



Fall 2014
HomeLifeStyle

Potomac
ALMANAC

Planting for Fall

Planning your autumn garden and yard.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the first few weeks of fall unfold, carrying with them the promise of rich and vibrant colors, many local residents are starting to plan their fall gardens, both ornamental and edible. Pruning and overall garden cleanup will make way for fall plants. In fact, this is the perfect time to clear away summer foliage and plant, horticulture gurus said.

“Because the ground is still warm and air is cool, there is less transplant shock for plants when you take them out of the container to plant them,” said Kelly Grimes of Good Earth Garden Market in Potomac, Md. “Now is a great time to put in a landscape.”

The first step is preparing the ground. “You have to amend the soil; that is mixing in compost and soil so the plants’ roots can grab a hold of the soil with compost,” said Grimes. “That really helps any planting.”

Katia Goffin of Katia Goffin Gardens in McLean, Va., likens planning a garden to putting together a puzzle. “Everything has to [look] like it belongs,” she said. “It’s about designing your bed line so it enhances your property, versus ‘I stuck this in my garden and doesn’t it look good?’”

Take a few minutes and actually plan out



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIA GOFFIN GARDENS

Katia Goffin suggests mixing grasses with evergreens when planning a fall yard.

your garden because no matter what you decide to plant for fall, an aesthetically appealing garden starts with an effective strategy. “It is getting a good plan together,” Goffin said. “It is a question of scale and putting it together right. You have to look

at your plot of land and decide where you want plants to go and how you want it to look.”

FOR DECORATIVE GARDENS and yards, mums and pansies are among fall’s

best flowering plants. “Mums need full sunlight to open and come in obvious, bold fall colors,” said Grimes. “Pansies will take part sun, are a great color and will continue to bloom through spring.”

SEE PLANTING, PAGE 11

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Doing Good via Potomac Country House Tour

Event raised record proceeds for St. Francis Episcopal Charities.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From a petting zoo to silent auctions to tours of some of the area's most magnificent homes, there were activities for all ages at the 58th Annual Potomac Country House Tour & Festival last weekend.

The event is hosted by St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, and organized by the Women of St. Francis. All proceeds from the tour and festival are distributed among St. Francis' outreach partners, helping fund programs that address homelessness, hunger, children's and women's issues, and elder care.

"We had visitors from all over, including North Carolina, with many of them commenting on how they enjoyed the event, and how gratifying it is knowing that all proceeds go to such deserving charities," said Susan Dolan, chairwoman of the Potomac Country House Tour & Festival.

The three-day event began with a preview party and a silent auction on the evening of Friday, Oct. 3. Saturday and Sunday were filled with merriment for children, including a large slide, pirate ship moon bounce, 35-foot Turbo Rush obstacle course, cotton candy and ice cream. There was also a Dr. Doolittle Petting Zoo with a baby llama, bunnies and teacup pigs.

A midday barbecue luncheon held at St. Francis both Saturday and Sunday included



PHOTOS COURTESY OF POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR & FESTIVAL
Susan Dolan (left), who was chair of the Potomac Country House Tour & Festival, and Barbara Heywood both served as auctioneers at the Potomac Country House Tour & Festival's live auction on Preview Night.

"We had visitors from all over, including North Carolina, with many of them commenting on how they enjoyed the event, and how gratifying it is knowing that all proceeds go to such deserving charities."

— Susan Dolan, chairwoman of the Potomac Country House Tour & Festival

treats from Georgetown Cupcake and a wide variety of boutiques selling items that ran the gamut from stationary to pottery.

More than 1,200 visitors toured Norton Manor over two days, said Barbara Heywood, president of the Women of St.

Francis. "The Women of St. Francis are absolutely thrilled with the results of House Tour weekend."

Norton Manor, with 47,000 square feet of interior space including main, guest and tea houses set on nine acres, also features a

2,000-square-foot koi pond. The home takes inspiration from the White House, Capitol and Palace of Versailles.

Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman, owners of Norton Manor, said they were honored to open their home for the tour. "We wanted to extend our hand to help St. Francis Parish because of their engagement and support of charitable organizations, including Manna Food Center, Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith Works," said Islam. "We firmly believe it's a noble cause. We are always reminded and guided by the phrase, 'To whom much is given, much is expected.' ... We were so fortunate to be able to share and give back to our community."

Another home on the tour was Reimagined Williamsburg Colonial, which includes a cedar-shingled silo, a laser-cut compass in the entryway floor and three distinctive loft spaces accessed by individual spiral staircases.

Also on the tour were the Rowe House and a Potomac Contemporary.

The Wreath Love Carriage House was a late addition to the tour. Linda Hobbins, owner of Custom Wreaths of Potomac/Wreath Love, which is located on the home's lower level, transformed two levels of her workshop into a Scottish holiday wonderland with windows, doors, mantles and tabletops. She also adorned the bedrooms with Christmas décor.

"Our tour, coupled with our boutiques, silent auction, luncheon and festival, generated record proceeds for our charities," said Heywood. "We couldn't be more pleased."



Potomac Country House Tour & Festival photographer, John Troha, also had a booth at the festival.



More than 1,200 visitors toured Norton Manor over two days.

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THE MAP

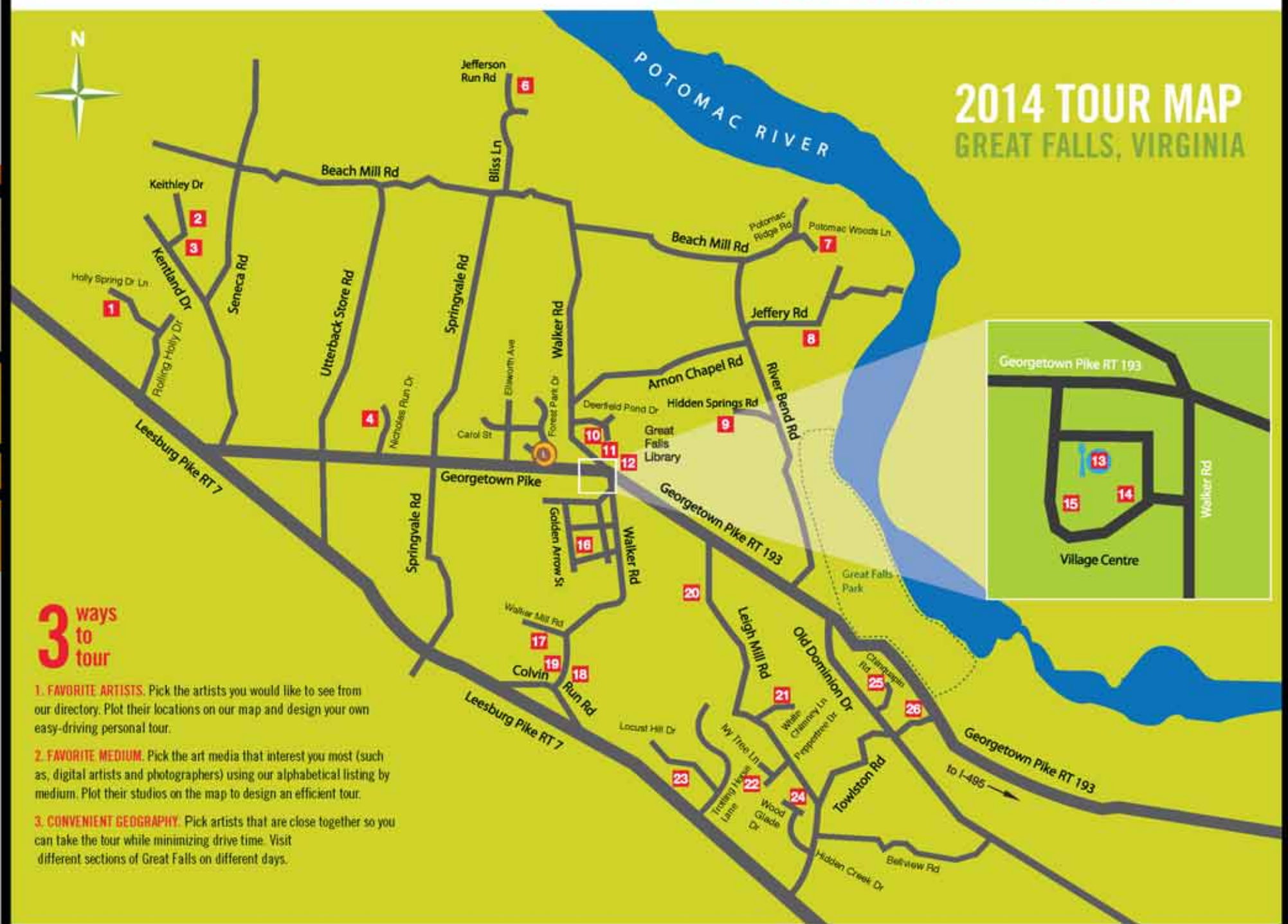
The Studios. The numerals in the red squares correspond to the number given to each studio. The numbers run roughly from west to east and north to south on the map. At right, you will find an alphabetical listing of the artists by medium, and the number of each artist's studio. These numbers will also be found on the road sign nearest the studio. Wheel chair access is marked with a wheelchair icon, hands-on activities marked with a hand icon.

Sun Design venue. The yellow-and-brown sun icon corresponds to a location where Sun Design is showcasing home renovations. Join Sun Design and Children's Author and Homeowner, Lesley Hackman for a remodeled home tour, 735 Forest Park Road.

THE ARTISTS

<p>Digital Artists</p> <p>Walt Lawrence.....#19 Terri Parent.....#19</p> <p>Fiber Artists</p> <p>Dory Emmer.....#26 Cindy Grisdela.....#19 Vad Moskowitz.....#3</p> <p>Jewelry Designers</p> <p>Jorge Adeler.....#15 Donna Barnako.....#19 Richard Masaniello.....#26</p> <p>Layered Paper Artist</p> <p>Ronni Jolles.....#19</p> <p>Mixed Media Artists</p> <p>Roberta Pruett Beasley.....#19 Penny Burk.....#21 GuruSangat Khalsa.....#20 Heidi Mraz.....#10</p>	<p>Painters</p> <p>Naz Akbar.....#13 Leslie Anthony.....#14 Jill Banks.....#19 Karen Bateman.....#9 Hwa Crawford.....#18 Coty Dickson.....#14 Jennifer Duncan.....#17 Elaine Elmsky.....#19 Robert Gilbert.....#24 Lori Goli.....#11 Layla Gray.....#14 Yeganeh Hejazi.....#19 Carol Howard.....#19 Yiyun Huang Huff.....#7 Linda Jones.....#26 Tina Learned.....#19 John McCabe.....#19 Begonia Morton.....#4 Pat Neuman.....#8 Ann Noel.....#11 Vandana Pamecha.....#25 Gail Pean.....#14 Jay Pigeon.....#11 Lockini Rumburg.....#1 Judith St. Ledger-Roty.....#19 Lisa Tureson.....#19</p>	<p>Photographers</p> <p>Jan Bender.....#2 Robin Kent.....#22 Dee Leggett.....#11 Silvia Gonzalez Roman.....#18 Dean Souleles.....#23</p> <p>Potters</p> <p>Barbara Gatterdam.....#16 Laura Nichols.....#9</p> <p>Printmakers</p> <p>William Tutthill.....#6</p> <p>Wood Carver</p> <p>Michael Long.....#20</p> <p>Great Falls School of Art.....#19 The Old Brogue.....#13</p>
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Most artists are open for all 3 tour days. Refer to the full brochure available at all studios for exceptions.



3 ways to tour

- 1. FAVORITE ARTISTS.** Pick the artists you would like to see from our directory. Plot their locations on our map and design your own easy-driving personal tour.
- 2. FAVORITE MEDIUM.** Pick the art media that interest you most (such as, digital artists and photographers) using our alphabetical listing by medium. Plot their studios on the map to design an efficient tour.
- 3. CONVENIENT GEOGRAPHY.** Pick artists that are close together so you can take the tour while minimizing drive time. Visit different sections of Great Falls on different days.

Fireplaces Can Warm Outdoor Rooms

Tips for making your outdoor spaces comfy through the fall.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the air turns crisp and we settle into fall, the time is ideal for creating a cozy setting, whether it's elegant or rustic or modern. Many people have adapted part of their landscape as an outdoor room.

"Outdoor porches whether screened or just covered with a roof are great fall spaces," said Susan Matus, a Potomac, Md.-based architect. "One can cozy them up with pillows and throws and outdoor lights, such as decorative twinkle lights or candles can create great ambiance."

Local designers reveal their favorite accessories and ideas for outdoor rooms and screened porches to help welcome the new season with style.

An outdoor fireplace commands attention and can offer a warm place for reading, napping or chatting with friends, and makes it comfortable to sit outside on a chilly evening.

"I just built a stunning fireplace in a screened-in porch that transformed the space into a three-season room just in time for fall," said Robert Kalmin of Skill Construction and Design, LLC in Fairfax, Va. "Indoor-outdoor rugs and seating in fall colors make the space great for entertaining."

When it comes to outdoor fireplaces, however, there are a few caveats: "If it is a screened in porch, be careful of your ventilation. Whether you have a gas or wood-burning fireplace you have to have noncombustible material for the mantle and it needs to back discharge for smoke," said Kalmin. He says such fireplaces can be added to an



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKILL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN, LLC



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKILL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN, LLC

Lighting can transform a screened porch or outdoor room.

Whether it's in an outdoor room or a screened-in porch, a fireplace commands attention and can offer a warm place for reading, napping or chatting with friends.

existing space in one-to-two weeks.

Accessories in warm, vibrant colors can help transform an outdoor room from summer to fall. "Adding some cozy throw blankets to outdoor sofas allows you to stay outside on chilly nights," said Kerra Michele Huerta of Apartment Envy. "Also, as it gets darker and cooler earlier in the day, candles are a perfect accessory, adding both warmth and light."

Scented candles can add an aroma of fall. "There are fabulous new pumpkin chaiscented candles by Nast Fragrance of New York that are wonderful," said John Brown of J. Brown & Co. in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

In fact, lighting can transform a screened

porch or outdoor room. "To a screened porch, you can add a ceiling fan with a down light and an up-light," said Kalmin. "The higher light can give you general lighting and the lower lights can create ambient lighting, and can be moved in different directions for setting a mood. There is also a mono-rail track system lighting, where you can install different types of lights depending on the mood you want to create."

"Indoor-outdoor rugs and seating in fall colors make the space great for entertaining."

— Robert Kalmin of Skill Construction and Design

Whether real or faux, fall produce can also add a seasonal touch to an outdoor room or screened porch, particularly on the mantle or around the hearth. "You can add faux pumpkins, gourds and berries," said Brown. "Squirrels don't like the taste of those."

Don't forget serve wear, particularly when entertaining. "There are trays to carry coffee, tea, dessert in fall colors with fall leaves and birds with pumpkins," said Brown.

Matus suggests a finishing touch for outdoor spaces. "Another option is to hang drapery to create not only a more interior feeling but also drapery can be used to shield from the wind as a thermal barrier," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. BROWN & CO

Pumpkins, gourds and other fall produce can also add a seasonal touch to an outdoor room or screened porch.

Planting for Fall

FROM PAGE 3

Yarrow, asters, sedums, Lenten roses, and coral bells are among the fall plants that Jonathan Storvick, natural resource manager at the Office of Sustainability at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., recommends.

“Fall is a great time to plant larger-sized perennials and container shrubs,” said Storvick. “It also happens to be the time of year when nurseries are trying to get rid of a lot of their stock, so you can find some great deals.”

For example, said Joel Cook of Merrifield Garden Center, in Fairfax, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., “Burning bushes have beautiful fall colors like orange and fire red. As far as trees, maples like Japanese maples, sugar maple or black gum maple have beautiful colors.”

Another eye-catching option is the yellow twig dogwood. Its “bright yellow branches and twig color ... are also fantastic for winter,” said Mark White of GardenWise in Arlington, Va. “This shrub develops in great clumps and is a wonderful contrast against any red twig. Oval-shaped green leaves turn to orange-red in fall, followed by white fruit tinged with green.”

Grasses, added Katia Goffin, are ideal for fall and can be mixed with other foliage. “You can put evergreens in your yard and add some grasses. There are tons [of grasses] that are flowering and look [good] with evergreens.”

One plant that is often associated with cooler weather is a holly tree, but Eric Shorb of American Plant in Bethesda, Md., offers a caveat.

“As we get closer to the end of November and the beginning of December you want to be careful about planting such broadleaf evergreens,” he said. “If they haven’t had time to develop a sufficient enough root system they can become susceptible to wind burn because the roots will not be able to absorb moisture.”

Instead, he recommends deciduous trees and fine leaf evergreens. “A Leland Cypress or an Arborvitae that don’t need as much moisture will survive better as the weather gets colder.”

ORNAMENTAL VEGETABLES also work well in fall and beyond. “There is decorative cabbage and kale, which will grow anywhere and are deer resistant, which is a big factor these days,” said Grimes.

“As the temperatures get cooler, they get more color and last in winter.”

Then there are the edible vegetables. Good options are spinach, Swiss chard, arugula, mustard greens and red lettuces, said Storvick, who also suggested “root crops [like] carrots, radishes, parsnips and beets. You can also plant garlic and leeks now for spring harvesting.”

There are a few common mistakes that homeowners make, however: “Planting plants that deer eat and not thinking about the critters that come though your yard is something I see a lot,” said Grimes.

Giving a garden too much water is another frequent mistake, according to Storvick. “Overwatering, especially when the weather starts to get colder, [and] leaving new plants unprotected ... are probably some of the most common mistakes I’ve encountered.

“Mulching around the base of plants helps protect them from cold and wind, as well as keeping in moisture.”

Also, take care when pruning spring-blooming shrubs and trees, he cautioned:

“While a lot of plants prefer winter pruning, a lot of our great spring-blooming shrubs, like azaleas, for example, will only produce flowers on the previous season’s growth, so by pruning in the winter, you eliminate all of the flower buds. For these plants, it’s best to prune them immediately after they’re done blooming for the season.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIA GOFFIN GARDENS

Autumn is the perfect time to plant evergreen shrubs.

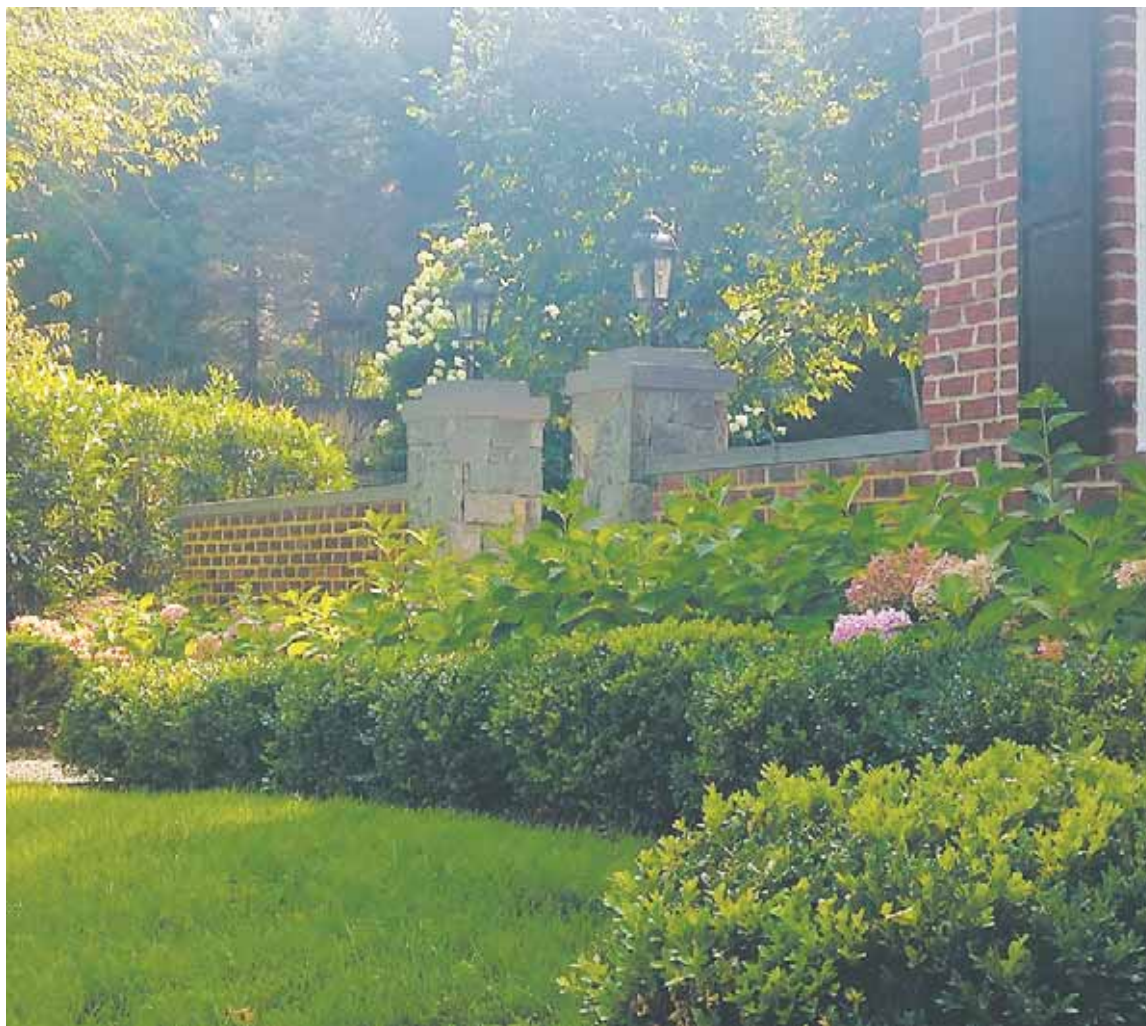


PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIA GOFFIN GARDENS

The fading colors of hydrangea blooms add subtle color to a fall landscape.



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1 10841 Stanmore Drive — \$3,725,000



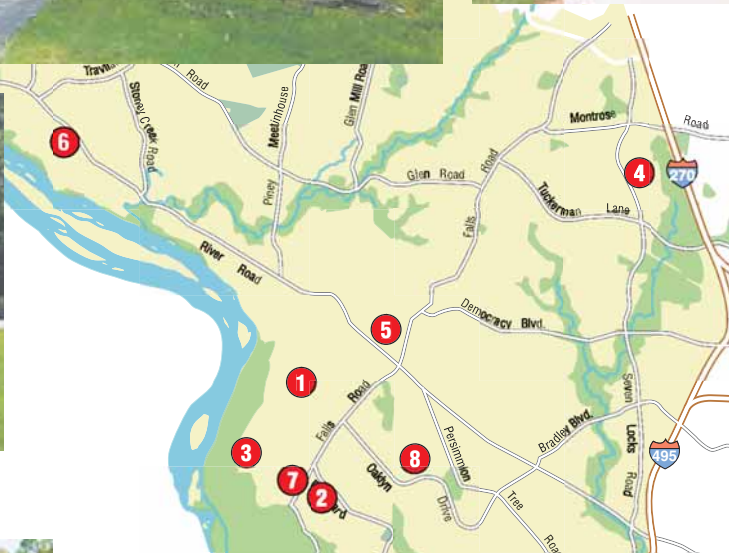
3 11508 Skipwith Lane — \$2,525,000



2 10905 Rock Run Drive — \$2,530,000



7 11108 Gilchrist Court — \$1,700,000



4 11718 Gainsborough Road — \$1,975,000



8 9852 Avenel Farm Drive — \$1,600,000

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1 10841 STANMORE DR	8	8	2	POTOMAC	..	\$3,725,000	Detached	2.10	20854	GREAT FALLS ESTATES	08/22/14
2 10905 ROCK RUN DR	6	6	3	POTOMAC	..	\$2,530,000	Detached	0.99	20854	FAWCETT FARMS	08/04/14
3 11508 SKIPWITH LN	7	6	2	POTOMAC	..	\$2,525,000	Detached	2.00	20854	POTOMAC FALLS	08/29/14
4 11718 GAINSBOROUGH RD	5	4	1	POTOMAC	..	\$1,975,000	Detached	1.26	20854	WILLERBURN ACRES	08/20/14
5 10017 CHAPEL RD	6	3	0	POTOMAC	..	\$1,937,500	Detached	3.75	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	08/27/14
6 13210 RIVER RD	6	4	4	POTOMAC	..	\$1,735,000	Detached	4.59	20854	MERRY GO ROUND FARM	08/12/14
7 11108 GILCHRIST CT	7	7	1	POTOMAC	..	\$1,700,000	Detached	2.03	20854	POTOMAC FALLS	08/07/14
8 9852 AVENEL FARM DR	6	5	1	POTOMAC	..	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.53	20854	AVENEL	08/15/14

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