

Potomac ALMANAC

A gazebo provides a place for solace at the Hospice Caring Cottage. The nonprofit organization is celebrating 25 years of service.



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Potomac's Mike Hammer Adjusts as Ambassador to Chile

Strengthening U.S.-Chile ties.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

On Wednesday, March 5, Mike Hammer was quietly residing in Potomac with his family where he enjoyed weekend walks to Starbucks and watching his children's sports activities. However, one day later, he was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as ambassador to Chile — and life started moving at a breath-taking pace.

Three days after the confirmation, he and his family boarded Air Force Two to fly to Santiago with Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden. "How your life can change in the course of three days," said Hammer. "Just ask my daughter Brynja. On Thursday, she was a student at Hoover Middle School and by the following week, she had said farewell to friends, met the Vice President, been whisked away to Chile, enrolled in her new school and joined their swim team. It was an exhilarating week — but it seems surreal. I'm living the dream. I worry someone will pinch me, wake me up, and I'll be back in my driveway shoveling snow."

Hammer is finding being an ambassador is "exciting and remarkable — a tremendous opportunity to promote America's interests — and to work with extraordinary people. We left Potomac very quickly to attend the inauguration of Michelle Bachelet, the new Chilean President who was just elected. A U.S. congressional delegation arrived that first week too."

Hammer, who speaks Spanish, French, Portuguese and Icelandic was born in D.C., but grew up in Latin America where he lived in Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil. His father worked for the American Institute for Free Labor Development. In 1978, Hammer and his parents returned to Potomac from where his father continued his work on Latin America, particularly El Salvador to help the rural poor. In 1981, his father, Michael P. Hammer was assassinated in San Salvador at age 42.

Hammer chose to honor his father's memory by preparing himself for the Foreign Service. He graduated from the Landon School, earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and master's degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and from the National War College at the National Defense University.



Mike Hammer



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The welcoming Ambassador Mike Hammer received at the embassy.

Hammer entered the diplomatic corps in 1988 and served abroad in Bolivia, Norway, Iceland and Denmark. During his service, he distinguished himself in many ways. He previously served as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, special assistant to

SEE POTOMAC'S, PAGE 5

JT Interiors at Potomac House

Spring Fashion Event

Thursday, May 8th, 2014

&

Friday May 9th, 2014

2pm - 7pm

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Potomac, MD 20854

Tel.: 301-299-0485



facebook.com/jtinteriorspotomac

NEWS



Jim Nelson in the blue shirt led a combined group from the Montgomery and Frederick County Bird clubs at Hughes Hollow off of River Road on Saturday, April 12.



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Mist rises at Hughes Hollow marsh in McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management area around 7 a.m. on a Saturday. The area is a favorite with birders.

Spring Songbirds Arriving Now

Local bird groups and bird walks help beginning birders see colorful birds.

BY DONALD SWEIG

The birds are coming. The annual migration of often brightly colored songbirds from their winter homes in Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, and the southern U.S. is underway now. Millions and millions of avian migrants fly northward every night and the come down to rest or nest every morning. Some of the birds are enroute to nesting areas far to the north; some nest right here or nearby. Avian enthusiasts (birders/bird watchers) and general nature buffs have eagerly awaited the birds' arrival and are now out in force



PHOTO BY DONALD SWEIG

A male Baltimore Oriole, the state bird of Maryland.

hoping to see some of their feathered friends.

The spring breeding birds (50 or more species) are often boldly patterned and brightly colored. They exhibit in various patterns of black, white, yellow, red, blue, orange and myriad shades of brown and grey.

And they sing. Each species has a distinct song and call. Spring songbirds can be seen in many places in the area, from a tree in any yard, to "migrant traps," natural areas that attract migrating birds and regular nesting sites.

The Baltimore Oriole, the state bird of Maryland, was named by the original set-

tlers of Maryland in the 17th century, when they saw the orange and black bird, the same colors as the coat-of-arms of Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore, the founder of Maryland. They declared that the oriole was "Lord Baltimore's bird." Baltimore Orioles are easily found in late April and early May as they breed in Maryland and Virginia. Look for them along the C&O Canal, in the Great Falls Parks on both sides of the Potomac.

It's a great opportunity to see Spring wildflowers as well.

Any morning, especially with south or

SEE HELPING, PAGE 6



Members of bird the bird clubs scan for red-headed woodpeckers and more than 40 other kinds of birds observed on their walk.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A representative from the Potomac chapter of the National Versatile Hunting Dog Association explained ongoing field tests to a group of birders on April 12.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Nuts and Bolts of Professionally Staged Homes® for Sale

In professionally Staged Homes®, it's important to stay away from themes—remember, the potential buyer needs to be able to envision their furniture and home accessories in the space, not yours. By staying away from themes, you keep the focus where it needs to be: on the house, not the things inside it. The key principle to keep in mind when professionally staging a home is that this is house's chance to make a first impression. A theme that a potential buyer doesn't like can leave them with a negative impression of the space, whereas keeping the room design neutral and open to interpretation invites buyers to day-dream, mentally "moving into" the space and forming an emotional connection to the space. Color and art are two important considerations in staging technique—choose relaxing colors and a fresh coat of paint to evoke a feeling of peace and tranquility. After all, you want the buyers to envision your home as their place to relax and enjoy life. Pieces of art, likewise, should be neutral and picked with the intent of accenting the room—not being the room's focal point—because the art isn't what you're selling! Subtle pieces or mirrors, arranged tastefully around the rooms of your home, should draw attention to the features of the space—a painting over the fireplace, an accent piece flanking a bay window, a window dressing that highlights French doors, and so on. Likewise, sellers (and buyers!) may also want to invest in cabinetry or home design that allows the television to be concealed from view. By simply hiding the television set from view, it makes the features of any room its focal point and promotes the space as an oasis of calm. Does your house have a room that seems to be a catch-all for clutter? By engaging the services of an ASP®, you've got a competitive edge on other sellers in your area. A keen eye for detail, creative panache and problem-solving attitude can help you re-purpose that room from an unfocused area that collects "stuff" into a specialty room that adds value to your home that you didn't even know was there! Home libraries, attic closets, personal gyms, luggage rooms, rumpus rooms, butler's pantries, conservatories and porte cocheres are all stylish ideas for re-purposing space in rooms that seem to collect clutter that add both dollar value and a unique feature to your home, making it stand out to buyers and helping it sell quickly for its maximum value.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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NEWS

B'nai Tzedek Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Gala honors its founders.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In 1988, the movie "Field of Dreams" inspired viewers with the motto, "If you build it, they will come." Armed with this philosophy, and encouraged by a few residents who were also passionate about establishing a new synagogue in Potomac, Symcha and Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt set off on a mission to create, in Weinblatt's words, "a place where members grow Jewishly and take their Jewish journey, where they could deepen their ties to Judaism and discover its beauty and relevance."

Thus, 25 years ago, Congregation B'nai Tzedek began — and more than 600 families have come to make B'nai Tzedek their spiritual home. Four hundred members attended the 25th Anniversary Gala on April 5 — an event that "Honors Our Past, Celebrates Our Future." Weinblatt was recognized for his dedication, inspiration and guidance as one of the founders of the synagogue.

Weinblatt was serving as a rabbi in Bowie, Md., when he came to the conclusion that he was no longer comfortable serving in the Reform movement. "I felt that the approach of Conservative Judaism, which seeks to blend tradition and change, with its embrace of Zionism and emphasis on community rather than individual choice was all more consistent with my view of Judaism."

He began speaking with Randy Weiss and others who urged him to start a congregation in Montgomery County, closer to the center of the Jewish population. Even though he had a wife and young family, he took the chance and decided to devote himself to starting a new synagogue and growing its congregation.

In January 1988, Jill and Michael Weinstein became the first official members — and hosted the first meeting to discuss forming the new synagogue. They decided they wanted to create a "caring congregation, a learning congregation, a congregation where they would grow together — grow in connections to their heritage as well as in their knowledge and observance of Judaism." They incorporated in March 1988 and held their first Passover Seder for 75



Wendy Katzen, Yve Dinte, Micki Niakani and Robin Hammer at B'nai Tzedek's 25th anniversary gala.



Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt with Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown at the gala.

people on the third night of Passover at the Jewish Community Center. They met at Woodward High School, at the Potomac Community Center, the Harker School and the Ring House. Finally, in 1993, the pastoral land just off South Glen Road in Potomac became available and they purchased it and built their permanent synagogue.

In the past 25 years, the synagogue has expanded, celebrated its 13th anniversary (Bar Mitzvah), hosted dignitaries such as President Clinton, John McCain, Donna Shalala and oth-

ers, hired a full-time cantor, Marshall Kapell, volunteered in local, national and international communities and even held a celebratory congregational 25-mile bike ride to all their former worship locations around Rockville, Potomac and Bethesda.

"It is truly amazing how quickly the time has flown," said Weinblatt. "We have grown in so many ways. We are a learning community and a caring community. It is gratifying to know that so many friendships and relationships have been formed; how many children have studied, have gone to Israel and celebrated their b'nai mitzvah; how much Torah has been taught and put into practice; how many times we have comforted and consoled each other and provided a helping, loving and supporting hand or hug; how many have found the relevancy and meaningfulness of Judaism here; how many of our members have travelled with Symcha and me to Israel to deepen their connection to Judaism and their people; how active our members are in the greater Jewish community; how many holidays and joyous events have been shared and taken place here

SEE CONGREGATION, PAGE 5

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Potomac Almanac will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Potomac Almanac, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

Potomac's Mike Hammer Adjusts as Ambassador to Chile

FROM PAGE 2

President Obama, Senior Director for Press and Communications, and National Security Council Spokesman. He served at the National Security Council as Deputy Spokesman from 1999-2000 and Director of Andean Affairs from 2000-2001.

Hammer and his family have resided in Potomac for the past five years and have returned here between international assignments. His daughter Monika and son Mike Thor both attended Potomac Elementary, Hoover Middle and Churchill High School and his daughter Brynja attended Potomac Elementary and was a 7th grade student at Hoover Middle. He is married to Margret Bjorgulfsdottir.

Hammer looks forward to having the opportunity to travel the length of Chile — 3,000 miles —

and learn about the country and its people. "Through a video we launched on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OF1FwkWriyM&list=UUrHm9O_1lkTs8qV03AKdoA), I have asked Chileans to recommend places I should go. I'm really hoping to have the chance to visit Patagonia, Easter Island, the Atacama desert as well as the many cities and towns in-between. It's an incredibly beautiful and diverse country."

He has set many goals for his three-year tenure as ambassador. "I want to build on the strong relationship that the U.S. already has with Chile," he said. "We will be working with their leaders as global partners to tackle the world's challenges and advance human rights. I want to promote U.S.-Chilean trade as well as opportunities for American businesses. I

will also be expanding educational and cultural exchanges to bring people together."

One of the programs that Hammer is supporting is called "100,000 Strong in the Americas." The goal is to foster region-wide prosperity through greater international exchange of students who are future leaders and innovators. "President Obama launched this

program on a visit to Chile, to encourage 100,000 American students to study in Latin America and 100,000 Latin American students to study in the U.S. My daughter Monika will be doing a Syracuse semester abroad in Santiago and be a part of this initiative."

His philosophy, "I am proud to represent our country and to serve

— and to promote universal understanding among the peoples of the world. The more people know about the U.S. and the American people, the more friends and allies we'll make and the better we'll be able to create prosperity and ensure America's security."

Those interested can follow the ambassador on twitter @MikeHammerUSA.

Congregation B'nai Tzedek Celebrates Its 25 Years

FROM PAGE 4

and all the other wonderful things that have transpired throughout the years because Symcha and I decided to take a chance. She has been an unbelievable partner and is truly the unsung hero of our story."

To celebrate the silver anniversary, a committee planned a full year of events.

The celebration began with a Shabbat dinner and ended with the gala. During the year, spiritual, educational and many other com-

memorative events were held to honor the 25 years of the Rabbi's leadership, to celebrate the synagogue that the members have created and to pay tribute to the historical significance of those who have devoted themselves to making the synagogue what it is today.

The synagogue is located at 10621 S. Glen Road, Potomac. To learn more about Congregation B'nai Tzedek, visit www.bnaitzedek.org. or call 301-299-0225.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

The Montgomery County Board of Elections still needs **election judges** for precincts in Bethesda, Chevy Chase, North Bethesda, Potomac and Cabin John to serve in the upcoming June 24 gubernatorial primary election. The board especially needs registered Republicans or those unaffiliated with a political party. Judges must be at least 17 by the time of the election, can't be a candidate for political office or affiliated with a campaign. Some training is required. To sign up or learn more, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/ElectionJudge/Overview.html.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking **bilingual voters** to work at early voting sites and at polling places on Election Day. Voters with Spanish speaking fluency are especially needed. Bilingual voters are needed for Election Day, which is on Tuesday, June 24, and

during Early Voting every day from June 12 to June 19. If interested, contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-8532, download an election judge questionnaire from www.777vote.org, or e-mail Dr. Gilberto Zelaya at gilberto.zelaya@montgomerycountymd.gov.

A local version of the **Peace Corps** has been established in Montgomery County by County Executive Ike Leggett. Called Montgomery Corps., it gives five county residents an opportunity to dedicate one year of service to Montgomery County.

Jewish Council for the Aging is looking for senior volunteers to **teach and coach computer classes** at on site in Rockville and Gaithersburg. Classes are designed to help seniors refresh or advance computer skills and learn to use social media. Courses being offered are beginner and intermediate Windows 7, Microsoft Excel, creating photo books and videos, iPad and more. Visit www.AccessJCA.org. If interested, contact Robin Blackman at seniortech@accessjca.org or 240-395-0916.

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PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG

Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak is among the most colorful of the migrant birds in the Washington area. They breed just to the west of this area.

Indigo buntings are common breeders in both Maryland and Virginia. Look for the bright-blue males on tree tops, like cedars or snags, and utility wires throughout the

Helping Beginning Birders See Colorful Birds

FROM PAGE 3

southwest winds, from mid-April until late May is likely to bring a new wave of birds.

The local nesters are especially vocal when the first arrive and are setting up breeding territories. Look for them on the top of trees, often singing loudly.

Go at sunrise, or shortly thereafter when the new migrants have just arrived; late afternoon (4 to 6 p.m.) is also often productive, though not as good as early morning. If you have binoculars, take them. Listen carefully and look toward any bird sound you hear.

Local bird clubs have lots of bird walks in the Spring and are usually delighted to have new folks come along, and one will see more birds if going with an experienced group.

It's a priceless opportunity to see a Baltimore or Orchard Oriole; a Scarlet or Summer Tanager; a Yellow-billed Cuckoo; a Rose-breasted or Blue Grosbeak; a bright-blue Indigo Bunting; a Prothonotary, Prairie, Hooded, or others of the more than 30 species of Warbler. Go look at the birds and celebrate Spring.

Spring Bird Hotspots in Potomac

C&O Canal National Historical Park and towpath from Fletcher's Boathouse to out past Seneca.

At Great Falls in the C&O Canal National Historical Park the trees can be filled with nesting Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Great-Crested flycatchers, and other birds.

From Pennyfield Lock, walk up stream as far as you want.

At Violette's Lock, walk either way on the canal.

At Riley's Lock either way will find you birds.

Little Bennett Park in Montgomery County
http://www.montgomeryparks.org/facilities/regional_parks/little_bennett/

Also look in any local park or wooded area, preferably at sunrise or soon after. Spring Birds are everywhere.

Local Birding Groups

As a novice or beginning birder, chances of seeing and identifying birds are greatly increased if one goes out with more experienced birders. Local organizations have regularly scheduled bird walks, and welcome newcomers, beginners and returning birders on most outings.

Montgomery Bird Club, <http://www.montgomerybirdclub.org/>
Audubon Naturalis Society <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/>

Also look at: <http://birding.aba.org/> (American Birding Association), Click on Maryland or Virginia to see what is being seen and where.

Organized Bird Walks

Here are some planned bird walks in the area, beginners and novices welcomed.

8 a.m. Sundays, Bird Walk at Great Falls National Park, meet at the visitor center, 9200 Old Dominion Dr, McLean. www.fodm.org
Wednesday May 14, 8:30 a.m. Fort C.F. Smith, 2411 N. 24th St, Arlington, www.nvabc.org



© Donald M. Sweig

Male Prairie Warbler. Prairie Warblers are a common breeding bird in this area, usually arriving in late April. Look for the males singing on the top of small trees, especially cedars, on sunny mornings in field and along roads. They are easy to find in the trees along River Road out past Seneca and at the Occoquan Refuge in Virginia.

Centers Often Receive Needlessly Orphaned Birds

Area animal agencies caution that not every wild bird baby who looks as if it could use help actually needs it. Too many fledgling songbirds, they say, are forcibly separated from their parents by well-meaning people unfamiliar with normal bird development.

At issue is the fact that the fledglings of many common songbirds — robins, cardinals, blue jays, and others — leave the nest before they are capable of flying. They may spend as many as two weeks hopping around in bushes and on lawns as they learn to fly. Although they may seem to be absent, the parents continue to bring the fledglings food and protect them from predators as best they can.

People who come across baby birds in this somewhat awkward stage of development can mistakenly conclude that there is something wrong with the bird — either that the bird broke a wing or fell out of the nest prematurely. In trying to help, they may even unwittingly make an orphan of a bird who

has perfectly capable parents, according to Jim Monsma, center director of Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg.

Wildlife experts offer the following advice for determining whether a baby bird needs assistance:

❖ Rescue any obviously injured birds, ones that have flies or ants on them, or birds with few or no feathers. Uninjured birds without feathers can be placed back in their nest, if it can be found and reached.

❖ Alert and healthy birds with feathers should be left where they are, where their parents can find them. Birds in very precarious situations can be moved to nearby bushes (no more than feet) for their own safety. Contrary to a wide-spread and persistent myth, the parents will not reject the baby due to human scent. When in doubt, people with questions about wild animals can call Second Chance Wildlife Center at 301-926-9453 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. every day.

Note

Local native Donald Sweig, Ph.D., who retired in 2002 after nearly 30 years as the County Historian for Fairfax County, is an avid birder, nature photographer, and naturalist. His observations about locally observable birds and other fauna and flora, as well as local history, will appear occasionally in the Connection. He can often be found in Riverbend Park in Great Falls, Va., along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co., Md., and in other local natural areas, parks, and wildlife refuges.



Donald Sweig

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at Tami's Table, 12944 Travilah Road, Potomac. Tony Denikos, modern Americana with deep roots. \$12-15. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Art Class. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the Visitors Center Adult Classroom, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. This relaxed learning opportunity focuses on watercolor painting through demonstrations and individual guidance for each student. Course #271301. \$45. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, or call 301-962-1451.

Make & Take Rain Barrels. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown. Gather and store water from a rooftop and to help control the stormwater impact to a yard. Course #272299. \$15 FOBG: \$12. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, or call 301-962-1451.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Lesson at 8 p.m. followed by dancing, with live music from The Smoking Time Jazz Club. \$20. Part of DC Lindy Exchange's DCLX weekend, continues Saturday. Visit www.glenecho.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Make & Take Rain Barrels. 10 a.m.-

1 p.m. at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown. Gather and store water from a rooftop and to help control the stormwater impact to a yard. Course #272349. \$15 FOBG: \$12. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, or call 301-962-1451.

Artist Talk and Reception. 2 p.m. at the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. National Geographic photographer Sam Abell discusses his work. Free, RSVP recommended. Visit www.glenecho.org or call 301-634-2222.

Art Show Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. at One Aum Yoga Studio, 10008 Falls Road, Potomac. "Let's Breath In Tranquility" opening reception includes light refreshments. Hosts Veronika Herman Bromberg, T.H. Cunningham, Carol Dyer, Felisa Federman, Habib Hastaie, Yolanda Prinsloo, Dot Procter and and Millie Shott. Call 301-299-1013 or visit www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com.

Spring Fiesta. 6-10:30 p.m. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Spring Fiesta /Latin Dance Party with live music by the Music Magic Trio. Buffet dinner and children's activities included. Tickets available at the door: adults \$35; youth \$15; families and patrons \$100; age 12 and under free. Proceeds support the El Salvador University Scholarship Fund. Call 301-229-0400 or visit www.rruuc.org.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. followed by dancing to live music from The Craig Gildner Big Band featuring Aurora Nealand. \$20. Part

of DC Lindy Exchange's DCLX weekend, begins Friday. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-27

Art Show. At the Glen Echo Gallery. Artist Gail Vogels will present "Finding Our Way," a collection of recent paintings inspired by D.C. Metro landscapes. Vogels moved from Atlanta to D.C. in 2012 and as with all newcomers learned to navigate the Metro. She saw beauty in the shifting compositions of figure, landscape, color and light and was inspired to create a collection based on her commute. Reception will be held on the 26 from 5-7 p.m., and an artist talk will be offered April 27 at 1 p.m. Visit www.gailvogels.com, or call 1-301-371-5593, or, 404-545-8658.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26-SUNDAY/SEPT 21

Conservatory Summer Display. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Brookside Gardens Conservatory, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. 2014 is a year of change for Brookside Gardens that will be visible in the summer conservatory as well. "Wings of Fancy" butterfly exhibit will take the summer off and a lush tropical scene will take over both conservatories. Free. Visit www.brooksidegardens.org, contact, leslie.mcdermott@montgomeryparks.org, or call 301-962-1400.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Tiny Tots Puppet Theater. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. "Magic Toyshop," a program designed for ages 4 and under. 30-minute runtime, lights stay on and

Imagination Stage

With 40 students, 19 designers, and three directors spanning three performance groups, Imagination Stage's conservatories and ensemble take the term "recital" to a whole new level. This spring's productions, featuring students in grades 4-11, are all directed by practicing professional theatre artists.

❖ "Still Life With Iris" (Acting Conservatory) will be performed Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 27 at 6 p.m.
❖ "Godspell" (Musical Theatre Conservatory) will run Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 18 at 6 p.m.
❖ "Interface" (Speak Out On Stage Ensemble) will be performed on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 1 at 3 p.m.

Performances will be in The Christopher and Dana Reeve Studio Theatre at Imagination Stage. Tickets for all performances are \$10 per person, and may be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660.

doors stay open. \$5 tickets, including children. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or call 301-634-5380.

Georgetown Choral Anniversary.

3 p.m. at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive, Bethesda. "A Joyful Noise" 25th anniversary celebration to benefit the Washington School for Girls. Featuring Constantine Desjardins, boy soprano, and Andrew Jonathan Welch, organ. Tickets in advance \$22 adults, \$10 child/student; \$25 and \$10 at door. Visit www.georgetownchorale.org.

Ballroom Dance. 3-6 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Join the Hot Society Orchestra of Washington for an afternoon of dancing, including foxtrot, two-step, waltz, cha-cha, rumba, swing and more. Rumba lesson at 3 p.m., dancing begins at 3:30 with live music. \$14. No partner or prior experience needed. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

Winds for Warriors Charity Gala.

7:30 p.m. at the Strathmore Music Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Capital Wind Symphony supports the Wounded Warrior Project with art and musical selections. Tickets \$75-125. Visit www.strathmore.org/eventtickets/calendar/view.asp?id=10816 or call 301-581-5100. Visit www.capitalwindsymphony.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 29

Garden Tour. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Conservatory Entrance of Brookside Gardens, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, this year's tour includes five beautiful downtown homes and gardens for you to enjoy. Course #272149. \$115 Visit parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, contact, leslie.mcdermott@montgomeryparks.org, or call 301-962-1451.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at Ted's 355 Diner, 895 Rockville Pike, Rockville. Spuyten Duyvil, American roots music. \$15 in advance, \$18 at door.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

New Classes. Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, is holding new classes. Visit <http://glenechophotoworks.org/gallery/> or 301-634-2226 for a list of classes and to register.

Summer Science and Engineering Camp.

The county recreation department is holding half- and full-day science and education camps this summer for children ages 6-12. Topics include Lego engineering, crime solving, chemistry and space. The camps are held at elementary schools and recreation centers. To register or for more information visit <http://therecord-mcr.blogspot.com/2014/03/science-and-engineering-summer-camp-so.html>.

Financial Boot Camp for Girls. Girls from age 11-17 can learn money and budgeting skills from an array of experts during the week-long free financial boot camp for girls at the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road. July 7-11, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. daily. Hosted by the Financial Literacy Organization for Women and Girls and the Montgomery County Public Libraries. Topics will include budgeting, financial responsibility and decision-making, investing, identity theft and consumer advertising. Attendees must commit to week-long participation. Because space is limited, early registration is advisable. To register or for more information, visit <http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/content.php?pid=38448&sid=2376400#17830623>.

Summer Camp Registration. Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is offering 88 summer camps in 2014 spanning a variety of interests including ice skating, tennis, golf, gardening, outdoor adventure, nature, and more. Summer camps are available for tots to teens at all skill levels and at hundreds of locations across the county. A \$25 discount is being offered for early registration for a select group of camps. Registration is open at www.ParkPASS.org. A complete list can be found at www.MontgomeryParks.org/camps, where camp searches may be filtered by age, location and key words. The 2014 Summer Camps guide is available online at www.MontgomeryParks.org/guide. Print copies may be found at select Montgomery Parks' facilities, Montgomery County Recreation centers, government buildings and libraries while supplies last.

Summer Camp Registration Now Open.

Photoworks at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., has summer camps children ages 7 and up. Visit www.ssreg.com/glenechopark/classes for a full listing.

ONGOING ENTERTAINMENT

Glass Art Exhibit. Expressions in Glass, through April 27 at the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glassworks resident artist Paul Swartwood will exhibit works in blown glass, along with artists Mark Hill, Carol Hurwitch, Allan Jaworski, and Kevin Lurie, with whom he collaborated. Saturdays and Sundays, noon-6 p.m. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

Children's Puppet Theater. Hansel and Gretel, through April 27 at The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Magic, music and special effects with puppets. Tickets \$10. Check website for exact dates and times: www.thepuppetco.org.

Art Exhibit. "Seeing it in Black and White" is on exhibit at Gallery Har Shalom in Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, through April 28. The exhibit features prints, photography,

glass jewelry and more. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m.-noon. Free. 301-299-7087.

Kaplan Gallery. See "Abstraction: Finding the Thread" through April 20, at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Some of the artists include, Timothy App, Dan Dudrow, Dennis Farber, Carol Miller Frost, Bill Schmidt, Jo Smail, and Michael Weiss. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

Group of Four. See large format photography exhibit through May 4. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. The exhibit features the work of George L. Smyth, Barry Schmetter, D. B. Stovall and Scott Davis. The exhibit can be viewed Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.rruuc.org for more.



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Hospice Caring Celebrates 25 Years of Service

Multiple programs for those at life's end and for the families they leave behind.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In 1989, Penny Gladhill, and six other Frederick Hospice volunteers saw and felt the need for free hospice services in Montgomery County. With enthusiasm and determination, they initiated Hospice Caring — a nonprofit organization that has affected thousands of lives in Montgomery County for 25 years.

The group launched Hospice Caring in Gladhill's family room, moved to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, then to the Isaac Walton League — and finally to the Hospice Caring Cottage in Gaithersburg, a peaceful location for the organization that brings comfort and support. "Holding Hands and Healing Hearts" is the inspiration that binds them, but it is the volunteers who make a difference to many in their time of need.

Hospice Caring has grown to more than 400 volunteers and a wealth of programs that "provide caring, compassionate, practical and high quality non-medical support services without charge to every Montgomery County adult or child who is facing life-threatening illness or grieving the death of a family member or loved one." Gladhill has remained the heart and soul of the organization, promoting Hospice Caring and the many programs they provide, training and cheering on volunteers and staff and fundraising — all while serving as Interim director, co-director of bereavement and director of Camp Caring.

"I don't have enough superlatives for

Penny Gladhill," said volunteer Leslie Libby of Potomac. "The program is so well thought out. She is incredibly skilled and inspirational."

Hospice Caring serves the citizens of Montgomery County by offering a variety of programs that support both adults and children. Although one of their main missions is to serve those who are on their "end-of-life" journey, they do more than help people face death.

Volunteers often accompany patients for treatments, take them grocery shopping or accompany ambulatory patients on outings. They spend time listening to stories and concerns and support families and friends as they lose their loved one. After the loss of a family member or friend, they offer bereavement groups for adults and children. They organize and lead "Good Grief" groups in Montgomery County schools, and also teach classes for 10th grade health students on loss and grief. In addition, Hospice Caring provides 30 youngsters each year with a weekend at "Camp Caring," a summer camp that brings together children who are grieving the loss of a loved one with volunteer facilitators and Big Buddies who listen and help them deal with their loss through activity, love and caring. The camp is free for all children.

"Our volunteers are the key to this organization," said Gladhill. "They are unbelievable. They go through a training and then they are off and running. People who are drawn to this work have a gift. They just know that they want to help people who are grieving — and they change lives. Our volunteers have always contributed their time and talents to whatever we need: decorating and painting the Cottage, planting our beautiful gardens and more. From the very beginning, there was a star over this organization. Whenever we thought we would have to close our doors, somehow the funds to stay open would appear. Being able to keep the doors open for 25 years has been an amazing feat."

Libby leads Good Grief Clubs at Little Bennett Elementary School and at Cabin John Middle School. The seven-week program gives children a gentle, compassionate place to express their sadness.

"These children feel so isolated and are really suffering," Libby said.

"This amazing program gives them a peer group and suddenly they don't have to feel ashamed or different and they have a place to express their feelings.

"I see such positive changes in the children — there is nothing more fulfilling than helping children feel better and to see them smiling and involved with life again."

Pam and Bill Hard of Potomac also serve as volunteers. Bill Hard is the treasurer for the board of directors and Pam Hard devotes her time and energy as a caregiver and volunteer coordinator.

"What attracted me to Hospice Caring was the desire to help those in need at the end



Hospice Caring Volunteer Leslie Libby who leads Good Grief Clubs at schools in Montgomery County.

of their lives and be supported by an organization who shared in this mission," she said. "It is such a privilege to accompany someone on their final life's journey as well

programs. On Monday, May 5 from 1 – 3:30 p.m. they will host their annual Garden Party and Tea at the Hospice Caring Cottage.

"It is such a privilege to accompany someone on their final life's journey as well as to provide much needed emotional and practical support to their families.

— Pam Hard

This year's event will feature Afternoon Tea, hosted by Tranquil Traditions and an indoor theatrical performance by Mary Ann Jung as Clara Barton. The cost is \$35 per ticket. The Hospice Caring Gala will be Oct. 18 at the Bolger Center in Potomac.

as to provide much needed emotional and practical support to their families.

The giving spirit of Hospice Caring's staff and volunteers makes it such a unique organization. We are like family."

Hospice Caring is celebrating 25 years of

The gala features a silent auction, live auction, live band and dinner. The cost is \$250 per ticket and all proceeds go to Hospice Caring. Find out more about these events and purchase tickets at www.hospicecaring.org.



Pam and Bill Hard both volunteer at Hospice Caring.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



Leslie Libby with son Billy. Libby leads Good Grief Clubs and Billy donates a week of his vacation each summer to volunteer at a camp for children who have lost a parent.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

GUIDE DOG FOSTERS NEEDED

Guiding Eyes for the Blind – Montgomery Region is looking for volunteers to foster and train future guide dogs. Volunteers will foster a specially bred guide dog for 14 months, attend bi-monthly training classes, and teach the pup house manners, people skills and socialization within the community. Dog crates, training equipment and monthly medications are provided. Contact Margie Coccodrilli at 301-869-2216 or gebraiser@comcast.net or visit www.guidingeyes-md.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Potomac Community Village Meeting. 7:30-8:45 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County's Villages Coordinator at the Department of Health and Human Services, discusses county programs and resources for seniors. More information at www.potomaccommunityvillage.org, info@potomaccommunityvillage.org or 240-221-1370.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave., and Maryland State Police Rockville Barrack, 7915 Montrose Road, Rockville. Local agencies participate in the national event, which is a safe, free and anonymous opportunity to dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription

drugs. This is part of an effort to prevent the increasing problems of prescription drug abuse and theft.
Voter Registration Drive. 1-3 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Volunteers from the Multicultural Outreach Committee and Future Vote Program of the Montgomery County Board of Elections will conduct a voter registration drive. Contact Dr. Gilberto Zelaya at 240-777-8532 or email gilberto.zelaya@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SUNDAY-TUESDAY/APRIL 27-29

Training. Jewish Social Service Agency is seeking volunteers for its Hospice and Transitions programs. The upcoming 20-hour specialized training for prospective volunteers is from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. Jewish Social Service Agency's Hospice and Transitions programs provide professional care and volunteer support to seriously and terminally ill individuals and their families in our community. They also provide bereavement support for 13 months following a loved one's death. Applications and interviews will be required for those interested in the volunteer training. Volunteers must be over the age of 18. Contact Amy Kaufman Goott at 301-816-2650 or agoott@jssa.org. Visit www.jssa.org for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

Pain Connection Speaker Series. 1:15-2:45 p.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. Karen C. Lips, PT, Body Balance Physical Therapy, presents "Chronic Conditions and How it

Relates to Lifestyle Choices." For anyone with chronic pain, family members or professionals. More at 301-231-0008 and www.painconnection.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 29

Information Session. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, 15300 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring. Learn about the current research relating to the impact of prenatal alcohol and drug exposure on the physical, emotional, cognitive, social and neurological systems of children as they mature. \$99/Person (W/6 CEU'S); \$79/Person (Without CEU's) Visit <https://at.myadoptionportal.com/eform/view.php?id=5333>.
Open House. 5-8 p.m., at the Park and Planning Headquarters, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. The Montgomery County Planning Department is inviting residents and business owners to give feedback on the comprehensive District Map Amendment proposed for Montgomery County. There will be several open houses held throughout the County this spring and all are invited to attend. Visit www.montgomeryplanning.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Labyrinth Walk. 1-2 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose Road, Rockville. "Walk as One at 1" on World Labyrinth Day, with prayer and music in the Mary Carter Barrow Memorial Garden. Bring a bag lunch at 12:30 for socializing. Children welcome. Contact Gina Dawson at 301-881-1881, ext. 2250 or ginad@faithworkshere.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

Visit www.focusmusic.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Garden Tour. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Fragrance Garden of Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Course #270551. \$6 FOBG: \$5. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, or call 301-962-1451.

THURSDAY/MAY 1

Art Class. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in the Visitors Center Adult Classroom, Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Sketch spring woodland wildflowers at Brookside Gardens. Course #271351. \$220. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, or call 301-962-1451.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-3

Theater Performances. Historic Stage at Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney. Inclusive Theatre Companies, featuring actors with intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, or Autism Spectrum Disorder, presents My Big Fat Greek Myth and Great Scott! The Scottish Musical. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday. Visit www.art-stream.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-4

Garden Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Join in the festivities at Landon School's 61st Azalea Garden Festival. Tour the beautiful two-and-half acre Perkins Garden, shop at over 60 specialty boutiques, purchase beautiful plants, listen to live music, enjoy delicious food, frolic at the

FunLand carnival, and race in Mark's Run 5K or 1-Mile Fun Run. Free. Visit www.landon.net/azalea, www.marksrun.org or call 301-320-3200.

Greek Festival. Noon-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon-8 p.m. Sunday at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Festival will celebrate Greek food, culture, religion and customs. Beautiful Greek art, jewelry, books and religious icons will be available for purchase. Free. Visit <http://festival.stgeorge.org> or call 202-494-1662.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

A-RTS. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Rockville Town Square Plaza, 200 E. Middle Lane. Local, regional and national artists will sell original pieces, there will be music and more. Free. Visit www.a-arts.org for more.

Garden Tour. 2-3 p.m. at the Conservatory Entrance, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Course #270650. Free. Visit www.brooksidegardens.org or contact leslie.mcdermott@montgomeryparks.org, or call 301-962-1400.

Piano Concert. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Audrey Andrist performs. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.WashingtonConservatory.org or call 301-320-2770.

Waltz Ball. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. 31st annual Evening with Strauss Waltz Ball. Viennese Waltz lesson 8-9, dancing 9-midnight with Olde Vienna playing. Refreshments, dance cards, a Grand March and \$1.25 rides on the restored Dentzel Carousel. Dancers encouraged to wear formal attire. No

partner required. \$20 at the door only. Visit WaltzTimeDances.org or call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222.

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Charity Run. 8:30 a.m., 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Bullis Gives Back 5k. Events include 5k run and a 2.5k run/walk, as well as a special Buddy Run including youth from KEEN Proceeds benefit these organizations along with Habitat for Humanity and S.A.F.E. Visit www.bullis.org/5k, www.keengreaterdc.org, <http://ttlc.org>, or www.thedieterschool.org.

A-RTS. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Rockville Town Square Plaza, 200 E. Middle Lane. Local, regional and national artists will sell original pieces, there will be music and more. Free. Visit www.a-arts.org for more.

Humane Society Fundraiser. Noon-4 p.m. at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. Paws in the Park is a mile-long walk with pet games, face painting, a DJ, vendors, food, demos and more. Register in advance or at the walk. Visit www.mchumane.org/paws14.shtml.

Raptors Rule Festival. Noon-4 p.m. at Meadowside Nature Center, 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville. Join Montgomery Parks naturalists and staff to explore the world of owls, hawks and eagles through games, crafts and talks by local experts. No registration required. All attendees must pay. No dogs allowed at festival site. \$5, no registration required. Visit www.parkpass.org.

Garden Tour. 2-3 p.m. at McCrillis House, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda. McCrillis Gardens is a naturalistic strolling garden. Course #270653. Visit www.parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org or call 301-962-1451.

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Where Am I?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



"I'm sitting in the rocking chair, good buddy," (a "Smokey and The Bandit" reference, if you're not of a certain vintage), between two 18-wheelers where the police radar can't find me – further referencing the C.B. radio days. Updating to the "Kenny-with-cancer" days, I'm a month or so past my last very encouraging CT Scan, the one I wrote about when my oncologist offered me a congratulatory handshake, a gesture he had not made in the five-plus years since we've been tangling with this damn disease; and I'm approximately seven weeks away from my next CT scan, "intervals" every three months at present. Seven weeks is far enough away where I'm not even thinking about it, or the possibility of its discouraging results that I'll know about on or about June 9th. I am cruising, emotionally, and savoring the excellent results from the last scan and not yet worrying, wondering, hoping, praying (too much) about my next scan. This means, at the moment – or moments, I should say, I am enjoying a relatively stress-free and blissful ignorance to what may – or hopefully may not, be happening in my lungs. I am, to quote a Three Stooges line: "as safe as in my mother's arms."

Let me admit for the record, when you're originally scheduled as terminal by your oncologist ("13 months to two years"), grasping at straws, rationalizing, wishful thinking and denial (which as you regular readers know is more than just a river in Egypt...an "NYPD" reference), become de rigueur, a sort of standard operating procedure – whether you intend it to be or not. And whether these days – or should I further admit and characterize them as daze – are simply a grand illusion, or a type of non-arrogant delusion, is another distinction I'm not the least bit worried about. The reality, for me, is that I can breathe easily – figuratively and literally, thank God? (And to be fair, thanks also go to my oncologist and to myself as well; for we've both played a part in this cancer battle.)

And why shouldn't I be exceedingly – and perhaps naively – grateful, for my still being alive and reasonably well. Only 16 percent of lung cancer patients survive beyond five years; I'm at five years and two months now. Whatever good news I receive, whatever positive spin I can give my results, whatever smiles and handshakes I elicit are crucial to this pursuit of life that I live every day. The only recurring and disturbing thought I have, now that I'm past this statistically relevant five-year survivability measure (and this is not about being in remission, which I'm not; I'm still undergoing chemotherapy) is: I can't help juggling in my mind whether being five years post-diagnosis makes me closer to the end of my life or further away from it. As such, when I experience a kind of break in my action, when I'm between halves, so to speak, when the past and future of my cancer life is not front and center but instead more off to the side, these are days to relish and I don't even like condiments. But that's what a cancer diagnosis, particularly a terminal one, will do: change everything. Rolling with the punches is how one has to learn to live: good with the bad, bad with the good, the last scan, the next scan, comparing the results from your ongoing lab work and your occasional face-to-face appointments/exams with the oncologist are what drive this cancer bus that you'd rather never have been on. But you're on it, all the time. This experience is a never-ending (hopefully never ending, let's be honest) roller coaster-type ride of emotions, treatment options, preoccupations and mental gymnastics. Anything and everything I can do to find some peace in the life-expectancy challenged and very unexpected medical circumstances in which I find myself so immersed, is what I do. I'm in a good place right now. It won't last given the timing of what my life's cycle is at present (scans and all), but no matter. I'm not stressing backwards or worrying forwards. This is as good as it gets, realistically speaking.

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

SPORTS

Baseball Teams Return to Action

The Churchill, Whitman and Wootton baseball teams return to action with the conclusion of spring break.

Churchill, the defending 4A West region champion, finished spring break with a 4-5 record, including a 2-1 loss to Gaithersburg on April 16.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to face Poolesville on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. Churchill will travel to face Damascus at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. Whitman finished the break with a 7-4 record, including a split against B-CC and Walter Johnson on April 14 in the St. Baldrick's Battle of Bethesda.

The Vikings were scheduled to face Wootton on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline.

Whitman will host Rockville at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 24.

Wootton finished the break with an 8-3 record, including a 2-1 victory against Sherwood on April 14.

The Patriots will host Northwood at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24.

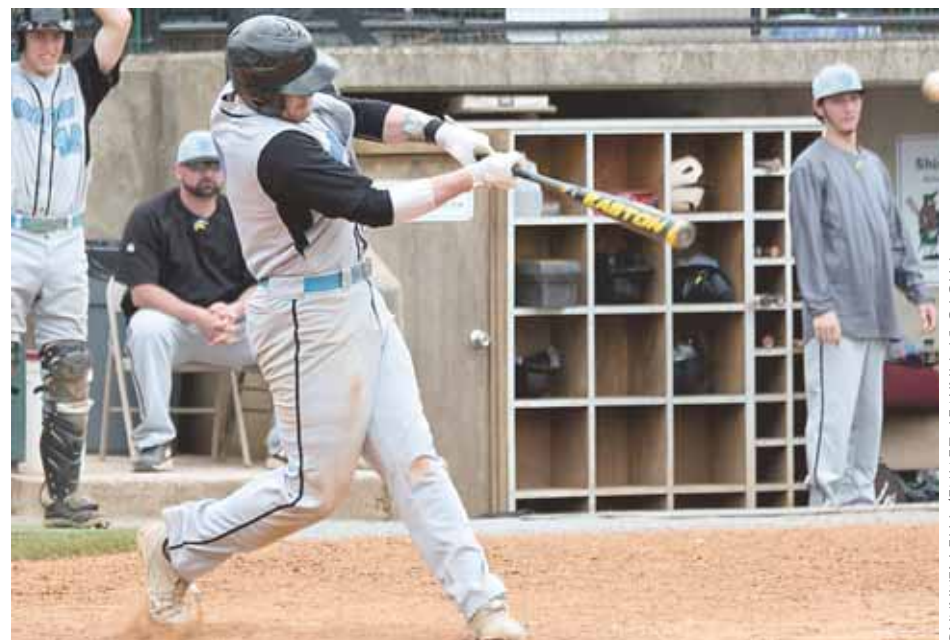


PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Max Sessions and the Whitman baseball team ended spring break with a 7-4 record.

Churchill Boys' Lax Suffers First Loss

The Churchill boys' lacrosse team went to overtime against defending Virginia state champion Chantilly on April 14 but eventually suffered its first loss, 12-11, at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.

The Bulldogs finished spring break with an 8-1 record, including a 14-13 win over Sherwood on April 11 and a 13-4 victory against Virginia's Western Albemarle.

Churchill faced Walter Johnson on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs will travel to face rival Wootton at noon on Saturday, April 26.

Yoga Center Plans Open House, Art Show

Opposite the Potomac Library is One Aum, the new Yoga Center at 10008 Falls Road.

One Aum is owned by a sister-brother duo. Sean FM, a yogi, poet, and musician, and Shannon Sharma, a veteran teacher, full-time yoga therapist and avid yoga practitioner.

The yoga studio offers Healing Vinyasa, which is a blend of breathing, alignment, music and movement.

The studio offers a private a 90-minute class where a participant can discuss his or her individual needs as well as get to know the trainer.

There are recorded sessions with a take-home CD to help with diet, movement, relaxation poses, breathing, meditation, mantra and yogic sleep.

For chronic back pain they offer a class on Gait therapy; teaching clients to trans-



Red Canoe by Yolanda Prinsloo is part of the art show during One Aum's open house on April 26.

form their walk and posture to find balance each day.

Sean FM will also host an opening house with an art show on Saturday evening, April 26. Contact Oneaum.com or call 301-299-1013 at for more information and to receive an invitation.



PHOTOS BY YOLANDA PRINSLOO

Shannon Sharma and Sean FM of One Aum.



PHOTO BY MARY KIM/THE ALMANAC

Moving In

The sign confirms reports and rumors that Chipotle will open in Potomac Village in the space recently vacated by Chicken Out.

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11, and every year at this time, the Almanac calls for submissions to its Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (The Almanac will not print your full address or contact information.)

Send photos to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

Readers can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through the Almanac's website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Deadline is Friday, May 2.



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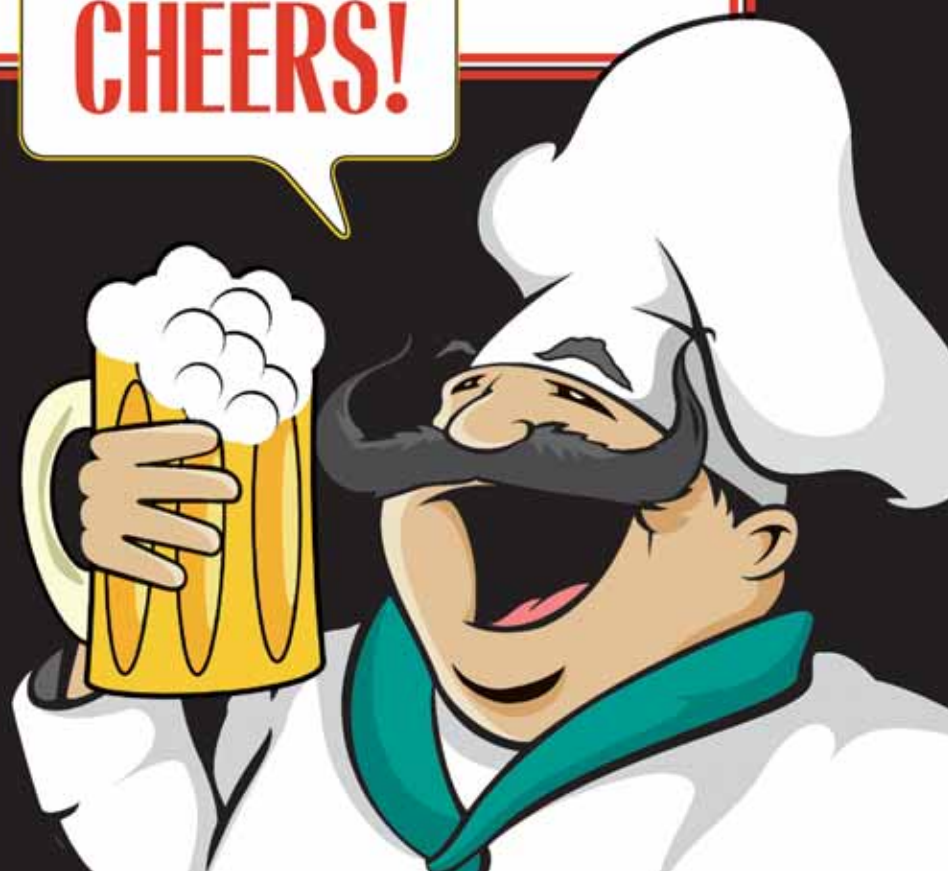
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2014 Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Condominiums under construction at Quarry Springs on River Road will sell for up to \$5 million.



Potomac

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Why Marty Resnick? He is an experienced real estate professional who has helped hundreds of homeowners sell & buy properties for the past 25 years. He has extensive business experience, owning a chain of coin laundry and dry cleaning establishments and over 20 years' experience managing the data center at the largest liquor wholesaler in the area. He knows how to handle every aspect of the sales process.

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Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Luxury Condos Now Under Construction

On River Road, Quarry Springs condos priced \$2 million to \$5 million for 2,300 to 4,400 square-foot residences.

Construction cranes are set to rise on River Road just west of Seven Locks Road and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department on the site of the former Stoneyhurst Quarry.

Quarry Springs Associates began construction last month on a four-building, 97-unit "town-and-country" luxury condominium complex on River Road, just outside the Beltway and close to Potomac Village.

The Estate Condominiums at Quarry Springs will feature lawns and gardens, a 50-foot waterfall at its focal point, an outdoor pool, a 10,000 square-foot clubhouse and a landscaped stream alongside the 14-acre site.

"The location is pretty compelling for our target buyers, said David DeSantis, Vice President of Sotheby's International Realty and the marketing agent for the condo project. "Quarry Springs has unbelievable beautiful gardens and lots of outdoor greenery. It appeals to a broad range of buyers."

The \$110 million project is located near downtown Bethesda and Potomac Village, as well as several country clubs, including Congressional and Bethesda Country Clubs and the Tournament Players Club at Avenel. There are plans to include a shuttle service for residents.

The 2,300 square-foot to 4,400-square-foot residence prices will range from the high \$1 millions to \$5 million for the large units. Similar to Turnberry Towers in Arlington, another luxury condo complex, Quarry Springs will be offering high-end amenities such as valet parking and concierge services, private climate-controlled garages, 10-foot + ceilings, crown molding and architectural detail, and expansive terraces.

Designed by architecture firm Robert M. Swedroe Architects and Planners, each unit will include private elevators that will open directly into each residence, something the Miami-based firm pioneered in South Florida. A specialty of Swedroe's architecture is to design corridor-free condominium units that are view-oriented with apartments that run through from one side of the building to the other, which DeSantis said is rare for this market. The Florida architecture firm was the first to introduce the direct elevator entry-level type of condo residence to Florida with its well-known luxury residence, Bal Harbour Tower in Miami. Quarry Springs uses this same approach for private access.

The project in its current state was developed by 1788 Holdings in partnership with IHP Capital Partners and James G. Davis Construction started work in mid-March. A sales center will go up in late spring or early summer and will be housed in the clubhouse. Construction will be done in two phases with already one third of the units in Phase One having been sold.



Artist rendering of the proposed development.



Artist rendering of the swimming pool area at the Quarry Spring development.

"The tower cranes will go up in the next couple of weeks."

Full occupancy is possible by end of 2015, Desantis said. The demand is there for individuals who would like to sell their luxury single-family homes and "transition to a more carefree lifestyle" without having to give up any of their high quality living standards, he said. With everything being taken care of on-premises, he believes these "estate condominiums" will provide all-inclusive, convenient, elegant living in the area.

When the 2002 Potomac Master Plan was approved, Potomac had three operating quarries, with Giancola Quarry and the Stoneyhurst Quarry both now being developed as housing as outlined in the Master Plan.

The Tri-State Quarry on Seven Locks Road just south of River Road had the most extensive reserves and is still operating.

Stoneyhurst Quarry covered more than 13 acres on the north side of River Road west of the intersection with Seven Locks Road. Most of the site was excavated to elevations of 150-to-175 feet, forming a crater with exposed rock formations, the Master Plan noted. A perimeter of approximately 100 feet remains undisturbed at elevation from 175-to-225 feet. "Because of its unique configuration and topography, this site is appropriate for a multi-family residential development, with up to 97 units," the plan concluded.

— VERONICA BRUNO

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

What to Expect Buying or Selling

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Real estate agent Joan Caton Cromwell says she lost a home bidding war last week in Falls Church even though her client was a strong contestant.

"We were one of five contracts and we even waived the appraisal," said Cromwell of of McEneaney Associates. "Any house that is close-in [to Washington, D.C.] and that is in nice condition, is going to attract a lot of attention."

Real estate agents say spring is one of the busiest times of the year for home sales and there is dearth of available homes in popular neighborhoods. "The lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties," said John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby's International Realty in Arlington. "I expect

all sectors of the market to see price gains and demand to remain high."

HOME PRICES are on the rise. "If you put a home on the market and it gets multiple offers, the eight other people who didn't get the house will bid on another house," said Cromwell. "In a market where there are

"We see a new trend in all price ranges where buyers want to buy where they can walk to amenities, restaurants and shops. Buyers are satisfied with smaller houses that are conveniently located."

— Marsha Schuman,
Washington Fine Properties

multiple offers it definitely drives the prices up and it drives them up quickly."

Anthony B. Sanders, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Real Estate Finance at George Mason University said, "Very simply, this is still an area that is growing, so housing home sales will continue to rise, but more slowly than during the real estate bubble."

Still, agents are optimistic as they enter the spring buying season. "The state of the real estate market is great," said Marsha Schuman of the Washington Fine Properties' Schuman Team. "The weather is behind us and there is a momentum going into the spring market that feels very positive."

The spring market in the Washington, D.C. area is aligned with academic calendars. "It starts in April and May in the suburbs," says Cromwell. "Those in the military or who work for the World Bank for example, put their homes on the market in spring to prepare to relocate during the summer."

Proximity to public transportation increases desirability. "For example, Reston is popular because of the Silver Line," said

Cromwell. "North Arlington and Falls Church are popular. Anything that offers a decent commuting experience for someone who can't afford what they want in the city will be sought after."

Schuman said, "We see a new trend in all price ranges where buyers want to buy where they can walk to amenities, restaurants and shops. Buyers are satisfied with smaller houses that are conveniently located. They want an easier life. Convenience is the new real estate buzzword. Property becomes compelling when buyers see value."

Sanders said some communities are especially competitive. "Virginia has two of the wealthiest counties in the country, Loudoun and Fairfax counties, so those communities should see a fairly short turn over."

NOT EVERYONE IS KEEPING

SEE WHAT TO EXPECT, PAGE 7

A Picture Perfect Home

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Realtors Marsha Schuman and Betsy Schuman Dodek drive up to a home to show it to a prospective buyer, they know that they have only one chance to make a good first impression. Potomac-based Dodek and Schuman of the Schuman Team of Washington Fine Properties say a home's curb appeal matters.

"When we think of curb appeal we think of the lawn and landscaping, front door, windows, roof and how it all looks," said Dodek. "Buyers want to buy from someone who has taken really good care of their home and that translates in to curb appeal."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON FINE PROPERTIES

This Potomac home exemplifies ideal curb appeal. Marsha Schuman and Betsy Schuman Dodek, of the Schuman Team of Washington Fine Properties, say a home's curb appeal is critical.

Schuman added, "If things are not nice on the outside, then [potential buyers] wonder what the house will be like on the inside."

REAL ESTATE AGENTS SAY buyers want to purchase a well-cared for home, and the exterior aesthetic of a home creates that impression. Whether you're planning to put your house on the market or would just like a clean and fresh exterior to welcome you home each day, local real estate experts offer advice on enhancing a home's exterior.

McLean-based realtor Chris Pritchard of McEneaney Associates suggests starting by

critiquing your own home. "Stand in front of your house and take a look," she said. "Walk up the driveway, ask yourself what you would want to see if you were shopping for a house."

The yard should be pristine and vibrant. "Trimming, mulching and planting some colorful plants are key," said Pritchard.

"Add color with flowers, pots with plants, choosing things like geraniums and pansies," said Dodek. "Adding color just makes such a difference. It makes the yard pop."

Consider safety. "Is the yard hazard-free?" asks Dodek. "It needs to be freshly mowed and mulched with dark mulch because that

makes the greenery pop. Make sure your bushes are trimmed and proportionate. Look at trees to make sure they aren't blocking the size of the house."

"One of the next areas we look at are patios, walkways and fences," continued Dodek. "Do they need repairs? Is there loose mortar?"

"The sense of arrival is very important — you never get a second chance to make a first impression."

— Chris Pritchard

McLean Realtor Ann McClure of McEneaney Associates says that a home's exterior should be well-lit. "You need good looking and functional lighting which should be on in the evening."

Examine the entrance. "Take a look at the front door," said Dodek. "Does it need painting? We had a recent listing and we painted the door red and added new hardware and a kick plate and that made it stand out. That is something that is very cost effective to do."

SEE PICTURE PERFECT, PAGE 7

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Local Designers Help Unveil DC Design House

Area tastemakers dream home, currently on the market for \$3.85 million.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local designers showed off their master work when the 2014 DC Design House was unveiled recently. From Arlington to Burke, and Alexandria to Potomac, Md., the area's top designers competed for an opportunity to donate their talent to transform a local, grand home into a showcase home.

The home, which is on the market for \$3.85 million, is now open to the public for tours. It features six-bedrooms, five full-and two half-baths. Built in 1929, the home features a three-car garage and a pool. The stone house offers three levels and nearly 8,000 square feet of living space, which local designers transformed.

THE HOME'S FRONT FAÇADE was designed by David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac's Rill Architects. Inspired by the stately stone home, the duo decided to add a bit of detail and interest in the form of "style appropriate light fixtures, shutters, furniture and accent colors." When choosing a paint color for the front door, they wanted a hue that was traditional, but unexpected. Their choice: a "high-gloss verdigris green-blue [that] immediately catches your eye from the street. They replaced the existing solid wood single door with a glass-paned French door that "pulls outside views and daylight into the entry hall."

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. "I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel," she said. The room, which has large picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler's pantry/wine tasting room. Sanchez choose woven rattan furniture to fill the space.

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria designed the family room, which overlooks the pool and patio. The design duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months. They created "cascading light down the hand-woven wall covering..." The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling Inc. Mann describes the small space as "chic, classic and timeless ... a jewel box bath." The room features Calcutta marble flooring in a herringbone pattern and the acoustic "Moxie" showering system that allows one to listen to music while bathing. Mann was able to preserve and refinish the home's original iron bathtub.

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design created a guest



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. The room features Calcutta marble flooring in a herringbone pattern and the acoustic "Moxie" showering system that allows one to listen to music while bathing.

bedroom in the home. In an effort to create a light and airy space, the duo selected wall paper in a pink floral pattern. "We choose streamlined furniture and fabrics to accent the Asian feeling of the wallpaper." The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. The art in the room was painted by Donelson's mother,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. The room, which has large, picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler's pantry/wine tasting room.

Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

THE MASTER BEDROOM was designed by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to al-

low for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Colbert discovered a painting that she thought would be perfect for a master bedroom, and designed the room around it. She chose an ivory turned-post king bed that she furnished with silk bedding in parchment and seafoam

green. Colbert added crown molding for additional detail. "One of the room's multi-purpose features is a silver toned gilded butterfly side table that was created by a newly discovered artist. It is a work of art and a table."

Beth Boggs, Teri Lohmann and Lynne

Go: D.C Design House

Location: 4600 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008
Hours: Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Monday, \$25. The home will be open for tours through May 11, 2014.
Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown, of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, designed the family room of the DC Design House. The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

Parmelee of C2 Paint, Potomac Paint & Design with locations in Alexandria, Arlington and Chantilly, added color to the back staircase. The team chose paintable wallpaper in shades of plum, lilac, and spring green. Paintable wall paper "conveniently camouflages old plaster wall cracks, provides durability for high-traffic use and creates a

striking textured design."

Now in its seventh year, the annual event is a fundraiser for Children's National Health System, formerly Children's National Medical Center. The D.C. Design House has raised more than \$1 million and attracted more than 55,000 visitors over the past six years.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown, of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, designed the family room of the DC Design House. The duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The master bedroom was designed by Nancy Colbert, of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to allow for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

The home's front façade was designed by Rill Architects' David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design created a light and airy guest bedroom in the DC Design House. The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. Art in the room was painted by Donelson's mother, Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

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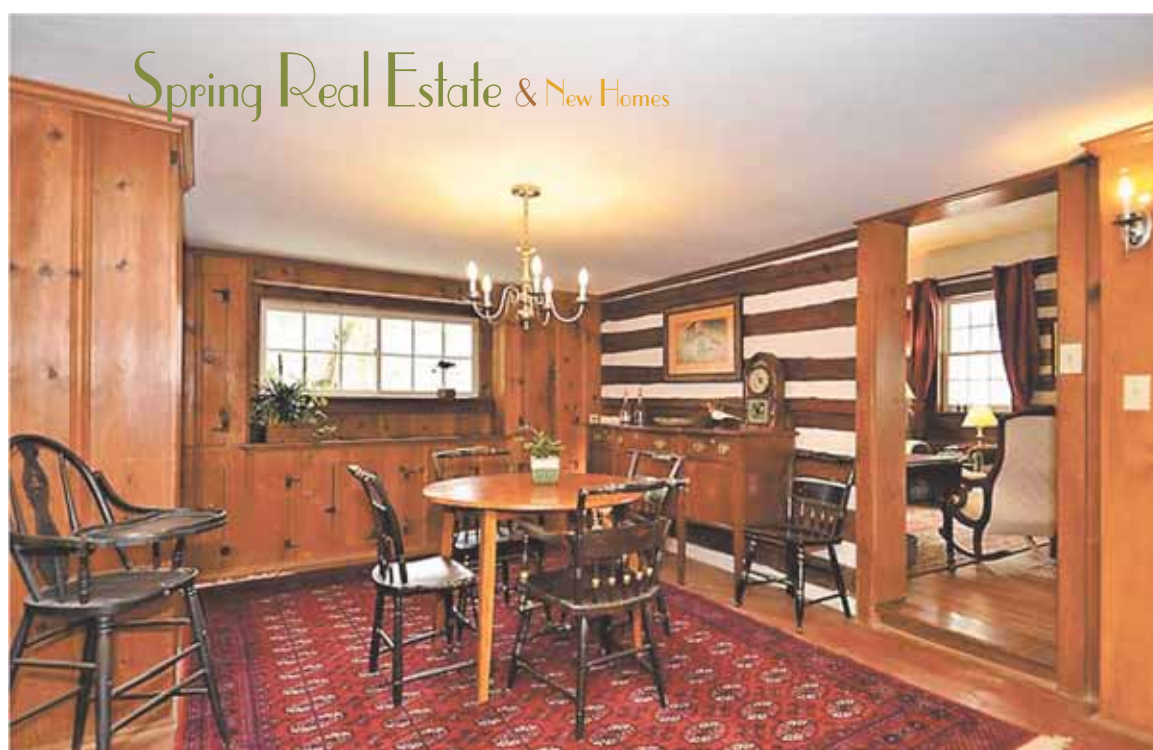


PHOTO COURTESY OF LONG AND FOSTER

Adam Garfinkle and Scilla Taylor say their Potomac home likely began as a log cabin in the late 1700s.

Historic Charm on the Market

The house's origins date back to late 1700s, say owners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Adam Garfinkle and Scilla Taylor are aficionados of historical architecture, particularly when it comes to their homes. They enjoy restoring and uncovering the hidden stories of bygone eras, and they found a wealth of inspiration in their Potomac home at 9901 Glen Road.

"The house evolved in several stages," said Garfinkle. "It began, probably in the 1780s or 1790s, as a log cabin built next to what had been an Indian trail [known as Glen Road today]. We have found rock hand-axes in the yard."

After living in the four-bedroom, three-bath home for nearly 14 years, Garfinkle and Taylor are selling it and relocating to an abode steeped in even more history.

"We're headed toward our mid-60s, and we're pretty much beyond any of our children living at home and attending the area's schools," said Garfinkle. "We still love the house, but we don't need it as we used to need it. Now we've found an even older house, nearer to work that will serve as an endless source of projects. If we didn't fall upon the new home we would have loved continuing to live at 9901."

Garfinkle now works as editor of The American Interest magazine, and Taylor serves as director of Brookside Nature Center.

Garfinkle and Taylor relocated to Potomac from Philadelphia, where they also enjoyed owning historic homes. "We were attracted to the house by its unique qualities, its history, its spaciousness, its rich wooden surfaces throughout, and the remarkable plantings that ... began some 75 years ago," said Taylor. "We have a significant black walnut tree in the yard, as well as a huge hickory, an oak and some very old boxwoods."

"It ... reminded my wife of her favorite uncle's home in Saco, Maine," said Garfinkle. "It was a house whose history spoke to us."

The couple immersed themselves in learning about the home's rich past. "The original builder and oc-

cupant was most likely black, perhaps a free black, more likely a slave," said Garfinkle. "In the 1870s the house was expanded into a farmhouse."

Electricity and indoor plumbing were added. "At some point in the first half of the 20th century, however, the house was abandoned and fell into disrepair," said Garfinkle. "It was purchased, along with the associated 90 acres that today make up the Country Place neighborhood in 1946 by the Gregor [family]. As they were repairing the property some years later they broke through the plaster in the original structure and discovered the chestnut logs, with hand adze marks, of the original log cabin."

Garfinkle and Taylor said that among the home's most significant assets are its historical depth and its abundance of "quirky nooks and crannies."

"This is one of the greatest hide-and-go-seek houses ever," said Taylor. "Children love it. Because the house has mature native trees it is a mecca for wildlife. Sitting out in the yard in June and July is magical with the lightning bugs, and at night it's not uncommon to see flying squirrels glide between the hickory and walnut trees."

"I've sold this home twice," said Coreta Osborne of the Potomac Village office of Long and Foster. "It is close to public transportation and great schools."

Garfinkle and Taylor enjoy the home's close proximity to outdoor activities. "There is a nature trail along Watts Branch just down the street," said Garfinkle. "Of course, the house is also only five miles from Great Falls National Park, which we have visited many, many times."

"I'm sure there are many stories the house holds secret," said Taylor, "But that's the fun of raising a family here: you can make up stories about who hid what in the floorboards that lift up to hide things from mysterious visitors."

The house sits on about a third of an acre, and is priced at \$849,000.

"I'm sure there are many stories the house holds secret."

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What to Expect

FROM PAGE 3

with the trend. “We’re not seeing middle class families buying homes through the mortgage market,” said Sanders, the GMU professor. “Their income was devastated during the housing bubble burst due to foreclosures. Real household income has fallen since 2007. So the American middle class is worse off than it was in 2007. It’s more high-income families with cash or investors who are buying homes.”

Schuman says that homes priced below \$1.3 million “are being snapped off the market if they are well conditioned and fairly priced. The ultra-luxury market, homes over \$2 million, is a little bit slower paced at present, but there are signs that these buyers are out there and wanting to buy.”

Cromwell agrees, “The 600-900K price point is very busy for a house in good condition.”

Homes priced below \$1.3 million “are being snapped off the market if they are well conditioned and fairly priced.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby's International Realty says lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties like this Arlington home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

Realtors say this Oakton home exemplifies ideal curb appeal, a critical factor when selling a home.

A Picture Perfect Home

FROM PAGE 3

A clean appearance is critical. “There should be no algae stains on the roof,” said McClure. “The homeowner should make sure that if they have siding that it doesn’t need power washing.”

“Power wash driveways, walkways and even the house sometimes,” said Pritchard. “The house should be washed before it is painted. Do any kind of painting or touch up painting of siding trim and doors that needs to be done. Sometimes you don’t have to paint at all if you do power washing. All homes get dusty. Sometimes paint fades and needs repainting.”

“Another easy thing is the windows,” said Dodek. “Remove screens and wash the win-

dows. You want your house to sparkle inside and out.”

Pritchard said, “Curb appeal also goes to having a fence in good shape: washed and painted or washed and sealed. The home’s deck should be in good shape. More often than not a deck should be power washed and painted or stained or sealed or whatever the appropriate finish is.”

Minor touches can make a major impact. “Take a look at your mailbox,” said Dodek. “Is it upright? Is it tilted? Does it need to be painted?”

Don’t hide your amenities. “If you have a swimming pool, we get them to remove the cover,” said Dodek. “There’s nothing more beautiful than a beautiful blue swimming pool.”

Realtors: Great Kitchens Help Sell Homes

Designer Jacquelin Lluy, of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield, recently transformed the kitchen of a home in Mantua, in Fairfax, from a small, dark space to a light-filled, free-flowing culinary oasis.

“The kitchen was built in the ’70s with a small, dark eat-in kitchen table for four,” Lluy. “The family wanted a view of their expansive wooded lot and an island built for entertaining and family meals with their young boys.”

The new kitchen includes an island made of maple. “The two-height island has a ‘truffle’ finish [and] was designed for game nights, football watching, entertaining friends on the higher level while the lower level is used for quick weekday meals and easy clean up with sink, trash/recycle and dishwasher located there.”

BEFORE PUTTING ONE’S HOME on the market, real estate agents encourage homeowners to spruce up the kitchen. Well-designed, free-flowing kitchens like Lluy’s can often

make or break the sale of a home say some local Realtors.

“I think a kitchen is one of the top things that a buyer looks at,” said Arlington Realtor Michelle Sagatov of the Michelle Sagatov group at McEneaney Associates.

Alexandria-based Realtor Elizabeth Lucchesi of the LizLuke Team at McEneaney Associates said, “Kitchens are the nucleus of the house. It is where everybody hangs out. The kitchen has to look good and feel good.”

Ken Nies, of Two Poor Teachers in Annandale, recently remodeled the kitchen in a Falls Church home adding “custom window millwork, lighting, a backsplash, a large center entertainment island and farm sink.” Nies advises using “different materials on your island to give a custom look.”

Realtors suggest investing in quality cabinetry and countertops. “Granite is something people look for but there are other materials that people can use like caesarstone and quartz,” said Sagatov. “Choose nice, solid counter tops that compliment the cabinetry.”

FOR THOSE WHO WANT to update a kitchen and think they will be selling their home within five to seven years, Sagatov suggests that homeowners think about the resale value before remodeling. “Make the kitchen timeless,” she said. “Don’t put too much of your personality into the kitchen. If you want to show off your personality, do that with paint or kitchen decorations, but make the things that cost a lot of money neutral and timeless, so when you go to sell your home, it appeals to a much broader audience.”

If you plan on renovating the kitchen, do it early, “not when you’re about to sell so that you can enjoy it too,” continued Sagatov.

HOWEVER, ONE DOESN’T need to remodel an entire kitchen before putting a home on the market. Real estate agents say there are a few changes that homeowners can make to help their kitchen sparkle.

“If you don’t have an updated kitchen there are things that you can do to make it look updated, clean and fresh,” said

Sagatov.

Make sure the kitchen has matching appliances that are in good working order. “It doesn’t matter if they are stainless steel, black or white as long as they match,” said Lucchesi.

An open kitchen appeals to buyers. “Having a kitchen area where you can cook while spending time with family, is important,” said Lucchesi. “Having it open into a living area allows the cook to be connected to others.”

Don’t underestimate the power of lighting. “Under-counter mounted lighting makes all the difference in the world,” said Lucchesi. “It gives the illusion that you have a lot of countertop space when in reality maybe you don’t.”

Spruce up dated cabinetry. “Painting cabinets a crisp white goes a long way,” said Sagatov. “A lot of older kitchens have dark wood. Putting a coat of fresh paint and new hardware goes a long way and is an investment that gives you so much money back.”

Sagatov said, “Another easy fix would be painting the walls. Taupe or grey paint on the walls in the kitchen would be soothing and go well with the white

cabinets. Those fixes don’t cost a lot of money.”

Fixtures are another minor element that can make a big impression.

“Make sure that cabinet pulls are updated with materials like glass or brushed nickel,” said Lucchesi. “Great faucets are like a nice pair of shoes or a good belt.”

Lucchesi speaks from experience. “We sold a 1940s house recently with a small kitchen,” she said. “We added new appliances, a new faucet, new cabinets and it sold for \$24,000 above the list price in four days with seven offers.”

“When enhancing a house for sale, you want to appeal to the broadest audience,” said Lucchesi.

Polished and updated kitchens create appealing pictures.

“Sexy kitchens photograph well,” said Lucchesi. “When people are looking at kitchens in online photos, we don’t want to give them a reason to tell their agent, ‘No I don’t want to see that house.’”

By Marilyn Campbell

Potomac REAL ESTATE

IN FEBRUARY 2014, 23 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$2,880,000-\$243,700.

Top Sales in February, 2014



① 9800 Sorrel Avenue — \$2,880,000



③ 11409 Woodington Terrace — \$1,600,000



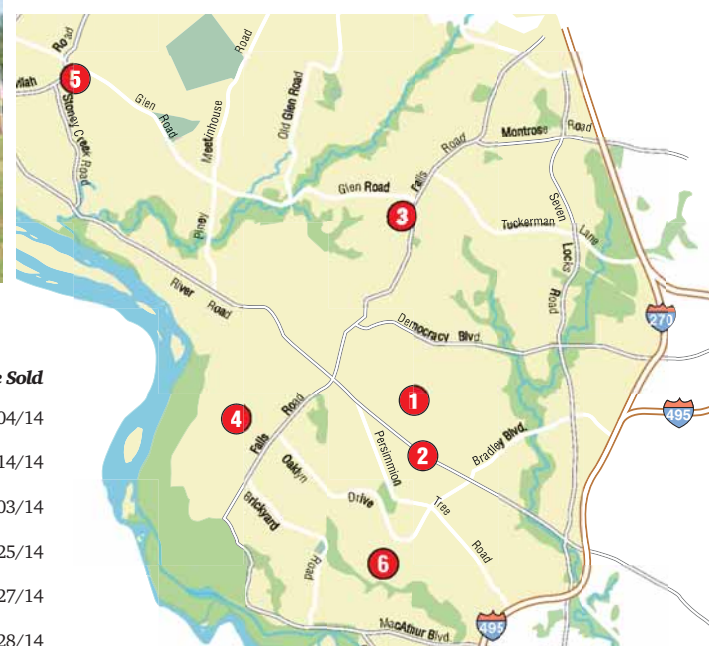
② 9311 River Road — \$1,890,000



④ 10854 Stanmore Drive — \$1,575,000



⑤ 12604 Bridgeton Drive — \$1,485,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
① 9800 SORREL AVE	4	7	0	.....	POTOMAC	..	\$2,880,000	..... Detached	2.00	..... 20854	..... FALCONHURST	02/04/14
② 9311 RIVER RD	6	5	5	.....	POTOMAC	..	\$1,890,000	..... Detached	2.95	..... 20854	..... BRADLEY FARMS	02/14/14
③ 11409 WOODINGTON TER ..	5	4	1	.....	POTOMAC	..	\$1,600,000	..... Detached	0.73	..... 20854	..... BEDFORDSHIRE	02/03/14
④ 10854 STANMORE DR	5	5	2	.....	POTOMAC	..	\$1,575,000	..... Detached	2.21	..... 20854	..... GREAT FALLS ESTATES	02/25/14
⑤ 12604 BRIDGETON DR	6	6	2	.....	POTOMAC	..	\$1,485,000	..... Detached	2.37	..... 20854	..... DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE	02/27/14
⑥ 9642 BEMAN WOODS WAY .	4	4	1	POTOMAC	..	\$1,358,000 Townhouse	0.09 20854 AVENEL	02/28/14

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