



# inGaithersburg

FALL / WINTER 2015



Gaithersburg

# Winter Lights Festival

Celebrating 20 Years  
of Enchantment

Seneca Creek State Park  
11950 Clopper Rd.

**Open Nightly Nov. 27 - 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!)

**Wine Under the Lights** Fri., Nov. 20 • 6 - 10 pm

\*\$16 Residents / \$18 Nonresidents (\$6 discount for those not sampling wine)

*Samplings from Maryland wineries plus hot beverages, snacks & live entertainment. Open air trolley rides available.*

**S'more Lights** Sun., Nov. 22 • 5:30 - 9 pm

\*\$8 Residents / \$10 Nonresidents

*Trolley rides, s'mores by the camp fire, hot beverages & live entertainment. Bring your camera for a Selfie with Santa!*

**Leashes 'n' Lights** Tues., Nov. 24 • 6 - 9 pm

\*\$8 Residents / \$10 Nonresidents

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



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

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# A PLACE TO **GATHER, PLAY & CONNECT**

## Constitution Gardens: A Nature Play Space *in* Gaithersburg



Constitution Gardens is not your average park. Located at the intersection of Brookes and Park Avenues in Olde Towne, the half-acre municipal park has been transformed into an interactive nature play space where visitors of all ages can explore unique recreation areas, learn about the City's rich history and reconnect with nature.

"Constitution Gardens is a signature park unique to Gaithersburg and is the only park of its kind operated by a municipality in

Maryland," says Project Manager Adam Newhart.

The concept for the redesign came about in 2013, when Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Michele Potter attended a workshop conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "The concept of reconnecting children to nature was intriguing, and with the City's focus on sustainability, the environment, and being a Tree City, such a park would be a wonderful addition," recalls Potter.

A few months later the idea of repurposing Constitution Gardens was discussed during a Mayor and City Council Work Session, and the vision of creating a nature play space in Gaithersburg started to become a reality.

An Ad Hoc Committee reviewed and made recommendations for improvements to the existing park, which was originally dedicated in 1988. After a bidding process, Natural Resources Design Inc., Earlyspace LLC, and J&G Landscape Design, known

collectively as the Seneca Creek Collaborative, were chosen as the park's designers and contractor.

"We wanted to transform Constitution Gardens into a welcoming, accessible and ecologically responsible urban oasis where people of all ages and backgrounds would want to go for mental restoration, community interaction, reflection and recreation," says Mary Sper, Landscape Designer with Natural Resources Design, Inc.



“Nature play spaces invite children to engage with organic materials like stone, wood, sand, water, and plants, through play,” shares Nancy Striniste, founder and principal designer of Early-space. “The textures, sounds and fragrances of a nature play space provide a sensory richness that isn’t part of the experience in manufactured playgrounds. Children in these spaces tend to be more creative and collaborative than in traditional playgrounds.”

Divided into three areas, Today and Tomorrow, the Colonial Era and the Seneca Era, Constitution Gardens is a park for all ages, a park throughout time. It celebrates the past, present and future of Gaithersburg, weaving together threads of sustainability with elements inspired by the area’s cultural, economic and natural history.

As you pass through the main arch, a bubbling millstone fountain pays homage to the mills that dotted the Great Seneca Creek tributaries centuries ago. A gazebo is surrounded by historic rose and peony gardens that honor the City’s horticultural history.

The Lost Library Story Circle, featuring historic posts from the old library entrance, an oversized storyteller’s chair and two lending library boxes that invite visitors to take or leave a book, harkens back to when the Gaithersburg Library was located on the site before it was lost to a fire in 1981.

Inspired by the original name of the Gaithersburg community in the mid-1700s, Log Town offers opportunities for climbing,

pretending and creative play, with natural climbing elements, a sandy area, log houses and flumes, a sensory garden, and wooden farm animals to remind visitors of the City’s agricultural past.

Towards the back of the park, the Great Seneca Creek Wild Space highlights the area’s complex geological history and its indigenous Algonquian and Iroquoian peoples. Centered on a giant, sculptural fallen tree for climbing, this multi-use space features locally found Seneca sandstone boulders that help with stormwater runoff. There’s also a meandering dry creek bed fed by a hand pump and rain garden overflow.

Native plants are showcased throughout the entire park, from dedicated pollinator gardens to hilltop oaks. “A desire to honor the park’s ecological setting as well as the City’s lost Forest Oak drove the decision to feature native oaks as the park’s next generation shade trees,” says Sper.

As the park honors the past, it also encourages visitors to look to the future through artfully integrated elements of sustainability and low-impact development best management practices. “Not only is the renovated park a place to gather in a relaxed, welcoming setting,” says Council Member Cathy Drzyzgula, who served as the Ad Hoc Committee Council Liaison, “it’s also the City’s first park to have a demonstration rain garden and to encourage visitors to think about how water flows and how we can improve local water quality.”

A designed landscape, however, is not sustainable if no one uses it, explains the Seneca Creek Collaborative. “What makes this design truly sustainable is that it transforms Constitution Gardens into a timelessly beautiful and functional marquis space that people of all ages will want to visit, experience and enjoy for years to come.”



# CONSTITUTION GARDENS

112 Brookes Avenue,  
Gaithersburg, Md. 20877

Open Daily Dawn to Dusk  
[gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov)  
301-258-6350



Questions help spark lively conversation.

# FOSTERING A DIALOG BETWEEN **YOUTH & POLICE OFFICERS** *in*Gaithersburg

*"I particularly bonded with one officer. A couple months later he saw me and a friend playing basketball and he remembered me and came over to talk. That felt really good."*

-James Frazier, Gaithersburg High School Student and Youth Summit Organizer

**T**hat's exactly the outcome organizers hoped for when they coordinated the first Gaithersburg Youth and Law Enforcement Summit in the spring of 2015. Nearly 100 students from three high schools and 10 officers from the Gaithersburg and Montgomery County police departments engaged in a series of Dialog Circles to help break down barriers and foster understanding. Based on its success and a desire for continued interaction, a second

Summit is being planned for October, 2015.

The barrage of national headlines involving citizen – police controversy inspired a community response in the City of Gaithersburg. "Our goal was to create a platform to engage youth and law enforcement in a dialog, to get beyond biases just because they didn't know each other. That way, if we have to face a tough situation, we will have laid the foun-

ation to make the conversation easier," says Moorosi Mokuena, Outreach Lead with Epworth United Methodist Church and an active member of the Beloved Community engagement and outreach initiative at Asbury Methodist Village.

Organizers of the first summit included student representatives, the City of Gaithersburg Police Department and Youth Services Division, the Wellness Centers

in Montgomery County Public Schools, Identity, Inc., Epworth United Methodist Church, Beloved Community, the Montgomery County Conflict Resolution Center, the International Cultural Center, and United Christian Fellowship.

"Each participant brought something unique to the table," says Maura Dinwiddie with the City's Youth Services Division. "From recruiting participants to

coming up with dialog topics to training staff and volunteers in effective facilitation, everyone was invested in creating the ideal environment for open, meaningful dialog.”

The spring Summit started with opening remarks and introductions, then youth and officers were divided into small groups to spend the next 90 minutes working through a series of questions that sparked conversation. After lunch, youth spokespersons from each group shared results from their sessions with the entire audience. At the end of the day, Gaithersburg Police Chief Mark Sroka and Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger fielded questions and gave closing remarks.

“What makes the Gaithersburg Youth and Law Enforcement Summit so unique is its Dialog Circle format,” says Dinwiddie. “Other summits we’re familiar with rely on more of a panel format, where there are remarks by law enforcement officers, followed by Q&A.” The Dialog Circles at the Gaithersburg Summit mixed law enforcement officers and youth together and used facilitation models provided by the Conflict Resolution Center to foster communication.

How do you get teens and police officers talking to each

other? The Circles started with an ice breaker, then each participant was asked to share the important values of someone they admired. As a group they agreed upon the set of values that would guide the subsequent dialog, which was spurred by insightful questions: Describe an experience where you felt judged based on your appearance. Tell us about a moment you were proud to be a police officer. What do you want law enforcement to know about youth? How do you think positive change can happen in a neighborhood? How do you feel when you see a police officer?

“When I was trying to recruit officers to participate, I think they thought it was going to be a challenging experience, and we probably went into it a little defensively,” said Gaithersburg Community Services Officer Dan Lane. “But because of the way the groups were facilitated and the conversation was structured, the officers ultimately found it to be a positive experience, with several saying they were encouraged to participate again.”

So what did the officers and the young people learn from each other? “I think it was an eye opening experience for the youth,” says Gaithersburg High School student and plan-

ning committee member Kiara Moten. “As they got to know the officers, the youth made a more special bond and learned to be more accepting.”

During the debrief reports, the youth shared some thoughts from their groups:

- You have to give respect to get respect
- Make sure you’re educated about the laws and your rights
- Finish high school
- Make an effort to get to know each other
- Invite the police to youth events and programs
- Volunteer for programs to help the police
- Recognize that the way we (youth) dress does not define who we are
- Youth should bring dessert to a police station once in a while
- We all need to be more friendly

With more interaction being a common theme, the second Summit on October 16 will include morning Dialog Circles at Gaithersburg High School followed by an afternoon cookout and field day on the grounds of Bohrer Park. Youth organizers

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

## YOUTH SERVICES

Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture

301-258-6350

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

Police

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301-258-6168

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are planning the activities, which will likely involve some fun, friendly competition.

“One thing I carry with me is a statement one of the youth participants made,” says Mokuena. “He said to the officers in his group, ‘At the beginning I didn’t like ya’ll, but now I sort of like you.’ And that gives me hope.”



Carefully conceived Dialog Circles help facilitate the exchange of information.

# MAKING A HOME

# HAPPY, HEALTHY & SAFE

## A Community Works Together to Address Hoarding Situations *in* Gaithersburg

**F**rom the street, the home may look like every other one on the block. But upon closer inspection, you might see some clutter on the porch, or trash bags piled up in the backyard. Maybe over time it becomes more noticeable. A neighbor calls the City to complain. A Code Inspection officer investigates. And upon entering the home, a potential hoarding situation is discovered.

Sometimes the situation is revealed in this manner. Sometimes the call comes to the City from a landlord. Often it's emergency responders who report unsafe living conditions. However it is brought to the City's attention, the response is the same – a call goes out to the Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force.

Formed in 2009 in response to a scenario much like the one

above, the Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force is a coalition of professionals aligned with the same mission – ensuring that the space in which a resident is living is happy, healthy, and most of all, safe.

“Life safety is our number one issue,” says Neighborhood Services Division Chief Kevin Roman. “If a property must be condemned for safety reasons, of course we will do so, but that should be our last resort. Through the Task Force we try to help the resident take corrective action so they can stay in their home.”

Facilitated by Community Services Case Coordinator Tawana Lofton, the Task Force meets monthly and includes personnel from the City's Neighborhood Services, Code Enforcement and Fire Marshal's office, a profes-

sional organizer, a mental health professional, and representatives of housing, social service and nonprofit agencies.

“The first case we were called in on, we realized that we were very naïve about the depth of the challenge,” says Maureen Herndon, Manager of the City's Community Services Division. “Those displaying hoarding behaviors and challenges need supportive intervention. We knew it was imperative to call in mental health and hoarding behavior professionals to help us respond in a respectful and impactful way.”

Once a hoarding situation is discovered, the first step is assessment. Using a Clutter Image Rating Scale and working with a licensed psychologist and professional organizer, the magnitude of the situation and the level of

intervention are established. Task Force members and the resident then complete a Service Agreement, which includes a commitment by the resident to work with the organizer on such things as participating in regularly scheduled de-clutter sessions and completing homework assignments, leading to the ultimate goal of passing inspection, and thus ensuring a safe place to live.

“It would be easy to go into a home and just clean it up, but that may be traumatic,” says Alisa Levy, a professional organizer and Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force member. “It's important for the resident to make the decisions, to be invested. We start small. Maybe this week I'll talk to the client about removing newspapers that are more than 10 days old. Maybe next week

A Clutter Image Rating Scale helps determine the severity of the situation.



Gaithersburg Task Force Member Susan Smith with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission shares insights with members of the Carroll County Hoarding Task Force.



we'll agree to remove clothes that are two sizes too large or two sizes too small. Step by step, we work towards making the space livable."

Some of those with hoarding behaviors are already involved in the social service system with assigned case workers, who are an integral part of the service plan. Part of the mission of the Task Force is to increase awareness and educate service providers.

Levy, licensed psychologist Dr. Elspeth Bell, and Susan Smith, MSW, with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission, have led workshops and support groups on behalf of

the Task Force for case workers, service providers, professional organizers, and family and friends of those with hoarding behaviors. "Because the response typically involves an entire community, it is important that we all understand what's going on," says Bell. "Ninety-two percent of those with a hoarding disorder (something now defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) will qualify for another mental health diagnosis at some point in their lives. By educating both the individual and the community, we can formulate a more effective response."

Gaithersburg's approach has

become the model for others. Its members have served as consultants for budding initiatives in the U.S. and Canada. Members of the Task Force presented best practices at the 2012 National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO) Annual Conference and co-presented at a NAPO Special Interest Group for Working with Seniors. In August of 2015 the Task Force shared insights with a newly established Hoarding Task Force in Carroll County, Md., and it has also consulted with departments in Montgomery County.

"What I think makes Gaithersburg's response to hoarding situations so unique is the col-

laborative, proactive approach we've taken," says Herndon. "The Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force is committed to working with clients using a model that is professional, compassionate and goal oriented. We handle maybe five to six very time-consuming cases a year, and all of us, including the client, are actively involved in creating a pattern of change."

Gaithersburg Hoarding Task Force information and resources can be found under "Services" on the City's website at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov) or call 301-258-6395. 



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# SAFETY INITIATIVES OFFSET JOB DANGERS

*in*Gaithersburg



Staff are trained in eye, face and hearing protection.

Icy conditions and poor visibility. Falling objects and the risk of electrocution. Whether it's operating a snow plow at the height of a winter storm or towering among power lines, Gaithersburg Public Works crews face potential on-the-job hazards every day. Through its new "Toolbox Talks" safety initiative, the City is working to combat safety risks associated with the many services Public Works employees provide.

The program, overseen by Public Works Operations Administrator Sean Stevens, was initiated last June to raise general safety awareness while addressing specific issues related to particular job duties. Stevens explains that safety is a priority. "I think it is of the utmost importance to keep safety in the forefront of employees' minds," says Stevens. "This

program promotes discussion about safety-related topics, and through these conversations many great ideas come about."

The five to 10 minute talks are delivered every other week just before morning dispatch, and they focus on a specific topic. Crew members take turns presenting safety information, which keeps everyone involved. "As staff actively participate in the delivery of the talks there is clear evidence that they are more engaged in the departmental effort to eliminate accidents," says Public Works Director Michael Johnson. To reinforce the message, the talks are held regularly and are kept brief and to the point. "The purpose is to keep the conversation of safety ongoing among staff," says Stevens.

The scope of Public Works is broad. Street and sidewalk repair,

building and vehicle maintenance, snow removal, street sweeping, mowing, and median beautification are among the services provided.

"Our crews face a multitude of hazards on a daily basis," says Stevens. "They work in extreme weather conditions, face dangers of working in and along City, County and State roadways, perform physically demanding work that exposes them to injury, and work with unforgiving tools and equipment that can cause great harm if safety precautions are not taken."

Because of the variety of potential hazards, the program addresses topics ranging from Eye and Face Protection to Chainsaw Safety. Toolbox Talks have also dealt with Hearing Protection, Bucket Truck Safety and Hard Hat Safety. Up to this point, topics have been

identified based on need, such as a related injury, a near miss or work about to be performed.

The overall response to the program has been positive. "Several employees have come to me and said they have noticed more safety awareness among the different teams," says Stevens. "We feel departmental chatter about safety has increased, and more talk about it can only be a positive thing."

The conversation about safety doesn't end with the Toolbox Talks. In fact, they supplement an overall safety program that consists of extensive annual training comprised of formalized hands-on education and certification. Moreover, Toolbox Talks were an outgrowth of the Public Works Safety Committee, which the Department relaunched this

year. Promoting a safe working environment for all staff and the general public, the Committee creates and maintains an active interest in safety and assists in the overall effort to minimize the frequency of accidents throughout the Department.

“Our mandate requires us to get a large volume of work done in a manner that is efficient, safe and economically sound,” says Johnson. “The Safety Committee focuses attention on safe work practices throughout all levels of the department. We rigorously analyze near-misses and any accidents that occur so as to learn lessons that will prevent reoccurrence. This allows us to integrate a continuous learning culture into our operations.”

Made up of personnel from all levels, the Committee is chaired by Stevens and identifies corrective measures needed to eliminate or control recognized safety hazards. Members serve on the Committee for at least one year.

To achieve the mission of the Safety Committee, two subcommittees have formed. The Education Committee develops and promotes safety education to serve as the basis for staff training. The group identifies training needs and schedules programs, speakers and talks while keeping records and documentation.

The Accident Review Committee analyzes and investigates workplace accidents as well as near misses and close calls. Findings are reported to the full Safety Committee and debriefings are conducted with the entire Department to prevent future accidents. The group also develops safety protocols, personal protective equipment upgrades, and manuals and handbooks.

“We are quite pleased with the renewed focus observed in the area of safety and look forward to continued improvement,” says Johnson.

To learn more visit [gaithersburg-md.gov](http://gaithersburg-md.gov) and click on “Departments” under the “Government” tab. 



Extensive annual training includes Bucket Truck Safety.



Opening in November, 2015, LaunchLabs offers lab space and shared amenities to emerging biotechnology companies.

## TOOLBOX PROGRAM

# HELPS ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

**inGaithersburg**

In fiscal year 2015 alone, Gaithersburg's Economic Development Toolbox Program provided just over \$130,000 worth of matching grants to 11 companies, leveraged against \$2.7 million in private investment. These grants created or supported 190 jobs in the City of Gaithersburg.

"The Toolbox gives us an advantage that helps distinguish Gaithersburg in a very competitive market for office, flex and lab space," says Gaithersburg Economic Development Director Tom Lonergan. "In fact, Vtesse, one of the companies that took advantage of the pro-

gram this past year, relocated from Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is a very strong area for biotechnology. We consider that a 'win' for Gaithersburg."

Toolbox matching grants are available to companies looking to relocate or expand in Gaithersburg. The funds can be used for tenant fit-ups, commercial signage, job training, disability compliance and utility upgrades, and demolition assistance. Customizable grants will also be considered.

In September of 2015, proposed changes to the Toolbox program were presented to the

Mayor and City Council. "We are now five years into the program, and the changes we're suggesting allow us to better target the industries and properties most in need of new investment," says Lonergan.

Proposed changes include an increase in the standard fit-up grant from \$2 to \$4 per square foot, with a maximum grant increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000. An increase in demolition grants from \$25,000 to \$35,000 is also proposed. "There are greater costs associated with renovating older spaces, and these increases provide incentives for tenants

to consider properties in Olde Towne and along the 355 corridor," says Lonergan.

Expanding the types of businesses that can apply for the grants is also important. "We are seeing a diversification in the types of applicants," says Lonergan. "That's good for Gaithersburg, because as a City, we want a broad economic base with stable, well-paying jobs."

Toolbox and Opportunity Grants have helped drive down the office vacancy rate in Gaithersburg. Six years ago, at the height of the economic downturn, the commercial vacancy rate was 19%. As of August,

2015, it had fallen to 10.5%. “We are now seeing a big demand for biotechnology space,” says Business Services Coordinator Sharon Disque. “In fact, the small lab vacancy rate in Gaithersburg is in the low single digits.”

Some of that is attributable to the closing of Montgomery County’s incubator at Shady Grove, which ceased operating in 2014. Gaithersburg Toolbox grants were awarded to several of those incubator tenants, who

are now striking it out on their own. Six of them are leasing a combined 30,000 square feet of lab space in the City. “The Toolbox grants were critical to these start-up companies, many of whom had very little capital at the beginning,” says Disque.

There will soon be a new opportunity for emerging biotechnology companies. Alexandria LaunchLabs™ is set to make its debut on Quince Orchard Road in November. A

partnership between Alexandria Venture Investments, BioHealth Innovation, Montgomery County, and the City of Gaithersburg, LaunchLabs features fully equipped laboratory and office space with access to shared amenities and supporting services. Up to five lab modules with separate office spaces can be accommodated, and there is a shared autoclave and glass wash area, as well as conference rooms and a pantry.

“When the Toolbox grants and other supportive programs are leveraged with incentives from county and state economic development programs, it makes Gaithersburg a very desirable place to do business,” says Lovern. “We’re excited with the variety of applications we’re receiving from companies whose presence will strengthen our community.”

**City of Gaithersburg** MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

growgaithersburg.com  
301-258-6310



Commercial vacancy rates have dropped from 19% to 10.5% in the past six years.

## Job Opportunities *in* Gaithersburg

Looking for a rewarding full or part time career that puts you on the front lines of local government? The City of Gaithersburg has jobs ranging from planners to maintenance workers to police officers to recreation coordinators to case managers to accountants – and much, much more.

**Explore opportunities and apply online at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)**

Gaithersburg is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ADA Compliant Employer

# COMMUNITY-BASED SPORTS PROGRAMS

# EMPHASIZE PARTICIPATION

inGaithersburg



While soccer is the City's most popular sport, offerings also include basketball, baseball, flag football, volleyball, softball, t-ball, cross country, and track and field.

**B**uilding self-esteem, gaining new skills, establishing healthy habits, and learning to work as a team are among the benefits of participating in youth sports programs; however, the associated expenses often make it prohibitive.

“We have seen a proliferation of private, professional sports organizations over the last 20 years, but these are financially out of reach for many families,”

says Senior Program Supervisor Dave Ludington with Gaithersburg's Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. “Access to affordable sports programs is one the largest challenges facing our industry today.”

Ludington, who has been with the Gaithersburg Sports program for the last 18 years, explains the City's philosophy of providing an environment of participation and achieve-

ment that is accessible by all. “Our belief is that participation is the key to a well-rounded individual. We provide families in Gaithersburg the ability to participate without the demands placed upon them by competitive sports programs, both in time and money.” In fact, a child can participate in a nine-week program with the City of Gaithersburg for as little as \$50.

To keep costs down, the City

recruits and trains volunteer coaches and will often involve the entire family in sporting events. “Come out to a track and field meet and you'll most likely be part of it,” says Ludington, who explains it can take up to 30 volunteers to conduct an event. “Beyond financial benefits, community-based programming brings families together and creates a positive, healthy and safe environment for our youth.”

In addition to affordability, the City's program asks for attendance at just one practice and one game each week, allowing plenty of time for family activities and school work. "While we believe sports play a positive role in the development of a child, we know the importance of leaving time for other pursuits that contribute to a well-rounded lifestyle," says Ludington.

However, some families experience obstacles that go beyond financial and time constraints. Transportation can prove to be a challenge as well. "Due to the structure of the sports program, we found that some kids were being left out because they were unable to travel to practice and game sites scattered across the City," says Ludington.

To ensure that all youth had a chance to take part, the City conducted an afterschool soccer program at Summit Hall Elementary School last year. "Our goal was to alleviate the barriers that were preventing City youth from joining in on the fun and reaping the benefits of our programs," says Ludington.

Practices and games took place on the field behind the school after classes ended for the day. Coaches from the Gaithersburg Sports program and a local soccer club worked with the youth twice a week during the nine-week program that followed an intramural structure.

Gaithersburg is also a proponent of offering a variety of sports and encouraging youth to try as many as possible. "Studies support the theory that children who participate in several different sports have fewer physical issues, such as repetitive motion injury, than those who play just one sport year round," says Program Supervisor Monique Comstock. Recreation staff continuously research new sports programs and explore ways to make existing ones better. "Whether it's in-

troducing new sports like roller hockey and track and field, or fine-tuning existing ones, we try to stay abreast of the latest trends, follow best practices, and provide sound community programming."

The latest addition to Gaithersburg Sports, "Ready, Set, Run," was introduced last June. Created by the National Alliance for Youth Sports, the character-building program trains kids ages 8 to 13 to participate in a 5K run. After ten weeks in the program, 28 participants were able to complete the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Run and Walk.

"Ready, Set, Run is curriculum-based and provides youth with the physical training and goal-setting mindset needed to accomplish their running objectives," says Comstock. "Issues

like improving confidence and self-esteem, respecting authority, dealing with peer pressure and learning about proper nutrition are addressed during the sessions." In addition to running, the program places an emphasis on life skill development and teaches healthy eating habits, positive goal setting and giving back to the community.

"One of the things I loved about this program was that the coaches encouraged the children to set their own goals and work at their own pace," says parent Heather Hannigan. "I felt the coaches were fun, engaging, knowledgeable, and invested in every child's progress."

"The program was a great experience for me," says Shayleigh Hannigan. "The coaches' running knowledge and encourage-

ment helped me get faster and reach my goals."

Ensuring accessibility and creating new opportunities are not the only challenges for youth sports programs. Encouraging a positive environment is also critical. "It takes more than providing a facility and throwing out a ball," says Ludington. "Your kids will not win every game; however, you as a parent have the power to control whether the situation is a positive or negative one, despite what happens on the field. We strive to create a safe and positive environment so that every child wants to come back and play again and again."

Learn more about Gaithersburg Sports under the "Leisure" tab at [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov). 



Gaithersburg Sports employs the philosophy of "participation over competition."

# CELEBRATE

# FALL & WINTER

## inGaithersburg

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. 19

*Kentlands - Main St.*

Saturday Mornings  
Year Round



### CHARACTER COUNTS!

#### ACTIVITIES

Throughout the Month of October  
Locations Vary

### SINGER SONGWRITER CONCERTS & WORKSHOPS

November 28, March 5, April 30  
7:30 p.m. Concert, 3 p.m. Workshop  
Arts Barn

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY

November 3  
Polls Open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Visit Website for Poll Locations

### SFZ SALON SERIES – CLASSICAL MUSIC, CONVERSATION & WINE

November 7, February 20, March 19  
7:30 p.m.  
Kentlands Mansion

### VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

November 11, 11 a.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOMELESS RESOURCE DAY

November 19, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Activity Center at Bohrer Park



### 20TH ANNUAL WINTER LIGHTS – OPEN NIGHTLY

November 27 – December 31 (Closed 12/25)

Hours Vary  
Seneca Creek State Park

#### ENCHANTED EVENINGS

(no cars allowed)

#### Wine Under the Lights

November 20, 6 – 10 p.m.

#### S'more Lights & Trolley Rides

November 22, 5:30 – 9 p.m.

#### Leashes 'n' Lights Dog Walk

November 24, 6 – 9 p.m.



### 89TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

December 5, 6 p.m.  
City Hall Concert Pavilion

### GAITHERSBURG CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 8, 7:30 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Village  
December 12, 7:30 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School

### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 18  
Seneca Creek Community Church

### YOUNG ARTIST AWARD CONCERT

March 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Arts Barn

### 16TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

March 12, 10 a.m.  
RIO/Washingtonian Center





# Holiday Festivities

## **A Charlie Brown Christmas**

December 4 – 20 • Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.  
Sundays at 2 p.m. • Arts Barn

\$20 (general) / \$12 (14 & under)

The classic animated television special comes to life as the Peanuts gang grapples with the meaning of Christmas. A very special guest from the North Pole will read “The Night Before Christmas” after each performance. Recommended for ages 7 & up.

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6 • 9 a.m.  
Kentlands Mansion

\$20 (general) / \$15 (12 & under)

Welcome the holiday season with a breakfast with Santa for the whole family. This delightful annual tradition fills early; buy your tickets today so you don't miss out.

## **Jingle Jubilee**

Saturday, December 5 • 6 p.m. • City Hall  
Concert Pavilion

Welcome the holidays with a traditional tree lighting ceremony, holiday music and a special visit from Santa. Free.

## **Gaithersburg Chorus Winter Concert**

Tuesday, December 8 • 7:30 p.m.  
Rosborough Theater at Asbury Methodist Village

Saturday, December 12 • 7:30 p.m.  
Gaithersburg High School

“Home for the Holidays,” featuring holiday favorites and contemporary pieces in the spirit of the season. Free.

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

- Adopt a family at Thanksgiving – you provide the meal
- Adopt a child in December – you provide the gifts
- Make a donation or buy \$10 or \$20 Kmart gift cards
- Donate new toys and books
- Volunteer – there are lots of opportunities

## NEW THIS YEAR – DONATE ONLINE

Visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) for details or contact Lisette Orellana

[lorellana@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:lorellana@gaithersburgmd.gov)  
301-258-6395 x2



# GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING in Gaithersburg...

## Download the Free **ARTS & EVENTS APP**

- Theater & Concert Listings
- Markets
- Fairs & Festivals
- Museums & Galleries



**Explore it all!**

Gaithersburg Arts & Events  
in iTunes & Google Play



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

# CITY RESOURCES & FACILITIES

gaitthersburgmd.gov

## RESOURCES

### GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

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

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310  
cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6330  
plancode@gaitthersburgmd.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@gaitthersburgmd.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@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

301-258-6325  
it@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### HUMAN RESOURCES

301-258-6327  
hr@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### GAITHERSBURG POLICE

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

### PUBLIC WORKS

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

### PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

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

## FACILITIES

### ACTIVITY CENTER AT BOHRER PARK, SUMMIT HALL FARM

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

### AQUATICS Gaithersburg Aquatic Center (indoor)

2 Teachers Way 20877-3423  
301-258-6345  
aquatics@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### Water Park (outdoor/seasonal)

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

### ARTS BARN

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

### BENJAMIN GAITHER CENTER

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

### CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER

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

### COMMUNITY MUSEUM

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

#### Robertson Park

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

### KENTLANDS MANSION

320 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5726  
301-258-6425  
kentlandsmansion@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### MINIATURE GOLF

**COURSE (Seasonal)**  
514 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6420  
minigolf@gaitthersburgmd.gov

### SKATE PARK (Seasonal)

510 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325  
301-258-6359  
skatepark@gaitthersburgmd.gov



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

# WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING FOR FUN?

## 2015 - 2016 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

### A CHANGE GON' COME

JANUARY 8 – 24  
TICKETS: \$20/\$12

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad come to life in this riveting multi-media production. Experience the danger and difficult choices that Tubman and every other slave had to make to escape to freedom.



### A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

FEBRUARY 12 – 27  
TICKETS: \$22/\$12

This Tony-nominated Best Musical pays tribute to Rodgers & Hammerstein. With over 30 Broadway hits, including *Oklahoma!*, *The Sound of Music* and *Cinderella*... it doesn't get any grander than this!



### CELTIC MAGIC: DANCE & WORLD TRAVELER TEA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30  
TICKETS: \$8 DANCE/\$20 DANCE + TEA

Let the Duffy School of Irish Dance transport you to Ireland and faraway lands. Afterward, indulge in a delicious family tea at the Kentlands Mansion.

### BROADWAY SING-ALONG

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
TICKETS: \$10

Broadway Sing-Along is back! Everyone is invited to "Get in the Act!" and sing favorite tunes from classic Broadway musicals. Play our trivia contest and win valuable prizes. Fun for all!



### BRAHMS AND BUNCH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20  
TICKETS: \$25/\$12

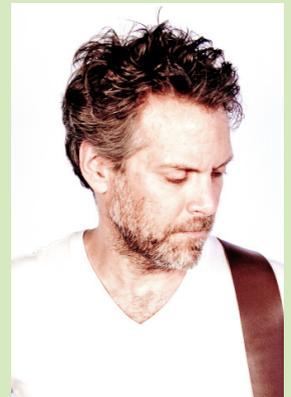
In this sfz Salon concert hear Karin Brown, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra violist, perform music of Johannes Brahms and contemporary composer Kenji Bunch. Enjoy great music, lively conversation and featured wines.



### ROD PICOTT

SATURDAY, MARCH 5  
TICKETS: \$45/\$25

A feature of this year's Singer Songwriter Series, Rod Picott will delight you. Acoustic Magazine says Picott is "Americana of the highest order." Presented by O'Hair Salon + Spa.



## CLASSES & CAMPS

### ENROLL NOW FOR ADULT & CHILDREN'S CLASSES

The Arts Barn offers a variety of visual and performing arts classes, camps and workshops for all ages, interests and levels of expertise. Spring break and summer camps for K-15 explore the world of art and musical theater. Join us today and discover your creativity. Registration is ongoing.



## ARTS ON THE GREEN

KENTLANDS MANSION & ARTS BARN

**301-258-6394**

311 & 320 Kent Square Rd.  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878  
gaithersburgmd.gov  
Search Arts on the Green



facebook.com/  
ArtsOnTheGreen

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31 S. Summit Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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# GAITHERSBURG CITY ELECTION 2015

## VOTE FOR MAYOR and THREE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

### TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 3

#### KEY DATES

- October 2 Absentee ballots available. Call or visit website for details
- October 19 Deadline to register to vote
- October 25 Early voting at City Hall – 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- October 27 Early Voting at City Hall – 3 - 8 p.m.
- October 31 Early voting at City Hall – Noon - 5 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION DAY – POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.**



### LOOK FOR A VOTER GUIDE IN MID-OCTOBER

City residents who are registered to vote in Montgomery County are automatically registered to vote in City of Gaithersburg elections. For registration information call the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE (8683) or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov).

**GAITHERSBURGMD.GOV**

**301-258-6310**