

inGaithersburg

Spring / Summer 2018

**READ ME A
STORY!**

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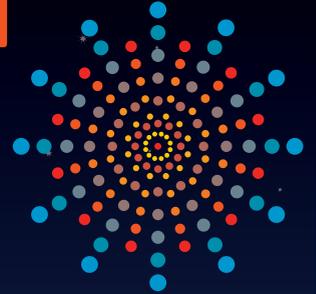
G A I T H E R S B U R G



SUMMERFEST

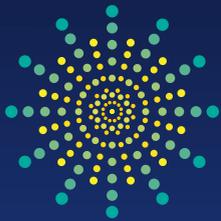
- AT BOHRER PARK -

at Summit Hall Farm



Lawn Party & Fireworks

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE



SATURDAY, JUNE 30

5 - 11:30 PM

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

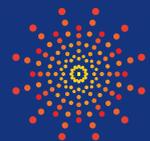
Live Music

Food Trucks & Beer Tasting

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)



gaithersburgmd.gov * 301-258-6350



City Officials

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



Mayor
Jud Ashman



Council Vice President
Ryan Spiegel



Council Member
Neil Harris



Council Member
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The editorial content of *in*Gaithersburg is produced
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PLEASE READ ME A STORY!



Mayor Jud Ashman reads to Mayor's Book Club members at Constitution Gardens.

BY BRITTA MONACO
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Please read me a story! We wonder how often that simple plea is uttered around Gaithersburg. If we had our way, it would be every night in every household. Gaithersburg wants to be known as the City that Reads. And we are well on our way.

While the Gaithersburg Book Festival, now in its 9th year, has become a well-established event of national acclaim, putting Gaithersburg on the literary map (see ad on back cover for details),

there are many other initiatives that encourage readers to pick up a book and expand their minds.

Mayor's Book Club

Take the Mayor's Book Club for example. An outgrowth of the Gaithersburg Book Festival from its earliest days, the Book Club challenges third graders in schools throughout Gaithersburg to read

for as many hours as possible in a four week period each spring. The 2017 contest was based on pages read. Ms. Kara O'Brien's class at Laytonsville Elementary School collectively read an

Both have been completely renovated within the past few years, and in addition to housing print and digital books and resources for all ages, they also serve as important community centers. Both

"We watched tons of foot traffic of all ages pass by our house all the time – people walking dogs, riding bicycles and skateboards, traveling to hiking paths, or coming back from shopping

It's maintained by the Wessell family. Megan Wessell is a member of the Gaithersburg Book Festival Planning Committee, while her husband Phil serves on the Gaithersburg Planning

"It is incredibly important to promote literacy and instill a love of reading in others early in life."

impressive 85,000 pages. That earned them special recognition at the Book Festival and a pizza party and storytelling session with Mayor Jud Ashman a few weeks later.

Free Book Distributions

Each December Gaithersburg hosts a Holiday Giving distribution for nearly 600 families. These families, referred by school counselors, case managers and social workers, receive food baskets in November and toys for children in December. A highlight of the December distribution is the book giveaway, where dozens of tables are stacked with brand new books arranged by age. The giveaway is spearheaded by the Soroptomist International of Upper Montgomery County, Md.

"All children deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education," says President Johann Dretchen. "SIUMC was delighted to have coordinated the book distribution at the City of Gaithersburg's Holiday Giving Program, and that more than 1,400 children had the opportunity to take home new books."

The City of Gaithersburg also incorporates free book giveaways into the Book Festival, the La Milla de Mayo One Mile Race and Street Festival, the Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration, and many other special events throughout the year.

Libraries

Gaithersburg residents are fortunate to have access to two amazing resources, the Gaithersburg and Quince Orchard Libraries.

of them have desktop computers available, and the Quince Orchard Library has laptops as well. Both have Discovery Rooms, spaces filled with toys and games that can be reserved for educational play. Children ages 2 to 10 are also welcome at the After School Edge Stations in both libraries, where computers are preloaded with child-tested software in science, math, reading and geography.

The Gaithersburg Library is home to the Gilchrist Center and the Montgomery College Engagement Center, with extensive resources for recent immigrants and opportunities for vocational and professional development. At the Gaithersburg Library you'll also find a Collaboration Room that can be reserved for group study and tutoring.

Books + Foot Traffic of All Ages + Community Service Project = Little Free Library!

Take a stroll through a Gaithersburg neighborhood and you have a good chance of passing a library – a Little Free Library. What looks like an oversized birdhouse on a stick is actually a center of education, compassion, neighborliness, and wonder.

Jane Henley and her two teenaged daughters opened a Little Free Library in front of their home on Kent Square Road in the Kentlands in the summer of 2017. New to the neighborhood, they were looking for a way to meet people and to give back to a community they felt happy to be a part of.

and restaurants," Jane says. "As a family of avid readers with tons of books, we thought putting up a Little Library would be a great way to interact with our neighbors."

The Henleys have been overwhelmed by the response, reporting that people are constantly stopping by and picking up or dropping off books. "While it's located in our yard, it is truly owned by the neighbors who use it," says Jane. She's witnessed teachers getting books for their classrooms, a local author leaving signed copies of her books, and a proliferation of seasonal novels when people are coming and going from their summer vacations. "I love seeing young children peeking inside to see what they can find," says Jane. "One child was so excited to find a 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid,' which she then gave to her brother for his birthday. This has been a wonderful opportunity to bring neighbors together over shared books."

You'll find other Little Free Libraries in the town square at Spectrum, the new development near the intersection of Watkins Mill Road and Rt. 355, and also in Constitution Gardens, the City's nature play space on Brookes Avenue in Olde Towne. That library was originally established in 2015 by Zoey Wexler as part of a Girl Scout Silver Medal project. The park also features a reading circle with an oversized chair, perfect for outdoor story time.

On Chestnut Street near Olde Towne you'll find another Little Library, this one with direct ties to the Gaithersburg Book Festival.

Commission. "We're both big believers in being engaged in the community, and our Little Free Library is an extension of that," says Megan. They see the library as a way to set an example for their twin toddlers, showing them the importance of being involved in their community and spreading the love of literacy and reading.

"The girls get very excited when they see someone using our library, and they love to come with me to check on it and replenish the selection," Megan says. "They've also helped us pick out some of the children's books that we have in our library, so this is really a family affair."

Like the Henleys in the Kentlands, the Wessells see the Little Library as an opportunity to interact with their neighbors. "We had lived on Chestnut Street for about a year before my husband built the library," Megan says. "We have met more of our neighbors since the installation than we had in the prior year. We even put a guest book in the library. I have gotten some really sweet messages about what the library has meant for our friends and neighbors, which I absolutely love!"

Megan's philosophy perfectly sums up the various reading initiatives going on around town: "It is incredibly important to promote literacy and instill a love of reading in others early in life. I am happy that we can do even a little something in order to get books in the hands of members of our community, even the very youngest." 📖

GRASP PROGRAM HELPS RESIDENTS AGE IN PLACE

BY LAUREN SUKAL

GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR, CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE



Gaithersburg's population has exploded over the last several years. The reasons why people have come flocking to our fair city are not surprising. The City represents the best of both worlds: a culturally exciting, opportunity-rich, urban area in its own right that also prioritizes free and easy access to ample outdoor green-space.

According to the AARP Livability Index, Gaithersburg scores hover around 80 percent in every aspect but one: affordable and accessible housing. Over the last 10 years, Gaithersburg has seen a rise in housing costs of 19 percent while overall incomes have risen by just four percent. By definition, those on a fixed income experience a particularly acute challenge in finding affordable, accessible housing options.

Gaithersburg is one of a handful of municipalities nationwide that requires affordable set-asides in housing by law. "As Gaithersburg continues to grow and the needs of our populations change, it is vital that we create an ample supply of affordable housing for all our residents," says City Council Member Mike Sesma. "New homes are being built throughout the City, and we want to ensure that our current residents can afford to remain in the community." However, despite the City's extraordinary efforts, there are still far too few affordable and accessible units.

The City of Gaithersburg's Strategic Direction for Housing set out a goal to meet the diverse needs of a range of populations, including low-income elderly persons and those with special needs. Nearly 10 percent of Gaithersburg's 69,300 residents are age 62 or over, and many of them want to "age in place," i.e., stay in their Gaithersburg home. But doing so often requires that the home be modified to make it age-friendly and safe.

"As the cost of living rises, low and moderate income residents are even less likely to be able to come up with the necessary funds to transition their homes to a more universal design," says Louise Kauffmann, the City's Housing and Community Development Division Chief.

To address this, Gaithersburg has launched a program that provides no-interest loans to eligible residential property owners. The Gaithersburg Resident Accessibility and Stabilization Program, or GRASP, provides zero percent deferred loans for accessibility upgrades for residents whose household income is at or below 100 percent of what's known as the Area Median Income, or AMI. In the Gaithersburg area, that amounts to \$77,210 for a one-person household and \$88,240 for a two-person household.

Joint applications from a tenant and his or her landlord who wish to make modifications to rental units will also be considered. Although there will be no monthly payments required, the loan will become due in full if participants sell or re-finance the home with any proceeds.

Some examples of eligible improvements include:

- Providing ramps and no-step entrances to the property
- Installing exterior or interior elevators, lifts or stair-glide units
- Widening interior and exterior doorways to a minimum width of 32-inches
- Installing walk-in or roll-in showers or tubs
- Reinforcing walls in bathrooms to accommodate grab bars and other needs
- Making accessibility improvements to assist with one or more sensory disabilities

The City has allocated \$75,000 to this program, with an expectation that individual loans will range from \$1,000 to \$15,000. In addition to the immediate lifestyle benefit, program participants may be able to take advantage of a generous Montgomery County tax credit.

An inspection will be required, and City staff can assist program participants through the process. The resident will choose a licensed contractor, and City staff will help process applications and walk the resident through the permitting requirements. The application form and additional information can be found at gaithersburgmd.gov. 



EXPLORING MUSIC inGaithersburg

BY AMY MCGUIRE, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST



Jaleel Muhammad recorded his first song at the Olde Towne Youth Center's GYC Recording Studios.

Music resonates throughout Gaithersburg. As I spend a week listening to the sounds of the City, I discover a captivating fusion of classical and folk reverberating through the Arts Barn. I eavesdrop on the Gaithersburg Chorus as the ensemble rehearses, infusing the Activity Center with choral music. I sit in on a recording session as innovative and inspiring lyrics pervade the Olde Towne Youth Center. Music in Gaithersburg is everywhere, enriching the community with live performances and providing opportunities for music education, creative expression and the chance to perform.

It was the summer of 2010 when Jaleel Muhammad discovered he could make a career as a rap artist. At the young age of 13, he knew he had the talent and passion to make it in the music industry. More than seven years later, the Gaithersburg native returns to the place where he began to pursue his dreams – the GYC Studios.

“August 8, 2010 – I’ll never forget that day,” says Jaleel. “It’s like my holiday – the first time I recorded a song ever.” Housed in the Olde Towne Youth Center, the state of the art recording facility stirs the creative artist within kids who are passionate about music and audio production. “I’m very grateful for the Youth Center for giving me the platform to find myself as an artist. When I began here that’s when I knew this is what I’m going to do.”

Jaleel has recorded numerous songs since his Youth Center days, including his album, *Before 21*. “Most of what I rap about is what I experienced in Gaithersburg,” says Jaleel. “My music represents what I go through as a human being. I’m really inspired by life.”

Jaleel shares that he’s also inspired by one of his favorite artists,

Logic, who was also raised in Gaithersburg. “One of his lyrics inspired me around the time I was recording at the Youth Center,” says Jaleel. “Born famous, now it’s just time to convince the world.” And once Jaleel gets behind the mic it doesn’t take much convincing to know he’s well on his way.

Spending the afternoon in the studio, I get how one’s artistic spirit would be stirred. The inventive space, available to Gaithersburg Youth Center and Student Union members, gives off a bohemian vibe that enthuses creativity. Designed primarily for vocal production and live instrumental recording, the GYC Studios can accommodate groups of all sizes and genres, from rock and pop to jazz and rap, all with acoustic excellence. The studios have a fully-equipped control room, a vocal isolation booth, and a large open area boasting a 5-piece drum kit, mini-percussion kits, electric piano, acoustic and electric guitars, turntables, and bass and guitar amps.

“Everyone has artistic talent and the GYC Studios invite youth to create, learn and explore,” says Facility Supervisor Julius Arnold. “We offer instrument, producing and mixing lessons as well as recording sessions – everything you need to know to be a recording artist or manager.”

“We provide open and closed studio sessions, where members will write their own songs, record popular covers, or create a beat,” says Studio Manager David Varillas. “We also hold popular activities such as auto-tune karaoke and cyphers, where a DJ plays a collection of beats and students take turns rapping to them in a live setting.”

More than just music, the studios provide an empowering refuge. “I know kids who see music as an escape from tough issues they’re

facing,” says David. “Some students come from broken homes, and music is their way of expressing their frustration and pain. Others, who may struggle in school, work hard on a studio project and it turns out great. We use those moments to encourage them and show them that they are intelligent, they can solve problems, and they can be successful with challenges they face.”

“I’m extremely grateful to the staff for giving me the opportunity to discover my passion, always encouraging me to progress and strive for excellence,” says Jaleel. “I’m very proud to be from Gaithersburg and will forever bring my city wherever the music takes me.”

The Young Artist Award also endows talented musicians, ages 12 to 18, with an enriching artistic experience. The juried competition encourages young artists in their love of music and culminates in a prestigious concert featuring the top prize winners.

“I think it’s important the City offers these opportunities because it provides a place for young musicians to perform in front of professional musicians and learn from them,” says Natalie Hsieh, violinist and first place strings winner. “I also think that it encourages young musicians to share their creativity in music.”

“We are really lucky to have so many opportunities for music and arts in this area,” says mezzo soprano Giorgia Dallasta, first place vocal winner. “I know kids in other places that don’t have all the opportunities we have. Having these programs so close – just a few blocks away at the Arts Barn – means that I don’t have to go down to Bethesda or Washington.”

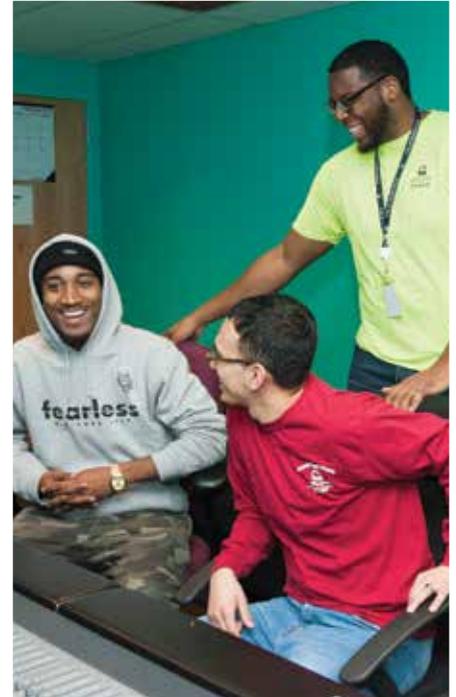
Seeking musical opportunities for those who might be beyond their school years, I discover the Gaithersburg Chorus. Former City Council Member Mary Ward’s vision led to the ensemble’s formation in the fall

of 1987. She expressed that the notion of “recreation” should also embrace those who didn’t want to “run around hitting balls” and who would rather express themselves through choral music.

Led by Chorus Director Daniel Hopkins with accompanist Teresa McCoy, the group meets weekly at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park for instruction on music theory, musicality and the mechanics of singing. And, best of all, it’s a non-audition group open to those willing to learn. “A lot of people want to sing, but are intimidated by the prospect of an audition,” says Daniel. “I believe that anyone can be a good singer. It takes time and practice, and no one should lose out on the benefits of choral singing because they aren’t experienced.”

The group, which recently celebrated 30 years of joyful music, presents two annual concerts and also performs at special events throughout the year. It operates as a recreation class, with session registrations in the spring and fall, and it’s open to anyone high school aged or older.

Continued on page 14



Top: Jaleel, David and Julius in the control room of the GYC Recording Studios.



Bottom: Jaleel works with Studio Manager David Varillas.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS: A WIN-WIN FOR GAITHERSBURG

BY TY HARDAWAY
GAITHERSBURG POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

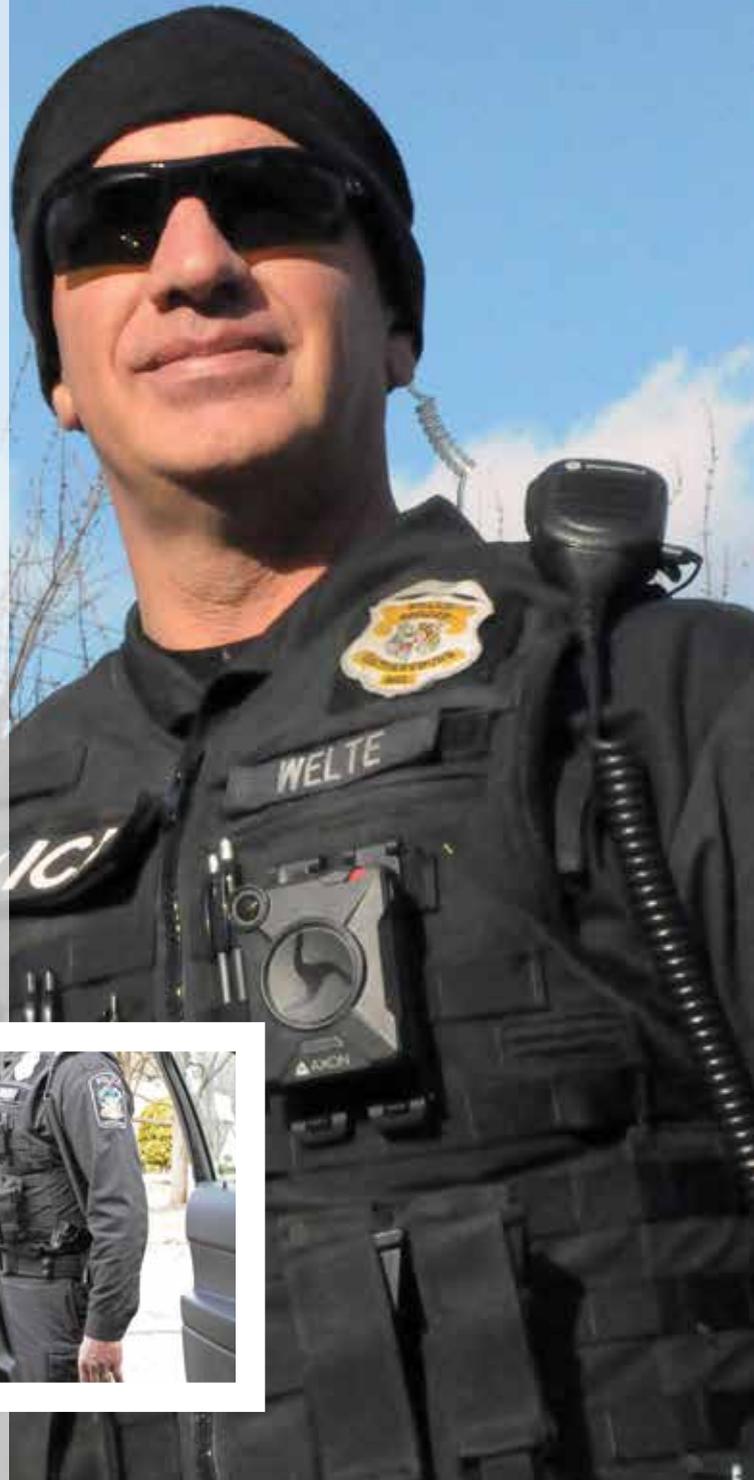
When veteran Gaithersburg police officer Chris Welte leaves roll call and heads out for duty in the City, he now carries a tool that helps to protect him and everyone he encounters throughout his shift. He picks a small box from a wall mounted dock and snaps it to his uniform shirt. Early national data suggests that this small box reduces citizen complaints and the use of force by police. This box is also shown to reduce officer time in court and increase guilty pleas.

This newly deployed gadget is neither futuristic nor complicated. It's simply a camera measuring less than 2½x3½x1 inches. Specifically, Officer Welte carries an Axon 2 body-worn video camera. Beginning in the fall of 2017, the City of Gaithersburg began equipping every uniformed police officer with what are popularly called "body cams." The addition of body-worn cameras provides the women and men of the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) with a method for documenting each and every police-related encounter with the public for use as evidence, as a way to efficiently resolve disputes, and for use in situationally specific training.

GPD Lieutenant Chris Vance, one of the officers who guided the initiative, says, "All uniformed officers will carry the cameras as part of their standard duty gear every day. Cameras will be on any time an officer is taking an official action; traffic stops, calls for service, or if you flag an officer down, they will be recording. Officers are required to notify individuals that they are being recorded."

It's 2018 and cameras are very much accepted as a normal part of our everyday lives. With the evolution of high resolution miniaturization and wireless communication protocols, cameras are almost everywhere: traffic cameras, commercial security cameras, residential doorbell cameras, automotive dash cams, school bus cameras, web cams, GoPros, drones, and on every single smartphone carried by nearly every single person everywhere.

In modern society, it is nearly impossible to leave your home and not be captured on as many as 50 separate video feeds. Mundane and scripted content serves instructional and entertainment purposes. YouTube alone has about 1.3 billion users with 300 hours of video uploaded every minute. About five billion videos are watched every day. On many platforms live streaming is now a constant source



of new content and viewership. Police deployed body cameras could simply be considered a logical piece of our normal existence.

I spoke with officers, city administrators, citizens, and a law professor about the use of police body-worn cameras and today—even with some remaining questions—the deployment of body-worn technology is arguably the only piece of police equipment that is almost universally embraced. Prosecutors, defenders, police unions, and activists all consider the access to police encounter audio and video as beneficial.

Across the United States, departments of every size have added body cam programs to help ensure a level of accountability the public demands and to provide patrol officers with a level of protection previously unavailable. According to Mayor Jud Ashman, “While the Gaithersburg Police Department isn’t the first in the nation to implement body worn cameras, we are part of the first wave. We’re very happy about that. The Council and I are always going to be supportive of tools that can potentially help our officers perform their duties well, and are affordable and able to be integrated into what we already use.” Nearly every City official I spoke with agrees that there is a very specific match between Gaithersburg’s community policing approach and the use of body-worns.

While on patrol with Officer Welte, he interrupted our conversation to ask, “Did you see that?” Apparently a driver in a Corvette has run a stop sign. I missed it completely. Welte simultaneously follows the Corvette and reports to dispatch. He pulls the driver over,

faulty human memory alone. Depending on the situation and the number of officers deployed, each camera can provide a different viewpoint. In post-Ferguson America, the need for more accurate documentation of public-police interactions has never been greater.

Mayor Ashman adds, “There have been a number of issues to work out, such as when cameras need to be active versus when they can be disabled, when the video footage can be made public as opposed to when it would encroach on people’s privacy, and how the footage is archived and stored. I think we’ve been very deliberate about how we’ve rolled the program out, and I’m optimistic about how this new tool will help our police department serve the public even more effectively than before.”

As with any new technology, there are questions. With body-worn camera programs, the major remaining questions revolve around who should have access to recordings. How will the footage be used? What are the privacy rights of people caught on video? And what are the long-term costs to taxpayers?

Longtime Gaithersburg resident Cara Garretson ponders, “I think equipping the City’s police [with body-worn cameras] is generally positive for both residents and the force. It provides a record of interactions that I think would be helpful to have in circumstances when it’s one person’s word against the other’s. However, I do have some privacy concerns, such as when, where, and to whom the video can be played back. I think those guidelines should be made clear to the people being recorded – not

“All uniformed officers will carry the cameras as part of their standard duty gear every day.”

activates his body-worn camera, and after he determines it is safe to approach, he tells the driver, “Hello, Officer Welte, Gaithersburg Police, and I’m letting you know that you are being audio and video recorded.” He proceeds with a routine traffic stop. After he returns to the patrol car he shuts his body cam off.

That entire stop was recorded by both a dash camera in the patrol vehicle and Officer Welte’s body-worn. “The addition of body cameras has changed the dynamics of some interactions,” says Welte. “I think it helps all officers stay consistently professional. And for individuals who tend to react negatively toward police, it might help temper their reactions.” The prevailing social psychological thinking is that people usually behave better when they know their actions are being recorded.

Every official encounter during the shift I spent with Officer Welte was captured by his body cam. At the completion of his shift he returned the camera to the docking station, where all time-coded audio and video data was automatically uploaded and saved.

Council Member Robert Wu, liaison to the Gaithersburg Police Advisory Committee, notes, “I view the use of body-worn cameras by police officers as being a benefit both to the police officers as well as our citizens. Obviously there are privacy concerns that are going to be addressed through the implementation of our policy. But I see it as a way of protecting our citizens from any potential abuses by government as well as protecting our officers against allegations of abuse or wrongdoing by the citizens.”

Body-worn cameras are reshaping perceptions and practices of policing. This tool offers a direct view into each police encounter with the public. No longer are cases left to be reconstructed by sometimes

in the moment necessarily, but as a follow-up so that citizens feel that their privacy is protected.”

At the outset of the initiative, the City of Gaithersburg wanted to ensure its practices were both consistent with the Montgomery County Police Department’s body-worn camera program and with state law. Additionally, City officials wanted to ensure that the privacy of the citizenry was protected. There are specific situations where officers have the discretion to end recordings, especially in situations that are potentially embarrassing or compromising such as those involving people who are grieving, nudity, the presence of children, reports with sexual assault victims, and interactions with confidential informants. For these reasons, the City opted for officer initiated recordings rather than auto-record.

Many jurisdictions see the initial and ongoing costs associated with body-cam implementation as ultimately lower than potential legal fees and settlements from dispute resolution. And access to footage is generally handled on a case-to-case basis and largely through the courts. Gaithersburg’s Body-worn camera policy is available on the City website under General Order 619.4.

Gaithersburg is one of America’s most diverse cities; the police and citizenry have long benefitted from a healthy and respectful relationship. Body-worn cameras are being embraced as a way to maintain these relationships by enhancing transparency and ensuring professionalism. Officer Welte feels the cameras are beneficial. Most officers patrol alone and most encounters with the public are one-on-one. Officer Welte agrees that, “It’s good to know,” if there are ever any remaining questions, video is proving to be very effective in clarifying the factual accounts of police-citizen interactions. 

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

BY MICHAEL WEYAND

WATERSHED RESTORATION SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

W
Wherever you are in Gaithersburg, whether shopping at Lakeforest Mall or picnicking at Bohrer Park — nearby stormwater management is protecting our watershed, an important part of environmental responsibility.

Gaithersburg, through the Stormwater Division in its Public Works Department, is conserving our local water resources for future generations by maintaining, updating and introducing new stormwater management practices across the City.

Landscapes have changed dramatically in Gaithersburg since its founding more than 250 years ago. The once rolling fields of wheat and tobacco are now covered in patchworks of asphalt and concrete. Urbanization has transformed our landscape from dense forests to sprawling agriculture to an environment now dominated by concrete and asphalt. These are known as impervious surfaces, and they seal off the soil and prevent rainfall from soaking into the ground. During rainstorms the unabsorbed water is known as stormwater runoff.

Most of Gaithersburg's stormwater runoff is generated from impervious areas that include paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and residential

and commercial buildings. As ongoing development replaces natural ground cover with these surfaces, the amount of runoff produced by storms greatly increases. Coupled with heavy rainfall and in the absence of stormwater management, areas high in impervious surfaces can generate surges of stormwater that incite flash flooding and can cause extensive property damage. Uncontrolled runoff can also lead to severe streambank erosion, harming the aquatic insects, fish and animals that depend on these streams for their food and habitat.

Stormwater runoff is now the fastest growing source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. Impervious surfaces not only increase the amount of runoff but also directly obstruct water-soil infiltration, an important natural process that allows pollutants to be removed as water filters down through soil. Untreated and unable to infiltrate, runoff transports untold amounts of oil, chemicals and trash to local waterways. Watersheds turn out to be most susceptible to this stormwater pollution when the total amount of impervious surface makes up more than 25% of the total landscape cover; in Gaithersburg, that number is about 40%.

To combat stormwater pollution, the City is working together with community members to address runoff issues where they start — on the ground. Stormwater management practices such as ponds, rain gardens and other underground storage or treatment facilities work to counteract the influences of impervious surfaces on water quality. These facilities are termed Best Management Practices or “BMPs,”



and they act by controlling the quantity and quality of runoff by slowing, soaking or storing water. Effective management and treatment of stormwater reduces the volume and speed of runoff, resulting in the reduction of the total amount of pollution entering streams, thereby improving water quality.

Across Gaithersburg, stormwater management practices are already being used to manage runoff and protect our local water quality. For example, the lake at Rio Washingtonian Center is not only a lovely place for a stroll, it's also an important stormwater management tool, removing settling contaminants from water that drains into the Muddy Branch tributary. At Victory Farm, green streets mimic natural systems and incorporate a variety of stormwater BMPs to improve both treatment and dispersal of runoff. Several stream restoration sites across the City act as focal points for community involvement (we welcome your help restoring them!), while in contrast the often overlooked and unnoticed storm drain system lined throughout Gaithersburg provides critical stormwater and flood control. These are all vital stormwater management practices that improve local water quality.

Gaithersburg has recently established an entire division devoted to stormwater management, with five full-time employees dedicated to preserving our natural water resources. The division is responsible for providing and maintaining effective stormwater conveyance and treatment infrastructure so the City can meet local, state and federal water quality standards. Upcoming regulations issued by the State of Maryland are expected to require Gaithersburg to provide, by 2025, additional stormwater treatment to approximately 20% of the City's impervious surfaces that do not already meet the current stormwater standards. This will involve the use of environmental site design and other nonstructural techniques, retrofits to existing structural practices, and stream restoration projects. The Stormwater Division is working on an implementation schedule that will show how the City will introduce new stormwater infrastructure to meet this requirement.

Rather than a burdensome regulation, the City of Gaithersburg sees an opportunity to create a more vibrant and sustainable community by using green infrastructure and innovative stormwater management. One way to accomplish this goal is through a Stormwater Program Fee, formerly known as the Water Quality Protection Charge. The fee not only supports new stormwater opportunities but also funds the maintenance of existing facilities and the modernization of non-functioning stormwater infrastructure. Appearing on property tax bills issued by Montgomery County, the fee also protects the stormwater infrastructure investments made by all property owners within Gaithersburg and supports education and outreach activities that promote community engagement in water quality.

Gaithersburg is home to unique neighborhoods, beautiful open spaces and a vibrant retail and dining scene. Stormwater management can be incorporated to effectively manage runoff while also creating inviting, attractive landscapes. For stormwater management to really make an impact within the community, public participation and involvement is essential. This can be challenging, but Gaithersburg is committed to providing opportunities for all citizens to participate in the development of new stormwater infrastructure within their community. As projects are identified, Stormwater Division staff will hold open meetings with impacted communities to provide the opportunity for resident input in design decisions to create the most effective runoff controls. By attending these public meetings and becoming actively involved in stormwater management, the community can inspire creative and artful solutions to Gaithersburg's stormwater challenges. 🌱



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Bioretentions & Rain Gardens – Small bowl-shaped gardens planted with grasses, flowers, shrubs, and sometimes small trees. These facilities are designed to hold water for a short amount of time before it soaks back into the ground.

Green Roofs – A rooftop partially or completely covered with specially selected soils and plantings. Green roofs create living gardens on top of structures and help to capture rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff.

Rain Barrels & Cisterns – Large containers used to collect and temporarily store rainwater from roofs. The water can be used to water gardens, lawns and trees.

Underground Filtering Facilities – Systems that remove pollutants from stormwater runoff by allowing the runoff to flow through an underground filtration system.

Underground Storage Structures – Underground pipes or vaults that store stormwater when there is not enough space for an aboveground facility. The water is slowly released to local streams.

Wet and Dry Ponds – A pond is a type of stormwater management practice designed to collect rainwater and pollutants and prevent downstream flooding by slowing the release of stormwater from the facility.

For information contact the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370 or visit gaithersburgmd.gov.

Exploring Music *(Continued from page 9)*

“There is a definite camaraderie among singers – we all share a common bond and that is our love of music,” says Beverle Kowalchick, who first joined in 1990 and serves as Chorus Officer. “Music is such a universal language and brings many emotions; it can be healing, joyful, spiritual, and uplifting. The sound that a group of singers can bring together is good for the soul.”

Now in his second session with the chorus, Roger Bradbury joined with no choral experience. “The Chorus gives me the opportunity to do more than just listen, even though I am not an experienced singer or musician,” says Roger. “I believe programs like this create community and offer people relief from isolation, one of the consequences of the electronic age.”

“In addition to the inherent value of music, singing in chorus has been shown to have a number of social and health benefits,” says Daniel. “Our singers develop new skills, use their full bodies for singing, and spend extended periods of time concentrating on technique and expression. In this way, singing in chorus is a full body and mind workout.”

The benefits of music extend beyond performing. Experiencing live music can be just as uplifting, as I come to find when I visit the Gaithersburg Arts Barn. “Music programs strengthen all communities,” says Program Coordinator Suzanne Takahashi. “Concerts bring people together, enhance a positive sense of home, provide entertainment, stimulate the mind, and inspire creativity and expression.”

As I settle in my seat towards the back of the theater, I appreciate that every spot in the house has a premium view. On this evening, British-American ensemble Floyds Row takes the stage, fusing a variety of styles and genres including early folk tradition and English Renaissance pieces.

The group is no stranger to the Arts Barn, having played the venue in 2016. “It’s such a great room for us,” says George Lykogiannis, pianist and accordionist, when describing the intimate 99-



Top: Gaithersburg Chorus Officer Beverle Kowalchick.
Bottom: Young Artist Award winner and violinist Natalie Hsieh.

seat theater. “Our instruments are pretty soft and it’s nice to have a room that helps make the sound really luscious.”

“It feels intimate like a club,” says soprano vocalist Emily Noël. “You feel so close to the audience, and yet, it’s this really cool theater set up with lights and stadium seating.” “We pull from old tunes, so the history of the venue and our instruments fit this room quite well,” says Andrew Arceci, who plays the viola da gamba and double bass.

The historic barn-turned-inviting-music-space suits the group’s repertoire nicely while complementing the smoothness of their sound. Exploring early, folk and classical idioms on a variety of modern and period instruments, the audience experiences an eclectic performance that draws from each artist’s training and background. It’s a unique experience that perfectly captures the essence of the *Arts on the Green* concert series.

“Music has always been a part of the Arts Barn, but it has grown significantly in the last six years,” Suzanne says. “The *Arts on the Green* music series now offers more than a dozen concerts each season at the Arts Barn and Kentlands Mansion, with additional programming including the Young Artist Awards and music classes, workshops and camps.”

As part of its concert lineup, *Arts on the Green* presents the popular Singer Songwriter Series, developed in partnership with Domenic Cicala, owner of O’Hair Salon + Spa. The series brings nationally and internationally known musicians to the stage, with audiences having the chance to participate in workshops with the artists for a unique insight into their world.

“The artist gets an opportunity to perform while the City provides culture and builds awareness of the arts,” says Domenic. “In the case of the Singer Songwriter Series, we take it a step further and offer education through the workshops attached to the performances.”

Gaithersburg’s distinctive music program truly makes the arts accessible to its community. “It’s kind of like when you live in a neighborhood and you have that corner bar you always go to and you have that restaurant that you always go to,” says Emily of Floyds Row. “It’s neat to have that *theater* that you can always go to that feels like yours and that feels like part of your community. I think that so many communities could benefit from that.”

“Music can change lives, and I know, because it truly changed mine,” says Dylan Hawkins, vocalist and Young Artist Award honorable mention. “It’s my deepest passion and my greatest aspiration. I think it’s important that all people, of all ages and all areas, should have the opportunity to experience that sense of magic that only music can bring.”

Music opportunities are endless in Gaithersburg. Explore them all at gaithersburgmd.gov. 

Certified to Serve *inGaithersburg*

Gaithersburg staff boast a wide variety of skill sets and certifications to ensure residents receive top notch service. Explore a sampling of the unique licenses and certifications employees hold all in the effort to guarantee you receive the best experience *inGaithersburg!*

PLANNING

International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist
Certified Environmental Planner
American Institute of Certified Planners
Forest Conservation Act Qualified Professional
Geographic Information Systems Professional
Certified Floodplain Manager

PUBLIC WORKS

Certified Forklift Operator • Certified Playground Safety Inspector
National Heavy Equipment & Farming License
Certified Energy Manager
Certified Construction Contract Administrator
Underground Storage Tank Class A & Class B Operator
State of MD Professional Engineer • MD Property Line Surveyor
Certified Acquisition Professional in Facilities Engineering
A-9 Automotive Service Excellence Certification
HAZMAT Familiarization & Safety in Transportation
State of MD MDE - Stormwater Inspector

Red Cross Lifeguard Training

First Aid/CPR/AED

Water Safety Instructor

Certified Pool/Spa Operator

Aquatics Exercise Association

Conflict Resolution Mediator Certificate

Professional Community Interpreter

Human Services, Education & Health - Cross Cultural Communications

Senior Fitness Instructor

American Sports & Fitness Association

Certification: Sports Nutritionist

Certification: Kickboxing Instructor

Personal Trainer - Nutrition Fundamentals & Weight Management

Certified Parks & Recreation Professionals

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

POLICE

Drug Recognition Expert Certified Officer
Drug Abuse Resistance Education
National Safety Council First Responders
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies
Crime Prevention Awareness Through Environmental Design

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Certified Housing and Financial Counselor through Neighborworks

HOMELESS SERVICES

Peer Counseling • SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Int'l. Code Council Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector Certification

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Certified Economic Developer

ADMINISTRATION

ICMA - Credentialed Manager • Notary Public

LEGAL

License to practice law in Maryland & the U.S. District Court of MD

State of MD Registered Fire Protection Engineer

International Code Council Certifications

State of MD & VA Registered Architect

Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner

Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner

Residential Building Inspector

Commercial Building Inspector

Mechanical Plans Examiner

National Fire Protection Association Certified Fire Protection Specialist

MD State Emergency Medical Technician B

Fire Fighter 1, 2, 3

Ariel Operator Certification

MD State Sediment Control

Confined Space Entry

Foundation Technician

Nuclear Compaction Device Certification

Post Construction Stormwater Management Inspector

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

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 22, Noon – 4 p.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

La Milla de Mayo 1 Mile Run/Walk & Festival

Saturday, May 5, 6 – 8 p.m.

Olde Towne



Miniature Golf Park Opens

Saturday, May 5

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Active Aging Expo

Monday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Gaithersburg Chorus Spring Concerts

Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Rosborough Theater, Asbury Methodist Village

Friday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 18, 7 – 9 a.m.

Great Seneca Hwy. & Orchard Ridge Dr.

Gaithersburg Book Festival

Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

City Hall Grounds

Outdoor Water Park Opens

Saturday, May 26

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Memorial Day Observance

Tuesday, May 30, 11 a.m.

Christman Park

Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration

Saturday, June 2, 4 – 8 p.m.

City Hall Concert Pavilion

SummerFest Lawn Party & Fireworks

Saturday, June 30, 5 – 11:30 p.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

SportsFest

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 – 11 a.m.

Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 7, 6 – 8 p.m.

Various Neighborhoods

Kentlands/Lakelands 5K

Saturday, September 1, 8 a.m.

Market Square

Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 3, 1 p.m.

Olde Towne

Oktoberfest at the Kentlands

Sunday, October 14, Noon – 5 p.m.

Kentlands Downtown & Village Green



City Resources & Facilities

gaithersburgmd.gov

A list of direct dial phone numbers and e-mail addresses for employees can be found under the "About Gaithersburg" tab on the City's website.

RESOURCES

GAITHERSBURG CITY HALL

31 S. Summit Ave. 20877-2038
301-258-6300
cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

301-258-6310
cityhall@gaitersburgmd.gov

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

Housing & Community Development
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.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

New
State Law
Enacted
Jan. 2018



For City of Gaithersburg Residences

- Each level MUST have a smoke alarm
- Every room or area used for sleeping MUST have a smoke alarm
- Battery-only smoke alarms must be the sealed long-life (10 year) type with a hush feature
- Smoke alarms powered by a building's electrical service must be hard-wired with a battery back-up
- Any smoke alarm over 10 years old must be replaced



LEARN MORE AT
gaithersburgmd.gov

BOHRER PARK AT SUMMIT HALL FARM



SWIM
SKATE
MINIATURE GOLF

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

GAITHERSBURG



**SUMMER
CAMPS**

Ages 4 – 14
Full & Half-day Options • Extended Care
Fun • Safe • Affordable

REGISTER NOW

301-258-6350 • gaithersburgmd.gov

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Camps, Classes & Workshops Enrolling Now for Adults & Youth

ART NIGHT OUT Films & Workshops

Art Night Out: Beaded Jewelry

May 11 • \$45 R \$50 NR • Enjoy a beer or glass of wine while artisan Dareya Cohen guides you through the process of creating wearable art.

Out of the Box – Contemporary Art Lecture

May 18 • Tickets \$15 • Glass artist Tony Glander presents a lecture, followed by a studio visit and reception.

Film & Brew Series: Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window"

June 3 • Tickets \$5 • Jimmy Stewart plays a wheelchair-bound photographer who becomes convinced that one of his neighbors has committed murder.



REAR WINDOW

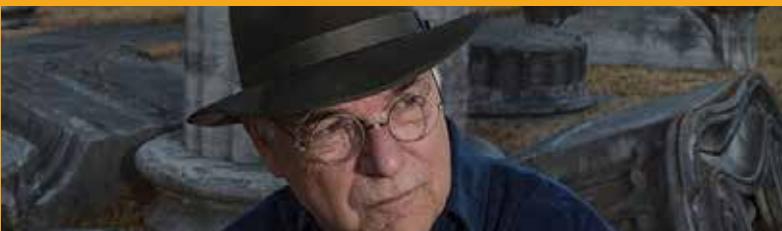
IN CONCERT

Singer Songwriter Series Presents David Olney

May 12 • \$45 workshop & concert/\$25 concert only
Singer-songwriter David Olney's music has been featured on the ABC hit TV series, Nashville, and his songs have been recorded by several musical celebrities. This series is presented by O'Hair Salon + Spa.

HEBRET MUSICA

June 2 • \$25 General/\$15 Youth (18 & under)
Hebret Musica (Community Music) brings audience members to the edge of their seats by combining Ethiopian sounds with soulful, modern jazz.



THEATER

The Bridges of Madison County

Presented by Damascus Theatre Company
June 8 – 24 • Tickets: \$22/\$12
Recommended for ages 14+.

Heard It through the Grapevine – A Tribute to Motown

In Partnership with ANKH Repertory Theatre
& The Finest! Performance Foundation, Inc.
July 13 – 21 • Tickets: \$22/\$18/\$12

Little Women

Presented by Wildwood Summer Theatre
July 27 - August 4 • Tickets: \$22/\$18/\$12
Recommended for ages 12.



BRIDGES
MADISON
COUNTY



MAY THE FOURTH BE
WITH YOU!

Star Wars Weekend May 4 – 6

It started as a pun, now it's an intergalactic movement!

May 4: "The Last Jedi" Film & Brew Party
w/comedian Danny Rouhier

May 5: Star Wars in Concert with SONOVA

May 6: Star Wars Family Day with art and STEM projects
plus a screening of "LEGO Star Wars – The Freemaker
Adventures." See website for details.

IN THE GALLERY

Textures & Textiles

April 6 – May 14 • Reception: April 12

Marksmanship

May 18 – June 25 • Reception: May 24

Faculty Exhibition: Natural Wonders

June 29 - August 12 • Reception: July 26





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

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

9th Annual

Gaithersburg Book Festival

Pulling into Town

Saturday, May 19

10 am – 6 pm • City Hall Grounds



Dozens of Best-Selling & Award-Winning Authors, including:
*John Feinstein • Alice McDermott • Robert Sabuda • Dan Santat • Mark Bittman
 Gayle Forman • Ted Bell • Denise Fleming*

Book Signings & Sales • Free Writing Workshops • Children's Village

gaithersburgbookfestival.org



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