it together to present Gaith-

ersburg as the attractive, dynamic, welcoming community it is for businesses and their employees."

Visitors use the main navigation bars to explore a Data Center, Site Selection, the Business Community, Programs & Incentives, Quality of Life, and News & Events. Roam around within those pages and you'll find compara-



tive wage and salary information, vacancy rates, industry data, major employers, retail centers, housing stock, incentive programs, and much more.

“We’ve made a deliberate attempt to provide accurate, timely information in a format that allows for easy comparison with other communities,” said Business Services Coordinator Sharon Disque. “We know we stack up well, and with this website we can easily show that.”

Extensive research went in to organizing the website. It was guided by the International Economic Development Council’s “Site Selection Data Standards,” and navigation categories were identified by national corporate site location professionals.

“Industry professionals search community websites for the information they need to begin the process of elimination,” said Disque. “They then request information specific to their needs, develop a short list using a rating model to score communities, and from there, enter into final negotiations. GrowGaithersburg.com puts it all at their fingertips,

which we hope will then lead to someone picking up the phone and talking to us about locating their business here.”

It’s not all about business attraction. Retention, expansion and enhancements are important to the economic vitality of the Gaithersburg community as well.

Within GrowGaithersburg.com are tools, incentives and resources for existing businesses. A calendar of local and regional meetings, events and activities includes networking opportunities, seminars, conferences, trade shows and more. Incentives for business improvements are highlighted. Industry press releases showcase accomplishments, while future blogs will narrate select projects. The site will eventually house links to workforce development and education opportunities, business profile videos, and testimonials.

“Just like our community, GrowGaithersburg.com is dynamic,” said Lonergan. “Launching the site is only the first step. We anticipate the website changing as the needs of our businesses change. We’ve got a great foundation upon which to build. Now it’s time to make it work for us.”



### GAITHERSBURG OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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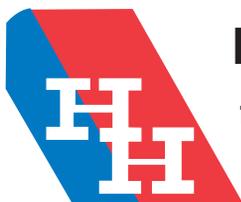
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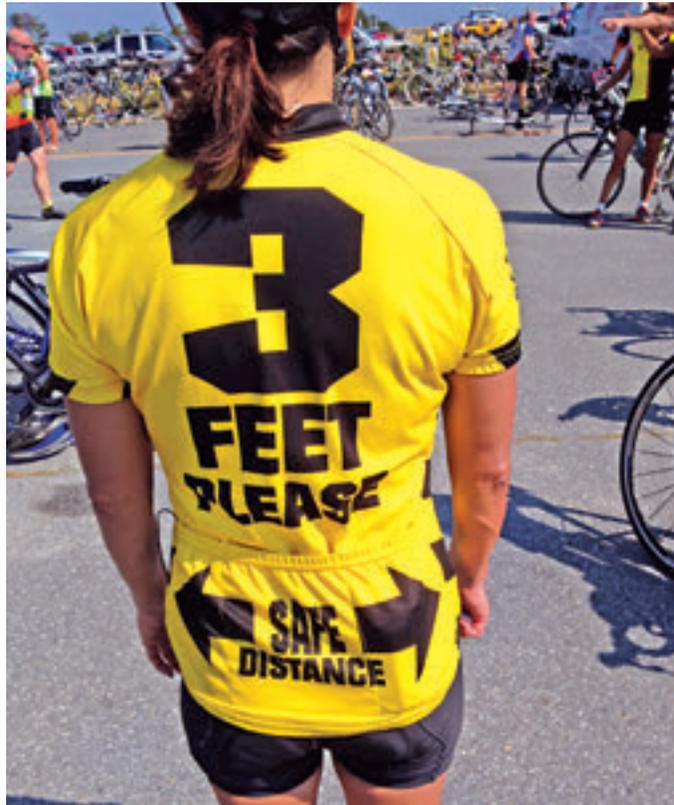
# FROM HERE TO THERE

## BIKING *in* Gaithersburg

As a healthy, pollution-reducing alternative to driving, traveling by bike is becoming an increasingly popular choice in cities across the country, including Gaithersburg. The City is home to all types of bicyclists, including children, commuters and recreational riders who need safe access to street and walkway systems. Thanks to the introduction of a Bicycle Master Plan, which provides improved bicycle accommodations both on and off-road, the City will soon be known as a “bikeable” community.

With an emphasis on transportation in all its forms, the City initiated a process in 2007 to develop a Bikeway Improvement Plan to be incorporated into the 2009 Transportation Element of the City’s Master Plan. The Element was adopted in 2010. “Bikeway improvement plans were developed with a wide range of bicyclists in mind,” says Engineering Services Division Chief Ollie Mumpower. “It focused on the physical improvements needed to improve conditions in the public realm.”

Staff from several City departments formed an implementation team in 2013. The plan was evaluated and field surveys were conducted. Based on plan recommendations and research findings, an implementation strategy was presented to the Mayor and City Council later that year, outlining initiatives to improve ease of travel and safety for bicy-



Maryland State law requires vehicle drivers to be a minimum of three feet away from a bicyclist on a roadway.



Sharing the Road Arrows, or Sharrows, inform where bicyclists can ride.

clists and to raise awareness for motorists.

The plan entails constructing and maintaining a safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian network. On-road facilities, covering about 21 miles, will feature “Share the Road” signage on a number of streets to alert motorists of the presence of bicyclists in the travel lane. Marked Shared Lanes, also known as Sharrows, are being added to select streets to alert road users of the portion of the lane bicyclists are likely to occupy. Supplementing the Sharrows will be signage indicating that bicycles may use the full lane, reminding motorists of the legal right bicyclists have to occupy any space within the travel lane. Bike lanes will also be added as part of road resurfacing and reconstruction projects where conditions allow. As part of the planning approval process, reviews of new developments will make certain that pedestrian and bicyclist needs are addressed.

Provisions for more than 30 miles of off-road facilities are also included in the plan. While bicycle riding is not allowed on most City sidewalks, it is permitted on shared pathways, which typically are wider in width. As part of the implementation strategy, these pathways will feature signs indicating that bicycles are allowed, with additional directional and wayfaring signage at key decision points.

Expanding the pathway infrastructure is a key component of the plan. Plans are currently underway to provide a connection running parallel to I-270 between MD 117 (W. Diamond Avenue) and Muddy Branch Road. Construction of a pathway linking Conservation Lane and Quince Orchard Park is scheduled for completion this year.

In FY16, the State will complete a pathway connection between Twin Lakes Drive and MD 117 on the east side of MD 124 (Quince Orchard Road). During that time, the City will conduct an inventory of existing pathways to determine potential upgrades and retrofits.

Ensuring the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians has never been more crucial as more people take to City streets on bike and on foot. With this in mind, the Gaithersburg Police Department conducts pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives throughout the year. "We receive funding from the Maryland State Motor Vehicle Administration Highway Safety Office to

conduct enforcement and education efforts," say Sergeant Scott Scarff. "During each of these initiatives, officers issue citations and warnings to pedestrians for jaywalking, not using controls at controlled intersections and other violations." Motorists are also issued citations and warnings for failing to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, stopping within crosswalks and other related violations.

While the program targets motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians who demonstrate unsafe behaviors, it also offers education about existing traffic laws and how to safely share the road. "In some cases, people are not aware of pedestrian and bike laws," says Sergeant Scarff. "Providing education on our part is vital to safety efforts." As part of the program, Police Department interns and cadets distribute safety literature in both English and Spanish at a variety of locations, including schools, shopping areas and on the streets during enforcement details.

See **BIKING**, page 19

Review the City's Bicycle Master Plan online at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370.

For information on pedestrian safety and education, contact the Gaithersburg Police Department at 301-258-6400.

Learn more about bicycle and pedestrian safety at: [www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org) [www.BEStreetSmart.net](http://www.BEStreetSmart.net)



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# A GREEN PLAYING FIELD GETS GREENER

## ECO-FRIENDLY SYNTHETIC TURF MEANS MORE PLAYING TIME AT LAKELANDS PARK



The Lakelands Park athletic field is shared with Lakelands Park Middle School.

Multiply 11 players on a soccer team times two teams per match, times about 50 games and 180 hours of practice per 10-week season, and you quickly reach a breaking point on the wear and tear of natural turf. Witnessing more than 1,300 hours of permitted play and 700 hours of informal use per year involving football and soccer teams and many other PE and sports programs, Gaithersburg's Lakelands Park athletic field, shared with Lakelands Park Middle School, was reaching the breaking point.

"The conversion of Lakelands Park from natural to synthetic turf has been a multi-year undertaking," said Michele Potter, Director of Gaithersburg's Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. "Accord-



The transition from natural to synthetic turf took place over the summer.

ing to the Turf Management Council, a natural grass field can handle about 1,000 hours of use per year. We easily surpass that at Lakelands Park, and with maintenance becoming a growing issue, we

spent hours and hours researching alternatives, taking field trips and determining best practices before landing on a solution that can increase the field use to nearly 3,000 hours."

Durability was not the only factor in deciding to convert Lakelands Park to a synthetic turf field. There were environmental and financial considerations as well. An organic infill field helps control water runoff and reduces pollution. The City will see cost savings in maintaining the field, with fewer dollars being spent on top dressing, aeration and field striping. And with the potential for additional revenue as the field is available for more use, the decision to convert made fiscal sense.

This is not the artificial turf field people of a certain age remember – which consisted of green carpet laid on top of concrete. The industry has evolved, and the synthetic turf fields of today are not only safer but have a look and feel much like natural grass – but with a durability that is four times greater.

There are variations within the synthetic turf world for the all-important infill. Options range from crumb rubber (made from recycled tires) and sand, recycled fiber and cork. The City opted for the latter, which looks, feels and behaves more like natural grass than the other options. It is environmentally friendly, odorless, non-toxic, and provides stable footing for athletes. It has the added benefit of resulting in a lower field temperature than the other synthetic options, a concern that was raised by parents during the public planning process.

“Lakelands Park will be the first eco-friendly synthetic turf field on the east coast installed by a municipal government,” said Potter. “Our deliberate choice

“LAKELANDS PARK  
WILL BE THE FIRST  
**ECO-FRIENDLY  
SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD**  
ON THE EAST COAST INSTALLED  
BY A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.”

*Michele Potter, Director*  
Gaithersburg Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

supports the City’s reputation for environmental stewardship.”

So where does one begin to create a 360 foot wide, 212 foot long multi-purpose synthetic turf field? Prime contractor Helias Construction, Inc. of Austin, Tx, with help from Gaithersburg subcontractor Alpine Services, Inc., spent the summer tearing up one field and laying down another. With oversight from Project Manager Sean Stevens of Gaithersburg’s Department of Public Works, a tight timeline was established to ensure that the field would be completed as near to the start of the school year as possible.

“We’re actually very lucky that the weather cooperated, and we were able to

work most of the summer on the installation,” said Stevens. “We anticipate some landscaping and curb repair even after the field itself is complete, but we have kept to a schedule that will allow use of the field this fall.”

Here are just a few of the steps that took place during the construction:

Demolition → excavation → curb work → drainage → irrigation → goal anchor boxes → fine grade stone → infill → goals → turf → landscaping → play ball!

At a budgeted cost of nearly \$1 million, 75% of which was provided by the State of Maryland through its Program Open Space funds, Lakelands Park will serve as a pilot program to influence future turf projects in Gaithersburg. “We’re a very active community and we have several fields that could benefit from the conversion,” said Recreation and Parks Division Chief Jim McGuire, who oversees field programming. “A thorough evaluation will be conducted a year from now. If Lakelands Park proves to be a success, we might turn our attention to the fields at Robertson Park next.”

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# LEARNING AND GROWING *in* Gaithersburg

IT LOOKS LIKE PLAY – BUT THERE’S A LOT MORE TO IT



Children enjoy singing the Itsy Bitsy Spider before craft time.



Reading is one of many learning activities young ones experience during Creative Tot Time.

Learning German, making music and discovering martial arts – the City of Gaithersburg nurtures its youngest residents with a wide variety of enriching educational and physical programs.

Creative Tot Time for three and four year olds is a warm and loving preschool education program that also helps little ones socialize. “Children learn how to play with and respect the space of others, develop manners as they are taught to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you,’ and learn responsibility when they clean up after playtime,” says Community Facility Manager Katie Gleeson.

In Tot Time, preschoolers are exposed to elements of science, math, reading,

art, music, history, foreign languages, and physical education. A typical day includes “circle time,” where the children discuss things like the weather and the days of the week. Even snack time becomes a teachable moment as children discover healthy food choices with the USDA’s “My Plate” program. And what preschool experience would be complete without show & tell, story time, daily arts and crafts, and plenty of time to play?

In the end, the program provides a solid foundation for learning and gives the children skills to help them succeed in future classroom settings. “Tot Time helps the

child gain independence from their parents and learn proper behavior to continue on in a school setting and other social environments,” says Gleeson.

The City’s popular offering of recreation classes includes many designed for preschoolers. “We extend opportunities for recreation and socialization starting at the age of one,” says Recreation Program Supervisor Denise Mornini. “A preschooler’s mind is a sponge and their physical skills develop at a rapid pace. Our programs engage them through language, books, crafts, dance, and music, and help them learn to take turns, pay attention, and master simple physical skills.”

With the idea that the developing brain is hardwired to acquire language, “German Story Time – Kinderstunde” provides an intriguing learning environment for one to six year olds. The course teaches German through games, stories and special activities, with a different theme each week. “The class is a great way to involve young children and their parents in another language as they learn new vocabulary and practice German through fun and age appropriate songs and movements,” shares class instructor Ines Kuperberg.

As readily as they learn language, children learn movement patterns just as naturally. “Creative Dance” introduces three to five year olds to the three elements of dance – energy, space and time – in a fun environment. Youngsters can tumble, crawl and balance as they develop self-esteem and social and listening skills with “Pre-K Gymnastics,” a fun-filled class for children ages three to five. In the “Music Corner” class, parents share music-making with their young child, using finger play, rhymes, lullabies and songs to expand the language skills of two and three year olds.

Designed to build a mutual interest in fitness alongside their parents, “Thunder Taekwondo Wee-Dragon” helps to develop focus, motor and communication skills in one and two year olds, while those ages two to four can continue the development of Taekwondo techniques with the “Tiny Dragons” class.

With a philosophy of participation over competition, Gaithersburg Sports programs focus on playing the game and having fun as children develop fundamental skills, good sportsmanship, respect, and teamwork. Start Smart™, an international program developed by the National Alliance for Youth Sports, introduces four



Children and parents learn new vocabulary as they participate in activities during German Story Time – Kinderstunde.

and five year olds to a variety of sports in a non-threatening and fun-filled atmosphere. “From building confidence to creating a stronger sense of community, the benefits of youth participation in sports are endless,” says Senior Recreation Program Supervisor Dave Ludington. “However, none of these benefits occur if the child does not enjoy playing the game.”

Fostering creative expression, the City of Gaithersburg offers a number of programs where families can explore the cultural arts together. “Artful Saturdays” helps develop fine motor skills and expand creativity in little artists ages three and four as they learn about colors and shapes using an array of mediums. Preschoolers can continue their discovery of cultural arts through singing, dancing and active listening to story books during the enriching “Songs and Stories” program at the Arts Barn.

“StoryTime Station” at the Community Museum offers monthly book readings with different themes for children ages three to six. “According to the national Read Aloud organization, reading to children has been proven to be the single most important thing a parent can do to help prepare a child for lifelong learning,” shares Community Facility Manager Nansie Wilde.

Gaithersburg prides itself on engaging its residents at every stage of life. “By offering our youngest residents an enriching environment in which to develop and grow we’re making Gaithersburg their playground, a place to make and keep friends, learn new things, and sometimes just romp and have fun,” says Mornini.

Explore Gaithersburg’s offerings under the Leisure tab at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) or call 301-258-6350.



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# RESOURCES & FACILITIES



Gaithersburg City Hall

## Gaithersburg City Hall

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038  
 301-258-6300  
 Fax: 301-948-6149  
 TDD/TTY: 301-258-6430  
 www.gaithersburgmd.gov  
 cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

## Office of the City Manager

301-258-6310  
 cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

## Planning & Code Administration

301-258-6330  
 plancode@gaitersburgmd.gov

**Animal Control** ..... 301-258-6343

**Commercial & Residential Inspections**

**Automated Scheduling** ..... 301-258-6338

**Commercial, Residential & Fire Systems**

**Plan Review** ..... 301-258-6330

**Environmental Services** ..... 301-258-6330

**Neighborhood Services** ..... 301-258-6340

**Passports** ..... 301-258-6330

**Permits & Licenses** ..... 301-258-6330

**Planning & Zoning** ..... 301-258-6330

**Rental Housing & Landlord Tenant**

**Affairs** ..... 301-258-6340

## Community & Public Relations

cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

## Public Information

301-258-6310

## Community Services

1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071

301-258-6395

## Homeless Services-

**Wells/Robertson House**

1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071

301-258-6390

## Finance & Administration

301-258-6320

finance@gaitersburgmd.gov



Gaithersburg Police



Activity Center at Bohrer Park



Community Museum

**Information Technology**

301-258-6325  
it@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Human Resources**

301-258-6327  
hr@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Gaiithersburg Police**

14 Fulks Corner Ave. 20877-2066  
Non-emergencies: 301-258-6400  
Emergencies: 911  
police@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Public Works**

800 Rabbitt Rd. 20878-1600  
301-258-6370  
publicworks@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Parks, Recreation & Culture**

506 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6350  
Fax: 301-948-8364  
parksrec@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**FACILITIES**

**\*Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm**

506 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6350  
parksrec@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Aquatics**

**\*Gaiithersburg Aquatic Center**

(indoor - **NOW OPEN**)  
2 Teachers Way 20877-3423  
301-258-6345  
aquatics@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Water Park** (outdoor - seasonal)

512 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6445  
waterpark@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Arts Barn**

311 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5727  
201-258-6394  
artsbarn@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Casey Community Center**

810 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-4102  
301-258-6366  
caseycomm@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Community Museum**

9 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2071  
301-258-6160  
parksrec@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Concert Pavilion at City Hall** (seasonal)

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038  
301-258-6350



Olde Towne Youth Center

**\*Gaiithersburg Upcounty Senior Center**

80A Bureau Dr. 20878-1430  
301-258-6380  
seniorcenter@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**Gaiithersburg Youth Centers**

**\*Olde Towne**

301 Teachers Way, 20877-3422  
301-258-6440  
yc-oldetowne@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Robertson Park**

801 Rabbitt Rd. 20878-1657  
301-258-6166  
yc-robertson@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Kentlands Mansion**

320 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5726  
301-258-6425  
kentlands@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Miniature Golf Course** (seasonal)

514 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6420  
minigolf@gaiithersburgmd.gov

**\*Skate Park** (seasonal)

510 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6350  
skatepark@gaiithersburgmd.gov

\*Rental opportunities for meetings & social events



Gaiithersburg Aquatic Center

# CELEBRATE FALL AND WINTER

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inGaithersburg

**Gatsby on the Green –  
F. Scott Fitzgerald  
Birthday Celebration**  
September 28  
3 – 6 p.m.  
Arts on the Green – Kentlands

**Singer Songwriter  
Concert & Workshop  
w/Marshall Crenshaw**  
October 4  
7:30 p.m. Concert  
3 p.m. Workshop  
Arts Barn

**CHARACTER COUNTS!  
Activities**

Throughout the Month  
of October  
Locations Vary

**Oktoberfest at the  
Kentlands**  
October 12, Noon – 5 p.m.  
Kentlands Village Green &  
Main Street

**Domestic Violence  
Empowerment Luncheon**  
October 18, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Gaithersburg Holiday Inn

**Veterans Day Observance**  
November 11, 11 a.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion

**Montgomery County  
Homeless Resource Fair**  
November 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Activity Center at Bohrer Park



Oktoberfest at the Kentlands

**Winter Lights –**  
Open Nightly  
November 28 – December 31  
(Closed 12/25)  
Hours Vary  
Seneca Creek State Park

**Wine Under the Lights**  
November 15, 6 – 9 p.m.

**S'more Lights &  
Trolley Rides**  
November 21, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

**Leashes 'n' Lights  
Dog Walk**  
November 25, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

**88th Annual Tree Lighting**  
December 6, 6 p.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion

**Gaithersburg Chorus  
Holiday Concert**  
December 6 & 7, 7:30 p.m.  
St. John Neumann  
Catholic Church

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Celebration**  
Monday, January 19, 3 p.m.  
Music Center at Strathmore

**15th Annual St. Patrick's  
Day Parade**  
March 14, 10 a.m.  
RIO Washingtonian Center

**Young Artist Award  
Concert**  
March 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Arts Barn



Winter Lights



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Veterans Day



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Early construction in Downtown Crown.

## CROWN, continued from page 5

to the overall quality of life of the community. The one-two punch of Crown and the adjacent RIO Washingtonian Center will no doubt enhance our attractiveness for companies looking to open or relocate their businesses here.”

In addition to apartments and the stacked townhome condominiums for those who enjoy the urban experience, Downtown Crown will also be home to a variety of businesses, including Amazing Art Studio, Floyd’s 99 Barbershop, Downtown Crown Beer & Wine, Crown Cleaners, Body by Blo, Massage Envy Spa, V.Eye.P. Eye Care, Verizon, Wells Fargo, and ZAGG.

Now selling in Crown West are single family homes and townhomes, some already occupied, many more under construction. Connecting the various elements of Crown is a series of parks and green spaces for recreational and passive use. “From an environmental perspective, it was important for the City to ensure that a project as large as Crown was developed with as minimal an environmental impact as possible,” said Dyan Backe, Environmental Planner for the City of Gaithersburg. “The preservation of green space was critical, as was the use of stormwater features that mimic natural drainage processes to filter runoff and the use of Green Building strategies for construction.”

Crown was conceived as a transit-oriented development, with easy access to I-270 and I-370 (and thus the ICC with access to I-95). The development encourages the use of mass transit, with a Crown shuttle planned to temporarily operate between the community and the Shady Grove Metro Station. Crown will eventually host a stop on the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), Phase 1 of which is a 9-mile dedicated bus route running from the Shady Grove Metro station to MARC rail service at Metropolitan Grove. The CCT is currently in the engineering stage, with construction potentially starting as early as 2018, pending funding.

“Having grown up here, I’ve witnessed the transformation of Gaithersburg from a rural community to an urban center,” said Mayor Sidney Katz. “It’s been exciting to welcome residents to neighborhoods like Kentlands, Lakelands, Parklands, Spectrum, and now Crown. These developments have infused energy in our community, while at the same time we’ve been able to impart our long standing neighborly values on those who are new to Gaithersburg. Collectively we’re ensuring that as our City grows, it retains its very best qualities.”

To learn more about the Crown development, visit the City Projects page at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) and the developer’s website at [www.smarturbanliving.com](http://www.smarturbanliving.com).

## BIKING, continued from page 11

Education efforts about the Bicycle Master Plan are underway. Existing programs include Car Free Days, High School Student Union Bicycle Programs and Bike to Work Day. In the spring of 2014, the City held its first Bike Rodeo, featuring an obstacle course throughout Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm. Activities were provided to promote safety and improve the skills for both new and seasoned bicyclists of all ages.

City staff and members of the Transportation Committee continue to brainstorm new ideas to promote and educate the public about bicycling and safety through outreach and events. Educational programs go hand-in-hand with bike access, connectivity and signage efforts to ensure a bicycle-friendly community. “With the implementation of the engineering and educational com-



The Bike Rodeo is just one of the educational efforts underway to promote bicycle safety.

ponents of the Bicycle Master Plan, combined with traditional enforcement measures, the safety of bicyclists in the City continues to improve, making Gaithersburg a great place to bike,” says Mumpower.

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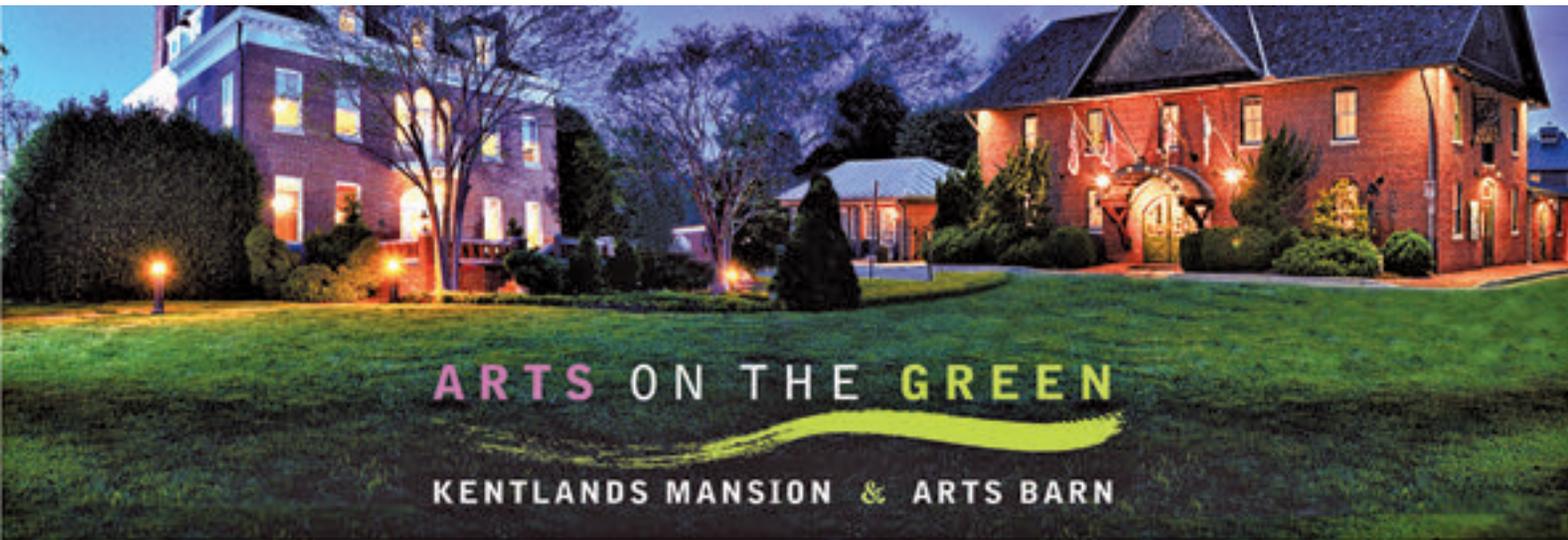


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- **Just for Families** (theater, music, special events)
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- **In the Studio** (classes, camps, wine & cheese art parties)
- ...and more

Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Rd. • Kentlands Mansion, 320 Kent Square Rd.

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