

NEIGHBORHOOD
NEWS

VOLUME II
ISSUE 5
HOLD UNTIL
JULY 4, 2013

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This Week

- Gun Safety: A New Venture
- Local Church is Hub for Children's Program
- New Suduko Puzzle Inside
- Sen. Cardin Still Pushing Reform

Weekly Refresher

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."
- Thomas Jefferson

Publisher:
Adventure Enterprises of
Maryland LLC
P.O. Box 2454
Columbia, MD 21045

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Email:

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Guilford Gazette

In the Midst of the Maryland Gun Debate Firearms Training School Sets Up House



Photo by Ricardo Whitaker

Kevin Dukes, owner of Dukes Defense World located at Columbia Junction shares the vision of his new business where he teaches citizens to be safe and treat their firearms with respect.

by **Ricardo Whitaker**
Guilford Gazette Publisher

After the latest gun tragedy in the nation, and during the height of the gun debate in the state legislature, Dukes Defense World was embarking on the unthinkable while the nation was in the midst of another hot and heavy arms debate.

Kevin Dukes, the owner of Dukes Defense World in Guilford, opened up his shop not really knowing if the debate would help or hinder his new venture.

Mr. Dukes is a firearms aficionado, so he opened up his new shop at the Columbia Junction Shopping Center just a couple of doors down from an established legal arms dealer that had seen an incredible jump in sales.

Mr. Dukes does not sell firearms or ammunition. He does not sell hardware or accessories of any kind. At his shop you will not find any guns at all. At Dukes Defense World customers come to learn about firearms. Through videos, demonstrations, and discussions, stu-

dents learn the latest in gun safety, best practices, and Maryland law.

Many people know about the National Rifle Association for their longstanding opposition to local and national laws that would restrict or hinder gun ownership or use.

The NRA is more than a mouthpiece for pro gun laws. They have training courses that are available to companies like Dukes Defense World.

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The Publisher's Notes

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines "neighborhood" as a section lived in by neighbors and usually having distinguishing characteristics. That definition sounds about right while at the same time seeming somewhat outdated.

In the diverse community that is Columbia, and the accompanying national discussion on the topic, it seems that neighborhoods today are not the same of those yesterday. While diversity is heartily embraced in the national discussion, there is a wealth of teaching on how to make it work. It is not always what Columbia's beloved James Rouse would have liked.

As an example, Oakland Mills resident and high school principal, Frank V. Eastman, Jr., is a strong advocate for understanding and promoting diversity. There are still so many misconceptions that Mr. Eastman has provided extensive training on the topic. When you sit through one of his sessions you might think that such an experience is an unnecessary use of one's time. Of course, when he brings these misconceptions to light you understand that indeed some neighbor building is required here.

Our neighborhoods today do not reflect what we found in the previous century. In Baltimore and Washington, DC neighborhoods that were exclusively populated by black residents is now a melting pot of black, white, and Hispanic. The local culture is made up of a multitude of subcultures.

In the Columbia area there is no Little Italy, no French Quarter, no poor section. Walk into a restaurant or bar in Jessup and you will find a mix of working class and white collar professionals mixing it up with no regard to class or ethnicity. Jukeboxes play a mix of Country, R&B, and Rap to suit the tastes of the customers who spent their hard-earned money to fill the machine.

Any barriers that exist among neighbors in our diverse areas are being broken by the children who attend school. Black and Hispanic kids play with each other, and teenagers date on a cross-cultural basis. The white kids hang out with black kids, and Catholics spend their leisure time with Protestants.

Many of our neighborhoods are no longer defined by class, creed, color or race. Today, we are defined by governmental boundaries and subdivisions. Our postal zip codes betray the lines that we have come to accept. A Savage address may have a Laurel zip code. Folks who live in Guilford refer to their area as Jessup. So much confusion easily corrupts the sense of oneness amongst our neighbors.

While the diversity and the neighborhood labeling can make it difficult for adults to advance the neighborhood concept, our children are not lost in this regard. We can learn from them. We should find ways to interact and build upon what is good right where we live.

Ricardo L. Whitaker

Political Points

Cardin Voices Support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Press Release from
Sen. Ben Cardin

Washington, DC – As the U.S. Senate began debate this week on the *Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act* (S. 744), U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) spoke on the floor to outline his goals for comprehensive immigration reform. Video of his remarks can be seen on GuilfordGazette.com. Over the last few months, Senator Cardin has held roundtable discussions with Marylanders around the state to solicit their ideas and concerns about immigration reform.

“We are a nation of immigrants and we need an immigration system that is fair – fair to those who want to come to this country and fair to those who have been born here or living here their whole lives. My grandparents came to this country seeking a new life for their family. Our story is similar to the story of millions of other American families,” Senator Cardin said.

In Maryland today, about one of every seven Marylanders is foreign born. According to the Urban Institute, immigrant households pay nearly one

-fifth or \$4 billion of all taxes collected in Maryland, including federal income taxes; Social Security; Medicare taxes; state income, sales, and auto taxes; and local property taxes, income, sales, auto, and utility taxes.

“Immigration is very important for our country and our economy. We need highly-skilled workers who innovate, create, and help move our country forward. All of our workers should be protected under our laws and not just some. At the same time, we also need strong border security. We need to know who's coming into this country and we must make sure that we have a legal system that protects the homeland. We need a balance.” Senator Cardin added.

“I want to compliment the core sponsors of this bill who came together across the aisle to develop this package. It is a product of compromise. It's not what any one of us would have written, but it does balance the security of our country, border security, and a lawful system for employment with the realities of 11 million people who currently are living in the shadows and now will have an opportunity to remain in this country in a

lawful way, be able to work, and ultimately to become citizens of the United States of America. But those individuals have to earn their way. They have to pay taxes, they have to learn English, they cannot break our criminal laws, and they have to go at the end of the line. This is a fair bill. It's a bill that at long last fixes our broken immigration system.”

During his remarks, Senator Cardin shared two stories of Marylanders who had reached out to him with their personal

immigration stories.

“We hear the numbers when we talk about immigration, but when we look at the faces of the people involved we know that we have to act.”

Watch the accompanying video to this story on the Political Page at GuilfordGazette.com.

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Hammond Bears Coverage Returns in August 2013

Photos by Andrea Stein



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The Religion Page

The Gospel is Fun at South Columbia Baptist Church



AWANA File Photo: Pre-teen AWANA club members listen intently to a team leader before the beginning of the next fun exercise. The programs are held during the academic year.

by **Amanda Frekot**
Guilford Gazette Intern

The South Columbia Baptist Church has maintained its chapter of AWANA for over 20 years. The national organization's acronym stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed," a phrase that comes from the Bible verse II Timothy 2:15.

AWANA aims to educate children about the scripture through Bible reading and

memorization. The South Columbia chapter meets Friday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The 2012-2013 session ended in May, but a new session will begin in September.

According to Carmen Izzi, co-commander of the AWANA program at South Columbia Baptist Church, AWANA meetings typically have three parts. He said the meeting begins with council time, in which a leader will present a story from the Bible to the class.

After that, the children work on memorizing Bible verses as specified in the AWANA books. The

meeting concludes with games and snacks, as well as recognition for progress made during previous meetings.

Izzi said the completion of AWANA books leads to awards. Children finish about one book each year.

The Citation Award is the highest honor given to an AWANA participant.

It is awarded to a child who has completed all 12 books in the program. Izzi said several Christian colleges give scholarships for applicants who have earned this award.

There are three age groups within the AWANA program: the Cubbies, consisting of potty-trained preschoolers, the Sparks, consisting of children in kindergarten,

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AWANA from Page 5

first, and second grade, and the Truth and Training program (T and T) for third, fourth, and fifth graders. A separate youth program exists for children in middle and high school.

Izzi said the program is well-supported by both parents and surrounding churches in the community. He said, "Probably 40% of the children that attend don't even go to the South Columbia church."

He is also inspired by the success of the AWANA program. "We have kids that are bolder than I'll ever be that aren't afraid to talk about the word of God, and they're not afraid to present the gospel message to somebody, which is really, really great," Izzi said. "The more kids that we can get there, that's the future of our church."

In order to join the AWANA program, parents can visit the church's website, www.scbc-md.org, for registration forms. There is a fee for each child to join the program to help buy books and vests for the program, although the church helps to support and fund the program, Izzi said.

People are welcome to visit the Friday night meetings as well, once they resume in September. "They're more than welcome to watch. They don't have to do anything, but they can see how we run our program," Izzi said.

"We have a lot of fun with it, but we're serious too."

New participants are always encouraged in the AWANA program. In fact, Izzi said bringing a friend to a meeting is required in completing some of the books.

"We'd love to see more children come, and we're open to handling as many kids as we can," Izzi said.

"We want to give them a good solid base of understanding what God truly wants us to do, what plans that he has for them and their lives. By being a part of the AWANA program, it's a step in the right direction."

Izzi said 140 to 150 children attend each Friday meeting, so adult volunteers are appreciated. For more information about the program, Izzi and the other co-commander of the AWANA program, Jay Patel, can be reached through the South Columbia Baptist church office on weekdays or through the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.

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Hammond News

Leadership Opportunity
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Concussion Testing
Scheduled for Aug 12-13, 8AM-Noon and . Forms can be found on the Ham-

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Fall Sports Meeting

Set for Aug 12th, the annual parent meeting to discuss fall sports information, will be held in the Auditorium at 7 pm.

Golf Team Tryouts

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Scott_osborne@hcpss.org

College Access

University of MD is hold-

ing a College Access Conference to offer guidance to first generation college students and underrepresented groups. For more information call 301-314-8385 by Tues., June 18th.

2013 - 2014 Events

- **Student Leadership Summit** on August 12 & 13, 9 am - 1pm.
- **Fall Sports Parent, Athlete, and Coaches Meeting** on August 12, 7 pm.
- **First Day of Fall Sports**

- Tryouts** on August 14th
- **Ninth Grade Eat, Meet and Greet** on August 29th, 6 pm
- **Back to School Night 2013**, August 29th, 7 pm
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Business

Which Business Structure is Best for You?

by **Joseph T. Soltis**
Guest Columnist

Continuing our discussion with respect to Business Structure, this editorial will raise some talking points more specific to Sole Proprietorships.

I will address the major talking points of:

- What is a Sole Proprietorship?
- Rules, Certificate of Ownership, and Registration
- Tax Protocols
- Risks, Liabilities, and Financial Considerations.

I will do my very best to present commentary and insight relative to each of these points, and my intent is for individuals, small business owners, and professionals to obtain some insights and understanding.

To begin with, let us discuss the first talking point -

What exactly is a Sole Proprietorship?

The technical definition is a business or financial venture that is carried on by a single person and is not a trust or corporation (ref: Dictionary of Business Terms, Third Edition).

In other words, it is a single owner operation. We alone are responsible

for all profits and debts of the business.

What are the Rules, Certificate of Ownership, and Registration requirements? In most localities, we can operate our Sole Proprietorship under our own name. Lawyers are not required because a proprietorship is essentially the absence of any legal form of business organization.

In Dupage County where I reside, I was required to obtain an Occupancy Permit and a Certificate of Ownership. The COI was registered with the County Clerk and filed with the State of Illinois. This fee was approximately \$75.00; however, the amount can change depending on where each of you reside.

I also had to register the business name, along with my home address with the County Clerk.

What are the Tax Protocols and other tax issues we should be aware of?

As Sole Proprietors, our profits are taxed only once, and these profits are part of our personal income. In other words, we pay no income tax on the Net Earnings of our business; rather, we are taxed on the combined net of our earnings and losses from the business and all other

sources.

Of course, we are required to pay Self-Employment taxes (Form 1040SE) and payroll taxes if we have employees.

What are some of the Risk, Liabilities, and Financial Considerations we need to keep in mind?

An important consideration is that if there are losses instead of profits, we are solely responsible. We are personally liable for all of

own business debts; all of the business obligations; and any claims against the business.

If we owe individuals money, our liabilities could include: business capital and assets; home, car, personal bank accounts, and other personal possessions.

Creditors can seize our business assets to satisfy/settle their claims – this is

(Continued on Page 10)



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Business from Page 8

commonly referral to as Unlimited Liabilities.

Sole Proprietorships do not have much financial flexibility – outside capital can be difficult to obtain and personal credit ratings can affect the infusion of start-up funds.

Perhaps most importantly, a Sole Proprietorship is almost completely dependent upon the owner's abilities – if we get sick; have personal problems affecting the business; or if the owner passes away, the business is bound to suffer.

Again, these are just some major talking points, and I am always welcome to comments and suggestions. As always, I wish to

thank the individuals who read this and I am hopeful you were able to gain a little more knowledge and insight.

Joseph T. Soltis, Jr. is the Owner of Soltis Consulting, an organization offering business, strategic, and operations consulting since 1994. He has over 25 years experience in business management, strategic planning, business development, consultancy, and business analysis. He is also the publisher of "Small Business Owner Weekly Review" – an online newspaper discussing topics for the small business owner. Feel free to contact Joe directly at (443) 492-9875 for a complimentary consultation.

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Sudoku

Find Solutions to the puzzle at:

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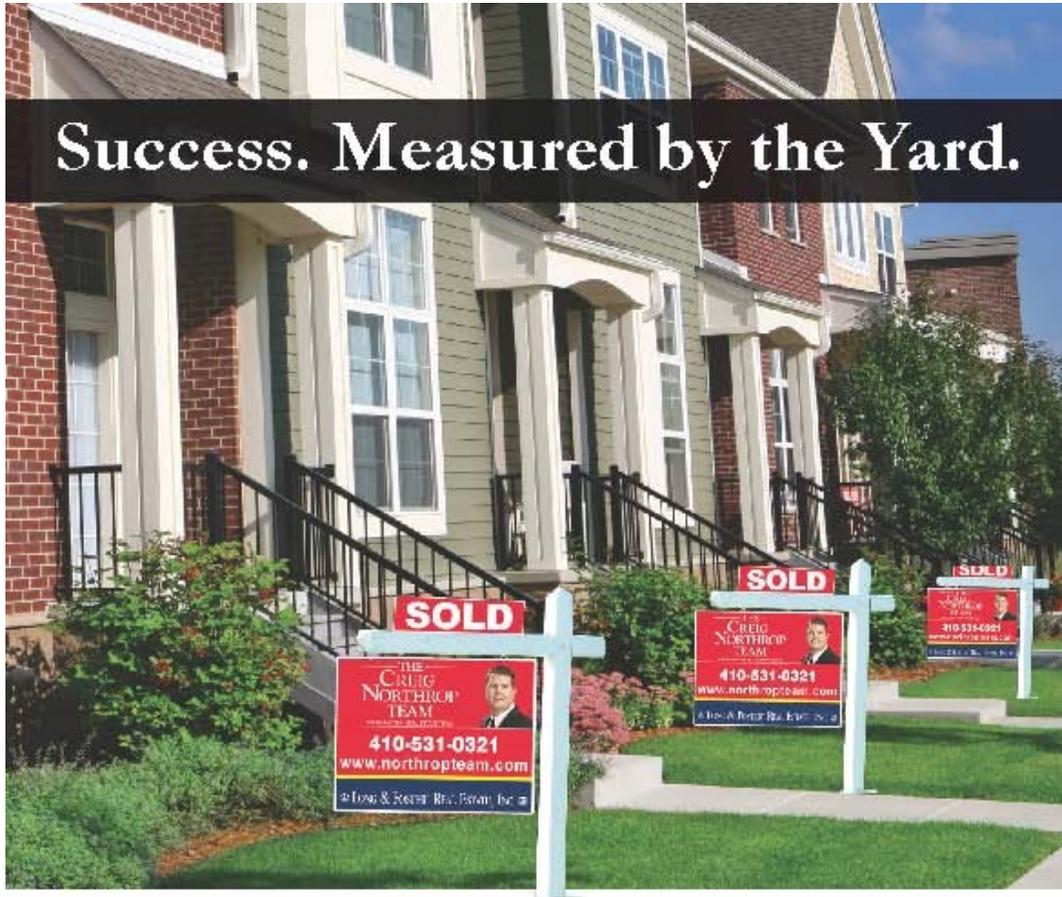
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Excursions

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This is a place where teens and young adults come to discover what's fun and exciting in and around the area.

The Guilford Gazette staff will keep an on what's safe and what's not. We want the youth in the area to enjoy themselves safely.

Excursions is also a place to find out what's happening. It is a place of news and information of interest to a very specific demographic.

For up-to-the-minute news and information, readers should visit the Youth Page at GuilfordGazette.com.

Keep in mind that we are building this section. To make this area vibrant and interesting, we are asking for input and contributions.

Let us know what is happening or what is of most interest to you.

Just send an email to News@GuilfordGazette.com to let us know your needs or to let us know about the best event or the most interesting hangout spot.

Brunswick Bowl

Now here's a place where you can spend hours. It's safe and open late. Bowl and buy snacks. If your game stinks, it's ok. A good portion of the folks at the bowling alley have a

horrible game. Join in with the other stinkers for a good laugh. If you want to save money, go to brunswick.com and register to get discounts. Brunswick will send you announcements on specials. You only need to print the coupon and bring it with you.

If you fall in love with the game, save more by purchasing shoes and a ball from the sports shop on the premises.

The bowling alley is located nearby on Carved Stone and Snowden River Parkway.

Safety

It goes without saying that teens and young adults enjoy the superman complex. They are made of

steel that cannot be penetrated. If only this were true.

When hanging out with friends, be prepared.

If a friend is providing a ride, keep enough cash on-hand to call a cab or catch a bus, especially if mom and dad are not available or do not own a vehicle.

If you are close to home, a taxi ride could be as cheap as \$10. That's a lot of money, when you only have \$20, but that ten spot can be the difference between getting home to sleep in your own bed or being stranded for hours.

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Healthy Living

Valley Brook Community Church Encourages Fitness

by **Amanda Frekot**
Guilford Gazette Intern

Valley Brook Community Church encourages its congregation to be healthy with fitness programs such as the Biggest Loser competition that held its last weigh-in Sunday, June 2.

The contest, the second of its kind, lasted 12 weeks. According to Veronica Barnes, office administrator for Valley Brook Community Church, people participated in the competition from all walks of life, "from teenagers to those in their late sixties." She said, "There are a number of members who are interested in fitness, who wanted to become and remain fit."

Each participant put forward \$20 and the winners, the people who lost the most weight over the course of the competition, win the prize money. Every two weeks, a weigh-in took place, and the participants monitored their weight-loss progress.

Several exercise programs existed for the participants, including Zumba and walks around Lake Elkhorn and Howard Community College. Veronica Barnes, office administrator for Valley Brook Com-

munity Church, said these events were open to the congregation as well as the participants. "You didn't have to be trying to win to come to all the different events," she said.

A weekly newsletter provided healthy recipes, exercise tips, and words of encouragement for the Biggest Loser competitors as well as other health-conscious members of the congregation.

Robert Abercrombie, youth director for Valley Brook Community Church and the person in charge of the contest, said the competition would not have been successful without the help of many members of the congregation, including personal trainer and fitness expert, Anika Baty-Mills, who had a lot of input in the exercise programs.

Mr. Abercrombie described the congregation as "fun-loving," which provides an insight into the positive energy of the participants. Ms. Barnes described the kick-off for the contest, in which they dressed in 80's workout clothes and entered the church service to the song "Eye of the Tiger." "We all came in in slow motion," Ms. Barnes said,

laughing.

Mr. Abercrombie said the idea for the contest came from health articles he and several congregation members read about weight loss being easier with a group. "Nobody had to do it by themselves," he said. "I thought that we were all very supportive of one another."

He also praised the sense of community within the congregation. "Instinct to help each other to do a little bit better and be a

little bit better runs right in line with who we are and the culture we try to show in our church."

Mr. Abercrombie said the enthusiasm of the congregation brought the competition back after its first year. "It wasn't initiated by me to bring it back," he said. Participants from the previous contest approached him and said they were ready for the next challenge.

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Firearms from Page 1

Mr. Dukes teaches two primary courses: One is the Utah Firearms Permit for Non-Residents, and the other is the NRA Basic Safety Firearms Course, which generally respected among firearms sports enthusiasts.

Mr. Dukes also teaches the NRA's "Refuse to be a Victim Course". According to Mr. Dukes, this course resolves the question, "How do I raise my basic awareness as I go through my daily life."

Mr. Dukes explained that his courses are not tactical in nature. He said, "We have a warm and inviting environment...we're about

firearm safety." When asked about the present political climate, he said, "We'll wait and see what happens in Maryland for firearm permits." As it turned out, the Maryland General Assembly did not put the clamps on firearms, but did mandate digital fingerprinting and add some caveats that would only affect the most die hard gun enthusiast. The Governor will sign the bill in October.

Mr. Dukes explained that his courses encourage citizens to get "another look at how we treat guns in our society. When he thinks about guns, he is not focusing on the violence. He associates the violence

with "...how we glorify guns in the media."

Mr. Dukes did not find his love of firearms by watching episodes of old westerns or police television series. He said, "I learned about firearms growing up. I grew up in the Pacific Northwest in Alaska. It's just a different concept than what you have in the urban areas."

In a one-on-one interview, Mr. Dukes shared openly about turning his passion for shooting sports into a business. "It's exciting and scary being an entrepreneur. To do something we love and we're passionate about. It is education and training. I've fallen into a niche where

people tell me where I'm good at teaching. I like being outdoors. I like shooting sports and motorcycles too. It is a way to give back and a way to pay it forward, as it were. I think we should be doing that everyday."

Mr. Dukes opened the doors to Dukes Defense World back on February 9, 2013. The business was met with success. "It was a good month for us. We were given enough breathing room. We had three full classes. We were fortunate we opened up with a waiting list."

Dukes is located at 8610 Washington Blvd., #214. For info, 443-990-1776 or www.DukesDefenseWorld.com.

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