

April 3 - 9, 2013

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

# OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC APRIL 6 & 7

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

### Bethesda (20817)

6908 Blaisedekk Rd ..............\$3,099,000...Sun 1-4....Arron Jewelers.......Long & Foster..301-907-7600

### North Potomac (20878)

11716 Owens Glen Way......\$747,500...Sun 1-4 ... Peg Mancuso..WC&AN Miller/Long& Foster..301-996-5953

### Potomac (20852, 20854)

11225 River View Dr	\$2,395,000Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster301-455-4506
12812 Maidens Bower Dr	\$1,730,000Sun 1-4	Peg Mancuso WC&	AN Miller/Long & Foster301-996-5953
9 Pettit Ct	\$1,450,000Sun 2-4	Lori Leasure	
13728 Canal Vista Ct	\$1,399,900Sun 1-4	Yasmin Abadian	Long & Foster301-983-1212
11421 Twining Ln	\$1,299,000Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster301-455-4506
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #14	05\$554,335Sat 11-6	Bob Lucido	Toll410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #12	13\$466,335Sat 11-6	Bob Lucido	Toll410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #22	30\$418,740Sat 11-6	Bob Lucido	Toll410-979-6024
5805 Edison Ln #2	\$359,000Sun 1-4	Mark Goldberg	Long & Foster240-497-1700

For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

## News

## Artists Unite for New Exhibit

By Colleen Healy
The Almanac

his month the Art Gallery of Potomac presents the exhibit "Color, Light, Drama." The show will feature paintings by Martha Spak and five of her students. They met at the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, in Spak's still life painting class. Spak shares that

"Our exhibition is a collection of paintings that is varied and often delightfully unpredictable," Spak said. "It represents accomplishments from painting together and revealing the individual talents across common concepts and art strategies. Each artist created art using the powerful effects of color by catching the light and giving a simple subject dramatic interpretation."

The show will run April 3-28. An opening reception will be on April 12 from 6-8 p.m. with live music and refreshments. There will be an afternoon painting demonstration and discussion on April 14.

The Art Gallery of Potomac is located at 9945 Falls Road. It has relocated within the same shopping center and is now next to Big Wheels Bikes behind Walgreens. Phone is 301-765-7617. Gallery hours are



Alexandra Arata, Martha Spak, Sandra Ullman, Robin Gross, Margie Ingram and Meredith Morris will show their paintings at The Art Gallery of Potomac's April exhibit "Color, Light, Drama."

Wednesday through Sunday, noon until 4 p.m. For more information go to www.potomacartists.org. or www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com

Upcoming events: Spak is also now a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Va. She will have a studio there in June and July where she will paint. The studio will be open to the public.

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2 • Potomac Almanac • April 3-9, 2013 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News



**County officials** and members of the Scotland community participate in last week's groundbreaking.

> Рнотоѕ ву HARVEY LEVINE/ The Almanac

## Promise Delivered: Scotland's New Center

he Potomac Master Plan, approved and adopted in 2002, promised the Scotland community a needed expansion of its community center. Scotland is a historically African American community off Seven Locks Road in Potomac.

"The focal point of the Scotland community is a community center which is undersized and inadequate to handle the diverse social and recreational needs of the residents. The site is constricted and borhood Recreation Center," said the available space in the center is approximately half that for a typical elementary school gymnasium," according to the Master Plan.

On March, 27, county officials participated in a public groundbreaking ceremony for the new Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center.

"We are excited about breaking ground for this replacement of the Scotland Neigh-



**Unofficial Mayor of** the Scotland community, Bette Thompson.



Nahum Girmatison, 11, Belin Girmatison, 8, and Moses Girmatison, 8, watch the groundbreaking ceremony.



Gabriel Albornoz. director of Montgomery County Recreation



**David Dise, director** of Department of **General Services** 



**Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett** 

Gabriel Albornoz, recreation department director. "Staff members in the departments of Recreation and General Services are working hard to build a first-rate facility that will provide the community with quality recreation programming.'

The old center will be completely removed and the new neighborhood center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014, according to county documents. The new two-level structure will feature a new gymnasium, two multi-purpose activity rooms, game room, weight and exercise room and social hall.

The Scotland Community was settled in 1865, according to the Master Plan. Scotland AME Zion Church, a county historic landmark, was built in 1906.

"In the 1960s, the Scotland community was under intense development pressure. Developers wanted to demolish Scotland and construct high value homes," according to the Master Plan. "Residents organized Save Our Scotland, which evolved into the Scotland Development Corporation (SDC).

"The SDC assembled the small, privately-owned parcels into a community corporation, obtained public water and sewer, and secured government funding for new townhouse construction."

**ALSO LAST WEEK,** County Executive Isiah Leggett announced the winners of the 2013 Montgomery Serves Awards, to be presented on Monday, April 29 at Imagination Stage in Bethesda.

Members of the Bernie Scholarships Award Program nominated Joyce B. Siegel, a driving force in the movement to revitalize the Scotland neighborhood. Sigel worked for five decades to ensure affordable and decent housing for all Montgomery County residents.

- Ken Moore

## Potomac Elementary Moving?

## Brickyard Road site to be considered.

Ken Moore The Almanac

ontgomery County Public Schools has been conducting a feasibility study for the modernization of Potomac Elementary School.

"In response to community inquiries, the study scope has been expanded to explore the possibility of relocating Potomac Elementary School to the MCPS property known as the Brickyard Road Site," according to MCPS documents.

"We have had four meetings for the feasibility study, and it was announced at the last meeting that we were going to also include the Brickyard site to discuss as part of the feasibility study," said Potomac Elementary School Principal Linda Goldberg. "That's as far as it's gone."

Worksessions, to be held at the school at 10311 River Road, are currently scheduled for Thursday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 30, both at 7 p.m.

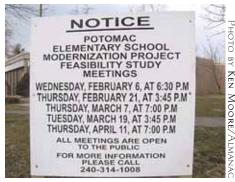
"We'll learn more about this on April 18," according to Goldberg.

The school system has scheduled a final PTA and Community Presentation for Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. "The worksessions are scheduled in the evenings to allow for maximum community and school staff involvement," according to MCPS.

A committee of the Board of Education is currently reviewing policy on the 13 future school sites that MCPS owns.

"What I can tell you now is that the board's policy committee will review its policies guiding use of board-owned property. They will discuss and bring any sug-

SEE POTOMAC ELEMENTARY, PAGE 5



The possibility of relocating **Potomac Elementary School to Brickyard Road was recently** introduced and will be addressed at public meetings on April 18 and 30.

## SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO OUR WHOLE HOUSE REMODELED TOUR IN BETHESDA!

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## News

## Benny's Bar and Grill To Open

## New restaurant promises "Best Drink in Town."

By Susan Belford The Almanac

otomac entrepreneur Benson Fischer will soon be revealing a new concept in dining and entertainment to open this spring in the Cabin John Shopping Center.

Benny's Bar and Grill, debuting in the former Popeye's location,

has been remodeled, expanded and retrofitted into a 240-seat restaurant. Fischer has designed the eatery, resplendent with comfortable leather booths, stonework, retro tin ceilings, open-air seating and a two-sided bar with the latest in mixology machines. A menu will feature made-to-order salads, rotisserie chickens, pizza, burgers, charbroiled meats and desserts. Fischer is also planning to offer live entertainment.

Fischer is no stranger to the restaurant business — or to other types of entrepreneurial activities including dozens of businesses, joint ventures, franchises, acquisitions and other investment opportunities. In 1975, he founded the Yummy Yogurt frozen yogurt chain with his two brothers. This grew into 12 large full-scale fast food restaurants. After they sold Yummy Yogurt, he constructed and operated different restaurants including Buffalo Bills, Café 75, Bensoni's Italian Kitchen, Bagel Boy, and Montana's Steak Houses. He also purchased Gifford's Ice Cream Company and sold the rights to the current operators.

Next he founded a real estate and business brokerage firm, The Fischer Organization Inc. While operating the real estate brokerage firm, he also created a novelty beer product, Redneck Premium Beer. Over the course of one year, they sold millions of bottles of Redneck Beer.

Next, he purchased a Papa John's Pizza franchise in 1998 and was responsible for building the franchise into one of the most profitable in the Papa John's system. In 2001, he and his 76-year-old father purchased the assets of Montgomery Donut Company, changed the name to Montgomery Distributors and now supply companies such as the east



coast Starbuck's with baked goods.

But now, Fischer is thrilled with his latest venture — and looking forward to completing construction and getting the restaurant opened: "Everything will be made from scratch, from breads to desserts. We will be offering good value for our food. Our portions will be generous and everything will be made with the best ingre-

dients."

He continues with some of the menu items: "We will have original sandwiches such as the 'Schlepper' (pastrami, grilled with onions and pickles topped with slaw and 1000 Island dressing), 'The Sandwich from Hell' (grilled capicola ham, onions, bell peppers, jalapenos, banana peppers, pepper jack cheese and spicy chipotle dressing on a club roll), 'create your own salads' with lots of different ingredients, prime rib, lobster, Fireman's chili, trout, meatloaf, hot fudge cake, Montgomery donuts, frozen custard and yogurt — and 'the best drink in town.' Many of the menu items come from my past restaurants."

Andrew LaPorta is the executive chef. He is at the restaurant day and night, making certain that the kitchen will be ready for the opening. "We will be hiring 50-60 employees to staff the restaurant," he said. "I am working with the purveyors to be certain we order fresh ingredients. We will be buying in bulk and primal meat cutting — and passing the value on to the customer."

Fischer explains that the bar will have seven television sets for watching sports and he will bring in live jazz and other types of "easy-listening" music. "I also will try out some new venues — maybe a comedian or even an 'open-mike' night. We can also host private parties here by closing off one of the dining areas."

Benny's Bar and Grill will be open from 11 a.m. for lunch and dinner and stay open until 2 a.m. on the weekends. In the future, they plan to add breakfast service. Look for their opening announcement on Facebook or call 301-299-3377. They are located in the Cabin John Mall at 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac.

## Holy Child's 'Tiger Trot' Returns

School teams with firefighters for 5k Run/Walk.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

unners will assume their positions and leap forward at the sound of the starter's gun—and walkers will follow behind, enjoying a stroll through picturesque neighborhoods of Potomac. The 2013 Holy Child "Tiger Trot"—a 5k run/walk that spans the hills of Avenel and then circles onto Persimmon Tree Drive and ends back at the Bradley Boulevard school grounds will take place on the morning of April 14.

The Connelly School of the Holy Child is joining forces with the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire De-

partment again this year — and Chief Paul Sterling and other firefighters will be joining the race along with Holy Child staff, students and their families and friends. All proceeds will benefit the Connelly School of the Holy Child Health and Wellness Programs and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Co-chairs Christine Drummond and Bunny Lamb are pleased with the community support. "We are looking forward to joining forces with the CJPVFD again this year," Drummond said. "They will be onsite to provide emergency medical and first aid services on race day and will also join in the fun. We are delighted by the enthusiastic response from the firefighters.

"Many new and established local businesses have jumped in to support the Tiger Trot, some as lead sponsors and some as prize, food and beverage, and entertainment donors for the post-race party. Savantage Solutions is our presenting sponsor, Giselle Colavita with Charles Schwab is our water station

See Holy Child's. Page 9

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News

## Potomac Elementary Moving?

FROM PAGE 3

gested revisions to the Board of Education," said Dana Tofig, spokesperson for MCPS. "At this point there are no plans for the Brickyard property. It remains a future school site and there is no active lease for the land. We won't speculate on possible future uses."

LAST MONTH, County Executive
Isiah "Ike" Leggett abandoned a
multi-year effort to turn the 20acre Brickyard Road site over to a
soccer organization to turn into
soccer fields. The proposal, presented to the community as a fait
accompli in March, 2011, ignited
outrage, protest and legal challenges from neighbors, citizen organizations, advocates of the
Potomac Master Plan and advocates of organic farming and local food.

Most of Montgomery County's delegation to the Maryland General Assembly signed letters dated Feb. 8, 2013 to Montgomery County Public Schools superintendent and Board of Education asking for a public process that would include consideration of the Brickyard Educational Farm, and Gov. Martin O'Malley weighed in earlier in support of the farm.

The Brickyard Road Citizens Association, Brickyard Coalition and West Montgomery County Citizens



Meetings on the modernization of Potomac Elementary School are taking place this spring.

Association say they learned last week of the possibility of relocating Potomac Elementary to the site.

For more than 30 years, the site had been leased to Nick Maravell and operated as an organic farm. The property is isolated from commercial farms, allowing for the production of heirloom GMO-free seed corn and soybeans. In the last year, the Brickyard Educational Farm introduced local students to organic farming on the site as well.

**EFFORTS TO PRESERVE** the organic farm on the site are ongoing. At a Board of Education meeting in February, Sophia Maravell, director of Brickyard Educational Farm, testified along with two other supporters.

She asked the Board of Education to "open the Brickyard Road School site for competitive proposals so that the Brickyard Educational Farm proposal can be seriously considered," she said.

She asked the board to open the process "so the land does not remain unattended and prone to soil degradation this spring. The possibilities of serving Montgomery County Public School students on this land are enormous and within our reach," Maravell said

### Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!





Sat., April 6th - 10am-2pm

Where: 6862 Elm Street, Suite 330, McLean, VA 22101

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

#### Saturday's Seminars:

- Kitchen and Bath Trends
- Paint Colors Made Easy
- Apples to Apples Thinking your project through? How do you compare?

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Sabrina at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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## Entertainment

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

#### **ONGOING**

The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season. There are favorite fairytale princesses, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org. Jack and the Beanstalk, through April 21, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Cinderella, April 25-June 9, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

and 1 p.m.

Science & Nature. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Weekend Nature Programs at Living Classrooms Children's Museum Living Classrooms Children's Museum at Glen Echo Park presents engaging science and nature activities for the family. Encounter live animals, take an interpretive hike, explore the indoor anthill and tree slide and more. Free for members/children under 2; \$5 for non-members. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 202-488-0627, ext. 242 or visit livingclassroomsdc.org/Site-BasedPrograms.html.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery.
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a
working silversmith studio and
includes an ongoing exhibition and
sales of the work of artist-inresidence Blair Anderson. At Glen
Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd.
Call 301-634-2228 or visit
www.silverworksglenechopark.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Pulse: Art and Medicine" at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Multimedia exhibit investigates medicine as an inspiration for art. Through Saturday, April 13. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Children's Theater. Imagination
Stage presents "From Here to There,"
Tuesdays through Sundays at 10:30
a.m. and 11:45 a.m. at Imagination
Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda.
Through Sunday, April 14.
Appropriate for ages 2-5. Tickets are
\$10-\$12 with a lap seat for children
under 12 months for \$5. Visit
www.imaginationstage.org or 301280-1660.

Exhibit. Through Monday, April 22. See "Adding In, Taking Away" at Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Features works by local artists including Pauline Jakobsberg of Potomac. Each of the processes used by these artists requires that they add in — ink, oil, stone, wood — or take it away. Free. 301-299-7087.

Photography Exhibit. See "Mirror to the World 2013" at Photoworks Gallery through April 28 at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. 301-634-2274.

#### EARTH DAY 2013

Events. Montgomery County will celebrate Earth Day 2013 throughout April, with a variety of events and volunteer opportunities at numerous locations. See a list of events and opportunities at www.montgomery serves.org/earth-day-2013. More information is available from the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600.

#### **APRIL 3 THROUGH MAY 26**

**Theater Performance.** See "James and the Giant Peach" and "The Magic Finger" at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Best for children ages 4 10. Tickets range between \$12-\$25. Visit www.imagi nationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Prepurchases recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Documentary

Photography Class. Sora DeVore will lead a series of projects at Photoworks at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Visit www.glenechophoto works.org to register.

A Capella Music. 7 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road. Out of the Blue is an all male vocal group from Oxford University. Tickets \$10-12, available at Toys Unique, 9812 Falls Road or 301-983-3160. Visit ootb.org.uk.

Blues Dance. 8:15 p.m. lessons start, dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. in the Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$8. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit www.capitalblues.org for more.

Music Performance. Kristin Lee plays the violin at 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. \$25/person. Visit www.strathmore.org for tickets.

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Gymnastic Exhibition. 7 p.m. at the University of Maryland Comcast Center. See the University of Maryland Gymkana Troupe perform a variety of acts including on the trampoline, using everyday objects like chairs and more. \$7/student, faculty and staff at University of Maryland; \$8/child 12 and under; \$9/adult. Visit gymkana.umd.edu for more.

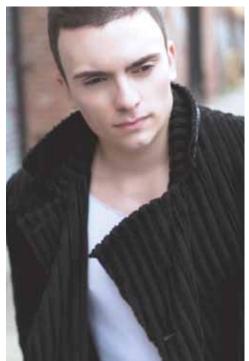
Contra Dance. 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:30 -11:30 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Dead Sea Squirrels provide music. \$10/ adult; \$5/17 and under. Visit www.fridaynightdance.org for more.

Argentine Tango. 8 p.m.-midnight at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Gymnastic Exhibition. 7 p.m. at the University of Maryland Comcast Center. See the University of Maryland Gymkana Troupe perform a variety of acts including on the trampoline, using everyday objects like chairs and more. \$7/student, faculty and staff at University of Maryland; \$8/child 12 and under; \$9/adult. Visit gymkana.umd.edu.

Reception. 4-6 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Sam Miller will demonstrate how to turn an idea into a 3-D piece of art. The gallery is open from noon-6 p.m. Free. Visit



**Cameron Carpenter** 

### Carpenter at Strathmore

Organist Cameron Carpenter makes his Washington, D.C.-area debut performance at Strathmore on Friday, April 12 at 8 p.m. His repertoire includes the complete works of Bach and Cesar Franck, transcriptions of non-organ works, original compositions and collaborations with jazz and pop artists. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-

**Opening Reception.** Ceramics exhibit "2013: From the Fire" can be seen in the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. from 5-7 p.m. See recent works by instructors and students. Free. 301-634-2222.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Live music from Jive Aces. \$20. All ages welcome. Visit www.americanswing.org for more.

#### APRIL 6 THROUGH MAY 5

Ceramics Exhibit. "2013: From the Fire" can be seen in the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See recent works by instructors and students. Free. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays from noon-6 p.m. 301-634-2222.

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 7

**Art Demonstration.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Sam Miller will demonstrate how to turn an idea into a 3-D piece of art. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593.

Waltz Dance. Lessons at 2:45 p.m. and dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Music by Green Light Karma. \$10. No partner required. Visit www.waltztimedances.org or 301-634-2222.

Tiny Tots. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Prepurchases recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380

Most Beloved Bach. 3 p.m. at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Hear some of the favorite soloists perform Bach. \$30/adult;

35 Years

\$27/senior; \$15/teens; free for children 14 and under. Visit www.bachsinfonia.org or 301-362-

Waltz Dance. 2:45-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by Green Light Karma. \$10. Visit www.waltztimedances.org for more.

Argentine Tango. 6:30-11 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only. Visit www.glenechopark.org. Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Music by Green Light Karma. \$13/nonmember; \$10/member; \$5/17 and under. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 11

**Blues Dance.** 8:15 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents blues dancing. \$8. Visit www.capitalblues.org for more.

#### FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Music Performance. Cameron Carpenter will perform at 8 p.m. at Strathmore. He will play the organ. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100 for tickets.

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. \$8/online; \$10/door and is good for all three days. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com or 800-210-9900.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at www.schooltix.org/wootton. Strong language.

Lecture. 5:30-7 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Learn how to understand contemporary oil painting materials. Free. RSVP by e-mailing jjordanbruns@gmail.com. Visit

www.yellowbarnstudio.com. **Contra Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. at
Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur
Blvd. Music Glen Echo Open Band.
\$10; \$5/17 and under. Visit

www.fridaynightdance.org for more. **Salsa Dance.** 8 p.m.-midnight at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$12. Visit www.oohsalsa.com for more.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. \$8/online; \$10/door and is good for all three days. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com or 800-

210-9900.

**Tiny Tots.** 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Prepurchases recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at www.schooltix.org/wootton. Strong language

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Most hardback and large paperback books are \$1.00 and all small paperbacks are only \$.50. All books are donated by the community and are for the benefit of the library.

and are for the benefit of the library.

Managing Dog's Behavior. 1:303:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal
Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane. Get a
clearer understanding of when
training is needed, and if it is, how to
make the training more effective.
Visit yourdogsfriend.org/blog/freeworkshops or 301-983-5913.

Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Kneelam Shaikh. Free. Visit glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Live music from Doc Scantlin Palmettos. \$15/ adult; \$12/ages 12-17; \$10/age 11 and under. Visit www.american swing.org for more.

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Tiger Trot 5k Run/Walk. Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd., is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the fitness and wellness programs at the school as well as the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a moon bounce and face painting, medals and more. Register at www.holychild.org/tigertrot.

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. \$8/online; \$10/door and is good for all three days. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com or 800-210-9900.

**Theater Performance.** 2 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at www.schooltix.org/wootton. Strong language.

Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Kneelam Shaikh. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org or 301-371-5593

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

## What's New in Luxury Bathroom Trends

The luxury home market is one that is energetic and always changing at a quick pace to meet the unique needs of its clients. Over the past decade, the trend of defining what makes luxury has shifted dramaticallyonce, an abundance of square footage was the primary aspect of defining a property as a luxury home. Today, the market and clientele have adjusted their needs, wants and long-term goals when purchasing luxury real estate. The new definition of a luxury home places more emphasis on the ease, comfort, convenience and magnificence of the home's details, features and amenities, rather than the space that they take up.

One such paradigm shift happens in the bathrooms of luxury homes, with a trend towards the creation of a spa-like atmosphere in the comfort of one's own home on the rise in popularity. Instead of adding more square footage to a home to provide a sense of escape, luxury and indulgence, the current market trend is in maximizing the efficiency, luxury, and sumptuousness of the home's square footage: Essentially, why build extra rooms when you could be making the most of the ones you already have?

For the coming year, simple upgrades that are hot commodities are standing spas, heated tile flooring, towel warming drawers and stone countertops. These improvements can take any luxury home's bathroom to the next level, entice prospective owners, indulge the current residents of the home and add to the home's long-term value.

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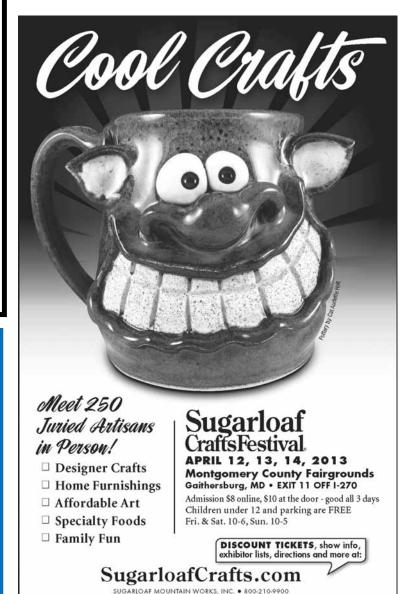
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## **OPINION**

## Where Have All the Trees Gone?

By Shawn Justement WMCCA President

ur tree canopy is already under considerable stress. Age, disease and pollution have taken a toll on the area's mature trees, deer are destroying the young understory trees that replace trees as they die, and trees are lost as additions and bigger houses are built in older neighborhoods. For some time, Pepco has been pruning roadside trees, and there has long been

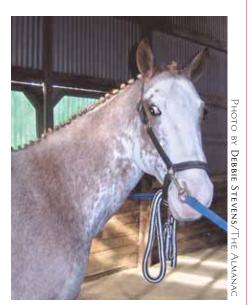
WMCCA

concern that trees are pruned so heavily that survival is unlikely. Now trees are being cut down regardless of health and Pepco is

dramatically increasing the removal of trees along power lines — not only trees under the power lines, but also trees near power lines. Pepco claims that this level of cutting is necessary to improve reliability.

A Washington Post analysis in 2010 showed that Pepco ranked as one of the worst utility companies in the country when it comes to keeping power on and restoring it after an outage. Pepco representatives claim that our region has the fourth-most dense canopy of metropolitan areas in the United States, and the higher number of trees is the cause of the high number of power outages. Forestry expert David Nowak of the U.S. Forest Service disputes Pepco's claim, noting that our area's tree canopy cover is about average, and cities with denser canopy have better reliability.

Forester Mark Gavin of the nonprofit Casey Trees charged, "Pepco has turned vegetation into a convenient villain. It's a lot easier and cheaper to say trees are bad than to upgrade equipment." The Post, citing internal Pepco records, found that most sustained power outages were caused by equipment failures, not trees. Pepco began a five-year \$250 million reliability enhancement plan in September 2010. While there has been some improvement



## Ready

**Winston at the Potomac Horse Center Dressage Schooling Show** and Combined Test on Friday, March 29.

#### WMCCA Meeting

The West Montgomery County Citizens Association will meet at the Potomac Community Center on Wednesday, April 10, 7:15 p.m. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be

Speakers will be Jerry Pasternak, Pepco vice president for Maryland Affairs, and Daniel Landry, Pepco senior staff forester.

As Pepco's contractor for utility work in Montgomery County rights of way and on private property, Asplundh seems to be removing trees at a far greater rate than anything the WMCCA seen previously. Evidence is everywhere: the now-absent roadside canopy on River Road, next to Federal parkland along McArthur Boulevard, and even in county parks such as Rockwood. Potomac's historic Glen at the confluence of two streams has been stripped of mature trees, exposing steep slopes to erosion and streams to increased vater temperatures. Rustic Roads in the Potomac Subregion, where trees usually receive extra consideration, re no longer safe from wholesale tree removal. The WMCCA asked Pepco representatives to come explain their current work, the reasons why it may be needed, and the source of any directives they are currently following. As always, the public is welcome

in reliability, how much is due to equipment upgrades? How much to increased tree cut-

County Council members Marc Elrich and Roger Berliner introduced a bill that would ensure proper trimming and require written approval of homeowners to remove trees, but their attempt to limit tree cutting failed, when County Attorney Marc Hansen ruled that the county can not regulate utilities. The only authority able to regulate Pepco is the Maryland Public Service Commission. Pepco maintains that it is being directed by the state, but what is the level of oversight?

Homeowners receiving notice that Pepco wants to do tree work on the property or find their trees marked with blue dots can call Pepco. The number for Pepco's Forestry Department is 202-833-7500, and a forester will be sent to review the trees designated for cutting. If you have trees that you don't want removed tell them so - if you don't call, Pepco maintains the right to remove what it sees fit. If trees are removed, request vouchers from Pepco for new trees to replant. While it will take many, many years for a sapling to replace the tree that was cut, planting a new tree might make you feel a little better.

#### **BRICKYARD COALITION UPDATE**

BY CURT UHRE

The Board of Education has voted to adopt policy guidelines for the leasing, licensing and use of property held for future school sites, including the Brickyard site. The Policy Committee of the Board of Education to draft these policy guidelines may use task forces, work groups, public forums and other venues to seek public input. The Brickyard Coalition Inc. has written to the BOE Policy Committee requesting the opportunity to present information to the committee relating to the development of these policy guidelines. After the Policy Committee has concluded its work, it will provide a draft policy for the leasing, licensing and use of BOE properties to the BOE for consideration, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy guidelines.

Breaking News: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently conducting a feasibility study for the modernization of the Potomac Elementary School. WMCCA has just learned that the study scope has been expanded to explore the possibility of relocating Potomac Elementary School to the MCPS property known as the Brickyard Road Site. The work session meetings for the inclusion of the Brickyard Road Site are open to the public and we encourage you and your neighbors to attend and participate in this process. The work sessions are: Thursday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 30, with a final PTA/Community Presentation Wednesday, May 15. All meetings will be held at the school at 10311 River Road at 7

#### **GLEN HILLS SEWER STUDY**

By Susanne Lee

**Montgomery County Government continues** to amaze — first the outrage that was "Brickyard" and now the Glen Hills Sewer Study. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 Study Reports confirm the county appears poised to jam sewers lines and their attendant costs and increased development down the throats of Glen Hills residents who are overwhelmingly opposed to and do not want or need public sewer. The Glen Hills Study Phase 2 report proposes construction of 13 unneeded sewer lines at a cost to property owners of close to \$6 million. After the county branded over a third of the community as not likely to be sustainable on septic, real estate agents are asking how they can market and sell property to potential Glen Hills homebuyers.

The reports, yet to be made available to the general public, confirm:

- ❖ Blatant disregard and misrepresentation of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan. The Master Plan limits the study to well-documented septic failures and limited extensions to relieve them.
- ❖ Violation of the Piney Branch Special Protection Area.
- ❖ Sham public participation scope of the study decided behind closed doors, meaningless meetings designed to ensure lack of genuine participation, and failure to respond to public comments.
- County confirms only nine properties (out of 542 properties in the study area) have failed septic systems. Of those nine, five already abut an existing sewer line, including one approved
- ❖ Relying on totally theoretical "planning level" data — that it admits is not conclusive and is not based on any actual conditions on any lots — the county declares that 223 properties (none of which have failed septics) are "likely not sustainable" on conventional septic systems.
- \* Thirteen new lines are proposed costing \$6 million, and not one of the lines will service the nine properties purported to have failed septic systems.
- County defends its failures by saying the \$350,000 appropriated for the study was not enough to collect any actual data regarding Glen Hills lots.

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## News



Jennifer and Jemies Saratis enjoy golfing with The First Tee.



Brandi Chastain putts in The First Tee event.

## 'Giving Kids the Drive'

Third annual First Tee luncheon to support golfing program.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

housands of children in Montgomery County have learned to play golf each summer through a junior golf program called The First Tee of Montgomery County. Through this organization, they gain more than learning to putt, chip and drive the ball. The program teaches and instills values that youth need to be successful in life — while teaching them a game that they can play their entire life. The mission of this nationwide organization is "to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill lifeenhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf."

The First Tee of Montgomery County benefits more than 500 Montgomery County youth who would not typically have access to the game and its opportunities. Young men and women, ages 8 - 17 are introduced to the fundamentals of golf, provided with equipment, clothing, lessons and the chance to play Montgomery County courses. They learn nine core values — respect, perseverance, honesty, integrity, courtesy, responsibility, sportsmanship, confidence and judgment — that will ensure their success in school and careers, with adults and friends. They are also introduced to nine healthy habits — energy, safety, play, vision, mind, family, friends, school and community — and taught The First Tee Code of Con-

duct. Another goal is to encourage girls to become involved in the world of sports.

To raise funds for its mission, The First Tee of Montgomery County will host a golf outing and luncheon on April 30, at TPC Avenel. Christine Brennan, awardwinning sports columnist for USA Today, best-selling author and commentator, will be the keynote speaker. Brennan is the author of the book, "Best Seat in the House: A Father, A Daughter, A Journey Through Sports." NBC news national reporter, Lisa Myers will emcee the event.

Twelve-year-old Jennifer Saratis and 14-year-old Jemies Saratis have been involved with "The First Tee" for five years. Jemies explains the impact that the organization has had on her life: "I have met a lot of people and learned lessons that help me in life and in school. The game and the program have given me the confidence to try new things and take risks. Golf is really fun, too."

Her sister Jennifer said, "I have learned the importance of honesty and treating other people with respect." Both girls plan to continue playing golf.

Players in the golf outing will tee-off at 8:30 a.m. and play will include contests, prizes and gifts. The luncheon will begin at noon and will feature a silent auction filled with auction items such as golf for four at The Greenbrier Resort, a Chef's Dinner for four with wine at Old Angler's Inn, dinner for four at Hunter's Inn, a complete seafood dinner from River Falls Seafood, "Member for a Day" at many local country clubs, Redskin tickets, spa days and more. A raffle will also be held for more prizes.

"Give Kids the Drive" by signing up for the 9-hole golf outing and luncheon (\$200 per golfer) or for the luncheon (\$100). To register for the event, to volunteer or to donate, go to www.thefirstteemcmd.org.

## safety, play, vision, mind, family, friends, school and community—and taught The First Tee Code of Conwww.thefirstteemcmd.org. Holy Child's Tiger Trot' Returns

From Page 4

sponsor, Orange Taxi is our pace car sponsor and Bethesda Magazine, Potomac Grocer, D&A Dunlevy Landscapers, the Potomac Branch of M&T Bank and Gettysburg Bluegrass are all platinum level sponsors. Many other local businesses have donated as well."

The 3rd annual 5K run/walk will begin at 8 a.m. with last-minute registration opening at 6:30 a.m. Every online registrant who registers by April 12 will receive a race goodie bag that will include a long-sleeved tee shirt, tiger trot koozie and coupons for local restaurants, shops and fitness facilities. Packet pick-up and late registration will be held at Holy Child from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 and also on race morning. Registration fees on or

before April 5 are \$25 for adults (20 and older) and \$20 for students (19 and below). After April 5, the fees are \$30 and \$25. Nine hundred dollars in prizes to the top runners will be awarded.

The post-race party will include festivities for the whole family including music, a moon bounce, raffles, vendors and more. MIX 107.3 daytime DJ John Martin (and Holy Child dad) will emcee. There will be complimentary food and drinks for the race participants before and after the race. The awards ceremony will begin at 8:45 a.m. Overall awards will be based upon Gun Time and age division awards will be based upon Net Times. More information and registration forms are available at www.holychild.org/tigertrot.

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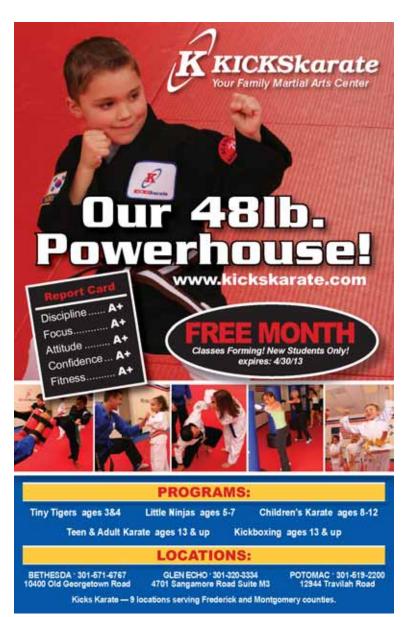


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## Selfless or Selfish

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just in case anybody is paying attention, and my behavior plays some kind of role/ has any effect on my outcome whatsoever, I'd just as soon be one more than the other. However, receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis (stage IV and let me remind you there's no stage V) out of the blue at age 54 and a half, less than three months after burying your widowed mother, tends to upset this delicate balance. If I've heard it once - since my diagnosis - I've heard it multiple times, and from trusted, respected sources: "It's all about you, Ken." And when the oncology nurse sticks that needle in your arm for the first time and then hooks you up to a six-hour I.V. drip containing chemotherapy drugs "cocktailed" to poison you (kill your tumor-carrying white blood cells actually), the decision about whom to care about most, you or someone else, begins to take on a life of its own.

Controlling that other life has become one of my biggest challenges. It's very easy to lose yourself in the midst of a metastatic malignancy when your oncologist gives you "13 months to two years" to live. For all anybody knows, it's your attitude or even your personality that keeps you alive as your treatment ramps up. However, thinking and doing for others is extremely difficult at this time, a time when you can barely get out of bed. Chemotherapy has a way of leveling the playing field: You can't do anything for anybody, least of all for yourself. As you begin to bounce back after your treatment (if there is an interval), you semi-regain your composure in anticipation and preparation for the next infusion. Nevertheless, before too long, the mental demons begin to take hold yet again, attempting to tear down every emotional underpinning you've devised. No one said it was going to be easy. In fact, one of our best friends, Lynne, a recent breast cancer survivor said quite the opposite: "Ken, this is going to be the hardest thing you've done." Of course, she was 100 percent

Over time and over treatment, you begin to assimilate the demands: the infusions, the frequency, the doctors' appointments, the diagnostic scans, the lab work, the side effects, the straight-on effects, the highs, the lows, the hopes, the prayers, the statistics; until it becomes, at least for me it has, sort of mundane and part of a process that takes over your life – for some very unfortunate reasons. You accept it because: it appears there are very few exceptions. Cancer rules and thinking it doesn't is disrespectful almost and incredibly naive.

Giving respect to such a dreaded – but previous to my diagnosis, not a part of my family's history – disease, helped guide me back to becoming more selfless and less selfish; understanding that reclaiming that dignity and integrity in this context anyway, can have a powerful effect on both myself and those around me, which in turn works back to me (the old what goes around comes around-type karma) and ultimately benefits and enhances my life. The longer I've survived with this diagnosis, the more characteristic of the pre-Kenny-with-cancer I've become. That's not to say that I don't occasionally slip and tall – emotionally, but now, getting up is not nearly so difficult. I've been there, and I've done that. Besides, I'm happier being me, and happiness can work miracles.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers

## **SPORTS**



Bullis' Mitchell Goldberg scored five goals against Coronado on March 30.



Nick Fields is the leader of the Bullis defense.



Bullis' Kyle Nemeroff scored three goals against Coronado on March

## Bullis Boys' Lax Beats Coronado Islanders

## Senior Goldberg scores five goals for Bulldogs.

By Jon Roetman The Almanac

n March 30, the Bullis boys' lacrosse team hosted the Coronado Islanders, who made the crosscountry spring break trip from California.

After the game, Bullis standout Nick Fields was asked if East Coast-West Coast pride was at stake during a Saturday afternoon in Potomac.

"Them coming all the way from Cali," Fields said, "we wanted to make sure it was worth their trip and give them a good game."

If a challenge is what the Islanders desired, Bullis offered a lopsided show of hospitality.

The Bulldogs defeated Coronado 10-1 at Bullis School. In a game marred by 16 penalties — nine against Coronado — Bullis

led 3-1 at halftime before outscoring the Islanders 7-0 in the second half.

Bullis head coach Robert Pollicino said the thought of playing for coastal pride wasn't a focus of the Bulldogs.

"I think for us it's really more IAC pride," Pollicino said. "I think all of us root for each other outside of our league season. We want to see [Georgetown] Prep and Landon and St. Stephen's and Episcopal and St. Albans win their games. We want to be sort of the preeminent league in the area. There's some pride there.

"East Coast-West Coast? The game is getting so good all over the place, so I don't know how much that comes into play."

Leading the way offensively for Bullis was senior Mitchell Goldberg. The University of Richmond-bound attackman scored five goals.

"We know Mitchell is our offensive catalyst," Pollicino said. "When he's on and he's scoring, it gives us opportunities to be successful. It stretches the defense because he can let it go from 12, 15 yards. It can free up the inside so it certainly helps us when he's on."

Senior attackman Kyle Nemeroff scored three goals for Bullis.

Fields, who will play collegiately at Johns Hopkins, is Bullis' top defensive player. Last season, ESPN.com ranked fields the No. 3 junior in the nation.

"Nick's a phenomenal athlete," Pollicino said. "Nick could probably be going to play Division I football, he's that kind of an athlete. ... He just does so much between the lines. His presence gives the guys comfort. They know that if he's out there, he's going to help them and pick them up."

The victory improved Bullis' record to 3-4.

"It was our last game of spring break," Goldberg said. "... We had a tough loss last week to McDonogh and we wanted to bounce back and get ready for our IAC schedule."

After starting 1-3, Bullis beat Hill Academy on March 23 before losing to McDonogh, 15-3, on March 27.

Bullis will travel to face St. Paul's at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3. The Bulldogs will host Ballston Spa High School at noon on Saturday, April 6.

#### Bulletin Board

Email announcements to almanac@connection newspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 4

**Event.** 7-9 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. There will be a panel discussion on college admissions featuring admissions experts. Free. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. RSVP at http://accollegepanel.eventbrite.com.

#### NOW THOUGH MAY 24

**Kindergarten Registration.** Kindergarten orientation sessions will take place for children who will enter kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year. During orientation, parents and students will meet the school principal, kindergarten teachers and other staff members. Parents will have an opportunity to ask

questions about the school's procedures and programs; enroll students for next school year and complete important forms. The sessions will also help students become acquainted with the school environment. Parents should call their home school to make an appointment to register for that school's specific orientation date(s). Parents who are not certain which elementary school serves their area should contact the Boundaries office at 240-314-4710. Parents can also access the School Assignment Locator on the MCPS website at

#### www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

**MONDAY/APRIL 8** 

**Planning Board.** 7:45-10 p.m. at County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Learn what Montgomery County is planning to do to help break up traffic gridlock. Free. Visit www.montgomerycivic.org for more.

#### SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Grateful Shred VI.** 9 a.m.-noon at Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Clean out old files and shred them. \$5/box of paper. 240-777-4910.

#### JUNE 17 THROUGH AUG. 9

Social Skills Summer Camp. Children in grades 1 through 6 can attend camp and learn friendly behaviors, working as a team, anger management and more. Held by the Jewish Social Service Agency and the McLean School of Maryland. All potential campers will be interviewed to make sure the camp is appropriate for their needs. Visit www.summeredge.org/ for more.

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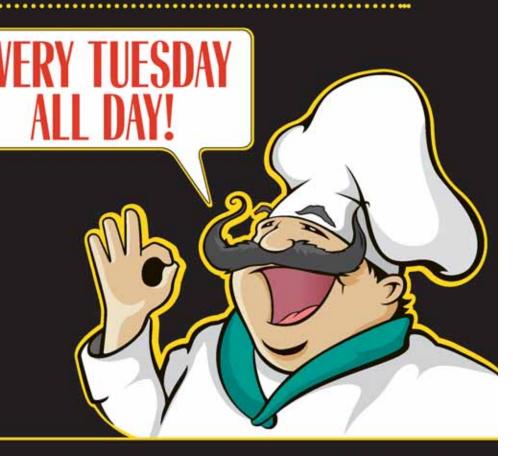


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