

Potomac ALMANAC

HomeLifeStyle

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Grace Gesiskie stands during the Wootton High School graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, May 31, at DAR Constitution Hall.

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

JUNE 8-14, 2016

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Bravo Presents 'Seussical Jr.' This weekend at Randolph Road Theater.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

"I'll just have to save him because after all, a person's a person, no matter how small," says Horton, the Elephant in "Seussical, Jr." It's a key message to every young person who sees this show — as well as to the young actresses and actors who are presenting this show to their audience.

"Seussical Jr." will be presented by Bravo Productions, Theatre for Young Artists on Saturday, June 11 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 12 at 1 and 4 p.m. at the Randolph Road Theater, 4010 Randolph Road, Silver Spring. This production based on the Dr. Seuss books is adapted for youth performers and young audiences. I

Through the vision of Director Valerie Issembert, Choreographer Laurie Newton and Music Director Michele Vicino, the cast of 26 second to eighth graders is at Horton's side throughout, either onstage or as audience members (and learning to transition between the two realities) as he faces ridicule, danger and a trial. Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him and ultimately the "little people" of Whoville triumph alongside those who inhabit the Jungle of Nool.

Continuing its tradition of productions



especially suited for children, Bravo will begin rehearsals for "Annie Kids" (grades 1 - 6) and "Legally Blonde Jr." (grades 5 - 10) in the fall.

Eleven-year old Madison Sherman plays Mazyie, the bird. "I enjoy taking a risk being Mazyie and just acting wild and crazy and having a blast. Mazyie is this fun, sassy, drama queen kind of girl and it's really fun to play her character. I enjoy the entire acting experience, particularly "having a blast with the cast during musicals," Madison said.

"Many schools at every grade level are mounting the fantastic musical extravaganza of the favorite Dr. Seuss characters," said Issembert. "Distinctive about Bravo's rendition is a return to the notion that musical theatre is fundamentally about storytelling and the Cat in the Hat (Luke

LaMotta) as the narrator weaves this tale as a 'play within a play,' where Horton the Elephant (Matthew Milam), Gertrude McFuzz (Cynthia Jacobson), Mayzie La Bird (Madison Sherman) the Sour Kangaroo (Josie Stein) of the Jungle of Nool interact with the citizens of Whoville, led by Mr. and Mrs. Mayor (Mimi Lemar/Will Sexter or Ava Klugerman/Jayden Armour) and their young son Jojo (Lexi Blank). Horton, in discovering a speck of dust containing the tiny people called the Whos, also learns the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community.

Luke LaMotta enjoys playing the Cat in the Hat. The fifth-grade Bullis student said, "The Cat in the Hat is a very energetic and free-spirited character — a lot like me. I think it's so cool how he narrates the whole story and connects everything together. My favorite part is that he has multiple personalities and is very funny." Luke loves to sing and dance — and participate in the BRAVO musicals.

Eleven-year-old Lexi Blank is playing the role of Jojo. "Jojo is such a fun role to play," she said. "I particularly like how Jojo is so imaginative and creative. When I am playing Jojo I feel like I am on an adventure — traveling to the different "thinks" Jojo creates." Lexi loves to sing and dance on stage.

The role of Gertrude McFuzz is played by Westland Middle School sixth grader, Cynthia Jacobson. "Gertrude McFuzz is a character who has many layers. She has a shy and dorky personality, but as the play goes on, the audience begins to see a resilient, strong character," she said. "I really enjoy bringing out these layers in the show." Cynthia loves the challenges of auditioning and creating her characters in her own way.

Bravo Productions is a musical theatre program designed for children in grades 1-12. The program focuses on teaching the art of musical theatre — as well as imparting a love for this art form. "We make sure that the children are having a blast while they learn to work together as a cohesive and supportive cast. While they are learning the tools of the craft — music, lyrics, choreography, staging and blocking — they are also becoming the next generation who will keep the Broadway tradition alive, if not onstage, then as well-versed audience members," Executive Producer Laurie Levy Issembert said.

Tickets for Seussical, Jr are available online at https://www.showtix4u.com/index.php?submit=Search+for+Events¤t_client=0531001402191839 for \$19 until June 11 and at the door for \$22 (cash or check only). No late seating.

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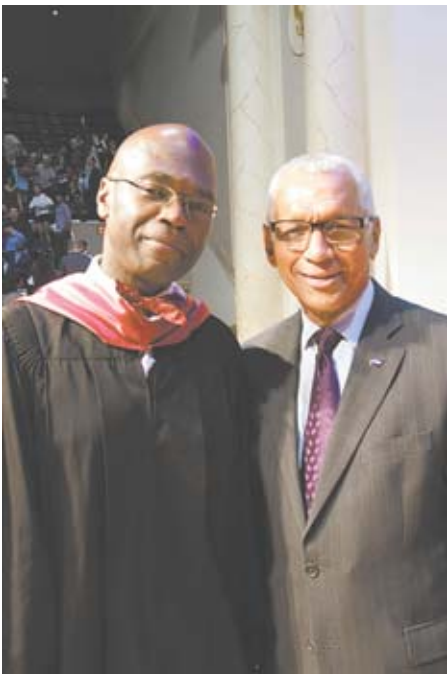


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Wootton High School graduates at the Tuesday, May 31 graduation ceremonies at DAR Constitution Hall.



Sherwin Collette, chief technology officer, with Major General Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., guest speaker.

Wootton Grads Look To the Future

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS
THE ALMANAC



Murray, Taju, Rahila, Victoria in the front, Nkem, Sadiq Olanrewaju and Nma Obialo



The Wootton High School band performs during the graduation ceremonies.



From left are Chrissy Bussard, Elizabeth Chen, and William Day.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Appraiser and What He Does

Home appraisals might be more accurately described as “home evaluations”. Appraisals are an essential part of the home sale process, from both the buyer and the seller’s end, and are invaluable tools to have firmly in hand before an offer ever hits the table. Many sellers have an appraisal completed before the home is listed, in order to get a working grasp of current home value trends in the market and establish a baseline for the asking price. It is important to keep a few key pieces of information in mind when having an appraisal performed on your house. First, both appraisers and their appraisals vary—so make sure to find a reputable, experienced, reliable appraiser in your area to perform your home’s appraisal. Three different appraisals by three different appraisers might give you three different ideas about your home’s value—and while you definitely don’t want an appraiser who lowballs your home’s value and causes you to ask for a price lower than your home is worth, likewise you don’t want an appraiser who overinflates your home’s value, making your asking price higher than what the market will bear and keeps your home languishing without a potential buyer in sight. The most accurate appraisal is one that is neither too high, nor too low—a realistic evaluation of what the home is worth, versus what the market will bear that results in a home being sold with a reasonable profit to the seller in an expedient amount of time. An appraiser’s document is only as valuable as their expertise and reliability, and in a profession that’s not strictly regulated, you want to ensure that you’ve not paid a fee to a flight-by-night appraiser whose evaluation of your home’s value isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on. Ask your Realtor® to point you in the direction of a reputable home appraiser, and screen the appraiser thoroughly before contracting their services. With just a little extra effort on your part, your home’s most accurate asking price could be just a phone call away! Things to ask an appraiser before contracting their services include:

- What is their professional background regarding home appraisal?
- Are they trained and/or certified?
- Do they have a portfolio they’d be willing to share, or will they put you in touch with satisfied clients?
- Are they knowledgeable in your area?
- Do they know the history of your neighborhood and its constructions?
- What comparables will they be using?

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

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NEWS



At the start of last year’s Autism Speaks 5K/Walk.

Join 16th Annual ‘Autism Speaks’ 5K/Walk

Seeking to raise
\$250,000 for research.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Independence Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring the 13 American colonies a new nation. On this day, 16 years ago, the inaugural Autism Speaks 5K/Walk was held in Potomac Village.

It’s an appropriate day to gather forces to run and walk for brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, children, grandchildren, friends and school-mates who have autism — to celebrate the independence each has been able to achieve at their own level, and also to support the drive to find a cure and better treatments for autism. An estimated three million people in the U.S. currently live with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and 1 in 68 children, 1 in 42 boys, will be diagnosed this year.

There are currently no medicines approved for use in treating the core symptoms of au-

tism, nor are there approved blood tests or brain imaging techniques to efficiently and cost effectively diagnose ASD.

The Autism Speaks 5K was founded by Potomac’s Susan Pereles when she learned that her 2-year-old nephew had been diagnosed with autism. She literally “raced” into action, initiating the July 4th Potomac 5K charity race/walk to increase autism awareness and raise money for global biomedical research on causes, prevention, treatment and cures for autism. In her first effort, \$100,000 was raised for Autism Speaks. The race will celebrate its 16th anniversary on July 4, 2016 — expecting to raise more than \$250,000.

“We are thrilled because Under Armour Inc. has volunteered to serve as our shirt sponsor, donating a shirt for each racer,” Pereles said. “This is a huge support, because we previously had to purchase 2,000 T-shirts — and now more dollars will go to our cause. A team from Under Armour is also joining us for the race. We will have more than 100 teams from churches, swim clubs, schools, synagogues, communities and businesses running in Potomac and another six or eight teams run-

ning virtually, wherever they are in the world.

“We also have a lot of Potomac community support,” said Pereles. “River Falls Seafood has selected us to be their Charity of the Month for July, giving Autism Speaks 25 percent of their proceeds on July 1 — everyone, please go there on Saturday, July 1. Adam Greenberg always donates Potomac Pizza. We have more than \$100,000 coming in from local sponsorships — BOWA & PMGI are Presenting Sponsors and, Sunny Shores Foundation, the Scott and Patrice Brickman Family Foundation, Precision Health Holdings, Potomac Deli, Potomac Pizza, TW Perry and many others serve as sponsors on an annual basis. This year Bethesda Magazine chose the race as their charity partner for the Best of Bethesda Magazine party in May.”

“Richie’s Racers” is one of the teams running virtually in this July 4th Autism Speaks race. Organized by Steve Kirstein, Richie’s father, the race has taken place in Dewey Beach for the past 10 years for everyone who heads to the Delaware beaches for the July 4 holiday. The run starts at 8 a.m. on Chicago Street, Dewey Beach and the runners and walkers run around

SEE INCREASING, PAGE 5

Coffee and Conversation

Thursday, June 9, 10 - 11:30 am
at the Corner Bakery on Westlake Dr.

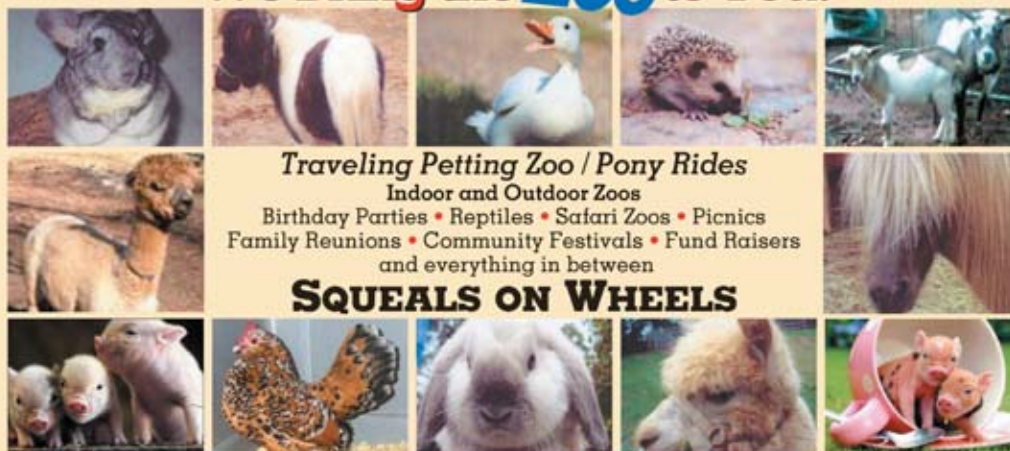
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Increasing Autism Awareness and Research Funds

FROM PAGE 4
Silver Lake and back.

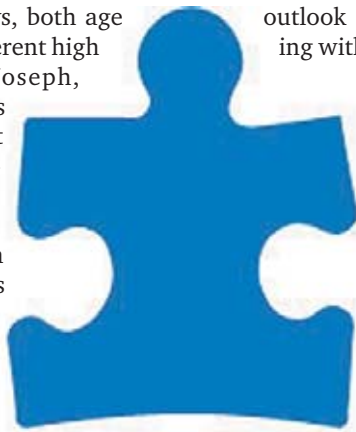
"My son was less than 2 when he was diagnosed," Kirstein said. "He was probably eight when we started our remote race at the beach. It's something not only my whole family, but many of our friends and neighbors look forward to as well. People come from Dewey, Bethany, Lewes and Ocean City. Richie is the official finish line-greeter and water bottle distributor. He also loves the team photo we take at the end. It wouldn't be summer without this run. It's very casual but much anticipated among the participants, many of whom have been doing this for 10 years or so."

"In addition to the Team Dewey component of Richie's Racers, there will also be a Richie's Racers team Italy this summer, and possibly a Team Newport as well. The remote aspect has been very well received as so many folks are traveling on the July 4th," said Kirstein.

Peggy Dillenburg is thrilled to be participating in the 16th Annual July 4 Autism Speaks 5K Race: "This annual event benefits Autism Speaks — a cause that is near and dear to my heart and that of my family because of its mission to raise awareness, support families and fund research for treatments and a cure for autism. Most people that know me are aware that I am the proud

mom of two amazing boys, both age 16, both doing well in different high schools, but my son, Joseph, struggles to learn new skills because of the difficult hurdles of his severe autism."

"Autism is not something kids 'grow out of' and, in fact, as they age, families coping with this disease face even greater obstacles," said Dillenburg. "A huge number of children with autism are not what you see in the movies — self-taught music and math geniuses who impress the world with their talents. A more realistic picture finds moms like me driving to therapy appointments, dealing with providers and insurance companies seeking the critical treatments and coping with behaviors and care and safety concerns. Most parents work to save for their child's college education, but parents of a child with autism face the daunting task of planning for and financing care for the rest of their child's life. The support and inspiration provided by Autism Speaks has improved the



AUTISM SPEAKS®

outlook for people and families coping with this disease. As autism rates continue to soar, it will not be long before every single American family has a son or daughter or neighbor or co-worker who is coping with autism. Research money and public awareness are the only thing that can change this trend. Autism Speaks provides education and family support and critical research dollars that

have a real chance of changing the future for everyone affected by autism. For that reason, each year, my family, along with many neighbors, friends, and business clients, drop what we are doing each summer to raise critically needed funds for Autism Speaks, and raise awareness and support for the many families coping with this disease."

To sign up for or donate to the Autism Speaks 5K/Walk, visit www.autismspeaks5K.org. Registration for adults is \$40 (\$45 on July 4) and for children \$20 (14 and under). If out-of-town, plan to run through a "Virtual Race – Race

Anywhere."

Pereles cited another important event: "Autism ID/Night Out," a safety fair held each May for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities and their families/caregivers. Spearheaded by Officer Laurie Reyes of the Montgomery County Police Department, the event provides families to have the opportunity to meet local first responders, fire rescue personnel, K-9 units, and search and rescue officers. More than 550 community members participated in the 4th annual Autism Safety Night on May 20.

"The children leave home to have a new experience, a change of scenery or maybe to do something that they are not permitted to do. We treat it as an emergency and immediately send out Search and Rescue, Fire Rescue and police officer teams to search," Reyes said.

"We originally started this evening because we wanted to bring together the Montgomery County Police Department, Pathfinders for Autism, the Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County, and Autism Speaks National Capital Area. We also wanted to include all the Safety Units and, most importantly those who have autism, intellectual disabilities and their families. We plan to continue holding this important event every May."

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PEOPLE

Heading to Spain for Unusual Family Outing

Working in a vacation spot.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

This summer, one lucky Potomac family will have the opportunity to travel to northern Spain to hike, and explore, practice their Spanish, enjoy the mountains and assimilate into the culture. However, it's not all about pleasure

Brian and Nora Ribera will travel with their dad, Michael, a local endodontist, to the village of Lárrede, Spain, located in the Pyrenees. They are volunteering to help with the inaugural year of the Viñas de Lárrede Hotel, owned by Michael's sister. Although they would love to be relaxing in the luxurious setting, swimming in the pool, and partaking of the activities and spa treatments, the three will be waiting tables, checking in clients, making beds, delivering late-night snacks, maintaining and improving the web-site and more — anything and everything needed to make the hotel guests feel special and cared-for. While they are performing their duties, Nora and Brian Ribera will also be improving their Spanish and all three will enjoy the scenery and learning the ins and outs of the hospitality industry.

"The hotel is a 17-bedroom 'Chalet' located at the door of the Pyrenees, in a 10th century town named Lárrede (province of Huesca, Spain)," Michael Ribera said. "It has a restaurant, spa, an outdoor swimming pool, and a garden where all kinds of fruits and vegetables are grown and used by the hotel's chef to prepare the daily delicious meals. My sister, Adriana, and her husband Joaquín purchased the land and built the Chalet from foundation to roof. Skiing is huge there, being the main activity in the winter/cold months. Kayaking, rappelling, horseback riding, mountain excursions, cycling, golfing ('Las Margas Golf and Country Club'), etc, are among the activities to enjoy during the warmer months; all located



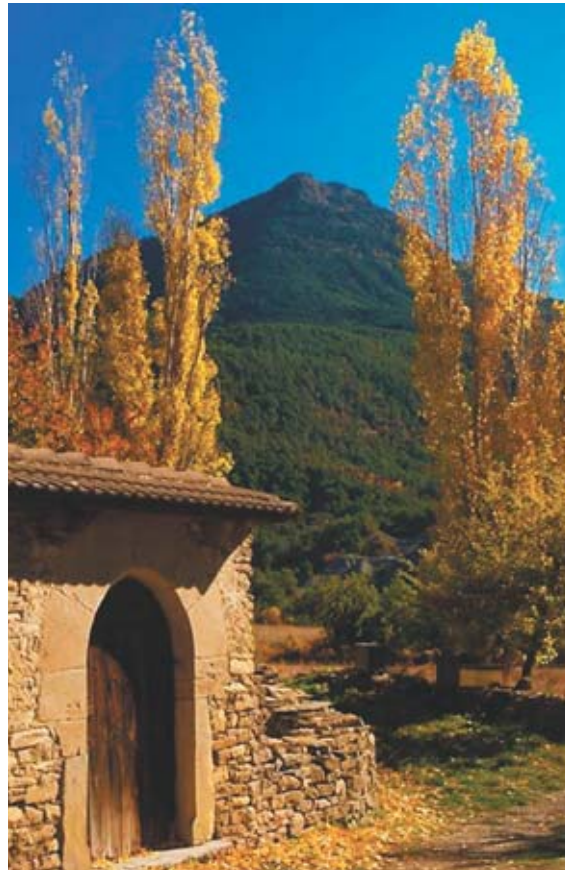
Brian, Nora and Michael Ribera

right there. The Chalet is basically sandwiched between a look-out tower at the top of the hill and a 10th century Romanesque church (named San Pedro de Lárrede), within a three minute walk from the hotel." Michael and Brian Ribera will spend several weeks helping — but Nora Ribera is committed to spending the entire summer.

"I'm super excited to spend my summer there," said 16-year-old Nora Ribera, a rising senior at Bullis. "I want to attend college at the University of Madrid so I'm hoping to perfect my Spanish and spend time with the Spanish side of the family. I will also be the go-to person when English-speaking guests come."

Michael Ribera is looking forward to experiencing activities totally different from his duties as an endodontist. "I will be helping in any capacity I can," he said. "I might park cars, show guests to their rooms, bring them fresh towels — who knows? It's such a change of pace for me and I truly love the culture and the mountains. I am really excited because I will be back in Spain where I grew up. I think I will be in heaven — breathing fresh air, helping in the garden, enjoying organic fruits and vegetables — and the fresh air and amazing views."

"When one arrives at the 10th century village named Lárrede, adjacent to the Gállego



A view from the village of Lárrede, Spain, located in the Pyrenees.

River and at the door of the Aragonese Pyrenees, one becomes instantly captivated by it," said Michael's sister, Adriana. "The hotel is located just 24 km (15 miles) away from the largest ski resort in Spain, named Formigal-Panticosa. It's a gorgeous 4-season resort.

"In this beautiful place — once a vineyard plantation — we conceived of the idea of the Viñas de Lárrede Hotel.

We built the structure with a facade of stone reclaimed from an old ruined house. We also used larch wood from Siberia, a very cold-tolerant tree, capable of surviving winter temperatures below 50°C (-58°F). The large windows allow the enjoyment of the views of the valley, comprising peaks of over 3,000 meters (over 9,800 feet)."

To learn more about the hotel, view www.hotelvinasdelarrede.es.



The Viñas de Lárrede Hotel



A guest room inside the Viñas de Lárrede Hotel.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

EDITORIAL

PHONE: 703-778-9415

E-MAIL:

almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITOR

Steven Mauren, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Jon Roetman
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Susan Belford, Carole Dell,
Cissy Finley Grant, Carole Fonger,
Colleen Healy, Kenny Lourie,
Ken Moore

Contributing Photographers

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

ADVERTISING

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Display Advertising:
Kenny Lourie 301-325-1398
klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith 703-778-9411

Classified Advertising
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

National Sales & real Estate
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President
703-549-0004
jverson@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friends of Clara Barton

Community Center is looking for volunteers to serve on its board and to volunteer at FCBCC events. FCBCC assists the community center staff in designing and implementing the center's programs, promotes the community center's role as a meeting place for teens, adults and senior citizens in the local community, supplements the community center's budget through community-wide fundraising and promotes community-wide awareness of and participation in the center's educational, recreational and social programs. Call FCBCC at 240-777-4910.

MEMBERSHIP DEAL

Potomac Community Village offers a new membership policy. Anyone who joins after April 14 will have their new membership carry over to PCV's next membership year, which starts July 1, and ends June 20, 2017. Thus the 12-month membership period becomes one of 14-plus months, at no additional cost. Anyone wishing to learn more or to join PCV using this special program may submit a membership form at www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org, or contact PCV at 240-221-1370 or info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Birth certificates for those born in Maryland are available from the state to any individual born in the State of Maryland. Beginning June 1, they also will be issued at the Dennis Avenue Health Center, 200 Dennis Ave., Silver Spring to requestors born after 1939. Those born before 1940 should contact the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Division of Vital Records at 410-764-3063. The fee to obtain a birth certificate is \$32, payable by cash, credit card, check or money order. Applications are available online. Call 240-773-1207 or 311 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

Coffee and Conversation. 10-11:30 a.m. at Corner Bakery, 10327 Westlake Drive, Bethesda. Potomac Community Village hosts a Coffee and Conversation for neighbors to get acquainted and share ideas. Free to attend. Call 240-221-1370 or email info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org. Visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

Presidential Campaigns Before Radio, Television and the Internet. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. The use of radio did not become significant until the 1928 presidential campaign and television in the 1952 campaign. The Internet first attained considerable influence in the 2008 campaign. This class will discuss the techniques the political parties utilized to generate support among the electorate for their respective presidential nominees from 1824 through 1924. \$15. Class 825. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org. **Smartphones — Beyond the**

Basics. 4-5:30 p.m. at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. Today's smartphones are changing the way we live. This is a beginner's course designed to help get the most out of a smartphone. \$15. Class 794. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org.

Montgomery County Civic

Federation Awards. 6:30-9 p.m. at McGinty's Pub, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring. The Montgomery County Civic Federation will hold its annual awards celebration. County officials will present the Star Cup, Sentinel Award and Wayne Goldstein Award to outstanding civic leaders. Find ticket information at www.montgomerycivic.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 13

Empires and States in East Asia.

10:30 a.m.-noon at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. There are over three thousand years of recorded history in China. This class will help to make sense of this enduring political tradition by examining the great states and empires of the East Asian mainland. \$15. Class 827. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org.

JFK's Camelot, Fifty Years after

Dallas. 1:30-3 p.m. at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. This lecture centers on the Creation of the Camelot myth, Jacqueline Kennedy's historical gift to her slain husband and what new lights the last 50 years of memoirs and revelations have cast on that beloved myth. \$15. Class 813. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 14

Montgomery County's Rosenwald

Schools. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. Montgomery County once had 17 Rosenwald schools-including one in Bethesda (now demolished). An amazing chapter during the days of school segregation, they were public schools for African American students built all over the South in the early 1900s through a collaboration between Booker T. Washington and Sears president Julius Rosenwald \$15. Class 826. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Pre-Raphaelites: Dante Gabriel

Raphaelites. 1-2:30 p.m. at Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Second Floor, Bethesda. This lecture focuses on one of the most innovative and romantic groups of British artists, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (founded in 1848) renowned for the beauty of their subject matter, brilliant colors, and at times scandalous personal lives. \$15. Class 784. Call 301-740-6150, email info@liveandlearnbethesda.org or visit www.liveandlearnbethesda.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 8-10:30 a.m. at 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood. The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center will hold rabies vaccination clinics through September. The vaccinations are free with the purchase of a Montgomery County Pet License. Maryland law requires that all dogs,

cats, and ferrets over the age of 4 months be continuously vaccinated against rabies. Also by law and beginning at that age, all dogs and cats must have a Montgomery County Pet License. Bring proof of previous rabies vaccinations. All dogs must be leashed and cats and ferrets must be in carriers or otherwise contained. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 30

Loss of a Sibling Grief Workshop.

6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. For anyone who has experienced the loss

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

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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

Call for Submissions: GEN-Y 3.0.

VisArts welcomes artists ages 17-27 in the area to submit their application for review for Gen-Y 3.0, an exhibit focusing on young, emerging artists. \$10 application fee. Email Frank McCauley at fmccauley@visartscenter.org.

Home Garden Market. Saturdays in June, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at North Bethesda Market, 11351 Woodglen Drive, North Bethesda. North Bethesda Market will host its first Home and Garden Market, featuring plants and home good. Free. Visit www.northbethesdamarket.com for more.

Bethesda Painting Awards

Exhibition. Through June 25, 12-6 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E. Free. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

Thursday Evening Concerts.

Thursdays through July, 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park, 7800 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda. The concerts offer a diverse range of music including rock, funk, jazz, swing, and reggae. Free. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

“Five: New Voices at Waverly.”

Through July 2, 12-6 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. This exhibit features fused glass, collage, photography, metal and clay sculpture. Free. Call 301-951-9441 for more.

Brad Blair: “Future Unknown.”

Through July 10, gallery hours at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Brad Blair creates detailed sculptural monstrosities that allude to the issues of genetic engineering and biotechnology unfolding in today’s world. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Canal Boat Excursions.

April-Oct., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Go on a 19th-century mule-drawn canal boat excursion. Hear tales of what life was like for the families who lived and worked on the canal. Tickets are \$8 for adults (ages 16-61), \$6 for seniors (ages 62+), and \$5 for children (ages 4-15). Call 301-767-3714 for more.

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.

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. 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 rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me.

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.

JUNE 9-19

“HMS Pinafore.”

8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday 2 p.m. Sunday at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre–Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. In one of Gilbert & Sullivan’s most popular operettas, Captain Corcoran makes grand plans for his daughter, Josephine, to marry Sir Joseph. Tickets are \$28, \$24 for seniors, \$20 for students. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

“A Cabaret, Say it With Music.”

5:30 p.m. at Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 S. Glen Road. Washington Vocal Artists and Combo present selections from



Left: Jill Tanenbaum works with fused glass, below: Kate Radi is a photographer.



Diverse Media at Waverly Gallery Through July 2

Five artists will display their work at Waverly Street Gallery June 7-July 2. The opening reception will be on Friday, June 10, 6-9 p.m. An Artist’s Talk will be held on Saturday June 18 at 1 p.m. All events are free to attend. The gallery is located at 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

classical to pop. Tickets are \$15. Call 301-299-9383 for more.

“Stages: Confessions of a Theatre Junkie.”

6 p.m. at Margery’s Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Vicki Ryan performs. Admission is free, food and drinks available for purchase. Visit www.popovers.com for more.

Opening Reception: “Five: New Voices at Waverly.”

6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Celebrate the exhibit featuring five new artists, each working in fused glass, collage, photography, metal and clay sculpture. Free. Call 301-951-9441 for more.

JUNE 10-JULY 10

Art Exhibit: Pat Alexander.

Gallery hours at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Alexander creates an installation of pigmented cast-paper rocks and boulders, cast shadow and small abstract paintings inspired by landscapes in Newfoundland, Canada, Vedauwoo, Wyoming and Turkey. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Rummage Sale.

8 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Mark Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda. Furniture, clothes, books, housewares, children’s items, collectibles and more. Free to attend. Visit www.stmarkoca.org for more.

Celebrate Mama.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Rockville Town Square, 30 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Featuring live entertainment, giveaways, a vendor marketplace, and more. Free. Visit www.bermanevents.com/celebratemama.

JUNE 11-JULY 31

“Turning the Page: Children’s Book Illustrations.”

Gallery hours at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. In

addition to illustrations, the exhibition explores book design, binding, and building in a true celebration of all things picture book. Free. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Arthur Downey’s “The Cold War: Law, Lawyers, Spies, and Crises.”

7-9 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Local author Arthur Downey discusses his newly released book. Free. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

Opening Reception: Turning the Page.

7 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. In addition to illustrations, the exhibition explores book design, binding, and building in a true celebration of all things picture book. Free. Visit www.strathmore.org

FRIDAY/JUNE 17

Opening Reception and Artist Talks.

7-9 p.m. at VisArts Gallery, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Brad Blair creates detailed sculptural monstrosities that allude to the issues of genetic engineering and biotechnology in today’s world. Pat Alexander creates an installation of pigmented cast-paper rocks and boulders, cast shadow and small abstract paintings inspired by landscapes in Newfoundland, Canada, Vedauwoo, Wyoming and Turkey. These artists will be available to discuss their art along with others. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

“Turning the Page” Children’s Art Talk & Tour.

10:15 a.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701

Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. In addition to illustrations, the exhibition explores book design, binding, and building in a celebration of all things picture book. Children take part in an educational guided tour of the exhibition followed by a hands-on art activity. Tickets are \$5, free for accompanying adult. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

“Turning the Page” Curator’s Tour.

1 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Adults enjoy a guided tour of the current collection, an exploration of children’s book illustration. The tour will delve into technique and history of the artists and works. Free. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

Artists Talk: “Five: New Voices at Waverly.”

6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artists Jill Tanenbaum, Wanjin Kim, Ronnie Spiewak, Kate Radi, and Cristian Ianulescu discuss their work. Each artist works in their own medium. Free. Call 301-951-9441 for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 18-19

Good Old Days at Great Falls.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Annual festival showcasing everyday life along the Potomac including lawn games, period competitions, and heritage music. Free, with entrance fee (\$10 per vehicle, \$5 per person). Visit www.nps.gov/choh for more.

JUNE 18-JULY 17

Grace E. Peterson: “Explorations.”

Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6 p.m. at Park View Gallery – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Grace Peterson investigates new ways of using water-based pigments, either alone or with various mediums to provide textures that give depth to her work. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

A Polymer Palette: Art and Craft in Polymer Clay. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6 p.m. at Stone Tower Gallery – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. This show is a compilation of artists who use polymer clay in different ways, including wall hangings, jewelry, and sculptures. Selected artists present work in polymer alone, as well as in combination with other media. Free. Visit www.glenechpark.org for more.

Synesthetica: Music Inspired Wearable Art. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6 p.m. at Popcorn Gallery – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The exhibition features works from resident artist and silversmith Blair Anderson. Anderson explores the visuals triggered by works of music to create this collection. Multiple genres are tested. Hear the music that inspires each piece while viewing Blair's interpretation in a wearable result. Free. Visit www.glenechpark.org for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 20

Summer Movie Bash. 2-6 p.m. at Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center, 7700 Scotland Drive, Potomac. Enjoy the movie "Hotel Transylvania" with popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones, games, arts and crafts. Free. Call 240-777-8075 for more.

JUNE 20-26

Quicken Loans National Golf Tournament. Various times at Congressional Country Club, 8500 River Road, Bethesda. The Quicken Loans National is a PGA tour golf tournament hosted by Tiger Woods. Tickets start at \$415. Visit www.qlnational.com for more.

www.qlnational.com for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

Build & Learn with Lego. 4 p.m. at Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road. Blocks supplies. Free. Call 240-777-0970 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 23

Juggling Hoffmans. 2-3 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Free. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

"Eating and Exercising for Vitality." 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Bringing their combined education, expertise and experience in the fields of nutrition and exercise to Potomac residents, Jessica and David Murgueytio are the featured speakers at Potomac Community Village's June meeting. Free. Visit www.potomaccommunityvillage.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Judith Hill. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Soulful Singer-Songwriter performs. Tickets are \$40-45. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com for more.

JUNE 24-JULY 17

"Moxie: A Happenstance Vaudeville." Various times at Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda. This show will feature live music and traditional vaudeville performances. Tickets are

\$20 for adults, \$10 for kids. Visit www.roundhousetheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Video Games Music: Live in Concert. 7 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre-Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Celebrate video game music with WMGSO, a community orchestra and choir. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 25-26

Heritage Days Weekend. 12-4 p.m. throughout Montgomery County. Programs include live musical performances, walking and biking history tours, art exhibits, games and crafts for children, history exhibits and demonstrations. Visit www.heritagemontgomery.org for a full schedule and admission prices.

Exhibit: "Students of Walt Bartman." 12-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Yellow Barn Gallery presents artwork from the students of Walt Bartman. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

Swains Lockhouse Open House. 1-4 p.m. at C&O Canal National Park, 1850 Dual Highway. Swains Lockhouse is undergoing a comprehensive rehabilitation and will be joining the award-winning Canal Quarters program. The June Open House will be the first opportunity for the public to look inside and see and hear first-hand about the preservation process. Free. Visit www.canaltrust.org for more.

"The Little Mermaid." 1:30 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. The Washington Ballet collaborates with Imagination Stage for The Hans Christian Andersen classic. Tickets are \$30. Visit www.washingtonballet.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Panel Discussion: "Turning the Page." 1:30 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Learn the history of children's illustrations and how illustration styles have reflected their cultural milieu over the centuries. Children ages 6-9 are invited to participate in a writing and illustration workshop. Free. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

Best of Serenade! 3-5 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda. Attend the conclusion of the 6th Annual Serenade! Choral Festival. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit www.strathmore.org/events-and-tickets/serenade-2016.

"The Wizard of Songs." 7 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park- Pavilion A 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Potomac Harmony Chorus presents a show sung barbershop-style. Free. Visit www.potomacharmony.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 3

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. lesson, 3:30-6 p.m. dance at Spanish Ballroom – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Let's Play Three! plays a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couples dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.waltztimedances.org for more.

MONDAY/JULY 4

Autism Speaks Run/Walk. 8 a.m. at Potomac Library Parking Lot, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Participate in the 5K or 1 Mile walk. Registration is \$35 for adults, \$20 for children. Visit www.autismspeaks5k.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

Senior Movie at Montgomery: "The African Queen." 10 a.m. at Montgomery Mall, 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Free. Call 240-773-6728 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 15-16

URBNmarket. 3:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday at Park Potomac Market, 12500 Park Potomac Ave., Potomac. Shoppers will find local vendors selling items including home decor, pet accessories, jewelry, toys, clothes, bath and beauty products, and gourmet food. There will be a beer garden Friday and live music both days. Free. Visit www.urbanmarket.com for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. lesson, 3:30-6 p.m. dance at The Bumper Car Pavilion – Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Addison Bleufonte plays a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couples dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.waltztimedances.org for more.

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PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



3 23 Stanmore Court — \$2,800,000



2 9912 Bencross Drive — \$2,800,000



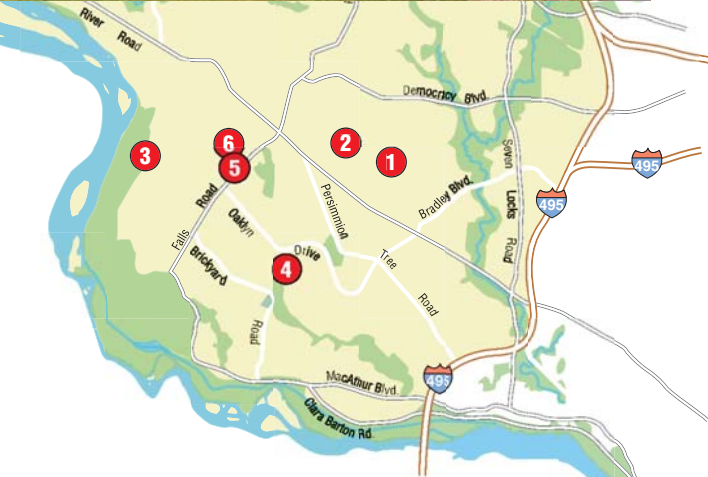
6 10600 Burbank Drive — \$1,830,000



1 9704 Spicewood Lane — \$3,020,000



5 10701 Stanmore Drive — \$2,125,000



4 10020 Avenel Farm Drive — \$2,350,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC ..	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 9704 SPICEWOOD LN	6	..	6	..	2	POTOMAC	... \$3,020,000	.... Detached	.... 2.59	..... 20854	..... FALCONHURST	..... 04/15/16
2 9912 BENCROSS DR	5	..	6	..	2	POTOMAC	... \$2,800,000	.... Detached	.... 2.15	..... 20854	..... FALCONHURST	..... 04/08/16
3 23 STANMORE CT	5	..	6	..	3	POTOMAC	... \$2,494,988	.... Detached	.... 2.00	..... 20854	..... GREAT FALLS ESTATES	..... 04/11/16
4 10020 AVENEL FARM DR	6	..	5	..	2	POTOMAC	... \$2,350,000	.... Detached	.... 0.47	..... 20854	..... AVENEL	..... 04/15/16
5 10701 STANMORE DR	6	..	5	..	1	POTOMAC	... \$2,125,000	.... Detached	.... 2.36	..... 20854	..... GREAT FALLS ESTATES	..... 04/25/16
6 10600 BURBANK DR	6	..	5	..	2	POTOMAC	... \$1,830,000 Detached 2.25 20854 POTOMAC MANOR 04/22/16

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Creating Low Maintenance Outdoor Oasis this Summer

Simple ideas for enjoying outdoor space and reducing yard work.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Warm weather and sunshine offer opportunities for spending time relaxing and entertaining outside. Local landscaping gurus offer suggestions for creating a low maintenance backyard that will allow for more time spent enjoying it and less time taking care of it.

Building an outdoor room or patio means less foliage to maintain and more space for entertaining. "It's low maintenance because if you have a patio with pavers you only need to spend a half hour once or twice a year maintaining it," said David Watkins, general manager of Merrifield Garden Center in Falls Church, Va.

"You need to sweep more sand in and take care of any weeds that come up between the stones. When the ground freezes and thaws, you'll get movement in the ground,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

Drought-tolerant plants are aesthetically appealing and require little care once established.

which might cause two or three of the pavers to heave up. All you'll need to do in that case is pull up, break up and smooth out the base material and lay them back down."

When creating a patio, using a stone that will stand up to the elements and ensure wear and tear is a key consideration. "Bluestone is durable and more high-end, but it's going to last forever," said Dianne Duvall of American Plant in Bethesda. "Another option is manufactured paving blocks that will mimic the look of cobblestone or brick and create a uniform look. It's important that it be permeable so that water will soak through rather than pooling up or running off."

Furniture and accessories made of high quality, durable fabrics and other materials can add to the low maintenance appeal of patios and outdoor rooms, says Philip Smith, design consultant with Offenbachers, an outdoor fur

SEE OASIS, PAGE 13

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The Prince (Marshall Harner) fits the shoe on Cinderella (Jackie Nasar) while her Stepmother (Evyenia Zoulis) and sisters (Matina Zambetis and Elizabeth Edwards) watch.



Little Red Riding Hood (Kara Grossier) relieves the Baker (Navin Durbhakula) and his wife (Leah Stein) of their bread.

Theater Returns to Hoover New stars take middle school's stage.

BY AARON HWANG
THE ALMANAC

After a year in uncertain woods, theater returns to the stage of Herbert Hoover Middle School. Under the direction of Patricia Grossier, a Hoover parent with previous theatrical experience, 49 students last weekend presented "Into the Woods Jr.," an adaptation of the Tony Award-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. The musical twists together Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, the Baker and his wife, and many others familiar fairy-tale characters, as they all pursue their wishes in the same mysterious woods.

Following the retirement of long-time drama teacher and director Pamela Bilik, it was unclear which direction the Hoover mainstage would go. "The students missed it, and the community missed it," Principal Dr. Yong-Mi Kim said, "And we wanted to revive it in a very big way." To this end Kim brought together Patricia Grossier as the play's director, and 7th grade English teacher Karla Yager as her producer.

"It really is an important aspect of their education," Grossier said, "These kids learn things about music, about theater, about stage design, about stage crew, and about teamwork, building something together."

Parents and students alike united to rebuild the institution from the ground up. "Part of what makes it great, is we've got a lot of kids you wouldn't expect to see in a



The Narrator (Olivia Quinn) describes the Witch's (Alexandra Alekseyeva) transformation, while Principal Dr. Yong-Mi Kim cameos in the background.

play," said 8th grader Brandon Schoenfeld, "It's not just the stereotypical theater kid personalities."

Olivia Meshanko (who played Jack's cow, Milky White) explained that what one sees on stage is just the tip of the iceberg, as those two hours have been built up to with months and months of long rehearsals. "All that time is bonding," Olivia said, "we got so close with each other."

The students are doing plenty behind the scenes too, as 6th grader Elizabeth Qiu provided the cast with musical guidance as the assistant musical director, while Brandon

captained the stage crew, a team of students who prepare costumes, transitions, and anything else that might go wrong.

"It's a collaborative effort" said Leah Stein (who played the Baker's Wife), "It was really fun because all the grades work together, doing acting and doing backstage work."

Parents pitched in too as set designers, painters, carpenters, publicity directors, and more. "It's a community event," Grossier said, "One that not only benefits the community, but is developed by the community." Coming out en masse at an interest meet-

ing, parents pooled emails and provided Grossier with a trove of talent and passion, necessary to make the show a reality.

"It was an enjoyable experience," said parent Jim Vagonis, who captained set construction alongside Andrew Huck, "Having all the parents here to help definitely helped me. Because it wasn't me, or anybody alone who built any one thing. It takes a group."

With playful cameos by a host of fairy tale characters like Snow White, the Three Little Pigs, the Three Blind Mice, and even one by the principal herself, audience and cast members alike seem to agree the musical drips with fun. "It brings you to the spirit of Disney," said Faramarz Mokhtari (whose son Arian appeared as Hansel). And Navin Durbhakula, who plays the Baker said, "There's so many stories being brought together, it really just makes it a magical show."

With one successful performance under their belts, Kim continues to look forward. "Our kids always rise to the challenge academically, but I think there's more to school than just the academic piece." She envisions revivifying the drama program in-school and unifying it with the extracurricular musical to help increase participation.

And while there is no official word yet on whether Grossier and Yager will continue to head the musicals of the future, both sounded eager and ready for a repeat performance. "I would like to do it again," Yager said, "I think it's incredible."

PHOTOS BY SAM NASAR

Creating Outdoor Oasis

FROM PAGE 11

niture and accessories company with showrooms in Springfield and Fairfax, Va. "Sky's the limit when it comes to color ... the season is full of vibrant pops and soothing undertones sure to please every style and preference," he said. "It is proving to be a very organic and lovely extension of the season's interior design trends."

When selecting low-maintenance plants, says Watkins, look for woody ornamental varieties such as boxwoods, hydrangeas and azaleas, which are aesthetically appealing and require little care once established.

"You'll fertilize them in the fall and prune them after they finish blooming, and for most of these plants that's all the maintenance you'll need to do," Watkins said. "Once a plant is established you'll probably only need to water them two or three times throughout summer, during at time when we are without rain for a couple of weeks."

"If you have patios, you have to have potted plants, it's like putting curtains on a window."

— David Watkins,
Merrifield Garden Center

Coneflowers and other native plants require little care, while adding potted plants to a landscape adds variety while preserving a yard's low-maintenance appeal. "If you have patios, you have to have potted plants, it's like putting curtains on a window," said Watkins.

He recommends adding water-absorbing crystals called Moisture Miser, which retain and then release water when the soil becomes dry. "It helps potted plants retain moisture because as the soil dries up, it releases moisture and can cut your watering down tremendously," said Watkins.

Adding hostas or other ground cover plants can decrease pesky weeds and cut down on yard work.

"Try to plant with landscaping that covers the whole plant bed," said Watkins. "If you layer a ground covering plant it adds texture, color and height difference and fills in a plant bed. After 2-3 years the whole ground is covered, and the amount of mulch that you need to spend on the yard each year becomes less and less."



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Bogged Down To This-Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Am I supposed to ignore, totally, the fact that I have cancer? I think I've made a seven-plus year survival history of doing so, mostly. But being indifferent, sort of, to a killer disease doesn't seem particularly prudent. Granted, it has been a way I've been able to assimilate the stress and rationalize the anxiety, but as an overall strategy? I can't say I'd recommend it, but...so far, so good.

Occasionally, I do wonder however, if being more engaged and more in tune – with my body, my disease, my life expectancy, would help? I mean, not being depressed by my medical reality can't be the answer to a prayer, can it? It seems too easy, too irresponsible; to be inattentive to the very thing that might actually be killing me. Yet I haven't really stumbled. Cancer isn't for sissies, but neither can it be for a type "A", high intensity, 24/7 fighter. There's a part of me, not large enough I'll admit, that feels I should live my life – without being intentionally self-destructive – and not let the cancer control me, but rather that I control it/my life and let the chips fall where they may. There's something to be said for freedom/quality of life, but is that simply wishful thinking, and naïve wishful thinking at that? Or is attempting to live as normally as possible a key to my success?

I'm sure I'll never know. It's likely very difficult to measure in a clinical study/trial, the effects of such realities on tumors, and ultimately, patient outcomes. And neither is it possible to inject patients with a magic potion which changes their nature and in turn affects their survival. Talk about variables. Even the variable would have variables. Nevertheless, treatment has to consider mind, body and spirit, doesn't it? Allowing for and/or accommodating one without considering the other two would seem to presume that the whole is not the sum of its parts. Who's to say that keeping my spirits up is not as important as keeping my creatinine levels (as but one example) down? After all, medicine is science, not arithmetic. The calculations are not always correct. Sometimes, medical outcomes are not what's "prognosed"/anticipated. I'm living proof of that. Ergo, is my survival based on my medical treatment/chemotherapy or my DNA, or was it simply my attitude? To not factor in all possibilities and plan accordingly seems irresponsible, almost.

Perhaps my attitude, my occasional indifference, my lack of obsession with my own outcome seems reasonable in light of my having survived for so many years vs the fact that so many others have succumbed to this terrible disease. Or maybe it's just blind, stupid, random luck (like the blind squirrel finding an acorn, as the old saying goes) and my positive attitude, sense of humor and non-preoccupation with my medical circumstances has had nothing to do with any of it?

Either way, there's no point in discussing it, really. If I want to continue living, I have to take the good with the bad – and vice versa, and not worry too much about things I can't control and about personality traits I don't possess.

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

SCHOOLS

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

Helene Emily Katz, of Potomac, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in graphic communications from Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.).

Muriel Enders, Aswini Cherukuri, and **Alexandra Tauberman**, all of Potomac, were named to the University of Vermont (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Enders is an animal sciences major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Cherukuri is a wildlife and fisheries Biology major in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Tauberman is a forestry major in the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

Doug Schultz, of Potomac, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Grove City College (Grove City, Pa.). Schultz is a 2012 graduate of Ad Fontes Academy and is the son of Janice and Gary Schultz from Potomac.

Jennifer Finley, of Potomac, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

Sathya Ram, of Potomac, graduated from Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in design art.

Amanda N. Corwin, of Potomac, graduated from Colby College (Waterville, Maine). She attended Potomac School and is the daughter of Erik and Manal Corwin of Potomac. Corwin majored in biology with a neuroscience concentration.

Thomas Oggier, of Potomac, has been named to the dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University (Delaware, Ohio) for the 2016 spring semester.

Janie Jacobs, of Potomac, has been named to the James Madison University dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Jacobs is majoring in communication sciences and disorders.

George Wu and **Timothy Zhou**, both of Potomac, have been awarded the National Merit University of Maryland Scholarship. George, a student at Thomas Sprigg Wootton High School, plans to pursue a career in business. Timothy, a student at Montgomery Blair High School, is working towards a career in computer science.

The following Potomac students were named to the dean's list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.) for the spring 2016 semester: **Alexa Goldman, Madeline Melch, Crispin Muessle, Kimberley Nidah, Caroline Slowinski, and William Szamoszegi**.

Daniel Ricci, of Potomac, has been named to the Lebanon Valley College (Annville, Pa.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Ricci, a graduate of Winston Churchill High School, is pursuing a bachelor of arts in politics.

Jennifer Finley, of Potomac, has been named to the Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

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SPORTS

Big Train to Face River Dogs in Home Opener

The Bethesda Big Train opened the 2016 season this week and is scheduled to play its first home game at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9 against the Vienna River Dogs at Shirley Povich Field.

The Big Train in 2015 finished with the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League's best regular-season record for the third consecutive year, but the Baltimore Redbirds took care of business in the postseason, winning their fourth consecutive league championship.

The league uses a two-division format, with Bethesda in the South division. The Big Train will compete against the Vienna River Dogs, Herndon Braves, Alexandria Aces and D.C. Grays for the division crown.

Bethesda opened the season on the road against the D.C. Grays on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Big Train will travel to take on the Herndon Braves at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8.

Bethesda is scheduled to face Baltimore on the road on Friday, Gaithersburg at home on Saturday and Rockville on the road on Sunday. The Big Train will then have a seven-game homestand, culminated by a doubleheader against Vienna on Sunday, June 19.

Wootton Relay Takes Third at State Meet

The Wootton girls' 4x800 relay team placed third during 4A state meet, held May 26-28 at Morgan State University.

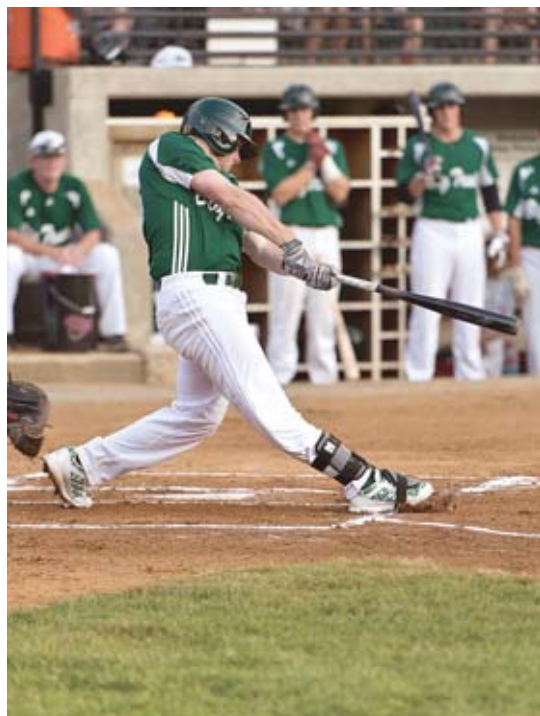


PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Mississippi State's Cody Brown, seen last season, will return for the Bethesda Big Train in 2016.

The team of senior Grace Dellapa, freshman Jessica Trzeciak, freshman Erin Chelf and senior Rachel Maizel finished with a time of 9:41.17.

Wootton senior Colin Sybing placed fourth in the boys' 1600 with a time of 4:24.65 and also finished fourth in the 3200 with a time of 9:36.09.

Wootton finished 23rd in the girls' team standings with a score of 6. Churchill (3.5) finished 28th.

Churchill took 19th in the boys' team competition with a score of 14. Wootton was 22nd with 10 points.

MILITARY NOTES

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

Andy Woo has received an Army

Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship to attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Baltimore, Md.). Woo is a 2014 graduate of Winston Churchill High School.

Army National Guard Pvt. **Mecardo F. Knight** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson (Columbia, S.C.) Knight is the son of Rosalee Knight of Potomac.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

At KEEN Sports Festival

KEEN athletes and volunteers participate in a tug of war during the KEEN Greater DC Sports Festival on Sunday, June 5 at Avenel Park. It was an afternoon of activities and games for 400 children and young adults with disabilities, their volunteer coaches, family members and supporters.

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

of a brother or sister. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Visit www.montgomeryhospice.org for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

Application Deadline. The Annual Amateur Photography Contest celebrates the beauty of Montgomery County and her people. Photos submitted of County locations or residents are judged on effective composition, originality, interest and relevance of the subject matter and technique. Call 240-777-7155 or email mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov to request an application. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/outreach/ for more.

TUESDAYS/JULY 5 & 12

Journaling and Grief Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. A two-session workshop that will focus on the use of journaling techniques as a way of addressing grief issues. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Visit www.montgomeryhospice.org for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 7

Drop-in Discussion about Grief and Healing. 1:30-2 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. For anyone mourning the death of a loved one. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Registration required, call 301-921-4400. Visit www.montgomeryhospice.org for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 8-10:30 a.m. at 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood. The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center will hold rabies vaccination clinics through September. The vaccinations are free with the purchase of a Montgomery County Pet License. Maryland law requires that all dogs, cats, and ferrets over the age of 4 months be continuously vaccinated

against rabies. Also by law and beginning at that age, all dogs and cats must have a Montgomery County Pet License. Bring proof of previous rabies vaccinations. All dogs must be leashed and cats and ferrets must be in carriers or otherwise contained. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices for more.

MONDAY/JULY 18

Call for Artists Deadline. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, in partnership with Arts Brookfield, has just announced the second installment of "Paint the Town," an initiative to promote more public art murals in downtown Bethesda. In an effort to beautify the area surrounding the Bethesda Metro, the mural project will focus on the plaza area and bus bay at 3 Bethesda Metro Center. Artists 18 and older from Maryland, D.C. and Virginia may apply. The winner will be awarded a \$30,000 stipend for supplies and the artist's time to complete the project by Oct. 15, 2016. Visit www.bethesda.org/bethesda/paint-town-mural-project-0 for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 19

Drop-in Discussion about Grief and Healing. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. For anyone mourning the death of a loved one. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Registration required, call 301-921-4400. Visit www.montgomeryhospice.org for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 2, 9 & 16

For Men: Getting a Handle on Grief. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. A three-session workshop for men grieving the death of a loved one. Led by male facilitators. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Registration required, call 301-921-4400. Visit www.montgomeryhospice.org for more.



Michael Zeldin, KEEN Greater DC board member; Arie Kouanijo, Washington Redskins; Mark Byamugisha, KEEN athlete, and Nick Sundberg, Redskins gather at Sunday's event. Visit www.keengreaterdc.org.

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