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Looking out at the floodplain that includes the Swain's Lock campground, some of the dozens of people who attended a community meeting with the National Park Service can see 60 trees tagged for removal or pruning.

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NEWS



Bows Etc. booth at the WHC Boutique.

Shop for a Cause

Annual WHC Boutique returns Sunday.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Eighteen years ago, Lisa Sandler Spaeth asked her mom, Froma Sandler, to make a bow for her daughter's hair that would stay there without falling out. Froma experimented with adding buttons and bows to pony-tail holders and hair clips. Her granddaughter loved them, she created more styles and patterns — and the hair accessories became an instant hit at her granddaughter's school.

"Bows Etc." was born and the home business of creating custom hair accessories for children grew into a thriving business. They sell their products at the many bazaars and school boutiques in the area — but have now branched out into wholesaling to many children's stores.

Lisa Sandler Spaeth died eight and a half years ago from pulmonary fibrosis, a difficult-to-treat fatal disease that progressively damages the lungs and starves the body of oxygen. She and her family lived for two years with the devastating prognosis that there is no cure. After she died, her parents launched the Lisa Sandler Spaeth Memorial Fund to help fund research for pulmonary fibrosis. Froma said, "We now partner with the Johns Hopkins Center for Pulmonary Fibrosis. and our foundation has raised



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Froma Sandler with her late daughter Lisa.

\$3 million."

Froma donates everything she earns from Bows Etc. to find better treatments and hopefully one day a cure for pulmonary fibrosis. "We have helped fund a larger department with more doctors doing research. It's a real tribute to Lisa that we have been so successful at raising funds to help the many who have this disease. More than 40,000 people die from pulmonary fibrosis each year — more than breast cancer." She also serves as an advocate, lobbying Congress for more awareness and funds for this dreadful disease.

As difficult as it must have been, Froma continued on with the business. She now has a partner, Robin Miller and together



SEE ANNUAL WHC. PAGE 5

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Dismay over Tree Clearing along Canal

More than 40 turn out in the rain at Swain's Lock meeting on NPS plans to clear trees.

BY MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC

More than 40 people turned out for a community meeting with the National Park Service about planned removal of "defective" trees along the C&O Canal in Potomac.

The National Park Service has to balance tree preservation against visitor safety, and that's why more than 60 trees are marked for removal or pruning at Swain's Lock along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

The action was a result of a recent assessment of the health of trees in three "developed areas" along the C&O Canal in Potomac by park service arborists.

"It's a fairly common cause of visitor injury, from fallen trees," said Kevin Brandt, superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

"Visitors are in greater risk on county roads getting here than from falling trees in the park," said Barbara Hoover, a member of West Montgomery County Citizens Association, to agreement all around.

Potomac's County Councilmember, Roger Berliner (D-1) called for the meeting between members of the community and the park service after residents alerted his office that tree clearing was underway along the towpath several weeks ago. Berliner contacted Brandt within minutes, and Brandt agreed to stop the tree work until after a meeting and further assessment.

Representatives from both U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen's office and U.S. Rep. John Delaney's office also attended.

"We'll preserve the greatest number of

trees consistent with safety requirements," Brandt said. "Visitor safety comes first."

The issue appeared to come down to liability concerns in what Brandt referred to as "developed" areas of the park, including campgrounds.

"Once we identify a hazardous tree, we own it," Brandt said. "We have to take action." There are three options, pruning the tree, taking down the tree and "removing the target."

Community members disagreed with NPS assessment of the health of the stand of towering silver maples in the floodplain by Swain's Lock, and questioned whether such action should be taken just on the basis of the assessment by arborists. One arborist

estimated that the trees were 60-80 years old.

Some asked if a hydrologist had assessed what would happen to the stability of the area and river banks after the trees were removed. Brandt said that he would ask the hydrologist who is on staff to take a look at the situation.

Ginny Barnes asked about "removing the target."

"If you're at the point of cutting down over 50 trees, ... why wouldn't you consider moving the campground?" Barnes asked.

Closing the campground might be an option, Brandt said. Moving it would probably not be an option because of the lengthy process of environmental assessment that would be required.

After the meeting, Brandt told Berliner that he would follow up on "the suggestions made on Saturday about getting a NPS hydrologist to evaluate the site for impacts from erosion and make recommendations. We are also engaging a NPS landscape architect to evaluate and make recommendations for revegetation."

Brandt also said he would ask the arborist to evaluate if any of the trees could be addressed differently if they proceed as if this is a two-phased hazard tree management action. He also predicted that more tree work would be required

in the next two-to-five years, and pledged that communication would be better going forward.

A decision on going ahead with removing and pruning the trees on these three sites in Potomac will take a week or so.



Kevin Brandt, superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, explains the plan for tree clearing and pruning at Swain's Lock, Riley's Lock and the Marsden Tract (downstream of Great Falls) to a concerned community group.

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC



Pink tag, not for breast cancer awareness. The plan calls for removing 28 trees and pruning 32 more at Swain's Lock.



Superintendent Kevin Brandt and Councilmember Roger Berliner speak with the crowd.

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Dozens of people, Potomac activists and lovers of the towpath and trees, gather before the meeting Saturday morning, Nov. 7.

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Kathy's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

Annual WHC Boutique Returns Sunday

Details

Washington Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood's Holiday Boutique & Silent Auction

- ❖ Nov. 15, 16 and 17
- ❖ At the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center, 11810 Falls Road, Potomac
- ❖ Hours: Sunday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ❖ Admission is free.

room for the taping of Meet the Press. They will be able to meet moderator Chuck Todd and his guests and watch the interviews from the studio — this is such a unique item. We have several vacation opportunities including a week in Siesta Key, Fla.” The Silent Auction will also feature a variety of gift certificates from restaurants and stores, sports tickets, event planning, a mini-photography session for four, Nationals items, a catered dinner for 10, themed gift baskets, golf outings, theatre tickets, jewelry, children's items and more.

Shoppers also will be able to purchase raffle tickets for the Wine Wall — an opportunity to win 60 bottles of wine donated from community members as well as a wine experience from Total Wine at their store for 10.

At the boutique's cafe, visitors can pick up home-baked goodies, deli-sandwiches from Bethesda Bagel and J. Chow's California Chicken Salad, Greek salads and vegetable chili — or, the most sought after, Monday night's brisket and kugel. Dine-in or take it home.

FROM PAGE 2

they have grown the business, branched out into many stores and are selling “hundreds and hundreds of bows.” They are soon launching a website and expect that the business will become bigger and bigger.

The WHC Boutique supports Lisa's foundation and other charities including Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders, Suited for Change, Promise for Prom, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and MADD and many more. As Michele Citren said, “It's shopping with a conscience because each vendor donates 20 percent of their total sales to our philanthropy.”

The boutique is one of Potomac's most-awaited shopping venues each year. With 20 new vendors and 50 altogether, the show is perfect for discovering “one-of-a-kind” gifts and personal treasures. Shoppers can choose among the extensive jewelry collections, children and women's clothing and accessories, home decor gifts, food items and more. Some of the vendors are All Things Olive, Serenity Fitness Boutique, The Supreme Court Historical Society, Equilibrium Activewear, Glass by Design, KEEP Collective. Swirl, Girlie Glitz and Glam, Candace's Fine Jewelry, Create-a-Plaque, Dreams to Your Door, In Bloom Jewelry, Jodie's Jamboree, Pink Avenue Girl, Sababa

At last year's boutique (from left): Janet Abrams, Karen Perkins, Cindy Schapiro, and Mimi Arnold.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Israeli Jewelry, Soom Foods — and more.


WHC President, Sandy Nesbit said, “We are pleased to support small businesses, both local and from farther away. We have been presenting the boutique for 29 years and we are proud to continue the tradition of supporting the charitable missions of the WHC Sisterhood. Every year we add new vendors with exciting new products. Shop-

pers return year after year to support our wonderful vendors, to participate in the Silent Auction and to dine on great food.”

Martha K. Bindeman, former president of the WHC Sisterhood, is proud of the variety of Silent Auction offerings for this year. She said, “One wonderful item is the ‘Meet the Press’ Control Room. Four people will have the opportunity to sit in the control

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LETTERS

Questions on NPS Tree Removal

To the Editor:

1) Where can the documented risk assessment be found that is driving the extensive cutting? It isn't just three sites noted in the press release. Cutting down large trees is occurring throughout the park. What is the criteria for removal?

2) The C&O Canal NHP has long relied on Canal organizations to provide maintenance and monitoring of the park. Such widespread assistance by individual group members creates personal investment. A sense of belonging. Why weren't these groups alerted to decisions to engage in cutting? It seems very poor public relations to exclude them.

3) Is there a contractor? Or, is park staff doing the cutting? Where is the money coming from to pay for this work?

4) A change of policy toward park natural resources would seem to warrant public hearing. The proposed changes in fee structure included such a process. Why not here? Especially when the tree cutting may include older/specimen trees and forest needed to hold soil and prevent erosion.

Environmental Issues

1) The C&O Canal NHP contains some County, State and National Champion trees. Are they being considered and their value weighed against risk? Silver Maples seem to have been targeted by the cutting. The County Champion Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is located at Lock 26. A wing of General Lee's Army marched past it in the Civil War. So did J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry. This tree is a destination for many and an individual historic trea-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

A marked tree at Swain's Lock.

sure. Is it too in jeopardy? What of the largest tree in Maryland – An American Sycamore located on the banks of the Potomac at Dickerson?

2) Arborists are not the only "experts" that should be consulted. Ecologists recognize the value of forest in protecting individual trees from wind damage. Taking out a significant number leads to higher risk to those remaining. Also, a number of trees at Swain's marked for cutting overhang the river and of little risk to humans. Yet they intercept ice plates in winter and their roots hold bank soil and prevent erosion from flooding common on the Potomac River.

3) Where is the broader assessment of arborist findings in relationship to the impending loss of significant natural resources? There

is an ISA standardized process for risk assessment of trees with a form that should be filled out for each tree as part of the ISA supported process. Typically, prior to any action taken, a report of findings is written. In the experience of many arborists, it is never acceptable to make removal decisions on high value trees without going through a risk assessment process. Is there any control over arborist decisions?

4) It seems clear the NPS has underestimated the extent of concern and value park users place on trees. More importantly, the lack of a transparent process has led to mistrust. Many consider the park a safe place in the sense that it is free of the incursions they endure outside the park. (Witness Donald Trump's "stump" desert golf course just across the Potomac River or Pepco's rampant destruction on roadsides and even private property.)

5) We request an extended halt to consider a more sensible approach. We can agree that at Swains and elsewhere, some trees need to be removed for reasons of health but we ask for a more conservative evaluation of individuals slated for removal. (e.g. if all the trees that are scheduled to be cut down were sorted from worst to best, why not take out the riskiest ones but leave the better ones) Finally, any trees removed should be replaced with appropriate replanting.

Ginny Barnes,

Environmental Chair, West Montgomery County Citizens Association
www.wmcca.org

Schools Project Threatens Brickyard Farmland

To the Editor:

We are sending you an important update on the Brickyard Farmland, and a call to action.

Having abandoned a plan to develop the 20-acre Brickyard Farm site for private soccer fields and parking lots two years ago, Montgomery County Public Schools is now proposing to install an industrial solar panel array there, a move that would similarly destroy the organic farmland that Nick Maravell has stewarded for more than 30 years.

If the plan moves ahead, it will kill the soil under the panels with gravel or repeated chemical sprays.

Even after pulling back from their plans to develop this precious land as a private soccer complex, the county and the school board have refused to allow Nick or other farmers to lease it and continue farming it. Instead, they've left the land untended.

Meanwhile, Brickyard Educational Farm (BEF) has been conducting agricultural education programs at county public schools while awaiting further decisions on the Brickyard farmland.

BEF has a proposal to use this prime farmland for organic farming and agricultural education again, in line with county and state environmental literacy requirements. BEF operated a successful agricultural educational program at the site in 2012.

MCPS is also proposing to install industrial

solar arrays on two other green sites, one on Cashell Road in Rockville and one on Warfield Road in Laytonsville.

To help save the farmland from an industrial solar array, please attend one of the three public meetings listed below and send written comments to MCPS.

It is critical that we show strong opposition to building an industrial solar array on the Brickyard farm land and strong support for farm-based education and organic farming on that land.

Our top priority is the Nov. 17 meeting at Seven Locks Elementary because it is nearest to the Brickyard land and will be the main topic of discussion.

But if one of the other meetings is more convenient for you, please attend that one and raise your concerns about the MCPS plan and your support for organic agriculture and farm-based education on the Brickyard land.

To be clear, we support MCPS investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. We simply think the MCPS should install solar panels on top of school buildings, and over existing school parking lots and bus depots, rather than destroying precious organic farmland and other green spaces.

❖ For more information or to volunteer, please contact Greg Smith at gsmith@igc.org.

❖ Community Information Meeting Near the Brickyard Site, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Seven

Locks Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 9500 Seven Locks Road, Bethesda MD 20817. (This is our priority meeting to attend)

❖ Meeting Near the Warfield Road Site, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m., Laytonsville Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 21401 Laytonsville Road, Laytonsville, MD 20882.

❖ Meeting Near the Cashell Road Site, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Cashell Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 17101 Cashell Road, Rockville, MD 20853

❖ Send Written Comments to MCPS: Please email or mail your comments by Dec. 1 at Shela_Plank@mcpsmd.org or Shela Plank

Energy Program Manager
Department of Facilities Management
Montgomery County Public Schools
45 West Gude Drive
Rockville, MD 20850.

Please include these important messages:

❖ Oppose building an industrial solar arrays on the Brickyard farm land.

❖ Support organic farming and farm-based education on the Brickyard site to serve public school students.

❖ Support MCPS investments in energy efficiency and in solar arrays placed on school roofs, over school parking lots and other non-green sites.

The Save This Soil Team
www.savethissoil.org

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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.

THROUGH JAN. 8, 2016

Deadline for Entries. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District is accepting entries from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia filmmakers for the annual Bethesda Film Fest. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Jewish Community Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at University of Maryland Hillel, 7612 Mowatt Lane, College Park. The Jewish Federation of North Bethesda will host "Routes: A Day of Jewish Learning 2015." Find more than 70 sessions of informative seminars and events. Visit www.shalomdc.org.

End-of-Life Decision Making. 7 p.m. at Tilden Woods Recreation Center, 6800 Tilden Lane, Rockville. Learning more about the Aid-in-Dying Legislation. Free. Email bcohencape@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Volunteer Training Session. 10 a.m. at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring. Attend a training session provided by Senior Connection, who provides transportation for the aging. Call 301-962-0820 or email volunteer@seniorconnectionmc.org.

Senior Forum and Resource Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Leisure World Crystal Ballroom, 3701 Rossmore Blvd., Silver Spring. Montgomery County Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Sidney Katz will host a Senior Forum and Resource Fair. The program will focus on protecting seniors from scams, addressing signs of elder abuse and neglect and promoting ways that seniors can contribute to the community through volunteering. It will be accompanied by an informational Resource Fair showcasing service providers to seniors. Free. Contact Warren Hansen in the Office of Councilmember Berliner at 240-777-7898 or at warren.hansen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Great Names Community Lecture Series. 3-5 p.m. at Bethesda Jewish Congregation, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Bethesda Jewish Congregation presents Cokie and Steve Roberts, syndicated columnists. Open to all. Free, but RSVP to secure a seat. Call 301-469-8636 or visit www.bethesdajewish.org/registration/.

PUBLIC INPUT WANTED

Planners to Present Concepts on Downtown Bethesda. On Thursday, Dec. 11, county planners will present their concepts to the Montgomery County planning board on the future of downtown Bethesda. Will be available online. The feedback loop will be up Dec. 8-19 and accessible 24/7 via computer, mobile device or laptop. Visit www.montgomeryplanning.org.

GUIDE DOG FOSTERS NEEDED

Guiding Eyes for the Blind – Montgomery Region is looking for volunteers to foster and train future

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Swimming Pool Trends

As summer nears (or even when its balmy memory is keeping you warm in wintertime), the thoughts of many homeowners turn to thoughts of lounging by the pool and ways to improve the overall ambiance of your pool area. Both traditional, in-ground pools and more cost-effective, above-ground options are both choices that add hours of endless enjoyment to a home while you're living in it, and dollar value to homes on the market.

For both options, there are any number of ways to spruce up the pool area of a home on the market, making it ever more appealing to the prospective buyer. When it comes to decking material, paving stones are an option that is fast-growing in popularity. Industry professionals cite advantages to paving stones such as their ability to outperform, outlast and outshine stone set in mortar, grass, wood, concrete or brick when it comes to flexibility, durability and strength. Paving stones are available in a variety of colors and sizes, lay well if installed properly and are less susceptible to shifting, sagging, cracking and separating.

Above-ground pool owners, as with traditional in-ground pools, should consider adding decking and fencing to the above-ground pool unit—with just a few minor upgrades that are cost-efficient, your affordable pool option can add untold value to your home's asking price. Once you've taken the time to invest in the appearance and function of your pool area, not only do you have the coolest place to spend your hottest months, but you've got a sizzling feature to display to buyers when your home hits the market!

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A Homeowner Dilemma: Move or Improve?



What do you do when your family outgrows your house, or when the quirks of the place you once found charming aren't so charming anymore?

Is it smarter to move or improve? The answer is, it depends. And this is a question only you will be able to answer. Here are a few things to think about when considering your options.

- How well are homes selling in your area? Is it a buyers or seller's market?
- What improvements will you need to do to sell your home and what will the costs associated with this be?
- Are the homes you would be interested in moving to within your price range? Is there ample inventory available?
- As a general rule, improving costs less than trading up. But it depends on what kind of improvements you're doing.
- Consider the resale value of your remodeling projects for when you do go to sell whether now or in the future. Of course, don't discount the enjoyment you will get from your remodel.
- Beyond financial considerations think about the neighborhood and where you want to be. Consider the school district, the amount of traffic on your street, the size and layout of your yard, your commute time, and access to businesses you frequent. All of these play a huge factor in your quality of life.

If you love where you are, improving makes sense. But if a different location would be an improvement in its own right, then trading up could be the way to go.



Russ Glickman, founder of Glickman Design Build, is a Master Certified Remodeler and Certified Aging in Place Specialist. The award-winning Glickman Design Build team has completed thousands of general remodeling and accessible design projects in the Metro DC area and is passionate about the work they do. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications.

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Home LifeStyle



JOHN COLE PHOTO

Reorganizing a kitchen before the holiday season begins helps make a home guest-ready, says Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build



PHOTO ANGIE SECKINGER

Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special, advises Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design.

Preparing a Home for the Holidays

Suggestions for getting your house guest-ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

With only two weeks until Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, it might be time to take stock of your home's guest-readiness. Local designers explain how to reduce stress and make guests feel at home this holiday season.

"Walk into your home as if you are a guest in your own home," said Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build in Potomac. "Look at the entryway. Your front door should have a festive feel."

A new doormat and large urns filled with evergreen foliage that will last until the end of winter are two accessories that Kaminsky suggests to help ring in the season.

Reorganizing and decluttering a home's interior can decrease stress during holiday hosting and entertaining. The first place to start, suggests Kaminsky is a foyer closet. "This is a great time to donate any winter clothing that your family

doesn't use anymore," she said. "This will make way for guests' coats so you don't have to throw them over furniture and take up valuable seating real estate."

This is also the time to declutter one of the most often-used rooms during the holidays: the kitchen. "Go through your pantry so you can have an accurate inventory when getting ready to prepare holiday meals," she said. "Also get rid of any unnecessary products that are not useful anymore."

This process, says Kaminsky, makes room for needed storage and eliminates the unnecessary use of counter space.

Simple and low-cost ways to brighten a kitchen include purchasing new hand towels and fragrant, sink-side, hand soaps and lotions in elegant dispensers. "William Sonoma has a clean line of fragrances, as well as cleaning supplies and candles that will for sure make you and your guests happy," said Kaminsky. "Pink grapefruit is always a perfect year-round standby."

When it comes to a guest bedroom, Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home. She also makes sure the room has a tray of bottled water and

Must-Haves for an Inviting Guest Room

Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., offers tips:

- ❖ Save sample creams and lotions and display them in an attractive container for guests to try.
- ❖ Make Internet passwords available and visible so guests have easy access while visiting.
- ❖ Consider placing a sound machine in the guest room, particularly if you have an active household, so guests may choose the background noise.
- ❖ Provide magazines that may interest your guests.
- ❖ Make sure there are enough hangers, preferably "pretty hangers," in the closet for your guests.
- ❖ Be sure to place a water carafe (or bottled water) and a glass in the guest room.
- ❖ Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special.

cups.

"Guests welcome the chance to catch up on reading," she said.

Plenty of bedding and both feather and hypoallergenic pillows, and extra universal chargers are guest room essentials. "We all know the feeling of forgetting this key technology tool," said Meyer.

Finally, Meyer believes in making the room festive by adding green holiday wreaths in the windows, and comfortably by leaving luxurious terrycloth robes. "Nothing says comfort like a plush robe to snuggle in after a long day of travel."

Home LifeStyle

Getting Guest-Ready

Local designers offer solutions for easy, pre-holiday updates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Getting ready for the holidays means more than simply hanging decorations and ordering a turkey with trimmings. For many, the holidays usher in an abundance of house guests. While there might not be time to complete a remodeling project or build an addition, local designers offer suggestions for minor tweaks that can breathe new life into a living space so that it is guest-ready when the holidays arrive.

Starting with a home's exterior, outdoor lighting that highlights the walkway and facade of the house is a simple update, according to Kai Tong, director of architecture at Hopkins and Porter. "Low voltage lighting can also accentuate the steps leading to the front door, as well as [line voltage] lighting illuminating ... [plants] and trees."

Tong also recommends upgrading a home's interior lighting fixtures, such as sconces and dining room chandeliers. In fact, he said dimmer switches create ambiance. "Low voltage lighting, including cable-mounted lighting, can bring new brilliance to spaces."

A coat of paint can also brighten a home

A kitchen is often a hub of activity during the holidays. Small touches like new cabinet hardware can add polish to the space.

in time for the holidays. "You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests," said Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint. "Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

Rooms where most of the holiday décor will be displayed as well as the dining room where meals will be served are good starting points, said Cornish.

"Consider selecting a wall in perhaps a guest room and painting it an exquisite accent color," adds Tong. "The same goes with public spaces such as the kitchen."

Painting a home's main entry door or trim is another simple way to welcome guests in style. "The front door makes an immediate first impression," said Tracy Morris, color



JOHN COLE PHOTO

consultant and principal of Tracy Morris Design.

Morris suggests using Benjamin Moore's Soot for the front door. "The rich color is festive and fun and makes the perfect backdrop for holiday décor, as well as provides a lasting first impression."

Replacing the front door or updating the hardware on an existing door, updating lighting fixtures at the door or on a porch enhances a home's curb appeal, says Ken Hurdle, Hopkins and Porter project coordinator.

The kitchen, powder room and guest bathroom are usually hubs of hospitality

during the holidays, and a polished appearance can be accomplished with a few minor tweaks.

In a guest bathroom, simple fixes include new vanity or sink hardware, new medicine cabinets and vanity lighting. "Check and see if accessories such as towel bars [and] paper holders could also use an easy recharge," said Tong.

Kohler's Moxi shower head holds a wireless speaker, "so you can enjoy your music while showering," said Nancy Knickerbocker, designer, Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield.

In the kitchen, minor touches can yield a major impact. "Kitchen 'lite' projects are a great way to spruce up your space if you're redesigning on a small budget and have great existing cabinets in your kitchen," said Stephanie Brick, designer at Nicely.

This can include new hardware on cabinets and new faucets, according to Hurdle.

These projects include upgrading counter tops with quartz or granite and adding a coordinating tile back splash or other kitchen accents like crown molding to the ceiling or chair rail molding. "These seemingly small details, when put together in a design package," said Brick, "can have a great impact on the overall look of your kitchen."

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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

Children's Storytime.

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda Listen to employees read children's stories. Free. Visit www.store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/4824850-21.

Adult Single Night. Saturdays, 9 p.m. at at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Find a DJ, open dance floor, and other singles. No cover charge. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

Heather Harvey Art Exhibit.

Through Nov. 15, gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Heather Harvey presents a site-specific work and a paper-based series. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org.

"Photo Slam: The

Exhibition." Through Nov. 29, gallery hours at Photoworks at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Images from the Photo Slam 2014 by Prescott Moore Lassman, Pablo de Loy, Valerie Makepeace and Tanguy de Carbonnieres will be on display. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

Oasis Art Gallery Exhibit. Through Nov. 30 at The Oasis Art Gallery inside Macy's Home Store at Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7125 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Artists Lieta Gerson and Lindan Silvers will display their work. Free. Visit www.oasisnet.org/washington.

Artists & Makers Studios

November Exhibits. Through Nov. 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Artists & Makers Studios, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210., Rockville. "These Go To Eleven," an exhibit featuring the works of 11 metro Washington, DC artists curated by Stephen Boocks, will be displayed in the two main galleries. A second exhibit, "Merry Monuments: A Brighter District" by artist Mary Gallagher Stout will be shown in the new gallery hall. Free. Visit www.artistsandmakersstudios.com.

"Originale." Through Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. on Sunday at Persiano Gallery and Design Center, 188 Market St., Potomac. Artist Yolanda Prinsloo presents artwork in graphite and paint. Free. Visit www.persianogallery.com for more.

"Project 837, Part 2." Through Dec. 13, gallery hours at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. An exhibition series intended to start a conversation about the definition of home and homelessness. The exhibition includes contemporary artists, the public, activists and organizers for workshops, gallery exhibition and symposium. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org.

"Organic Elements." Through Jan. 17, during gallery hours at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. "Organic Elements" is a group exhibition featuring the abstract work of six local artists: Lisa Bohrer, Susan Carey, Maruka Carvajal, Lesley Clarke, Katie Joselow, and Kay Walsh. Free. Visit www.writer.org/programsart-on-view.



Bethesda Becomes Winter Wonderland

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland is an annual event that takes place in locations around the city, including concerts at Imagination Stage and in Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle. The event features caroling, ice sculpting, storytelling, holiday performances and hands-on craft activities for children. Free. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more.



Paint Night. 5:30-8 p.m. on first and second Mondays of the month through December at Sweet Frog, 100 Lexington Drive, Silver Spring. Spiritual Unicorn art sponsors a night of painting. Tickets are \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. Visit www.spiritualunicornart.com.

VisArts Cocktails and Canvas Class. at VisArts in the Painting & Drawing Studio, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Price \$40. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas for more.

Thang Ta. Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts, 1525 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. Learn the ancient art of the sword and spear. \$25. Visit www.dancesidra.org.

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 capitalblues.org for more.

Weekly Swing Dance. Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Argentine Tango with Lessons. Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. 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. For 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 for more.

Contra and Square Dance. Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance

with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222 for more.

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.

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.

Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too). Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. Visit rockilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me.

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

Chocolate Factory Tours. Fridays and Saturdays, 2-5:45 p.m. at SPAGNVOLA Chocolatier, 360 Main St., Gaithersburg. Take a short tour of The Truffle Factory facilities. Free. Visit www.spagnvola.com.

Glen Echo Park Films. Saturdays and Sundays. Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Films about the Park's history are shown on rotation in the lobby. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition, as well as sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. Free. Visit www.silverworksglenechopark.com.

Art Glass Center at Glen Echo. All day Wednesdays; Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Art Glass

Center, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Ongoing exhibitions feature work of Resident Artists. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org for more.

Glen Echo Pottery. Through December, Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Glen Echo Pottery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Gallery shows the work of 29 individual potters and instructors at Glen Echo Pottery. Wheel-throwing demonstrations are offered most Saturdays and Sundays, noon-2 p.m. Children are welcome. Visit www.glenechopottery.com/gallery for more.

Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. The Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery presents free exhibitions of emerging artists' work. Each weekend features the work of a different artist. Most artwork is also for sale. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

Acoustic Open Mic. Wednesdays, 7-11 p.m. at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane. Everyone welcome to perform. Wine bottles are 50 percent off. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Explorers Open Studio. Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Candy Corner Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Art activities for parents and children. Activities change weekly and there is no pre-registration; \$10 per child. Visit www.glenechopark.org/saturday-art-explorers for more.

Ceramic Classes. Various dates and times. VisArts, 155 Gibbs St, Rockville. An opportunity to try the new ceramic workshops. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/ceramics for a list of class dates, times.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

"Coffee and..." 10-11:30 a.m. at Corner Bakery, 10327 Westlake Drive, Bethesda. Potomac Community Villages' monthly "Coffee

and..." get-together is open to all. Talk about aging in place in one's own existing homes and neighborhoods. Free to attend. Visit www.potomaccommunityvillage.org for more.

Hugh Masekela Concert. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Attend a concert given by a Grammy-nominated jazz trumpeter. Tickets are \$35-50. Visit www.ampbystrathmore.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 13-14

Performance: "Bedroom Without Walls" by Hye Young Kim. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at public space around VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Hye Young Kim explores the possibility that anywhere can serve as someone's home. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

David London: "Magic Outside the Box." 8 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Magician David London combines magic trick with storytelling, comedy, and puppetry. Tickets are \$25-80. Visit www.MagicOutsideTheBox.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Storm Large Concert. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Large brings comedy, theater and music backgrounds to the stage. Tickets are \$30-45. Visit www.ampbystrathmore.com.

Potomac After Hours. 9:15-11 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Middle schoolers (6-8th graders) are invited to attend "music night" with karaoke, table tennis, and pool. Admission is \$5. Visit www.activemontgomery.org and use code #11949 to register.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 13-14

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. This is a musical comedy set in the early 1960s about a window washer who uses a handbook to climb the corporate ladder. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Visit www.WCHSArts.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

Ingleside at King Farm Annual Bazaar. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ingleside, 701 King Farm Boulevard, Rockville. Ingleside, an assisted living facility, holds a third annual bazaar showcasing the knits, crocheted and sewed work, sweets and baked goods, and other crafts made by residents. Free. Contact Joan Harrison, Bazaar Coordinator, at 301-330-1297 or email at ParJoanie@aol.com.

Meet the Editor: Herta Feely. 12-1 p.m. at Hellenic Center, 6506 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda. Learn more about what professional editors from Herta Feely of Chrysalis Editorial. Free. Visit www.hellenicgroupwashington.blogspot.com.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Workshop: Pop-Up Homes by Jenna Wright. 2-3 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Jenna Wright is interested in the notion of the American "dream house" and "cookie cutter" homes in contemporary American communities. During her workshop, visitors will construct paper houses from templates. Over the course of the exhibition this "community" of pop-up homes will grow and expand, creating a site-specific installation. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org

Workshop: How to Loiter by Paul Shortt. 2 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. In this workshop, participants will explore alternative ways of loitering and discuss the issues surrounding loitering and how it affects public space and individuality. Participants will create pro-loitering signs that articulate new ways to loiter and will turn those signs into PSA-style commercials as an answer to the oppression of the homeless population. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Postcard Making: "News From Home." 4 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Curators Yeim Bae and Yunjeong Hong will introduce creative ways of making postcards while exploring the concept of "home" with the audience. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org

Exhibit Reception. 6-8 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Meet the artists of the "Organic Elements" exhibit during a wine reception. Free. Visit www.writer.org for more.

Washington Conservatory Faculty Showcase Concert. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Seven faculty members of

the Washington Conservatory of Music will present a Showcase Concert as part of the Washington Conservatory Piano Plus Concert Series. Free. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Coffee and Critique. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Photoworks at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Guests are invited to bring photos for informal feedback from Photoworks faculty and enjoy coffee and bagels. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

Open Door Reading: Leslie Pietrzyk and Jehanne Dubrow. 2-4 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Author Leslie Pietrzyk reads from her collection of short stories, "This Angel on My Chest." She is joined by Jehanne Dubrow, author of "The Arranged Marriage." A reception and book signing follows. Free. Visit www.writer.org for more.

Pet Memorial Service. 5 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 109 S. Washington St., Rockville. Celebrate, honor, and remember the lives of beloved pets. Submit a jpeg photo of pets that have passed to be included in a slide show at the service. Free. Visit www.christchurchrockville.org.

Photo Slam 2015: The Event. 8-10 p.m. at Busboys & Poets, 14th & V streets NW, Washington, D.C. Photoworks of Glen Echo partners with FotoWeek DC for the 5th Annual Photo Slam. \$20 suggested donation. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Potomac Adaptive Sports Court

Dedication Ceremony. 9:30 a.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road., Potomac.

The Yardbirds Concert. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. A rock band founded in 1963 performs. Tickets are \$45-60. Visit www.ampbystrathmore.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Political Extremism Explained. 7 p.m. at The Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Potomac Community Village hosts journalist and the Knight Law and Media Visiting Fellow at Yale Law School's Information Society Project Andrew Burt who will explain political extremism in the context of his book "American Hysteria: The Untold Story of Mass Political Extremism in the United States." Free. Visit www.potomaccommunityvillage.org.

Lecture and Book Signing. 7:30 p.m. at Photoworks at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Lecturer, curator, and art consultant Sarah Gordon will discuss her new book, "Indecent Exposures: Eadweard Muybridge's Animal Locomotion Nudes." Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 19-21

"Sweeney Todd." 7 p.m. at Walt Whitman High School-Daryl L. Shaw auditorium, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda. View Walt Whitman High School's interpretation of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults, and \$20 for reserved seats. Visit www.whitmandrama.ticketleap.com.



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Grace Xia and the Churchill volleyball team swept Whitman on Monday in the 4A West region Section I semifinals at Churchill High School.



Abby Kash and the Churchill volleyball team will face Blair in the 4A West region Section I final on Wednesday, Nov. 11.



Xiaoting Sun and the Churchill Bulldogs improved to 19-1 with a sweep of Whitman on Monday in the 4A West region Section I semifinals.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill's Zuckerman Rushes For 350 Yards in Victory

Churchill senior running back Andrew Zuckerman ended his high school football career with a victory and a season-best performance.

The Churchill football team defeated Walter Johnson 40-7 on Friday at Churchill High School, snapping a seven-game losing streak. Zuckerman led the way for the Bulldogs, carrying the ball 31 times for 350

yards and five touchdowns in his final high school game.

Zuckerman finished the season with 279 carries for 1,867 yards and 16 touchdowns in 10 games.

Churchill finished the season with a 2-8 record.

Churchill Volleyball Advances to Section Final

The Churchill volleyball team swept Whitman on Monday and advanced to the 4A West region Section I final.

The top-seed Bulldogs will host No. 2 Montgomery Blair on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The winner will advance to the region championship match.

Wootton Field Hockey Advances To State Final

The Wootton field hockey team will face Severna Park in the 4A state championship game at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

The Patriots defeated Dulaney 1-0 on Monday in the state semifinals.

Whitman Football Ends Season with Win

The Whitman football team concluded the 2015 season with a 26-20 win over Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Nov. 6.

The Vikings finished the season with a 4-6 record.

Whitman quarterback Matthew Clayton completed 10 of 20 passes for 97 yards against B-CC. He also carried 15 times for 70 yards and a touchdown.

Gunnar Morton carried 28 times for 155 yards and two touchdowns.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Suicide Grief Support Group. At JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. This ongoing bereavement support group is for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This group meets every first and third Monday. No charge. Pre-registration is required to attend. Call 301-816-2708.

Because I Love You is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting parents of troubled children of any age. The group helps parents deal with drugs, runaways, truancy, verbal abuse, physical abuse, curfew violations and other misbehavior, as well as help parents deal

with themselves, to manage and live their own lives without obsessing over their child's behavior. The group meets 7:30-9:30 every Thursday at Bethesda United Methodist Church Room 209, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Visit www.becauseiloveyou.org, email hbrite1@netzero.com or call 301-530-3597.

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@hospicecaring.org.

ONGOING

Montgomery Parks is launching a new registration system, ActiveMONTGOMERY. The new system replaces ParkPASS and RecWeb, the two separate registration systems currently used by Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation, respectively. ActiveMontgomery provides one location, with just one username and password, for people to register for classes from either organization. Visit www.ActiveMontgomery.org.



Churchill running back Andrew Zuckerman rushed for 350 yards and five touchdowns in the Bulldogs' 40-7 win over Walter Johnson on Nov. 6.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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PEOPLE

Small Talk in a Big Way

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



No way, actually. In my nearly seven years of cancer-induced doctor's appointments, scan appointments, lab work and miscellaneous other recurring occasions to be sitting/ idling in waiting rooms, never before last week's pre-chemotherapy lab work had I been so chatted up by a fellow member waiting for their name to be called.

The circumstances were not particularly unique; it's not as if there was a two-for-one/half-price special that day. It was just another day – not in paradise, at the lab, of which I've had my share. It was crowded this day and because of seat non-availability, I was forced to sit up close and personal between two other patients. We weren't exactly touching one another, but there was some proximity that had the room been less occupied, there likely would have been fewer eyes making contact.

Before I had even completed my half-turn, "bassackwards" descent into my single chair, the self-described grandmother and church-goer to my standing right/sitting left said to me – quite unsolicited I might add, with zero provocation from yours truly: "Look outside!" After landing in my chair, I craned my neck back around to "look," anticipating an incident/accident of some kind. Instead, I saw blue skies and a bright shiny sun, and said as much to my new temporary neighbor and then asked if I was missing something. She said "No." And then elaborated on how it was a beautiful day and how such days make her so happy and yada, yada, yada; yada, yada, yada. (It didn't stop there, if you catch my prose.)

Apparently noticing my rather cool (not hip) demeanor in not responding to her observation/opinion, she started on the man immediately sitting to her left. He was from Ethiopia. Oh. The pastor at her church was from Ethiopia and the congregation used to be old but now thanks to him..., and on and on and on; fortunately not directed at me, but obviously within earshot. Soon however, his name was called and his seat remained unoccupied long enough for grandma to return her conversation back to me and begin to recount the information about the man with whom she had just been conversing: Ethiopian, a pastor, his young wife, their young children, the congregation; and on and on and on. Again, my lack of enthusiasm was likely evident in my barely audible responses to her comments and before too long, the vacated seat to her left was taken by a mother and her nine-month-old baby girl. Sure enough, the conversation soon left me and went over to the mother and her "beautiful baby." Within a few short minutes (in time), my neighbor's name was called (mercifully) and off she went into the lab. As she pulled open the door, she turned back to me, waived and smiled. I smiled back and said: "Break a leg." To which she responded something like: "Oh. You never want to..." but I had lost my focus and she was practically through the door into the lab and no more was there time and place to listen. Thankfully, the exchange, such as it was, was over (and she had just started asking about my job, too; what next? What was I in for?) I don't want to sound like Humphrey Bogart from Casablanca here, but: Of all the hospital waiting areas, of all the HMO waiting rooms, of all the labs, of all the clinics, she had to walk into mine. Don't let this play out again, Sam; it was an intrusion of sorts. Well-intended, I presume, and perhaps a little nervous energy at play; but as Kenny Rogers would say/sing: "You got to know when to fold 'em, know when to hold 'em."

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



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS, THE ALMANAC

Fall Frolic

Vanessa, Taman and Lincoln Morris at the Fall Frolic, held Oct. 31 at Glen Echo Park. The free event included pumpkin decorating, trick-or-treating, and a costume parade around the park.



Amalia and Coyalia Macias



Karanda Taylor



From left are twins Kyle and Kendall Rush; Jason Rush and Ethan Thompson; Ashley and Shelley Steward; Kim Banks, Stacey Rush, and Nadia Gallup.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Four Girl Scout troops worked with the Potomac Village Garden Club at the Potomac Village Library on Oct. 31.



Learning About Nature

The Potomac Village Garden Club welcomed four Girl Scout troops to an Oct. 31 event in the award-winning garden which the club has landscaped at the Potomac Village Library for more than the last 10 years.

The event led to the Scouts receiving at least three badges according to their age level since the program included community service by planting bulbs, learning landscaping hints, learning about the uses of plants, pruning the trees, identifying and removing invasive weeds, and collecting seed pods of milkweed for helping to develop areas which will help in the migration of the Monarch butterflies.

Twelve members of the Potomac Village Garden Club set up stations for the girls to work from. The event coincided with the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low who started the Girl Scout movement.



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