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Lessons Learned Local first responders practice emergency situation.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

It didn't happen but it could: a shooting in a local school or office with multiple injuries. Several companies from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue increased their readiness for that potential at Walt Whitman High School on Sunday, Oct. 8.

"The scenario is multiple patients injured from a shooting," said Evelyn Trong, member of the Glen Echo Fire Department who helped organize the training. "Given the context of what's been happening in the country, we want to practice."

Volunteer victims made up with realistic looking wounds were scattered about the second and third floors of the school as first responders, after learning the site was secure, flooded into the school to help in the mass casualty incident drill.

"Anytime you pull up to a scene you are going to get something different than before," Glen Echo Fire Department Chief Herbert Leusch told members of the nine companies participating in the drill. "The goal is to save the most victims."

Leusch reminded the first responders that they had the skills to get the work done. He also reminded them that good communication was essential and to remember their specific assignments. He then sent them into the school to deal with the results of the imagined shooting.

Meanwhile about 30 volunteers with different degrees of injury from apparently dead through critical to "walking wounded" were positioned throughout the school.

As the medics entered, the scene became more realistic, more chaotic. There were



First responders treat Ariana Tarantino of Silver Spring during the Mass Casualty Drill at Whitman High School Sunday.

calls for help, victims sprawled on the floor crying, others hiding in bathrooms or behind overturned desks.

"I have a broken femur," volunteer Declan Tilton, of Gaithersburg, said. "I fell down the steps trying to get away."

Volunteer Laurie Gross, of Bethesda, was not injured but suffered a panic attack in the practice.

"I was upstairs where there were dead people," she said.

The first responders went through the incident twice Sunday morning, reviewing the good and the not so good at the end of each.

"Everybody has been learning a lot from this," Trong said. "We discussed areas we need to work at and discussed areas we did well."

"That's why we practice," said Corinne Piccardi, deputy fire chief of Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.



Gavin Nielsen of North Bethesda is made up by Joelle Miller to simulate a person suffering a gunshot wound in the eye for the mass casualty drill at Whitman High School on Sunday.



Declan Tilton of Gaithersburg waits for rescue by first responders during the mass casualty drill at Whitman High School on Sunday.

Roesser, Former State Senator and Secretary of Aging, Dies

Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday.

Jean W. Roesser, former state delegate, state senator and Maryland Secretary of Aging, died on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017. A longtime resident of Potomac, she was the wife of the late Eugene F. Roesser; mother of Eugene F. Roesser, Jr. (wife Lynn), Mary Roesser Calderon (husband, Jorge) and Anne Marie Roesser; sister of Marion W. Coffey; grandmother of Mary Margaret "Meg" Roesser and Paul Francis Roesser Calderon. She was born in Washington D.C. on May 8, 1930.

Roesser represented Potomac in both the Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate. She served as Secre-

tary of Aging for the State of Maryland from 2003-2007, commuting daily to Annapolis from Potomac.

The longtime Potomac resident and activist served in the Maryland State Senate from 1995 to 2003. Her committee work included economic development initiatives, group homes, the Finance Committee, welfare reform, health care delivery and financing, legislative ethics.

She was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, January 1987 to January, 1995, serving on Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee; Special House Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Environmental Matters Committee; and Commerce and Government Matters Committee, among other issues.

Roesser was a founding member of the Arts Council, Montgomery County, a member of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. She was a newspaper re-



Jean Roesser, left, and Elie Cain at Potomac Day. Jean Roesser, former state senator, was honored as Grand Marshal.

porter for a time for the Suburban Record.

She served as delegate to the Republican Party National Convention in 1996 and as an alternate delegate in 1992. She served as vice-president of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women and president of the Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women. She was a member

Potomac Women's Republican Club. She was Grand Marshal of the Potomac Day parade in 2013, riding in an antique fire engine with her son, Eugene.

Roesser received her B.A. in Economics from Trinity College in 1951 and did graduate work in economics at the Catholic University of America.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017 at 11 a.m. Interment in St. Gabriel's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 96185, Washington, DC 20090; Christ Child Society, 5101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 304, Washington, DC 20010; Little Sisters of the Poor, 4200 Harewood Road, NE, Washington, DC 20017.

View the Roesser family guestbook at www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com.

Taste in Potomac To Benefit Adoptions Together

Fundraiser celebrates its honorees.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Everyone who attends “Taste in Potomac” is helping a child have the chance he or she deserves — to have a loving and caring family for life through Adoptions Together — an organization that has changed the lives of more than 5,000 children in the D.C. Metro area.

And all 350 who are attending the sold-out “Taste in Potomac” have the opportunity to enjoy an evening of sampling delectable dishes from local restaurants, wine tastings, entertainment and camaraderie. Outstanding volunteers will be honored and the evening will salute the dedication of Adoptions Together founder Janice Goldwater and her staff.

The 10th annual fundraising event for Adoptions Together will be held from 6:30-10:30 p.m., Oct. 21 at the Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive in Potomac. More than 30 local restaurants will be donating fare to show off their collective talents; however, their real message is supporting the work of Adoptions Together. The emcee will be Melissa Mollet from NBC, Channel 4.

This year’s honorees will be: Outstanding Volunteers, Debbie and Rory Schick; Outstanding Adoption Advocate, Melvin Petty of ERP International; Outstanding Restaurant, Hunter’s Inn, Fred and Murray Berman, owners; and the Highlighted Family, John and Laura Elsey and children Polly, Jake, Ray and Millie.

Potomac residents, Debbie and Rory Schick are committed to volunteering for Adoptions Together; they enjoy working behind the scenes, on the Taste in Potomac and other fundraisers and have served on the board of directors.

“My children are my gifts and we will do anything to give back. We looked at dozens



The Elsey Family



Melvin Petty



Debbie and Rory Schick



Murray and Fred Berman, owners of The Hunter’s Inn in Potomac

of agencies all around the country when we were pursuing adoption,” said Debbie Schick. “No agency was a welcoming, comprehensive, positive or as concerned for successful outcomes as Adoptions Together. In the end, we obviously went with Adoptions Together – right in our own backyard. After learning about Adoptions Together and how they turn no child away, I fell more in love with them. My kids found out that we were nominated for the Outstanding Volunteer award, and strongly suggested that we accept the honor.”

Petty is being honored as the Outstand-

ing Adoption Advocate. He is the managing partner and co-founder of ERP International, a science, health and technology provider to Federal agencies. He was inspired to join Adoptions Together through his good friend Jack Able and has continued his journey with Adoptions Together “because of the energy and passion all staff members possess for their mission.” He previously served on the board of directors and has remained an active participant throughout the decades. ERP has sponsored a free webinar for adults transitioning their child from foster care to adoption permanency and provided monetary donations to the organization events. His favorite Adoptions Together event is Family Fun Day.

Potomac’s Hunter’s Inn has participated in the “Taste in Potomac” since the first event at Judy Sebring’s Potomac home. Owners Fred and Murray Berman are dedicated to Adoptions Together and their mission. “Adoptions Together is a wonderful cause because they do great things for the children,” Fred Berman said.

Murray Berman added: “They work from the heart and we are happy to support them. We have watched the event change and grow over the years. It keeps getting bigger and bigger.” The Berman brothers have owned Hunter’s Inn for the past 15 years; they are celebrating this anniversary on Oct. 15. The owners of this Potomac landmark are committed to the Potomac community.

Laura and John Elsey moved to Chevy Chase in 2002 with their three British-born children. They love the U.S. and feel privileged and incredibly lucky to live here with their three children. When Laura Elsey was 14, she saw a documentary on the BBC about a young girl who was 17 years old and going through cancer treatment while in the UK foster care system. “I thought then and there, no one should have to be going through this type of thing alone and, if I am ever in a position in my life to be able to adopt an older child, that would be one less child navigating life’s ups and downs alone. John was totally onboard, and we decided to wait until the time was right — which came in 2008. We attended an adoption expo in D.C., and Adoptions Together really stood out to us. It was the warmth and depth of knowledge of the staff and the fact they focus on getting older kids and medically fragile children out of the foster care system into loving homes.”

Laura Elsey said that Adoptions Together provides support before, through and after the adoption process. “Adopted children have experienced great loss, emotional pain and sometimes also trauma. The training they give you before you even meet a child is unbeatable and truly can help make your new family as successful as possible.”

“We are so fortunate because when we saw a photograph of Ray (who I call ‘Ray of Sunshine’) – that was it. If it wasn’t for Adoptions Together taking such a beautiful photograph of Ray, where we connected to something indescribable in his eyes, then life could have been so very different for all of us. Since the first time we saw that lovely 9-year-old boy, Ray has felt like he was meant to be an Elsey. Now Ray is 18 years old, with size 13 feet and he is on-track for going to college next year.”

The Elseys will share a video of their family at the Taste In Potomac. Laura Elsey said, “We are quite a boring and ordinary lot. I hope people don’t fall asleep watching our video at the event.” There will most-likely not be a dry eye in the crowd after watching this video of how family love and becoming a “forever family” can change everyone’s lives for the better.

Even though the event is sold out, Adoptions Together accepts donations and volunteers. If interested in adoption and becoming a forever family, contact the agency through www.adoptions-together.org.

Passing the Leadership Torch

New leader for Churchill Foundation.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Seven years after her youngest child graduated from Winston Churchill High School, Laura Siegel is retiring from volunteer work at the school. Siegel has been the Churchill



Laura Siegel



Aman Shergill

Foundation’s chairperson for the past five years. She stayed, she said, because she cares.

“I didn’t have any kids in the school anymore but I’m interested,” she said. “I want

to see the school successful.”

But now it’s time to retire and let a new chairperson to take over. The new chair is Aman Shergill, mother of a son who is a junior at the school.

“In a volunteer organization you need [new] people stepping up,” Siegel said. “We need to get other board members, new members with new connections.”

The Churchill Foundation started 15 years ago to fill needs at the school not met by the Montgomery County Public Schools’ budget.

SEE PASSING, PAGE 15

From Churchill to NFL to CNBC

Dhani Jones invests as part of “Adventure Capitalists.”

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE ALMANAC

Potomac native and former National Football League (NFL) star Dhani Jones has paved a career path that will give children an idea of what they could do with their athletic talents without shedding blood or sweat.

As an investor on CNBC’s weekly television show, “Adventure Capitalists,” Jones travels around North America to experiment with — and potentially invest his own money in — outdoor sporting equipment and devices. The second season of “Adventure Capitalists” was scheduled to premiere on CNBC on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 10p.m.

“I love being a part of ‘Adventure Capitalists,’” said Jones, who described the show as an outdoor adventure version of “Shark Tank.” “Episodes take place so that people can watch former professional athletes test athletic equipment, but they can also experience the backdrop of some beautiful places. We don’t want to only go where the entrepreneurs go, but we also want to go where they created the products. We love the boardroom because that’s where deals can be done, but for a lot of people, the office is outside — especially the entrepreneurs behind these products.”

“Adventure Capitalists” debuted last year with a four-episode run. The second season features six episodes. Future episodes will air on CNBC every Tuesday at the same time for the entirety of the season. Episodes are also available online the morning after they air on CNBC’s official website — www.cnbc.com/adventure-capitalists/.

Every week, viewers will watch three investors — former NFL linebacker Jones, former professional gymnast Shawn Johnson, and Olympic skier Jeremy Bloom — meet the developers behind outdoor innovations, and decide whether or not to invest their personal funds in these startup ventures.

“It’s a mix of products and services,” Jones said. “There are ski devices, different all-wheel drive motorcycles. For example, one product had a small part that a mountain bike would have to make it more rigid and flexible. There have been waterproof, fire-proof gloves, and all sorts of workout tools and equipment. In the spirit of adventure, we go all over the country to test it all out.”

Last season, Jones said one of his favorite products that was an obvious “yes” for him was called the InstaPrivy.

“The InstaPrivy is maybe the product I loved most from the first season,” Jones said. “Imagine you’re at a major sporting event and waiting in line for a porta-potty. The lines can be really long and the portapotties aren’t always ideal, of course. The

InstaPrivy is a portable toilet with a pretty sophisticated privacy shield. The creator was a military veteran. I invested \$100,000 in that one.”

Before the public ever saw Jones on national television, he was an all American child growing up in Montgomery County. His military family finally settled in Potomac.

Jones graduated from Winston Churchill High School, where he excelled both in the classroom and on a number of different sports teams — football, wrestling, and track. Perhaps his most lasting impression was on the football field.

“My experience in Potomac was amazing,” Jones said. “I saw it go from a quiet and reserved town to an extremely large metropolitan area. I’ve seen it grow so much, and it was a great experience. I benefited from being in the greatest school system in the country. Our football team went to the state championship twice.”

Following his graduation from Churchill in 1996, he was a linebacker for the University of Michigan Wolverines.

According to NFL statistics, the average professional American football career lasts less than three and a half years. Jones’ NFL tenure more than tripled the average — he logged 11 seasons. His professional turf was in New York with the Giants, then in Philadelphia with the Eagles, and finally, in Cincinnati with the Bengals.

He has since launched multiple businesses and found his place on television. His first lead role was on the Travel Channel series, “Dhani Tackles the Globe.” The show, which lasted two seasons, featured Jones in different countries, taking a turn playing different international sports.

“I got the travel bug really early, growing up in a military family,” said Jones. “I’ve found that all you gotta do is go one place in order to catch it. Then you want to go everywhere. I got to do that with ‘Dhani Tackles the Globe.’ But, ‘Adventure Capitalists’ takes the travel to the next level. I get a real feel for the places we go, and thus, the viewers do, too.”

To this day, fellow Churchill Bulldogs remain in Jones’ professional — as well as personal — network.

“A lot of my friends from high school are venture capitalists,” he said. “I’m able to get advice from my friends regarding the decision-making I have to do on ‘Adventure Capitalists.’ It’s invaluable to be able to consult with friends who have been a part of my life from practically the very beginning.”

As an entrepreneur himself, Jones said he just might enjoy this phase of life even more than he did competing on the field.

“As an athlete, you accept that as you get older, you have to stop competing,” he said. “At least, you have to stop competing in the way you always have. Really, competition is a part of your entire life. Now, I’m competing on the investment side. When you’re done with your sport, you can start investing in what you love or have some kind of passion for. Then, you find yourself with at



Potomac’s Dhani Jones on CNBC’s weekly television show, “Adventure Capitalists.”

least a hand in running different businesses. It’s a natural next step. It’s why, when CNBC brought this opportunity to me, I couldn’t say ‘no.’ I’m having a great time.”



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OPINION

Vandals Strike Over the Summer

BY GINNY BARNES
WMCCA PRESIDENT

WMCCA Meeting

The West Montgomery County Citizens Association will meet at the Potomac Community Center on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:15 p.m. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

Ralph Buglass will talk about the early history of Potomac Village, when it was known as "Offutt's Crossroads" and the area consisted primarily of farms with crisscrossing dirt roads. Buglass is a member of the Montgomery Historical Society's speakers bureau and a descendant of the Offutt family, Potomac's colorful "first family." He'll describe how and why the village came to be called Potomac, including feuding among the family, the end of slavery, a business partnership gone bad, and yes, even attempted murder and ghostly appearances. The public is always welcome. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

East Gate Recreation Association Cell Phone Tower

BY SUSANNE LEE

The East Gate Recreation Association has signed a lease with Verizon to install an 89 ft. "stealth" monopole (cell tower disguised as a fake tree) at the East Gate Swim and Tennis Club at Gainsborough and Democracy Boulevard.

Installation of a cell tower in the middle of the East Gate residential community requires approval of a new conditional use at the site as well as an amendment to the current conditional use for the recreation area.

The application (CU-17-T-01) is currently pending before Montgomery County Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings. Hearing Examiner Tammy CitraMarnis conducted hearings on Sept. 26-27, 2017 and an additional hearing is scheduled for Oct. 13, 2017.

WMCCA is participating with residents of East Gate in opposition to the proposed cell tower. We believe it is a violation of the basic requirements of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, including the conditional use policy. Furthermore, evidence provided by Verizon documents that they have identified an alternate location for a tower that would service the alleged gaps in coverage and that would not violate the requirements of the Master Plan.

Piney Branch Special Protection Area Subdivision Request

BY SUSANNE LEE

A developer has proposed subdivision of a lot that abuts and is located partially in the Piney Branch stream bed adjacent to the Glen Hills Park on Glen Mill Road, just east of the intersection with Boswell Lane (Preliminary Plan No. 120160168).

This site is subject to heightened environmental protection requirements because it is located in the Piney Branch Special Protection Area. The developer has requested two sewer hook ups in order to subdivide and build two new homes on steep, heavily wooded slopes with multiple environmental constraints. WMCCA is working with neighbors who are opposing the subdivision.

Requests for Sewer Expansion in the Potomac Subregion

BY SUSANNE LEE

WMCCA continues to monitor requests for sewer category changes that may be inconsistent with the Potomac Subregion Master Plan and County and State policies governing sewer construction in low density areas, including under the new Glen Hills area sewer policy. WMCCA is participating in Planning Board and County Council hearings on several current requests.

Zoning Text Amendment 17-04

BY GINNY BARNES

In June the County Council introduced ZTA 17-04 to revise the standards for allowing a Country Inn as a conditional use in the R-200 zone. The purpose is to clarify language left out of the recent zoning code rewrite and define "rural area" to comply with the Potomac Master Plan. Public Hearings were held at the Planning Commission and the County Council. WMCCA testified in support of the ZTA at both hearings. A Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee work session is scheduled for Oct. 16, 2017.

A civic association is vital to preserving community identity. Potomac has a rich history and characteristics that define us. One such feature is our tree-lined rustic roads that wind in and out of ecologically significant stream valleys. The Potomac Subregion Master Plan designates some of these roads and bridges as Rustic and Exceptional Rustic.

One of the most iconic areas once had its own post office in the old Peters Store and was known as Glen, Md. Here, two streams meet. A grain mill once stood along the edge of Glen

WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

bridge crosses Watts Branch and a two-lane bridge crosses the Kilgour Branch. Both are bordered by narrow strips of parkland containing wetlands and forest that serve as wildlife corridors allowing needed connectivity to a wealth of species. In the late 1980s, WMCCA fought to protect the Glen. Longtime residents deeply treasure its historic significance.

Early this summer, an ugly act of vandalism covered one of the Watts Branch bridge buttresses and guardrail with graffiti. On a Friday WMCCA called the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (DOT) which manages our Rustic Road program and early Monday morning a crew had painted over the offense.

Over the summer, the bridge on Piney Meetinghouse Road was reconstructed causing traffic pressure on the Glen roads and bridges to increase. DOT erected small signs urging drivers to "take turns" crossing the one lane bridge. These signs have now been spray painted over to hide the words.

Why can't those who choose to travel through the Glen respect a historic and sensitive area? Why can't we be courteous to one another without instructions to do so? As residents, we all use these crossings and if we grant each other consideration, taking turns benefits everyone.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Seeking Applicants. Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is looking to increase their service to the veteran community and all Veterans or spouses if Veteran spouse has died who meet our income limits are encouraged to apply. The application is at rebuildingtogethermc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FY18-Homeowner-Application.pdf. Income requirements are listed.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Town Hall Meeting. 6:30 p.m. in Room 152 of the Science Center

Building at Montgomery College's Rockville campus. Montgomery County Councilmember George Leventhal, who serves as Chair of the Council's Health and Human Services Committee, will host a Town Hall meeting with a focus on the interests and concerns of the developmentally different community and their families. For more information on Councilmember Leventhal's town hall meeting, contact Walton Harris in the Office of Councilmember Leventhal at 240-777-7945 or at walton.harris@montgomerycountymd.gov.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Flu Clinic. 10 a.m.-noon at the North Potomac Senior Center, 13860 Travilah Road, Rockville. Free flu shots provided by Walmart for insured adults ages 60 and older. Please wear loose fitting clothing.

Call 240-773-4805 for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Anxiety Workshop. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Universities at Shady Grove, University of Maryland, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. Workshop is called "Anxiety: Essential Strategies of Effective Treatment," and features health professionals lectures. Email info@innovatorsineducation.net or call 301-652-5550 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 18

Public Hearing. 7 p.m. in the Third Floor Hearing Room of the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County Charter Review Commission will hold a public hearing to get suggestions from County residents about possible amendments to the Montgomery

County Charter. The Charter is the constitutional framework for County government. Charter Section 509 provides for an 11-member, bipartisan Charter Review Commission (CRC) to study the Montgomery County Charter. To sign up to speak at the public hearing, residents can call 240-777-7928 or email charterreview.commission@montgomerycountymd.gov. More information about the County Charter can be found at http://www.amlegal.com/codes/client/montgomery-county_md/.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Rotary Club Tech Clinic. 10 a.m.-noon at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. One-on-one help with computer, tablet, or smart phone for seniors. Register for a 30-minute appointment at the information desk or at 240-777-0690.

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POTOMAC DAY 2017

Join in 35th Annual Potomac Day

Offering Grand Parade, Business Fair and Classic Car Show on Oct. 21.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In this year of hurricane disasters, gun violence and non-peaceful demonstrations, Potomac residents need an opportunity to return to the events which honor its peaceful community, appreciate its businesses and offer its children a day to enjoy with their families.

Potomac Day, 2017 is just that day — a time to meet and greet neighbors and local business owners, to munch on delicious food from Potomac restaurants and to create family memories.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, arrive before 10:30 a.m. for the Grand Parade led by Potomac Chamber of Commerce honorees. This short but sweet parade gives youngsters a chance to scramble for candy, laugh at the clowns' antics, wave to pediatric dentist Dr. Amy Light — always dressed as the tooth fairy — and to cheer on riders from the Capitol Polo Club, the firefighters on their shiny red trucks, and the tae kwon do performers. Adults enjoy seeing their favorite business or political candidate go by — as well as many friends representing Potomac in a variety of ways.

Where but on Potomac Day can one hear Potomac's own opera singer Chrissellene Petropoulos belt out the Star Spangled Banner?

Youngsters can pet alpacas and take a pony ride with Potomac's Squeals on Wheels, scurry up the climbing wall and slide down giant pumped-up slides.

Everyone will enjoy the rockin' music provided by the DJs from Unique Dreams, while they enjoy a slice of Potomac Pizza or fare from other local restaurants.

The Business Fair will feature community businesses to give everyone a chance to get to know their products and services.

The Classic Car Show brings the best cars from yesteryear — check out that 1955 T-Bird or the restored 1960 Chevy Impala



PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

SEE JOIN IN, PAGE 10 Families enjoy the animals from Squeals on Wheels at Potomac Day.

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Scenes from Potomac Days Past

FILE PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS

Susie and Win Redmond enjoyed showing off their 1967 Olds 442 classic car at last year's Potomac Day.



Happy Potomac Day from
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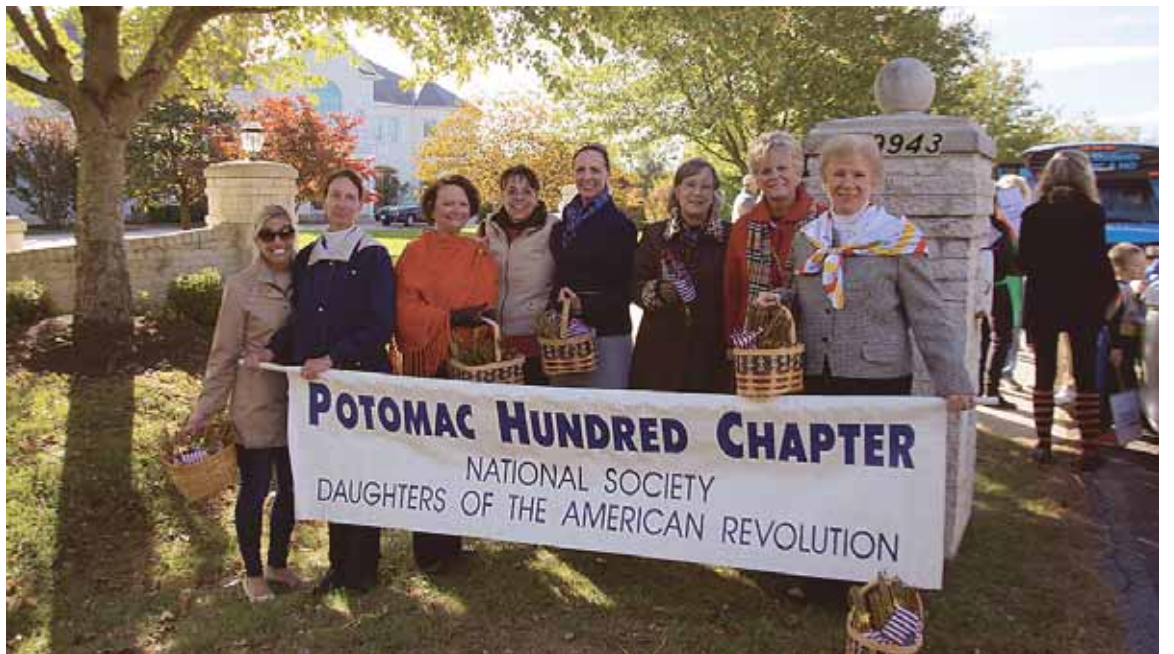
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POTOMAC DAY 2017



Scenes from Potomac Days Past

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMAC

"We have some new rides coming from Ultimate Amusements including the Hungry Hippo Chow Down and the Mechanical Dizzy, plus some awesome inflatables from Great Kids Events," said Jennifer Matheson, Potomac Day coordinator.



PHOTO BY ANDREA RAZAK

Some of the animals in the Squeals on Wheels petting zoo.



The climbing wall will be one of many activities returning for this year's Potomac Day.



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POTOMAC DAY 2017

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PNC is proud to support the Potomac Chamber of Commerce and is pleased to support Potomac Day. Thank you to all who have taken part in making this event such a great success!

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The Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department participates in the Potomac Day parade with its classic apparatus ...



... as well as a modern tanker truck.

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS
THE ALMAMAC

Join in Annual Potomac Day

FROM PAGE 7

convertible.
What's new at Potomac Day 2017?
According to Jennifer Matheson, Potomac Day coordinator, "Two new Potomac businesses, Moby Dick House of Kabob and C2 Education have moved into the Potomac Promenade this year and will be helping to sponsor Potomac Day. We have some new rides coming from Ultimate Amusements including the Hungry Hippo Chow Down and the Mechanical Dizzy,

plus some awesome inflatables from Great Kids Events. I am also so grateful for the many kids who are volunteering for SSL hours. Additionally, Potomac Day attendees should be aware the Morton's Towing will be clearing the festival area of left cars and also helping with parked cars in the Potomac Manors neighborhood parade line-up area."

Come out and enjoy the day in Potomac Village on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with its food, rides, conversations, music and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

Thinking about aging-in-place?

a one-woman play: **A Life of My Own: Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt**
Thursday, Oct. 19, 7 pm, Potomac Community Center

Stop by our booth on Potomac Day!
Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 - 2
Potomac Village, near Wells Fargo Bank

afternoon movie: **Smokey Joe's Cafe**
Friday, Oct. 27, 12 noon, Potomac Community Center
details at 240-221-1370
www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org

CALENDAR

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Past issues of

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back to 2008 are available at
<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Food Pictures. Through Oct. 22 at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard. Foodies: A Juried Photography Exhibition. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

Pups on the Patio. 4-7 p.m. every Thursday at Silver, 7150 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda. Guests can enjoy drinks, appetizers and dinner with their pets outside on Silver's patio. Visit www.eatatsilver.com.

2017 Canal Boat Excursions. At Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. April-October, Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. To confirm the boat ride for your visit, call 301-767-3714 for details as special circumstances may affect this schedule. Prices: \$8 for adults (ages 16-61), \$6 for seniors (ages 62+), and \$5 for children (ages 4-15). Children aged three and under ride free. In addition to the boat fee, there is an entrance fee to the park of \$10 per single vehicle.

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.storelocator.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.

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. 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. capitalblues.org

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. www.glenechopark.org.

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. www.glenechopark.org, 301-634-2222.

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. www.glenechopark.org, 301-634-2222.

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

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. 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. 301-983-8838 www.popovers.com.

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

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.silverworksglencopark.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.

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. www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

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. 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 wrandyhoffman@gmail.com.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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.

Registration is Open. for Montgomery County Recreation and Montgomery Parks Summer Programs and Activities. Email ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org. Visit www.MontgomeryParks.org/access.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Meet the Artist. 6-9 p.m. at the Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Metal arts by Wanjin Kim. On exhibit Oct. 8-Nov. 4. Call 301-951-9441.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Antique and Classic Car Show. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Featuring more than 550 vehicles, a car-related flea market, a car sales area and a performance by The Hillbilly Gypsies. Rain date for this event is Saturday, Oct. 21. Call 240-314-5022.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Seth Glier in Concert. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Focus Music at Tikvat Israel Congregation Synagogue, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Fall tour in support of his latest studio album, Birds. Visit sethglier.com.

CREEKfest. Noon-3 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Join the Friends of Cabin John Creek for a birds of prey show, live blues music, and kids' activities. Plus learn how to help the creek. Visit cabinjohncreek.org or call 301-758-



Live Music

Thursday, Oct. 19 it's Paula Cole in Concert. 7 p.m. at the AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Celebrating the release of her new CD "Ballads" and the 20th Anniversary of her landmark album "This Fire." Visit ampbystrathmore.com for more.

9874.

World of Montgomery Festival. noon-4 p.m. at Montgomery College Rockville campus, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. International music, food, dance, culturally authentic arts demos, and hands-on activities. Visit worldofmontgomery.com/.

through Nov. 4. Visit www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b.

OCT. 21-DEC. 2

Townscapes: Sketching as a Way of Life. 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Class will be sketching in the blocks surrounding VisArts, weather permitting. In inclement weather, sketching is done inside. Saturday classes. Call 301-315-8200.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Potomac Day. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at 9812 Falls Road, Potomac. Arts and entertainment for all ages, ranging from rides for children to a classic car show and business fair. The highlight is the Potomac Day Parade at 10:30 a.m., featuring hundreds of entrants, including bands, horses, classic cars, school groups, scouting organizations, and candidates for elected office. This is the 35th annual Potomac Day. Free. Call the Potomac Chamber of Commerce at 301-299-2170 or visit www.potomacchamber.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 22

Crab Feast Fundraiser. 1-5 p.m. at the Hyatt Centric Arlington, 1325 Wilson Blvd. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Alumni Association is associated with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, a community-supported nonprofit organization that provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. Call 301-442-4136 or visit www.bccrs.org.

Royce Hanson Awards. 3-5 p.m. at the BlackRock Center for the Performing Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown. For recognition of outstanding commitment toward the protection of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. \$75. Visit www.blackrockcenter.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. 1-2 p.m. at North Potomac Senior Center, 13860 Travilah Road, Rockville. Dancing, music, food fiesta. Free. Call 240-773-4805.

Meet and Talk with Eleanor Roosevelt. 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Linda Kenyon performs in a one-woman show tracing the evolution of the former First Lady from a retiring young girl to a wise and purposeful world figure. Call 240-221-1370, email info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org or check out www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

Paula Cole in Concert. 7 p.m. at the AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Celebrating the release of her new CD "Ballads" and the 20th Anniversary of her landmark album "This Fire." Visit www.ampbystrathmore.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

A Benefit for Homeless Animals. 6-10 p.m. at The William F. Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive. Dogs in costumes, presented by MCPAW, the Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being. Visit www.mc paw.org/.

Artists Reception. 7 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Artists behind the "Sent & Received," exhibit which will feature artwork by service members, veterans and military caregivers that explores the tradition of care packages. The exhibit will also include Combat Paper, works made on paper made from military uniforms, which runs



Meet Eleanor Roosevelt

On Thursday, Oct. 19, "Meet and Talk with Eleanor Roosevelt," 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Linda Kenyon performs in a one-woman show tracing the evolution of the former First Lady from a retiring young girl to a wise and purposeful world figure. Call 240-221-1370 or visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org for more.

Home LifeStyle



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

A collection of framed Hermes scarves line one of the walls in the lady's retreat by designer Marika Meyer.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Todd Martz and Susan Nelson use felt flowers made by women in Nepal to accessorize the family room.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

An abundance of seating make the pool space by Kim Asner of Country Casual Teak a tranquil oasis

Inside D.C. Design House

In its 10th year, showcase raises money for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

DC Design House

Location: 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md.
Tickets: \$35 at www.dcdesignhouse.com/copy-of-events
Open through Oct. 29: Saturday-Sunday 12-5 p.m.; Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29: DC Design House, last day, 12-5 p.m.

For the 10th anniversary of the D.C. Design House, 23 designers transformed the Potomac, Md. home which includes nine bedrooms, nine full bathrooms, four half bathrooms, a cinema, two-story library, a pool and a pool house. Visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the 27,256 square-foot estate to view the latest in home design trends. Proceeds from the event benefit the Children's National Health System.

It was actress Grace Kelly and the movie "To Catch a Thief" that inspired

Designer Marika Meyer's creation of the lady's retreat. "I thought of her elegance and her scarf blowing in the wind," said Meyer.

A collection of framed Hermes scarves line one of the room's walls.

Much of the room's furniture, including two vintage, velvet chairs and a neutral sofa, surround a Lucite cocktail table, creating a balance between modern and traditional styles.

"When designing the room I thought, 'who would live in that room and what would she be like?'" said Meyer.

Meyer used custom-designed, hand-painted fabric from her own collection for the room's drapes, pillows, stools and other accessories. One of her biggest obstacles

was making the large room feel intimate. "I designed it to make it beautiful and functional, she said. "I created different destinations so it doesn't feel so overwhelming."

Among those destinations are a large secretary, a game table and a bar cart.

Dubbed A Study in Blue, the library by designer Kelley Proxmire draws inspiration from the library of New York socialite Brooke Astor. "I knew it was a classic and I had seen a recent picture and I knew it was a classic," said Proxmire.

"Her books were probably antique, leather-bound and I knew that I something wanted something neat and tidy like that."

The room's dark wood paneling is brightened with natural lighting and accessorized with blue and white porcelain and painted books

in varying shades of blue.

The designer's goal was to create a technology-free zone that allowed for uninhibited conversation. "Families need a place to sit and talk to each other without being on

the telephone and watching television," said Proxmire. "I want all my rooms to say, 'Come and sit.' I don't want them to be too standoffish."

Marrying modern and traditional design elements, Alexandria-based design duo Todd Martz and Susan Nelson created a family room that is both energizing and relaxing, and is meant to be an electronics-free zone.

"The scale of the house is formal, but we wanted to create a room that is family friendly," said Martz. "We wanted to incorporate children's art, but display it in a way that's elegant."

The walls are covered with bright yellow wallpaper that provides an energetic backdrop for blue and white porcelain accessories. To accommodate the lives of a modern family, the white sofa is covered in Crypton fabric, which is stain-resistant and easy to clean. Other furniture in the room, which includes two faux leather chairs are

centered around a handmade, wooden coffee table.

Children's artwork hangs inside the bookcases among blue and white ginger jars. "It makes the book cases a little less serious," said Nelson.

The poolside oasis created by Kim Asner of Country Casual Teak allows visitors to be transported to a luxury spa. Lush greenery and teak lounge chairs surround the pool. An abundance of seating, a cabana and a pool house make the space ideal for entertaining a crowd or enjoying the space's serenity.

"The area is large so we needed substantial furniture," said Asner. "The cabana looks grand and impressive, but it's also comfortable."

Located at 9004 Congressional Court, Potomac, Md., the home is listed at \$10.28 million by Long and Foster Real Estate. Open through Oct. 29, tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

"When designing the room I thought, 'Who would live in that room and what would she be like?'"

— Marika Meyer

Bright yellow wallpaper energizes the family room by Todd Martz and Susan Nelson.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

EveryMind Gala To Support Mental Health Services

Honorees highlighted.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

One year ago, after 59 years as the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, the organization rebranded to become EveryMind — with the tag line, “Your Wellness – Our Mission.” The name was changed due to concerns that a stigma surrounded the words “mental health,” impacting the willingness to seek out life-saving support.

“With the change in name, we are helping to change the public conversation around mental health and wellness, and to remind everyone that mental wellness is important for every mind,” CEO Ann Mazur said.

On Wednesday, Oct. 18, EveryMind will hold a gala to celebrate the one-year anniversary of their new name and to toast “60 years of strengthening communities and empowering individuals to reach optimal wellness.”

One of the highlights of the evening will be videos to demonstrate some of EveryMind’s case histories and tie them to the involvement of this year’s honorees: Ron and Joy Paul, Doreen Gentzler and NBC4’s

Changing Minds Campaign, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen and the Boeing Company. These videos will explain the mission of EveryMind and how each honoree has been influential in helping them achieve their goals.

Ron and Joy Paul have supported the Youth Counseling Program. Doreen Gentzler has been effective in bringing about change in the public conversation and acceptance of mental health programs and Chris Van Hollen has enacted legislation to improve access to programs and to strengthen policies. The Boeing Company has provided funding to enhance the Serving Together Military program.

“An anniversary is usually looking back but with the purposeful direction of looking forward, we realize we could not meet our mission goals without the support of our outstanding partners and partnerships,” Niki Thrash, development director, said,

EveryMind is a leading mental health resource in the D.C. region and offers direct



Joy and Ron Paul



Doreen Gentzler



Senator
Chris Van Hollen



EveryMind will honor The Boeing Company, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Ron and Joy Paul, and Doreen Gentzler and NBC4’s Changing Minds Campaign at its gala on Oct. 18.

services, information, and referrals for everyone. The organization serves children and adults through mental health counseling and intensive case management — and also provides crisis prevention and intervention. “Our services connect people in need of support with essential community resources to improve their wellbeing and quality of life,” Mazur said.

EveryMind provides crisis prevention and intervention through a hotline in which people in crisis can call, text or chat. One of the priorities for the next few years is to expand the hours of hotline availability. “We

need to have our hotlines available 24/7,” Mazur said. “They are so important with the rates of depression and suicide on the rise. These hotlines are staffed by extensively trained volunteers, and we are in need of more volunteers to work the hotlines — or in many other areas. We are seeking people who understand the importance of our mission and how much support we offer those in need. We are also trying to garner additional funding and support for our hotlines.”

Another priority is to increase the Military – Serving Together program. This program provides education, direct service, and coordination of resources for service members, veterans, and their families throughout the D.C. region. Peer navigators are an important part of this program for making certain the families know how to connect with the resources and to provide follow-up support.

The gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda and tickets are still available for purchase at www.EveryMind.org. See this website for information about EveryMind, for the hotline number, to donate or volunteer.

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St. Patrick’s Day in Savannah, GA March 15-18. \$1,025
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- 70 Chromebooks** serving 500 students daily
- 5 Spectrophotometers and test tubes**
- 1 professional recording microphone**
- 7 grants to staff and students**
- 1 Autoclave** Performance
- 10 Laptops**
- 3 Promethean Boards**

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*We recruit teachers from our cluster schools.

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Passing the Torch

FROM PAGE 4

"I think we've been very beneficial," Siegel said. "We spent a lot of money on technology: over the years we bought Promethean Boards, purchased Chromebooks, provided grants for teachers to take classes in their [academic] area and brought the Foundation into the 21st century with a website and other social media."

Siegel explained that the Foundation is separate from the school's PTA and Booster Club, though they all have the good of the school in mind.

"We're more of a fundraising arm," she said, admitting the challenge when the other organizations are raising money too.

"We need to increase our income because the more we raise, the more we can help," she said.

Last year with the addition of three Promethean Boards and an autoclave, the Foundation spent just under \$24,000. In total, the Educational Foundation provided

almost \$30,000 to Churchill for technology, equipment, and grants during the 2016-2017 school year.

Siegel is confident that under Shergill's leadership the Foundation will continue its success.

"Thank you to all who have served on the board over the past 15 years and currently. I know the current leadership will continue to keep moving the Foundation forward on the road to success, which in turn benefits our staff, students, school, and community," Siegel said at her last board meeting. "I feel comfortable knowing that I am leaving the Foundation in good hands, and the new leadership will continue to make the Foundation an even larger presence in the community and beyond."

Shergill, who has been on the Foundation Board for three years, is looking forward to leading the organization.

"It's important to me, it's the difference you make," she said.

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What To "Ware?"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I received a very generous offer in the mail: a \$10 gift certificate from my local hardware store acknowledging my upcoming/now passed birthday. From what I could read, there was no minimum purchase, no exclusions and no small-type print, just a reasonable expiration date: Oct. 31, approximately six weeks out from the day I received this unexpected gift. More than enough time, one would imagine.

The only problem: what am I going to get at the hardware store, other than the employees' pity about how little I know about so much? Most of the time when I'm in a hardware store (typically I'm not browsing, unlike the cookie aisle at the supermarket), I'm attempting to solve a problem I have at home for which I have very little experience and extremely poor instincts at rectifying. Not only do I rarely know what I'm talking about, I don't even know the proper questions to ask to enable/assist the employee in figuring what the heck my problem actually is – other than me, that is.

I'm very much out of my element in a hardware store. A fish out of water doesn't begin to describe my situation. Tevye, from "Fiddler on the Roof" in speaking to his daughter, Chava, about marrying outside the faith came close: "a bird may love a fish, but where would they build a home together?" Build a home? I have enough difficulty maintaining one that's already built.

When I'm asked, or when I offer it, usually I say: "I know two things: sports and chocolate." I guess I could also add being a cancer patient/survivor, but I don't want to redirect a perfectly innocent conversation into a totally different direction: me and my druthers. Although, my situation has been publicly consumed in the Connection Newspapers going on eight and half years; in person, I try to not let it be the first or even second thing that comes out of my mouth. And I never initiate, though I'm happy to respond if asked. Generally speaking, I'd rather it not be about me and my cancer. As my mother used to say "It's enough already."

But none of this comes up in a hardware store. In fact, the only thing that comes up is my Adam's Apple as I sheepishly swallow and admit how incapable I am as a homeowner/do-it-yourselfer and how much help I need to do almost anything. At least the parking is free so it's not a total loss.

As you might imagine, this situation doesn't exactly lead to an easy conversation or a satisfying outcome. Quite the contrary. I know one thing for sure however, if left to my own devices, either I will cause additional and costly damage in my crude attempt to self-repair, or I will hurt myself in the process. And waste money as well, as the end of the day will likely find me and the problem no closer to a resolution than we were at the beginning of the day.

As William Shakespeare might have written: it will be much ado about nothing as nothing much will have been done. In these recurring circumstances, all I can hope for is a safe landing, so to speak, one in which, as pilots often joke: I can walk away uninjured.

Given that I'm a tool twit and have failed miserably at homeowner 101, what then could I possibly buy at the hardware store with my gift certificate? I just got an idea: lightbulbs. I couldn't possibly screw that up, could I? I mean, they're supposed to be screwed up – into the socket, right? What could be more natural for me?

One last question though: when I place the bulb into the socket, do I screw them to the right or to the left?

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

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