

inGaithersburg

Spring / Summer 2019

RECYCLE RIGHT+

Food Composting
Made Easy Pg. 4

MID-CENTURY inGaithersburg

Pg. 10





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On the Cover: Junior Mayor Zayd Salahuddin
Photo by City of Gaithersburg/Marleen Van den Neste.

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FOOD COMPOSTING

Made Easy *in* Gaithersburg

BY AMY MCGUIRE, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

From kitchen to garden, your table scraps can take on a second life as nutrient rich compost. Made up of organic waste, including food items and yard trimmings, compost improves the physical properties of soil and supports plant growth. So before you throw away that banana peel or egg shell, consider reducing your carbon footprint by composting your household food waste.

Why compost? Think of it as nature's way of recycling and managing food waste, with numerous benefits to our planet.

"Composting is the epitome of all-natural sustainability," says Michael Weyand, the City's Watershed Restoration Specialist. "The process enriches soils, encourages natural symbiotic relationships, and indirectly promotes ecosystems diversity."

"Composting reduces the volume of material that is sent to landfills, which emit large amounts of methane, a harmful greenhouse gas," says Phil Wescott, Co-Founder of Key Compost, the City's contracted composting service. "Healthy finished compost empowers living ecosystems to sequester atmospheric carbon."

"It also promotes soil health by supporting soil structure, which in turn reduces soil erosion, and hopefully leads to less pollution going to the Chesapeake Bay," says Weyand.

Not only that, compost lessens the need for chemical fertilizers and quells plant diseases and pests. And, by conserving water and reducing the need to purchase commercial fertilizer, it could save you money if you use your own compost at home.

Don't have the time or space to maintain a home compost pile? You can still commit to reducing food waste by dropping off scraps at a collection site located outside of the Public Works facility at 800 Rabbitt Road. It's accessible 24/7 and the service is free of charge. See list on page 15 for acceptable items.

Since August 2018, more than 1,300 pounds of food scraps have been collected at this drop-off site. "Helping the environment is about making small changes that result in big differences," says Weyand. "Small scale composting is easy to start and gets families into a green routine."

It's a good idea to keep a small container on the kitchen counter for daily use and a larger container outside or under the sink for longer storage. "BPI Certified Compostable bag liners can help keep this process odor-free and easier to clean," says Wescott. **Never drop off items in non-compostable plastic bags, which are the greatest source of contamination at the drop-off site.** "Biodegradable is not the same as compostable," says Wescott. "No plastic of any kind is accepted in our containers."

Food waste is collected weekly by Key Compost and is processed in West Virginia. A new facility will be opening in Frederick, Md. later this year. "The food waste is blended with carbon rich material such as straw or wood chips, and turned frequently," says Westcott. "The time to completion is usually around three months. We often opt for longer cure times (up to a year) to assure a high quality finished product, which is then shared with our residential customers or sold."

Continued on page 15





Recycle Right

To ensure your recycling efforts are making the biggest difference, recycle the right materials the right way. Single-streaming has made it much easier to recycle in Gaithersburg, but there's more to it than throwing it all in one bin or cart and calling it a day. While items don't have to be separated, they must be cleaned and rinsed. The most common offense is placing plastic bags in recycling bins and carts. Plastic bags of any kind are NOT accepted, and if they're in there, the bin or cart will be refused at the curb. Instead, take plastic bags to grocery stores that have a recycling collection bin or put them in your regular trash. If you're unsure if an item can be recycled, it's best to put it in your trash. When in doubt, throw it out.

For a complete list of do's and don'ts, and more information about recycling efforts in Gaithersburg, visit gaithersburgmd.gov.



RECYCLE RIGHT

NEVER Put Recyclables in Plastic Bags

Place recycling at the curb by 7:00 a.m.

YES!

These can go in your cart/bin



NO!

Throw these in the trash



Putting any "NO" items in your bin means it will be left at the curb. Remove offending items and we'll pick up your bin the following week.

For a cart or bin with lid and a complete list of do's and don'ts visit gaithersburgmd.gov

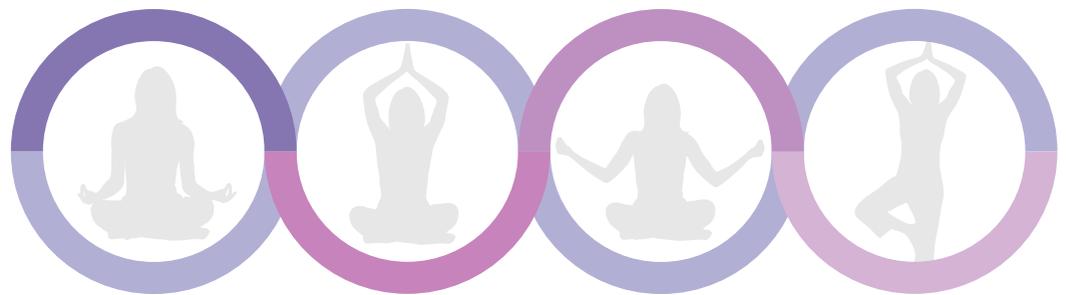


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BRINGING THE MIND HOME

How to be Present *in* Gaithersburg

BY PATRICE PAYNE,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



“When you drink just drink, when you walk just walk.” This popular Zen saying captures the meaning of mindfulness, the practice of being aware of the present moment, purposely and without judgement. The concept is everywhere, and in this day and age of sensory overload, the need to focus and develop coping techniques is becoming essential.

In this article, see how members and staff of the Benjamin Gaither Center, the residents of Wells/Robertson House, and the students, teachers, and staff of local schools are finding a pathway to more peace, energy, and better living.

Older adults gently let go of stress and live in the moment with Laughing Yoga and lavender hand massages at the City’s Benjamin Gaither Center (BGC) for those ages 55 and better. Participants quiet the mind with soft lighting, Zen music, and guided meditation in a dedicated retreat space for BGC members and staff. “This new Tranquility Room is being designed to serve as a much-anticipated oasis,” says Program Supervisor Charlyn Simpson. “We’re excited that it should be available for use in the spring of 2019.”

Wells/Robertson House (WRH), a transitional housing program for up to 14 homeless men and women in recovery from Substance Use Disorders, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Approaches to recovery and achieving housing stabilization have changed over the years. Today, as part of their recovery, residents are encouraged to learn how to find freedom from stress, stay focused in the present, and be mindful of anxiety producing thoughts. Residents are guided through exercises at workshops led by a contracted provider.

“It was obvious that our served population was overwhelmed with anxiety,” says Homeless Services Division Manager Jimmy Frazier-Bey. “After incorporating these practices, we have seen fewer outbursts from our residents.” The philosophy of mindfulness as a holistic approach to



recovery is not yet widely accepted among behavioral health professionals, and more education about its benefits in the form of professional development trainings could change that. The City’s Wells/Robertson House staff continues to encourage mindfulness activities in the WRH community and train its counselors on the benefits of a mindful approach to recovery.

The Community Services Division hosts an annual appreciation breakfast for principals, counselors and PTA presidents. Acknowledging and supporting the increase of mindfulness programs in our local schools, the September, 2018 event was designed with that theme in mind. Barbara Lewis, a Mindfulness Coach with Identity, Inc., presented a well-received introduction to the practice and shared the impactful work she and others are doing through the Trojan Experience at Gaithersburg High School.

The Trojan Experience grew out of the efforts of Identity, a nonprofit youth program designed to improve social and emotional learning and academic success, and the peer-led teen suicide and prevention efforts of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Montgomery County (NAMI MC). The Trojan Experience provides connectivity, comfort and community to first year students at Gaithersburg High School, giving them opportunities to be present and aware through mindfulness coaching.

Rising 9th graders at Gaithersburg High School participated in guided mindfulness activities during an intensive four week (two days each week) summer session led by an Identity coach. In a follow-up survey, 74 percent of students reported the mindfulness activities were enjoyable.

Not only has the City of Gaithersburg been a part of grant funding for Gaithersburg High School, it has provided funding for other schools desiring to incorporate mindfulness in their communities.

At Brown Station Elementary School, students manage stress with “Calming Caddies,” containers placed in each classroom holding student-made glitter jars, coloring tools, playdough, figits, and breathing exercise instructions. School Counselor Genevieve Dewitt incorporated the MindUP curriculum in her monthly counseling lessons. It focuses on teaching students about brain anatomy and physiology to build self-awareness and self-regulation. Dewitt says, “It’s amazing when I hear kids say, ‘my amygdala is making it hard for me to make good choices!’”

“Pretend you are squeezing a whole lemon in your left hand. Squeeze it hard. Try to squeeze all the juice out. Feel the tightness in your hand and arm as you squeeze. Now drop the lemon and relax. See how much better our hand and arm feel when they are relaxed. Repeat with the other hand.” “Mindful Moments” like this help the Mighty Mustangs of Brown Station Elementary School settle into a new week when the Moments are read over the school’s PA system each Monday.

“We use mindfulness to start each day. We have a mindfulness room for staff and a separate one for teachers too. Students use the room with their mentor as a cool down spot, an alternative to going to the office,” says Meredith McNerney, principal of Gaithersburg Elementary School.

“As a school community, mindfulness has provided a common language that is improving our overall culture and we look forward to seeing how the practice continues to impact our success,” says Shahid Muhammad, Principal at Forest Oak Middle School. Teachers at Forest Oak converted their team room into a mindfulness room that currently provides 6th grade students a quiet location to re-center. “The hope is to open the room to all grade levels in the future, as staffing allows,” says Muhammad.

The citywide impact of mindfulness practices expressed by our community has been positive. With the benefits for all age groups becoming more apparent, it is no surprise that support for expanded programming, workshops, training, and professional development of its practice are all on the rise. How do you practice mindfulness in Gaithersburg? 



Left: Laughing Yoga: Living in the moment at the BGC.

Above: Rising 9th graders are guided in a mindfulness class by Identity Coach Barbara Lewis.

BETTING ON BIOTECH

BY SHARON DISQUE, BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER



THERE IS A MOVEMENT IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA TO TRANSFORM THE REGION INTO ONE OF THE TOP THREE BIOTECH BUSINESS CLUSTERS BY 2023. WHAT'S THAT PORTEND FOR GAITHERSBURG?

Within the greater Washington, DC metro area, more than 1,000 life sciences companies and 70+ Federal labs and research institutions combine to form a unique business environment. The area's highly skilled workforce means biotech employers can hire the talent necessary to develop new products. A specialized group of commercial property owners has the experience and resources to accommodate the industry. Financing sources, from Federal research grants to venture capital, serve as the life-blood of start-up companies. It's no wonder that Gaithersburg's 10 square miles are home to 50+ biotechs.

AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg's largest private sector employer, hosted the first Maryland Regional Biotech Forum in 2015. More than 400 industry thought leaders joined in a discussion of the hurdles affecting the greater community's ability to attract and retain more life sciences companies. From that event came a new identity, the BioHealth Capital Region, and a commitment to raise the region's standing among biotech hubs.

In 2018, Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News ranked Bos-

ton/Cambridge, MA as the top location. The San Francisco Bay area ranked second, and New York/New Jersey came in third. Our region was up one place, now ranking fourth. The trade publication uses five criteria: NIH funding, venture capital investment, patents, lab space (the amount of commercial real estate unique to the industry), and jobs.

Connecting the Industry with the Community

Gaithersburg's Economic Development activities focus on growing both the local tax base and opportunities for employment. Taxes paid by employers support the basic functions of local government: Providing services that protect the health, safety and quality of life for our residents. Two of the City's top three sources of real property tax revenue are AstraZeneca's research and development hub (until recently known as MedImmune), and Alexandria Real Estate Equities (ARE), the largest owner of biotech space in Gaithersburg. Combined, their assets exceed \$468 million.

Commercial landlords take risks when updating buildings for

biotech tenants, especially when those tenants are start-up companies, sustained by research grants and private investment dollars. In the City, most of these companies have located along Firstfield Road, Clopper Road/West Watkins Mill Road, Professional Drive, and Perry Parkway. Buildings are typically low rise, with loading docks, heavy duty HVAC systems, and zoning that allows a mix of office and light manufacturing. Research and development activities require specialized plumbing and air handling. Many facilities have backup power generators.

These added building features increase real estate costs. Combine higher facility costs with tenants that might (or might not) be wildly successful at some future date, and the result is a unique set of market characteristics. More than half of Montgomery County's biotech companies have located in Gaithersburg.

Signs of Biotech Investment

Innovation in the life sciences industry sector moves slowly and often invisibly to those not involved in the process. One way to see progress is via construction activity.

Converting an office building to lab space has challenges, but as the demand has increased, real estate companies that focus on the industry are doing just that. 704 Quince Orchard Road, an aging office building with a high vacancy rate, sold in 2018. The new owner's renovation includes the addition of shared conference rooms, a lounge, kitchen, lab spaces, an on-site supply store, fitness center, and supportive partnerships with existing life sciences service providers.

Company acquisitions and spin-offs generated a wave through the local biotech cluster last year. Miltenyi Biotec, headquartered in Germany, acquired Gaithersburg's Lentigen. Before the year's end, Miltenyi had purchased 1201 Clopper Road, planning for a major expansion. AstraZeneca created a new independent company, Viela Bio – a deal that attracted investment capital of \$282.3 million. By January 2019, trade publication BioSpace ranked Viela Bio in the top three of "Life Science Startups to Watch."

Foreign investment also spurred demand for space in 2018. Last

October, Forbes Magazine reported that Chinese investors accounted for nearly 30% of total biotech funding in the US. Locally, that activity translated into new tenants on West Watkins Mill and Clopper Roads.

Growing Gaithersburg's Economy

Why and how does the City focus on certain industries in its economic development strategy? Let's examine the relationships between industries, jobs and community.

Economic development theory espouses three primary ways to maintain and grow a local economy:

- Business retention – Keep existing companies
- Business attraction – Bring employers from outside the community here
- Business creation – Support the formation of new companies (entrepreneurship)

Theory also distinguishes between two primary categories of businesses: (a) those that generate more wealth within a local economy, and (b) those that re-circulate money within the community. An example of the former would be a manufacturing or service business whose customers or clients are from outside the local economy, thus bringing money into the area. An example of the latter would be a restaurant. Customers come from nearby and they choose one restaurant over another. Competition is often fierce, and the addition of a new player can be detrimental to existing restaurants.

Biotech companies fall into the former category, contributing to growth of the local economy, and Gaithersburg's proximity to Federal regulatory and research institutions offers a supportive business environment. The area's high concentration of workers with science and tech related skills means new and expanding biotechs can find the essential talent to succeed. While many communities across

the nation have targeted the life sciences industry, few locations have the right mix of necessary assets.

The City has a few ways to influence business location decisions, and for this particular industry our Economic Development program focuses on addressing the real estate needs of the typical biotech. Gaithersburg's Economic Development Toolbox provides a matching grant to companies that make improvements to the properties they occupy. Think interior demolition work, HVAC improvements and utility upgrades – costs that run high for lab space. Staff also maintains relationships with the real estate brokers and property owners who work these projects.

Our marketing activities include participation in relevant trade shows and conferences. Our Planning and Code Enforcement personnel have a basic understanding of the unique facility requirements and can respond in a timely manner to commercial renovation projects. We coordinate efforts with Maryland's Department of Commerce and with the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation. However, fundamentally, our skilled workforce, the cluster of existing life sciences companies,

DEFINING BIOTECHNOLOGY

"Biotechnology" covers a wide array of activities, ranging from biofuel production to medical device manufacturing. The categories listed here generally describe the breadth of the industry, with the last three having a large presence in our area:

- Agricultural feedstock and chemicals
- Bio-science related distribution
- Drugs and pharmaceuticals
- Medical devices and equipment
- Research, testing and medical laboratories

and other supportive infrastructure perpetuate growth of this sector.

Biotech and Gaithersburg's Future

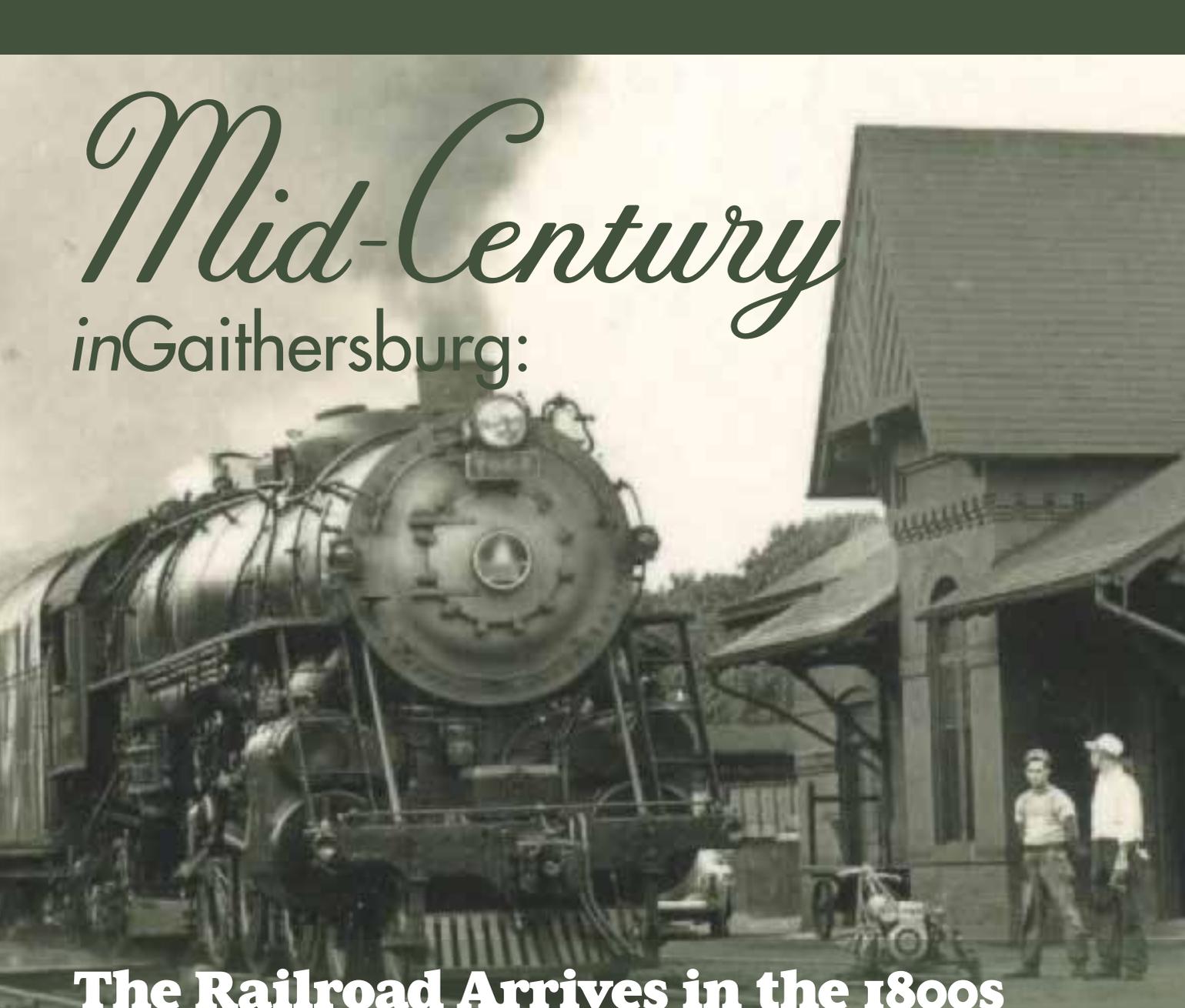
Whether Gaithersburg and the Washington metropolitan area can become one of the top three biotech business clusters by 2023 remains unknown. Challenges include competition from other communities and growth of the industry itself. The ability of local companies to draw venture capital investment and the continued availability of skilled labor also play significant roles. Boston/Cambridge, at the top of the list,

exploits its research assets of Harvard and MIT. Can companies in our area forge closer relationships with Federal institutions, expediting the give-and-take of intellectual property?

The answers to these questions will shape the outcome. For now, Gaithersburg's residents benefit from the tax revenue, employment opportunities, and local spending associated with biotech.

NOTE: In February 2019, AstraZeneca announced "retirement" of the MedImmune name. AZ acquired MedImmune in 2007 for \$15.6 billion. 





Mid-Century in Gaithersburg:

The Railroad Arrives in the 1800s

BY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR JEFFREY SESSA

In the beginning of the 19th century, the area we now know as Gaithersburg was a rural farming community called “Log Town.” Incorporation would be many years in the future, and there was little to keep residents from moving along as greater opportunities appeared in fast growing towns to the west. However, that didn’t stop Benjamin Gaither from establishing a town store around 1802. Its location served both the local population and travelers along the “Great Road,” which began as a path forged by the region’s indigenous peoples, largely following what is today Frederick Avenue/Route 355. As popular as that road was, the real breakthrough in connecting Gaithersburg to the outside world would come with the arrival of a new transportation system.

As the nation’s first railroads began popping up during the early and mid-19th century, towns and businesses quickly realized the great potential of having a rail-link. Passengers could more easily travel between villages, farmers could import fertilizer to help crops grow, and then those crops could be easily transported to large cities. Perishables like milk were no longer subject to the severe limitations of slower

travel. These conveniences were already the new reality in many Maryland towns north of Gaithersburg that were being connected by the growing Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The B&O began construction in Baltimore in 1828, building west via the Patapsco River Valley and then over Parr’s Ridge on its journey toward western settlements, and eventually the Ohio River.

Downwind of the new railroad, communities like Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Rockville were feeling left out by the lack of transportation options between Washington, DC and settlements to the west. While the B&O had built a line from Baltimore to Washington in 1835, it was merely considered a “branch line,” not critical to the existing system. The B&O saw no reason to build an additional route linking DC with its original mainline, much to the frustration of Montgomery County residents. That frustration turned into action when players from surrounding areas including Georgetown and Frederick joined Montgomery County residents Francis Cassatt Clopper and General William Lingan Gaither in planning out their own railroad.

The line would connect Georgetown with the B&O line west of Frederick, linking the towns between them. The Maryland Senate approved a charter for the “Metropolitan Railroad” in 1853.

Monetary backing proved difficult to secure, though some initial grading work was begun along the line, if only to prolong the lifespan of the charter while the railroad looked for potential investors. Ultimately, General Gaither would be appointed to the B&O board of directors, who were then convinced to provide full financial backing. But progress was immediately halted with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The original Metropolitan Railroad charter soon expired.

At the end of the war, the B&O renewed the charter, choosing to build and operate the proposed line as its own. Construction began in 1866 and the last rail was laid at Gaithersburg on February 8, 1873. Almost immediately the towns along the track experienced swift population growth. By the 1890s, 18 passenger trains a day passed through Gaithersburg, with most making a station stop. A substantial station was built in 1884, designed by Ephraim Francis Baldwin, who had served as the B&O’s chief architect since 1872. Built in the “Queen Anne” style that Baldwin had used in many of his designs, the Gaithersburg train station continues to serve as an anchor for the community some 135 years later.

Rail service peaked again during World War II, only to recede greatly in the postwar years as the interstate highway system emerged. Long-distance passenger service had become a money losing business, creating a heavy financial burden for the railroads. In 1971, Congress reacted by creating Amtrak to operate most inter-city passenger trains in the United States. Gaithersburg lost its access to long-distance passenger service completely in 1981 with the re-inauguration of Amtrak’s Capitol Limited train, which passed through town without stopping. At the same time, Gaithersburg’s importance as a commuter line stop rose sharply, illustrated in part by state subsidies created in the early ‘70s to ensure commuters would have a reliable train to ride.

Today, the former B&O railroad tracks belong to CSX Transportation, the result of a period of mergers and acquisitions that took place up until the late 1980s. CSX operates the many freight trains that travel through Gaithersburg daily; it’s not unheard of for 15 to 20 freight trains to rumble past on any given day. The type of freight being hauled varies greatly: automobiles moving east to distribution centers, coal on its way to export through the Port of Baltimore or Newport, West Virginia limestone on its way to Bladensburg for processing, and an endless mix of merchandise for customers up and down the East Coast. It’s worth noting that one of the more aromatic trains passing through town is the Montgomery County trash train that runs six days a week between the Shady Grove transfer station and an incinerator in Dickerson.

For passengers, Amtrak’s Capitol Limited still flies through town in each direction daily, running its 18-hour journey to and from Washington and Chicago. The dozens of commuter runs, a direct descendent of those early passenger trains that were the bread and butter of early Metropolitan branch operations, are operated by Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train, or “MARC.” While somewhat removed from the romance of boarding wooden coaches behind a fire-breathing steam engine of yesteryear, the sleek utility of the MARC trains provide a necessary service to the residents of Gaithersburg and the surrounding communities.

Along with the disappearance of the ubiquitous caboose at the end of every freight train, the last local businesses that used the railroad to ship and receive goods faded into oblivion by the late 1980s. Changes in logistics as a whole bolstered the disappearance of once common single

car-load industries (think milk, lumber and beef). The popularity of trucking to move less-than-carload (LCL) freight did away with the need for a town siding, or “team track,” onto which local merchants could have a single freight car load of material delivered for pick up. Gaithersburg’s own team track once occupied the space that is now the Olde Towne Plaza.

While local merchants have gradually lost their need for rail service, railroad enthusiasts and young observers continue to enjoy the presence of the railroad in Gaithersburg. They may visit the Community Museum, located in the old freight house, or simply enjoy an afternoon of watching the trains roll on by. The young and young at heart are eager to witness the excitement of a train thundering through town. It’s still common to see smiling faces and waving hands in the air as one passes. I can personally attest to the influence of having the engineer of a freight train return a wave with a hearty blast of the locomotive’s horn; my childhood was filled with those experiences. Now I’m the one waving back from the cab. The kids may outwardly appear to be having more fun, but I think I may actually be getting the most out of the experience. There’s an intense amount of pride I feel bringing a train through my hometown, riding high in the cab of a locomotive, piloting up to 18 or 19 thousand tons of freight through the heart of Gaithersburg. I am grateful for the experience.

From an early settlement living off the corn and tobacco trade, to today’s densely populated economic and commercial center, the City of Gaithersburg owes a significant portion of its history to the existence of the railroad. That history has benefited the railroad as well; the City’s role in backing the early development of a rail line has ensured its relevance in a complex national transportation system, important to all it serves.

Jeffrey Sessa grew up in Gaithersburg and is now a locomotive engineer for CSX Transportation.

Continued on next page





Life in the 1950s

BY BOBBI FULMER, PERMITTING MANAGER, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & CODE ADMINISTRATION (AND JUDY'S GRANDDAUGHTER)

The daughter of a Finnish carpenter and a homemaker, Judith “Judy” Stang Shorb reflects fondly upon her childhood in Gaithersburg. The slower pace and simpler times allowed for a sense of community where everyone looked out for one another.

Judy was born at home at 115 Chestnut Street on January 2, 1940, arriving two months earlier than expected on a cold, wintry night. With the closest hospital about 30 minutes away, many births happened at home in those days. The doctor arrived with a nurse to assist – Judy laughs recalling that the obstetrician’s name was in fact Dr. Nurse!

Judy’s father, Merle, used his vast carpentry knowledge and experience to build the third house on Hutton Street for a mere \$4,000 (the home sold for \$410k in 2017!). Several family members helped, using their individual talents to do everything from painting to concrete work to woodworking. Merle would work a full day – at one point assigned to help build the Pentagon – and then return to Gaithersburg to work on his own home.

At the time of construction, their home was set furthest away from what is now South Summit Avenue and there was only a wooded area beyond. Hutton Street was a dirt road without any sidewalks, and Judy remembers it being a pretty quiet area.

Schools were notably different then. Judy remembers there was one school serving K-12 students. It was called Gaithersburg School, located where Gaithersburg Elementary School is now. At one point the students were temporarily relocated to the Masonic Temple on Russell Avenue to await completion of a new school. In 1951, this second school opened where the high school is today. Oddly enough, the new school for secondary students did not include a gymnasium, so the older students were bused to the elementary school for physical education classes, sporting events and even school dances.

Senior students who were able to drive had an “open lunch,” and they would often venture to Rex’s in Washington Grove to eat or have ice cream. The younger students often met up at Reber’s or Waters drugstores after school, and Judy remembers walking with her cousin Janet to the Gaither Theater, often referred to as the “Snake Pit,” a local movie theater near what is now Father Cuddy Bridge on 355. A popular hangout was also the building formerly known as the Golden Bull, which housed a

bowling alley on the first floor and a skating rink on the second floor.

Living a street behind the Schwartz home, which is now City Hall, Judy giggles remembering how she would sled down the driveway. At one point the Emmitt family resided in this home and Judy attended a sleepover in a room that now hosts municipal meetings. She distinctly remembers being in awe of the fancy satin bedspread and satin curtains.

Judy’s uncle, Kenneth Miller, later purchased a portion of the famed peony garden adjacent to the Schwartz house and sold the peonies to visitors – some who traveled from as far away as Washington, D.C. to see these beautiful flowers. Mr. Miller eventually sold enough flowers to buy the materials he needed to build his own home on the very spot the peonies had once grown. (Editor’s note – strains of the famous peony flowers were transported and still bloom each spring at Seneca Creek State Park.)

While things were simpler in many respects, Judy recalls a particular tragedy in 1952 like it was only yesterday. The local firehouse on East Diamond Avenue (which today houses a fire museum) was staffed by volunteers, and older boys were sometimes excused from class to respond to emergency calls. One day Judy’s older brother, Jimmy, along with several classmates and other men, were responding to a call when the firetruck they were on was involved in an accident and overturned, killing Captain Wesley Briggs. Although Jimmy was thrown off the truck, he escaped unscathed, with only a few stitches and a scar.

In the late ‘50s, the post-graduation expectations for boys and girls differed greatly. The boys typically went to work on their family farm, enrolled in college, or secured a job with the idea of establishing a career to financially care for their future families. While some girls attended college or business school with the goal of working as a nurse or secretary, the underlying expectation was that women were to be homemakers and raise their families.

When asked to reflect upon the biggest change in Gaithersburg from then to now, Judy agrees that it’s the tremendous growth, but to truly grasp that growth, she says you really needed to have experienced it for yourself. Gaithersburg and its one lane dirt roads, small population and two schools are definitely things of the past, while increased opportunity represents the present. Judy joins us all as we look forward to seeing the great things that undoubtedly await Gaithersburg’s future.

Continued on next page

A VISION FOR 2045

BY BRITTA MONACO
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

On a cold, rainy Saturday in late February, Gaithersburg's elected officials gathered for a "Visioning Exercise." In a multi-purpose room at the Benjamin Gaither Center, the Mayor and five council members, surrounded by easels and whiteboards filled with charts and graphs, were asked to look 25 years into the future and speculate about Gaithersburg in the mid-21st Century. The session was the brainchild of Council Member Neil Harris (pictured below), who expressed that an understanding of where we want to be in the future is essential to guiding present day policy decisions.

The exercise started with a free-flow of ideas. Everyone got a large sticky notepad on which they were asked to jot down their aspirational concepts for the Gaithersburg of 2045. Common themes ran through all of the responses, painting a picture of a city that is inclusive, dense, modern and pedestrian friendly, a job center with convenient transportation (think monorail!) and lots of green space, with high rise residential communities and activities that engage all segments of society.

So that's the dream. Can all of that be a reality? And if so, what path must we take to get there?

For months leading up to this exercise, staff in the City's Planning & Code Administration and Economic Development Department worked closely with consultants from the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis and the Performance Management Group, Center for Public Policy, both a part of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, to analyze reams and reams of data. We know we're growing, but how fast? We know we're diverse. Will that trend continue? Apartment complexes are in demand now. How many more will we need? How many people use public transportation? Where are they going for their jobs?

The answers, while perhaps not surprising, were transformational.

Projections indicate a 33 percent increase in Gaithersburg's population by 2045 and a 40 percent increase in jobs. We're looking at potentially 11,000 more households by then, and increasingly people will want multifamily rental housing. More than half of the newest multifamily units in Gaithersburg today are one or two bedroom apartments. The future demand is expected to be for three bedrooms.

The data about job growth indicates the need for additional commercial space. It's projected that there will be about 65,000 jobs in Gaithersburg by 2045. But with limited developable land, and a high demand for residential space, what options exist? Higher density, taller mixed-use developments would be necessary to accommodate both, but it needs to be thoughtfully planned so as not to encroach on established neighborhoods.

By the afternoon, after digesting all of that data (and a hearty lunch), the elected officials were divided into two teams and were asked to explore the Gaithersburg of the future in four categories: People, Housing, Jobs, and Space. More questions than answers came out of it – which was the point. This exercise is just the beginning of further exploration of how existing City policies may help or hinder those visions for the future.

In the People category, considerations included public safety, cultural amenities like a larger performing arts venue, services for older adults, a public transportation circulator, and enhanced opportunities for citizen engagement.

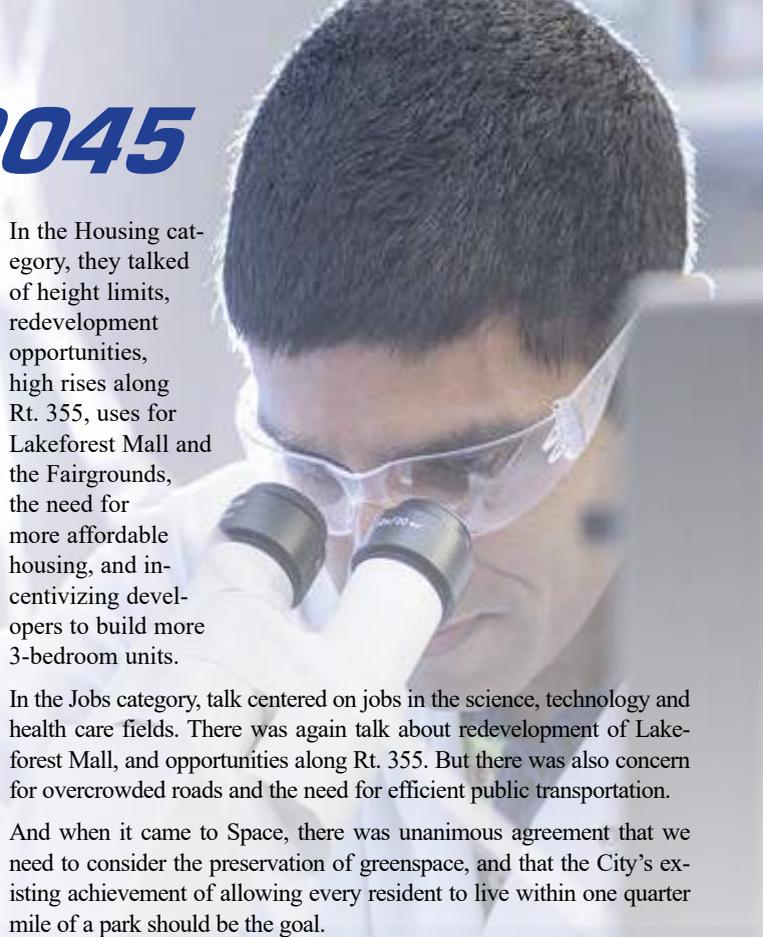
In the Housing category, they talked of height limits, redevelopment opportunities, high rises along Rt. 355, uses for Lakeforest Mall and the Fairgrounds, the need for more affordable housing, and incentivizing developers to build more 3-bedroom units.

In the Jobs category, talk centered on jobs in the science, technology and health care fields. There was again talk about redevelopment of Lakeforest Mall, and opportunities along Rt. 355. But there was also concern for overcrowded roads and the need for efficient public transportation.

And when it came to Space, there was unanimous agreement that we need to consider the preservation of greenspace, and that the City's existing achievement of allowing every resident to live within one quarter mile of a park should be the goal.

The decisions that are eventually made will manifest themselves in the City's Transportation and Land Use Plan, in its housing and zoning policies, in its Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, in its Strategic Plan, and in its operational plan to enhance government services to respond to changing demographics. Stakeholders will be brought into the discussion as the dialog continues in the coming months.

At the end of day, with the room emptying out and the charts and graphs taken down, what remained was a sense of optimism. The Gaithersburg of 2045 may look very different from the Gaithersburg of today, but Mayor Jud Ashman and Council Members Neil Harris, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Mike Sesma, Ryan Spiegel, and Rob Wu insisted that what wouldn't change was the City's commitment to be respectful of its past, to be welcoming to all people, and to continue along a path that nurtures a sense of community and civic pride. 





FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BY MAURA DINWIDDIE, COMMUNITY FACILITY MANAGER

One, two, three, eyes on me! In a few short weeks, Gaithersburg campers will turn their heads in response to this call, which signals it's time for some instructions from camp staff.

Parents send their children to camps and after school programs for a variety of reasons, most commonly so that their child will be safe, supervised, and entertained during out of school hours. Children are indeed safe and well looked after, but far more takes place as City staff mentor youth in ways that carry well beyond school-aged years.

Many parents will not consider how their child's career path may be shaped when enrolling them for a fun-filled summer at Camp Discovery. They will not contemplate the long-term impact City programs and staff have on their child's future when filling out a registration form for a Youth Club membership, nor will they consider how their child's future goals and aspirations may be guided by

the Team Leader at the Magnificent Monday after school program checkout table. This article highlights just a few examples of youth service professionals who got their start as youngsters in City programs.

Changing the lives of youth on a local and national level, Gislene Tasayco is a Senior Associate on the Education & Expanded Learning Policy team at the National League of Cities and she volunteers as a member of the City's Educational Enrichment Committee. As a child she participated in the City's elementary after school programs and summer camps, then in high school she became a member of Forever Sisters and the City's Student Union. Gislene was a Counselor In Training (CIT) at summer camps and eventually worked as a Senior Counselor with middle schoolers in the Gaithersburg Youth Club (GYC) and with elementary afterschool programs.

"There aren't enough words in the English language for me to express

the impact that City programs had on me as a student and staff member," says Gislene. "These programs provide a lifeline for many people, including me. City programs gave me the opportunity to socialize, improve my English language skills, develop socially and emotionally, and to experience things that I would have otherwise not have had the opportunity to do, like field trips to amusement parks and the zoo. I grew my passion for youth and got my current job because of my work with the City."

Peter Nguyen began his journey with the City as a first grader at Camp Creative in 1991. In middle school, he became a CIT and climbed the ranks from Junior Counselor to Team Leader. For the past 11 years, Peter has taught music for the Archdiocese of Washington, both as the Director of Music at Saint Peter's School in Olney and as the Music and Artistic Director in the Theatre Department. He continues to serve as a role model and mentor to youth

in Gaithersburg, returning to the City each summer to lead music programs at the Olde Towne Youth Center. "I always knew that someday I would continue working with youth outside of summer camp," Peter says. "With my love and passion for music and youth activities, it was a no-brainer career choice to become a music teacher. I have numerous camp songs and cheers that stick with me to this day!"

Krystle Hutton (pictured above, left), an MCPS teacher for the past 10 years, started her journey with the City as a third grade camper at YAPS, our Youth Activity Program. She was hired as a Junior Counselor in 2002. Like Peter, she advanced to a Team Leader position, working for camps and later for the City's elementary afterschool program. Krystle discovered her calling to be a teacher along the way. "Even though it was summer camp games and activities, the children were still learning. They were learning how to communicate with each other, try

new things and take risks. Seeing how many new things they were open to doing and their enthusiasm gave me so much joy,” says Krystle. “I don’t think I would have been a successful first year teacher without the experience I had working with the City. I learned how to make plans, have classroom management, set rules, and create engaging activities that are fun and educational, all through working at summer camp and the afterschool programs.”

Charyssa “CeeCee” Norris started with the City at the age of 11, attending Camp Innov8 before becoming a CIT and climbing the ladder to Assistant Team Leader. A recent graduate of Salisbury University with a degree in Music Technology, CeeCee has returned to work this school year at GYC Studios at the Olde Towne Youth Center. “My involvement in City of Gaithersburg programs played a huge part in the career path that I chose,” says CeeCee. “At Camp Innov8, we learned about video

and audio production techniques. Camp staff encouraged us to use our talents as part of our videos, and I always had a passion for music. One of the team leaders who stuck out the most when I was a camper was Brittany Dorsey. She was one of the first people who I thought could still be cool in a technical job. She also showed me that it’s okay to be the only girl in my field – which happens very often!”

At the heart of it all are full-time year-round staff working for the Youth Services Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation Culture. All of these dedicated professionals do amazing work with our City’s young people, and among them are even a few who themselves came up through the ranks. Maura Dinwiddie and Jake Hersom manage the Olde Towne and Robertson Park Youth Centers, respectively, and are also Summer Camp Team supervisors. Maura and Jake are both home-grown Gaithersburg kids and share

a similar history as former GYC (then called the Teen Center) members. Both were hired during their high school years and discovered early on their strength and passion working with youth. Maura was first hired to work at the Electric Lounge, an under-18 club where youth bands could perform. “Ironically I now manage the Olde Towne Youth Center that houses GYC Studios (aka the Electric Lounge of the 21st century),” says Maura. “I’ve come full circle!”

Jake remembers, “We didn’t have a lot of money growing up so I didn’t have many opportunities to participate in City programs. My first experience was when I was in elementary school and my sister took me to the Teen Center in Olde Towne. I was blown away by it: the pool tables, the video games and the music playing in the background – it was amazing. When we left, all I could talk about for days was the Teen Center and how I couldn’t wait to go again. When my first day in 6th grade ended,

I ran out of the school and across the field to the Teen Center. As a middle schooler I was FINALLY allowed to be a member. It was just like I remembered it. For the next three years I spent almost every school day there. It really was a home away from home. And now I have my dream job!”

Gislene, Peter, Krystle, CeeCee, Jake, and Maura are just a handful of lives shaped by City Youth Services. From program participants to their first jobs and on to their professional careers, these individuals carry the torch ready to pass on to the next generation of youth and youth workers. Hundreds of campers will eagerly sign in for their first day of camp on June 19, 2019. Among those children will be future Gaithersburg leaders, camp staff, teachers, musicians, technicians, and policy makers who will be shaped by their summer and after school experiences in Gaithersburg. One, two, eyes on you! 🌱

Food Composting *(Continued from page 4)*

“The end-result of natural composting is a dark substance called humus, a collection of resilient organic compounds,” says Weyand. “Humus has an incredible ability to hold large amounts of both nutrient ions and water molecules. For this reason, small amounts of humus can remarkably increase the soil’s capacity to support plant growth.”

The City’s program stemmed from an Environmental Affairs Committee (EAC) initiative to reduce, reuse, and recycle. “We know food scraps and yard waste together account for roughly 30 percent of what we throw away,” says Weyand. “Offering composting services to residents not only reduces community waste, but also reuses organic material and recycles nutrients back into the soil profile.”

The initiative has already proved popular, with a second collection bin added to the drop-off site just a few months after the program started. “The hope is to expand this service by establishing more drop-off locations around the City,” says Weyand. “The EAC understands that resident accessibility is crucial for sustaining long-lasting, low-impact behaviors and habits. And, staff is dedicated to supporting residents in their efforts to make a difference and live a greener lifestyle.”

Key Compost also offers a fee-based curbside pickup program in the Gaithersburg area. Learn more at keycompost.com. Explore the City’s composting program at gaithersburgmd.gov. 🌱



What's Compostable?



- Fruit, vegetable scraps
- Pasta, bread, cereal
- Egg shells
- Meat, dairy
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices

- Paper towels and rolls
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Pizza boxes
- Flour and sugar bags
- Paper plates



- Household plants, including soil
- Items labeled BPI Certified Compostable
- Items labeled ASTM D6868 or D6400

BPI Certified Compostable Bags ONLY.
NO Plastic Biodegradable Bags.

Celebrate Spring & Summer in Gaithersburg

Look for weekly farmers markets, outdoor concerts, Yoga and Tai Chi in the Park, 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 28, Noon – 4 p.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

La Milla de Mayo 1 Mile Run/Walk & Festival

Saturday, May 4, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Olde Towne



Miniature Golf Park Opens

Saturday, May 4
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Active Aging Expo

Monday, May 6, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Activity Center at Bohrer Park

DiverseCity Showcase

Saturday, May 11, Noon – 4:30 p.m.
Lakeforest Mall



Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 17
7 – 9 a.m., Great Seneca Hwy. & Orchard Ridge Dr.
4 – 6 p.m., Olde Towne Plaza

Gaithersburg Chorus Spring Concerts

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.
Rosborough Theater, Asbury Methodist Village

Gaithersburg Book Festival

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
City Hall Grounds

Outdoor Water Park Opens

Saturday, May 25
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

Memorial Day Observance

Tuesday, May 30, 11 a.m.
Christman Park

Jubilation Day Gospel Celebration

Saturday, June 1, 4 – 8 p.m.
City Hall Concert Pavilion

SummerFest Lawn Party & Fireworks

Saturday, June 29, 5 – 11:30 p.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

SportsFest

Saturday, July 13, 8:30 – 11 a.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm

National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 6, 6 – 8 p.m.
Various Neighborhoods

Kentlands/Lakelands 5K

Saturday, August 31, 8 a.m.
Market Square

Labor Day Parade

Monday, September 2, 1 p.m.
Olde Towne

Recovery Month Picnic & 30th Anniversary of Wells/Robertson House

Saturday, September 28, 1 – 6 p.m.
Bohrer Park

Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 13, 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
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
301-258-6330

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@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.

GAITHERSBURG CITY ELECTION 2019

FOR THREE COUNCIL SEATS
YOUR CHOICE YOUR VOICE
IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 5

POLLS OPEN
7 A.M. - 8 P.M.



KEY DATES

August 22

Deadline for candidates to file

October 26 & 27

Early Voting – City Hall 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 30

Last day to request absentee ballots by mail

NOVEMBER 5 ELECTION DAY

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

Same Day Voter Registration Available, or Register
in Advance at montgomerycountymd.gov

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301-258-6310



City of Gaithersburg Summer Camps

SUMMER IN THE CITY



SE HABLA
ESPANOL



Ages 4-14

Full & Half-day Options • Extended Care
Fun • Safe • Affordable

REGISTER NOW!
GAITHERSBURGM.D.GOV

11th Annual Active Aging Expo

presented by the City of Gaithersburg and Asbury Methodist Village



MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019 • 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION

- Pampering (free massages, facials)
- Interactive Demonstrations
- Preventive Health Screenings
- Information on Senior Services
- Education



Activity Center at
Bohrer Park

506 S. Frederick Ave.
301-258-6380

www.gaithersburgmd.gov

ARTS ON THE GREEN

KENTLANDS MANSION & ARTS BARN

SPRING AND SUMMER, 2019

IN CONCERT

The LYNNeS, Folk Americana

May 4
3 p.m. Workshop • 7:30 p.m. Concert
Arts Barn
\$25 concert/\$45 workshop & concert

Marimba & Friends with Robert Schroyer

May 11
8 p.m. • Arts Barn
\$25/\$15 Youth (18 and under)

Jon Steele Trio

June 1
8 p.m. • Arts Barn
\$25/\$15 Youth (18 and under)



JUST FOR FAMILIES

Shrek Jr. Based on the DreamWorks Animation film. In partnership with KAT-2nd Stage
May 10 - 19 • Arts Barn
Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
\$15 (all seats) (ages 5+)

Family Art Workshop

\$15 per child — no charge for parent/guardian
• May 10 -Jungle Animals
• June 16 Father's Day Craft



ON STAGE

How the Other Half Loves by Alan Ayckbourn. In partnership with The Montgomery Playhouse
June 7 – 23 • Arts Barn • \$20 • \$18

Boardwalk Brothers In partnership with SMASH Show Company
June 28 – 30 • Arts Barn • \$22 • \$18 • \$12

Godspell Music by Stephen Schwartz, Book by John-Michael Tebelak. In partnership with Sandy Spring Theatre Group
July 12 – 21 • Arts Barn • \$22 • \$18 • \$12

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Music & Book by Rachel Sheinkin & William Finn. In partnership with Wildwood Summer Theatre
August 2 – 19 • Arts Barn • \$22 • \$18 • \$12

ART NIGHT OUT

WINE & SHAKESPEARE

May 10 at 7 p.m. • Arts Barn
\$35 Resident • \$40 Nonresident

IN THE GALLERIES

Kentlands Flower Show Exhibition
March 1 – April 28 • Kentlands Mansion

Black & White

April 5 – May 12 • Arts Barn

Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association 32nd Annual Juried Exhibition

May 3 – July 7 • Kentlands Mansion
May 9 • Reception & Awards Ceremony

Water

May 17 – July 14 • Arts Barn
June 1 • Reception

THE BOARDWALK BROTHERS



301-258-6394 • Tickets: www.ArtsOnTheGreen.ticketfly.com
311 & 320 Kent Square Rd. • gaithersburgmd.gov



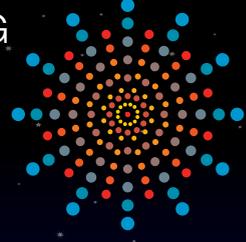
ArtsOnTheGreen



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

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Suburban MD
Permit No. 55

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



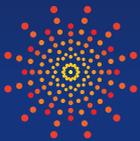
SUMMERFEST

BOHRER PARK at Summit Hall Farm

Lawn Party & Fireworks

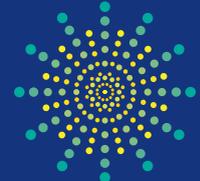
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 • 5 - 11:30 PM



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

- Live Music by Nation
- Food Trucks & Local Breweries
- 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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