



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Volunteering. It's never too early to start teaching your Youth the value of community service. Getting involved in volunteering at a young age can set a life-long pattern of advancing the common good. There are many great opportunities for community service for Youth that will expand their social circle, teach them empathy and compassion, and increase their chances of success in life.

Whether you're young or old, the [benefits of volunteering](#) are obvious. Working with a nonprofit or community organization can expand your social circle and create professional and academic opportunities. Volunteer experience looks great on a college application. Students with a strong community service background may also be eligible for certain scholarships.

Youth who get involved in volunteerism and other civic-minded initiatives learn the value of giving back early on. Unlike adults, who have to deal with the stresses of career and family, Youth can easily make volunteering a part of their life. Community service for Youth establishes positive habits that can stay with them for life.

Volunteer Opportunities for Online High School Students

Many online high schools require that students complete volunteer hours in order to be eligible for a high school diploma. Finding a local volunteer opportunities can be difficult, fortunately, your community can help. If you choose a project that suits you, volunteering can be a rewarding experience. Not only will you finish your required hours, you will also get the sense of accomplishment that comes from knowing you've made a real difference in the world.

Be a Volunteering Family

"You want this to be a habit and something they associate with warm family time," Toddlers may not understand how they are helping, but by preschool age, they will. And while the children volunteer, have conversations with them about how their work helps people.

Point Out Talents

Encourage your child to share a particular skill through volunteering, and help them identify their interests. Do they take pride in watching their well-tended plants grow? Point that out to them.

"Find things that are both useful and meaningful at the same time," These things show Youth they can be responsible and make a difference.

Figure Out What Gets Them Excited

"Ask your child, 'What is your spark?'" and almost every child seems to know what that means," Children are empowered when volunteering activities are based on their interests. Tweens can use soccer skills to help children



with special needs learn how to play. Older teens can run computer classes at a senior center or create a website for a local nonprofit.

For Children younger than five who may not be able to answer the spark question yet, have them choose one activity (from a list of three) they would most enjoy doing.

"Giving your child voice to share what they want to do is critical,".

Start Small

Building a love for volunteering doesn't usually start with spending hours at a local soup kitchen or animal shelter (although no one would discourage that!). Take baby steps and don't worry if you can only volunteer every now and then.

Emphasize Everyday Kindness

Show your children the cyclical nature of giving and receiving. Ask your child how they helped someone today and how someone helped them. Did they hold the door for their music class? Did a teacher help them pick up a dropped stack of paper?

Volunteering reinforces that give-and-take mentality and builds compassion. When they are faced with situations where people need help, they'll respond.

COME OUT ON APRIL 25, 2015 TO THE FOREST HEIGHTS 6TH ANNUAL STREAM CLEANUP GREEN UP 2015, MAKE IT A FAMILY TIME OUT 9:00-12:00 P.M.



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Police Department

Stewart Russell, *Chief of Police*
Latessa Crawford, *Police Clerk*
(301) 839-4040 (301) 839-1122 fax

Eastover District IV Police

(301) 749-4900

Code Enforcement

Ricardo Smith 301-839-4040
ext. 228

Public Works

Stanley Mosley,
Public Works Supervisor
301 839-1030 ext. 231

Forest Heights Municipal Building
Located behind McDonalds
5508 Arapahoe Drive
Forest Heights MD, 20745
www.forestheightsmd.gov

FOREST HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT



Fill your windshield washer reservoir.

You can go through a lot of windshield wiper fluid fairly quickly in a single snow-storm, so be prepared for whatever Mother Nature might send your way.

- Completely fill your vehicle's reservoir before the first snow hits.
- Use high-quality, "no-freeze" fluid.
- Buy extra to keep on hand in your vehicle.

Check your windshield wipers and defrosters.

Safe winter driving depends on achieving and maintain the best visibility possible.

- Make sure your windshield wipers work and replace worn blades.
- Consider installing heavy-duty winter wipers if you live in an area that gets a lot of snow and ice.
- Check to see that your window defrosters (front and rear) work properly.

Keep a tire pressure gauge in your vehicle at all times and check pressure when tires are "cold" - meaning they haven't been driven on for a least three hours.

Look closely at your tread and replace tires that have uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 1/16 of an inch or greater on all tires.

Forest Heights Police Department March 2015 All Calls For Service

ANIMAL BITE 2	DISPUTE BETWEEN PERSONS 4	SUSPICIOUS SUBJECT(S) 22
ANIMAL COMPLAINT (OTHER) 2	DOMESTIC STANDBY 1	SUSPICIOUS SUBJECT(S) (ARMED)1
ASSIST CITIZEN 2	FIGHT IN PROGRESS 3	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE 4
ASSIST MOTORIST 3	HOLD-UP ALARM 1	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE (OCCUPIED) 3
ASSIST OTHER UNIT (INCIDENT) 3	HOUSE FIRE 1	THEFT REPORT1
ASSIST OTHER UNIT (TRAFFIC) 9	INVESTIGATION 1	TRAFFIC ACCIDENT 6
ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY 8	LOITERING/VAGRANTS 1	TRAFFIC ACCIDENT (HIT & RUN) 1
B & E (RESIDENTIAL) 1	MAN DOWN 1	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT 1
B & E IN PROGRESS 1	MISSING PERSON 2	TRESPASSER 2
BURGLAR ALARM (RESIDENTIAL) 3	NOTIFICATION 1	UNKNOWN TROUBLE 4
CHECK ON THE WELFARE 1	OPEN DOOR 1	WARRANT SERVICE 2
CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT 2	RECOVERED PROPERTY 1	Total Calls Handled: 116
DISORDERLY SUBJECT(S) 11	SOUND OF GUN SHOTS 1	

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME



Would you like this
neighborhood to be
known as the Safest
Place in Maryland?

"Call to get involved"

301-839-1030

POLICE STATION 5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE

This Station is Opened to the Public

Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall Station 301-839-4040

(Emergency) 911

(Non-Emergency) (301) 352-1200



Community Update from the Mayor's Office

I wish to thank all of our citizens that came out to exercise their right to vote, regardless of who they voted for. I would also like to encourage all citizens to become engaged in the community. While the Mayor and Council were chosen by the voters to represent the citizens of this town, it is only through citizen involvement that we as your representatives can be sure that we are moving in the direction that residents wish to go. There will be opportunities for involvement on various committees, please contact your Councilperson and let them know of your interest.

A special 'Thank You' for all the voters that have placed their trust in me once again, to be the Mayor of this wonderful Town. I will do my best to uphold the oath that I have taken, that I represent our Town well, and that I always remember that I work for the residents of Forest Heights.

Mayor Jacqueline Goodall

I would like to thank all who came out to the Town Election on March 11th, especially those in WARD 1 who voted for me. I will endeavor to prove that you made a wise decision.

Thank you again, Councilman, Robert O. Barnes, Jr.

Ward III Residents!

A great big thank you to all who voted for me at the polls. I sincerely appreciate your support and the confidence you have placed in me. I am looking forward to an excellent two years for the Town of Forest Heights, with your elected officials and town personnel all working together in an atmosphere of unity, cooperation.

Ward III Council Members invite all to come out to meet and talk to their ward members Sunday April 12, at 2:00 p.m.

Council members Habeeb-ullah Muhammad and Brian McLaurin Light Refreshments will be served

Town Election 2015

Congratulations to all of our elected officials who were voted into office during this year's Town Election! Mayor Jacqueline Goodall, Ward I Councilmember Robert Barnes, Ward II Councilmember Cynthia Mann, Ward III Councilmember Brian McLaurin, and Ward III Councilmember Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad were all sworn into office March 18 at the Town Hall.

Thanks to our residents who came out and voted and showed their support for our elected officials, and thanks to all of the candidates who took part in this year's election. We would also like to acknowledge County Councilman Obie Patterson and Kito James, former Mayor of Capitol Heights, for their participation and support.

Calling All Applicants for Mayor's Scholarship!

The 2014 Maryland Black Mayors Inc. (MBM) scholarship will be awarded to a talented, deserving high school graduate or first-year college student matriculating to college/university or technical school in the 2015-2016 school year. Application guidelines and forms are available at the local Mayor's Office. The deadline for submission is April 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The winning Forest Heights student will be presented with the scholarship at the Maryland Black Mayors Annual Honors Gala on May 1, 2015.



**2015/2016 MBM INC. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ARE AT
THE TOWN HALL 5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE FOREST HEIGHTS, MD 20745**

FREE SHREDDING DAY

When: April 25, 2015 Time: 10am-3pm

Where: Forest Heights Municipal Building

5508 Arapahoe Drive Forest Heights, MD 20745



Town Community New

Youth Spring Theater Camp Workshop Sessions

Our Youth Spring Theater Camp kicked off March 21 at the Town Hall Building. Dr. Chester Brookover, principal at Forest Heights Elementary School, led our first group of young participants in a choreographed routine to "Annie"....and there will be more routines to come!

Sponsored by the Forest Heights Youth Theater Committee, these workshops are free and open to children in grades 1-6. Children learn skills such as vocal training, acting, stage directing and more. Additional workshops April 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. For more information or to get involved, please contact town administrator Vern Haeefe.

Seeking Adult Male Volunteers for Boys 2 Men Program

Forest Heights Elementary School will host its annual "Boys 2 Men" Program April 24 at the school. The program is designed to bring students, fathers, uncles, big brothers and mentors together for an afternoon of empowerment, and provides men and boys a chance to talk about what it means to be a successful, positive male role model.

Adult male volunteers are needed to partner with students who will not have an adult available to attend the event with them. For information, please call the school at 301-749-4220 and ask for Victor Turner or email vturner@pgcps.org.

Starting A Career Path Toward Public Safety

The Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools (CPSTS) Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that educates, advocates and fosters the development of public safety training in schools and provides pathways for youth into public safety professions, making the community and society as a whole beneficiaries of those programs. CPSTS serves as an advocate for students and program graduates seeking training and employment in public safety careers, and provides extra-curricular activities, mentoring and serves as a liaison between students and public safety organizations. To learn more, call 240-360-0778 or email info@cpsts.org or visit www.cpsts.org.

FINANCE/ASSISTANCE

Low-Cost Internet Service for Families

Internet Essentials from Comcast offers low-cost Internet service, computer equipment and free digital literacy training to families with at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Internet Essentials is only available to *new* XFINITY Internet customers, which includes:

Fast home Internet for just \$9.95 a month + tax

No activation fees and no equipment rental fees

Optional computer available at initial enrollment for just \$149.99 + tax

Access to free Internet training – online, in print and in person

For additional information about Internet Essentials, including program eligibility criteria, please visit

www.internetessentials.com or www.internetbasico.com.

Thank You!



On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, United Medical Center (UMC) held a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the first of two mobile health clinics that will be utilized in a comprehensive Mobile Health Clinic Services to address the healthcare needs of residents in Southeast Washington, D.C. and parts of Southern Prince George's County, Maryland. So on Saturday March 28, 2015 the Mobile Clinic Services was in Eastover parking lot to offer testing and screening for high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and other illnesses. UMC bring healthcare to the people who need it the most.

STATE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Applications Deadline is September 1, 2015!

The Renter's Tax Credit Program provides credits for rental tenants who qualify based on a sliding scale of rental liability and income. The Renter's Tax Credit Program is a State funded program. The program was put in place to address the inflationary increases in rent. The Renter's Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed by:

Downloading, completing the form and mailing to:

Department of Assessment and Taxation Renter's Tax Credit Program, 301 West Preston Street

Baltimore Maryland 21201

Apply on line at the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site: [http:// www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us)

Senior Community News



Forest Heights Seniors' Recreation Program

April 13, 2015 Presents

Prince George's Community College: SAGE

Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally

1:00-2:00 P.M.

FREE "MENTAL HEALTH & AGING"

SEMINAR APRIL 23, 2015

FORUM FROM 1:00-2:00 P.M.

5508 Arapahoe Drive,

Forest Heights MD 20745

Please call to get on the list. There will be lunch for only those who sign-up



HEALTH

Walking Tip for the Month



Did you know? A 15-minute walk after eating can lower your blood sugar level for hours, and significantly reduce your risk of diabetes. More importantly, taking a short walk after meals

can be much more effective at preventing blood sugar spikes than taking just one 45-minute walk daily. Learn more at <http://startwalkingnow.org>.

Older Adult Services

Tel: 301-265-8450 | Fax: (301) 248-5358

There are a growing number of people who are faced with making life-changing decisions for themselves and elderly family members. The Aging Services Division provides and supports a broad range of services and programs for seniors and their families.

The purpose of the Area Agency on Aging is to support older adults so they can maintain the highest possible quality of life with independence and dignity, and to assist seniors and their family members with the many challenges of the aging process. The Area Agency on Aging acts as the first resource you can turn to for help. In Prince George's County, the Area Agency on Aging is part of the Department of Family Services. The Area Agency on Aging provides the following services and programs for seniors and their families.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs are designed to provide knowledge, skills and training to assist in improving overall health and working towards a healthier lifestyle. Programs and activities are provided in the following areas:

- Health Screening – Blood Pressure Checks, Diabetes screening, Cholesterol screening

To qualify, an individual must:

- Be a Prince George's County resident;
- Be elderly (62+); and Meet the following income and assets requirements
- Monthly income cannot exceed \$2,637 (individual), \$3,448 (couple)
- Assets cannot exceed \$11,000 (individual), \$14,000 (couple).

For More Information, Contact:

Prince George's County, Department of Family Services, Aging Services Division
6420 Allentown Road Camps Springs, MD 20748 (301) 265-8450 Fax (301) 248-5362

Town Community News (continued)

Message from the Town Administrator Mr. Vern Haefele

- THE TOWN WILL AGAIN HOST THE ANNUAL PAPER SCHREDDING PROGRAM FOR FOREST HEIGHTS RESIDENTS. THE DATE WILL BE SATURDAY APRIL 25TH FROM 10 AM – 3 PM AT THE MUNICIPAL CENTER
- IF YOU NEED A SECOND **ACCEPTABLE TRASH BIN** FOR THOSE WEEKS WHEN YOU HAVE EXTRA TRASH, CALL THE TOWN OFFICE AT 301-839-1030
- THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETS ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM AND THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8 PM. WE HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND.
- BE SURE TO PLAN ON PARTICIPATING IN OUR ANNUAL FOREST HEIGHTS DAY PICNIC AND PARADE. THE EVENT IS ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN AUGUST. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.
- THE TOWN WILL AGAIN PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY MOSQUITO SPARYING PROGRAM WHICH IS DONE LATE AT NIGHT. RESIDENTS PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REMOVE BUCKETS, PANS, JARS AND OTHER CONTAINERS THAT WILL CATCH RAIN WATER, WHICH ALLOWS MOSQUITOES THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPRODUCE. ELDERLY RESIDENTS NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT BEING OUT DAY OR NIGHT IN SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS AND SHORTS. THE TIGER MOSQUITO IS VERY AGGRESSIVE DURING THE DAY AND AT NIGHT. THEY ARE KNOWN TO FOLLOW YOU INTO THE HOUSE
- DON'T FORGET THAT ALL GRASS CUTTINGS MUST BE PLACED IN PAPER BAGS OR THE TOWN TRASH SERVICE CONTRACTOR WILL NOT PICK UP YOUR BAGS.

COUNTY NEWS

Prince George's County State of the Economy Address

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, cordially invites citizens to a breakfast and networking opportunity with county partners and to hear the County Executive's State of the Economy Address.

Featured Guest: Rushern L. Baker III, Prince George's County Executive
April 16, 2015 7:30-11:00 AM

Colony South Hotel & Convention Center 7401 Surratts Road, Clinton, MD 20735 Cost: \$45 per person

Register at <http://www.pgcedc.com>

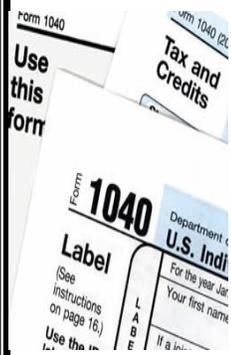
Success in life can never be an accident. It is the result of right decisions at the right time. Champions are not the people who never fail, but the people who never quit.

IT'S TAX TIME! 2015 INCOME TAX REMINDER

We ask you once again to assist us in making sure that the Town receives as much income as we can possibly get from the State and from the County.

Please make sure you do the following two things:

- 1) Make sure your car registration lists "**FOREST HEIGHTS**" as the town in which you reside **NOT OXON HILL**. This will ensure that we get our proper tax from the State.
- 2) Make sure that on your State Income Tax form you specify that the Incorporated Municipality in which you live is **FOREST HEIGHTS**. This will also ensure that we get our proper share of your income tax back from the State.



Commission for Veterans

Ginger Miller, Chair

The mission of the [Commission for Veterans](#) is to elevate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Prince George's County. In our vision Prince George's County offers our Veterans quality services and programs to ensure the enrichment and enhancement of life for our men and women and their families. Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of the month (except when national holidays conflict with the meeting day). Department of Family Services
6420 Allentown Road Camp Springs, MD 20748

Town Community News (continued)

Save the Date April 25, 2015

Forest Heights 6th Annual STREAM CLEANUP Green Up 2015



**Town of Forest Heights
5508 Arapahoe Drive Forest Heights, MD 20745
Saturday, April 25, 2015 9:00-12:00 P.M.**

Cleanups Happen RAIN OR SHINE!

Bring sturdy boots, gloves and dress in layers.

Community Service Hours will be given to students.

Light Refreshments will be provided!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Our Goal is to Reach 100
Volunteers**

**Come out and Help us
Achieve our Goal!**

Please contact Sherletta Hawkins (Bean) at the office 301-839-1030

FOREST HEIGHTS CLEAN UP WEEK

Monday April 20 thru Saturday April 25, 2015 we proclaimed Forest Heights Clean-Up Week. We will have a Town Clean Up, Saturday April 25, meeting at the Municipal Building at 9:00 a.m. to pick up trash in and around town. Please join us.

Along with our regular pick up on Monday, Wednesday (yard waste) and Thursday (bulk), the Public Works Department will have a dumpster available at the back entrance of the Municipal Building during Forest Heights Clean Up Week. We do ask that you leave metal items outside of the dumpster. **Electronics and hazardous waste should NOT be placed in the dumpster.** Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. **Time from 8:30-4:30 p.m.**

In addition, the Brown Station Landfill located at 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD is open Thursdays and Fridays (7:30 a.m. –3:30 pm) and Sundays (7:30 am-4:00 pm) for Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling. Items not accepted are software, stereo speakers, boxes small appliances, microwave ovens and console TVs. There is a limit of 5 per day per person on computers/monitors. Contact 301-883-5045 for additional information, if needed.

*****EWCWSS****

Local Forest Heights
Post Customer

PRSWRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

Town Community News (continued)

A. It shall be unlawful for any owner, possessor, keeper or harbinger of a dog to permit said dog to be upon public streets, sidewalks, roadways, alleys, or any other person's property within the Town except when under restraint by leash or similar device and conducted by a person competent and able to control said dog.

E. When walking a dog by owner, possessor, keeper or caretaker it is required that all excrement be immediately removed from public or private property.



Section 7.3: Penalty

Any person violating the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of an infraction and shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense. Repeat offenders may be assessed a fine not to exceed \$200.00 for each repeat offense.

Trash/Recycle Collection is to be placed at the curb the night before collection



PICK-UP DAYS BEGIN AT 6:30 a.m. ,

MONDAY—Recycle & Trash



Yard Waste will be Picked Up on Wednesday

Effective January 22nd , 2014 Forest Heights residential Yard Waste must be placed in paper bags or trash cans. The new law prohibits the use of plastic bags for yard waste.

Tree limbs must still be tied together in small bundles not to exceed 4 feet in length.

THURSDAY—Bulk (Three Items or Less)

METAL PICK-UP Metal placed on the curb will be picked up by Public Works for a minimum of \$35.00

Propane Tank Pick-ups are \$30 each: Tires \$15.00 each

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Phone (301) 839-1030 Fax (301) 839-9236
8:30a.m.—5:00 p.m.
www.forestheightsmd.gov

Forest Heights Notary
9 am - 4 pm Monday - Friday
Notary is \$2 per document

Mayor Jacqueline Goodall—ext.223
jacquelinegoodall@msn.com

TOWN COUNCIL

Ward I

C. Lynn Smith-Barnes—ext. 301
ward1handinhand@aol.com

Robert Barnes —ext. 303
RBarnes@forestheightsmd.gov

Ward II

Jonathon Kennedy II— ext. 304
jwkennedy2@yahoo.com

Cynthia Mann— ext. 305
CMann@forestheightsmd.gov

Ward III

Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad— ext.300

Brian McLaurin—ext 302
brmrises@msn.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Vern Haeefe, Town Administrator— ext. 234
VHaeefe2010@gmail.com

Bonita Anderson, Town Clerk—ext. 233
Banderson@forestheightsmd.gov

**Sherletta Hawkins, Administrative Assistant—
ext. 232**
SHawkins@forestheightsmd.gov

Leittia Vaughn, Town Treasurer-ext. 221
LVaughn@forestheightsmd.gov

Mimi Liu, Town Communications Specialist
liu.y.mimi@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR APRIL 2015



**IS YOUR CHILD FREE ON
SATURDAYS?
FOREST HEIGHTS HAS A
CHEER & DANCE PROGRAM
“LIMITLESS ALL STARZ”
EVERY SATURDAY 10:30-1:00 P.M.
AGES 8 YRS TO 18 YRS**



APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Yard Waste Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	2 Bulk Trash 3 Items or Less	3	4 Dance & Cheer 10:30-1:00p.m.
5	6 Trash Pickup Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	7	8 Yard Waste Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	9 Bulk Trash 3 Items or Less	10	11 Dance & Cheer 10:30-1:00p.m. Glenn Leonard’s Temptation Review Harmony Hall Regional Center 8:00p.m. Commerford Zoo The Show Place Arena
12 Commerford Zoo The Show Place Arena	13 Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	14	15 Yard Waste Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m. TOWN MAYOR/ COUNCIL WORK- SHOP 8:00p.m.	16 Bulk Trash 3 Items or Less Bowie Baysox Opening Night Prince George’s Stadium 6:35 p.m.	17	18 Dance & Cheer 10:30-1:00p.m.
19	20 Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	21	22 Yard Waste Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	23 Bulk Trash 3 Items or Less FH Healthy Living Program Presents Men- tal Health & Aging from 1:00-2:00p.m.	24 Boys 2 Men Program Forest Heights Elementary School	25 FOREST HEIGHTS STREAM CLEANUP 9:00- 12:00 NOON
26 Bridal Show- case: The Evening Experience Oxon Hill Manor	27 Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	28	29 Yard Waste Exercise Classes 11:40-12:40 p.m.	30 Bulk Trash 3 Items or Less		

Town Community News (continued)

Filing Assistance Available for Veterans, Service Members During Tax Season

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program** offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS. VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, call 1-800-906-9887.

A majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide program. To locate the nearest AARP TCE Tax-Aide site between January and April, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/.

MyFreeTaxes.com, operating the only free online tax preparation and filing assistance platform available in all 50 states and Washington D.C., allows qualified Veterans, active-duty military, their families and all other qualifying taxpayers who earned \$60,000 or less in 2014 to file both a federal and state tax return no matter where they live. In addition to e-filing, MyFreeTaxes also provides in-person help to individuals and families earning \$60,000 or less in 2014.

There are also several other options qualifying Veterans and military families can utilize free of charge. However, please make note of additional eligibility requirements and be advised not all are available in your particular location. Check each for more information on eligibility and availability of services:

IRS.gov/FreeFile (Income below \$60,000: Free File Software)

TurboTax Freedom Edition is available to taxpayers with income of \$31,000 or less, or Eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Second Story TaxAct

H&R Block's Free File

Online Taxes (OLT)

Free Online Software for Members of the Military: **TurboTax Military Edition, Military OneSource, TaxSlayer Military**

Avoiding IRS Scams

The IRS reminds people that they can know pretty easily when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.

Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.

Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.

If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.

You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. More information is available at <http://www.irs.gov>.