

inGaithersburg

Fall / Winter 2017

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Gaithersburg

Winter Lights Festival



Seneca Creek State Park, 11950 Clopper Rd.

Open Nightly Nov. 24 - 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.

6 - 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!)

Special Hours & Fees apply. See website for details.

S'more Lights Fri., Nov. 17

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. 19

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

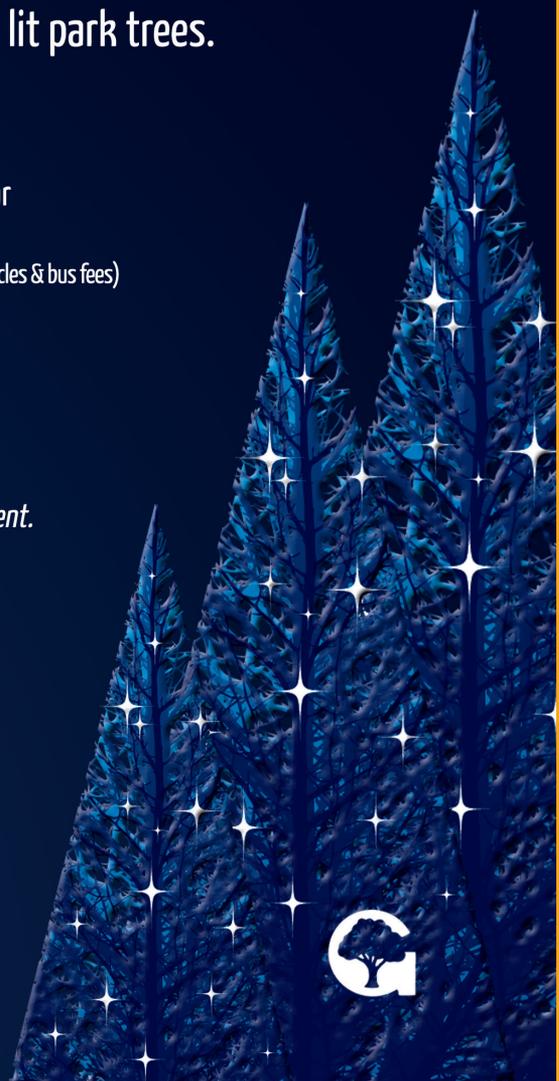
Leashes 'n' Lights Tues., Nov. 21

Take your dog on an exhilarating walk through the lights followed by hot drinks & selfies with Santa.

Space is limited. Reserve early.

gaithersburgmd.gov

301-258-6350





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Contact these officials at 301-258-6310
or cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov



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• Making Gaithersburg Your Forever Home



BY BRITTA MONACO, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gaithersburg was a very different place when they moved here 30 to 40 years ago. It was smaller. It wasn't as diverse. They came here mostly for jobs. They set down roots. They raised families. And now they're retiring. And they have no intention of leaving.

Satya Agarwal, Ed Hsu, Jean Dinwiddie and Anna Carroll are all members of the Benjamin Gaither Center. Ranging in age from their early 60s to their late 80s, these four Gaithersburg residents sat down to share their thoughts about Gaithersburg as an ideal place to spend their retirement years.

While staying close to grandchildren came up as one of the most popular responses, they highlighted many other benefits to living in Gaithersburg.

"Actually, I haven't quite stopped working yet," said Anna, a D.C. native who moved out to Gaithersburg in the mid-1970s. "I retired from NIST, but I continue to work as a

He moved to Maryland from Minnesota in 1987. "I'm single, and I think it's important to be around people, and to have a place to gather. That's why I come to the Center every day." Satya moved to Gaithersburg from New York in 1976. "I love being so close to Washington. I go down there a lot, and it's so easy since the Metro is close by. But there is a lot to do in Gaithersburg, too."

Jean also appreciates living so close to D.C. "It's great that we have access to so many cultural activities, like plays and concerts." A geriatric pharmacist by trade, Jean continues to work by offering her services to the members of the Benjamin Gaither Center. Every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon she holds a Medication Check-up, meeting one-on-one with members who ask questions and learn about possible interactions with medications.

When asked to call out things to do in Gaithersburg, responses came

I'm single, and I think it's important to be around people, and to have a place to gather. That's why I come to the Center every day.

substitute teacher and aid. There are a lot of opportunities for work in this area, and I like that I can interact with a broad range of ages. I enjoy the challenge."

Like the other three, Ed is an active senior who can frequently be found riding his bike to the Benjamin Gaither Center.

quickly. "Free Zumba at City Hall." "Shopping." "Playing Bridge." "Volunteering." "Taking a college class." "Fitness centers."

"Staying connected" was the most popular answer when asked why they joined the Benjamin Gaither Center. "The Center offers a lot of opportunities to socialize," said Anna. "I

especially like the day trips, and things like the ice cream socials, where we invite our grandchildren to join us. I wish we could do more intergenerational activities.”

The Benjamin Gaither Center regularly hosts cultural celebrations, lectures and discussions that celebrate the diversity of the Gaithersburg community. “I like being with other people,” said Satya. “I like learning about their cultures and sharing mine, like the Diwali Festival celebration the Center hosts every year.”

Ed stays connected outside of the Center, too. “After the Center closes, and sometimes on weekends, we keep the party going by socializing and playing cards at a nearby McDonald’s. Actually, I’d like to see the City do more to provide opportunities for meet-ups for people our age, maybe keeping the Center open evenings and weekends.”

Being able to stay active was another attraction of the Center.



Personal Trainers are available in the Benjamin Gaither Center's state of the art fitness facility.

ities. Lectures and workshops at the Benjamin Gaither Center that cover such topics as “Prepping for Rightsizing” and “Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body” offer opportunities for older adults, and the adult

2017. Volunteers provide social visits, transportation, run errands, help with household chores, and even help participants with their computers and mobile devices. While the services are currently offered free of charge, a member-

ride, I get a phone call from the Village’s Executive Director, Jean Mocarski, asking me if I was happy with the service. What an amazing program!”

The Village of Kentlands & Lakelands also offers social and

Gaithersburg, with its focus on community, diversity and engagement, is an ideal place for older adults to thrive.

“I joined the Center for the annual fee of \$45, and now I have access to great exercise equipment and can take some of the fitness classes for just \$1,” said Jean. “I think the City of Gaithersburg does a great job with its recreation programs. I can use the gym at the Activity Center or at the Benjamin Gaither Center, take a High-intensity Interval Training class, or do Aqua Aerobics at the Gaithersburg Aquatic Center. There’s such a nice assortment.”

As the trailing Baby Boomers swell the ranks of older adults, Aging in Place is becoming a commonplace phrase for the collective services and resources that help people remain in their homes and their commu-

children who are caring for them, to foster and sustain a high quality of life.

Neighbors helping neighbors is the foundation of the national Village Movement, where communities establish volunteer clearinghouses to help older adults. A pilot program was established in the Kentlands in 2015 with the support of the Kentlands Community Foundation. It’s targeted at adults aged 55+ and anyone with a disability regardless of age. An Opportunity Grant from the City of Gaithersburg helped the Village of Kentlands establish its website (www.villagekentlandslakelands.org). The program proved so popular that it was expanded to the neighboring Lakelands community in

ship fee is envisioned to sustain the program in the future.

Fran Randolph, Chair of the Village Planning Committee, says that the program is beginning to make an impact in the community. “In the short time we have been in operation, we have approximately 50 members. Our most requested service is for transportation.” According to member Melvin Rushfield, this has been a lifesaving service for him. “Because of back problems, I am not able to drive myself to medical appointments in Rockville. The Village has been very helpful in getting me to these appointments. The volunteer drivers are wonderful; they are courteous, compassionate, and always on-time. After each

educational events. Recent topics included “7 Steps to Better Brain Health” and “Dealing with the Medical Maze,” while events ranged from a free concert by the Harmony Express Barbershop Quartet to a Wine Tasting presented by Pinky & Pepe’s Grape Escape.

Asbury Methodist Village, which opened in Gaithersburg in 1926, is home to about 1,400 residents who live on a 134-acre campus, served by nearly 800 associates. It provides a complete continuum of services, from fully independent living to assisted living, memory care, and a 5-star rated

Continued on page 15

Meeting the Challenge of Engaging Youth in Gaithersburg

BY ABREEYA DARDA, GAITHERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017

Ensuring connections with children that live here might seem like a lofty goal for Gaithersburg, one of the largest cities in Maryland. In my opinion, Gaithersburg has met that challenge by providing me and my friends a chance to engage in the community through great clubs, activities and volunteer work. These opportunities help create new friendships, establish (or continue) important traditions, form memories, and teach life lessons that will stick with us for the rest of our lives. Whether at camps, clubs, festivities, or through volunteer work, youth of any age can be involved in the many opportunities the City provides that encourage us to learn, play and grow.

The City of Gaithersburg has been my home-sweet-home since I can remember. I moved here from Washington, D.C. for what my family called a “new beginning.” This move enabled me to find life-changing programs like the Olde Towne Youth Center (OTYC), which provides young people a safe place to grow and connect with the community through the Gaithersburg Youth Club and Student Union. Some of my greatest childhood memories were made there.

Teens like me and James Fra-

zier had the privilege to engage hands-on in the community by becoming active members of the OTYC as both middle and high school students. “The City gave me a safe place to learn, have fun and forge new friendships,” says James.

For older students, the City provides great programs like the Student Union, where we can experience the value and the importance of being involved in our community. I was an active Student Union member all four years of high school and it helped me establish some of my most important core values, such as getting actively involved with my community in any way I can.

The Student Union program helped ensure a healthy and safe environment for me and my friends as we navigated the waters of high school. Through an environmental grant program we planted trees around Gaithersburg and I also helped clean up streams and parks. I had the pleasure of participating in a wonderful program called SHARE at Asbury Methodist Village, which is made possible by a partnership with the City of Gaithersburg, JCA Interages, and the Beloved Community

Initiative. SHARE brings young people and older adults together so we can learn from one another, shed light upon each other’s lives, and compare the differences of growing up in different lifetimes (see related article on page 4).

Because of these opportunities and experiences I was encouraged to apply for a W. Edward Bohrer Memorial CHARACTER COUNTS! Scholarship. I’m very thankful that the scholarship committee awarded me \$1,000 to help with college expenses. I know that it was my involvement in the City’s clubs, activities, and volunteer opportunities that helped me win the scholarship.

Another way the City of Gaithersburg involves youth is through employment. Kimmie Wilson, a 17-year-old Gaithersburg native, and her whole family have been so involved in the community that it has become a family tradition for them to work for the City’s camps and community programs. “Great employers, in an amazing environment with the opportunity to work and play with the fun-filled youth,” is how Kimmie Wilson describes her work as a Youth Counselor. This summer she was an Inclusion Counselor, working with children with special needs.



Abreeya Darda leads the Pledge of Allegiance at a Mayor and City Council Meeting.

“One thing I love most about Gaithersburg is that the schools are so involved with the community,” said Kaela Wright, a recent graduate from Gaithersburg High school. “I was able to march in the Labor Day Parade all four years of high school. It has always been an unforgettable experience for me,” says Kaela, who enjoyed connecting with the community as a member of the Trojan Marching Band during this end-of-summer tradition. Ever since I can remember, my family and friends never missed an opportunity to attend the parade and cheer on our friends and neighbors. When I think of the happiest part of my youth, I know I will recall being a part of the Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade.

Life for a teenager of any age in Gaithersburg is never dull because the City arranges events that connect to the vibe of the season. “Whether it’s cold, hot, Christmas, or summer, there’s always something happening that makes living in Gaithersburg fun!” says 17 year old City resident Janae Turner. During the summer the City’s Water Park, Skate Park and Miniature Golf Course are where you can find young people taking advantage of outdoor fun. Throughout the rest of the year, we enjoy other community events.



High School Student Union members help the environment by planting trees at Bohrer Park.

Oktoberfest is one that I look forward to each year. Whether I'm volunteering or just attending, I always look back on these events with such a deep appreciation for my City.

Another favorite event for me and my family are the fireworks. This past year they moved to Bohrer Park, now combined with the fun-filled Summerfest. My family and many others like the new location. "The change to move the fireworks to Bohrer Park I feel combines us more as a City; it seems like we're more connected than past years," says Jasmine White, a resident and Gaithersburg High School student who has been attending the fireworks for many years with family and friends. As a community we can enjoy the Montgomery County Fair, packing our stomachs with funnel cakes and corn dogs, going on thrilling rides, oohing and ahing with family and friends at Winter Lights, or snapping a pic with Santa Claus at Jingle Jubilee. There's always something for a young person to celebrate in Gaithersburg.

One main thing that you are exposed to as a young person living in Gaithersburg is CHARACTER COUNTS! Whether it's in a classroom or in the community, CHARACTER COUNTS! is our city. Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship: the Six Pillars of Character are the core values that help instill a positive climate for residents and a "culture of kindness," making our community a safe environment in which to live. "Gaithersburg showcasing these pillars makes it a good place for someone like me to live," says Lisa Dickson, a former Gaithersburg High School student.

Not only is Gaithersburg a city of character, it is a culturally diverse community as well. "Diversity is one of the most highly respected things about the City," says Deja Lewis, who is a youth employee with the City. In light of everything that's been happening in our world, as young people we appreciate the diverse City that we are lucky to live in. With all the pressures in the lives of young people today, it's good to look at our City and consider ourselves as a support system for one another. The support and love in our community we hope will one day reflect upon the entire world. Gaithersburg being a CHARACTER COUNTS! City reflects positively on the youth. This program helps us lead by example. We strive to follow the Six Pillars of Character to uplift and teach one another. Growing up in Gaithersburg and being an active part of our community, we have allowed the values set here to imprint on our lives and how we choose to continue to grow as adults.

As I take the next step in my journey by attending Frostburg State University, I will take with me the lessons and values I learned here in Gaithersburg and hold the memories near and dear. I have mixed emotions about leaving and going away to college. Like most young people spreading their wings and learning to fly, I am eager to see the rest of the world, but I know I will always carry Gaithersburg and the people who love and support me in my heart. I hope that the lessons I learned both in and outside of the school walls will carry me toward a successful future, a future for which I am better prepared because I lived in Gaithersburg. 

The Arts Barn: 15 Years Igniting Imagination and Inspiring Creativity in Gaithersburg



BY AMY MCGUIRE, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

On May 23, 2002, actress Dale Stein took to the stage of a small, intimate theater in Gaithersburg with her one-woman comedy show, *A Fresh of Breath Air*. It was that day the Arts Barn came to life as the City's home for the performing and visual arts. It's been 15 years since those theater doors opened, welcoming that first audience into what would become a thriving cultural arts center. As the Arts Barn has evolved and flourished, so have two artists who've kept themselves rooted within this sanctuary for the creative and imaginative.

When glass artist Tony Glander first learned about the Arts Barn and its artist-in-residence program he was just closing his stained glass retail store, *Glass Fantasies*, which he operated in Olde Towne for 11 years. He immediately applied and was accepted. And, since 2002, he continues to create, teach and inspire from his corner studio in the Arts Barn.

"Gaithersburg has a great energy when it comes to art," says Tony. "Performance, visual, sculpture, photography - it's all here. I am rooted here because I get motivated by all that is going on around me. I get to see many artists working in all kinds of medium."

Resident artists are selected by a jury panel to rent studio space. The participating artists serve as part of the Arts Barn education faculty and are required to commit to community outreach activities tailored to the artist's individual discipline.

The program not only provides artists a nurturing and inspiring space to create, visitors are able to get a close-up, behind-the-scenes look at the creative process. "People are fascinated by the artistic process, whether it's a particular technique—such as glass or metal working—or just the ability to see and interpret the world around us," says Arts Administrator Shellie Williams. "The City wanted visitors to the Arts Barn to have the opportunity to watch professional artists at work, not only to showcase the artists and their craft but to inspire people to find and express their own creativity."

Walking into Tony's studio, it's not hard to imagine that the barn once housed horses in stalls where art studios, classrooms and a gallery now stand. Originally built circa 1900 on the former Tschifely estate, the rustic architectural style of the building perfectly juxtaposes the delicate glass artwork sprinkled about the studio. With

every turn, in every nook and cranny, a new piece is waiting to be discovered. But the true discovery is being able to visit with the artist himself. Listening to Tony talk excitedly about his favorite pieces and what he's currently experimenting with brings a whole new narrative to his artwork.

"In the fall of 2015, my brother, sister and I traveled to Peru," says Tony as he points to a stained glass portrait of a man, whose grey beard seems to glow against the green glass it's painted on. "From a previous visit I recalled the local people being very photogenic, and I went with the intention of photographing them in order to paint their portrait in stained glass. I met this gentleman, who was quite the character, in a small town and he was very happy to have his picture taken."

Tony also shares what, or rather who, inspires his work. "My kids inspire my life, which in turn inspires my art. Now that I think about it, maybe that's why I tend to be experimental with glass right now. They're always trying new and different things."

"New" and "different" come up

frequently as we chat while he weaves together bent glass for a fused plate. "My artwork has shifted," says Tony. "There is a move to fused glass being a very recognized art form, and it has allowed me to really explore this new form through experimenting. A few years ago I did a show of bowls made from recycled tempered glass. I loved them; they were big and heavy with a lot of life to them. Today I am developing a line of glass vases so thin and delicate; they weigh about as much as a handkerchief!"

Jaree Donnelly has also been a member of the Arts Barn family from the very beginning. She was hired to staff the front desk and has worked in many different capacities over the years. "When the Arts Barn opened, we had recently moved into the Kentlands and were very excited to have an art facility right in our backyard," says Jaree. "We wanted to become involved in supporting the arts in Gaithersburg."

In 2013, she and her husband Jack moved their studio into the Arts Barn and joined forces under Arts Entwine. "Arts Entwine is our joint art adventure," says Jaree. "We decided on the name because we thought it really expressed

what we were doing, working creatively together in a variety of media.” Jack and Jaree primarily express themselves through metal sculpture, jewelry, fine art photography, painting, and drawing.

With NPR playing in the background, Jack hammers away at his latest creation, a peace sign, following the events in Charlottesville that happened just two days before we met. Asking him if current events typically serve as inspiration, he thoughtfully answers no, but the process of creating this “peace” proves cathartic on this day. “The world inspires us,” says Jack. “But we are especially drawn to nature and organic themes.”

This welcoming husband and wife duo chat excitedly about

their work. “We love talking with anyone who comes in our studio and sharing what we are doing. We never consider it a disruption,” says Jaree. A glass case is filled with unique jewelry, paintings and other works of fine art, and Jaree happily takes out each piece while telling its story. “Sharing the creative spirit is what we are all about,” she says.

All three artists thrive on sharing their craft, conducting workshops, teaching classes, and holding lectures for students of all ages. “We especially enjoy the community outreach aspects that are part of the program,” says Jaree. Motivated by each other’s creativity, Tony and Jack are collaborating on a one-of-a-kind glass and metal fusion workshop where they’ll combine their skills to teach students

how to create a glass and copper garden spinner.

“I feel the Arts Barn has really expanded its original mission of providing art to the community,” says Tony. “Today there are visiting artists who come in and teach, summer camps that have great learning opportunities, a Young Artist Award program as well as a Singer Songwriter series that is amazing.”

With 15 years behind it, the Arts Barn is moving forward by growing its programming. This season there are more than 50 visual and performing arts classes and workshops for all ages, putting the community right on stage or behind the easel or at the kiln. A robust concert series features intimate workshops and post-performance discussions

with the artists. In 2010, the Arts Barn partnered with Kentlands Mansion to become *Arts on the Green*, expanding the arts experience to both facilities with family dance programs, interactive theater, engaging concerts, and hands-on workshops.

Feeling inspired yet? Whether it’s fusing glass with Tony or learning photography with Jaree, there are a number of Arts Barn classes and workshops for artists of all ages and skill levels. Explore gaithersburgmd.gov and start creating!

Learn more about Tony at fitzpatrickglasstudios.com and Jaree and Jack at artsentwine.com. Or, better yet, take a trip to the Arts Barn to meet with the artists yourself. 



Jack Donnelly works on his latest piece in his studio in the Arts Barn.



Tony Glander experiments with bent glass, weaving pieces together for a fused plate in his Fitzpatrick Glass Studio in the Arts Barn.



Jaree and Jack Donnelly outside their Arts Entwine studio at the Arts Barn.

I Am Gaithersburg

BY AMY MCGUIRE, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

Who is Gaithersburg? Gaithersburg is diverse. Gaithersburg is inclusive. Gaithersburg is creative. Gaithersburg is hard working. Gaithersburg is learning. Gaithersburg is teaching. Gaithersburg is growing. Gaithersburg is giving. Gaithersburg is opportunity. Gaithersburg is community. Gaithersburg is home. Gaithersburg is you.

We are an excitingly diverse population of more than 69,000 people of all ages and ethnicities who each has a story to tell. Here are just a few stories of those who have woven themselves into the fabric of our community.



Edward & Nancy An: We are happy residents of this vibrant, thriving and inclusive community. Gaithersburg has everything we looked for in a small-town environment, that is, well established small government, good schools, libraries, recreational parks with lakes and ponds, active senior living community, biker-friendly local roads, and walking trails, and established residential communities. Originally emigrated from Korea, Gaithersburg is where we rooted in for more than 28 years, opening up a retail business with growing potential and retiring in 2000. Volunteering at the Montgomery County Language Bank has been a privilege. Service as Election Judge and Senior Center Advisory Committee member remain a valuable experience. Gaithersburg is where our kids grew up, both educated at the University of Maryland, and moved out with jobs at a prominent international financial institution and a high-tech company. We are proud member of this active community with an amiable and healthy atmosphere.

Oscar Alvarenga: I have so many great memories as a child living in Gaithersburg. When my wife and I had to choose where our boys were going to attend school, we had to move back. Gaithersburg is home to families from all around the world and of every income and education level. I love that we as a community embrace the differences and diversity. I started to volunteer as a field trip dad, was then elected to serve the families of Summit Hall Elementary School as their PTA president, and have grown to become a community activist. I have been able to build relationships with parents, school staff, churches, and local officials.

Being able to advocate for families has been an honor for me. I believe every child with the right support and tools can achieve greatness. Gaithersburg is filled with wonderful people who are willing to help our children become great citizens, and that's why I love being part of the Gaithersburg community.

Marleen Van den Neste: I was born and raised in the Netherlands and moved to Gaithersburg about 25 years ago with two very young children. Two more were born here. The single best reason I was happy to be a Gaithersburg resident at the time was the diversity. My children experienced that in so many ways: our neighborhood, schools, the sports and recreation programs they attended, all the concerts at City Hall (we didn't miss many!), and the parades. When they left home, I have to admit there was a gap that caused disconnect with the City. But then a few years ago, I started to photograph for the City and I experienced once again that all embracing diversity and the truly amazing activities that Gaithersburg has to offer. I became part of a community once again; I'd almost have to say a family! I now have such a strong feeling of "belonging" that the plan to move and downscale to another city has been placed on a back burner. Thank you Gaithersburg!

Naresh Gupta: As a new immigrant from India 33 years back, I bought an affordable house in Gaithersburg that provided me with the comforts of a small town with advantages of a big city. I found the city a perfect habitat with great employment opportunities, education facilities, recreation facilities, medical

facilities, security with well managed city services, and above all, lots of greenery around. I worked and retired from my job, children got excellent education and well paid jobs and settled in different cities around the country, and in the process I changed four houses, all in Gaithersburg. As a retired couple, we have the Senior Center facilities that we love. WE have served on the Senior Center Advisory Committee for a number of years. We are proud to be living in one of America's top rated cities for living.

Julia Calvina Walker: My name is Julia Calvina Walker. I'm 20 years old with amazing twin boys and I'm from Cameroon.

Joe Allen: I am Joe Allen, a community builder, committed partner, father, person who walks, takes the train, rides a bicycle and owns two cars, experimenter/innovator, marathon runner, high sensation seeker, LBGTQ+ supporter, feminist, solitary Wiccan, social introvert, vegetarian, transportation and urban planning geek, cardiology and non-profit team leader, student of neuroscience, psychology, business and philosophy. I see my world as a larger narrative infused with meaning based on connection. I see the mutual responsibilities we have to each other as community citizens. I seek to reach for a common understanding while learning from our differences. I want to learn and grow with each day while



I worked at the City of Gaithersburg as a senior counselor and I'm now working with preschool kids. My husband and I enjoy taking the kids to the park and participating in events around the City. Ever since I moved to Gaithersburg in 2010 I've been very comfortable, and I don't see myself living somewhere else other than Gaithersburg. Everything about this city is great; from my neighbors, my friends, and the City. Honestly it is the most diverse city I've ever been to. I go from saying "hello" to my neighbors to saying "bonjour" and "hola." Gaithersburg is now my home because it is peaceful, the neighborhood is respectful and my family is safe.

Mycroft Masada Holmes: I live in Gaithersburg because I moved here from my hometown of Boston to my partner's hometown in 2014, so that we could create our first home after more than four years long-distance; we co-parent a dogter who is a City Citizen Pet winner, Paws in the Park contest winner, and loves our City's parks. I love being an Aquatic Center and Water Park member and Mini Golfer, Farmers Markets shopper, Community Museum visitor, Special Events attendee, county election judge and City voter. I give to my city as a Jewscopolitan and faith leader who works with TransFaith and TransEpiscopal, a transgender and queer person and LBGTQ+ advocate who is a MoCo Pride Center Visionary, an ally advocate for fat justice including Spirituality At Every Size, a writer and artist, a thrifter and gifter, a gardener, and a science fiction and fantasy fan.

holding to a key set of values that never allows another to be treated as a means to an end. Gaithersburg offers so many opportunities in its diversity, passion and embracing of shared lives that it is what infuses my sense of the place I call home. I am Gaithersburg.

Janet Neumann: My husband and I moved to Maryland in 1987. Within six months we bought our house in Gaithersburg so that he would be close to his new job at NIST. I retired young so I could travel with my husband and garden. In 2003, I started volunteering with Gaithersburg HELP, a non-profit that assists families with food and other basic needs. Over the past 15 years my volunteering time has increased significantly and I am proud to be a part of this organization's legacy of neighbor helping neighbor in Gaithersburg. I cannot foresee ever leaving the city of Gaithersburg. I love its diversity, strong sense of community, and the commitment of our elected officials to keep the city vibrant and fiscally responsible. 🌍

+ How are you a part of the story that is Gaithersburg? Share a photo and a few words on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #IAmGaithersburg.



Recycling: A Journey to a Sustainable Future in Gaithersburg



Workers sort materials at a Waste Management recycling facility.

Photo courtesy of Waste Management

BY AMY MCGUIRE, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

D Reduce, reuse and recycle. Sounds easy, right? But the journey from recycling bin to new product is not without its roadblocks. Improper recycling can slow down the process or even damage materials meant for new products. To make a more sustainable impact in Gaithersburg, recycle the right way.

The journey starts with us as the consumer. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency,

69 percent of plastic bottles don't get recycled and 45 percent of aluminum cans are thrown away. That's a lot of wasted resources.

Recycling doesn't have to be overwhelming. Since 2007, single-streaming has made it much easier to recycle in Gaithersburg. You don't have to separate plastics from paper. Just clean and combine them with recyclable glass, steel and aluminum in one single container for pick up.

"One of the top reasons for not recycling is inconvenience," says Ollie Mumpower, Engineering Services Division Chief with the City's Department of Public Works. "With our curbside single-stream program, we make the task as easy as possible."

Single-streaming has increased recycling rates in communities all across the country, with about 40 percent more material being recycled when communities recycle

this way. In a 2015 Citizen Survey, 90 percent of Gaithersburg residents in a random sampling reported that they recycle, with 13,000 households offering up 3,550 tons of commingled materials last year. "More people participate because it is convenient, and they recycle more as well," says Susan Robinson, Policy Director with Waste Management, the City's recycling contractor and the first major solid waste

company to focus on fully commingled recycling.

But there's more to it than throwing it all in one bin or cart and calling it a day. You have to play by the rules for the greatest impact. Did you know that plastic bags and unwashed items can shut down an entire recycling plant and wet materials can ruin a whole load of recyclable paper? To ensure your recycling efforts are making the biggest difference, recycle the right materials the right way.

Waste Management found that 65 percent of consumers were placing non-recyclable materials in their bins, so the company created an outreach campaign that promotes three basic rules: recycle all bottles, cans and paper; keep items clean and dry; and, no plastic bags.

"In Gaithersburg we collect aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, aluminum foil, glass food and beverage jars and bottles, and mixed paper," says Public Works Program Coordinator Diane Archer. "We also collect certain plastic materials, such as bottles that contained food, drink and household products, food-grade tubs and lids, pails and buckets, flower pots, beverage cups, and toys."

Items not accepted include Styrofoam™ and polystyrene products, pizza boxes and plastic containers that held hazardous automotive or garden products. And plastic bags? They're a definite no. Instead, take them to collection bins available at most grocery stores. If you're unsure if an item can be recycled, it's best to put it in your trash.

After you place your bin of clean materials at the curb, your recyclables start the next leg of their journey. The materials are taken to the Waste Management facility in Elkridge, MD, where they are weighed, recorded, unloaded and inspected. Recyclables are then presorted by hand before advanced automation equipment sorts, separates and processes them. Remov-

ing contaminants is a vital part of production as end users maintain strict quality control.

Once processed, recyclables are formed into large bales to be shipped by truck, train or ship to manufacturers. "Some material stays closer to home, such as glass," says Robinson. "About 30 percent of glass bottles end up as new bottles. The other 70 percent are used in construction applications, including road bed or as residual."

Many everyday items get a second chance at life, being transformed into clothing, carpeting, a park bench, or another bottle or can. "About 30 percent of all paper collected for recycling is shipped to China where it is used as a feedstock for new boxes and other packaging products," says Robinson. "Plastic water and soda bottles are made into new bottles, clothing (think t-shirts and fleece jackets) or carpeting. And those used milk jugs? They are made into toys, plastic lumber and piping."

And what's your payout for making recycling a priority? "Recycling benefits our community and the environment in many ways," says Mumpower. "Reducing waste sent to landfills, saving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preserving natural resources are just some of the advantages."

In 2016, Waste Management recycled 10.68 million tons of materials, conserving 117.5 million mature trees, 37.5 million cubic yards of landfill airspace, 19.6 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, and 62.5 billion gallons of water, and avoiding 31.4 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. According to Waste Management, that represents two trillion sheets of printing and copy paper, waste disposal needs for 48.1 million people, annual electricity needs of 1.8 million homes, 6.61 million passenger cars removed from the

Continued on page 15



SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS inGaithersburg

COMMUNITY SHREDDING AND ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

1

November 18, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Drop off your documents & select electronic devices for free, secure on-site shredding & disposal.

FOOD COMPOSTING PILOT

2

The City of Gaithersburg Environmental Affairs Committee has partnered with the Kentlands Community Foundation Go Green Group and The Compost Crew to provide a simple, clean and convenient food composting program.

LEAVE IT ON THE LAWN

3

Get into grasscycling! Leaving chopped grass clippings on the lawn allows them to serve as fertilizer, and it is the most environmentally beneficial method of dealing with them.

- Set blade height on mower to 3"
- Leave grass clippings where they fall on the lawn, but away from storm drains
- Cut grass regularly so that clippings decompose quickly
- Sharpen mowing blades at the beginning of the season
- Mow the lawn when dry
- Water the lawn only when necessary with about one inch of water
- Water in the morning to minimize evaporation

For details call 301-258-6370 or e-mail environment@gaitthersburgmd.gov

What Does that Green and White Sign Mean?

BY RAY ROAKES, PLANNER I, PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

You've probably seen the signs around town, those white ones with green lettering. You may have wondered who puts them up and what their purpose is.

These signs advertise a public meeting related to a new development or changes to an established property. They are required by laws adopted by the State of Maryland and the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council and they also serve to inform neighbors and the general public of the opportunity to comment on the proposed application. However, there is a lot more to the process than just a public meeting.

Site Development Review is the general term for the several approval procedures the City uses to evaluate a proposed development. During this review the City ensures the proposed plan complies with the City's Codes and regulations. These procedures are intended to help safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare. They also help to promote a high quality development that addresses the needs of the City.

Typically the Site Development Review includes three steps: Concept Site Plan, Preliminary Site Plan and Final Site Plan. At each step the plans are further refined and approved by either the Mayor and City Council or an appointed body, such as the



Planning Commission, Historic District Commission or Board of Appeals.

It is important to note that the Site Development Review process and who ultimately approves the plan is determined by the zone of the property and which step of the review process the application is in (see graphic). In every case though, site plans are reviewed by both the Planning Staff and the approving body for conformance with the adopted Master Plan and City Code, more specifically the City's Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 24). During the site plan review process the public is encouraged

to ask questions and voice their opinions. Public participation is welcome in the form of written correspondence, emails to Staff, or testimony during the public meeting, the date and time of which are noted on those handy green and white signs.

The public notice signs posted around the City provide critical information on future development. When you see one of these signs, take a moment to read it. Learn what's going on next door, down the block or around the corner. If you have questions, feel free to contact City Planning Staff during regular business

hours at 301-258-6330 or email planning@gaithersburgmd.gov. You can also learn more about select developments by visiting the City Project page at gaithersburgmd.gov. There you'll find an interactive map with development information.



Making Gaithersburg Your Forever Home *(Continued from page 5)*

skilled nursing environment for short and long-term stays. Many of its residents are not native to Gaithersburg. Some moved to Asbury to be close to family. Others were attracted to the vibrant atmosphere of the D.C. metropolitan area. And others chose Asbury because of its reputation for offering a wide array of educational, cultural and recreational activities.

Asbury Resident Barbara Ellis, who moved from Arlington, Virginia, shared, “There is something for everyone here and if you can’t find something to do

Director of Asbury Methodist Village. “If we can help people look forward five years from now and assess where they need to live to be better off than today, we have served one of our major purposes. And Gaithersburg, with its focus on community, diversity and engagement, is an ideal place for older adults to thrive.”

Asbury also founded and hosts the Gaithersburg Beloved Community Initiative, working in partnership with the City of Gaithersburg, MCPS, the Wesley Theological Seminary, Identity



Left to right: Anna Carroll, Satya Agarwal, Ed Hsu, Jean Dinwiddie at the Benjamin Gaither Center

you are not looking. It is the easiest place to live, with so many interesting people.”

Asbury is uniquely positioned to serve the older adult population in Gaithersburg, beyond those who choose to make the campus their home. It serves as a resource for the entire community, offering classes, lectures, entertainment, a great low-cost venue for catered events, all surrounded by a campus that is a certified arboretum and wildlife habitat.

“The mission of Asbury is to do all the good we can, and this is why we are focused on being a resource for anyone in Gaithersburg and Montgomery County who may have questions about older adult housing options,” said Rob Liebreich, Executive

Inc., and others to engage the entire community in supporting area youth (see related article on page 6). Mentoring and tutoring, conversational English, environmental awareness, advocacy and volunteerism are among the initiative’s many programs that bring generations together, reminding us of our shared interests and the common goals of equality and justice.

Being engaged, keeping fit, challenging the body, mind and soul, staying close to family and friends, volunteering in the community. These are just some of the reasons why residents of all ages are planning to make Gaithersburg their forever home.



Recycling: A Journey to a Sustainable Future *(Continued from page 13)*

road each year, and fresh water needs for 27.8 million people for one month.

“The greatest benefit of recycling – by far – is reducing the use of virgin resources when we don’t have to mine raw materials to make new products,” says Robinson. “For example, by recycling an aluminum can we avoid the need to mine raw minerals, such as bauxite, and avoid the energy required to turn this material into aluminum, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

From the store to your recycling bin to the store again, aluminum cans are the perfect model of a recycling success story. Almost 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced in the US is still in use today. Aluminum is 100 percent recyclable and sustainable; it’s one of the only materials that more than pays for its own recycling, according to The Aluminum Association. “An aluminum can can be recycled into a new can within 60 days, and it can be recycled again and again,” says Robinson. By

recycling just one aluminum can, you’ll save enough energy to run a TV for two hours or a laptop computer for five.

Not only is participation key, think about the products you purchase. Are they made of recyclable materials and can they be recycled again? “The important piece of recycling that shouldn’t be ignored is the closed-loop viewpoint of product design,” says Sustainability Coordinator Dyan Backe. “We shouldn’t be viewing recycling as sending our items ‘there’... there is no ‘there’. For recycling to work well, every step in the process must be done well and there needs to be an end user for the recycled content and material.”

For Gaithersburg residents, detailed information on recycling, including how to order a recycling cart or bin, bulk pickup, oil and antifreeze recycling, loose leaf collection, and holiday tree recycling, is available under the Services tab at gaithersburgmd.gov. 



A bale of aluminum cans is ready to ship.

Photo courtesy of Waste Management

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.

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

Farmers Markets

Olde Towne - Fulks Corner Ave.

Thursday Afternoons thru Nov. 16

Kentlands - Main St.

Saturday Mornings Year Round

CHARACTER COUNTS! Activities

Throughout the Month of October

Locations Vary

City of Gaithersburg Elections

(see back cover for details)

November 7

Polls Open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Veterans Day Observance

November 11, 11 a.m.

City Hall Concert Pavilion



Winter Lights Special Nights (no cars allowed)

S'more Lights & Trolley Rides

November 17, 6 - 10 p.m.

Wine Under the Lights

November 19, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Leashes 'n' Lights Dog Walk

November 21, 6 - 8 p.m.

91st Annual Tree Lighting

December 2, 6 p.m.

City Hall Concert Pavilion

Gaithersburg Chorus Winter Concert

December 5, 7:30 p.m., Asbury Methodist Village

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 15

Seneca Creek Community Church

Young Artist Award Concert

March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Barn

18th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 10, 10 a.m.

RIO/Washingtonian Center

Green Month Environmental Celebration

Throughout the Month of April

Locations Vary



Nadim Kahn Memorial Homeless Resource Day

November 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Winter Lights Festival - Open Nightly

November 24 - December 31, Hours Vary

(Closed 12/25)

(see inside cover for details)

Seneca Creek State Park

City Resources & Facilities

gaithersburgmd.gov

RESOURCES

GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

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

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310
cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

Housing & Community Development
301-258-6320

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6330
plancode@gaitersburgmd.gov

Animal Control
301-258-6343

Commercial & Residential Inspections Automated Scheduling
301-258-6338

Commercial, Residential & Fire Systems Plan Review
301-258-6330

Environmental Services
301-258-6330

Neighborhood Services
301-258-6340

Passports
301-258-6330

Permits & Licenses
301-258-6330

Planning & Zoning
301-258-6330

Rental Housing & Landlord Tenant Affairs
301-258-6340

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

Public Information
301-258-6310

Community Services
1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6395

Homeless Services – Wells/Robertson House
1 Wells Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6390

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6320
finance@gaitersburgmd.gov

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

301-258-6325
it@gaitersburgmd.gov

HUMAN RESOURCES

301-258-6327
hr@gaitersburgmd.gov

GAITHERSBURG POLICE

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

PUBLIC WORKS

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

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

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

FACILITIES

ACTIVITY CENTER AT BOHRER PARK, SUMMIT HALL FARM

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

AQUATICS Gaithersburg Aquatic Center (indoor)

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

Water Park (outdoor/seasonal)
512 S. Frederick Ave. 20877-2325
301-258-6445
waterpark@gaitersburgmd.gov

ARTS BARN

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

BENJAMIN GAITHER CENTER

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

CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER

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

COMMUNITY MUSEUM

9 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2071
301-258-6160
museum@gaitersburgmd.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@gaitersburgmd.gov

Robertson Park
801 Rabbitt Rd. 20878-1657
301-258-6166
yc-robertson@gaitersburgmd.gov

KENTLANDS MANSION
320 Kent Square Rd. 20878-5726
301-258-6425
kentlandsmansion@gaitersburgmd.gov

MINIATURE GOLF COURSE (seasonal)

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

SKATE PARK (seasonal)

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



@GburgMD



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



Holiday Festivities

Winter Lights Festival (\$)

Nov. 24 – Dec. 31
Seneca Creek State Park
See ad on inside cover for details & special nights

A Christmas Carol (\$)

Presented by Kensington Arts Theatre
Weekends Nov. 25 – Dec. 10
Arts Barn

Jingle Jubilee & Tree Lighting

Entertainment & Santa
Dec. 2 • 6 – 7:30 p.m.
City Hall Concert Pavilion

Gaithersburg Chorus Holiday Concert

Dec. 5 • 7:30 p.m.
Asbury Methodist Village

All Aboard with Santa (\$)

Dec. 9 • 4 – 6:30 p.m.
Community Museum

Cool Yule (\$)

Holiday Jazz with Mark G. Meadows
Dec. 15 • 8 p.m.
Kentlands Mansion

Caroling in the Kentlands

with the Gaithersburg Chorus
Dec. 16 • 6 p.m.
Main Street Pavilion
Free Concert • 7:30 p.m.
Arts Barn

A Singer Songwriter Holiday (\$)

Dec. 17 • 7 p.m.
Arts Barn

More information and tickets at
gaithersburgmd.gov



Gaithersburg Holiday Giving Program

Providing Food & Gifts to Local Families for Thanksgiving and the December Holidays

How You Can Help

- Donate money to help us buy new toys & food
- Donate new toys (\$10-\$30 value. Crafts, Legos®, dolls, games)
- Stuff gift bags with items for ages 14-18 (we supply the bags)
- Donate new socks, gloves, hat and scarf sets for children & adults
- Hold a Toy Drive
- Volunteer

Donations can be made with PayPal via the City website. gaithersburgmd.gov
For information and donation forms contact communityservices@gaithersburgmd.gov
240-805-1828



GAITHERSBURG SPORTS!



YOUTH AND TEEN SPORTS

- Soccer • Basketball • Baseball • T-Ball
- Softball • Track & Field • Cross Country
- Volleyball • Flag Football



Explore the offerings at gaithersburgmd.gov



ARTS ON THE GREEN

KENTLANDS MANSION & ARTS BARN

NOVEMBER - MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



ON STAGE

Stick Fly

In partnership with ANKH Repertory Theatre & The Finest! Performance Foundation

February 9 – 25

Arts Barn • Tickets: \$20/\$12 Youth (14 & Under)

Issues of race and privilege and longstanding family tensions bubble under the surface, reaching a boiling point when secrets are revealed.

Murder at the Mansion Dessert Theatre: Eat, Drink & Be Murdered

March 16 – 18

Kentlands Mansion • Tickets: \$35/\$60 Couple

What is that secret ingredient in the popular Wild Irish Rose whiskey, and who in this whiskey-making family would kill to get it?

JUST FOR FAMILIES

"Shel" We Dance Presented by Metropolitan Ballet Ensemble
November 4

Arts Barn • Tickets: \$12

A ballet inspired by the works of Shel Silverstein. For ages 4 & up.

The Great Zucchini & Magical Tea

Sunday, January 28

Arts Barn & Kentlands Mansion

Tickets: \$8 Show Only • \$20 Show & Tea

Magic, Magic Everywhere!

A family visual art workshop at the Arts Barn follows the tea.

Additional registration required.



WORKSHOPS

Springtime Tea & Art Party: Cherry Blossoms

Saturday, March 24

Arts Barn • City Residents: \$60/Nonresidents: \$65 (\$5 off when 2 or more register together). Celebrate springtime in DC, creating artwork inspired by the cherry blossoms.

ARTS BARN GALLERY

Mid-Atlantic Invitational Silverpoint Exhibition

December 1 – January 7

Artist Reception, Lecture & Demonstration: December 10

Myth, Archetype & Folklore Exhibition

January 12 – February 19

Children's Scavenger Hunt. Reception: January 27



MUSIC & CONCERTS

Charlie Faye & the Fayettes

Saturday, November 18

Arts Barn • Workshop + Concert: \$45/Concert Only: \$25

Charlie Faye & the Fayettes craft smart soul-pop that merges the swinging, swaying sound and style of '60s girl groups with a modern vibe.

Floyds Row

Saturday, January 27

Arts Barn • Tickets: \$25/\$15 Youth (18 & under)

British-American ensemble Floyds Row melds the traditional with the classical, pulling from early, folk, classical, roots, Americana, traditional, and newgrass.



301-258-6394 • Tickets: www.ArtsOnTheGreen.ticketfly.com

311 & 320 Kent Square Rd. • gaithersburgmd.gov



ArtsOnTheGreen



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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Suburban MD
Permit No. 55

GAITHERSBURG CITY ELECTION 2017

FOR MAYOR AND TWO CITY COUNCIL SEATS

**YOUR CHOICE • YOUR VOICE
IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 23

EARLY VOTING AT CITY HALL

OCTOBER 28 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • OCTOBER 29 Noon - 5 p.m.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7

POLLS OPEN 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



gaithersburgmd.gov • 301-258-6310