



Mayor's Message

The holidays are here! While we're all relieved the government shutdown is over, many are still affected by layoffs, and missed paychecks and SNAP payments... all while we're supposed to be buying gifts for family and friends.



I feel your pain. If the Town Office may be of assistance, please call us at 301.699.9699.

In this issue of *NewsWire*, we've included resources for food banks/pantries and home appliances (through Community Forklift), as well as some cheer — photos of Town events, details about this year's Holiday Yard Decorating Contest, and lots of info about area holiday activities and lights displays.

Speaking of which... Bunker Hill Fire Station is bringing the cheer this month! Go to page eleven to see the Santa Run schedule.

On November 15, citizens and lawmakers gathered to seal North Brentwood's 100th anniversary time capsule. Pictures and the full story are on page two.

On December 1, we cut the ribbon on Entrepreneur Park! This park is dedicated to the 100-plus self made entrepreneurs in North Brentwood since the Town's inception. Park visitors are able to learn about these business persons by scanning posted QR codes and downloading audio files. On pages three, four and five: photos of the ribbon-cutting, detail about entrepreneurs Henry and Isabella Randall, an excerpt from *Hyattsville Wire*, and a copy of the keynote speech are all included.

As well, on page seven, Janie Cuffie shares holiday safety tips and the Town's Snow and Ice Procedures are on page eight.

And, on page nine, County Council member Wanika Fisher shares county resources for seniors.



A Few of the Commemorations In December

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month: Aims to reduce impaired driving incidents.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Awareness Month: Urges people to actively combat mood changes during times of less daylight (page seventeen).

Safe Toys and Gifts Month: Promotes safety when choosing presents during the holiday season.

Universal Human Rights Month: Commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

National Car Donation Month: Encourages people to donate their cars to charity.

Learn a Foreign Language Month: Promotes lifelong learning, in the form of learning new languages.

Lastly, the next Town Meeting is on January 5, 2026; consider becoming involved! And... I hope each of you has a wonderful holiday; and please consider opening your home to neighbors and friends without family. The Mayor, Town council and staff of North Brentwood wish all of our citizens Joyous and Safe Holidays. See you at the meeting in January.

Time Capsule Sealing Ceremony @ Sis's



The emotional sealing of the Town's 100th Anniversary Time Capsule occurred at Sis's Tavern on November 15.

Attendees included: the Mayor, Town Council, Town staff, community members, Historical Society members, church reps, and local and state officials Senator Malcolm Augustine, County Councilmember Wanika

Fisher and Mount Rainier Mayor Celina Benitez.

Participants talked about the Town's history and future, and time capsule contents, e.g., a DVD of Medea's Christmas and a flip phone. The sealed time capsule will be cared for by the Town Clerk and opened in 2075. Event planner Sherletta "Bean" Hawkins was praised for her professionalism in organizing the event. See more photos on the Home page of www.northbrentwood.com.



Henry & Isabella Randall Entrepreneur Park

On December 1, we cut the ribbon on Entrepreneur Park! It was a joint ceremony with Anacostia Trails Heritage Area. The new park at 4506 Rhode Island Avenue — on the site of the Town founders Henry and Isabella Randall's home — is dedicated to the more than 100 entrepreneurs in North Brentwood since the Town's inception.

Park visitors are able to learn the stories of Town business owners by reading colorful posts, which also have QR codes linked to audio files. The park includes a sculpture with North Brentwood's 100th anniversary theme: *We Endure*.



(The artists, Wesley Clark and Nehemiah Dixon also created the Town's *Windom Rd Historic Barrier Park Sculpture*.) Our park project recently caught the eye of *Hyattsville Wire*. Below is an edited excerpt of Alison Beckwith's article:

North Brentwood Creates Pocket Park to Honor Black Entrepreneur

North Brentwood created a new park (Henry and Isabella Randall Entrepreneur Park) to honor a notable Black entrepreneur who was a resident of the historic African American incorporated town. Henry Randall moved to the area in the late 1800s, after buying land from a White Army commander who led a regiment of the US Colored Troops during the Civil War. More Randall family members created "Randallstown" (which became North Brentwood in 1924).

Randall built a house on the site in 1892, which was bought by the town's doctor, who saw patients there. Randall, meantime, started his own company delivering coal and ice. His entrepreneurial spirit inspired generations of North Brentwood business owners and symbolizes a significant part of the Town's lets-get-it-done culture to this day. The house was demolished after a 1994 fire, but The town worked with the University of MD's Preservation Program to excavate it and catalog the findings in 2022.

Letter from Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Perry Paylor



Mayor Robinson,

Thank you again for the opportunity to join you, and the Town, for the ribbon cutting of the Henry and Isabella Randall Entrepreneur Park. I truly enjoyed addressing the audience and celebrating such a meaningful community addition.

I'd also like to note the Redevelopment Authority, through our Community Improvement Grant (CIG) program, contributed over \$30,000 toward park creation. We are proud to support projects that honor North Brentwood's history and advance its future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything further.

Ribbon-cutting Keynote Address by Perry Paylor

It's a true honor to stand with you today as we celebrate not just the opening of a new pocket park, but the unveiling of a powerful story—one rooted in resilience, self-determination, and the pioneering spirit of Black entrepreneurship in PG County.

To the Mayor and Town Council members, to our community partners, to the residents of North Brentwood, to Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, and to the incredible team at the Redevelopment Authority, thank you for the privilege of joining you on this historic day.

Today, we recognize a community that has always led with courage, creativity, and a commitment to building opportunity for itself and for future generations. Nowhere is that legacy more present than in North Brentwood: the first African American incorporated town in PG County, founded in 1924.

Entrepreneur Park is more than open green space. It is sacred ground, telling a story that deserves to be remembered, honored and passed down.

From the 1920s to the 1960s, African Americans across this state faced deep discrimination,

Continued on page four

Continued from page three

segregation, and the systematic denial of basic goods and services. But here, in North Brentwood, this determined, proud, visionary community charted its own path. When others closed their doors, Black North Brentwood residents:

- Provided medical care in their homes.
- Opened grocery counters and beauty salons.
- Operated barbershops, shoe repair shops and trash collection services.
- Delivered ice and coal.
- Met essential needs through community ingenuity.

These weren't just businesses. These were acts of survival, leadership and economic empowerment representing a community saying, "We will not wait to be served, we will serve ourselves." Entrepreneur Park stands today as a living tribute to that spirit.

This very parcel of land has its own story to tell.

It was first owned by Henry Randall: a Black entrepreneur who helped shape the early DNA of this community. Later, it became the home and office of Dr. William Spiller, who cared for residents with compassion and dignity.

In the late 1990s, the home caught fire. The remains sat for years, a painful reminder of what once was. But, today, because of vision, partnership, and commitment, we reclaim this land. Not with debris or abandonment. But with purpose, beauty, history, and hope.

Since 2020, the Redevelopment Authority has been honored to partner with the Town of North Brentwood on meaningful cultural and community projects:

- Sis' Tavern Open Space Art Installation - \$32,500
- Sis' Tavern Dance Pavilion - \$38,382
- Entrepreneur's Park - \$31,769
- Total investment: \$102,651

These are not simply capital projects, but investments in community identity, cultural preservation, and the telling of a story that matters. Entrepreneur Park connects past and present and sets a vision for the future. It reminds our young people entrepreneurship

didn't begin with startups or apps. It began right here—families who used skills, their homes, and courage to build an economy when society tried to deny them one.

Innovation is not new here. Ingenuity is not new here. Determination is not new here. Greatness has always been here. We remain committed to:

- Investing in community-driven redevelopment.
- Preserving historical assets.
- Supporting cultural and small-scale revitalization.
- Ensuring that historically Black communities receive the resources they deserve.

As we prepare to cut the ribbon, let's reflect... This park stands on the shoulders of entrepreneurs who built, with limited means but unlimited vision. It honors those who served their community when others denied them service. It reminds us that progress is strongest when it honors the past and invests in the future.

So today, we dedicate Entrepreneur Park to: pioneers of North Brentwood, entrepreneurs who built this community from the ground up, families who refused to give up, and the next generation of innovators carrying their legacy forward. Thank you, and congratulations to the Town on this extraordinary achievement.



Henry & Isabella Randall Entrepreneur Park Ribbon-cutting Ceremony



Notes from Recent Town Meetings

At both meetings, the Mayor and Town Council focused on community initiatives, including financial reports, events, and the need for volunteers. The group discussed resources/support for residents affected by job layoffs, and updates on utility work and infrastructure projects.

There was a focus on gratitude and community support during the holiday season. The Mayor emphasized the need for giving back/helping others, referencing recent events and the approach of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Local Updates & State of MD Affairs

Councilperson (CP) Morales reported on a District 47 Leaders quarterly meeting, highlighting resource challenges across municipalities.

CP Baynes discussed his attendance at a Bunker Hill Fire Station meeting.

CP Dame expressed disappointment about the delayed rehabilitation of Thomas Stone Elementary but noted streetlight replacements in Town.

Citizens raised concerns about wildlife, particularly foxes; CP Baynes provided info about coexisting with animals that control rodent populations. The Mayor encouraged vigilance/safety measures when encountering wildlife. The feral cat reduction project is ongoing.

The Council agreed to revise its Memorandum of Understanding with Forest Heights' Police Department, asking them to reduce the fee charged per ticket viewing (from \$5 to \$4) effective January 1, 2026 to April 2026.

The Smallwood Ground Maintenance snow removal contract was approved with increased equipment rates.

The group discussed sending flowers to Senator Joanne Benson, to acknowledge the loss of her sisters and to wish her Happy Holidays.

Representatives from Delegate Fennell's office and Senator Augustine's office explained a \$3 billion deficit closure and discussed redistricting. The senator's rep

offered to assist with PEPCO issues and provide contact info for WMATA to address a damaged bus stop bench.

Henry & Isabella Randall Entrepreneur Park

Town Manager Jackie Goodall has worked on Park development and seeking reimbursement for a charge award from the MD National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for Entrepreneur Park was held on December 1st at 11 am.

Resolutions & Ordinances

The Council adopted Resolution 8-2025 dedicating North Brentwood's Time Capsule, to be opened in 2075, and to include a plaque with the Town's history and future vision. Resolution 7-2025 was adopted as well, naming November as "Municipal Government Works Month" to honor Town employees, officials, and residents who work together to make North Brentwood a safe, welcoming, and thriving community.

Street Repairs & Pipe Project

The Mayor explained WSSC is doing pipe replacement work in the area, as part of the Hyattsville Pipe Relief project: sewer and water main rehabilitation, and relocation of water and sewer pipes for the state's larger I-495/I-270 expansion project.

Emergency Preparedness

CP Morales reported on a Local Government Insurance Trust meeting, where they discussed emergency preparedness, the devastating flood in Western MD, and the importance of insurance coverage.

CP Baynes suggested use of CB or GMRS radios (these do not rely on towers or repeaters) for future emergency communications.

The Mayor emphasized the need for local emergency planning coordination among neighboring towns. She encourages residents to prepare documentation and emergency contact plans, noting paper forms may be necessary during disasters when electronic systems fail.



Code Officer Cuffie's Corner

NOTE: Christmas tree pickup will go until the second week in January.

Enjoying the holidays with loved ones is a cherished tradition, but don't let your guard down. The season's festivities may bring us closer together, but they also bring potential hazards.



The good news is holiday safety is achievable with awareness and preparedness. Here are some simple tips to ensure family time is enjoyed with care.



Electrical Fires

Holiday lights can start fires. Deck the halls safely by checking string lights for cracked sockets and frayed wires. Keep decorations three feet from heat sources.

Cooking Fires

Making a feast? Cooking is the main cause of home fires, especially during the holidays. Never leave the kitchen with the stove turned on; always keep a fire extinguisher nearby. For tips, visit usfa.fema.gov/prevention.

Cyber Threats

Be wary of holiday scams. Online thieves do most of their damage this time of year. Monitor devices for security breaches, check the 'sent' email to make sure it's legitimate, and don't click on links or download files unless you're 100% sure it's valid. Awareness is your best defense. Visit cisa.gov/shop-safely for info about holiday scams and other cyber threats.

RSV, Coronavirus & Seasonal Flu

Flu season is here. Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk from seasonal flu. For info visit cdc.gov/flu/prevention. Remember, cases of Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID are also climbing, so mask up when visiting family!



Helpful Tips when Shoveling Snow

Warm up with gentle stretches before shoveling.

Out of shape or overweight?

- Tackle snow shoveling at a slow pace, to avoid the risk of a heart attack.
- Push snow out of your way instead of lifting it, whenever possible.
- Take small loads of snow on your shovel.
- Bend your knees, keep your back straight and lift with your legs. Keep your arms close to your body when lifting a load.

Take frequent breaks:

- Stand up and walk around to reduce strain on lower back.
- Extend/stretch your back muscles.
- Place your hands on the back of hips and slightly, gently bend backwards - do not bounce.



Be Prepared Even in Your Car

Before taking a winter trip, tell someone where you're going, intended route and expected arrival time. Keep your gas tank full to prevent gas line freeze-up. Have an emergency kit in the car with:

- * Jumper cables
- * Roadside flares
- * Window ice scraper
- * Fresh water and high-energy food
- * Blanket or sleeping bag
- * Extra pair of gloves
- * Heat pads made for hunting
- * Candles and matches in weather-tight container
- * Cellphone, CB or emergency calling device
- * Flashlight with fresh batteries
- * Pencil and notepad for messages
- * Small shovel
- * Traction items (bag of sand, cat litter and mats)





Town of North Brentwood Snow & Ice Procedures

Snow Removal

When snow, sleet or ice is forecasted for our area, the Town has contracted with Smallwood Ground Maintenance for snow removal. Councilman Baynes is the contact person for concerns.

At forecast of snow/ice accumulation, it is necessary for the contractor treat streets before ice formation begins. When PG County Schools are closed, the Town office will also be closed.

It is every resident's responsibility to clear snow off the sidewalks, in front of their homes, within 24 hours after the snowfall ceases.

Parking

During the Snow Emergency, the Mayor and Council require all citizens with driveways to park their vehicles **in their driveways**. This helps the contractor to clear the street properly. If you do not have a driveway, please adhere to the parking area notices and park on the correct side of each street (see chart below). *Please park right wheels to the curve.*

We know there may be concerns about blocking driveways with snow, when the snow plow comes through, but we must keep our streets clear. It is critical for all residents adhere to the rules so it is easier for all concerned. If you're able to help seniors and your neighbors, please do.

Any cars stuck in middle of the street, or parked illegally during this time, will be ticketed and towed away at owner's expense. We urge all citizens adhere to the rules and regulations provided to you at this time. North Brentwood is small and, to make sure the Mayor and Council can give you the best services, we need our residents to obey the rules. Councilman Baynes is the contact person for snow troubles. **PLEASE HELP US SO WE CAN HELP YOU!**

STREET NAME	PARKING SIDE (ODD OR EVEN)
ALLISON STREET	ODD
BANNER STREET	ODD
WALLACE ROAD (3900 BLOCK)	EVEN
WALLACE ROAD (4000 – 4100 BLOCK)	ODD
WEBSTER STREET	ODD
WINDOM ROAD	ODD
39 TH PLACE	EVEN
40 TH STREET	BOTH
41 ST AVENUE	ODD
CHURCH STREET	NO PARKING
CHURCH PARKING LOTS	NO PARKING

Sources for PG County Senior Citizens



This month, County Councilmember Wanika Fisher shared county resources for seniors.

Senior Call Check

Seniors may sign up for a daily phone call, from 8 am to 4 pm, as close as possible to the

one-hour time block pre-selected by the participant. If the first call is not answered, two automated calls will be made.

If those calls go unanswered, a person (adult child, neighbor, etc.), who is selected by the participant during enrollment, will be called. If you prefer, we will assign an alternate. The alternate will then be encouraged to check on the adult program participant. If the participant or alternate fail to answer, local non-emergency service will be called. Enroll at: aging.maryland.gov/pages/senior-call-check.aspx.

State Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

SHIP is a free, unbiased, confidential counseling service to help Medicare beneficiaries and their families navigate healthcare options. This federally-funded program provides 1:1 support, education, and advocacy to those who need help with Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance options.

Call 301.265.8401 or go to: princegeorges-countymd.gov/departments-offices/state-health-insurance-assistance-program-ship.

Dental Services

Some companies in MD Insurance Administration offer stand-alone dental

insurance in Maryland. Some plans are sold at MD Health Connection; since no subsidies are available, inquire directly with the company.

Medicare Advantage (Medicare HMOs) plans include dental care for an extra premium, allowing you to use in-network/out-of-network doctors. If you have a supplemental Medigap policy, you can't use it with a Medicare Advantage plan.

In District 2, go to Mary's Center in Adelphi. Visit maryscenter.org/dental or call 301.422.5900.

Aging & Disabilities Division

PG's Aging and Disabilities Services, in Capitol Heights, offers supports for aging residents, and residents with physical/mental disabilities and caregivers. Call 301.265.8450 or go to: princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/family-services/older-adult-services/older-adult-services.

Senior Transportation Services (STS)

STS is a special curb-to-curb Call-a-Bus service throughout PG County, for county seniors (60+) and persons with disabilities. Programs: nutrition (301.699.2696); medical 301.499.8603; and general transportation (301.499.8603).

Winter

FORUM FOR SENIORS

If you're a senior in Prince George's County we want to see you!

Come out and join the Office of Community Relations and PGC311 for our Winter Forum just for you! We want to arm, inform and educate you on who to call, when to call and how to reach the appropriate County agencies during this winter season. *We have a lot to share with you and light refreshments will be provided!*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 2025

Session I: 10:00am-11:30am
Session II: 1:00pm-2:30pm

Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

RSVP to attend one of the sessions before
December 8, 2025:
<https://bit.ly/seniorswinterforum>

PGC
311

Prince George's County
Office of Community Relations
connecting people, connecting resources

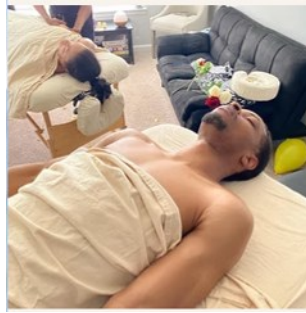
Parks & Recreation
M-N-C-P-C
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pgparks.com

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Shop Local: Holiday Gifts in/around Town

Get massage gift certificates — or pick up some wellbeing patches — for your loved ones at *Tranquil Vibe Massage & Wellness*, at 3704 37th Place in Brentwood.



Keep it local for your holiday shopping. Businesses in and near North Brentwood await, as well as retailers and shopping events throughout PG County. A few of the businesses near Town include:

- AJ Liquors, 3801 Bladensburg Rd
- Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Ave
- Franklin's, 5123 Baltimore Ave
- Material Things, 4531 Rhode Island Ave
- Mitatio Sports Bar and Grill, 4400 Rhode Island Ave
- Mixt Hall, 3809 Rhode Island Ave
- New Life Tires & Rims Shop, 4561 Rhode Island Ave
- Pro Colors Paint Shop, 4557 Rhode Island Ave
- Shades by the Tint Techs, 4549 Rhode Island Ave

National Harbor: Xmas Market & Holiday Crafts

Saturdays & Sundays

Nov 29 - Dec 10 | 12 - 6 pm



Bring the kids to National Harbor for the returning Holiday Market and Craft Show — a fun and easy way to shop for mom and dad! Rotation of vendors each week.

Holiday Craft Fair: Brentwood Arts Exchange

Saturday, December 13 | 11 am - 4 pm



Kick off the holidays at Brentwood Art Exchange's festive Holiday Craft Fair, where you'll discover unique gifts (jewelry, home décor, ceramics, textiles, ...) from more than a dozen local artisans and enjoy **15% off everything in the Artisan Shop!**

While there, treat yourself to live music, festive vibes, and seasonal favorites from *Maryland Meadworks*.

Plus, bring the whole family for a **FREE hands-on workshop, "Let's Get Ornamental,"** — create festive decorations to take home! Register: eventbrite.com/e/lets-get-ornamental-tickets-1925081874709.

✧ Shop small. Support local. Spread holiday cheer!

National Harbor: Tree Lightings & Fireworks

Saturdays | Nov 8 — Dec 27



Experience the magic of our weekly holiday tree lighting followed by a dazzling fireworks display! Watch the 60-foot tree's light show that dances alongside a medley recorded by the USAF Band.

Holiday Events

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

This month, Bowie Center for the Performing Arts (5200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715) hosts performances sure to get your family in the holiday spirit!

From December 6 to the 21st, enjoy Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This heartwarming annual favorite includes a cup of warm coffee or hot chocolate from PJ's Coffee in Bowie.

Tickets are \$20 for kids, \$30 for adults: family promo buy three tickets, get one free. A live ASL (American Sign Language) interpreted performance will be given on Sunday, December 21 at 4 pm. Get tickets online at: bowiecenter.org/event/a-christmas-carol.

On December 21, Class Act Performing Arts presents "A Frozen Fairytale." Tickets are \$22. Get tickets: bowiecenter.org/event/class-act-performing-arts.



On December 13, at 7 pm, Bowie Center for the Performing Arts presents "A Motown Christmas" with The Brencore Allstars Band leading holiday songs by: the Temptations, the Four Tops, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, Michael Jackson, The Jackson 5, and more to put you in the holiday spirit.

Come and sing along with friends and family members at this holiday spectacular show. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Purchase online at: bowiecenter.org/event/brencore-entertainment-3.

Festival of Lights Displays in PG County



Watkins Park's annual drive-through holiday light show has two million-plus twinkling lights!

Nightly: through Sunday Jan 1, 2023: 5 pm - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$15 per car / \$20 at gate; \$75 per van/limo/bus

The park also has winter hayrides at 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm and 9 pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For hayride and festival of lights tickets, go to: pgparks.com/event_list/festival-of-lights.

ICE! at National Harbor



Until Jan 4, National Harbor has a Christmas Village, kids shows, ice tubing,

scavenger hunts and more. The big attraction is ICE!, a walk through experience featuring two million pounds of hand-crafted ice, including scenes from The Polar Express™ brought to life in huge ice sculptures. For info/tickets, go to christmasatgaylordnational.com.



From Brentwood Fire Dept: Annual Santa Runs!

The holiday season is upon us, and we're thrilled to share festive news: **Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department is officially gearing up for our annual Santa Runs!**



We can't wait to cruise through our communities, lights twinkling and sirens jingling, bringing smiles, cheer, and of course... **candy canes!** ✨

Below are the dates we'll be spreading holiday magic this year:

Santa Run Schedule

- **Friday, December 19** – Cottage City / Colmar Manor
- **Saturday, December 20** – North Brentwood
- **Sunday, December 21** – Brentwood

All events begin at the station, approximately at **5:15 PM**.

Thanks in advance for your support/holiday enthusiasm.

Let's make this year's Santa Runs the most magical yet!

Warmest holiday wishes,

Brentwood Volunteer Fire Department

A Charlie Brown Christmas: Eric Byrd Trio

Sat, Dec 20 | 2 pm - 4 pm | All ages

Montpelier Arts Center | \$15



Christmastime is here! Montpelier Arts Center and The Eric Byrd Trio celebrate the season with an afternoon

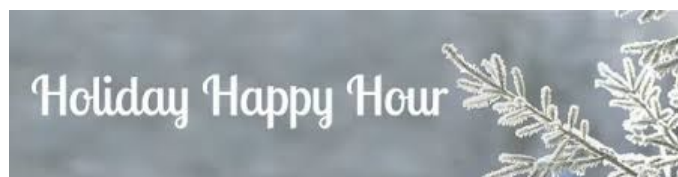
filled with festive music from the Peanuts' special.

Comprised of pianist/vocalist Eric Byrd, bassist Bhagwan Khalsa, and drummer Alphonso Young, Jr., the Trio has traveled the world, as enthusiastic ambassadors of jazz, to The Kennedy Center and more.

Bringing fresh arrangements to these familiar songs, they are sure to put you in a holiday mood. "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!" Questions? Call 301.377.7800.

Holiday Events for Senior Citizens

Please encourage seniors to socialize this season!



Tues, Dec 16, 2025 | 11 am - 2 pm | Ages 60 - 150

Evelyn Cole Senior Activity Center | \$15/\$20

Enjoy an afternoon holiday event with entertainment, socializing, and a special Christmas menu!

For this affair, attendees will be treated to a festive atmosphere, complete with the soulful sounds of Ray Apollo and the Apollo One Band. Come dressed to impress and enjoy an afternoon filled with great company and a delicious catered meal — even hit the dance floor if you feel the holiday spirit. You don't want to miss this one, register early.

To sign up, go to mdpgparksweb.myvscloud.com and sign up for activity 26507-122A.

Groove in the New Year



Fri, Jan 9, 2026 | 12 pm - 2:30 pm | Ages 60 - 150

John E. Howard Senior Activity Center | \$15/\$20

Join an afternoon holiday social with entertainment and a special catered box lunch!

Groove into the New Year with live music featuring The Exclusives. Don't forget to dress to impress and wear your bling.

To sign up, go to mdpgparksweb.myvscloud.com and sign up for activity 26507-139A.

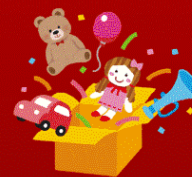
YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO
DISTRICT 47'S
ANNUAL TOY DRIVE
& HOLIDAY RECEPTION



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025
AT 6:00 PM



Please bring a NEW Unwrapped Toy



MEXICO LINDO RESTAURANT

5652 ANNAPOLIS RD, BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

PLEASE RSVP TO WANDA GORHAM
AT 410-841-3478



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS YARD DECORATING CONTEST

Saturday, December 27, 2025

1ST Prize = \$100

2ND Prize = \$50

3RD Prize = \$35

LIGHTS MUST BE ON BY 6 PM

JUDGING CRITERIA: Appearance, Originality & Workmanship

College Park Aviation Museum

Programs are Free with admission: \$5 adult; \$4 senior; \$2 student; FREE children under 2 and Field of Firsts members.

Holiday Trains and Planes

Dec 12-14 | 10 am - 4 pm | All ages



Board the “College Park Express” at the Aviation Museum gallery, which is transformed

into a miniature holiday town from the past!

Create a festive craft, see the museum’s train collection, and meet train hobbyists who will take you back in time to experience the sights and sounds of their train displays.

Saturday STEAM Hour

Dec 27 | 10:30 - 11:30 am | Ages 6-12



Museum educators lead the hands-on activity where creativity takes flight!

This interactive program allows visitors to design and build airplanes, airports, or invent something entirely new. Saturday STEAM Hour encourages you to dream big. Drop in anytime during the hour to explore the wonders of aviation through play.

Register for Activity Code 20675-515A at: mdpgparksweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/splash.html.

26th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show



Darnall's Chance House was a private home, built in 1742. It's now a museum and is a National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site.



Dec 12 | 12 - 5 pm | All ages

See a dazzling display of edible creations at the Gingerbread House Contest and Show, held at Darnall’s Chance House Museum in Upper Marlboro. This year’s entries honor the local landmarks, stories, architecture, and traditions that showcase the unique heritage of PG County. Tickets: \$2/person; ages 4 and under free. Call 301.952.8010.

K-5 Winter Camp Registration is Open



Give your elementary student a fun, active winter school-break! Hyattsville’s seasonal day camp program, for grades K–5, has arts, crafts, STEM mini-activities, and a variety of sports and games.

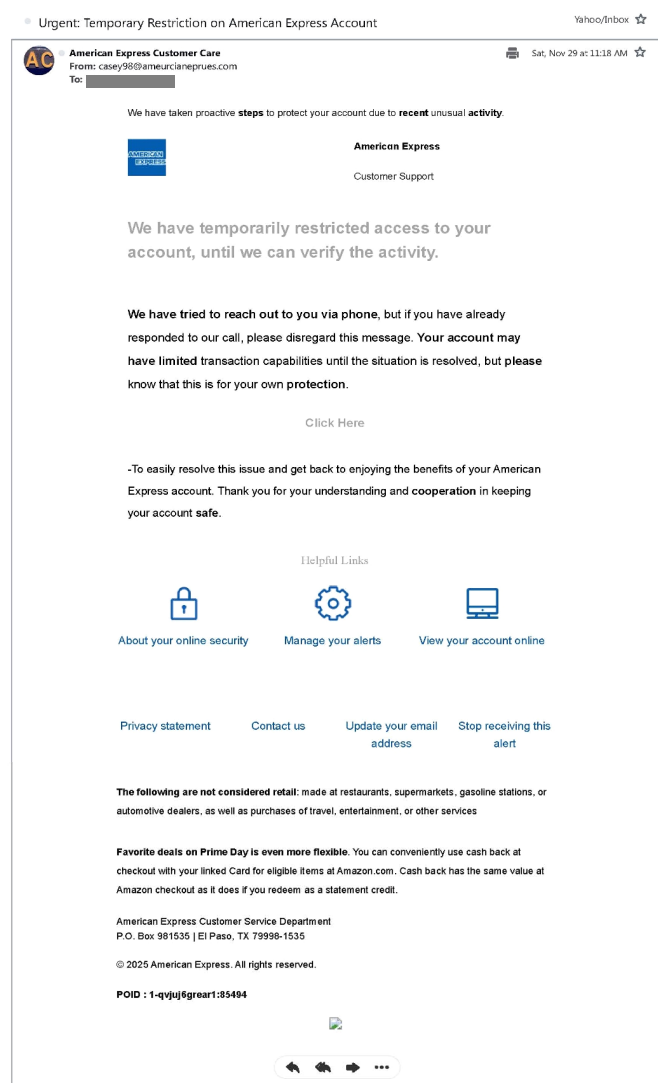
Dec 22-23, 26, 29-31 | 9 am - 3 pm (extended care until 5 pm)

Camp is held at Driskell Park Rec Center at 3911 Hamilton Street. Register at hyattsville.org/1046/Winter-Camp. Space is limited.

Beware of Holiday Scams

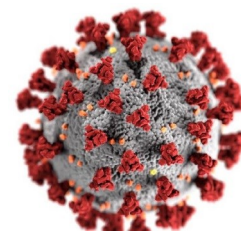
We cover this topic often, but with AI, and other technologies, scams are becoming so sophisticated it's difficult to cull out the real emails, news, texts...

The sample scam email, below, was received by one of our readers. You can see even the footnotes (wording at the bottom) seem genuine. They know she has an Amex account, from buying her info, likely on the dark web. By sending this email, the scammers are trying to create a sense of fear and urgency, hoping the recipient will share account info.



What saved her from using the "Click Here" button? She knew to check the 'sent' email address, which was casey98@ameurcianepgues.com—not americanexpress.com Be vigilant, please!

COVID-19 Variant Updates



What COVID strain is a threat right now? Vaccines for the 2025–2026 season are updated to target more recent lineages, specifically the **JN.1 variant and descendants**.

Nimbus (first detected in China in early 2025) has been reported in multiple countries, including growing cases across the US and Europe. Pockets of the country began seeing COVID activity ahead of the winter months.

The big picture: COVID-19 cases boomed in the summer, and many health experts are seeing another bump — mostly common variants that have surged this year. Though the US declared the public health emergency over, the spread of COVID-19 continues to impact the country.

Driving the news: Global cases are on the rise, surging by 30,000 in early November, per data shared on the World Health Organization's *COVID dashboard*. (Note: WHO does not seem to be collecting data from an uncooperative US.)

Reality check: COVID-19 cases are down compared to the high levels seen in 2024 or the peak of the pandemic. But that doesn't mean cases are gone completely. Researchers told *Scientific American* the number of infections is likely higher than that given the slowdown in testing worldwide.

Here's what to know about COVID ahead of winter. Generally, the viral activity of COVID in the United States is at a "moderate" level, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's monitoring of wastewater levels.

Zoom in: The CDC says the northeast has the highest number of current COVID cases: CT has a "very high" level of activity, while MA, RI and NY have "high" levels.

Threat level: Stratus and Nimbus have similar symptoms as other variants, e.g.: fever, cough, runny nose, chills, and congestion. But, Nimbus causes "razor blade" sore throats.

Get vaccinated! If you get COVID, or any respiratory virus, keep it from spreading to others, especially during the holidays. Mask and isolate for five days; then, take a COVID test before visiting others or returning to work.

Sources: *axios.com*, *stonybrookmedicine.com*

Beating the Holiday Blues

Not only can we get the holiday blues at times, but there is a real reason people get 'down' this time of year: seasonal depression, which is linked to changes in seasons and light (in the winter, especially, days are cold and sunset comes early).

December is unofficially recognized as Seasonal Depression Awareness Month to raise awareness of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a type of depression

linked to changes in seasons and light.

So how do you beat the winter and holiday blues? Connect with others, be physically active, learn new skills, give to others, and paying attention to the present moment are all techniques for refocusing your mind to a positive mindset.

Please check out the many fun holiday activities featured in this edition of *Newswire*. And, if you need more help, please call 9-8-8 for support.



988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

YOU MATTER

Text. Call. Chat.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

Community Forklift's Home Essentials



Community Forklift is a re-use warehouse store in Edmonston on 4671 Tanglewood Drive. But, they're much more than a store! In addition to offering low cost materials, each year CF distributes \$200,000-plus worth of free building materials, appliances, etc. — through their Home Essentials Program (HELP) — to other nonprofits and limited-resources households.

A Typical Home Essentials Program Customer

A family of five, on a limited income, in PG County was living in a home with a water-damaged floor and a non-functioning refrigerator. HELP gave them a gently used refrigerator and boxes of new flooring.

Apply for HELP

If you or someone you know needs repair supplies, household fixtures, or other building materials that will provide a safer, better living environment:

- 1) Fill out the HELP application online: communityforklift.org/programs/HELP/HELP-application. This is the only way to apply for the program. Make sure to fill out all the required fields and click "submit" at the bottom. The form will show a message to confirm you successfully sent it in.
- 2) A Community Giving Manager will contact you to explain the program and discuss your application.
- 3) If your application is approved, meet with their Community Giving Manager in person at the Forklift reuse warehouse, to go over the program policies and procedures and to look for materials.
- 4) They'll award you specific items or set up a grant so you can return and look for materials later.

Learn about HELP and Community Forklift's other good works (e.g., creating good green jobs and reuse education) at communityforklift.org.

Capital Area Food Bank's MD Community Marketplace

Saturday, December 20 | 9 am

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Ministry Center
3600 Brightseat Rd, Landover 20785

Every third Saturday: pre-packed bags or boxes of fresh produce. It's open to all residents who need assistance. For info about the Marketplace, call 202.769.5612.

Good Intentions Foundation, Inc.

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

2413 PINEBROOK AVE, LANDOVER, MD 20785
STARTING AT 10:00 AM, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Our Food Distribution Schedule:

Every third Thursday of the month (no Jan-Feb; includes Mar 2026)

- Sep 18, 2025
- Oct 16, 2025
- Nov 20, 2025
- Dec 18, 2025
- Mar 19, 2026
- Apr 16, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- Jun 18, 2026

Feeding with Hope
Good Intentions Foundation, Inc. | 301-877-3766
HELP@GOODINTENTIONSFOUNDATION.ORG

MASTER'S TOUCH

FOOD BANK

2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS 11:30AM-12:30PM
TUESDAYS 11 AM - 1 PM

RESTORATION CENTER
119 CENTERWAY GREENBELT MD 20770

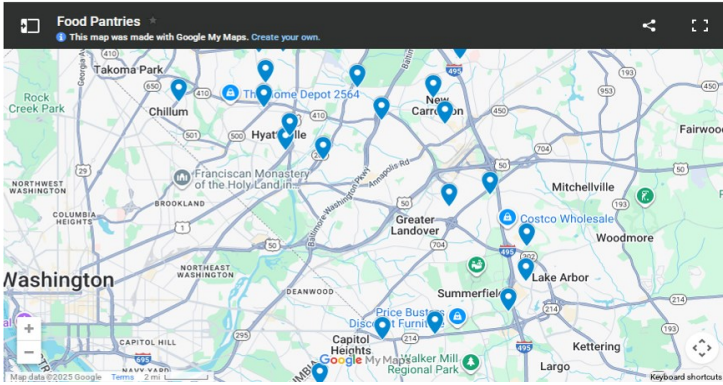
For more information please contact:
301-345-0007 or outreach@rccrestorationcenter.org

Prince George's County Food Programs



County-wide food pantries are updated monthly at: pgcfec.org/resources/find-food-food-pantry-listings.

There's also a link there to view pantries, in list format, by location.



If you need more help finding food, please Call 2-1-1.

Maryland Hunger Solutions helps residents complete and submit SNAP applications over the phone, submit changes to active SNAP cases, answers questions about benefits, and directs residents to additional food resources. Please visit mdhungersolutions.org or call 866.821.5552.

Social Services' Emergency Food Assistance Program is a clearinghouse distributing donated food. Over 30 local

Emergency Food Assistance Program

All food is provided to eligible individuals and families free of charge. The following Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) service centers will also now have permanent food pantries to further serve Prince Georgians, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.:

- 6505 Bellcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782
- 425 Brightseat Road, Landover, MD 20785
- 4235 28th Avenue, Temple Hills, MD 20748

No registration is required to receive food from these PGCDSS food pantries. Food is available to all County residents, and walk-ups are welcome. DMV Free Events is not affiliated with the event. For questions and updates, contact the event organizer.

Follow @DMVFreeEvents



community pantries and shelters participate in the PG County program, providing food to eligible individuals and families free of charge. Call 301.909.6343 or visit the website: princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/social-services/services/community-services/food-assistance.

EMERGENCY FOOD & DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

The SEED Food Distribution Center provides emergency food monthly.

Prince George's County, MD
P. (301) 458-9808





North Brentwood Newswire

A Heritage to Remember, a Future to Mold

Town Directory

Town Office: 301.699.9699

Mayor: Petrella Robinson x1225

Council Members:

Aaron Baynes x1227

Jacqueline Morales x1222

Evan Dame x1229

Town Manager:

Jacqueline Goodall x1226

Treasurer: Shelley Dorsey x1224

Code Enforcement Officer:

Martha Cuffie x1223

Town Clerk: Carletta Lundy x1227

Assistant Clerk:

Cristian Ortiz-Romero x1227

Maintenance:

Greg Butler/Anthony Avents

Prince George's County Police: 911

Non-Emergency: 301.352.1200

Park Police:

Non-Emergency: 301.459.9088

Emergency 301.459.3232

Notaries:

D. Edmonds 240.581.0838

S. Jones 301.922.2259

C. Ortiz-Romero 240.351.6302

Community Channel:

Comcast 71 Verizon 1983

REMINDERS...

NO Town Meetings in December! Next meeting Monday, Jan 5, 2026.

* Meetings are conducted via ZOOM.

Meeting ID: 433 091 3800 / Passcode: 4009 / Call: 301.715.8592

All Town meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Join and share your ideas and concerns, and learn what's going on in North Brentwood and surrounding municipalities. We look forward to hearing from you!

North Brentwood Citizens Association: Meetings are at 6:30 pm. Next meeting: **Monday, Jan 12.** Call-in: 774.267.2052.

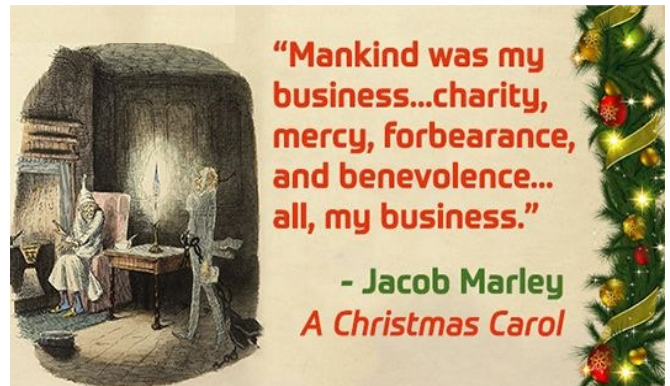
North Brentwood Historical Society: No Meetings in December or January. Scheduled meetings start at 6:30 pm. Dial-in 774.267.2052.

Holiday Party: Dec 10, 12 pm, at North Brentwood Community Center.

SHARE Program: North Brentwood residents interested in receiving SHARE packages must call 301.699.9699 to be added to the list. Please leave your name, phone number and address.



Mayor Robinson's 75th birthday is December 9!



We're on the Web and social:

www.NorthBrentwood.com

www.facebook.com/northbrentwood

www.instagram.com/northbrentwoodmd

**Town of North Brentwood
Prince George's County, MD**

North Brentwood Resident

