

Fall / Winter 2016

# inGaithersburg

## CHARACTER COUNTS!

Celebrates 20 years Pg.6

## Discover STEM

in Gaithersburg Pg.10

## FALL & WINTER EVENTS

inGaithersburg  
pg.16



Gaithersburg

# Winter Lights Festival



Seneca Creek State Park, 11950 Clopper Rd.

Open Nightly Nov. 25 - Dec. 31 (Closed Dec. 25)

Enjoy a 3 1/2 mile drive through a winter wonderland featuring more than 400 magical displays and beautifully lit park trees.

## Hours

6 - 9 p.m. Sun. - Thurs.  
Open Until 10 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

## Admission

Mon. - Thurs. - \$12 per car  
Fri. - Sun. - \$15 per car  
(see website for large passenger, vehicles & bus fees)

## Enchanted Evenings (All in a cozy, heated tent!)

**S'more Lights** Fri., Nov. 18 • 6 - 10 pm

\*\$10 Residents / \$12 Nonresidents / Age 2 and under free  
*Trolley rides, s'mores by the camp fire, hot beverages & live entertainment.  
Bring your camera for a Selfie with Santa!*

**Wine Under the Lights** Sun., Nov. 20 • 5:30 - 9:30 pm

\*\$22 Residents / \$25 Nonresidents (\$15 for those not sampling wine)  
*Samplings from Maryland wineries plus hot beverages, snacks & live entertainment. Open air trolley rides available.*

**Leashes 'n' Lights** Tues., Nov. 22 • 6 - 9 pm

\*\$8 Residents / \$10 Nonresidents / Age 4 and under free  
*Take your dog on a 1- or 3-mile walk through the lights followed by refreshments & Selfies with Santa.*

\*Advance registration prices. Space is limited. Reserve early. Last entry is one hour before closing or until event is full.

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

301-258-6350



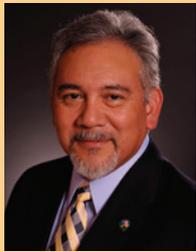


## City Officials

Contact these officials at 301-258-6310  
or [cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov)



Mayor  
**Jud Ashman**



Council Vice President  
**Michael A. Sesma**



Council Member  
**Neil Harris**



Council Member  
**Henry Marraffa, Jr.**



Council Member  
**Ryan Spiegel**



Council Member  
**Robert T. Wu**



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

# INSIDE *in*Gaithersburg

4

### Say it Ain't Snow!

*Weathering Winter in Gaithersburg*

6

### Solidifying a Moral Foundation *in*Gaithersburg

*Celebrating 20 Years as a CHARACTER COUNTS! City*

8

### Preserving Neighborhood Integrity *in*Gaithersburg

*A Day in the Life of a Code Administration Officer*

10

### Discover STEM *in*Gaithersburg

*Engaging Our Youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*

12

### Honoring History, Embracing the Future

*Casey Community Center Celebrates 40 Years*

14

### How Many Ways are You Connected?

15

### Plan Your Native Species Summer Garden Now

16

### Fall & Winter Events *in*Gaithersburg

18

### City Resources & Facilities

Unless otherwise noted, the editorial content of *inGaithersburg* is produced by the Gaithersburg Department of Community & Public Relations

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# Say it Ain't Snow!

## Weathering Winter in Gaithersburg



As our Public Works crews get ready to combat snow, now's the time for you to prepare as well.

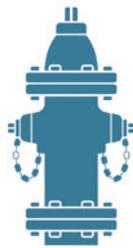
Let's start with the basics. Ever wondered who's responsible for plowing which roads? All numbered roads in the City are state roads, cleared by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Gaithersburg streets that are the responsibility of Montgomery County include Muddy Branch Road, Diamondback Drive and portions of Longdraft Road. Use the map locator at [www.mdot.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html) to see who's responsible for what.

Gaithersburg crews plow 93 miles of public streets within City limits. Property owners or HOAs are responsible for private streets, alleys, driveways, parking lots, and entranceways. Not sure if your street is within the Gaithersburg limits? Find out using the GIS Map & App Gallery on the City's website at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov).

### Pretreatment

Two days before a single flake of snow is predicted to fall, our crews treat the roads with salt brine. Once snow actually begins to stick, salt will be applied until streets are passable.

Before the storm is the perfect time to mark your nearest hydrant so the fire department can quickly locate it if it gets buried. Please shovel out hydrants and keep them clear during and after a storm.



Now is a good time to locate and mark the nearest fire hydrant. This will help the fire department quickly locate hydrants covered in snow. Don't forget to shovel out hydrants and keep them clear of snow during and after a storm.

### Parking

One of the best ways to help City crews do their work faster is to get your car off the street. Use off-street parking if possible;

the City allows overnight parking in the Olde Towne garage during snow storms. Once plowing begins, streets will be cleared from curb to curb. This provides space for our crews to operate, allows for better traffic flow, keeps storm drains clear, and makes curbside parking possible sooner.

If you must park on the street, try to keep cars in clusters, obey No Parking signs, and park as close to the curb as possible. Do not park in courts or at the

end of a dead-end street. The plows won't be able to maneuver around you. Certain City streets are designated as Snow Emergency Routes. It is illegal to park on these roads or on cul de sacs during a declared snow emergency, which is communicated as far in advance as possible through local media outlets, Alert Gaithersburg, and the City's web and social media sites. Cars parked in violation are subject to ticketing (\$60) and towing (upwards of \$270+) at the owner's expense. Keep in mind, some streets prohibit parking on one side of the road during a snow emergency, even though that street might not be designated a Snow Emergency Route.

### Plowing

Plows can't operate until at least two inches of snow accumulates. "We deploy more than 65 crew members in 40 vehicles to clear 90+ miles of City maintained-streets," says Public Works Operations Division Chief Mark Scafile. "It takes seven to eight hours to plow all of the City's streets one time. We work around the clock and will come back as many times as necessary until all

roads are cleared, but remember that you might not see the first plow until eight hours into the storm if your street is towards the end of our list.”

So where is your street in the pecking order of snow plowing priorities? Primary roads such as Perry Parkway, South Summit Avenue and East Diamond Avenue are the first to be cleared since they lead to state and county roads. Plows then tackle secondary roads like Rabbitt Road, Main Street and Victory Farms Drive. Neighborhood roads are cleared next, and those with courts are last. “We have to follow this order or you would leave your neighborhood only to get stuck on unplowed primary and secondary roads,” says Scafile.

Do keep in mind that while your neighborhood street and others maintained by the City may be clear (we regularly earn high marks in citizen surveys for our efficiency), those maintained by the county and state may not have been fully plowed yet. Please use extreme caution when venturing out during or shortly after a storm.

## Shoveling

So you braved the weather and shoveled your driveway, only to have the plows come by again and bury you back in. We’ve all been there. Plows push snow, they don’t remove it. Unavoidable mounds of snow (windrows) are always left along the right side of the plow. If you clear the windrow before the crews have made their final pass, another one will be created when they come by again.

For those in single family homes, you can avoid the “second shovel” by clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as you stand facing your home from the road). That gives the snow on the plow blade a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. Better yet, unless you enjoy the cardio workout, con-

# WHO TO CALL?

Hopefully this information has helped you better understand how we do what we do to clear the City of snow. If you have a comment or concern during or immediately following a storm, please don’t hesitate to contact us. But do know that during an emergency we are busy trying to return the City to normal. We will respond – it just might take us a bit.

### City Streets

E-mail [snow@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:snow@gaithersburgmd.gov) or leave a message at 301-258-6370

### County Streets

Call 311

### State Roads

Call 1-800-543-2515

### Who Maintains Your Road?

[www.mdot.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html](http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html)

### Sign Up for Emergency Alerts at

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

sider waiting to shovel until our crews have finished plowing.

These windrows might be tempting “mountains” for children to climb. Please don’t allow that. Crews often make multiple passes and might have to push the windrow back to widen the street. It might be difficult for them to see children playing on the other side of it.

“One of the biggest challenges we encountered during the blizzard of 2016 was peo-

ple shoveling snow back into streets,” said Scafile. “We know that especially in townhouse communities it’s challenging to find somewhere to put all that snow, but throwing it back in the street creates hazardous conditions when it refreezes, and it really slows down our crews, preventing us from making headway and moving on to other neighborhoods.”

Sidewalk clearing is especially important immediately

following a storm. Many people in our community rely on public transportation, and once school has resumed, our kids need a safe place to walk. Residents and business owners are required to remove snow and ice from any public sidewalk abutting their property within 12 hours of the last precipitation. Please help us keep people from having to walk in the streets by doing your part. 🇺🇸

**HOW TO SHOVEL**

Place Shoveled Snow From End of Driveway Here

Suggested Location of Mailbox to Reduce Possibility of Damage

Clear This Area

PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

Shovel in the Direction of Traffic

CLEARED ROADWAY

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County Road Association of Michigan  
mcountyroads.org

# Solidifying a Moral Foundation *in* Gaithersburg

## Gaithersburg Celebrates 20 Years as a CHARACTER COUNTS! City

Since 1996 the City of Gaithersburg has participated in CHARACTER COUNTS!®, a national ethics education program based on Six Pillars of Character that people of all cultures, races and religions can embrace. Those pillars are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

With a commitment to bring

ethics education to everyone in Gaithersburg, City staff and elected officials work with schools, families, businesses, sports associations, nonprofit agencies and faith-based organizations to develop programs and share the common language of the Six Pillars.

Now in its 20th year, CHARACTER COUNTS! is still going

strong in Gaithersburg. The City has convened an interdepartmental working group that is collaborating with businesses, community groups and nearly two dozen schools to keep ethics education front of mind, infusing the foundations of the program in the City's strategic directions, special events, summer camps, sports leagues,

youth club activities, and mentoring programs.

The program has touched many lives over the past two decades. As we celebrate the program's 20th anniversary, we asked students, educators, business leaders and City staff members to share their stories.

20 years

CHARACTER COUNTS!  
in Gaithersburg

We invite you to join the effort to serve as role models and help reinforce a solid moral foundation for our young people. Donate to the CHARACTER COUNTS! Scholarship program, serve on the City's Educational Enrichment Advisory Committee, volunteer in your community, and above all, live the Six Pillars of Character. Learn more under the Community Services tab at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov).





**Francisco Cartagena** – CHARACTER COUNTS! Scholarship Recipient, 2009 Pursuing LSAT

*“It wasn’t until I got to high school and I realized there was a scholarship available for students who could showcase some of the program’s core values that I started working towards building up my extracurricular activities, community service and just overall engagement of my community. I think that’s what really brought the Six Pillars of Character to life for me. Understanding the value of these characteristics has helped me overcome obstacles from a very early age. My father suffered a severe accident the year I was graduating from high school; his health has been declining since. I had to grow up faster than usual. Life has put me and my family in rough scenarios, and being the oldest son, I took it upon myself to help and try to figure things out as much as I could. I think subconsciously the values and concepts that I had been hearing at home and in school all of my life truly kicked in and are part of what helped me get to where I am today.”*

**Shahid Muhammad** – Principal, Forest Oak Middle School  
Former Employee, City of Gaithersburg  
Olde Towne Youth Center

*“I was first exposed to CHARACTER COUNTS! as an Assistant Principal at Fields Road Elementary School in 2002. Ethics education grows leadership, plain and simple. If we are creating a generation of leaders, we safely put our communities and country on a solid foundation for success. Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness are the backbone of much of the teaching we provide to adolescents today. Responsible citizens make healthy and responsible choices!*

*“By having a local government champion this program it demonstrates what we deem important in the development of children and young adults. It sends a clear message that we believe in the youth and this is what we expect from them.”*

**Marilyn Balcombe** – President/CEO  
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce

*“When I think of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Pillars, I think about how important they are to the Chamber and to our business community. We could not do what we do without a strong sense of Trustworthiness, Respect and Responsibility. We believe that the strength of the business community relies on the strength and quality of the entire community. Being part of a CHARACTER COUNTS! community says a lot about what we stand for. “By fostering the CHARACTER COUNTS! program, the City of Gaithersburg provides an important service to our community. We need our institutions to lead by example and to help the community exhibit the values and behaviors that make Gaithersburg a great place to work, live and raise a family.”*

**Rick Carder** – Community Service Lane Chairperson / Past President (1993 – 1994), Rotary Club of Montgomery Village

CHARACTER COUNTS! Contest Sponsor  
*“One of the reasons that the Rotary Club of Montgomery Village became involved with the CHARACTER COUNTS! program is that the Six Pillars represent the various elements of Rotary International’s 4 Way Test: ‘Of all the things that we think, say or do: Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?’*

*“With all the bad news in the world, having positive role models at home, in the community and in the government is critical to ensuring that our children understand and model the 4 Way Test and the Golden Rule.”*

**Jake Hersom** – Robertson Park Youth Center Facilities Manager  
Former Gaithersburg Youth Club (GYC) Member

*“My first experience with CHARACTER COUNTS! was in 6th grade at Gaithersburg Middle School. Our principal at the time, Dr. Steinberg, was a big fan of the program and wanted the school to reflect the Pillars. All over the school I remember seeing posters, while our teachers would mention the various Pillars throughout the day. I don’t know if I consciously utilized them for personal or professional achievement, but I think it would be naïve to think CHARACTER COUNTS! didn’t help shape my personality and moral compass.*

*“The foundational GYC rules were guided by the CHARACTER COUNTS! Pillars. And both GYCs [there is also a youth club at the Olde Towne Youth Center] have CHARACTER COUNTS! murals that the members helped create. Their handprints make up the pillars, and having these murals prominently displayed shows that it is their duty to personify the qualities while at the Youth Centers. The hope would be that they also personify the pillars when they are away from the GYC as well.”*

**Linda Hanson** – Executive Director,  
Gaithersburg HELP  
Person of Character Award Recipient

*“When I joined Gaithersburg HELP and the Gaithersburg Rotary Club, I found ways to try and make connections. I discovered that Rotary had been actively supporting the [CHARACTER COUNTS!] program through reading and grading student essays. Our club members really had a good time sitting down and reading ‘hero’ essays. We shared many chuckles and several tender moments reading these personal descriptions of the adults that the students were praising. You could also tell that many of them were starting to make the connections between the Six Pillars (words) and actions that express them. It’s one of my favorite Rotary activities during the year.*

*“I think it’s great to have local government promote these character traits. Hopefully, we can improve our citizens’ track records and help encourage future citizens to act with moral courage and adherence to these standards as they mature and begin to participate in governance.”*



# Preserving Neighborhood Integrity in Gaithersburg

## A Day in the Life of a Code Administration Officer

by Jennifer Armour, Planning & Code Administration

Gaithersburg is a diverse City of more than 68,000 residents who live in homes that run the gamut from turn of the century bungalows to mid-century ranch styles to brand new condominiums. We connect on a daily basis to our neighborhood, the place where our children play, where we meet the folks next door who become our friends, and where we forge the memories that help

shape our lives. With ordinances in place designed to protect life and preserve neighborhood integrity, Code Administration Officers spend their days working to maintain the strength, stability and long term vitality of Gaithersburg.

Neighborhood Services is a division of Gaithersburg's Planning and Code Administration. Within the Division are

Landlord/Tenant Affairs, Rental Housing, Code Administration, and Park Observers. While no two days are alike, here's what a "typical" day of a Code Administration Officer might look like.

Upon arriving to his office at City Hall, our Officer receives that day's assignments. He is working on an open report of a car that has been parked on the street in the same spot for more

than 48 hours. Concerned that it may be abandoned, the Officer heads out to inspect. He knocks on doors attempting to locate the owner. If he finds them, he'll remind them of Chapter 14, Section 16 of the City Code. If the car remains or no owner is found, a warning will be issued. If that's not resolved, the car will be ticketed or towed. Our Officer enters the status of the



Code Administration Officer Cody Storm inspects a local property.



Code Administration Officer Emilio Curbelo updates the status of an inspection from the field.

**PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION –  
Neighborhood Services Division**

**Code Compliance & Administration  
Rental Housing Inspections  
Landlord/Tenant Affairs  
Park Observers**

**GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL**

**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**301-258-6340**

**neighborhoods@gaitersburgmd.gov**

case on the mobile computer in his car, and then takes his next assignment.

A new complaint has been called in – a neighbor is concerned about the lot around a vacant house next door, saying it’s an eyesore. Our Officer heads to the property to verify its condition. An attempt is made to contact the current owner (be that an individual or a bank in the case of foreclosed properties) and have them mow the grass and clean up the yard. Warnings and citations will be issued if necessary (Grass: Chapter 12, Section 12.5. Yard Debris: Chapter 17, Section 302.1).

In the afternoon, our Officer notices several food trucks at a local construction site. For health and safety reasons these trucks must pass inspections from the Montgomery County Health Department and the City of Gaithersburg. He’ll check on them to ensure that they are operating with proper licenses (Chapter 16, Section 3).

When our Officer arrives back to the office after a day in the field, he’ll collect his notes, update the status of the various assignments, and call it a day.

Some of the inspections our Officers conduct have to do with the preservation of life. Kevin Roman, Neighborhood Services Division Chief, shares a memorable incident. “We responded to a call from a woman who said that she thought her floor had dropped about an inch due to construction in the condominium unit below her. We inspected the unit and found that the owner had removed a load bearing wall without securing the necessary permits. We immediately issued a Stop Work order.

“Because there was the potential for collapse, the fire department was called in to inspect for structural damage. Ultimately three units had to be evacuated until the load bearing wall was corrected. The property owner who damaged the structure was

fined for working without a permit. This illegal action caused a significant disruption and inconvenience to the other neighbors. Thanks to the quick action of the complainant and of our Code Administration Officers, a very serious threat to life safety was avoided.”

There are many homeowner and neighborhood associations throughout Gaithersburg that rely on the Division to assist with complaints. “Over the past four years in this position, I have come to rely on code inspectors in many ways. Whenever I get a complaint I immediately contact Neighborhood Services and I trust that one of the inspectors will arrive in a timely manner to help me work with the resident to correct the issue,” says Lakelands Community Manager, Michele Kennedy.

Rental Inspector John Ketterman focuses primarily on the condition of single family dwelling unit rental properties. There are strict requirements for such units in private residences, designed to ensure the safety of the occupants. Licenses for these rental properties must be renewed every two years, and inspections are required as part of the process.

“When I’m inspecting rental properties, I’m looking at things like general maintenance, fire safety, life safety, and smoke alarms,” says Ketterman.

One of the things Ketterman looks for is that every basement bedroom has an egress window, allowing for a quick escape in case of a fire. He also inspects for things like loose handrails and guardrails and rotting wood on decks.

“I love my job because it’s rewarding. I know that the work I’m doing helps to protect residents,” says Ketterman, who is a 16 year veteran with the City of Gaithersburg. “When an issue with a unit needs to be corrected, I have the ability to write deficiency notices to ensure the

property owner makes repairs in a timely manner. This keeps the tenants happy, grateful and, most importantly, safe.”

Ketterman also appreciates that he has the opportunity to

get to know the residents, the property managers and the owners. “It’s a great feeling to be so involved in the community. I feel that what I’m doing is both vital and rewarding.”



**Gaithersburg is a diverse City of more than 68,000 residents who live in homes that run the gamut from turn of the century bungalows to mid-century ranch styles to brand new condominiums.**

# Discover STEM in Gaithersburg

## Engaging Our Youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are all around us. From roads and bridges to smart phones and video games, these four academic disciplines encompass many parts of our everyday lives. With STEM-related occupations growing, it's no surprise that an educational approach geared towards the sciences has popped up in

technology and the engineering design process to learn by doing.”

So how does this approach benefit future generations? “This way of teaching allows students to be truly invested in their learning and helps to bridge some of the ethnic and gender gaps in education,” says Adetoro. “STEM programs provide students with opportunities for collaborative and compet-

students and bringing rockets, robotics and the STEM approach to Gaithersburg this fall. “My robotics classes provide students with exciting, hands-on robotics education using the LEGO® Mindstorms™ EV3 system,” says Adetoro. “Participants build and program an autonomous robot to complete pre-designed tasks.”

Launching into space is an

and food fights?” Enter Funutation Tekademy Minecraft Modding Camp, just one of the City’s STEM-based summer programs. Sunscreen and bug spray are not required, but a sense of adventure is as students create a game with 3D models and battle against powerful enemies.

“Minecraft is a great class because it covers so many aspects

*“It’s more than a school subject, or the periodic table, or the properties of waves. It is an approach to the world, a critical way to understand and explore and engage with the world, and then have the capacity to change that world, and to share this accumulated knowledge.”*

*- President Barack Obama at White House Science Fair*

many of the City of Gaithersburg’s youth programs.

“Our STEM classes offer students opportunities to collaborate, design and test out their ideas concretely,” says Program Supervisor Denise Mornini. “It excites their curiosity and helps them feel successful as builders and programmers using materials that are designed for them.”

Meet Tosin Adetoro, a national board certified teacher endorsed in physics and technology education and owner of Get Into STEM, LLC. “Integrative STEM education is when there is purposeful integration of science and math concepts with the practices of technology and engineering,” says Adetoro. “Basically, students use

itive learning that have real-world connections and insight to higher education and careers.”

In fact, with a bachelor’s degree in physics and Master’s in technology education, Adetoro herself is proof that the STEM approach works. “Growing up, my dad always encouraged my siblings and me to work with our hands,” says Adetoro. “We always looked at why things worked the way they do and we would use our creativity to redesign objects to fit our needs. I was very timid and reserved when I was younger, and STEM, even though it was not called that then, allowed me to come out of my shell and interact with others.”

And now she’s interacting with

amazing feat that Adetoro will also help students achieve. “My rocket science class uses the engineering design process to guide students in designing and building a straw rocket and maximize its flight time. Students also learn how launch angle, force and rocket length affect flight distance.”

“Girls and boys are challenged, focused and then ecstatic at all the progress they can make in creating and testing a robot or rocket,” says Mornini. “Under the surface of this glee they have absorbed science, math and logic.”

It’s not atypical to walk in on a group of young kids immersed in a video game, but when it’s a summer camp you may be wondering, “Where are the relay races

of computers,” says Ted Jordan, STEM Program Manager and Owner of Funutation Tekademy. “Security, compression, software packages, Java coding, and more. Plus, the kids have fun because they can play mods they download or make.”

If you’re not familiar, Minecraft is a sandbox game - meaning players have the ability to change a virtual world at will - that allows gamers to build constructions out of cubes in a 3D world. Users customize the game by making modifications or “mods.”

“Minecraft is truly a unique game,” says Jake Hersom, Community Facility Manager of the Robertson Park Youth Center. “The game encourages the users



Young scientists participate in hands-on science experiments at the City's first Pop-up MakerSpace at the Celebrate! Gaithersburg street festival.

to explore, build and modify the world around them.”

Making custom weapons and blocks and crafting recipes and mobs - characters that can move - is all in a day's work for campers. “We present the students with a set of instructions so they can explore how to create these things on their own,” says instructor Brian Kaste. “The instructions not only provide descriptions and images of what their commands can look like, but also with what the code means.”

Camp participants implement modding into their gaming masterpiece using Java. Then they put their “mods” to the test against the rest of the class. And there's plenty of interaction “offline” as well. Campers work in pairs as they investigate and discuss coding principles in action while acquiring technical skills using a hands-on, inquiry-based model.

So how does playing a video game provide educational benefits? “Programming skills are im-

portant because it allows kids to finally give orders,” says Jordan. “They now can tell some ‘thing’ what to do. In this way, they learn a process and why step-by-step instructions are important, and they can carry these skills to become a computer programmer, engineer or medical doctor.”

“These games fire up the imagination and encourage individuals to pursue the ‘how’ of a video game,” says Hersom. “So something as simple as turning on your computer at age 10 and being fascinated by what is on the screen can turn into a career in the computer sciences as long as the interest is nurtured.”

The camp and classes like it engage students in a way they may not be in the classroom. “These programs allow STEM-inspired students to continue learning outside of school while also having fun,” says Kaste. “The kids get to choose what they'd like to further explore based on their specific

interests, which further motivates them to participate.”

It's not all science and math. The arts joined the STEM movement recently as the City engaged the entire community to experience “STEAM” activities at its first Pop-up MakerSpace at the 34th annual Celebrate! Gaithersburg in Olde Towne street festival. Artists, makers, young scientists, tinkerers and curiosity seekers of all ages were invited to explore interactive and educational demonstrations, hands-on experiments and art exhibits.

“The maker movement is becoming increasingly popular throughout the country and around the globe,” says Recreation Program Coordinator Ilana Guttin. “Our team was excited to integrate this contemporary idea into our street festival.”

The MakerSpace featured everything from recycled metal sculptures and experiments with slime and bubbles to engineering

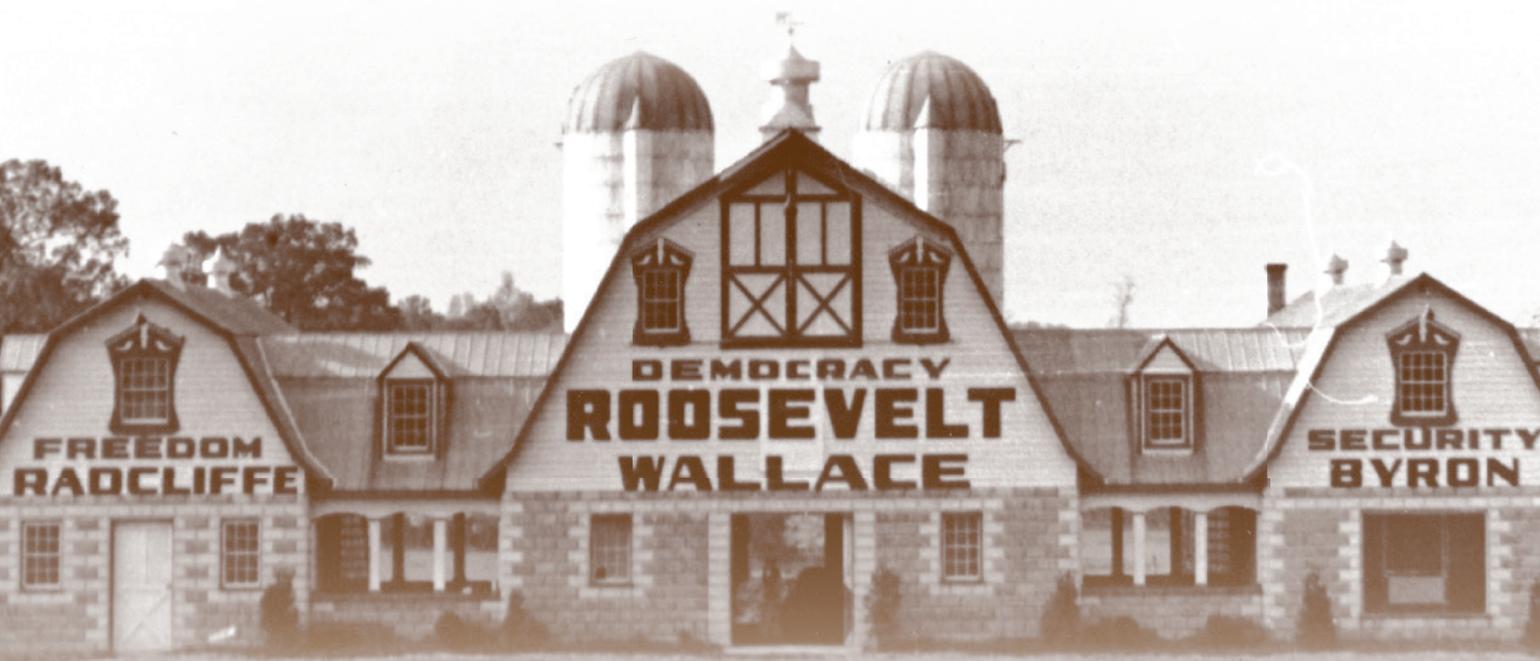
aluminum foil boats and creating circuit board art. Of course, robots made an appearance in all shapes and forms - robot family sculptures, a robot selfie station and Lego® robots to name just a few.

“Gaithersburg is a cutting-edge place filled with people who understand the importance of keeping education relevant and rigorous,” says Guttin. “Therefore, exhibiting STEM initiatives not only illuminates the work of countless local innovators, from young children to adults, but also inspires people to pursue something practical in the current economy. Plus, STEM is really cool!”

“STEM education is critical to developing the next global leaders,” says Adetoro. “Integrative STEM education allows children to see how what they are learning is important to their future and the future of the world.” 

# Honoring History, Embracing the Future

## Casey Community Center Celebrates 40 Years *in*Gaithersburg



The Casey Barn as it appeared before a political rally in 1940.

Maybe you've taken Pilates or dropped your little one off at Tot Time. Perhaps it's where you held your wedding reception or quinceañera. Or, maybe you recall when it was a dairy barn long ago. Somewhere along the way, if you're familiar with Gaithersburg, you're familiar with Casey Community Center.

"This was the site of our Gaithersburg High School prom breakfast in 1988," says longtime City resident Leah Hawthorth. "Now I take belly dancing lessons here through the

City's recreation programs."

The iconic public facility welcomes you as you enter the City, its exterior still reminiscent of its time as a dairy barn. Now home to dance studios, meeting and event space, and preschool classrooms, the familiar building retains the charm of its past while adapting to the community's present and future needs.

### From Dairy Barn to NIH Farm

The southern end of Gaithersburg as we know it today was once Mount Pleasant, covering

the west side of South Frederick Avenue from Deer Park Road to Shady Grove Road. Up until the 1960s the area was mostly made up of large family farms. Eugene Casey, a local businessman, purchased the Mount Pleasant farm and built the dairy barn in 1938.

The 60 cows that called the Casey Barn home produced 300 gallons of milk a day that was sold to the Thompson and Chestnut Farms dairies. The barn also had an interesting secondary life as a signboard, most notably for political candidates.

It soon became a local landmark after the exterior of the barn was painted as a campaign sign for Franklin D. Roosevelt before a political rally in 1940.

"Though the Casey Community Center has not been deemed a historic building, it has played an important role in history," says Community Facility Manager Katie Gleeson. In 1949, the barn was rented to the National Institute of Health and was known as the "NIH Farm" until 1960. The barn at one time housed Rhesus monkeys that were used in the Salk polio

vaccine trials. “As a place where Dr. Jonas Salk worked on a vaccine against polio, not only is this barn significant to Gaithersburg, it is also significant to the lives of millions of people in the U.S.,” says Gleeson.

In 1971, Mr. Casey donated the structure and the two acres of surrounding land to the City of Gaithersburg for municipal use. The barn was renovated in 1977 thanks to a state Open Space Community Development Block grant and City funding. It opened that fall as the Casey Community Center with immediate success.

### A Community Center for All

It all started at Casey!

Many events and activities now offered throughout the City originated at Casey Community Center. “Winter Lights at Seneca Creek State Park started as a program known as Winter

Wonderland at Casey Community Center,” says Gleeson. “The Benjamin Gaither Center, now its own facility, also got its start at Casey.” Breakfast with Santa, Flea Markets and the Baby Bazaar all once called Casey home, as did antique and gem and jewelry shows.

Today the Center serves some of the youngest in our community with Creative Tot Time, a nurturing preschool education program for three and four year olds. Little ones enjoy music, story time, arts and crafts, show and tell, and fun field trips in a warm, loving environment. “Our program provides a solid foundation for learning and gives children skills to help them succeed in future classroom settings,” says Gleeson.

Nearly 215 recreation classes for all ages are offered throughout the year, including ballet, gymnastics, Zumba, and ballroom

dance. Casey also serves as a backdrop for life’s special moments. “Whether it’s a wedding, birthday or quinceañera, many have chosen to celebrate milestone events at Casey,” says Gleeson. The facility features a full service kitchen and hosts parties, receptions, and business meetings.

To commemorate its 40th Anniversary, the Center unveiled recent renovations during a ribbon cutting ceremony in June, kicking off a year-long celebration. A modern catering kitchen, new conference room, dance-ready flooring, sound insulation improvements, and HVAC upgrades ensure the facility remains a great resource for the community and continues to serve as a popular gathering space well into the future. To fund the renovation project, the Maryland General Assembly approved a bond bill providing \$130,000 in matching funds to the City.

Throughout the year, various events are planned to welcome new visitors and allow past patrons to do some reminiscing. A very special class reunion of all Creative Tot Time students will bring together buddies to rekindle childhood friendships while current students will learn about the building’s history through a coloring project. Couples who celebrated their wedding reception at Casey are invited back to reminisce and have their picture taken in the decorated facility.

Gaithersburg’s commitment to being an inclusive community that welcomes all ages and cultures is reflected every day at Casey. With 120,000 people coming in and out of the building each year, there’s little doubt that Casey has an important role to play in the lives of Gaithersburg residents, and will continue to do so for years to come. 🐾

## Experience Casey Community Center at Customer Appreciation Day Tuesday, November 15 • 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

No RSVPs necessary. Just stop by.

810 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 • 301-258-6366 • Gaithersburgmd.gov



Little ones enjoy circle time during Creative Tot Time, a warm and loving preschool education program.

# How many ways can #you connect with the City of #Gaithersburg?



@gburgmd (1 hour ago)

Dig up info on the next #volleyball tournament & past winners



Parks, Rec & Culture (& 10 other Facebook pages)

See gorgeous silk #paintings from summer art camps



Arts On The Green (& 4 other Instagram feeds)

Find dazzling #decor ideas for your upcoming nuptials



Kentlands Mansion

Get gavel-to-gavel #livestreams of Mayor & City Council meetings



City of Gaithersburg

Stay up-to-date on #employment opportunities & business news



Economic Development (& 8 other Twitter feeds)

Cook #farmtotable recipes with fresh, local ingredients



Farmers Markets (& 8 other E-newsletters)

**Whatever your interests  
However you want to connect  
We have a way for you to do it!**

[www.gaithersburgmd.gov/news/social-media](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/news/social-media)

# Plan Your Native Species Summer Garden Now

## Rebates Available for Conservation Landscaping & Rainwater Collection



Volunteers work on a native landscaping demonstration project at the Izaak Walton League headquarters in Gaithersburg.



Fall might not seem like the most natural of times to think of lush gardens, but it's the perfect time to begin planning for a new yard using conservation landscaping – and getting a rebate from the City for your efforts. Applications are now being accepted for the City of Gaithersburg Rainscape Rewards Program.

Rainscape Rewards offers educational resources and financial incentives to help property owners with conservation landscaping and rainwater collection projects. It's available to residential property owners, HOAs, private education facilities, nonprofit organizations, and multifamily units that want to improve stormwater runoff conditions by installing natural drainage projects on their property.

“What we're trying to do with these programs is encourage our property owners to be proactive in reducing the amount of stormwater that enters our local streams,” says Environmental Specialist Meredith Strider with the City's Public Works Department. “Collecting rainwater in barrels and cisterns and using native species in your gardens helps to increase groundwater supply, decrease chemical and nutrient pollutants from entering our waterways, and increase the biodiversity of our City landscape.”

### Conservation Landscaping

Conservation landscaping has the specific goal of reducing pollution and improving the local environment. One of the simplest ways to begin is by

replacing lawn turf areas with locally native trees, shrubs and perennial plants. The roots of these larger plants are deeper than those of typical lawn grass, so they are better at holding soil and capturing rainwater. The structure, leaves, flowers, seeds, berries and other fruits of native plants also provide food and shelter for a variety of birds and other native wildlife.

### Rainwater Collection

Rain barrels and cisterns are containers that connect to existing downspouts to collect and store rooftop rainwater for later use. The containers come in various sizes, colors and designs and can be made of plastic or wood. Some people link them to increase storage capacity. The collected water can be used for landscape irrigation, washing cars or watering gardens. Rainwater is naturally soft, making it ideal for watering indoor and outdoor plants. Using your collected rainwater can also help reduce your municipal water bill.

There are two tracks within each of the Rainscape Rewards programs, based on property type and size. The rebates vary in amount, and project applications must be pre-approved before installation. Apply now, and you can be well on your way to a healthy, beautiful garden next year. Learn more under Environmental Services on the City's website. 

Rain barrels collect rooftop water that can be used for washing cars and watering indoor and outdoor plants.

# Celebrate Fall & Winter in Gaithersburg

For a complete list of performing arts, recreation classes, museum programs, gallery exhibits and other events and activities visit [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov).

**Download the Gaithersburg Arts & Events App, available from iTunes and Android stores.**

## Farmers Markets

### Olde Towne - Fulks Corner Ave.

Thursday Afternoons thru Nov. 17

### Kentlands - Main St.

Saturday Mornings Year Round

## CHARACTER COUNTS! Activities

Throughout October

Locations Vary

## Oktoberfest at the Kentlands

October 9, Noon - 5 p.m.

Kentlands

## Veterans Day Observance

November 11, 11 a.m.

City Hall Concert Pavilion

## Nadim Kahn Memorial Homeless Resource Day

November 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park ↓



## Winter Lights Festival - Open Nightly

November 25 - December 31

Hours Vary

(Closed 12/25)

Seneca Creek State Park

### Special Nights

(no cars allowed)

### S'more Lights & Trolley Rides

November 18

6 - 10 p.m.

### Wine Under the Lights

November 20

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

### Leashes 'n' Lights Dog Walk

November 22

6 - 9 p.m.



## 90th Annual Tree Lighting

December 3, 6 p.m.

City Hall Concert Pavilion

## Gaithersburg Chorus Holiday Concert

December 9, 7:30 p.m., Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

December 10, 7:30 p.m., Asbury Methodist Village

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 16

Seneca Church



## Young Artist Award Concert

March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Barn



## 17th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 11, 10 a.m.

RIO/Washingtonian Center



# Holiday Festivities

## Jingle Jubilee & Tree Lighting

Dec. 3 • 6- 7:30 p.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion  
Meet Santa, Frosty, Rudolph and more, enjoy live holiday music and visit our selfie station with lots of dress up props.

## Rufus the Rednosed Raindog

Presented by Blue Sky Puppet Theatre  
Dec. 3, 10, 17 • 3 p.m. • Arts Barn  
Tickets: \$12  
A lost and lonely dog shows up at Santa's workshop and learns how special he is. A guaranteed crowd pleaser for ages 4+.

## Black Nativity by Langston Hughes

Presented by ANKH Reparatory Theatre & The Finest! Performance Foundation, Inc.  
Dec. 2 – 18 • Arts Barn  
Tickets: \$20 / \$12  
The Christmas story in dialogue, narrative, dance, pantomime, gospel song and folk spirituals created by poet and playwright, Langston Hughes. Recommended for ages 7+.

## Holiday Concert

Gaithersburg Chorus  
Dec. 9 & 10 • 7:30 p.m.  
The Gaithersburg Chorus performs holiday favorites. 12/9 at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 12/10 at Asbury Methodist Village

## All Aboard with Santa

Dec. 10 • 3 – 5:30 p.m.  
Gaithersburg Community Museum  
Tickets: \$8 Children / \$5 Adults & Infants  
Visit Santa in the Caboose, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, see the station and train cars and maybe even some trains rolling on the tracks!

Buy tickets online at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)  
Call 301-258-6394

# Gaithersburg Holiday Giving Program

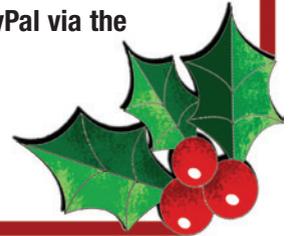
Providing Food & Gifts to Local Families

## How You Can Help

- Donate money to help us buy food, books, new clothes & toys
- Donate new toys (\$15-30 value: crafts, Legos®, dolls, games)
- Stuff holiday gifts bags with items for ages 15-18 (we supply bags)
- Donate new gloves, hats, scarves
- Donate new infant/toddler clothing up to size 5T
- Volunteer at a dinner, a distribution site or in the office

Donations can be made with PayPal via the City website.

For information and donation forms contact [communityservices@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:communityservices@gaithersburgmd.gov)  
301-258-6395 x1



# THE BEST THINGS ARE HAPPENING in Gaithersburg...

## Get the Free Arts & Events App



- Music, Dance & Theater • Vibrant Festivals
- Museums & Galleries • Dynamic Venues
- Art Classes • Hometown Celebrations



## EXPLORE IT ALL

[gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov) • 301-258-6350



# City Resources & Facilities

gaithersburgmd.gov

## RESOURCES

### GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

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

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310  
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

### PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6330  
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

**Housing & Community Development**  
301-258-6320

**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

**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@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

## 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

### BENJAMIN GAITHER CENTER

80A Bureau Dr. 20878-1430  
301-258-6380  
seniorcenter@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 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  
kentlandsmansion@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  
301-258-6359  
skatepark@gaithersburgmd.gov



GburgMD



*Many facilities may be rented for meetings & social events. See website for details.*

# ARTS ON THE GREEN

KENTLANDS MANSION & ARTS BARN

OCTOBER, 2016 – JUNE, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

## Signature Series: **UNIQUELY AMERICAN**

The *Uniquely American Series* at Arts on the Green showcases ordinary and extraordinary moments in American history and culture. Through drama, the tumultuous 1960s unfold: the rise of American R&B music and the life-altering experiences of the Vietnam War. In the heart of America, distinctive musical traditions have emerged: Jazz with its African antecedents and the roots music revival of the Singer Songwriter. Literary treasures Langston Hughes and Dr. Seuss have inspired generations and their work continues to delight us in spoken and written word, dance and theater. We hope you enjoy *Uniquely American*.

### **Cruz Contreras**

October 22 • Tickets: \$30/\$50

As frontman of the Americana band The Black Lillies, Cruz Contreras draws inspiration from the history of America's highways and byways and the myths and legends he's encountered on the open road. Part of the Singer Songwriter Series presented by O'Hair Salon + Spa.

### **Black Nativity** by Langston Hughes

December 2 – 18 • Tickets: \$20/\$12

The Christmas story in dialogue, narrative, dance, pantomime, gospel song and folk spirituals—the unique creation of the poet and playwright Langston Hughes. An experience for the whole family.

### **Elijah Balbed**

January 28 • Tickets: \$25/\$15

Straight from the NYC club scene, saxophonist and composer Elijah Jamal Balbed thrills audiences with "...a hard swinging set of songs in the classic jazz tradition." Balbed has performed with the legendary Dr. John and Godfather of Go-Go, Mr. Chuck Brown.

### **Stories of Dr. Seuss** Presented by Metropolitan Ballet Ensemble

February 20 • Tickets: \$12

Dr. Seuss stories, "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham" and "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," come to life through dance! Meet the dancers and celebrate Dr. Seuss' upcoming birthday.

### **Dogfight** Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Book by Peter Duchan.

March 10 – 26 • Tickets: \$22

A riveting musical set against the tumultuous Vietnam War, *Dogfight*, tells the story of Marine Eddie Birdlace and the idealistic waitress who teaches him the power of love and compassion.

### **Dreamgirls** Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyey. Music by Henry Krieger.

June 9 – 25 • Tickets: \$22/\$12

This groundbreaking musical, loosely based on the career of The Supremes, takes you to a revolutionary time in America where three friends form The Dreamettes and learn hard lessons about love, trust and the changing tastes of the American public.

## **MURDER AT THE MANSION DESSERT THEATER**

Set in the historic Kentlands Mansion, audience members will have a frightfully good time helping to solve a mystery while enjoying a buffet of scandalous sweet treats. Tickets: \$35/\$60

**A Room With A "Clue"**

October 28 – 30

**With a Deadly Finish**

February 10 – 12

**301-258-6394**

311 & 320 Kent Square Rd. • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 • [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov)



**ArtsOnTheGreen**



City of Gaithersburg  
31 S. Summit Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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Permit No. 55

## Tips from "Behind the Snow Plow" *What snow removal crew members want you to know.*



### PREPARE

Snow is in the forecast.  
Stock emergency kits and winterize your vehicle and home.  
Move vehicles off City roads.  
Find out if your street is within City limits using the GIS Map & App Gallery at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov)

#### **Snow Emergency**

If declared, all vehicles must be removed from snow emergency routes.

Vehicles parked in violation are subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense.

### PRETREAT

Salt brine is applied to City maintained roads two days before predicted storm.

Road salt is applied once snow begins to stick to street surface.

Locate and mark the nearest fire hydrant. Keep it clear of snow during and after storm.

### PLOWING

Plowing begins after snow accumulates 2 inches on roadway.

#### **Order of Plowing**

1. Primary Roads
2. Secondary Roads
3. Neighborhood Roads
4. Courts

It takes 7-8 hours to plow all City streets ONE time.

Crews work 24/7 until all roads are cleared.

Do not allow children to play in snow close to the road or on high piles of snow left by plow trucks.

### DRIVING

**Stay off the roads!**  
Do not drive until roads are cleared.

#### **If you must drive:**

Yield to plow and salt trucks and keep your distance.

Clear snow and frost completely off roofs, windshields, windows, headlights, and taillights.

Make sure your vehicle is equipped with snow or all weather tires and emergency supplies.

### SHOVELING

Shovel after crews have finished clearing roadways.

Do not throw snow into the street or court.

Shovel in the direction of traffic.

#### **Snow Removal Policy**

Residents/business owners are required to remove snow/ice from public sidewalks along their property within 12 hours of the last precipitation.

To avoid repeated shoveling, wait until the plow crews have cleared the roadways.

E-mail concerns or questions during a storm.

[snow@gaitersburgmd.gov](mailto:snow@gaitersburgmd.gov)