

inGaithersburg

Spring / Summer 2017

News from the
ENVIRONMENTAL FRONT

Pg.12



AN EVENT FOR
Every Season

Pg.6

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MAY 20, 2017
10 am - 6 pm

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INSIDE *in*Gaithersburg

4 De-escalation Training Enhances
Community Policing

6 An Event for Every Season: Celebrating
Community *in*Gaithersburg

8 Bicycling *in*Gaithersburg is Getting Easier

10 Small in Stature, Large in Historical Importance
*City Restores Summit Hall Farm Smokehouse at
Bohrer Park*

12 News from the Environmental Front

14 Making Change Happen *in*Gaithersburg

16 Celebrate Spring and Summer *in*Gaithersburg

17 City Resources & Facilities

The editorial content of *inGaithersburg* is produced
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De-escalation Training Enhances Community Policing *in* Gaithersburg

by Britta Monaco, Director, Department of Community & Public Relations

In November, 2016 and January, 2017, this author participated in classroom and scenario based de-escalation training with the Gaithersburg Police Department. The goal was to understand the training that City of Gaithersburg Police Officers go through to not only protect the residents of this community but to protect themselves as well.

Classroom Training

With the help of a \$7,000 grant from the Local Government Insurance Trust, the City of Gaithersburg recently conducted a training entitled “Law Enforcement Active Diffusion Strategies.” Held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy in late January, 2017, the all-day classroom trainings were attended by more than 90 public safety officers from Gaithersburg, Rockville, Chevy Chase Village, Montgomery County, Maryland National-Capital Park Police, and the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. Gaithersburg Code Enforcement officers, who frequently find themselves in confrontational situations, also participated.

“De-escalation is the buzzword right now, but really what we’re doing is basic communication training,” said Lt. (Ret.) Kevin Dillon with KFD Train-

ing and Consultation, who was brought in to conduct the sessions. “We teach our participants to develop effective communication skills, to design de-escalation strategies to defuse hostile situations, and to develop strategic responses when defusing is not an appropriate option.”

Much of Lt. Dillon’s training focused on physiology – how the human body is wired to respond in moments of high stress. Understanding how we are conditioned to react in fight or flight scenarios is the first step to controlling emotions and entering into rational decision making.

“The bottom line is that we are an emotional species with the ability to think,” said Dillon. “How we as public safety officers overcome that, how we use anger management and self-control and call upon behaviors learned through repetitive training, that’s what can make us successful in incredibly stressful situations.”

Dillon also shared how the physiology of the way information is imprinted on the human brain can impact decision making. “The brain isn’t capturing everything. It’s seeing things in bits and pieces, and it’s filling in the blanks from past history to create the full picture.” He painted a scenario in which an officer enters into a room and is soon

confronted by a drawn weapon and a threat to personal safety.

“In fight or flight mode, the brain isn’t capable of consciously weighing the pros and cons of various points of cover,” said Dillon. “The officer would have needed to imprint those options on the brain prior to the stress level elevating.” Situational awareness was a recurring theme throughout the training.

After understanding the biological dynamics that could impact decision making, the participants then learned verbal and non-verbal communication strategies to establish dialog that can help prevent situations from escalating. These included active listening, demonstrating empathy, seeking common ground, and exploring resolutions together, all while ensuring that the officer is cognizant of his or her surroundings and what tools are available should the situation intensify. “Everything needs to be integrated, and you always need to have a Plan B in your brain,” said Dillon.

Scenario Based Training

“The purpose of situational awareness training is to fill the brain with experiences and scenarios that the officer can draw upon when faced with a similar situation in real life,” said Gaithersburg Police Sergeant

John Leache, who organized a scenario based training demonstration in November.

The session took place in a vacant building and started with a briefing and pat-down, with the officers handing over knives and firearms. No live ammunition would be used in this training. Rather, the Gaithersburg Police Department uses simunitions, firearms that have the same design and weight as the ones they actually carry so the feel in the hand and how it is retrieved from the holster are identical.

The first half of the training involved hood drills. In each of the 30 to 45-second scenarios, an officer was put into an unknown situation, having only seconds after the hood was removed to assess the situation and determine whether to take cover, to take action, or whether there was no threat at all. “If a trainee doesn’t have the right response the first time, we work through the same scenario until the officer succeeds,” said Operations Bureau Commander Lieutenant Robert Wilkes. “This is important because when the moment presents itself, we want the officer to search for a ‘win’ in their memory banks, not a failure.”

Included in the training were scenarios with hostage situations, fellow officers on the



Scenario-based training participants use simunition weapons and have just seconds to assess a situation.

scene, and perpetrators with aggressive but not necessarily threatening behavior. Mayor Jud Ashman was invited to participate. “It was incredibly difficult. Even though I knew I wasn’t in real danger, the stress level when that hood was pulled off caused an immediate adrenaline rush,” he said. “I greatly respect not only the tremendous skill level but the amount of self-restraint our police officers possess.”

Taser training took up the second half of the morning. “It’s not just about when and how to use a Taser,” said Lieutenant

Chris Vance. “We now combine first aid training and CPR into all of our Taser training. It’s important for our officers to look for signs of physical distress and immediately transition into lifesaving mode until EMS arrives.” The training included where on the body to best to deploy a Taser to avoid injury, proper positioning for restraint and medical transport, radio protocols for accurate documentation, and even how to ensure the safety of onlookers.

De-escalation and scenario based exercises are critical, but make up only a small fraction of

the comprehensive training that Gaithersburg Police Officers receive. Each year they must take a state-mandated minimum of 18 hours of in-service training on such topics as ethics, dealing with intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals, rape and sexual assault investigations, victims’ rights, identity theft, active shooter response, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms safety and qualifications. Gaithersburg exceeds these requirements, with its supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attending a broader range of programs. In 2016

these included Criminal Drug Interdiction for Patrol Officers, Threats to the Faith Community and Gang Awareness.

“The entire department participates in these trainings, from the Chief on down,” said Gaithersburg Police Chief Mark Sroka. “Gaithersburg goes above and beyond what is minimally required of us by the state. It is important that our officers have the highest level of training, which enhances the effectiveness of our community policing philosophy.”



Lt. Kevin Dillon discusses communication strategies during classroom training.



An Event for Every Season: *Celebrating Community in Gaithersburg*

by Amy McGuire, Communication Specialist

Festivals and parades are more than kettle corn and clowns. When a community comes together in celebration, neighbors connect, morale is lifted, and there's a sense of unity in the air as people express pride in their shared hometown. Attending a City event gives one a sense of Gaithersburg's identity. Through them you'll discover a community that honors tradition, diversity, history, arts, and culture.

Gaithersburg held its first City event, a Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony on the grounds of City Hall, in 1926. The late 1930s ushered in a new City institution, the Labor Day Parade. It was in 1982 that the City celebrated its first Olde Towne Day, a community street festival that later came to be known as Celebrate! Gaithersburg.

Special events are a tradition in Gaithersburg, bringing thousands of residents and visitors together to celebrate the written word at the Book Festival, create holiday memories at Winter Lights and experience a taste of Germany at Oktoberfest.

“Over the years, City events have expanded and changed significantly. Gaithersburg used to be much less populous and far more agrarian,” says Recreation Program Coordinator Ilana Guttin. “Many of our regional events have been around for more than 20 years but they are becoming larger, more modern, and catering to a more diverse audience.”

“Attending a City event gives one a sense of Gaithersburg’s identity.”

Winter Lights had a modest start, beginning as a small display of illuminated hand-made wooden cutouts scattered on the grounds of Bohrer Park. In 1997, the City’s signature holiday event made its move to the enchanted woodland setting of Seneca Creek State Park, where it now boasts more than 450 dazzling displays with new concepts and pieces being added each year.

The first Oktoberfest at the Kentlands was held in 1991, featuring authentic Bavarian food and music. The fall event has more than doubled in size over the last four years, now encompassing Market Square and Main Street, with multiple stages of live music, artists, street performers, amusements, and beer and wine tasting.

Since its launch in 2010, the Gaithersburg Book Festival has become one of the nation’s top literary events and attracts best-selling and award-winning authors from across the country. This spring celebration of reading and writing continues to grow and flourish.

Reflecting a growing population and a desire to keep things fresh, seasonal signature events continue to evolve. The most recent example is SummerFest, an illuminating new event that combines and expands upon the best aspects of our traditional July Fireworks and June Celebrate! Gaithersburg street festival, all rolled into one large summer lawn party on the expansive grounds of Bohrer Park.

“In 2016, the City moved the fireworks to Bohrer Park to highlight the natural setting and amenities of the venue,” says Arts & Events Division Chief Denise Kayser. “Because the location change was widely praised throughout the community, our team saw the possibilities of creating a larger

event with many more exciting features.” It’s planned to take place annually on the Saturday PRECEDING July 4. “We moved the event to a weekend so that more people could enjoy it,” says Arts & Events Program Supervisor Lauren Neal. “We especially hope people will stay for the after-party. We’ve planned a lot of illuminating diversions so that people can linger after the fireworks. This will also help to reduce traffic challenges with everyone leaving at once.”

Ever want to play a game of human foosball? Or, win a pie-eating contest? Live music, food truck delectables, strolling entertainers, inflatable amusements, kid’s activities, beer tasting, a car show, and family-fun lawn games – you’ll find it all at this ultimate summer party.

Once the sun sets, Bohrer Park will light up with a spectacular fireworks display followed by a glowing after-party complete with music, late night snacks and glow-in-the-dark entertainment. This new summer event offers a fun and exciting backdrop to connect with fellow neighbors and spend quality time with your family. And, that’s what Gaithersburg events are all about.



But, as you shake hands with your favorite best-selling author or watch your child’s face light up with wonder as fireworks burst in the air, take a moment to think about what goes into making these special moments possible.

Behind all the parades, festivals and celebrations is the Arts & Events team, a division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture and the masterminds who make these events a reality. For each event, this dedicated and creative group must recruit vendors, contract with entertainers, establish safety plans, order equipment, determine the layout, and

implement a variety of ideas and concepts.

Everyone’s onboard when planning a City event. The Public Works and Police Departments help to identify traffic and safety concerns and also help set up and clean up afterwards. The Public Information Office assists with branding, design, marketing and getting the word out to the public. The IT Department helps to make maps using the City’s GIS system, and assists with technology needs such as onsite cashier services. It can take up to 50 staff members plus volunteers (the Book Festival recruits up to 300 each year!) to pull it all off on the day of the event.

Preparing for one of the City’s signature events starts six to eight months in advance, and with so many events taking place throughout the year, it’s a never ending cycle. There is no one single blueprint; each event has its own set of plans and presents its own challenges.

“Reflecting a growing population and a desire to keep things fresh, seasonal signature events continue to evolve.”

“Winter Lights is an exceptionally unique production,” says Senior Program Supervisor Carolyn Crosby. “Just as one season ends on December 31, planning for the next begins. We start assessing the need for new displays, bulbs and fixtures a year in advance. By October, Public Works is installing displays throughout the park, working tirelessly to ensure everything is sturdy, safe and sparkly by the end of November.”

“There are so many things – big and small – that have to go according to plan in order for an event to be successful,” says Guttin. “When all of the pieces come together and we get to see the fruits of our labor, there is nothing more satisfying.”

Mark your calendars. The Gaithersburg Book Festival takes place on the grounds of City Hall on May 20, SummerFest makes its debut on July 1, Oktoberfest at the Kentlands is on October 8, and Winter Lights opens November 24. See page 16 for more happenings this spring and summer in Gaithersburg. And visit gaithersburgmd.gov for everything happening all year long. 

Bicycling *in* Gaithersburg is Getting Easier

by Britta Monaco, Director, Department of Community & Public Relations



Commuters are encouraged to get out of their cars on Bike to Work Day each May.

It might soon become easier to bicycle in Gaithersburg. At the suggestion of the Transportation Committee during its annual presentation before the Mayor and City Council in the fall of 2016, legislation is being considered to allow bicycles and select assistive mobility devices to be ridden on most sidewalks in the City. That's about 115 miles of off-road cycling opportunity. Under the existing law, bicycles are not allowed on any sidewalks, and only allowed on shared paths of larger widths. Consideration of the legislation is expected in April, 2017.

"The City of Gaithersburg has a great network of neighborhood trails but often lacks low stress connections between them, especially ones that end on state or county roads," says Joe Allen, Transportation Committee Chair. "Families with children, older residents and the majority of people who want to ride desire a way to avoid mixing with traffic. This change in the law would allow the City to fill gaps in our bicycling network while longer term approaches are sought."

The Gaithersburg Transportation Committee has a charge to review and make recommendations on policy matters that

relate to local and regional traffic and transportation. Many of the monthly discussions focus on safety while cycling and walking. People explore walking or biking for convenience, fitness and environmental responsibility, and some out of necessity. There are parts of the City in which as many as 20 percent of the residents don't own cars.

"The Committee can't stress enough that transportation planning must be more than a map showing roads, paths and trails," says member Carol Berger. "The City's plans need to include coordination of non-motorized transportation improvements with other community plans, encouragement of non-motorized forms of transport for transportation and recreation, safety education programs, traffic management and calming, and enforcement of traffic laws for all forms of transport. Balanced transportation choices are important for our City as a whole and for our individual residents."

While dedicated bike lanes and an extensive shared path system would be the ultimate achievement, it is often difficult and quite costly to retrofit existing roads to accommodate them. "Many exist-

ing roadways don't have sufficient right-of-way space to accommodate in-road bike facilities without impacting other right-of-way uses," says Ollie Mumpower, Engineering Division Chief with the Department of Public Works. "For this reason it is important that these projects go through a public process that allows the City to develop cost effective transportation solutions responsive to the needs of our residents."

As part of the 2010 Transportation Master Plan update, several things have been done to better accommodate bicycles. More than 17 miles of sharrow markings have been placed on roadways, with accompanying signage reminding motorists to expect people on bicycles to use the full lanes for safety. State law requires three feet to legally pass a bicycle. With most lanes in the City being 12 feet or less, a car cannot legally pass a bicycle using the same lane. Sharrow markings are highly visible chevrons and bike graphics applied directly to the road in the middle of the travel lane to encourage people on bicycles to ride in the middle, thus discouraging unsafe passing behavior by drivers.

Projects to connect existing off-road trails and other bike facilities

have been planned for future budget years. In addition, Gaithersburg streets were included in a "bike stress" analysis conducted by Montgomery County, the results of which are helping to guide future bicycle-related Capital Improvement Plan projects. Bicycle and pedestrian usage is also a key element of all site plan reviews for new development or redevelopment plans.

One such project will come to fruition soon. Called a Protected Bike Lane, or "Cycle Track," people on bikes will enjoy a dedicated lane physically separated from motor traffic and distinct from the sidewalk. It's slated to be built in the spring of 2018 along with the reconstruction of Quince Orchard Boulevard near Brown Station Elementary School. The track will include parts of Firstfield Road near Clopper Road. It will continue along Quince Orchard Boulevard to Quince Orchard Road, and will also include a piece of Rabbitt Road from Quince Orchard Boulevard to the Robertson Park Youth Center. The streets are being reconfigured to accommodate a ten-foot wide, two-way track, with a two-foot buffer between the track and the main roadway.

“The Cycle Track will provide a convenient and crucial connection between residents, schools, parks, and major employment centers at NIST and our biotech centers,” says Allen. “It will provide a safer neighborhood street, which was the top request I heard from residents along Quince Orchard Boulevard. The design also provides shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and more predictability for drivers, all while providing a trail-like experience for those on bicycle.”

Another project that has long been a dream of cyclists and pedestrians is the completion of a shared path on the various roads surrounding the NIST property. Currently there is a sidewalk/pathway system that allows cyclists to get almost all the way around the federal installation, but there is a missing section along Quince Orchard Road between Clopper Road and Dosh Drive. The project has been in the planning stages for quite some time, and is complicated by the layers of government

agency involvement. “If all goes well, the State of Maryland hopes to put this project out to bid later this year,” says Mumpower.

Back to that proposed new law about bicycles on sidewalks. If enacted, the law will allow for bicycles, electric bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, wheelchairs, and special hand powered, electric or battery powered vehicles used by persons with disabilities, except as prohibited by signage. Sidewalks where bicycle use would be prohibited would likely include those that are generally too narrow to accommodate both bicycles and pedestrians or have a high number of users, thus making yielding more challenging.

The Gaithersburg Police Department offers these safety guidelines for people riding bicycles on sidewalks:

- Ride in the direction of traffic (cross the street to the opposite sidewalk if necessary).
- Keep your speed below 10 mph or as close to walking pace as possible.
- Yield to any pedestrians on the sidewalk.
- When passing, call out and use extreme caution.
- Keep your distance from doorways or side paths.
- Always look for cars pulling out of driveways and side streets and proceed as you would in any crosswalk, waiting for the driver to yield before proceeding.

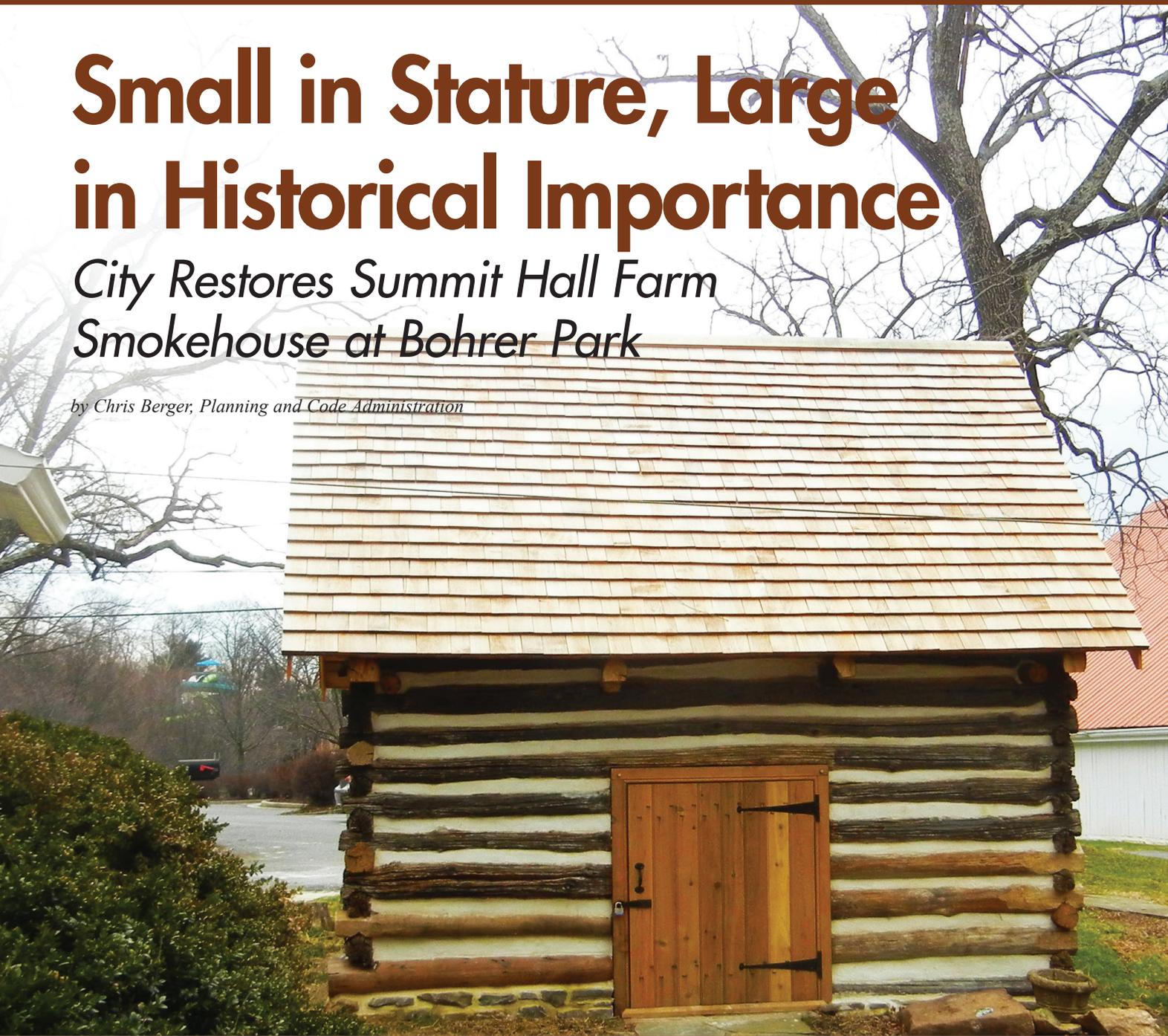
So now there’s no excuse not to dust off that bike, pump up those tires, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Gaithersburg as you cruise around town using your own pedal power. 



Small in Stature, Large in Historical Importance

City Restores Summit Hall Farm Smokehouse at Bohrer Park

by Chris Berger, Planning and Code Administration



The Summit Hall Farm smokehouse at Bohrer Park may have survived raids during the Civil War led by Confederate generals J.E.B. Stuart and Jubal Early, but by 2012 the oldest structure in Gaithersburg was on the verge of losing a longstanding battle with water intrusion. Some of the smokehouse's distinctive logs had disintegrated near the ground,

leaving gaping holes, while moss coated the rotting wood shingles on the roof.

Sometime from 1807 to 1812, Jacob Swamley established what is now known as Summit Hall Farm on a promontory overlooking the road that stretched from Frederick to Washington, D.C. Swamley had a simple two-story log house built that evolved into

the grand main house that exists today. The smokehouse was built at the same time.

Like many farms south of the Mason-Dixon Line, Summit Hall suffered from the ravages of the Civil War. The owner at the time, John T. DeSellum, owned slaves yet was a fervent Union supporter, a stance that made him a target for his Con-

federate-sympathizing neighbors. In June 1863, Stuart's cavalrymen briefly jailed DeSellum and swiped three of his horses from Summit Hall before riding to the Battle of Gettysburg. In July 1864, Early headquartered at Summit Hall the night before his failed attack on Washington, D.C., and, according to DeSellum, Confederates ransacked the

property and pilfered two more horses, hay, crops, and bacon.

The bacon likely was stored in the smokehouse located steps away from the residence. The windowless, 14-by-14-foot, one-room structure featured rounded logs stacked on top of a fieldstone foundation. Gaps between the logs were filled by chinking materials such as a stones, brick and wood. The chinking was sealed by daubing, which is a clay and lime mixture. The gable roof was covered by wood shingles, and a squat door provided the only entry. The floor inside was dirt.

Also known as meat houses, smokehouses were utilized to preserve meat in the days before refrigeration. Hogs were slaughtered in the colder months, and the meat was salted and packed in barrels for about six weeks to pull out the moisture. The smokehouse was pressed into service for the final stage of the curing process. "They would hang the meat from the ceiling joists and have a fire in the center," says Hank Handler, vice president of Oak Grove Restoration Company. "They would light a fire and put a lot of green wood on there to generate a lot of smoke."

Smokehouses fell out of favor by the mid-20th century, and many in the region have been abandoned or demolished. Summit Hall's smokehouse, meanwhile, was used as a garden shed. In 1982, the City acquired Summit Hall Farm for use as a recreational facility, with the provision that the previous owners, Frances and Gladdin Kellerman, be able to stay in the residence for as long as they wished. The City, meanwhile, assumed maintenance of the farm buildings and had the smokehouse restored in 1990.

Water can be a building's worst enemy, and poor grading and moisture vegetation had combined to funnel water toward the fragile historic resource. In 2012, City employees

sprung to action in recognition of the diminutive smokehouse's significance. "We live in a very transient community—many of the people who live here did not grow up here," says Michele Potter, Director of Gaithersburg's Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. "The smokehouse and other historic structures act as a visual reminder of Gaithersburg's heritage."

In November 2012, Mimar Architects, Inc., estimated restoration would cost \$87,000. The Mayor and City Council were informed of the smokehouse's condition, and City's leaders toured the structure in August 2013. They grasped the dire situation and funding was appropriated for restoration.

CEE Design, Inc., formerly known as Mimar, completed plans for the restoration in October 2014, and the project went out to bid in December 2015. "We had three people come in for the pre-bid meeting, but we only had one bidder: Oak Grove Restoration," says Public Works Project Manager Sunil Prithviraj. Fortunately for the City, the Laytonsville-based company is an award-winning historic preservation contractor and has experience on high-profile historic buildings such as the Virginia State Capitol, President Lincoln's Cottage and President James Madison's Montpelier.

In June 2016 the restoration began with Oak Grove stripping off the nonhistoric materials. "It needed a new roof," Handler says. "It had modern rafters—so all that went. The chinking that they used was just too hard, so that went." The majority of the original logs were retained, but the disintegrated ones were replaced with logs salvaged from a historical farm outbuilding in Orange, Virginia.

To improve drainage, the Oak Grove carpenters ripped out the modern concrete floor and graded the dirt to channel water away from the foundation. Then they



hoisted the log frame onto a new stone foundation. The gaps between the logs were filled with a lime and concrete sand mixture.

The ceiling joists and rafter poles also came from old wood salvaged from an outbuilding in Virginia, and the new wood for the gable siding, bargeboards, and roof lath was purchased from a sawmill in Prince George's County. The wood shingles are made of Western red cedar. Though the tree grows in the Pacific Northwest and was not available in Maryland at the time of the smokehouse's construction, Handler says the durable wood was used to ensure the roof lasts at least 25 years. The removal of the trees that once towered over the site should also boost the roof's lifespan.

Finally, one of Oak Grove's master carpenters built the board and batten cypress door using traditional techniques. "A door like that would have what they call clench nailing, where they drive the nail through the door through the back, and as it's coming through the batten they start to bend it over," Handler says. It's a very strong way to fasten two pieces of wood together."

Oak Grove completed the overhaul in September 2017, at a cost of \$79,200. Prithviraj was pleased with the company's work. "I think we made the right choice," he says. "It turned out even better than we anticipated originally." Visitors to Bohrer Park are encouraged to walk over to the restored smokehouse and judge for themselves. 🌿

Visit the Smokehouse during Montgomery County Heritage Days June 24 & 25

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm is open daily sunrise to sunset. You'll find interpretive signage, fields, a playground, a horseshoe pit, volleyball net, two ponds, and picnic areas. Bohrer Park is also home to the Activity Center and the Gaithersburg Water Park, Skate Park and Miniature Golf Course.

News from the Environmental Front

by Dyan Backe, Sustainability Planner

What motivates you to make your community a better place? For Doug Wolf, the answer is simple. “My motivation stems from knowing that I’m making the world a better place through my environmental activities.” Wolf, Chair of the City’s Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC), serves the City in a diplomatic fashion, finding ideas in a variety of places to bring back to the Committee for further discussion. The EAC promotes education and outreach activities, explores new initiatives and advises the Mayor and City Council on environmental issues.

“The environmental field is rather complex,” says Wolf. “The Committee considers carefully which suggestions and recommendations are most pertinent to Gaithersburg before bringing them to the attention of the staff liaison and ultimately the Mayor and City Council.” Committee meetings are open to the public with agendas advertised on the City’s website, and residents are encouraged to inquire about vacant positions as they become available.

The EAC supports longstanding environmental traditions such as Green Month, which promotes activities that celebrate and improve the local environment. As part of the celebration that takes place each April, the City works with the Alice Ferguson Foundation to host a Green Up Day. Hundreds of volunteers make a difference by spending a morning cleaning

up and beautifying local streams, schools, parks, forest conservation and community areas.

During Green Month, the EAC presents Environmental Awards to recognize individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups for their commitment to the environment. The month-long celebration also features an Environmental Film Night, Make a Difference Day, and an Arbor Day celebration at a local City school. The City is fortunate that volunteers continue to generously give of their time throughout the year to help beautify Gaithersburg by participating in clean-up events with borrowed supplies from the City.

The EAC is also involved in GreenFest, a collaboration with Montgomery County and a coalition of partners and local community green groups, taking place this year at Bohrer Park on May 6. The free, family-friendly event connects residents to local and national environmental leaders and green businesses and products and features activities, workshops, bike repair demos, music, food trucks, and an electric vehicle car show.

Energy Use and Conservation

Energy conservation is a focus for Gaithersburg. The City received a state grant to complete energy audits at four key facilities and to perform recommended energy efficiency measures. The Mayor and

City Council also approved resolutions to reduce energy consumption by 15% and petroleum consumption by 20% over a five year period. The City recently submitted an application to request follow-up funding for FY18 to aid in reducing petroleum consumption.

It’s not just the City focusing on energy conservation. Solar photovoltaic panels are popping up on homes across the region. “During the last 12-month period for which we have data, 160 solar PV permits were issued in the City. That’s a 36% increase over the previous 12-month period,” says Permit Coordinator Greg Dennison. The City and Montgomery County jointly hosted an information session at Casey Community Center for a county-wide Solar Co-op in the fall of 2016. This is the largest co-op (89 people have signed contracts to have solar panels installed on their homes) that MDSun and Community Power Network has had to date.

Urban Forestry

The City’s urban forestry program was recently awarded a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service. “We’re extremely pleased with this award as it enables us to recoup some of the costs associated with battling the emerald ash borer, an invasive pest that attacks ash trees,” says Environmental Planner Andrew Benjamin. The total cost

of treatment within the City was approximately \$4,000; the grant covered half of the cost.

The City has had an ongoing response to the emerald ash borer. An inventory of ash trees in the public right-of-way (street trees) was performed in 2010 and the 386 ash trees have been continuously treated since 2014. In August of 2012, the City conducted educational outreach events with homeowner associations, community groups and management companies to explain the dangers of the invasive pest and to encourage action on their properties. Emerald ash borer management was also a topic taken up by the EAC.

The City continues to raise awareness with an informational page about emerald ash borer on the website. Action on private property is encouraged through a grant process that can provide funds to communities that do not have the means to manage ash trees on their own.

Stormwater Management

In addition to the City’s many environmental programs that address community engagement, energy use and conservation, and urban forestry, Gaithersburg also works to protect local waterways and improve water quality in our neighboring streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

activities for all ages.....

music!

food trucks!

electric car show

explore

DIY workshops

get inspired!

imagine

free!

3rd Annual
**Montgomery County
 GREEN
 FEST**

Saturday May 6 • 11 am - 4 pm
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm
 506 S. Frederick Ave • Gaithersburg, MD 20877

MontgomeryCountyGreenFest.org
 (To request ASL interpretation or other accommodations at this event, visit our website.)

Presented by Montgomery County Government - Montgomery Parks - City of Gaithersburg - WSSC - GreenWheaton - Bethesda Green - Poolesville Green - Silver Spring Green - City of Takoma Park - City of Rockville - Montgomery College - UMD Extension - MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education

A young volunteer picks up trash during Green Up Day.



“The City of Gaithersburg is eager to work with community partners in an effort to meet regulatory watershed restoration and water quality improvement benchmarks,” said Meredith Strider, Environmental Specialist for Gaithersburg’s Stormwater Management Program. “This innovative program encourages on-the-ground restoration projects as well as outreach and engagement activities that reduce stormflow and pollutants and engage City residents. We look forward to working with our residents and the Chesapeake Bay Trust as we all do our part to restore and protect our local water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.”

In 2017, the grant program has been divided into two phases: design and implementation. Applications for design funding are due in the spring; implementation funding applications are due in the fall.

The grants are available to 501(c)(3) organizations, which may include local watershed groups, community associations, service, youth, and civic groups, and faith-based organizations.

For more information visit the Environmental Services page under Services at gaithersburgmd.gov.

Summer Camps

IN GAITHERSBURG

- Ages 5 – 14
- Extended Care Programs
- Multiple Sessions
- Specialty Clinics
- Payment Plans
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Making Change Happen inGaithersburg

by Amy McGuire, Communication Specialist

If there's a buzzword for today's political climate, it ought to be "engagement." Scroll through your newsfeed and you're likely to see posts about getting involved. Whether it's contacting your elected officials, casting your vote, or volunteering your time, a renewed sense of civic engagement is sprouting across the country. If you want to make a difference, look no further than your local government.

Why engage in Gaithersburg? Local government is closest to its people and it's where your voice can have the biggest impact.

Take Aubrey Alston for instance. Founder of Julie's Love, a community organization that offers employment readiness and life-skills services to at-risk youth and those in underserved communities, Alston was searching for opportunities to serve in a different leadership capacity while sharing his professional skills alongside a group of passionate volunteers he could learn from. In 2015 his search led him to the Community Advisory Committee,

where he helps explore gaps in social services for residents and makes recommendations to the City Council on grant funding.

"Whether it's a resident's financial independence gained through the free financial wellness classes we've funded, or learning that the mental health programs for at-risk youth are helping to keep them

"Local government is closest to its people and it's where your voice can have the biggest impact."

safe, seeing the tangible results of projects or initiatives that we're supporting really helps me understand the difference we are making in Gaithersburg," says Alston.

Volunteers play an important role advising the Mayor and City Council on matters ranging from economic development and education to environmental issues

and public safety. "As great as we aspire to be as a city government, the Council and I recognize that we don't have all of the answers nor all of the great ideas," says Mayor Jud Ashman. "It is the involvement and thoughtful contributions of our community that make us exceptional."

Gail Norris was also seeking to volunteer and meet new people when she moved to the City almost 15 years ago. A member of the Book Festival Committee, she enriches the community by utilizing her professional skills and personal passions to encourage reading, support aspiring writers, and promote literary conversation in Gaithersburg.

"There are a lot of rewards for serving on a City committee," says Norris. "Being able to give back to your community; getting to know your neighbors and City leaders; making new friends and business connections; and the goodwill that it creates for the City."

Alston sees his service as a way to shape Gaithersburg into the

community he wants it to be. "As a person of color it is very important for me to see our local government be a reflection of the makeup of the various cultures, ethnicities and other distinct components of a city as diverse as ours. I think that being engaged in local government not only gives us a 'seat at the table,' but it can help hold officials accountable and, more importantly, give a voice to the voiceless."

Don't have the time to commit to a committee? You're welcome to spend three minutes sharing your thoughts at a Mayor and City Council Meeting or Work Session.

Back in 2001, when his children's schools were overcrowded and a proposed development would make an impact, Ashman took a leadership role among a group of residents and PTA members who would testify at City Council meetings. "To my surprise, as I sat in those meetings, I realized that I was actually interested in more than just my issue."

But maybe you'd rather engage

in a less formal setting. Bring your questions and concerns to your neighborhood's next Council in the Communities meeting. Or drop by to discuss public safety issues over a "cup of joe" at a Coffee with a Cop session. You

"Everyone has a role to play and chapter to write in the epic story that is Gaithersburg."

can even chat with us on Facebook and Twitter @GburgMD. And don't forget to vote. The next City election is Tuesday, November 7 for Mayor and two City Council seats.

One single comment can effect change for the better. Whether it's a Tweet, e-mail or phone call, we're listening and ready to engage. "Let's hear your ideas! Everyone has a role to play and chapter to write in the epic story that is Gaithersburg," says Ashman. "What will yours be? My door is open and my role is to listen, facilitate, and help bring great ideas to reality. Try me."

Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders

Focusing on the role of youth in government, the Gaithersburg Youth Ambassadors (GYA) program engages high school Student Union members in civic events and opportunities. "Too often young people feel that they are powerless because they cannot yet vote, but the voice of youth is that of the future and perhaps the most significant perspective of all," says Maura Dinwiddie with the City's Youth Services Division.

An extension of the already active Student Union, the GYA program launched in January 2017 with a trip to District 17 Night in Annapolis, where the young ambassadors observed Maryland House and Senate sessions. Next

they'll be attending a City Council meeting and composing an annual report that will review youth programs and identify gaps in services. A Youth Forum is in the works for the fall of 2017, where students will discuss emerging youth and family needs with City Council members.

"I believe that it is crucial to engage youth in local government in order to stay alert and connected with current events and our community," says Student Union member Erika Lopez, an 11th grader at Gaithersburg High School. "It is important to be able to voice our opinions, thoughts, concerns, and goals. Our participation and voices matter as well."

As a highly diverse and inclusive community, we value the importance of connecting to not only our youngest but our newest residents as well. Liberty's Promise, a nonprofit organization that runs civic engagement programs for low-income immigrant high school students, encourages youth to be active in their communities. One of its programs operates at Gaithersburg High School, and the City of Gaithersburg recognized its work with the Outstanding Organization of the Year award in 2017.

"Young immigrants have a lot on their plate," says Julien Labiche, Senior Program Officer with Liberty's Promise. "They need to learn a new language, navigate a complex school system, adapt to a different cultural climate, and make new friends. Without adequate support, it is not unusual for young immigrant groups to stay disengaged."

Often youth come from countries without solid democratic traditions. Because of their experiences, their expectations and understanding of our system of governance may be skewed. "Our goal is to give these young people trust in our institutions," says Labiche. "We believe that once they are familiar with and comfortable in our system, then they can start

participating, and eventually realizing the dreams they originally came to pursue. Our community at large also has a lot to benefit from civically engaged immigrants as well. They can offer fresh perspectives to the issues of tomorrow, strength in the face of adversity, and hope for the future."

"I think the most important message to convey to our residents, regardless of age, is that our community is only as good or as not-as-good as we make it," says Mayor Ashman. "We make decisions all the time that collectively determine what kind of neighborhood and city we're going to be. It is up to each of us to keep that in mind and do things that will make our little corner of the world better for our present and our future."

We can't succeed without your involvement. Want to write your chapter in the book that is Gaithersburg? Cast your vote. Join a committee. Advocate for legislative priorities. Tweet us your concerns. Read our budget. Take our surveys. Attend a meeting. Stay connected. Be involved. You are Gaithersburg, and we are listening. 

What local issues affect you? Stay Informed in Gaithersburg

- Visit gaithersburgmd.gov for the latest news, projects, agendas and more
- Subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter
- Follow Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube at @GburgMD
- Watch live Meeting Coverage on our website, YouTube and cable TV channel

City of Gaithersburg ELECTION FOR MAYOR & TWO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



**ELECTION DAY IS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

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

Register to Vote by October 23



Celebrate Spring & Summer in Gaithersburg

Look for weekly farmers markets, outdoor concerts and other events taking place throughout the summer. For a complete list visit gaithersburgmd.gov

Summer Camp Registration

Ongoing throughout the spring

Paws in the Park Dog Walk & Fest

Sunday, April 23, Noon – 4 p.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm



Gaithersburg Chorus Spring Concert

Sunday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

Rosborough Theater, Asbury Methodist Village

Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Miniature Golf Park Opens

Saturday, May 6 • Bohrer Park

at Summit Hall Farm

Montgomery County GreenFest

Saturday, May 6

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

La Milla de Mayo

1 Mile Run/Walk & Festival

Saturday, May 6

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. • Olde Towne

Active Aging Expo

Monday, May 8, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park



Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 19, 7 – 9 a.m.

Great Seneca Hwy. & Orchard Ridge Dr.

Gaithersburg Book Festival

Saturday, May 20,

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

City Hall Grounds

Outdoor Water Park Opens

Saturday, May 27

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Memorial Day Observance

Tuesday, May 30, 11 a.m.

Christman Park

Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration

Saturday, June 3, 4 – 8 p.m. • City Hall Concert Pavilion

SummerFest Lawn Party & Fireworks

Saturday, July 1, 5 – 11:30 p.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

SportsFest

Saturday, July 15, 9 a.m. – Noon

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 1, 6 – 8 p.m.

Various Neighborhoods

Kentlands/Lakelands 5K

Saturday, September 2, 8 a.m. • Market Square

Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 4, 1 p.m. • Olde Towne

Oktoberfest at the Kentlands

Sunday, October 8, Noon – 5 p.m.

Kentlands Downtown & Village Green



City Resources & Facilities

gaithersburgmd.gov

City employees have new phone numbers.

There are no more extensions.

All Facility and Division numbers remain the same.

E-mails have also changed.

Use firstname.lastname@gaithersburgmd.gov

Visit the online directory for details.

RESOURCES

GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

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

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310
cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6330
plancode@gaithersburgmd.gov

Animal Control
301-258-6343

Commercial & Residential Inspections Automated Scheduling
301-258-6338

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

Environmental Services
301-258-6330

Housing & Community Development
301-258-6320

Neighborhood Services
301-258-6340

Passports
301-258-6330

Permits & Licenses
301-258-6330

Planning & Zoning
301-258-6330

Rental Housing & Landlord Tenant Affairs
301-258-6340

COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov

Public Information
301-258-6310

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

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

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

301-258-6320
finance@gaithersburgmd.gov

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

301-258-6325
it@gaithersburgmd.gov

HUMAN RESOURCES

301-258-6327
hr@gaithersburgmd.gov

GAITHERSBURG POLICE

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

PUBLIC WORKS

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

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

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

FACILITIES

ACTIVITY CENTER AT BOHRER PARK, SUMMIT HALL FARM

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

AQUATICS Gaithersburg Aquatic Center (indoor)

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

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

ARTS BARN

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

BENJAMIN GAITHER CENTER

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

CASEY COMMUNITY CENTER

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

COMMUNITY MUSEUM

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

CONCERT PAVILION AT CITY HALL (seasonal)

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

GAITHERSBURG YOUTH CENTERS

Olde Towne

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

Robertson Park

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

KENTLANDS MANSION

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

MINIATURE GOLF COURSE (seasonal)

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

SKATE PARK (seasonal)

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



GburgMD



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

It's Summertime Let's Get Outside!

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Summer at the City Hall Concert Pavilion

Bring a picnic or get carryout from Olde Towne's unique restaurants and bakeries

Free Concerts

Thursday Morning Kids Concerts

June & July • 10 – 11 a.m.

Thursday Evenings in Olde Towne

June, July, September • 6 – 7:30 p.m.

11th Annual Jubilation Day Gospel Concert

Saturday, June 3 • 4 – 8 p.m.

Fitness

Yoga in the Park

Tuesdays, May 2 – August 29 • 7 p.m.

Zumba in the Park

Fridays, May 5 – August 25 • 7 p.m.



Enjoy the Bounty of Local Farmers

Kentlands Farmers & Artists Market

Open Year Round
Main Street Pavilion
Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Fulks Corner Farmers Market

May 4 – November 16
Fulks Corner & Route 355, Olde Towne
Thursdays, 12:30 – 6 p.m.

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM



SWIM SKATE MINIATURE GOLF

506 S. Frederick Ave. (Next to Gaithersburg High School)
301-258-6350 gaithersburgmd.gov

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Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Summit Hall Farm,
506 S. Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301.258.6350
gaithersburgmd.gov



ARTS ON THE GREEN

KENTLANDS MANSION & ARTS BARN

MAY – AUGUST, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

On Stage

Hip Hop Snow White

Presented by VF Dance Theater

May 5, 7:30 p.m.

May 6, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$22/\$12

The talented company that created "Cirque du Dance" returns with a high-energy, modern-day version of the Brothers Grimm story, including "Snow" and her seven popping "Crew" battling an evil queen and finding Prince "Cool." Recommended for ages 4+.



The Young Novelists and The Honey Dewdrops

May 6 • 3 p.m. workshop, 7:30 p.m. concert

Tickets: \$45 workshop & concert/\$25 concert only

Singer Songwriter Series season finale. **The Young Novelists**, Graydon James and Laura Spink, create music that is reminiscent of the 60s with a fresh Indie sound. The **Honey Dewdrops**, Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish, blend traditional southern mountain music with contemporary singer songwriting. Presented by O'Hair Salon + Spa.



Reginald Cyntje Group

June 3 • 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$25/\$15

With cultural heritage at the forefront and social justice as the message, the Reginald Cyntje Group blends Jazz, Caribbean rhythms and Afro-beat. The band features Reginald Cyntje (trombone), Brian Settles (tenor sax), Allyn Johnson (piano), Herman Burney (bass), Amin Gumbs (drums).

Dreamgirls

Book and Lyrics by Tom Eyey. Music by Henry Krieger.

Presented by ANKH Repertory Theatre & The Finest! Performance Foundation, Inc.

June 9 – 25

Tickets: \$22/\$12

Loosely based on the career of The Supremes, this musical takes you to a revolutionary time in American music history, where three friends form The Dreamettes and learn hard lessons about love, trust and the changing tastes of the American public. Recommended for ages 12+.

Dial M for Murder

by Frederick Knott

In partnership with Sandy Spring Theatre Group

July 7 – 23

Tickets: \$20/\$12

A retired tennis pro plots the murder of his own wife—but when she turns the tables on her attempted assailant, she is convicted of murder. The play that inspired Hitchcock's suspense classic weaves an ever tightening web of danger and deception. Recommended for ages 12+.

Spring Awakening

by Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik.

In partnership with Wildwood Summer Theatre

August 4 - 12 (Dates vary from normal production runs.

See website for details.)

Tickets \$22/\$18

Based on Frank Wedekind's play of the same name, *Spring Awakening* depicts a dozen young people making their way through the thrilling, complicated and mysterious time of sexual awakening. Mature themes. Recommended for ages 15+

Galleries

ARTS BARN

May 5 – July 4

"Modern Surrealists"

Three very talented artists, Marco Cuba-Ricsi, John Duke and Thomas Germer, share their unique visions.

Reception: May 18



KENTLANDS MANSION

April 21 – July 7

"31st Annual Gaithersburg Fine Art Association Juried Exhibition." Reception: April 27

ACTIVITY CENTER

April 7 – June 25

"The Harmonious Art Group"

Gorgeous Asian-inspired artwork, including brushwork and calligraphy, fill the walls of the gallery.

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 Gaithersburg

Summer Fest

Saturday
JULY 1
5 - 11:30 p.m.

Lawn Party & Fireworks

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Enjoy an afternoon and evening of family fun, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display and SummerGlo after party.

- Live Music
- Food Trucks & Beer Tasting
- Classic Car Show
- Contests, Giant Inflatables & Kids Activities (indoor/outdoor)
- Coolers Allowed. No Glass or Outside Alcohol.
- Limited Onsite Parking. Ample Free Parking in Olde Towne (short walk).

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