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During the Holidays

WELLBEING, PAGE 10

Members of the Little Falls Garden Club are assisted by C&O Canal National Historical Park staff in their holiday decorating of the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center.

NEWS

SHILLELAGHS THE TRAVEL CLUB

Celebrating
our 50th
Anniversary

Savannah for St. Patrick's Day, March 15-18.....\$1135
Includes Motorcoach from Vienna, Grosvenor Metro or McLean Metro, 3 nights hotel on Tybee Island, Daily breakfast, 3 Dinners, Sightseeing, Private seating on parade route, Complimentary wine, beer, bloody Mary's & Irish whiskey On St. Pat's Day! Call for details.

Ocean City with Branson Entertainment, March 14-17.\$899
Includes Motorcoach transportation from Vienna, McLean or Grosvenor Metros, 3 nights oceanfront hotel with daily breakfast, 3 dinners. Call for details.

Croatia Explorer, April 4-12.....\$3195
Includes air from Dulles, 7-nights hotel with daily breakfast, 5 dinners, Sightseeing, Transfers & Portage. Call for detailed itinerary.

SHILLELAGHS TRAVEL CLUB

100 East Street SE, Suite 202 • Vienna, Virginia 22180

703-242-2204 1-800-556-8646

Please visit our Web site at: www.shillelaghtravelclub.com for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

Join us for a free special event...

Thursday, Dec. 15, 6 – 8:30 pm

**Election History in Miniature:
Presidential Campaign Memorabilia**
with local historian Arthur Lappen

Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road

Pot Luck Dinner at 6, program at 7
See our website or call or email for details

Potomac Community Village

240-221-1370 info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org

www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org



Inspired Play

Potomac Library volunteer Rachael Mazzi smiles as Ana Velasquez, 10, shows her just the Lego she needed to finish her project. The library hosted a time of open Lego building on Monday.



PHOTOS BY PEGGY McEWAN/THE ALMANAC

Colby Hammer, 6, builds a Lego person to ride on his dinosaur at the library.

Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Garland, Lights, Fountains, Statuary, Centerpieces

Holiday Open House



Potomac's Premier Flower, Garden & Gift Store

9545 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

www.ppetalsp.com

We are now open on Mondays

Like us on Facebook for a free flower.



Saturday, December 10th 11-5

Wine tasting • Gourmet Chocolates

Santa visits from 12-3

Get your pictures taken with Santa

Bring your pet for a photo with Santa

Representative from S4 lighting will be here to help with your holiday lighting questions

Hourly drawings for prizes/services



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- Artificial Trees
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- All Poinsettias
- Chanukah Gifts



Come to us for all your holiday decorating and gifts. We have fresh cut & artificial trees, wreaths.



Gift Gallery, Garden Supplies, Tools, Mulch, Soil, Spray, House Plants



Little Falls Garden Club members Sandy Lavery, Suzanne Eastman, Debbie Beatley and Regina Kunkle outside the Great Falls Tavern.



The Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at the C&O Canal National Historical Park after the decorating work of the Little Falls Garden Club.

'Tis the Season For Garden Club's Tradition

Members of the Little Falls Garden Club decorated the Great Falls Tavern for the holidays.

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS
THE ALMANAC



Local Artists, Crafters Share Their Stories

Annual craft show benefits Clara Barton Community Center.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Some of the community's most creative people participated in the 10th annual Clara Barton Craft Show on Sunday, Dec. 4. The show featured 50 local artists, crafters and authors. The event featured paintings, pho-

tography, pottery, glass, jewelry, books, wood carvings, knits, carved crayons, soaps, lotions, aromatherapy oils, hair accessories, stuffed animals, children's clothes, quilts, embroidery, totes, place mats, wooden boxes, cookies, honey from hives in Bethesda,

Dale Feuer displays her handmade jewelry.

SEE ARTISTS, PAGE 11



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Cecelia Kurtz of Just Peachy brought her skin care products to the show.

OPINION

Federal Changes Are Coming

BY CAROL VAN DAM FALK
WMCCA PRESIDENT

While no one knows for certain what the priorities will be of the new administration, sweeping changes are expected at the Federal level regarding environmental protections. Therefore, we believe it is going to be more important than ever before to act locally to ensure the protection and preservation of our rivers and streams, our rustic roads and bridges, and our established neighborhoods.

The New York Times, Pro-Publica, and other media organizations have seen a surge in subscriptions in this post-election period. We hope that in that same vein, our members will recognize the importance of actively taking part in environmental watchdog organizations like

WMCCA to speak up when possible zoning violations occur in their neighborhood, and to notify their neighbors and question authority when it means protecting the character of a neighborhood or the health of a local stream, river, or piece of land. These are things that can be done and will be done if a community works together.

At the November WMCCA General Meeting, we heard from Barry Fuss, chief of Bridges and Structures for Montgomery County's Department of Transportation, on various bridge improvements underway. He identified and described four bridges on rustic roads currently being evaluated for future rehabilitation.

While the four described are safe, all bridges receive a Bridge Sufficiency Rating (BSR), ranging from Poor (0) to Very Good (100). "Structurally deficient" means an element of the bridge will soon need to be replaced and is eligible for federal matching funds. "Functionally obsolete" means an element of the bridge does not meet today's standards. The beautiful Montevideo Road Bridge and the Mouth of Monocacy Road Bridge have been identified as "structurally deficient." The Glen Road

Next Meeting

The December General Meeting meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association will be held Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7:15 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center.

Kevin Brandt, the featured speaker, is superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. He will discuss the launch of a multi-year restoration of the first mile of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal. The goal is to preserve the history and charm of the area and bring back the mule-pulled canal boat rides. Phase one, which is expected to last 18 months, began on Nov. 28 and will reconstruct Lock 3 and repair Lock 4. The area around Lock 3 will be closed for the duration of the project, and the canal will be de-watered through Georgetown. Pedestrian and bicycle detours are posted to guide visitors around the construction zone. This spring, the National Park Service also plans to install a temporary dike and re-water the canal upstream from the Foundry Branch waste weir to Lock 5. The canal cannot be re-watered to its typical depth to ensure the safety of workers, but visitors will be able to canoe and kayak along this stretch of the canal.

While construction is underway, the public can offer ideas for a Comprehensive Master Plan to guide future improvements. The public is invited to come to the meeting, hear what Mr. Brandt has to say, and ask questions.

As always, the public is welcome to attend the WMCCA meetings.

If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

Bridge M-015 and a second Glen Road Bridge M-148 have been identified as "functionally obsolete."

Mr. Fuss is committed to repairing all four of these bridges while keeping their rustic character in place. That is a far cry from what happened with the Esworthy Road Bridge project some 20 years ago, which serves as a cautionary tale of horrendous results when local transportation officials ignore the pleas of the local community and refuse to listen to the advice of their own bridge structural engineers.

Oral Argument in Brandywine Senior Living at Potomac, LLC

BY SUSANNE LEE

On Nov. 4, Montgomery County Circuit Court

Judge David Boynton conducted oral argument in WMCCA's appeal of the Montgomery County Board of Appeals (BOA) decision granting Brandywine Senior Living a conditional use (special exception) to construct a 140-bed assisted living facility in a residential (RE-2) zone.

WMCCA joined with the Brickyard Coalition to appeal the decision citing violations of key provisions of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan and the Montgomery County Zoning Code regarding placement of such intensive elderly housing developments and the conduct of hearings under the new Code. Abutting property owners Ronald and Toni Paul also appealed the BOA decision. Attorney David Brown represented WMCCA in what was a lively, thoughtful debate of the critical issues. We are now awaiting a decision by Judge Boynton.

Glen Hills Sewer Policy Implementation

BY SUSANNE LEE

Following the Montgomery County Council's adoption of a new sewer policy for Glen Hills, WMCCA has been following the actions of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Council regarding its implementation.

Based on recent actions, it appears the county is doing a very good job. Recent approvals and denials of requests for new sewer service have been following the new policy, including the abutting mains policy. Under this policy, a homeowner whose lot abuts an existing sewer line may request to be hooked up to that sewer line, however this hookup is limited to that one house and cannot be used for subdivision or to provide hookups to other houses. Furthermore, requests for broader sanitary surveys have been correctly denied on the basis of what appear to be thoughtful, fact-based analyses of conditions on the sites confirming their appropriateness for long-term use of septic systems and the enormous costs of extensions (between \$920,000 and \$1,150,000 for one homeowner).

Counting Up Their Book Donation

Spearheaded by the Kindergarten class, Geneva Day School students and families collected 315 new children's books to be donated to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, more than tripling their goal of 100 books. While philanthropy is a part of Geneva Day School's culture, this year the school decided to have each class lead a specific fundraising effort.

Geneva's young students (ages 2 through Kindergarten) learned about giving to others in need as

well as math skills such as counting, sorting, and graphing.

The Geneva Kindergarten team Ann Hepburn, Debra Lieberman and Jane Mondonede will be delivering the books to help ensure a brighter holiday for the children at Stepping Stones Shelter.

Geneva Day School, located in Potomac, has been providing preschool and kindergarten programs for area children for over 50 years. See www.genevadayschool.org



Geneva Day School's Kindergarten class displays the 315 new children's books collected for Stepping Stones Shelter.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to **assist sexual assault, domestic violence victims, and their families** through the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Interviews are currently being conducted for a December 2016 training session. 240-777-1355 or www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap.

DONATE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Donations are being accepted for InterPLAY, a nonprofit organization of adult musicians who have cognitive disabilities. They are mentored by professional and amateur musicians, high school seniors, and others. The orchestra performs year-round at Strathmore (check www.interplayOrchestra.org). Whitman High School junior Lucas Polack is in charge of this project, and he in need of guitars, violas, cellos, basses, flutes, clarinets, marimbas, electronic keyboards and percussion instruments. However, all donations are greatly appreciated. Contact lucasmusicaldrive@gmail.com or 240-506-4390.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Deadline for Applications. Montgomery County is looking for applicants to fill 12 vacancies on the Commission on Aging. 240-777-2528 or www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html

BEFORE DEC. 15

U.S. Postal Service Letters from Santa

Program. The U.S. Postal Service can help with Santa replies to a child's letter — complete with a North Pole postmark. Visit about.usps.com/holidaynews/letters-from-santa.htm to learn how a child can get a letter back from Santa. "Letters from Santa" must be received no later than Dec. 15. Santa's helpers at the Postal Service will take care of the rest.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Entry Deadline. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee announce the call for nominations for the 2017 Annual Humanitarian Award and the Children of the Dream Awards presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. The annual tribute and musical celebration will be held at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. The theme for this year's program is "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 4

Entry Deadline. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District is looking for short documentary films for the the fifth annual Bethesda Film Fest, a documentary film festival on March 17-18, 2017 at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Entries can be submitted online at www.bethesda.org. For an application, visit www.bethesda.org or call 301-215-6660.

FRIDAYS/JAN. 7 AND JAN. 22


Bethesda Literary Festival, April 21-23, 2017. All essay and short story contest winners will be published on the Bethesda Urban Partnership and Bethesda Magazine websites and honored at a special event during the festival. There are separate contests for adults and high school students and monetary awards in each category. essay@bethesda.org 301-215-6660, Ext. 117.

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Deirdre Courtney, Au.D., CCC-A, F-AAA
Doctor of Audiology

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HOLIDAY 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.

NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Winter Lights Festival. Sunday-Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. at Seneca Creek Park, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg. Winter Lights is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. Additional events include Wine Under the Lights, Run Under the Lights, Leashes 'n' Lights, and, S'More Lights & Trolley Rides. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/leisure/special-events/winter-lights-festival.

DEC. 6-JAN. 7

Waverly Street Gallery Holiday Show. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway. Mix of small and large pieces including ceramics, glass, photography, multi media, prints, jewelry, collage, and sculpture. Opening night reception: December 9, 5-9 p.m. 301-951-9441

DEC. 16-JAN. 3

Jingle Bowl Partnership with Feeding America. At Bowlmor Bethesda, 5353 Westbard Ave. \$1 from every purchase of a select food and drink item will go to Feeding America. Bowlmor expects to reach up to \$50,000 worth of donation nationwide, doubling the company's efforts from 2015. www.jingle-bowl.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Rescue Squad's Holiday Dance Party. 7-11 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. Rescue Squad's Holiday Dance Party Fundraiser with The Fabulous Hubcaps is a fundraiser for the B-CC Rescue Squad. \$30 and dinner is available for an additional \$10. 240-876-1532 www.bccrs.org

BEFORE DEC. 15

U.S. Postal Service Letters from Santa Program. The U.S. Postal Service can help with Santa replies to a child's letter — complete with a North Pole postmark. Visit about.usps.com/holidaynews/letters-from-santa.htm to learn how a child can get a letter back from Santa. "Letters from Santa" must be received no later than Dec. 15. Santa's helpers at the Postal Service will take care of the rest.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 17-18

National Philharmonic Performs Handel's Messiah. Times vary at The National Philharmonic Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Hear Handel as the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform his most beloved oratorio, the Messiah. Led by Artistic Director Stan Engbretson, the concert will feature the National Philharmonic's nearly 200 voice all-volunteer Chorale, as well as soloists Danielle Talamantes (soprano); Magdalena Wór (mezzo-soprano); Matthew



Holiday Show

Waverly Street Gallery Holiday Show, through Jan. 7, features a mix of small and large pieces including ceramics, glass, photography, multi media, prints, jewelry, collage, and sculpture. Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway. The opening night reception is Friday, Dec. 9, 5-9 p.m. 301-951-9441

Smith (tenor); and Christòphen Nomura (baritone). Visit www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 21-23

Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore Concert Hall, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. CityDance students perform in Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. Visit www.strathmore.org.



THROUGH JAN. 1

Brookside's Garden of Lights. Various times at 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. There will be more than one million colorful lights shaped into hand-crafted, original art forms of flowers, animals and other natural elements. The gardens will be open every night through Jan. 1, except for Dec. 24 and 25. Admission is \$25 per car/van Sunday-Thursday and \$30

per car/van Friday-Saturday. www.montgomeryparks.org/

DEC. 26-JAN. 2

Winter Break Camp. 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at My Gym Potomac, 11325 Seven Locks Road. Three hours of nonstop fun at My Gym including themed games, crafts, gymnastics, sports and snack. \$40 members, \$45 non-members.. potomac@mygym.com 301-983-5300

CALENDAR

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

2016 Inaugural Video Art Exhibition. 5-7 p.m. at Glen Echo Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Photoworks showcases a group of female visual artists who use video to reveal the personal, the intimate and the artistic. Desires, dreams and fears are all visually explored in Photoworks' Inaugural Video Competition and Exhibition, curated by Na'ama Batya Lewin. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

Artomatic Arts Spectacular. Various times through Friday, Dec. 9 at 12435 Park Potomac Ave., Floors 5 and 6. Thursdays, noon-10 p.m.; Fridays: noon-midnight; Saturdays, noon-midnight; Sunday:, noon – 6 p.m. Free admission, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.artomatic.org.

"Dialogue: A Visual Conversation." Through Jan. 5. Gallery hours at the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. "A Visual Conversation" is a collection of visual arts – paintings, photographs, digital images and more – resulting from an unusual collaboration between professional artists in the Washington area, and artists receiving mental health treatment from Cornerstone Montgomery. Free. Visit www.Personalvisionsgallery.org.

Club Friday. Through March 17, 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road,

Potomac. Children grades 3-6 are invited to participate in games, crafts, movies, sports and more. Membership fee is \$88. Vsiit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.

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-a-longs, prizes and more. Visit rockvilletownsquare.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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Patrick is playing Dec. 9-10, 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. 301-983-8838

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.

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.

Potomac Games Group. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. The world is in the midst of a Golden Age of new board and card games for players of all ages. Free. Contact event host Randy Hoffman at 412-983-5411 or randyhoffman@gmail.com for more.

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

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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up to \$50,000 worth of donation nationwide, doubling the company's efforts from 2015. www.jingle-bowl.com

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

Bob Stout Concert. 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Sing along or dance the night away. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Rescue Squad's Holiday Dance Party. 7-11 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. Rescue Squad's Holiday Dance Party Fundraiser with The Fabulous Hubcaps is a fundraiser for the B-CC Rescue Squad. \$30 and dinner is available for an additional \$10. 240-876-1532 www.bccrs.org

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 9-10

Rob Patrick Concert. 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Tom Saputo. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. He brings the piano to life. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 15-16

Bob Stout Concert. 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Sing along or dance the night away. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com



SATURDAY/DEC. 17

National Philharmonic Performs Handel's Messiah. 8 p.m. at The National Philharmonic Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Hear Handel as the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform his most beloved oratorio, the Messiah. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Gala Art Exhibition and Auction.

7:30-10:30 p.m. at Beth Sholom Congregation, 11825 Seven Locks Road. \$20/person or \$36/couple. www.bethsholom.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

National Philharmonic Performs Handel's Messiah. 3 p.m. Times vary at The National Philharmonic

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gallery B presents its December exhibition "Cadence," featuring artwork by Damon Arhos, Kristine DeNinno and Clare Winslow. Cadence is on display through Dec. 31 at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E. Gallery hours for the show will be Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m.

Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Hear Handel as the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform his most beloved oratorio, the Messiah. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Tom Saputo. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. He brings the piano to life. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 21-23

Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore Concert Hall, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. CityDance students perform in Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. Visit www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

Bob Stout Concert. 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Sing along or dance the night away. 301-983-8838 or popovers.com

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BUSINESS

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

Trunnell Electric, which has been serving residential and commercial customers in the area for 80 years, has hired Robert Coluzzi to manage the company's commercial services division. Coluzzi has 31 years of experience with electrical contracting firms in the Baltimore-Washington area as a commercial electrician, project manager and service manager. He has a keen interest in the challenges of service and maintenance for a diverse group of clients including Westfield Malls, Hughes Medical, WTTG Fox 5 and Suburban Hospital. See www.trunnellelectric.com.

Potomac Care Pharmacy celebrated the grand opening of its new pharmacy at 12103 Darnestown Road in North Potomac by conducting a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Nov. 18. Potomac Care Pharmacy is an independent community pharmacy focused on personalized care for North Potomac, Darnestown, Rockville, Gaithersburg and surrounding communities. They offer prescription services, medical supplies, wellness programs, and selected nutrition and supplements. See www.potomaccarepharmacy.com.

Kim Farina, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced that Michael Wolland of the Weichert, Realtors' Bethesda office was recognized for outstanding performance during the month of October. As a top producer, Wolland led his sales region, which is comprised of locations throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well as surrounding areas in the District of Columbia, for resale dollar volume.

David J. Miskovich has been appointed chief executive officer of Bethesda-based ROSS Companies, a firm involved in multifamily property management, acquisition and renovation in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Miskovich, who served as ROSS's chief operating officer (COO) and chief finan-

cial officer (CFO) over the last 13 years, is the first CEO in the company's history. Scott Ross will remain president of ROSS Development & Investment, and chairman and president of ROSS Renovation & Construction, and Beth Ross will continue as president of ROSS Management Services.

Alla Shtipelman, regional sales and marketing supervisor for ROSS Management Services in Bethesda, has been sworn in as the new president of the Washington, D.C.-based Property Management Association. Her term will last one year.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Changing Face of the Luxury Home

The economic changes and housing meltdown of the last decade means that there's a whole new set of attitudes prevailing in the luxury home market. "McMansions", once en vogue, are a thing of the past. No longer is square footage the standard in defining a luxury home—today's luxury homeowner trends towards smaller spaces whose amenities are tailored to suit a variety of hobbies, individual needs, lifestyles and values, as well as placing convenience and function at a premium. Home ownership attitudes have also changed across the board. Susanne Tauke, president of New American Homes, believes "The number of luxury buyers is definitely down. Those who are in the market today are not as interested in the investment value of their homes as they were a few years ago. Today's buyers expect to live in their homes for longer periods of time and have no illusions about making a 'killing' on the resale." What does this mean for luxury home sellers? It means that the luxury home sales market is catering to a new kind of buyer—one who still asks for top-notch luxury, but in a modern way. Some important elements to consider in the modern luxury homes market include:

- Community amenities. What else does your property offer? Golf courses, marinas, community fitness centers and tennis courts are all draws for "lifestyle luxury buyers."
- Personalized Home Amenities. From bathroom spas to boat slips, bedroom kitchens to porte cocheres and garage car lifts, discriminating luxury buyers are looking for rooms that make the most of the square footage available, rather than square footage that defines the quality of luxury available in the home.
- Distinctive Styling. Luxury buyers are in the market for a one-of-a-kind living space, not a "cookie cutter" mansion like all the others on the block. Take the time to spend with an architect and make sure there's a distinctive element that sets your home apart from other like it.
- Automation. Whether it's the lights or heating/cooling system, the security system, the entertainment center or the kitchen appliances, automatic controls are making a splash in luxury home buying.
- Outdoor Space. The square footage outside is becoming as important as the square footage inside! Lanais, screened-in porches, infinity windows and walled off gardens connecting to master bedrooms are ever-increasingly popular options that give luxury homes a distinctive flair.
- Jack & Jill Bathrooms. The "his and hers" bathroom layout is not only practical, but one that is hotly trending nowadays. Oversized master bathrooms are passe; today's modern emphasis is on individual grooming areas—not to mention the settling once and for all of the argument regarding the proper way to squeeze the toothpaste tube!
- Easy Maintenance. From floors and countertops to exteriors and landscaping—less is more. Luxury homeowners today don't want have to employ a small army to maintain their home. Low-key is the ultimate luxury!
- Flexibility of Space. Can the rooms in your home do double-duty? Compound rooms, or rooms that connect to one another, are a fantastic way to make a floor plan unique, functional and luxurious. Kitchen bedrooms, libraries with attached baths or master bedrooms that open into smaller entertaining areas are all sure-fire ways to make your home's blueprint singular and memorable.
- Casual Planning. Formal dining rooms aren't advantageous to today's modern lifestyle, so why include rooms whose function is limited in your layout? The more casual and comfortable the design of the rooms appears, the more interest your buyer will have in making it their own.

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

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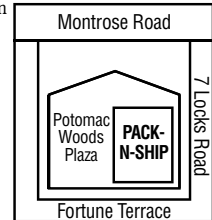
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An economist explains addition.

Bruce MacLaury has first-hand knowledge of Ingleside, its history and its remarkable growth. "I was privileged to serve on the Ingleside Board when Ingleside was built 7 years ago. So I know that high standards of performance and quality service are essential priorities within the organization. Now with the **Gardenside** addition, Ingleside at King Farm is expanding its amenities for current residents while anticipating the lifestyle needs of future generations."

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Artist rendering. Projected opening date 2019/2020

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SCHOOL NOTES

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

The **Board of Education** approved the start and end dates for the 2017-2018 school year at its Nov. 15 meeting. The school year will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, and the last day of school will be no later than Friday, June 15, 2018.

Senior forward **Alyssa Weiss**, of Potomac, earned the Amanda Walton Award at the Yale field hockey team's annual post-season banquet.

Senior punter **Chris Fraser**, of Potomac, became the first



Cornell football player to earn first team football honors four times when the Ivy League announced its all-conference teams recently. Fraser is a 2013 graduate of St. Albans School.



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WELLBEING

Preventing Underage Drinking During the Holidays

**Experts suggest holding
honest conversations.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

As Bridget O'Brien took inventory of her liquor supply recently, she checked off vanilla rum, white chocolate liqueur, peppermint schnapps, Champagne and Crème de cassis. These fanciful ingredients would be the key ingredients of the signature drinks — candy cane cocktails and kir royale — that guests had come to expect at her family's annual Christmas caroling party. This year, however, there was a new item on her checklist: keeping a close eye on her 13-year-old daughter, 16-year-old son and their friends, who would be among the guests at the family-friendly affair.

"The party begins at our house and we stroll to the end of the street singing carols," said O'Brien. "There are so many people that it would be easy for kids to wander off back to the house where they'd be alone with the alcohol. They're starting to want more independence now, so we naturally lose some of the control that we had when they were younger."

A recent study from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that increased access to alcoholic beverages for underage drinkers, combined with less oversight from distracted adults and mixed messages from parents may fuel surges in underage drinking during the holidays.

"A lot of parents would be surprised that their child would drink, but there are a lot of ways for children to get alcohol," said Allen Lomax, executive director of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, Va. "It's easy for them to get alcohol from their parents' home if it's not locked up. You have to constantly monitor parties in your home when teens are there because there's a good chance that someone, even if it's not your own child, could have alcohol."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, underage drinkers are responsible for between 10 and 20 percent of all alcohol consumed. They also make up the highest percentage of impaired drivers, and during the holiday season, two to three times more people die in alcohol-related

crashes than they do during the rest of the year. In fact, 40 percent of traffic fatalities during this period involve a driver who is under the influence of alcohol.

As a result, child safety advocates encourage parents to have frequent conversations with their children about alcohol.

"It is best to start the conversation ... long before the child might be in a situation where they partake in underage drinking," said Linda R. Cote-Reilly, Ph.D., a developmental psychologist, certified family life educator and professor at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. It's not that different from conversations about sexual activity. One big difference, though, is that the child will have observed his or her own parents' alcohol use, so parents should be prepared to ... answer pointed questions."

In fact, personal experiences, even those that are unpleasant, can be teachable moments and should not be avoided or sugarcoated, said Cote-Reilly. Inform older children of any family history of alcoholism or alcohol abuse. "Some children will have an alcoholic in the family, and parents should always address that situation honestly and in child appropriate language. For example, a child might say, 'Why did Uncle Jim fall asleep during Thanksgiving dinner?' and the parent could respond, 'Because he drank too much alcohol.'"

While parents want to curb underage drinking to keep their high school children safe and avoid legal penalties, rather than simply banning alcohol, parents "need to lay the groundwork for their children to consume alcohol responsibly in early adulthood," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. Engaging in a straightforward discussion that is void of mandates and hard-lined rules is the most effective approach in getting children to be receptive, advised Best. "I think parents do well when they engage in honest and reasoned discussions with their children about alcohol, and that these conversations be ongoing, informal and structured so their children can feel comfortable talking about what they are observing."

"It is important that teens have the means to forge a sense of self that is separate from their parents," said Best. "That is the fundamental developmental project of adolescence. When teens have productive means to forge a sense of self independent of parent(s), alcohol holds less appeal."

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Rocking the Chair

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not that I was ever a CB person (Citizens Band radio), good buddy, but right now, I am in the middle of both my four-to-five week infusion interval and my quarterly-scan interval. Far enough past that I don't have any residual food or emotional issues and not close enough that I have any anxiety about the food and emotional issues that will inevitably occur. I am between a rock and a hard place, and I mean that in an atypical way: I am under no pressure, but no illusions either, oddly enough. I am sailing smooth and riding high, mindful of my reality, but appreciative of the relative — and comparative calm with which this interval affords.

Not that I can be normal (not a cancer "diagnosee"), but this is as close to 'normal' as it gets — for me. After all, I do have a "terminal" form of cancer (non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV), not a cold, so it's not as if it will go away with time. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the particularly good times — now, while trying to manage my expectations for the bad times — later, after this honeymoon-type period ends. But since there have been many more good times than bad since I was diagnosed in late February 2009, I am not bogged down, emotionally by my circumstances, although I am somewhat compromised, physically. Nothing I can't live with, however. Actually, I'm thrilled to live with any of it, 'live' being the operative word.

At this juncture, nearly eight years post initial symptoms (New Year's Day 2009), mostly I can handle what happens to me, so far any way. But when similar stuff happens to others: death, disease, disability, dementia; I feel their pain, sort of; and suffer emotionally. It's not as if I take in all their anxiety, but in a way, the weight of it does affect me. And sometimes, I get weepy over it. As I've written before, and heard many times as well in the cancer world, negative anything is extremely harmful to cancer patients — or most other "terminal" patients I would imagine as well. From my own experience though, I certainly understand the difficult circumstances under which all us patients/survivors endure; remaining positive and being surrounded by positivity is key as is humor, encouragement, compliments, congratulations, compassion and empathy. All are crucial to our core. Healthy bodies we may no longer have, but healthy minds we have to maintain. And the stronger and healthier that mind is, the more it will help us to mind our own business and do so in a manner that will prevent the cancer from taking over those minds.

Just as The United Negro College Fund "slogans" "A mind is a terrible thing to waste;" in the cancer world, it's terrible when patients are unable to use their minds to fight their disease. In many cases, cancer is a killer, there's no doubt about that, but allowing negative emotions to take over is really unhelpful. Accentuating the positive (like the subject of this column) and minimizing the negative has to be the order of the day — and the night, too. You have to find the good or the funny and embrace it, exaggerate it, extend it, elongate it, and reinforce it. Anything to make sure it matters more than the bad. Bad is bad enough on its own. It doesn't need any help from us. Focusing on what I can enjoy hopefully will enable me to keep on trekking, and to "Live long and prosper."

Come back.

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

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News

Artists Share Their Stories

FROM PAGE 3

jam made in Glen Echo, and inlay serving boards from an artist in Cabin John.

Twelve new participants brought a variety of items to the show. Lauri Michelle premiered her paintings for children. Award-winning reporter/columnist Paul Dykewicz discussed his latest book, "Holy Smokes, Golden Guidance from Notre Dame's Chaplin." Cabin John's Ayesha Court presented her photo cards of local canal scenes and her children, Lucy and Charles, offered sculpted crayons. Other new vendors sold needle and pin arts embroidery, jewelry with semi-precious stones, glass and pearls, crocheted baby items and hand-made scarves, hats and headbands.

"What makes the Clara Barton Craft Show so unique is the profits enhance programs, support activities for children and seniors, buy supplies and equipment for the center, and for fund the Children's Halloween Party and Family Bingo Night," said Leslie Barden, director of the craft show. "The Friends of Clara Barton Community Center sponsor the show each year. In addition, we have crafters who are supporting two charities this year. One sold knits, children's clothes, gloves and hats created by Bosnian refugees — and she is sending proceeds back to Bosnia. Rebecca Kahlenberg presented crafts brought back from her volunteer trips to El Salvador. She sends her profits to the Amun Shea Center for Integrated Development, a school working to transform education in El Salvador. She says, 'My small business in which I sell handmade crafts is called 'El Salvador Almost Paradise.' My best sellers include handbags and wooden items such as colorful boxes."

Dale Feuer has been displaying her jewelry at the show since its inception. "I am an avid beadweaver, which means I sew tiny beads together using a needle and thread and various stitches (e.g., herringbone, peyote, right-angle weave, brick stitch) to make intricate cuffs, earrings and necklaces," she said. Feuer enjoys the Clara Barton show because it feels very community oriented. "Every year I enjoy catching up with friends and customers I may not have seen for a year. It's a very up-close and personal afternoon of art and socializing."

Local artists shared how they became involved in the arts. Potomac's Shirley Hendel creates fused glass art. She said, "I have been in the creative arts for many years, initially as a decorative painter. It started as a hobby and led to my doing shows. In



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Rebecca Kahlenberg sells her El Salvadoran crafts to help improve lives for El Salvadoran children.

2006, I took some fused glass classes and have been working only in the fused glass arts since then."

Artist Dot Proctor said, "My mother and grandmother were both artists and their love for creativity seeped into my bones. I have loved color since I was a little girl, and that passion was nurtured in many different ways. It started out as a love for my box of 64 Crayola crayons. And it has grown from there, going through many stages. It has been and continues to be a magical journey. This year I displayed my original paintings, prints and notecards. Many are of the C&O Canal."

Cecelia Kurtz of Just Peachy said, "I started Just Peachy Organics in 2005 mainly as a hobby — just for fun, I began to make decorative soaps and lotions and would sell them at bazaars. Eventually, I noticed an improvement in my skin being moist and soft after using my products, as well as my customers reporting their feedback. As the chief organic officer and hand crafter, I use organic butters and oils as the base for my ingredients that is responsible for the exceptional quality of the body care. Over the past decade, my product line has improved and increased. My favorite thing about this craft show are the customers. They know my company is local, they love my products, and they are very supportive. Also, Leslie and her team are wonderful to the vendors. If you have a craft to showcase, starting a business, or gain additional customers, this is the venue for you."

The craft show is held the first Sunday in December. For more information go to friendscbcc.org/.



Shirley Hendel sold her handcrafted fused glass.



Dot Proctor shows off her paintings and notecards.

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