



Learn About the Stormwater Program Fee.  
Details Inside.

inGaithersburg

SPRING 2015





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# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

## Protecting Water Quality, A 250th Celebration, Mapping Gaithersburg, and Much, Much More

Stormwater management facilities are vital to protecting local and regional water quality. Learn how your Stormwater Program Fee is calculated and how the program will help ensure the health of our waterways, from local streams to the Chesapeake Bay.

Two hundred and fifty years ago a small settlement that became known as Logtown set down the roots of what would eventually become Gaithersburg. Discover how it came to be, and why you're now a "Gaithersburg-er" and not a "Logtown-er."

In November a new mapping application debuted on the City website. Street and aerial views of Gaithersburg provide links to specific properties, with information about taxes, recycling days, school districts, polling places and more. Learn how the City uses GIS, not only to make maps, but also for analysis and strategic planning.

There's even more to explore in this issue, from the vibrancy that's resulting from new residents and businesses coming to Olde Towne, to mentoring programs for high school students, to an emphasis on fostering a healthier community through nutrition programs.

Plus you'll find resource information about City departments and facilities, and we've highlighted many of the special events taking place in Gaithersburg this spring and summer, including the much-anticipated Gaithersburg Book Festival on May 16.

You'll find it all *inGaithersburg!*

Sincerely,  
Jud Ashman  
Mayor

Unless otherwise noted, the editorial content  
of *inGaithersburg* is produced by  
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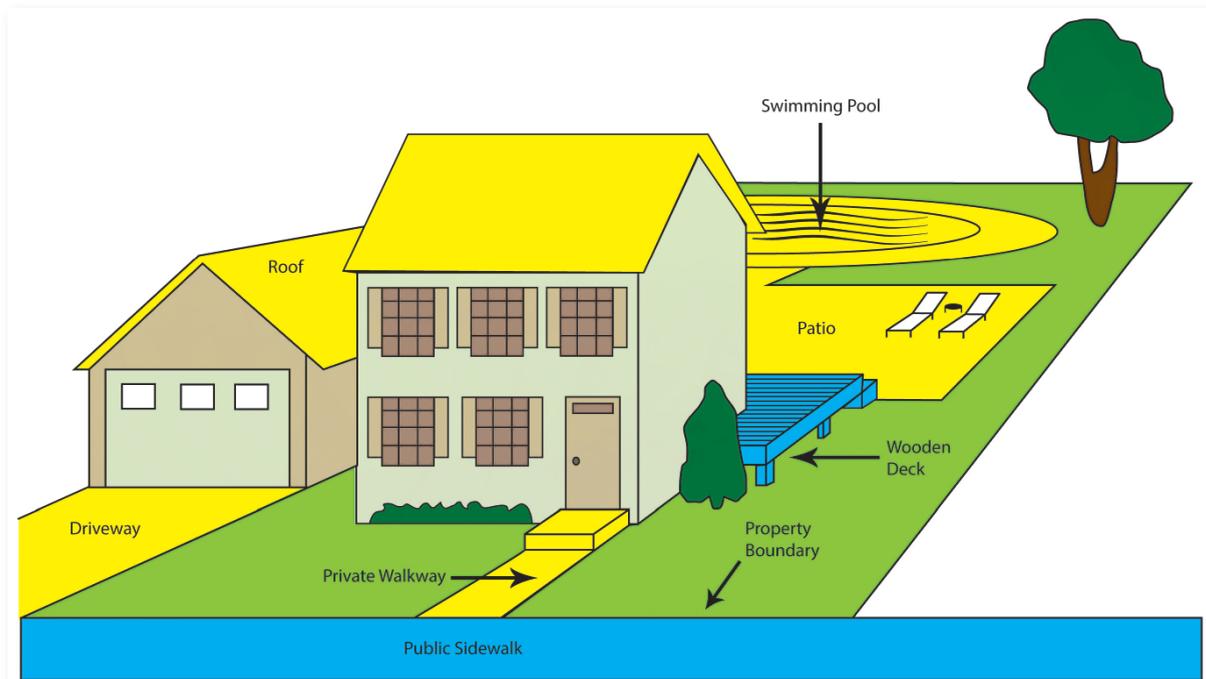
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YOUR STORMWATER FEE IS CHANGING. READ MORE.

# PROTECTING WATER QUALITY *in*GAITHERSBURG



The areas shown in yellow represent impervious surfaces that will factor into the billing for this single-family residential property.

## THE STORMWATER PROGRAM FEE

“With millions of gallons of water a day flowing from streams in Gaithersburg to the Potomac River (and eventually feeding into the Chesapeake Bay), it is important that Gaithersburg be a steward in stormwater management,” says Mayor Jud Ashman. “Yes, we have to comply with federal and state mandates, but Gaithersburg has long been a leader in sustainable practices, and our new Stormwater Program is designed to ensure that we protect and preserve this community for future generations.”

### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, polluted stormwater runoff is the leading cause of degraded water quality in the United States. When it rains or when snow melts, the water runs over land, picking up oil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, sediment and other pollutants. Lots of stormwater, flowing at a high speed, can cause stream banks to erode and dump more sediment into the waterway, harming the insects, fish and

animals that depend on the stream for food and habitat.

Stormwater is generated from what are known as impervious surfaces: paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, roofs and even swimming pools. These surfaces prevent water from naturally soaking into the ground. The excess water runs off into storm drains before reaching local waterways. Maintaining and improving those drainage systems and providing adequate treatment for polluted runoff helps protect the entire ecosystem.

## THE STORMWATER PROGRAM FEE

The State of Maryland authorizes municipalities to charge a fee to property owners for the use of a city's stormwater infrastructure. Every developed property within Gaithersburg generates runoff and makes use of the storm drain system. "The Stormwater Program that we have developed allows the City to comprehensively manage stormwater," says Deputy City Manager Dennis Enslinger. "Fees that we collect will help offset maintenance, water quality improvements, flood control, and erosion prevention. It will also support outreach efforts to educate property owners about ways to limit stormwater runoff."

## HOW THE FEE IS CHANGING

Until 2014, the City charged a Stormwater Program Fee only to those property owners whose stormwater drained into a residential stormwater management facility. Fee assessment was done on a fixed basis for single-family and townhouse property owners; it varied based on the amount of run-off for other property types. Starting with the new fiscal year on July 1, 2015, the Stormwater Program Fee will be collected from all property owners, and will be solely based on the amount of impervious surface on a given property. The fee is collected on Montgomery County property tax bills under the line item GAITHERSBURG STORMWATER FEE.

## BILLING UNIT CALCULATION

"We concluded that establishing a 'billing unit' method would be the most equitable way to distribute the cost of stormwater management," says Enslinger. "One billing unit equals 500 square feet of impervious surface area. So a property owner with 1,500 square feet will pay more than a property owner with just 750 square feet of impervious surface."

Each January the City will determine an individual property's impervious area using a combination of aerial photography, approved site plans and mapping analysis tools (see related GIS article on page 8). The total square footage will then be divided by 500 to arrive at the number of billing units. The



This section of Victory Farm Drive is a Green Street, using a natural approach to manage stormwater flow.

Stormwater Program Fee is calculated by multiplying the number of billing units by the per billing unit fee, which will be established by the Mayor and City Council during the budget process each year. For properties where there are multiple owners, such as condominiums, the total fee will then be divided by the number of unit owners.

## HARDSHIP CONSIDERATIONS & PROGRAM CREDITS

A process has also been established for hardship consideration and appeals of how impervious surface areas are calculated. Homeowners who are already approved for the Maryland Homeowners Tax Credit Program will automatically be exempt from paying the Stormwater Program Fee.

"There are many creative ways that owners can manage both the quantity and quality of water that runs off their property," says the City's Environmental Planner Dyan Backe. "We've built Stormwater Program Fee credits into the program to recognize the efforts of business owners, HOAs and nonprofit organizations that are taking steps to proactively protect our water quality." Restrictions apply.

Homeowners can also get financial assistance for small scale improvements. Marketed under the Rainscapes Rewards program, rebates are available for such things as conservation landscaping and the installation of rainwater collection devices (cisterns or rain barrels). Details are available on the City's website.

## LEARN MORE

### The Stormwater Program Fee Policy and Procedures Manual

outlines all aspects of the Stormwater Program Fee, including fee calculations, available fee credits, hardships and appeals, and much more. It serves as the official reference guide for the program, and also includes helpful diagrams and charts to illustrate the program in more detail. It is available under "Environment" from the Services tab at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov).

## Stormwater Program Fee Cycle

### January 1

Fee calculation based on impervious data as of January 1 of each billing year

### February 1

Credit and appeal application submission deadline

### April 1

Deadline for approval of credit applications

### May

Billing data sent to Montgomery County for inclusion in property tax bills

### July

Montgomery County mails property tax bills

# LOGTOWN TO GAITHERSBURG

## A 250 YEAR JOURNEY

BY KAREN LOTTES, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, GAITHERSBURG COMMUNITY MUSEUM

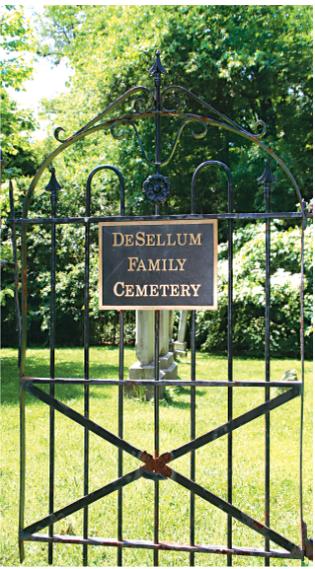
The Smoke House at Summit Hall Farm is the oldest surviving structure in Gaithersburg.



In 1765, the Georgetown-Frederick Road along which Gaithersburg sits today was part of Frederick County and was this region's western frontier. Georgetown was the county's only port and largest city, but all legal business had to be conducted in Frederick. With no navigable waterway, the 45 mile journey was made on horseback or by carriage.

Forward-thinking businessmen realized that the road would be an ideal place to establish an industrial area and service center. Rockville was midway between Georgetown and Frederick, and where most people stopped, but nearby Gaithersburg would also be a good place for a respite and repairs.

Gerard Briscoe must have seen the possibilities when he began purchasing land in 1765, accumulating a sizeable tobacco plantation he patented as "Zoar." In 1769 he carved out 12 acres of land along the western side of the Georgetown-Frederick Road to create an industrial center next to his tanning and milling operations (between where Summit Hall pond and Gaithersburg High School stand today).



The DeSellum family property (now Summit Hall Farm Park) was once the former Logtown community. The family cemetery remains behind the Gaithersburg Water Park.

The outbuildings and grounds of Summit Hall (circa 1940) evoke the sense of what Logtown may have looked like in the 18th and 19th centuries. Photo: Montgomery County Historical Society.



The early 1790s marked the beginning of an agricultural depression that would continue well into the 1800s. Tobacco had worn out the soil and there wasn't enough uncultivated land to make it viable. Farmers moved west to the rich and untouched lands of Kentucky and Ohio. The large

landowners who stayed behind changed the way they farmed, setting Gaithersburg up for growth in the 19th century.

He subdivided the land into ½ acre lots and called it “Germansburgh.” But the area was already informally called “Logtown,” so you won't see “Germansburgh” on any maps, just on land records.

How it became known as Logtown is open for debate. Many land owners were speculators, not resident farmers, so there was a great deal of wooded land available. Briscoe needed the tannins in the tree bark for his tanning process. Perhaps the logs were then used to build homes in the new settlement. It could have been how people, when asked for directions, would guide newcomers down the road: “Go past that small settlement of log homes...” which may have eventually shortened to “Go past Logtown.”

Briscoe must have believed that his tannery would become the nucleus for a new industrial center. Robert Briscoe, his son, operated a saddlery. Baltus Fulks, a shoemaker and sutler (military supplier), leased two lots in 1773. A sawmill was operating, turning logs into building materials. Blacksmith Valentine Lingenfelter purchased property in 1769, and farmer Edward Burgess bought lots on the northern end of Logtown for a store, which was operating by 1783. There wasn't quite as much activity as was happening down in Rockville, but the area was growing enough to support this commercial center.

In 1789, Gerard Briscoe leased 2½ lots to William Fulks for a 99-year lease “... lying in a certain place called German-sburgh alias Logtown...” It's been only twenty years, but it's clear that Briscoe has not managed to make Germansburgh stick as the official name.



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Things had changed considerably by the time the first federal Census was taken in 1790. Logtown was no longer part of Frederick County. Frederick was sub-divided in 1776 and the lower part became Montgomery County (Upper Frederick is now Washington County). Centrally located Rockville, sitting at a major crossroads, became the county seat. By 1791 portions of Montgomery County, including Georgetown, were annexed to form Washington, D.C., thus making Gaithersburg the new geographic center (which it remains).

landowners who stayed behind changed the way they farmed, setting Gaithersburg up for growth in the 19th century.

It isn't until after 1802 that the name “Gaithersburgh” begins to be used. Benjamin Gaither opened a store on Frederick Road near where roads would soon connect to Darnestown, Barnesville and Goshen. A tavern most likely existed by this time, as George Gloyd was granted a license for a billiard table in 1799. Perhaps that's why Gaither chose the spot.

He chose well. Although it was only ½ mile north of Logtown, the store's location on the crossroads gave it greater reach. A “downtown” was beginning to form as new businesses set up around the Gaither store. In 1805, following a petition from local residents, the Maryland General Assembly voted to lay out *a road not exceeding thirty feet wide, from Barnesville to Zachariah Mac-cubbin's mill [later Clopper's Mill], and thence to intersect the main road leading from Frederick-town to George-town, at or near Log-town [today's Clopper Road]* (Maryland Records Volume 67, page 4; November 1805)

With the road being closer to Benjamin Gaither's store, “Gaithersburg” was solidified as the community identifier.

The next decade was a boom time for Gaithersburg, while Logtown as a distinct entity disappeared. An inn was opened by Robert Crawford in 1815, followed by a tavern run by Jane Gloyd in 1820. The regular mail coaches from Georgetown and Frederick stopped at

See **Journey**, page 19

# IT MAY LOOK LIKE JUST **A MAP** BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE

Think it's hard to get excited about a map? Spend some time talking with the City's GIS Division Manager Yeon Kim and GIS Planner Kirk Eby. You'll quickly discover not only their passion for what they do, but the infinite possibilities that Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can offer.

In November of 2014, a new application was launched on the City website that provides street and aerial views of Gaithersburg. Click on a parcel or enter an address and you'll be presented with geo-targeted information: How the parcel is zoned, the associated Maryland tax account, what schools the property owner's children will go to, where the municipal polling place is, and when recycling is collected. Sounds easy enough, but the back-end creation of this handy application was more than a year in the making – and then some.

"Our goal was to make the user experience with the new application as simple as possible. One or two clicks, and the information is delivered," says Kim. "That ease of use took months and months of technical development, building and caching maps behind the scenes so that the information can be presented quickly and cleanly."

"When I started with the City in 2000, GIS in Gaithersburg was basically used to make simple maps – visualizations of data," says Kirk Eby. "There were maybe four or five layers of information, like the City boundary, property boundaries



Gaithersburg Elementary School students learn about maps at GIS Day.

and zoning. Today the system has about 700 layers of information, and more are being added all the time."

The City's GIS database now serves as an important tool for analysis and strategic decision making. When elected officials were considering an affordable housing ordinance, GIS maps were created to show existing affordable housing in both Gaithersburg and Montgomery County. The maps displayed rental and homeowner information, allowing decision makers to determine areas of inclusion or exemption from the ordinance.

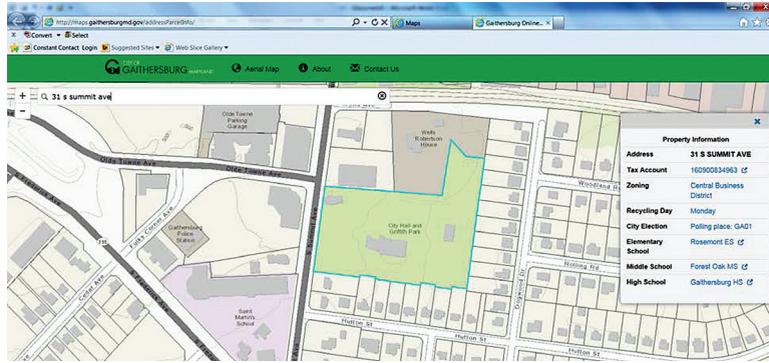
GIS also plays a big role in the Stormwater Program Fee. Layers of information are used to determine what amount of a given property is comprised of impervious surface, and thus subject to the fee. (See Stormwater article on page 4.)

With the update of the Environment and Sustainability Element of the City's Master Plan, GIS data is being used to explore such things as the solar energy potential of buildings and the existence of "food deserts" (areas devoid of access to fresh produce and other healthy foods). This information can be used to

help determine the location of farmers markets and other opportunities for access to food. (See Nutrition article on page 12.)

“All departments are involved in GIS in some way,” says Kim. “From detailed maps showing the specific location of food carts and vendors at a street festival to tracking snow plow routes, GIS enhances the way municipal government works.”

Key to the expanded use of the system as a staff tool was the creation of a GIS toolbar. As the system began to grow exponentially 15 years ago, it became more cumbersome and complex to use, requiring specialized training to access and manipulate the multiple layers of data. “Business Systems Division Manager Brian Helms and I developed an in-house GIS toolbar about 13 years ago,” says Eby. In a semi-automated way, the



MAPPING APPLICATION  
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 CLICK ON “MAPS” UNDER THE  
 “ABOUT GAITHERSBURG” TAB

toolbar allowed users to easily find data, navigate to what they wanted, and create a map of it. “Today there are about 75 City staff members using the toolbar, and we can train new users in about an hour.”

When Yeon Kim became the City’s first employee wholly dedicated to GIS in May of 2012, she remarked on how

A mapping application with detailed property information is now available on the City website.

impressed she was with the toolbar. “It was developed in-house, and it made the system very accessible with little training. The toolbar is still in use, a testament to the

thoughtfulness that went into its creation,” says Kim.

The GIS Division, housed within the Department of Information Technology, now has one full-time and two part-time employees. Last fall the Division hosted the City’s first-ever GIS Day, an opportunity to show City staff the new public-facing application and to explore possible uses of the system. Then the Division took the show on the road, hosting a GIS Day at Gaithersburg Elementary

See **Map**, page 19

# Not hungry? Dry skin? Shedding too much? The vet said maybe it's the food.

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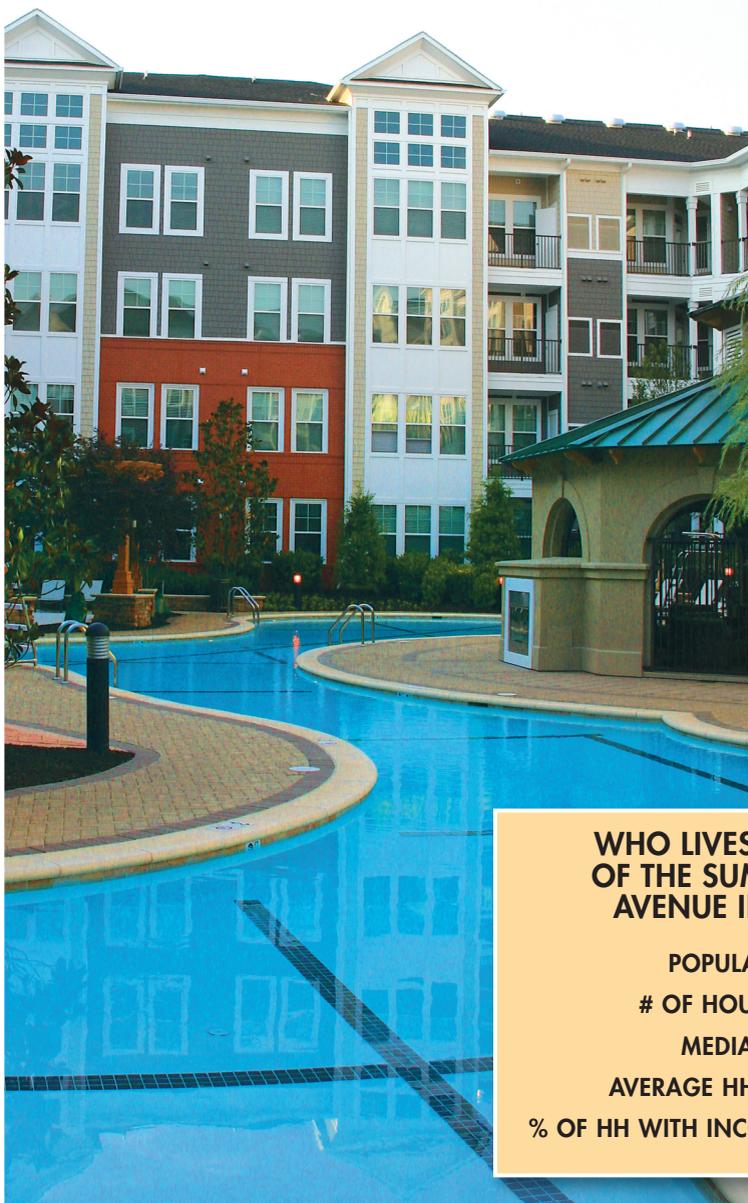
# LIVING

## > (and working and dining and playing) IN OLDE TOWNE

While the coming of the railroad in 1873 established Summit and Diamond Avenues as the commercial crossroads of Gaithersburg, it's been the early part of the 21st century that has witnessed a residential boom. In the last 15 years, more than 1,280 units have been built, and collectively they enjoy an enviable vacancy rate of just 1%.

"We've been residents (of Gaithersburg Station) for the past six months, and my husband and I love living in Olde Towne," says Yvette Monroe, a volunteer on the City's Educational Enrichment Committee. "We're both close to work (husband John can walk to Asbury), we appreciate the convenience of transportation into D.C., and much of our community work is local, making this the ideal location."

"Olde Towne is a vibrant location," says Economic Development Director Tom Lonergan. "It's walkable and transit-oriented, with easy access to MARC rail service and a host of unique dining options. And all of this comes with the



feeling of living in a quaint, historic downtown."

Retail and dining are now following the success of the residential sector. "As we so often see, business owners are attracted to neighborhoods with a strong residential base. These residents need to eat, they need services, and they need diversions," said Lonergan. "They want them close to home, and we're now starting to see that dynamic play out in Olde Towne."

The City of Gaithersburg Economic Development Department offers toolbox incentives to businesses to help with demolition, utility improvement, ADA

### WHO LIVES WITHIN A MILE OF THE SUMMIT/DIAMOND AVENUE INTERSECTION?

POPULATION 25,417

# OF HOUSEHOLDS 8,991

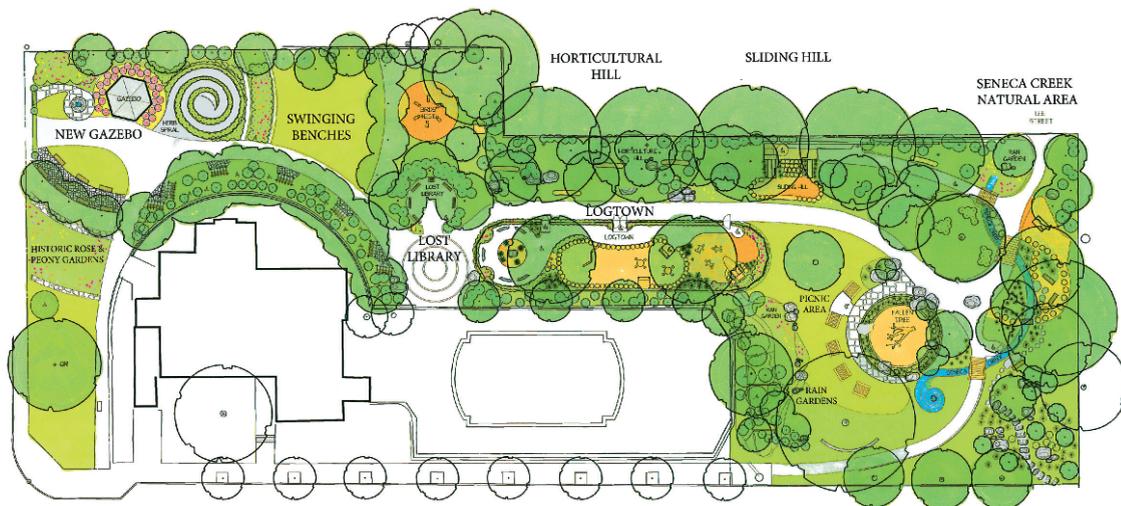
MEDIAN AGE 35.1

AVERAGE HH INCOME \$72,984

% OF HH WITH INCOMES OF \$100,000+ 25%

Gaithersburg Station is home to 389 new rental units.

# Constitution Gardens City of Gaithersburg



The reimagined Constitution Gardens in Olde Towne will weave together history, culture and environmental themes.

compliance, and more. Taking advantage of these grants in recent years have been mainstay Growlers, Gaithersburg's own microbrewery that requested assistance after weather damage in 2014, Manhattan Pizza & Pasta, which relocated from Muddy Branch Square, and the soon to open La Casita, taking the former Roy's Place building.

"We chose this location because of the diversity and economic growth of this area and also a strong desire to bring a new dining experience to the people of Gaithersburg, sharing our version of traditional Central American cuisine with a twist," says JM Arbaiza, owner of La Casita Cocina C.A.

Also new to the Olde Towne dining scene are the Corner Pub, which relocated to the former Buffalo Billiards space along the railroad tracks after decades of operation in Silver Spring, and Don Jorge, which opened at the intersection of Diamond and Russell Avenues.

"It's great to be able to walk to restaurants," says Monroe. "There are some great little finds here, like the wonderful sandwiches at Java Junction in the Train Station, and the most fabulous cupcakes at the Guatemalteca Bakery."

While there is plenty of activity in Olde Towne, there is opportunity as well. "The



Growlers of Gaithersburg occupies the Belt Building, which has been a commercial property in Olde Towne since 1903.

occupancy rate for existing commercial real estate stands at 97.1%," says Business Services Coordinator Sharon Disque. "But we do have one vacant lot and other opportunities for redevelopment." The former Fishman Building, which sat just east of the Summit and Diamond intersection, was demolished several years ago. It is the only vacant lot in the heart of Olde Towne, and Economic Development staff is strategizing to find a development partner. Staff has also been taking prospective buyers and developers on tours of the former Amatucci Auto Body site on Fulks Corner Avenue near Rt. 355.

The open space that occupies the corner of Summit and Diamond adjacent to the train station is about to be transformed. A citizen advisory committee, meeting June through November of 2014, explored opportunities for this unique space and made its recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. It is envisioned that Olde Towne Park Plaza will serve as an active and passive social gathering space, offering diversions for those who live, work and shop in Olde Towne, and those coming off the commuter trains.

The City is in the process of selecting a design professional, with plans to begin construction in Fiscal Year 2016, aided by a \$100,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. In addition to designs for the Plaza itself, the project also includes preliminary design of future streetscape improvements along East Diamond Avenue.

Construction is well underway at Constitution Gardens along Brookes Avenue. The reimagined park celebrates the past, present and future of Gaithersburg, weaving together threads of sustainability with elements inspired by the cultural, economic and natural history of the area. Unique features include the

See *Living*, page 19

A year round market in Kentlands and a seasonal market in Olde Towne make fresh fruits and vegetables readily available.



# NURTURING A COMMUNITY

ONE HEALTHY CHOICE AT A TIME

Every Friday community volunteers work with Manna Food Center to put fresh fruit, instant oatmeal, raisins, fruit strips, tuna, and a variety of other healthy foods into thousands of “Smart Sacks” to be delivered to elementary school children around the county. The City of Gaithersburg funds 40 of those weekly Smart Sacks for local students, ensuring they have food on the weekend when school meals aren’t an option.

“The need for emergency food supplies and ongoing food assistance is a growing social issue, especially in communities where the cost of living is higher,” says Gaithersburg Community Services

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THE CITY OF  
GAITHERSBURG IS IN  
A UNIQUE POSITION  
TO INFUSE ITS  
**YOUTH-ORIENTED  
PROGRAMS**  
WITH MESSAGES  
ABOUT NUTRITION

---

Division Manager Maureen Herndon. “With more than 50% of students in the Gaithersburg cluster qualifying for the federally-funded Free and Reduced Meal program, it’s important for us to look at nutrition and the alleviation of hunger from a multi-faceted, community-wide approach. Children who regularly eat balanced, nutritious meals have more energy, they do better in school, and they face fewer health challenges.”

In Fiscal Year 2015 the City contracted for assistance programs to provide a minimum of 7,500 City residents with at least a three-day supply of emergency food. Manna Food Center, Gaithersburg

HELP and Nourish Now collaborated on the contract, each leveraging its resources and outreach efforts. “Midway through the grant year, those three groups collectively reported serving 5,000 residents,” says Herndon. “It’s clear the need is there.”

Food recovery has become a main focus. Thousands of pounds of usable food would end up in landfills were it not for volunteer organizations working with grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to recover bread, produce and proteins to supplement area food pantries. “In the last reporting quarter, Manna Food Center rescued 427,507 pounds of food that benefitted 1,830 Gaithersburg residents,” says Jackie DeCarlo, Executive Director of Manna Food Center. The contract with the City also supported increased collaboration between the three contract partners. “Nourish Now provided 2,600 pounds of food to Gaithersburg HELP,” DeCarlo states. “That resulted in significant cost savings for Gaithersburg HELP, and the opportunity for them to offer ready-to-eat, prepared foods to their clients.”

Reaching youngsters at an early age is critical to establishing good eating habits. With its variety of sports, after-school, mentoring and youth volunteer programs, the City of Gaithersburg is in a unique position to infuse its youth-oriented programs with messages about nutrition.

“At the Olde Towne Youth Center we take advantage of many opportunities to talk about healthy lifestyles,” says Community Facility Manager Maura Dinwiddie. “Our middle and high school kids are always hungry, so we have them making healthy smoothies and experimenting with making their own juices. We even sneak in kale once in a while.” The Olde Towne Youth Center participates in the MCPS Cold Supper program, providing an on-site meal in the late afternoon. The Center maintains a regularly-updated Healthy Habits Bulletin Board, with tips for healthier living, and also offers healthy snacks in its vending machines.

In 2010 Gaithersburg signed on to the National League of Cities Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties, part of First Lady Michelle Obama Let’s Move! initiative to fight childhood obesity. So far the City has earned nine program medals for actions that improve access to healthy, affordable food and increase opportu-



Youngsters participating in an afterschool program learn about healthy eating during a tour at Whole Foods – Kentlands.

nities for physical activity. “Our Start Smart™ Program is a great example of something we do to encourage physical activity at an early age,” says Senior Recreation Program Supervisor Dave Ludington. “Each season parents join their children, ages four to six, in drills and games in various sports, laying the foundation for an active lifestyle in a safe, comfortable environment. This spring they’ll be playing baseball, basketball and lacrosse.”

Gaithersburg earned Let’s Move! medals for My Plate, Your Place by displaying posters with reminders about healthy choices amongst the food groups. Medals were also earned in the category of Smart Servings for Students, which recognized the City for collaborative efforts to expand access to programs that offer healthy food before, during and after the school day, and over the summer months.

“We’re keeping an eye on what’s fueling our young people every chance we get, whether it is during our after-school programs and summer camps or by making conscious decisions to educate our youth about healthy eating,” says Sydney Stasch, Recreation Program Coordinator II.

Last May the City also signed onto the Healthy Eating, Active Living program. HEAL encourages municipalities to adopt policies and implement programs to help stem the obesity epidemic and create healthy, prosperous communities. Gaithersburg’s initiatives include a Wellness@Work Committee for City employees, the replacement of snacks in City vending machines with healthier alternatives, and enhanced efforts to encourage travel by bicycle throughout the City.



Smart Sacks are delivered to school children each Friday, offering healthy snacks to get them through the weekend.

Farmers Markets provide yet another opportunity to encourage healthy living. The seasonal Olde Towne Farmers Market and the year round Main Street Farmers Market make fresh fruits, vegetables and other prepared foods readily available. This past season select farmers started accepting electronic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments, making healthier food even more accessible.

“Gaithersburg is taking a holistic approach to better living,” says Michele Potter, Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. “We’re ensuring that our play spaces are safe and interactive, we’re challenging families to make good food choices, we’re providing markets full of fresh alternatives, and we’re funding programs that help alleviate hunger. It all makes for a healthier, happier community, and we’re proud to be part of that.”

# THE STUDENT UNION

## ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### inGAITHERSBURG

High school students have a variety of options for after school activities – some more constructive than others. So how do you connect with teenagers and engage them in healthy, positive and productive options? How do you convince them that volunteering to plant trees on a day off of school or serving the needy at a local soup kitchen is more rewarding than a trip to the mall or hanging out at home? Gaithersburg's answer: empower the teens and equip them with the tools to create their own program.

Working closely with local youth, the Gaithersburg Youth Services Division developed a program that puts the teens in the lead with the Student Union, a club exclusively for high school students. Membership includes opportunities to participate in after-school activities, field trips and fundraisers, and to volunteer at community events and festivals. A nominal membership fee is required, and additional fees are sometimes required for trip expenses. Now in its fifth year, the Student Union boasts 350+ active members who have collectively volunteered more



Members supported a stream restoration effort by planting 655 trees at sites throughout Gaithersburg.

than 10,000 hours since its inception. Gaithersburg, Quince Orchard, Watkins Mill, Wootton, and Magruder high schools are represented.

Armed with hot pizza, Youth Services Division staff visit Gaithersburg and Quince Orchard high schools weekly during lunch to promote upcoming opportunities and solicit ideas for future programs. For many students, the incentive of a free slice of pizza and a chance to socialize is reason enough to attend a meeting the first time. "I like the people," says 9th grader Charity Kyler. Once they're introduced to the Student Union and what it has to offer, it's not a hard sell—especially once they realize that their voice matters. "I'd much rather work with the students to help them plan trips and events that *they* think are fun," says Maura Dinwiddie, Community Facility Manager. "The students know what they want and they deserve a chance to make that happen."

#### STUDENT UNION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$5 – CITY RESIDENTS

\$10 – NONRESIDENTS

301-258-6350

GAITHERSBURGM.D.GOV

After-school activities take place on weekdays at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park and at the Olde Towne and Robertson Park Youth Centers. The programs vary based on the season and student interest. Activities have included soccer, basketball, dance class, bicycling, weight lifting, art projects and Student Service Learning (SSL) opportunities.

Involving teens in volunteer opportunities is an integral part of the Student Union's success. Students benefit by earning the SSL hours required to graduate while acquiring practical skills and developing a solid work ethic. "The Student Union gives you experiences to use for job applications," says Alexis Quermorllue, 12th grader. Perhaps a greater value is that volunteering gives teens a sense of purpose and responsibility in their community. "I found a good person in me," shares Brianna Downs, 11th grader. Volunteering to help others teaches individuals that their actions make a difference. "I like how we're able to communicate with other people and

Fundraising activities help support local causes.

cooperate in one area, like tree planting," says Reyna Chavez, 9th grader.

Collaboration is another key element to the success of the Student Union programs. The club works with local organizations and community partners, such as the Beloved Community initiative, to maintain connections on an ongoing basis. Students participate each month in an intergenerational conversation group at Asbury, made possible through a partnership with Beloved Community and JCA Interages. The program, known as SHARE (Students Help and Reach Elders), brings young people and older adults together to discuss current and past events and learn from one another. The Beloved Community and the Student Union have joined together on several occasions, including pool parties,



tree plantings, car washes, and a Halloween Dance. "The Student Union has been one of our primary collaborating partners, helping us foster enriching intergenerational relationships beyond the boundaries of the Asbury community," says Hal Garman, Asbury resident and founder of the Beloved Community initiative.

See *Student Union*, page 19

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| <b>Hunan Best</b><br>301-948-6806 | <b>Kicks Karate</b><br>301-869-1400 | <b>Mimi Nails</b><br>301-963-7542   | <b>Mi Peru Restaurant</b><br>301-926-8736 |

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# CITY RESOURCES & FACILITIES



Gaithersburg City Hall

## **Gaithersburg City Hall**

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038

301-258-6300

Fax: 301-948-6149

[www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

[cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov)

## **Office of the City Manager**

301-258-6310

[cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov)

## **Planning & Code Administration**

301-258-6330

[plancode@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:plancode@gaithersburgmd.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@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.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



Concert Pavilion at City Hall

**Finance & Administration**

301-258-6320  
finance@gaithersburgmd.gov

**Information Technology**

301-258-6325  
it@gaithersburgmd.gov

**Human Resources**

301-258-6327  
hr@gaithersburgmd.gov

**Gaithersburg Police**

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

**Public Works**

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

**Parks, Recreation & Culture**

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



Skate Park



Casey Community Center

**FACILITIES**

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

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

**Aquatics**

**Gaithersburg Aquatic Center** (indoor)  
2 Teachers Way 20877-3423  
301-258-6345  
aquatics@gaithersburgmd.gov

**Water Park** (outdoor - seasonal)

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

**Arts Barn**

311 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5727  
301-258-6394  
artsbarn@gaithersburgmd.gov

**Casey Community Center**

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

**Community Museum**

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

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

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

**Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center**

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



Miniature Golf Course

**Gaithersburg Youth Centers  
Olde Towne**

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

**Robertson Park**

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

**Kentlands Mansion**

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

**Miniature Golf Course** (seasonal)

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

**Skate Park** (seasonal)

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

Many facilities are available to rent for meetings & social events. See website for details.

# CELEBRATE SPRING AND SUMMER

LOOK FOR WEEKLY FARMERS MARKETS, OUTDOOR CONCERTS AND OTHER EVENTS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER. FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST VISIT [GAITHERSBURGM.D.GOV](http://GAITHERSBURGM.D.GOV)

# inGaithersburg



Active Aging Expo



Gaithersburg Book Festival



SportsFest

**Summer Camp Registration**  
Ongoing throughout the Spring

**Skate Park Opens**  
Fri., March 27  
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

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

**Environmental Awareness Month**  
Activities throughout April  
Various Locations

**Paws in the Park Dog Walk & Fest**  
Sun., April 26, Noon – 4 p.m.  
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

**Miniature Golf Park Opens**  
Sat., May 2  
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

**Kentlands Day Celebration**  
Sat., May 2, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Kentlands Main Street

**Active Aging Expo**  
Mon., May 4, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Activity Center at Bohrer Park

**Bike to Work Day**  
Fri., May 15, 7 – 9 a.m.  
Great Seneca Hwy. & Orchard Ridge Dr.

**Gaithersburg Book Festival**  
Sat., May 16, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
City Hall Grounds

**Outdoor Water Park Opens**  
Sat., May 23  
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

**Memorial Day Observance**  
Sat., May 30, 11 a.m.  
Christman Park

**Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration**  
Sat., June 6, 4 – 8 p.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion

**Celebrate! Gaithersburg in Olde Towne Street Festival**  
Sun., June 14, Noon – 5 p.m.  
Summit & Diamond Avenues

**4th of July Fireworks & Concert**  
7 – 10:30 p.m.  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds

**SportsFest**  
Sat., July 18, 8:30 – 11 a.m.  
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

**National Night Out Against Crime**  
Tues., August 4, 6 – 8 p.m.  
Various Neighborhoods

**Montgomery County Agricultural Fair**  
August 14 – 22  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds

**Kentlands/Lakelands 5K**  
Sat., September 5, 8 a.m.  
Market Square

**Labor Day Parade**  
Mon., September 7, 1 p.m.  
Olde Towne

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 3, 2015**  
Register to Vote by October 19



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Paws in the Park



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Gaither's store. Wheelwrights and blacksmiths moved in, and new industry and trade were built. Meanwhile James DeSellum was buying up Logtown and the farmland to the west, which became the nucleus of Summit Hall. A new farming industry was growing as tobacco plantations were replaced by corn and wheat, requiring a new support system. Gaithersburg was ready to supply the infrastructure the farmers needed. By 1820, Logtown, such as it was, no longer existed. Gaithersburg had taken its place.

The smokehouse at Summit Hall Farm, the oldest surviving structure in Gaithersburg, gives us a glimpse of what Logtown may have been like. Throughout 2015, the City of Gaithersburg will be highlighting its early origins, recognizing the 250th anniversary of Logtown with special features at the newly redesigned Constitution Gardens Park (opening Spring, 2015), a mapping exhibit tracing the City's growth at the Gaithersburg Community Museum, and other activities.

MAP, continued from page 9

School. Staff took a drawing of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner and helped students map out where in the United States their food actually comes from.

A visit to the Gaithersburg Community Museum also shows GIS in action. On display now is a mapping exhibit depicting the growth of Gaithersburg from its earliest origins as a community known as "Logtown" 250 years ago (see article page 6) to the 6,600+ acres the City occupies today. "A lot of what I do is behind-the-scenes technical work," says Kim. "What's most rewarding is seeing firsthand the real life uses for the information we manage."

STUDENT UNION, continued from page 15

If you attend City festivals, you are likely to see Student Union volunteers conducting fundraising activities. Members have sold glow sticks during 4th of July, hot chocolate at the Jingle Jubilee Holiday Tree Lighting, baked goods at the Book Festival, and have even hosted a pumpkin painting station at Oktoberfest each year. You'll also find them raking leaves, shoveling snow and washing countless cars to raise money. "We work hard and play hard," says 11th grader Nii Mesah. A small portion of the monies raised helps defray expenses so that local youth have more affordable recreation opportunities, while a large portion is donated to worthy local

causes such as the Community Chorus, the CHARACTER COUNTS! Scholarship Fund and Autism Speaks.

It's been five incredible years since the Gaithersburg Student Union was founded. Teens can be a difficult demographic to engage and hold their interest. The Student Union format entrusts high school students to assume responsibility for the success of the program and holds them accountable to make it their own. It's this sense of ownership that keeps members dedicated to the programs and devoted to the club. "We feel loved, appreciated and welcome," sums up 10th grader, Dominic Johnson.

Lost Library, a story circle with benches and a lending library box, harkening back to when the Gaithersburg Library was located on this site into the early 1980s. The Logtown element (the original name of the Gaithersburg community in the mid 1700's – see article on page 6.) includes natural climbing features, a sand play area, log animals, and a sensory garden, while a fallen tree for climbing, loose parts for building and a dry creek with a hand pump dot the Great Seneca Creek section. A spring 2015 opening is anticipated.

"What's taking place in Olde Towne is both exciting and encouraging," says Mayor Jud Ashman. "Upon becoming Mayor last November, I made it clear that one of my priorities would be economic vitality east of I-270. Olde Towne is making real progress on the way to becoming yet



Retail and dining are following the success of residential development.

another magnet area in the City for dining and entertainment. And with opportunities for redevelopment at Lakeforest Mall and the former IBM site, I envision vibrant and diverse residential and commercial activity on both sides of the interstate."

# Summer Camps

## in Gaithersburg

For Ages 5 - 14

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- Operation & Maintenance
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- Public Education & Outreach



See article in this edition for more.

View your fee online and get complete details about the Stormwater Program Fee at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

