

Potomac ALMANAC

Farewell to Walt Whitman High School

NEWS, PAGE 3

Walt Whitman Class of 2014 students enter
Constitution Hall on June 11 to the cheers and
applause of their family and friends.

Behnke Nurseries Moving Out of Potomac

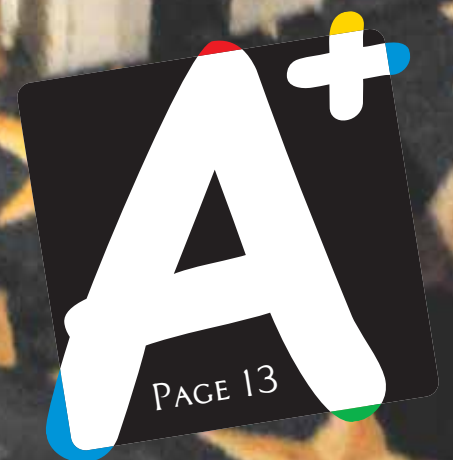
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Sheriff Primary

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Behnke Nurseries To Close Up Shop in Potomac

Business moving back to its Beltsville garden center.

BY CAROLE FUNGER
THE ALMANAC

After 16 years in Potomac, the family-owned Behnke Nurseries, located at 9545 River Road, is pulling up stakes and moving back to its flagship garden center in Beltsville. The nurseries will remain open through the Fourth of July weekend. In the words of Stephanie Behnke Fleming, granddaughter of the founders and the last family member still working in the business, “We are going home.”

Leaving the area was a hard decision. The Behnkes acquired the property back in 1998 from a former nursery. Over the following years, the nurseries transformed the 6-acre property into one of the area’s premier garden centers. With its focus on building strong customer relations, nurturing staff loyalty and creating a welcoming store atmosphere, Behnkes attracted customers and employees who have remained loyal for decades. “Our employees are all so wonderful and dedicated,” said Fleming. “Everybody has such good hearts here and we have worked so hard over the years to make Behnkes what it is today. We are devastated to be leaving.”

Whitestar Property Management, to which Behnkes sold the property in 2006, was forced to raise the rent last year. The two parties tried in vain to come up with a mutually beneficial solution to help the nurseries stay on. In the end, they could not. Said Fleming, “Our friends at Whitestar are sad to see us go. Unfortunately, we just can’t afford the rent any more and though we tried hard to come to an agreement, sadly, we could not. In the end, it’s just business.” Behnkes Nurseries was founded in 1930



PHOTO BY CAROLE FUNGER/THE ALMANAC

Behnkes

by Fleming’s grandparents, Albert and Rose Behnke, who emigrated from Germany. They established their business on old-fashioned principles centered around knowledgeable staff and education in plant care. Today, Behnkes is a customer friendly, employee-focused company offering a variety of plants and landscape materials as well as a broad selection of classes on such diverse topics as native plants, orchid repotting, controlling pests, and designing with containers. Its employees and customers have remained loyal for decades. “We have a wonderful group of people,” said Fleming. “In fact, many of our customers end up working for us,” she said.

Bill Mann, current manager of the Garden Center, has worked for Behnkes for almost 30 years. “I stopped counting after 25,” he said. Like many employees, Mann worked his way through most departments, including the production facility at Largo. He was also a supervisor, woody plant manager and buyer for the shop. “Overall, I do whatever they ask,” he added with a laugh.

Mann is an expert on trees, shrubs and plant care and can tell customers what will

work in a given area and what will pose more of a challenge. He’s great with beginning gardeners and is known for being able to bring order to chaos among the thousands of plant varieties available for sale. Said Taylor, “If you put yourself in Bill’s hands, you’re likely to have a beautiful yard year after year.”

Orion Taylor, current manager of the Garden Shop, came to Behnkes in 1987. Like Mann, he has worked in almost every department. His focus in the shop is on the green industry. “It’s all about going back to being green,” he said. “We are trying to really assess our product line and to evaluate what we offer to assure that it will be safe for the Bay and for the environment.” He added, “We use recycled materials and have a pretty broad selection of organic products.”

Before managing the shop, Taylor ran the woody plant department, where he worked on integrated pest management (IPM) strategies designed to pose the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. “We try to find the best post-pest solution and if we have to resort to using chemicals on our plants, we choose the less offensive oils and pyrethrins (natural organic compounds derived from chrysanthemums) first. They are easier and safer to use,” he said.

“We are also particularly concerned about the collapsing health of bees and other pollinators,” he added. In concert with the environmental group, Friends of the Earth, Behnkes has instituted a company policy regarding the sale of neonicotinoid-containing insecticides at the nurseries, pledging to end use of any chemical that will harm bees. “We wrote to our vendors and asked them to let us know when they also stopped using these products so we could alert our customers as to which plants are free of these substances,” he said.

In addition to focusing on green recycling and organic products, Taylor enjoys his many roles at the nursery. As an unofficial “plant counselor,” he regularly attends to couples and families who come in with no real experience with plant or landscape culture. “They often lack consensus on what they’d like to purchase,” he said. “I am able

to show them a wide range of plant options and broker agreements. You could say that I help resolve plant disputes.”

One of Taylor’s favorite jobs is playing plant detective. Customers often come to Behnkes seeking a particular flower or plant with which they have fallen in love. “They’ll say, ‘It’s a green plant with pink flowers,’” he said. “I enjoy the challenge of trying to figure out what they’re talking about. When I finally figure it out, I am positively elated. It’s really just a matter of eliminating all the possibilities.”

Three winters ago, during a period of heavy snow, Taylor and the store manager at the time, Alex Denker, now horticulturalist for the National Air and Space Museum, rode out a storm in the nursery. “We were basically snowed in here. The power went down and we had all the plants to protect,” said Taylor. He spent the day plowing out the parking lot, then retreated inside to fire up the generator so it could power a pair of electrical heaters to keep the houseplants warm through the night. “Every three to four hours one of us would get up to refill the generator,” he recalled. “One of us slept in a small closet close to the water heater and the other was just outside the door to the nursery.”

Added Fleming, “This is a weather-based industry. It can be hard when you have spring after spring of really cold weather. It if rains on Mother’s Day, people go the mall instead to buy chocolates. We are like farmers that have to get up every day to milk the cows. Instead, we get up every day to water the plants.”

After a period of decline in the gardening industry, Fleming sees the business coming back strong. “These days we are really excited because we’re seeing a lot of young families come out,” said Fleming. “All of a sudden gardening and finding the joy of getting out there and getting dirty is becoming popular again.” Behnkes is witnessing a resurging interest in edibles, vegetable gardens and fruit trees in particular. “People want to grow their own food. It’s a thrill to see if they can do it,” she said.

To meet the growing demand, Behnkes has created a wide range of low-cost activities geared toward families and kids to expose them to the wonders of the garden. “We try

SEE BEHNKE’S PAGE 5



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rose Behnke at Sylvan Lake Lodge in 1962



Walt Whitman SGA president Jorge Richardson prepares to lead his classmates into the hall for the commencement exercises.



Beatriz Atsavaprane, Kamilla Beisenova and Emily Baker take their places in line for the processional.



Drew Aherne, Abaar Ahmad and Fionn Adamian watch as Michael Adelson poses for a selfie.

Farewell to Walt Whitman High School



Kouroush Ashtary-Yazdi is congratulated by a friend before joining his classmates.



The Walt Whitman Symphonic Orchestra directed by Terry Alvey performs "America the Beautiful" followed by The Walt Whitman Alma Mater. The graduation ceremonies were held on June 11 at D.A.R. Constitution Hall.



Aliza Wolfe and Ryan Savage, members of the Class of 2014, were both chosen to address their classmates at the graduation ceremony.




Senior class advisor Todd Michaels calls for the attention in the wings as he relays one last time the procedure for the processional into Constitution Hall.

Members of the Walt Whitman Women's Choir, Catherine Trant, Sophia Glazer, Lila Hobby and Erin Craig.



Family and friends of the graduates stand, applaud and take photos as the Class of 2014 proceeds into the Hall.





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JULY EVENTS

- July 4: An American Celebration at Mount Vernon
- July 12: USA & Alexandria Birthday Celebration
- July 12-13: Fort Ward Civil War Reenactment Weekend
- July 19: Cinema Del Ray, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2"
- July 19: Comcast Outdoor Film Festival, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

- Up Late With the Boutiques, Thursdays May-July
- First Thursdays Del Ray
- Second Thursday Art Night at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

For a full list of events, tours and more summer fun go to:
VisitAlexandriaVA.com

News



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Park service helicopter searches over Great Falls on Sunday, June 15 before the search for the possibly missing kayaker was called off.

Kayaker Safe at Home

Apparently unaware of a three-day search effort, a kayaker made his way home safely after capsizing in his kayak near Great Falls.

Search managers with the Montgomery County Police Department sought the public's assistance in identifying the owner of a kayak found on the Potomac River south of Great Falls on Friday, June 13.

A multi-jurisdictional search for a kayaker believed to be in distress began at approximately 1:45 p.m. on Friday, June 13, when witnesses in the area of the Observation Deck at Great Falls near the Virginia shore reported seeing a white male in a red kayak with a white paddle. Some time later, a kayaker down river located a red kayak and white paddle, the kayak floating upside

down near the Anglers Inn boat ramp in Potomac.

Rescue crews including boats, helicopters and a ground effort searched Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning for the presumed missing kayaker. Police released a photo of the kayak and other equipment found in the river.

On Sunday, the kayaker was identified through others who recognized the equipment. After speaking to him, police determined that the kayaker had experienced trouble in the water Friday afternoon and was able to swim to shore, leaving the boat in the water.

"He did not realize that his boat had been recovered and that he was the subject of a search," police said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE PIRINGER, MCER, VIA TWITTER

MCERS Battalion Chief 2, Kent Mallalieu, operates Unified Command Post near river's edge at Old Angler's Inn boat ramp as part of a three-day search that included dozens of staff, plus boats and helicopters.

Behnke Nurseries To Close Up Shop in Potomac

FROM PAGE 2

to make it so the kids will have memories of growing up with Behnkes,” said Fleming. “We are showing people that even if they’re in an apartment with only a balcony they can put out a pot of tomatoes and see things grow.”

INTRODUCING PEOPLE to the wonders of gardening and creating memories is one of the many Behnke family legacies. It all began with violets and the first ladies back in 1930 when Albert and Rose first established the nursery. Rose started a tradition in which she welcomed every first lady to the White House with a gift of violets.

“My grandmother came from Germany and she wanted to welcome all of the first ladies to the White House,” said Fleming. “We still have all their hand-written thank-you notes, including one from Bessie Truman, in which she writes about packing up the violets and taking them on the train with her to their summer house.”

“All of this may seem surprising, but back then we were the only Garden Center in town,” she added.

Evelyn Kinville has been the resident Behnkes florist for 13 years. Her shop, located in a tiny peaked roof building adjacent to the nursery, is a throwback to old times with its wood-framed greenhouse and arched windows and fresh flowers in tin buckets. “I have always been drawn

“I have always been drawn to a naturalistic kind of feel and it seems to have worked out well.”

— Evelyn Kinville

to a naturalistic kind of feel and it seems to have worked out well,” she said. Three assistants have worked with her for years, creating arrangements out of flowers obtained from all over the world, including Africa, Israel and Australia.

Like Taylor, she has toughed out a number of storms over the years in order to assure the safety of her flowers and plants. “I’ve stayed here through several weather situations over the years,” she said. “It is safer for the plants and it helps assure I get here the next day.” Kinville, who lives in Virginia, will not be following many of the employees to Beltsville.

“That’s a bit long of a commute,” she said. For now, as she packs up her shop, she is focused on telling her customers the news and making sure they are taken care of. “When I knew for sure the news was official, I went through a long list of names of customers and called many of them personally to thank them for their business.”

True to its founding principles, this family owned business still cares deeply for its customers, even as it moves back to Beltsville.

For more about Behnkes, its sales and upcoming events at the Beltsville store, including “Gardeners Night Out,” now in its fourth year, go to www.behnkes.com.

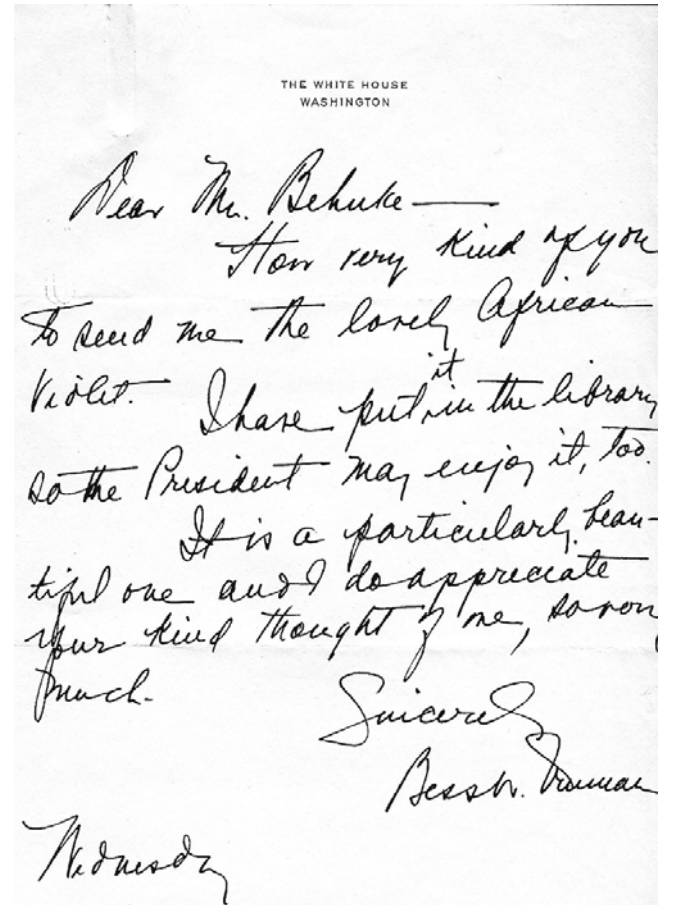


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Letter to Rose Behnke from Bessie Truman

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which changes to Gunston Road/VA-242. In about 2 miles you'll pass the main entrance to the Meadowood Recreation Area on your right. Don't turn here, rather continue on another half of a mile. You'll turn right through a gate onto a dirt drive. If you use Google Maps, Mapquest, or other GPS, you can use these coordinates as your destination and it will take you right to the location: 38.670731, -77.190827

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LETTERS

Brickyard Coalition Endorsements

To the Editor:

After a two-year battle with the County Executive, the Brickyard school site is back in the hands of the Board of Education. Now the Board of Education and the county are considering using this site as a location for a new school bus depot that could house approximately 400 school buses which would jam our local roads — especially Falls, River and MacArthur Boulevard. This is a very bad idea as the location of a bus depot at the Brickyard site would cause traffic gridlock in our community.

The Brickyard Coalition, a community civic organization representing the interests of numerous community groups and over 2,000 citizens and voters in Montgomery County has selected candidates it is endorsing in the upcoming June 24 primary election. The “Brickyard Ballot” endorsements were made after extensive evaluation of the candidates and responses to questionnaires.

The Brickyard Ballot recommends the following candidates. A brief explanation as to why we are supporting the candidates is included but more information is available at our website www.brickyardcoaliton.org.

Governor Doug Gansler and **Lt. Governor Jolene Ivey**: Gansler lives in Montgomery County and knows and understands our issues. We believe he would be a real asset to our community as Governor.

Attorney General-Brian Frosh: Currently our state senator from District 16, Frosh has proven good judgment on matters affecting our community and our state. He has been our friend as a State Senator and he would be a great Attorney General.

District 15 State Senator: Brian J. Feldman and District 15 Delegates Kathleen Dumais, David Fraser-Hidalgo, and Aruna Miller. All members of the District 15 delegation have been extremely helpful to the Coalition and were leaders in securing the letters from legislators to the County Executive and Board of Education. Keeps this great team working for you.

District 16, Senator: Susan C. Lee and District 16 Delegates-Bill Frick, Arianna Kelly, and Marc Korman. The incumbents, Lee, Frick and Kelly have worked with the Coalition and all signed the legislative letter to the Board of Education. We agree with the Washington Post that Marc Korman would be a valuable addition to this legislative team.

County Executive-Doug Duncan. Doug Duncan has provided strong support for an education farm at the Brickyard site to be used by the children of our county. He has pledged to seek community input and we appreciate his support in the Ten Mile Creek fight to preserve our future drinking water.

County Council At-Large (votes for four): challenger Beth Daly and incumbents **Marc Elrich** and **George Leventhal**. All have committed to oppose the location of a bus depot at the Brickyard school site. Both Elrich and Leventhal were very helpful during the Brickyard fight. We also need a Councilmember from the upcounty with a fresh perspective and new ideas and we agree with the Gazette that Beth Daly would be a great addition to our County Council.

County Council District 1-Roger Ber-

liner. Berliner also has committed to oppose the use of the Brickyard site for a bus depot and he is working with the Coalition to find the best future use for the Brickyard site. He also worked for and voted to preserve Ten Mile Creek and our future drinking water.

At-Large Board of Education- Jill Ortman-Fouse. Jill has been endorsed by both the *Washington Post* and the *Gazette*, and would be a strong independent voice on the Board of Education.

For more information or to print out a copy of the Brickyard Ballot, please go to our website www.brickyardcoaliton.org. The Coalition members realize how critically important voter turnout is in this election primary and encourage everyone to vote on June 24. The election will be decided by the primary in most cases. In the general election, we will select four members of the Board of Education.

Brickyard Coalition Inc. Directors — **Curt Uhre, Maria Fusco, Keith Williams, Ted Duncan, Susan Shallcross Ruffkahr, Charles Doran** and **John Phillips**

Best Choice for County Executive

To the Editor:

Many may recognize me through my dedication to the Brickyard Coalition, which recently fought a battle for process; and we won. Connection noted, many may be surprised to learn that I have voted for Phil Andrews as our new County Executive, while the Brickyard Coalition has endorsed Doug Duncan.

Phil Andrew’s platform of strengthened accountability and fiscal responsibility is what we need in our county.

I learned a lot in our battle for process. Knowing what I do now, it would be surprising for me to vote for any other County Executive candidate. This primary has consequences as important as a presidential election for Montgomery County (and will likely be felt more).

The Brickyard Coalition makes decisions based on what they/we feel is best for our community. We are a group of neighbors trying to ensure that our larger community will have the best ability to be heard and considered with issues that will affect our neighborhood. So, why did the Coalition endorse Doug Duncan for County Executive? Partial answers: Some on the coalition knew Doug from his past administrations where he helped our community (i.e.: conservation site close to Brickyard and MacArthur; neighborhood infrastructure; safety). Add that Duncan was impressive during our discussions: Definitively answering our concerns and then offering possible suggestions that the community might find amenable, with the promise of community inclusion. Doug Duncan seemed savvy in business and politics without a doubt; and he won the majority support; so, we all agreed to the Brickyard Coalition endorsement of County Executive candidate Doug Duncan.

Phil Andrew’s platform of strengthened accountability and fiscal responsibility is what we need in our county.

After having gone through almost two years in court (citizen paid); reading copious amounts of discourse between the incumbent, his staff, various county departments and the Montgomery County Board of Education members regarding the Brickyard issue, I knew that

I wasn’t going back.

Phil Andrews isn’t taking donations from any developers, PACs or Unions. Why? To dissuade any possibilities of clouded judgment. To do his utmost towards good governance. This doesn’t mean that he’s against business; rather, it means fair opportunity for all businesses.

If we find many people suggesting a vote for one candidate as “the lesser of two evils,” while at same time speaking well of third candidate, but they feel he “won’t win.” May I suggest the following: If we all vote who we believe would be the best of these three candidates, then Phil Andrews will be our next County Executive - hands down.

Phil Andrews represents the type of open, accountable and fiscally responsible government that I want to be a part of. Key to all elected officials is to work with them as a community — to know that your voice matters. We all know that our voices matter to Phil — after all, he can’t seem to get enough of them, and so he’s knocking on our doors. As activists, parents, leaders, we must vote for the change we want — we must be the change we want to see.

And, here are some other candidates I supported with my primary election vote:

Board of Ed: Jill Ortman-Fouse

At-Large, County Council: Beth Daly and Marc Elrich.

Dist. 1, County Council: Roger Berliner

Attorney General: Brian Frosh (dedicated, all around good)

Delegate: Aruna Miller (a definite fave), Marc Korman

Md. Senate: Brian Feldman and Susan Lee

The Brickyard battle changed my life forever.

Look to the recent Virginia election: Our votes equal our voice equal our power. Use your power: Vote.

Maria Fusco, Potomac
Brickyard Coalition
WeAreMoCo.org

Working To Ease Intersection Back-up

The following letter was addressed to Allen Cohen who wrote “Tuckerman Light: Enough Is Enough,” letter, Potomac Almanac, June 4.

I am writing to follow up on our telephone conversation and your subsequent emails to Councilmember Berliner and to Arthur Holmes, director, Department of Transportation regarding delays to northbound Falls Road traffic at the subject intersection.

I have observed the intersection on Friday, June 6 as well as having our traffic management aircraft monitor this location during the evening peak traffic period. What we have found is that traffic volumes in this area of Falls Road are rising for the evening peak period earlier than we had previously found. In response we have adjusted the timing of the signal to begin using its evening peak settings beginning at 2:30 p.m.. This provides a longer cycle length overall as well as additional green signal time to the Falls Road approaches. Our thought is that by beginning the evening peak program earlier we can stay ahead of the increasing demand.

B.C. Mangum

Manager, Transportation Systems
Engineering

Division of Traffic Engineering and
Operations

Department of Transportation

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BUSINESS

Huschmand Launches 'Exclusively Entertainment'

Full-service entertainment company opens in Potomac.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

A new company located in Potomac Village, Exclusively Entertainment, is available to meet residents' event entertainment needs. Owner Iman Huschmand offers 15 years of experience "creating an atmosphere of fun and excitement and providing the best in professional disc jockeys, emcees, musicians and dancers." His services also include comprehensive lighting, videography and event planning.

Huschmand, who grew up in Rockville, graduated from Richard Montgomery High School and earned both a Bachelor's Degree and MBA from the University of Maryland. While in high school, he built a successful niche DJ business with his cousin, providing music and emcees for Persian weddings. After his college graduation, he was employed at the Ritz Carlton in Doha, Qatar.

"While overseas, I discovered that I didn't like working for other people. My true passion was music and entertainment and I wanted to return to this area to open a professional full-service entertainment company," he said.

In 2007, he launched Exclusively Entertainment in Bethesda and began to throw all his

energy and efforts into becoming one of the best multicultural event planners in the D.C. area. He is well-known as a master of ceremonies and as a creative and experienced entertainment professional. He plans many corporate events and also initiates and facilitates public events, including a brunch party every Sunday at Malmaison Restaurant, a masquerade party at the Warner Theater and the Persian version of American Idol.

Huschmand recently celebrated his company's move to Potomac with a Cinco de Mayo Grand Opening Party on May 5. Formerly in Bethesda, his new office is located at 10020 Falls Road in a house just past the Bank of America Building in Potomac Village. "I like the homey feel of having my business located in the home where I live," he said. "When clients come, they feel more comfortable and relaxed than in a regular office. I love residing in Potomac and look forward to getting to know more residents, even though I feel right at home because I have planned weddings for many Potomac brides and grooms."

Also connected to his home is a photogra-



Iman Huschmand



phy studio called Focus Fine Photography which makes it "one-stop shopping" for many an event planner.

Huschmand has produced a video called "Lights, Camera, I Do" — a staged marriage video that demonstrates his talent. "You have to trust the people you hire and feel that they really care about you," he said. "What it comes down to is that this is the most important day of your life, and you want it to be the most special. We work incredibly hard to fill all the gaps, to make the bride and groom, the wedding party — and the parents and family have a stress-free day. We are totally available to them and give them white glove service."

Besides supplying music services and/or musicians, Exclusively Entertainment provides uplighting, intelligent lighting, pin-spotting, monogram projection and dance floor and ceiling washes. They coordinate everything for the special day — the floral arrangements, site selection, caterer and menu selection, photography, furniture and décor, logistics management and the event design and production. Check out Exclusively Entertainment information and videos on its website www.exclusivelyentertainment.com or call Huschmand at 888-881-3936. He is also available through email at info@exclusivelyentertainment.com and the company is also on all Social Media sites including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Think Right to Live Right

In order to guarantee your success and satisfaction; follow the well-trodden advice rendered by thousands of successful home-owners and investors. Use these guidelines to prepare your mind for the process and outcome of buying a home.

Adjust your Headspace to find your ideal Living-space

First, you must concede that clichés are well circulated for good reason. Location, for example, is indeed of centrifugal importance when selecting and bidding on a home. Ask yourself before the process sucks you in; Do you like the area, and the schools? Does it have the important features you want? Where do you work, and how does the transportation scenario look? These things may seem secondary to aesthetics in the beginning, but in the long run they are the key factors in a happy life.

Second, consider that not all amenities are created equal. Square footage can look very different depending on layout, and a pool in Arizona reaps far more return on investment than one in Michigan. Avoid disqualifying or unnecessarily seeking property based on stringent criteria. Otherwise you may find yourself either pleasantly or unpleasantly surprised. Third, keep an open mind, and always make decisions based on the future. A home is a huge purchase that requires care and patience. Carpet can be replaced, but the essence of a home is as fixed as your mortgage payment.

Lastly, be realistic, trust your gut, and don't get discouraged. You may have to look for some time before you locate that perfect home, but it is far better to look and remain optimistic than to settle and squirm under the burden of an unwanted mortgage. If a home does not "feel" right, trust yourself, and remember that this is a real-world decision, so holding out for the "deal of the century" is as fruitless as jumping at the first opportunity that comes along.

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

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Mike@michaelmatese.com

Be Involved and Vote - Primary Is June 24

Election Day is Tuesday, June 24. Early Voting ends Thursday, June 19.

❖ Early voting hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and voting hours on Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Whether you vote early or on Election Day, you must be in line to cast your ballot by 8 p.m. If you can, avoid the rush and vote in the late morning or mid-afternoon.

❖ For Election Day, find your polling place, by checking the sample ballot mailed to your home, visit the official polling place locator at 777vote.org or call the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE.

❖ Bring a sample ballot to the polling place. Read the sample ballot carefully, make selections in advance, and take it to the polling place to use as a guide.

❖ First-time voters in Montgomery County may be required to show proper identification such as a driver's license or official document including name and address. It can also be helpful to bring a voter registration card, but it is not required to vote.

❖ If you have a question or problem at the polls, do not hesitate to ask for assistance. Election officials are trained to assist voters with physical disabilities and answer questions about the voting process.

❖ The ballot is available in both English and Span-

ish. Voters can also bring their own interpreter to the polling place to help them with the voting process.

❖ If you make a mistake on your ballot, notify the election official immediately so that you can get a new ballot before you cast it.

For more information, call 240-777-VOTE, visit www.777vote.org, our mobile app at 777vote.org, the Maryland State Board of Elections' website at <http://elections.state.md.us>, or follow the Montgomery County Board of Elections on Facebook or Twitter.

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PRIMARY FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION - AT LARGE

Edward Amatetti

As candidate for Board of Education my top two priorities are to: 1) finally begin closing the achievement gap with common sense solutions that are simple but powerful; and 2) bring order and accountability to the budget process.

I can do both because my background combines 15 years experience as an operations auditor and improvement consultant to local governments, with seven years experience as a classroom teacher in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and D.C. I know by personal experience what makes a successful classroom. I also understand budgets and how government agencies can run more effectively.

As an operations auditor and consultant, I helped cities and counties as big as Cleveland, Providence, and Contreras Costa County, as well as dozens of regulated utilities improve their operations and service to their customers.

As a teacher, I accepted assignments in the most challenging schools in suburban Maryland. I consistently had among the highest performing classes, and I never had to lower standards or expectations in my diverse student populations. I was a content-driven science teacher, who helped students to master materials and concepts beyond the required curriculum. In other words, I closed the achievement gap in my classroom every year. I also observed other teachers and schools throughout the U.S. that succeeded in closing the achievement gap. It can be done, but not with top-down approaches such as No Child Left Behind, "teaching to the test," or with new curriculum fads. Improvement can only come through what these teachers and schools succeeded in doing.

My priorities are:
ACHIEVEMENT GAP/EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

- ♦ Free administrators to utilize their best teachers and reward them accordingly. If they can teach more children, or are better with challenged students, give them more of these students and pay them. We want our best teachers in front of as many students as possible.

- ♦ Free teachers of unhelpful bureaucratic requirements so they have more time to plan lessons, and to work directly with students and parents.

- ♦ Promote individualized teacher-to-teacher mentoring, so the most effective teachers are raising up the newest or less effective teachers.

BUDGETING AND FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

- ♦ Conduct a long overdue full-scale audit of the budget and operations.

- ♦ Get the BOE involved in the budget process at the beginning of the budget process

- ♦ Institute budget reform for effective cost control and demand that all programs are measured against educational objectives.

CURRICULUM

- ♦ Introduce basic business, personal finance, and entrepreneurship in HS.

- ♦ Introduce foreign language earlier.
- ♦ Make certain that all students master "life math" concepts.

- ♦ Establish Student Internships with local business/non-profits so students gain work-place exposure.

OVER-CAPACITY/AGING OF FACILITIES

- ♦ Conduct a comprehensive review of options including: low-cost construction options (such as pre-fab buildings); virtual learning; and four-day weeks for upper class HS, among others.

- ♦ Demand a fair share of State funding for construction for Montgomery County.

Merry Eisner-Heidorn

Merry Eisner-Heidorn, 22-year Montgomery County resident and 19-year Potomac resident, has continuously endeavored to listen to a broad cross-section of stakeholders, believing as she did when she was a PTA and PTSA president in the Churchill community, VP Legislation of MCCPTA and VP Legislation of MD PTA that we are all best served when parents, teachers and students come together for the good of education. Eisner-Heidorn augmented her advocacy experience with three years work experience as a legislative aide in Annapolis, providing legislative research and constituent service support to two delegates in the Maryland General Assembly. Currently, Eisner-Heidorn is serving as legislative director of Start School Later both nationally and in Montgomery County, working to affect change both in our local school system as well as to pass legislation in Maryland and other states. She also serves on the MCPS Math Assessment Work Group, examining failure rates on exams in the county, and continuing the work she began when she participated in the Math Work Group and served on the Assessment Team.

Merry Eisner-Heidorn believes that we are fortunate to have one of the best school systems in the U.S. However, significant gaps remain, and we have a host of issues that need addressing (math assessment failure rates, the elementary school report card, ensuring gifted and talented students opportunities for placement within the new curriculum, shifting the focus from litigation to collaboration when addressing the needs of our special education students, etc.) Eisner-Heidorn has identified three key focus areas for improvement – and believes that if the Board of Education works to enhance their performance in these areas, our issues stand a better chance of being resolved in a manner that works for all of the county's stakeholders. These three focus areas:

- ♦ Time: Every teacher talks about the time crunch. One of the first areas to take a hit when budgets were cut was planning and collaboration time. As MCPS has introduced new curricula over the years, and as the system continues to roll out the common core, the MCPS equivalent — C.S. 2.0 — and the new state assessments, time for teacher planning and collaboration is critical.
- ♦ Talk: The Board of Education should be doing all that it can to encourage participation from individual parents and diverse parent groups. It should serve as a representative and advocate for every stakeholder involved in the county's education system. No group should feel that their input isn't welcome, or that a particular issue isn't worthy of discussion. No group should feel that their role is more important than any other, or that one group has an advantage over others. In a county as diverse as Montgomery County - where the objective of our Board of Education is to ensure the best possible outcome for all students - every voice should feel heard.
- ♦ Transparency: MCPS creates a number of documents that are essential reading for parents if they want to understand how our school system works. These documents range from curriculum guides to the Capital Improvement Program (the allocation of budget dollars to school construction) to the Annual Operating Budget (the allocation of budget dollars to the day-to-day running of our school system). Given that all of these documents are public, Eisner-Heidorn believes that it's incumbent upon the Board of Education to request that MCPS provide them in a manner such that they're transparent and easy to understand. If stakeholders can understand how the Board of Education and MCPS are allocating resources, it's more likely that we can ask for accountability, and integration of school spending with county funds that also benefit public school children.

Eisner-Heidorn has been endorsed by the Montgomery County Public School Retirees Association (MCPSRA) and the Sierra Club. Her website is: <http://Merry4BOE.wordpress.com>; her Facebook page is <http://facebook.com/Merry4BOE> and she tweets at @merreyisner.

Shebra Evans

I have been an active educator advocate for the past six years serving the students of this county in many capacities. As an elected officer with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs I served as vice president for programs and vice president for educational issues. These positions allowed me to spend time learning the needs of the community. In addition I represented the Wheaton Cluster for many years and am intimately familiar with the challenges facing our schools with serving populations with high rates of poverty and a growing population of students for whom English is not their first language.

My experience and leadership with the local and county PTAs have enabled me to build strategic alliances that are critically important in moving MCPS forward in educating students. My priorities will be to continue engaging the community to make a difference in the academic success of students. I believe we can strengthen our school system by creating more opportunities for career education beginning in middle school to provide students with options such as being assigned a career mentor. Students would get access to real life experiences and exposure to the work environment prior to graduation and hopefully think about their skills and their passions and how to build upon that understanding to follow their dreams.

Work to close the achievement gap. Continue expanding our community partnerships in support of our schools and students with families, community members, the county government, and public and private partners. I am deeply committed to equity and excellence and was honored to be selected as a co-chair of the African American Student Achievement Action Group where I am helping to lead a critical community conversation about the urgency of closing the achievement gap. In addition, I have a degree in economics and finance, which will serve me well on the school board. In my role with MCCPTA, I served for two years on the MCPS Operating Budget Review Workgroup, which has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the development and preparation that goes into the operating budget process. Finally, my endorsements by the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), The Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland (CAPAD-MD), Casa in Action, SEIU Local 500, and the African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County reinforce the organizations believe in my leadership and the work I continue to do on behalf of all of our children.

<http://shebraevans.com/>
Facebook: Shebra4boe
Twitter: @shebraevans

Jill Ortman-Fouse

Upon graduation from UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.A. in media communications, I produced and hosted television programs at network affiliates on issues of importance to the community. To fulfill a desire for direct public service, I volunteered for a year with Habitat for Humanity and built homes in Central America and the U.S. I met my husband who was also a volunteer, and we moved to D.C. We have lived in Silver Spring for the last 23 years. I worked on a variety of advocacy issues professionally and as a volunteer over the years, including lobbying and education efforts for environmental justice. When our first child began kindergarten, I turned my advocacy efforts toward the schools. Our son is now in 7th grade, and our daughter is in 9th grade. I want to serve on the board to ensure that we are using our resources to best meet the needs of all our students; and that the voices of the parents, educators and the community are informing the policy of our large and growing school system.

What does my candidacy mean to voters?
As a longtime school and community activist in Montgomery County, I will bring an independent voice to the Board of Education. My priorities are building a more responsive, accountable and transparent school system, attacking the growing achievement/engagement gap with proven strategies, and supporting whole child learning.

Over the past 10 years I have served as a PTA president, MCCPTA delegate, MCPS Parent Advisory Council member, YMCA advisory board member, and neighborhood association president. I have seen just how wonderfully talented, intelligent and resourceful the residents of our county are — many of them eager to help with our schools — and I know from experience that working with our knowledgeable residents and their local communities makes far more sense than keeping them out. I am a collaborator and relationship builder at heart, and when it comes to a large school system that can have such a powerful impact on all residents — a school system that consumes about half, or \$2.3 billion, of our county tax dollars — I think it's critical that parents and all community members be brought into the policy and decision-making processes.

Unfortunately that has not always been the case, as the residents of the Potomac area know all too well. Only a few years back, an organic farmer working on a school-leased plot on Brickyard Road for over 30 years suddenly lost his lease under the watch of the Board of Education. The lease was given to the county for the purpose of a soccer complex without adequate process and in violation of the open meetings act. Hundreds of frustrated local citizens turned out at the first meeting to oppose the plan when it was publicly announced. I congratulate the residents of this community for paying attention and organizing. The school system is an integral part of the community, and must demonstrate good faith to be a trusted community partner.

I would like to see Brickyard Educational Farm as a centerpiece of experiential learning for MCPS. This type of outdoor education is part of whole child learning, which needs to go beyond standardized tests and include arts, music, field trips, bilingual education and needed emotional support structures.

I am proud that the Washington Post has endorsed me for the Board of Education, citing my "common sense approach" and emphasis on parent engagement. I have also been endorsed by The Gazette, elected leaders such as County Councilmembers Marc Elrich and George Leventhal, and a host of advocacy and community organizations including Montgomery County NOW, the Sierra Club, and most importantly, the Brickyard Coalition. I hope to have your vote and support in the primary this coming June 24.

Jill Ortman-Fouse
Candidate, Board of Education At Large
Web: www.Jill4AllKids.com
Twitter: @Jill4AllKids
Facebook: Jill4AllKids



Ortman-Fouse

Tom Falcinelli

Education: Good Counsel High School, 1978; University of MD, BA 1982; Howard University School of Law, 1985. Member of Maryland and Federal Bars

Employment: Dual Career: Police Sergeant, Montgomery County Police, 1985 to present, Sergeant since 1997; Attorney, Bay and Falcinelli, Rockville, MD since 1987; retired football official – worked all levels to include Arena, NCAA and ended with NFL, currently Director of Officials for the IFL (Indoor Football League), a nationwide indoor football league. <http://www.goifl.com/about-the-ifl/ifl-staff>

To answer your question as to why my candidacy matters to Potomac residents?

One reason only: To return Montgomery County Police officers to your Potomac neighborhoods during the overnight hours, rather than forcing them to perform the duties of the Sheriff's Department. Do you really care who the Sheriff is? The answer is probably "Not really. What do the Deputies do, anyway?" Although there are many reasons I should be elected, I will provide one monstrous reason for Potomac residents to be concerned with who operates the Sheriff's Department.

I have been a midnight supervisor in the Rockville/Potomac area since 1997. Since then, your county police officers have been taken out of your Potomac neighborhoods at night, to conduct routine transport (taxi) service for prisoners between the Rockville Jail, Clarksburg Jail, and Shady Grove Hospital. In addition, your county police officers must guard all prisoners in the hospital in excess of one, as the Deputies will only guard one prisoner. Potomac officers are assigned this task because the Rockville jail is located in one of the Potomac police beats, Baker One. If the citizens were aware that almost every night, police officers are stripped out of their neighborhoods in Potomac, leaving these neighborhoods uncovered, so that the officers can conduct taxi service between the aforementioned facilities, they would care who was running the Sheriff's Department. Under the current and past Sheriff regimes, nothing has been done to rectify this issue. You can speak to any midnight officer or supervisor in the Germantown (where the Clarksburg jail is located) or Rockville police districts, to verify this constant drain of police resources. If you check the Sheriff Department's website, you will learn that the first "duty" mentioned under "Duties" are "Court security and prisoner transportation." It should add "only during daylight hours, because the police will do it for us, overnight."

Why should you elect me?
Do not elect me because of my exemplary qualifications (extensive education; advanced degrees; vast experience as an attorney and businessman; 29 years of experience working as a cop on the streets of Montgomery County). Elect me for the reason that I will put Montgomery County police officers back where they belong at night. In your Potomac neighborhoods, looking for the thieves who break into your cars and homes. When I am the Sheriff, the deputies will be performing the transports and guarding of prisoners, 24/7. Your midnight county officers will be able to return to patrolling your neighborhoods overnight. They will thank you for putting them back where they belong. In your neighborhoods. Elect me because the Deputies themselves, have overwhelmingly endorsed me, not my opponent, for this position. This alone should speak volumes to the public. I recommend you visit my website Falcinelli4Sheriff.com.



Falcinelli

Sheriff Darren Mark Popkin

Sheriff Darren M. Popkin was elected as Montgomery County's 61st Sheriff on Nov. 2, 2010. Prior to his election Popkin spent 12 years as Chief Deputy, directing the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office. During his 27-year law enforcement career, Popkin rose through the ranks, serving in the Sheriff's Office transportation, civil and criminal divisions.

Sheriff Popkin received a B.A. degree in law enforcement from the University of Maryland, College Park, and graduated from the former Robert E. Peary High School. Popkin's off-duty passion has included coaching boys' and girls' softball and basketball teams in local leagues and national tournaments. He was an active basketball player in the Montgomery County adult athletic league.

A family man and life-long county resident, Popkin lives in Olney with his wife and their three children. Their son attends Montgomery County Public Schools, and their daughters are recent college graduates.

Sheriff Popkin has extensive involvement in major law enforcement policy making and professional organizations including: President and Board of Directors member, Maryland Sheriffs' Association; Past Chair and current board member, Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission; Member, National Sheriffs' Association; Member, International Association of Chiefs of Police; Member, Fraternal Order of Police; Member, Montgomery County Deputy Sheriff's Association; Special Deputy, U. S. Marshal's Service; Graduate, FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS); Board of Directors, Montgomery Hospice.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, established in 1777, has a diverse workforce of 148 sworn law enforcement officers and 29 civilians providing a wide range of judicial, law enforcement, and domestic violence intervention services for almost one million Montgomery County residents.

Sheriff Popkin has assigned deputies to participate in the U.S. Marshals Service, Capitol Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, to enhance the Sheriff's Office ability to apprehend fugitives that have fled from Montgomery County.

In cooperation with the Montgomery County Police and Montgomery County Schools, Popkin recently initiated Sheriff's Office participation in the School Resource Officer Program, by assigning a deputy sheriff on a full time basis to the Magruder High School campus. The school principal, staff, students, and parents have been extremely supportive and appreciative of these outreach efforts.

Popkin played a crucial role in planning an innovative crime prevention program designed to reduce the incidents of domestic violence in Montgomery County. He was a member of the initial strategic planning committee responsible for designing and implementing the interagency Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) which opened in May 2009 and has since provided assistance to more than 6,000 victims of domestic violence. Popkin continues his executive management role with the FJC.

Popkin plans to continue providing fair and impartial law enforcement services using a diverse work force. He plans to extend the Family Justice Center's domestic violence reduction program to include educational programs that encourages healthy teen interpersonal and dating relationships.

Popkin expanded the Sheriff's Office participation in the county's gun violence reductions efforts with assignment of a deputy from the domestic violence unit to the Montgomery County Police Firearms Investigative Unit. Typically, when a domestic violence protective order is issued, the respondent in the order is temporarily prohibited from possessing firearms. Cross-assignment of a domestic violence deputy to the FIU facilitates effective enforcement of the domestic violence court orders.

With the advent of the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) statewide information technology project, he intends to update Sheriff's Office management systems and processes to integrate with the MDEC system. A firm believer in using innovative technology to enhance communication, Sheriff Popkin can frequently be found on social media providing updates on recent law enforcement matters.

Popkin has developed cooperative working relationships with federal, state, and local governmental public safety leaders that directly improve the efficiency and effective delivery of public safety services to our community. His extensive executive leadership experience in effectively managing the Sheriff's Office; leadership of the statewide Maryland Sheriffs' Association; and participation of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Maryland Sheriffs and Police Chiefs has given him an in-depth involvement in major statewide public safety decision making that will improve delivery of essential services to our community.



Popkin

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adult Bereavement Groups. Dates and times vary depending on group members. Hospice Care, 518 S. Fredrick Ave. Gaithersburg. Peer driven support groups in those in need of support. Free. Contact Penny Gladhill at 301-990-8904, or Pennyg@hospicecare.org.

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

The Montgomery Board of Elections needs election judges with basic IT and customer service skills to serve during the June 24 primary and Nov. 4 general elections. The board is in particular need of judges who are bilingual in Spanish and English and those who are registered as Republican or not affiliated. Part-time and full-time positions are available, and training is provided. To apply or for more information, call the Board of Elections at 240-777-8533 or visit www.777vote.org.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

There are **new school immunization requirements** for the 2014-2015 school year for students entering kindergarten and seventh grade. Students who do not show proof of the required immunizations will be excluded from attending school. Students entering kindergarten must have two varicella vaccinations. Students entering seventh grade must have one Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-attenuated pertussis) and one meningococcal (MCV4) vaccination before beginning seventh grade. A vaccination clinic for eligible children will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at **Montgomery County Public Schools' Carver Educational Center**, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. Appointments are required and can be made online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Resident/vaccination.html or by calling 311.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19

Application Deadline. The Walk Your Way pedestrian safety program is looking for students to be a part of a photoshoot on June 26. Applicants must be age 14-18 and attend a Montgomery County high school. To apply, email talent@sherrymatthews.com by June 19 with a closeup photo of a serious face, your time availability on June 26, your contact information and high school. Compensation is \$40. Visit <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-pedsafety/SRTS/WalkYourWay.html>.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Informational Meeting on a Bradley Hills "Village." 2-4 p.m. Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, Room A (2nd floor), 4805 Edgemore Lane, Bethesda. Attendees will learn about the village concept and what the exploratory committee has discovered, discuss next steps and how to be involved, and connect with neighbors. Free. Email bradleyhills@bradleyhills.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 23

Proposal Deadline. 11 a.m. a request for proposals for suitable reuse of seven park activity buildings, including the one at North Chevy Chase Local Park. Proposals due by June 23 at 11 a.m. The activity buildings will be offered for rent at market rate to private entities or

Find all Potomac Almanac Election coverage at www.PotomacAlmanac.com/news/Election/Potomac

individuals in an effort to cover maintenance costs and generate revenues. To make a proposal, visit www.montgomeryparks.org/permits/park_activity_building_comments.shtm.
Red Cross Blood Drive. 1:30- p.m. Montgomery Chapter House, 2020 East West Highway, Silver Spring. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to learn more and make an appointment.

TUESDAY/JUNE 24

Election Day. Montgomery County primary elections. Visit www.777vote.org or call 240-777-VOTE.
Workshop on Networking and Interviewing. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. Intensive workshop for job-seekers age 50 and older by the Jewish Council for the Aging. \$100 includes lunch. Registration required. Contact Ellen Greenberg at 301-255-4215 or JCAUniversity@AccessJCA.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 30

Red Cross Blood Drive. 2-7:30 p.m. The Chateau, 9727 Mt Pisgah Road, Silver Spring. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to learn more and make an appointment.

TUESDAY/JULY 1

Increased Bus Fare. The County Council approved an increased fare to ride the bus making it \$1.75 without and \$1.25 with a SmarTrip card. Transfers remain free. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov.

TUESDAY/JULY 8

Advisory Committee Meeting. 8 a.m. North Bethesda Conference Center, Cabin John Room, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville. Presentation on rebranding the zone between Rockville and Bethesda. Help come up with a name. Visit www.whiteflint.org/ai/lec_event/white-flint-downtown-advisory-committee-meeting/?instance_id=137.

Bethesda Downtown Plan. What does the ideal Bethesda look like? While it develops the Bethesda Downtown Plan, the county planning department is asking residents to take a survey on what sort of streets, gathering spaces and landscaping are best for each of the Bethesda neighborhoods. Survey results will help to inform the department's staff as they develop recommendations for the Bethesda Downtown Plan. This is not a scientific survey; it is for information-gathering purposes only. Participate online at www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/vsurvey.shtm.
Bethesda Farm Women's Cooperative Market. The market, which has been at its current location at 7155 Wisconsin Ave. since the Great Depression, is taking a survey to find out from its customers how it can be even better; e.g., different vendors, different hours of operation. Take the survey at www.farmwomensmarket.com/customer-survey.html.

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.

Potomac REAL ESTATE

March, 2014
Sales from
\$385,000 to
\$785,000

IN MARCH 2014,
29 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN
\$2,430,000-\$385,000.



1 10144 Colebrook Avenue — \$785,000



2 10408 Dalebrooke Lane — \$761,500



3 11911 Falkirk Drive — \$750,000



4 8604 Wild Olive Drive — \$680,000



5 7529 Heatherton Lane — \$667,000



6 8613 Aqueduct Road — \$615,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC ..	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 10144 COLEBROOK AVE	5	..	2	.	1	POTOMAC	..... \$785,000	..... Detached	....	0.28	..... 20854	..... BEDFORDSHIRE	..... 03/20/14
2 10408 DALEBROOKE LN	4	..	4	.	1	POTOMAC	..... \$761,500	..... Townhouse	..	0.07	..... 20854	..... PINEY GLEN VILLAGE	..... 03/18/14
3 11911 FALKIRK DR	4	..	2	.	1	POTOMAC	..... \$750,000	..... Detached	....	0.22	..... 20854	..... HIGHLAND STONE	..... 03/31/14
4 8604 WILD OLIVE DR	3	..	2	.	1	ROCKVILLE	..... \$680,000	..... Detached	....	0.21	..... 20854	..... REGENCY ESTATES	..... 03/07/14
5 7529 HEATHERTON LN	4	..	3	.	1	POTOMAC	..... \$667,000	..... Townhouse	..	0.09	..... 20854	..... INVERNESS KNOLLS	..... 03/28/14
6 8613 AQUEDUCT RD	4	..	3	.	1	POTOMAC	..... \$615,000	..... Detached	....	0.21	..... 20854	..... MONTGOMERY SQUARE	..... 03/04/14
7 14003 COMMONS WAY	5	..	2	.	1	ROCKVILLE	..... \$550,725	..... Detached	....	0.26	..... 20854	..... HORIZON HILL	..... 03/28/14
8 12047 GATEWATER DR	3	..	1	.	0	POTOMAC \$385,000 Townhouse	..	0.03 20854 FALLSBERRY 03/31/14

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SPORTS

Bethesda Big Train Atop CRCBL Standings

The Bethesda Big Train were in first place in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League standings entering Tuesday's action.

Bethesda started the season 9-1, 2.5 games ahead of the second-place Alexandria Aces.

After 10 games, the Big Train had several players among the statistical league leaders. Logan Farrar (.410) and Stephen Alemas (.409) were fourth and fifth, respectively, in batting average. Farrar is tied for first with 10 RBIs, and Alemas is third with nine.

Kit Scheetz is tied for first among pitchers with two wins. Jake Valdez and J.P. France are tied for fifth with 13 strikeouts. France is tied for the league lead in ERA at 0.00.

Bethesda will host the Alexandria Aces at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18.



Jake Valdez, pictured earlier this season, and the Bethesda Big Train are in first place in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Potomac resident **Michelle Healey** spent spring break serving others through James Madison University's Alternative Spring Break Program. Healey, a junior media arts and design major traveled to Tahlequah, Okla. to volunteer with Cherokee Nation Early Childcare and Head Start Program.

Senior **Oumar Muhtar**, the son of Mansur and Hadiza Muhtar of Bethesda, has been named to the principal's list at Randolph-Macon Academy.

Seventeen Montgomery County Public Schools seniors from eight high schools have been awarded corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. These scholarships, which range from \$500 to \$10,000, are financed by corporations, company foundations, and other business organizations. The students are among 35 high school seniors in Maryland and around 1,000 seniors nationwide to be selected as part of the 59th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. MCPS winners, their intended field of study, and sponsors include: Walt Whitman High School students **Emily A. Rosenthal**, Leidos, Inc., undecided; and **Zeya L. Luo**, Northrop Grumman, chemical engineering. Winston Churchill High School students **Allen Guo**, Leidos, Inc.; computer science, **Amy Lin**, Lockheed Martin, mathematics; **Jeanine M. Liu**, Northrop Grumman, economics, and **Kevin A. Schecter**, GEICO, computer science. Thomas S. Wootton High School students **Christopher G. Long**, Boeing, computer science, **Xiaoyu Cai**, General Dynamics, ophthalmology, and **Lanson T. Tang**, Leidos, Inc., biomedicine.

MCPS placed 11 schools on the 2014 Best

High Schools list, published by U.S. News & World Report Tuesday. Seven MCPS high schools received a gold medal for being among the top 500 schools in the nation, and four received a silver medal for being among the top 2,019 schools. The gold and silver medal MCPS high schools and their national rankings include **Walt Whitman** (61) and **Thomas S. Wootton** (65).

Twenty-two St. Mary's College of Maryland students were initiated into the Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at St. Mary's College of Maryland, including **Emily Buetow** of Potomac, majoring in Public Policy.

Amelia Oliver, daughter of David W. Oliver and Galina J. Mikhlin-Oliver of Potomac, and a member of the women's indoor track and field team at Bates College, received New England Small College Athletic Conference All-Academic distinction for the winter 2013-14 season. A 2011 graduate of Sandy Spring Friends School, Oliver is majoring in English and Russian.

Eliana Foltin was named to the fall 2013 dean's list at Harpur College of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University.

Alexander Reges graduated from the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Operations and Supply Management.

Patrick Jung, Kathryn Shniderman, Anat Kimchi and **Amanda Filie** were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at the University of Maryland, College Park.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced this year's National Merit \$2,500 scholarship winners, including: **Steven L. Berger, Savannah Du, Bryan B. Ho, Aaron Matthew Hwang, Hope H. Kean, Daniel D. Liu, Isaac S. Weinberg** and **Katie Y. Zhao**.

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PEOPLE

Competition Benefits Dads and Their Churches

Welcome to the Fraternal Order of Fasting Fathers.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

What started as a personal goal by one dad to get in shape became a friendly “biggest loser” battle between two local Catholic churches.

The group of dads joined together to become the Fraternal Order of Fasting Fathers or FOOFFs. The idea got started three years ago when Potomac resident Michael Rose attended a St. Raphael CYO basketball meeting.

“I was not feeling too good about where I let myself go. I saw my friend and doctor walk in the room looking just as robust as me. I started looking around the room and saw quite a few other friends and dads that could use a little bit of competition and help. I went up to my doctor after the meeting and asked him if he was interested in a weight loss competition. Before I got to the last word he said, ‘I’m in.’ All of the other 10 ‘apostles’ were easy pickings as well. I figured I wanted 12 apostles to be in the competition to reflect our religious theme. And I figured we needed to do a team concept so that people would stick to the program. It is easy to give up and let yourself down, but harder to let down others on your team. That first competition three years ago bred into this latest competition where we had 12 apostles from St. Raphael’s challenge 12 apostles from St. Mary’s,” Rose said.

Captain of the St. Mary’s team, Victor Muzzatti, “was really excited to be a part of the competition between the two parishes, the concept is awesome. I wanted to be a part of the competition because I thought it would be a great way to lose weight and it is for a good cause. The feedback that I received from my team is that this competition jump started them to get off of the couch and start doing something to improve both their physique and their health and we all pretty much succeeded. With regard to my team, I actually had more than 12 that were interested in being a part of the competition and that caused me to have to pick and choose, we did include the ‘alternates’ in our back and forth banter.”

A friendly rivalry between St. Mary’s and St. Raphael’s parishes developed. “The thought of having two parishes involved in an ongoing competition is something that Victor and I have been dreaming up for the past couple years,” Rose said. “We have been trying to organize sporting events getting one parish against the other in order to meet more people and to incite camaraderie. This competition seemed like the best way to kick off our idea. The banter back-and-forth between the 24 fathers has been hilarious. We are all on one email chain and constantly are jawing back-and-



The members of FOOFFs (Fraternal Order of Fasting Fathers) at the final weigh-in of a biggest loser weight competition. Two local Catholic churches competed to see which team could lose the most weight. St. Raphael won the first round, and St. Mary’s won the second and overall pot. In a show of charity and sportsmanship, St. Mary’s split the winnings with St. Raphael and both teams donated the money to their church and schools. Center, from left, are Michael Rose of St. Raphael Parish and Victor Muzzatti of St. Mary’s Parish holding the championship belt. First row: Dave Desalle, Jose Carbonell, Mo Rowe, Tom Antonucci, Chuck Bartlett, Jeff Hannapel and Phil Aldridge. Second row: Mike Donahue, Bobby Maggio, Mark Hannan, Terry Kernan, Tim OConnor and Chris Rascher. Third row: James Conway, Kevin Rowe, Paul Lidberg, Bob Scanlon, Paul Wit and Tommy Sullivan. Not pictured: Ed Healy, JT Triandafilou and Bob Stephens.

forth to encourage each other or to just give people a laugh during the day. The best prank was a mountainous basket of Twinkies, Ho-Hos, MoonPies, Tastykakes etc. that was sent to me for my birthday by my good friends at St Mary’s only days before the final weigh in.”

Dave DeSalle agreed: “I think it was great for fostering camaraderie among and between the St. R’s and St. Mary’s men.”

According to Rose, “As the competition went on, St. Raphael won the first round. And that caused the St. Mary’s apostles to gather around and to really put it to us on the finals. St. Mary’s won the second round and the overall competition so would have won the lion share of the \$2,400 pot. But in the true act of sportsmanship and Catholic giving, the entire team elected to split the pot \$1,200 per team. Both teams donated the money to their church and schools.”

The wives of all the FOOFFs are thrilled with the results as well. Tricia Rose said, “My husband’s commitment to the FOOFFs is a commitment to our family. The fact that he is taking steps to get healthier and to change his ways will only make him live longer and be more active so that my kids and I can have him for so many more years to come.”

Michael Rose agreed: “I know my wife is very proud of me and loves how I look and how I feel. And all of the other wives have come up to me personally thanking me for getting their husbands involved. I think it is something that our children are learning a lot from as well as far as self-control, ex-

ercise, proper diet, commitment to yourself and your teammates.”

Lilly Muzzatti said, “I was pretty proud of Victor, considering the fact that we went on a spring break all inclusive vacation during the competition and stuck to his diet, which had to be tough as the girls and I enjoyed anything we wanted. He was thrilled to be able to fit back into his “skinny” clothes too (although I’m not planning on getting rid of the ‘bigger sized clothes’ just yet).”

As for Sue DeSalle, “I think Dave will keep the weight off if he stays away from potato chips and continues to abstain from late night eating — that made a big difference.”

Emily Hannapel thinks “it is a win-win-

‘Sweet Indulgence’

This month the Strathmore Mansion Invitational Gallery will present a solo exhibition of oil paintings by Maryland-based artist, Jennifer Kahn Barlow. Barlow’s paintings of enticing, vibrant confectionary distill precious moments from the normal chaos of daily life. Composed amongst the trappings of the day-to-day such as reading glasses, a coffee cup, or a tea set, these oases offer a brief hiatus from life’s daily operations. “Sweet Indulgence” opens at the Strathmore Mansion in North Bethesda on June 22 and continues through July 27. An opening reception on Thursday, June 26 at 7 p.m. is free and open to the public. The Mansion at Strathmore, located at 10701

win competition where the men lose weight and get healthier, enjoy lighthearted jocularity, and this year raise money for their schools. It is always interesting to see the different weight loss tactics and results. Bragging rights are a big motivator for a lot of the guys, and they all are friends and have fun with the competition. Hopefully the guys will keep the weight off, or at least most of it. If not, they can always be a FOOFF again next time.”

Now that the dads have lost the weight, do they intend to keep it off for good or will it be hard to maintain the FOOFFs diet? “I think everyone is going to say that they intend to keep the weight off. But remember, this is the second competition that St. Raphael’s has had to engage in over the last three years. Doing the competition over 3 1/2 months was the most grueling. It was not a get rich quick scheme. It was more intended to change your way of life. That translates into keeping a lot of the weight off in the first year. It’s the second year that causes the trouble.

“We have all committed to a ‘where are they now’ competition for September. We want to make sure that we maintain our low levels. And if it takes more competition, so be it,” Michael Rose said.

Victor Muzzatti added, “I immediately put back on a few pounds but felt that I should try to make more of an effort to keep the weight off, especially since I feel so much healthier. It’s amazing how easy it is to put weight on and how difficult it is to take it off.”

As for the Biggest Loser of the competition, it was Tom Antonucci who lost almost 30 percent of his bodyweight and Paul Lidberg who lost almost 20 percent of his body weight. The rest of the weight-loss ranged from 5 percent to 17 percent of body weight.

Others who want to do something similar can call or email Mike Rose for advice at MPRose57@aol.com or 301-814-3200 for the rules and regulations as well as the spreadsheets that were used in order to have a competition.

“No sense in reinventing the wheel. I have a system that works, and would love to help change the lives of many others out there,” he said.



Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Wednesday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Avoiding Awkward Conversations

Suggestions for conversation starters for talking to new graduates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Lisa and Erik Brown beamed with pride after their oldest son graduated from high school in Northern Virginia. They hosted a post-ceremony soiree and invited a host of family and friends. The celebration was dampened somewhat, however, when a family member made an innocent, but still critical remark about the college their son had chosen.

"He's the first person in our family to go to college," said Erik Brown. "It was rude and disrespectful for them to talk badly about the college he's chosen, especially in front of our other guests."

While graduation is a time of excitement and celebration, it can also be a time of not only change but stress for many graduates and their parents. Innocent questions and comments like the Browns' relative's can cause embarrassment or frustration for recent graduates. Local mental health professionals offer suggestions for avoiding such a post-graduation faux pas while still expressing excitement and pride.

"When talking to a graduate, focus on their accomplishment," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "They should be proud of having earned a degree, especially a college degree."

Instead of commenting on the college they selected or the major they chose, offer support and encouragement. "Rather than saying, 'What are you going to do with that art history degree?'" said Gulyn, "an adult can offer to be a source of networking and support. They can say, 'Best of luck. Let me know how I can support you.'"

Conversations with graduates can be adapted based on whether the person is graduating from high school, college or graduate school. "Most high school graduates know what their plans are in terms of going to college, taking a gap year or getting a job," said Karen Prince, a Bethesda, Md., based licensed clinical social worker. "It is always good to focus on the positive and the current situation, which is a huge milestone."

Dialogue with a recent college graduates can be more complicated, however, because some already feel pressured to have a plan in place. "It is more loaded for college," said Prince. "It is best to ask questions that are easy to answer, like 'What classes did you enjoy most in college? Did you know in high school that you wanted to choose that major? What made you decide on that major?' Those questions are easy to answer because they've already accomplished it."

Gulyn said to focus on the current accomplishment, not future expectations: "It's good to say, 'That sounds like a really interesting major. I wish I'd taken more art history classes. You must have learned about history, art and life. Liberal arts degrees can open a student's mind and teach them to write well.'"

Gulyn adds that it is acceptable and even normal for recent graduates to be uncertain about their future plans. "I talk to my

college students all the time and ask them, 'How many of you are sick and tired of hearing now that you're graduating what you are you going to do?' They all raise their hands. It's OK for a recent graduate to have no idea about what they want to do with their future. This is a time to explore. Saying 'I have no idea' is the right answer at this state in their lives."

Finally, Gulyn discourages conversations that pressure college graduates to make immediate decisions about graduate school. "Students should give themselves a couple of years to make sure they are committed to getting a graduate degree," she said. "If I had to do it over again, I would have waited until I was committed and saved money for graduate school."

"When talking to a graduate, focus on their accomplishment. They should be proud of having earned a degree, especially a college degree."

— Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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A Dream Come True, Sort Of

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



(Not a cancer column, by the way.) Growing up in the 60s, if you loved sports, as I did/still do, you spent hours listening to games on a transistor radio. There certainly wasn't "Cable" television back then; heck, there wasn't even color television, let alone "HD," "interactive," or whatever else television technology has evolved into. And of course, there were no "big screen" television sets either. We had a 19" Zenith black and white television and we received three channels: 4, 5 and 7 (in Boston), and as much as sports was/is important in Boston/New England, viewing options, given the limited VHF/UHF band frequencies, meant listening to games on radio – AM radio. Games were regularly televised on weekends, more so if the home team was playing on the road.

As the decades have passed, so too have transistor radios, black and white televisions and limited viewing on only three channels. Between "Cable," computers, and more recently, the introduction of hand-held devices, access to and familiarity with sports has grown exponentially. Add in the explosion of sports-talk radio and the abundance of sports-themed content on television (regardless of whether the games are at home or on the road) and one could be in his "man cave" for hours on end "channeling" his – or her – passion, for any team, in any city, at almost any time.

I don't have a "man cave," but I do have a passion. Annually, I buy the MLB Baseball package so I can watch my beloved Boston Red Sox whenever and wherever they play. It is not the bane of my existence, it is quite the opposite; it is my *raison d'être*, if truth be told. And instinctively, whenever I'm in the car driving somewhere, if the Orioles or Nationals are playing, I am listening to them on radio, as a long-time habit. It conjures images, memories and dreams of a lifetime (adolescence, really) stretching back over 50 years: Curt Gowdy, Ned Martin and Ken Coleman on radio for the Red Sox, the legendary Johnny Most for the Celtics and Fred Cusick and Bob Wilson for the Bruins. I hung on their every word nightly during the week, and afternoons on weekends; typically when their games were played. What I heard affected my life – to this day. As a result (partially), I am a "sports" guy. Not a "tool" guy. Not a "car" guy. Not a "do-it-yourself/fixer-upper" guy. Nor am I any other category of "guy" you know of or can think of. "I yam what I yam." Though I've never been a sailor man, either.

And as a "sports" guy, my dream was to play in the Major Leagues for the Boston Red Sox. As much as I practiced, it didn't happen (although I did play for the Little League Red Sox from 1964–67, ages 9–12). But through the staying power of radio – and the frequency of baseball games (162-game schedule) – I have realized my dream of playing in the Major Leagues, or at least hearing my last name called during Major League games.

There is a player for the Toronto Blue Jays named Brett Lawrie, an infielder, third baseman, mostly. When the announcers call his last name, it sounds nearly identical to mine, Lourie. And when I hear his name called on radio by Oriole's radio voices, Joe Angel and Jim Hunter (the Blue Jays were in town this past weekend for a four-game series), it almost brings a tear to my eyes. Obviously it's not me they're "calling," but it sure sounds like it. And for that moment, my dream seems like a reality.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Looking Back. Through July 21 at Photoworks Gallery and Photography School, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. Photography from Vincent Ferrari and Patricia Smith. Opening reception and gallery talk on June 21. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org or call 301-634-2274.

Art Exhibit. "Botanica 2014: The Art & Science of Plants" at the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Drawings and paintings by students and teachers in the Brookside Gardens School of Botanical Art & Illustration, June 28-Aug. 8. Exhibit is free, although most works are available for purchase.

Blue Star Museums. The National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America have collaborated to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, through Labor Day 2014. The complete list of participating museums is available at <http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums> for more.

Weekly Blues Dance. Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. Visit <http://capitalblues.org>.

Argentine Tango with Lessons. Most Sundays 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Tango Brillante DC offers Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga that follows. For dancers who wish to attend just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

Contra and Square Dance. Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American contra dancing. All Contras and Square dances are taught, no partner is necessary. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music starting at 7:30. \$13 nonmembers, \$10 FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

Late Night Comedy. Fridays (open mic night) and Saturdays (established comedians) at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Benny's is open 8 a.m.-1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Visit www.BennysBarGrill.com.

Art Classes. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sundays noon-4 p.m. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2273 or visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org.

Drop in Art Activities. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Candy Corner Studio at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., parents and children can explore a new art form or theme. \$10/child, parent combo. Drop-in only. Visit www.pgip.org for more.

Live Music & Dancing. 7-11 p.m. in Margery's Lounge, Normandie Farm Restaurant 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Dance to the music of Barry Gurley on Fridays and Saturdays. Call 301-983-8838 or visit popovers.com for more.

CONTEST SUBMISSIONS

The county Department of Transportation is accepting nominations for the annual **Keep Montgomery County Beautiful** landscaping and amateur photography competitions. The landscape contest is open to community groups, businesses, public institutions and other organizations that undertake landscaping projects to enhance the appearance of commonly owned sections of commercial or residential properties in Montgomery County. For the photography contest, photos of county locations are judged on effective composition, originality and interest. There is a youth category for aspiring photographers 18 and younger. Applications for both contests are due by June 20. Winners will be announced in

October. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOI-dir/KMCB/BAC.html.

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 29

Bethesda Summer Music Festival. Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 7611 Clarendon Road, Bethesda. This festival features tomorrow's stars of opera and musical theater. Festival culminates in performances: *Art Songs Recital*, Saturday, June 21 at 5 p.m.; *Opera to Pop Concert*, Saturday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m.; *Musical Revue & Opera Scenes*, Saturday, June 28 at 2:30 p.m.; *Così Fan Tutte*, Friday June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday June 28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20, children free. Visit <http://aamsopera.com/bsmf/events.html> or call 301-795-8342 or 301-424-3379.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19

Outdoor Concert. 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park, at the corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues. Built 4 Comfort plays blues and classic rock. Free. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Third Thursday. 7-9 p.m. at 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville. Contemporary dance piece performance as well as a quilt making workshop. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/ for more.

Shared Experiences. 7:15-9:45 p.m. Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac. Mr. Harvey Follender will share his experiences, travels and stories about the many different people and ethnic groups he has met. Free.

Live Music. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Bria Skonberg performs. \$18. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com/events.cfm.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 19-20

Gardening Class: Miniature Hostas. 10-11:30 a.m. each day at the Visitors Center Adult Classroom at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Learn about the varieties and how to care for them. Fee includes all materials. Course #272401 - Thursday or Course #272402 - Friday. Fee \$50 or FOG \$45. Registration required at www.ParkPASS.org. Call 301-962-1451 or visit www.brooksidegardens.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Waltz Dance. Workshop from 2:45-3:30 p.m. Dance from 3:30-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Featuring Green Light Karma, playing a mix of folk waltzes and other dances. \$10. No partner required. Visit www.WaltzTimeDances.org or call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230.

Live Music. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. JR Cline and the Recliners with special guest Julia Nixon. Dance floor available. \$20. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com/events.cfm.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Garden Tour. 2-3 p.m. at the Conservatory Entrance, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Brookside Gardens is an award-winning display garden, featuring an abundance of annual and perennial displays throughout the season. Course #270652. Free. Visit www.brooksidegardens.org, contact leslie.mcdermott@montgomeryparks.org, or call 301-962-1400.

Swing Dance. Beginner lesson 8-9 p.m., dance 9 p.m.-midnight at the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo National Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Swing dance featuring Bria Skonberg's Hot Five. No partner required. \$20. Contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or email info@DCLX.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 21-22

Art show. At the Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. both days. A reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 from 5-7 p.m. Featuring the work of Gonzalo Ruiz Navarro's pastel students Alexander Riccio, Camilla David, Carol Greenwald, Joan Nelson, Jose Teruel, Madeleine Schaller, Marcia Billig, Marylouise Roach, Pat Ragan and Penny Smith. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 22-SUNDAY/JULY 27

Art Gallery. The Mansion at Strathmore, located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda.

Exhibition hours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday. Closed Monday. "Sweet Indulgence," solo exhibition of oil paintings by Maryland artist Jennifer Kahn Barlow. Free and open to the public. Visit www.strathmore.org/fineartsexhibitions for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Live Music and Brunch. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Joan Crowe and the Charlie Barnett trio. \$17.50-\$35, ticket includes brunch meal. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com/events.cfm.

Live Music. 8:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. An evening with Rickie Lee Jones. \$40 in advance, \$50 day of. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com/events.cfm.

TUESDAY/JUNE 24

Garden Trip. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Conservatory Entrance at Brookside Gardens, 1500 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Come for a trip "back in time" as we visit the beautiful Oatlands Historic House and Gardens. Course #272153. \$50. Visit parkpass.org, www.brooksidegardens.org, contact leslie.mcdermott@montgomeryparks.org, or call 301-962-1451.

THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Art Gallery Opening Reception. The Mansion at Strathmore, located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. 7-8 p.m. Reception for "Sweet Indulgence," solo exhibition of oil paintings by Maryland artist Jennifer Kahn Barlow. Free and open to the public. Exhibition runs June 22-July 27, 2014. Visit www.strathmore.org/fineartsexhibitions for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-29

Heritage Days 2014. Noon-4 p.m. The 17th annual Heritage Days Weekend will feature 40 sites all around Montgomery County highlighting local history and culture, outdoor recreation, family activities, music and food. Free admission. Visit www.HeritageMontgomery.org or call 301-515-0753.

Boyd's Negro School. Boyds – practice calligraphy, make button necklaces, play marbles & horseshoes at this 1895 one-room schoolhouse for African American children ~ Saturday and Sunday

Historic St. Paul Community Church. Poolesville – tour the 1893 church and cemetery, learn about the founding families of this early African American community; gospel singers ~ Saturday only

Josiah Henson Park. N. Bethesda – tour the historic Riley farm where Josiah Henson, whose memoir inspired Uncle Tom's Cabin, was enslaved from 1795-1830; archeology dig, make clay marbles ~ Sunday only

Oakley Cabin. Olney – visit this restored 19th-century log cabin, home to African American tenant families during the 1800s; storytellers, Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ~ Saturday only

Sandy Spring Slave Museum. Sandy Spring – see the cross section of a slave clipper ship, arts pavilion, slave log cabin, and significant art & artifact collection in the Great Hall; storyteller at 1pm ~ Saturday only

Sandy Spring Museum. Sandy Spring – "Local Traditions" folklife festival (Saturday only) in the heart of this early Quaker community; music, dance & storytelling ~ Museum open Saturday and Sunday

Underground Railroad Experience Trail. Sandy Spring – take a fascinating 2-hour hike along a simulated Underground Railroad trail; first hike at 9 a.m. ~ Saturday only

Town of Brookeville. – tour this historic Quaker town that was the "U.S. Capital for a Day" during the War of 1812 ~ Sunday only

SUNDAY/JUNE 29

Waltz Dance. Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo National Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Introductory waltz workshop 2:45-3:30 p.m., social dancing 3:30-6 p.m. Featuring the ensemble Addison Bleufonte. Admission \$10. No partner required. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

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POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Modernist masterpiece on 52 acres with 7BR, 8FBA/3HBA, gourmet kitchen, stunning master, expansive terraces, pool and pool house, pond, service barn, fenced paddocks & rolling pastures. 5-car garage plus additional parking. \$8,750,000
Mark McFadden 703-216-1333



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CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE, MARYLAND

Stunning East Village residence beautifully renovated, including geothermal. Exquisite lot and pool. Chef's kitchen, sumptuous master plus 5 bedrooms. \$3,150,000
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Joanne Pinover 301-404-7011



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POTOMAC FALLS, POTOMAC, MD

Sellers ready to move west! Exceptional price. 8,400SF custom home, 9'+ ceilings, great open floor plan, chef's kitchen & theater. Private 2 ac. setting. 5+ car pkg. Near C&O Canal. \$2,750,000
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Perfect for entertaining! Elegant living-room with fireplace, lovely dining room, sun-filled family room adjacent to the open kitchen & breakfast room, 4 BR/3.5BA, great room, in-law suite, pool & more!! \$2,450,000
Joanne Pinover 301-404-7011



INTERNATIONAL OFFERING

BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEW PRICE! Stunning four level custom home with open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, LR with fireplace, elegant master suite. Two car garage. Great outdoor spaces. Steps from Bethesda. \$2,399,000
Sherry Davis 301-996-3220



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Mediterranean Villa built by Bradbern Construction and designed by Michael Ochsmann. Three acres at end of cul-de-sac. Six bedrooms, five full and two half baths and walkout lower level. \$2,350,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



POTOMAC FALLS, POTOMAC, MD

NEW PRICE! Sellers are moving! Great value, redone top-to-bottom including all baths, kitchen, recessed lighting, pool and pool equipment. Fabulous lower level opening to loggia and pool. Two plus glorious acres. \$1,775,000
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214



CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Incredible floor plan with gorgeous outdoor living spaces. Formal living and dining rooms, large kitchen with attached family and break room. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. \$1,525,000
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Matthew McCormick 202-728-9500



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NEW PRICE! 10+ acre historic equestrian estate. 6460+/-sf, 5BR, 4BA and 2HB, renovated manor house. Modern comforts & charm. 3BR/2BA tenant house, barn, 3-car garage & pool. \$1,395,000
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NEW PRICE! Gorgeous Brendan O'Neill Colonial, larger than it looks at approx 4500SF plus huge lower-level. Renovated gourmet kitchen, idyllic screened porches, cul-de-sac & main level BR. \$1,295,000
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Alison Shutt 301-219-7671



POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Rare opportunity! 3.4 plus glorious acres in Potomac near the Village. Renovate and expand or build your dream home in this perfect setting. \$1,295,000
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POTOMAC, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Unique opportunity to renovate or build your custom home on a glorious .84 private, partially wooded acre on the "Street of Dream Homes"! \$1,100,000
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214



DARNESTOWN, MARYLAND

Horse country chid! 5+ bedrooms, 5.5 baths, approximately 4,600 SF on 3 acres. Granite and stainless kitchen, home office, pool and 4-car garage. \$989,000
Meg Percesepe 240-441-8434
Alison Shutt 301-219-7671



POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Fabulous colonial with renovated kitchen and expanded breakfast room open to family room. Four bedroom with expanded master bath, large office and walk-out lower level! \$925,000
Meg Percesepe 240-441-8434
Alison Shutt 301-219-7671



DARNESTOWN, MARYLAND

Charming newer home surrounded by nature. Beautiful floor plan with refinished hardwood floors, transom windows, & french doors leading to patio. Four bedrooms and three baths up, family room off country kitchen. \$755,500
Traudel Lange 301-765-8302



GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND

Like new! Sunny, spacious 3BR/2FBA/2HB, 2-car garage, energy star end unit in Parklands! High ceilings, open floor plan, stunning kitchen, beautifully decorated. Close to I270, Kentlands, Rio Center. Hurry! \$549,000
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