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Potomac ALMANAC

SUMMER FUN
PAGE 5

Predrag Djokic and Igor Miletic compete in rock throwing at SerbFest DC, held by Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Potomac, May 18-20.

SerbFest

NEWS, PAGE 4

Running for District 1 Council Seats

NEWS, PAGE 3

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8 13309 Morning Field Way — \$1,226,500



5 10 Lake Potomac Court — \$1,275,000



3 11810 Charen Lane — \$1,320,000



4 12575 Ansin Circle Drive — \$1,305,000



1 10700 Lockland Road — \$1,425,000



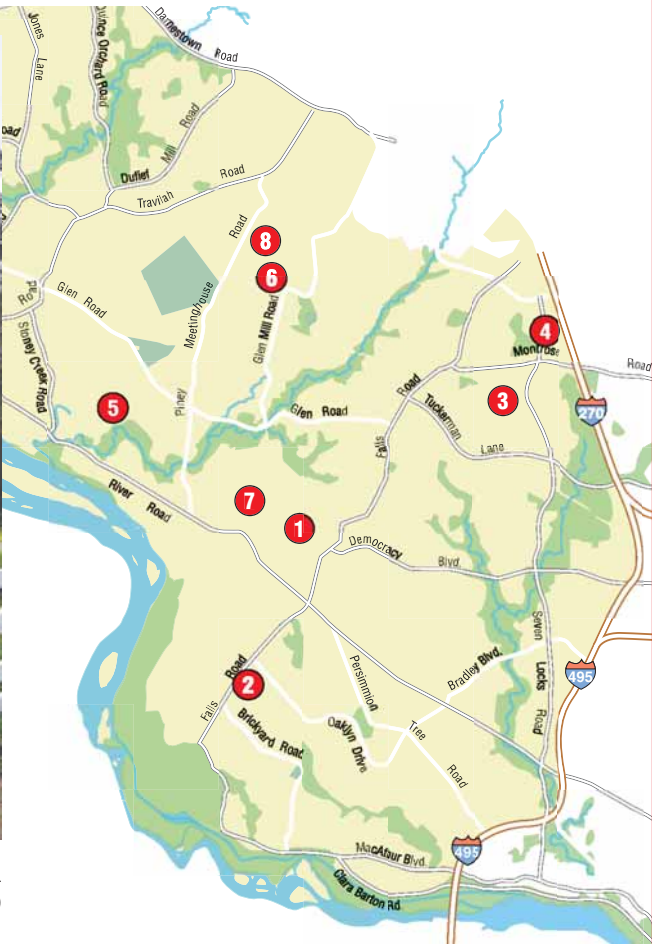
2 9210 Pegasus Court — \$1,380,000

Potomac REAL ESTATE

March, 2018 Sales, \$1,226,500~\$1,426,000

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

IN MARCH 2018, 61 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$3,000,000-\$500,000.



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC	..	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 10700 LOCKLAND RD	6	..	3	1	ROCKVILLE ...	\$1,425,000 ...	Detached	1.89	.....	20854	.....	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	03/12/18
2 9210 PEGASUS CT	5	..	5	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,380,000 ...	Detached	2.06	.....	20854	.....	POTOMAC RANCH	03/13/18
3 11810 CHAREN LN	6	..	5	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,320,000 ...	Detached	0.33	.....	20854	.....	REGENCY ESTATES	03/13/18
4 12575 ANSIN CIRCLE DR	5	..	3	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,305,000 ...	Townhouse	0.05	.....	20854	.....	PARK POTOMAC	03/27/18
5 10 LAKE POTOMAC CT	6	..	4	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,275,000 ...	Detached	2.00	.....	20854	.....	LAKE POTOMAC	03/30/18
6 10415 BOSWELL LN	4	..	5	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,265,000 ...	Detached	1.04	.....	20854	..	PT ROCKVILLE OUT RES. 3 ..	03/09/18
7 10828 BARN WOOD LN	6	..	4	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,250,000 ...	Detached	2.02	.....	20854	.....	RIVER OAKS FARM	03/30/18
8 13309 MORNING FIELD WAY	5	..	4	0	POTOMAC ...	\$1,226,500 ...	Detached	0.19	20854	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE	03/30/18

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Primary Battle for District 1 Council Seat

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Primary is June 26.

In addition to four at-large seats, (see candidate list for County Council At Large in May 16 Potomac Almanac) the Montgomery County Council has one seat for each of five legislative districts. Potomac is represented by District 1, a swath of the county that runs along the Potomac River from the District Line

Bill Cook

Democrat, 40, North Bethesda

I grew up in a union household, attended Walt Whitman, and, at age 15, took my first job in downtown Bethesda at Gifford's Ice Cream. After high school, I went on to study at the University of Maryland and I have lived and worked in Montgomery County ever since. As an activist, I have volunteered for Democratic campaigns and progressive causes including local issues like raising the minimum wage, paid leave, fossil fuel divestment, and banning fracking in Maryland. I am not a political insider or a wealthy bureaucrat. I am a small business owner whose family lives here, and who will fight to defend our community and way of life from the threats of reckless development and poor planning. With your support, we will face today's problems, like overcrowded schools, congested roadways, and stalled economic growth. Together, we will accomplish solutions that focus on improving our quality of life, that strengthen our communities and protect our environment. You can learn more about my campaign at www.cookinthecouncil.com.



Reggie Oldak

Democrat, 67, Bethesda

I'm Reggie Oldak, and I'm running for Montgomery County Council District 1 because now, more than ever, we have to rely on our local government to invest in our priorities, ensure equal opportunity, and get things done. I'm a long-time Montgomery County resident. Thirty years ago, my husband and I moved to Bethesda for the strong schools. I have experience at all levels of government. I've worked at the IRS as a tax lawyer, in Annapolis as a legislative aide, and at the County Council. I'm also a passionate champion for women and families. I've served as Chair of the Board of our local Planned Parenthood, President of Montgomery County's Commission for Women, and Senior Counsel at the National Women's Law Center. I believe that the biggest responsibility the Council has is spending the county budget of \$5.4 billion. That shows who we are as a community. My top three priorities for Montgomery County are (1) ensuring that our schools and teachers have the resources they need to educate our growing, diverse student population; (2) investing in our transportation infrastructure to support economic development, protect the environment, and enhance our quality of life; and (3) promoting fiscal responsibility and adding good jobs so that we have the resources to maintain the services our residents need. I'm participating in the County's new public financing system, which means I cannot accept more than \$150 from an individual, and I cannot accept contributions from corporations or special interests of any kind. You can trust that I will not be beholden to anyone but you. Thank you. I hope to earn your vote on June 26.

See www.reggieoldak.com



through Poolesville to the Frederick County line. Roger Berliner is the current representative for District 1.

"The Montgomery County Council is the legislative branch of County government. It has nine members, all elected at the same time by the voters of Montgomery County to serve four-year terms. The term of the

Pete Fosselman

Democrat, 50, Kensington

I'm running for County Council because we need strong leadership and bold ideas for the demanding challenges Montgomery County faces — challenges like: easing our overcrowded schools, tackling our traffic and transit problems, helping our seniors age in place with financial security and a better quality of life; and attracting new businesses and retaining our established companies that provide the backbone of our local economy. I have served as Deputy Secretary of State, Mayor of Kensington, President of the Maryland Mayors' Association, Chair of the Gaithersburg Economic Development Corporation, a small business owner, and an Urban Planner. I will bring these experiences, with an understanding of zoning, land use experience, and the trials of small business ownership to better serve District 1. During my tenure as the O'Malley-Brown Administration's Deputy Secretary of State, I worked on expanding programs for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. As the five-term Mayor of Kensington I was able to acquire independent zoning authority from the General Assembly and I spearheaded our land use plan with an overwhelming approval by the Planning Board and the County Council. I was able to revive our local economy and increase opportunities for public involvement. I have the budget experience and have demonstrated fiscal discipline by increasing services to the residents of Kensington and cutting unnecessary expenses at the Maryland Secretary of State's Office.

See <https://petefosselman.com/>



Jim McGee

Democrat, 68, Bethesda

Why I am running:

To secure a greener, healthier Montgomery County that supports working families. I am participating in public financing.

I am a union activist and an activist for Medicare for All. I also administer a \$180 million health care benefit plan, so I combine the values of an activist with the skills of a professional.

Top priorities for the county:

Affordable housing options for those who start and end their careers here.

A planning process more sensitive to all stakeholders, not just developers.

A transit system that works.

Making streets safer for walkers and bikers.

Preserving and expanding green spaces.

See [Http://McGeeforCouncil](http://McGeeforCouncil)



present Council, elected November 2014, began at noon on Dec. 1, 2014 and will continue until noon on Dec. 3, 2018. Five members of the Council are elected by the voters of their respective Council districts. Four members are elected at-large by all voters of the County. The Council officers are elected by the Council from among its members in December for a one-year term." — From the Montgomery County Council website.

Running in the June 26 primary is one

Andrew Friedson

Democrat, 32, born and raised in Potomac, live in Bethesda

Public service has never been a career choice. It's always been a calling from the time I advocated for safer elementary school bus routes at Wayside, and served as student body president at Hoover, Churchill, and the University of Maryland. I've spent my professional life scrutinizing public agencies, reviewing billions in government contracts to ensure transparency and accountability, helping teachers secure a dignified retirement, and restructuring Maryland's \$6 billion 529 College Savings program to get a better return for families saving for their children's education. Whether pushing for a new statewide savings program to help Marylanders with disabilities achieve financial security, supplying direct financing to create jobs and opportunities for women and minority-owned small businesses, or providing programming to support Montgomery County's at-risk youth, I've always been dedicated to turning progressive ideas into actions that actually improve people's lives. With your help, I want to bring that same approach to the County Council to ease the Montgomery County squeeze on our roads, our schools, and our families, so we can maintain our high quality of life and keep up with our needs by growing our tax base so we don't have to continually raise our tax rates.

See www.andrewfriedson.com.



Dalbin Osorio

Democrat, 33, Chevy Chase

I am running because we have an opportunity to bring some progressive change to Montgomery County's District One, and it begins by electing someone who has worked with children and families and heard their very real problems and has worked with them to solve them. Voters should know that by voting for me, they are getting someone who has never needed an incentive to do what is right, and that they can vote to continue the status quo in MoCo or they can vote for someone that will work to raise wages, modernize our school systems, and advocate for everybody regardless of race, gender, or income bracket.

See www.dalbinosorio.com



Republican candidate: Richard Banach, and eight Democrats: Bill Cook, Pete Fosselman, Andrew Friedson, Ana Sol Gutierrez, Jim McGee, Regina "Reggie" Oldak, Dalbin Osorio and Meredith Wellington.

Each was sent an email asking for a photo and a paragraph explaining why he/she was running for the County Council and what voters should know about him/her when making their voting decision.

Eight of the nine candidates responded.

Ana Sol Gutierrez

Democrat, 76, Chevy Chase

WHY I AM RUNNING:

I seek to ensure that all of our Montgomery County residents and taxpayers are getting the quality services they deserve and expect. By delivering fiscally responsible, balanced budgets within spending affordability guidelines, our county can provide resources and deliver critically needed public services: equitable quality education for all students; more affordable housing and health care; environmentally responsible, reliable transportation; more jobs and fair livable wages; Smart growth based on sustainable, balanced economic development.

WHAT VOTERS NEED TO KNOW: I bring years of relevant experience in public policy and budgets at the federal, state and local levels. As a long serving elected official, IT professional, and problem solver, I'm well qualified to hit-the-ground running on the new County Council, with tons of experience.

See www.anaforcouncil.com.



Meredith Wellington

Democrat, 68, Chevy Chase

I'm running for District 1 because after nearly 30 years of public service — ranging from advocating for ball fields and rec centers to working for women's advancement in the public and private sectors to serving as a Planning Board commissioner from 1999 to 2007 — I bring strong, relevant experience and accomplishments to the task of addressing the County's challenges. As former Assistant Chief Counsel at the National Labor Relations Board, I have a strong background in labor law. During my time on the Planning Board I worked on 11 master plans and multiple economic development efforts, opposed letting developers off the hook on providing public amenities and infrastructure requirements, and worked to expand and improve our parks, something I continue to this day as Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Parks Foundation. Whether it's budgets or schools, attracting business or rebuilding infrastructure, I can hit the ground running and I'll work for you. See more about me and my positions on the issues at meredithwellington.com.



OPINION

Serbian Cultural Festival

SerbFest DC was presented May 18-20 by/ the Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Potomac.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



“Svirajó Tamburitza Orchestra performed at the festival. See <http://www.sviraj.com/>.



The three-day festival offered traditional Serbian dishes, beverages, dance and music performances, gifts and boutique items and family-friendly activities./

Learn About Downsizing And aging-in-place.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Many seniors feel the need to downsize from their family home to a smaller, more manageable space — and yet others know they want to stay in their home forever to “age-in-place” — the concept that has made community villages such as the Potomac Community Village, Rockville Villages and Chevy Chase At Home a popular movement.

Each senior must decide what his or her priorities are and in which direction to head. For some, this can be a terrifying decision — for others, an adventure.

Potomac Realtor Karen Friedman understands the difficult decisions facing seniors and has carved out a niche to help seniors feel comfortable with their decision to sell or stay. She is spearheading an interactive evening which will feature experts in many of the issues that seniors face concerning their options for the future. The free Q & A event will include ex-

perts who will present information on a wealth of topics including downsizing, selling items through consignment (bring photos and learn what items would sell for), real estate market conditions and next phase housing options, estate and elder law issues, home modifications for aging in place — and more.

This discussion will be held on Thursday, May 31 from 5-7 p.m. at Dawson’s Market in Rockville Town Center. Parking is convenient and complimentary wine and cheese will be served.

“This event offers seniors a chance to meet face-to-face with experts, ask questions and find solutions for their issues — all in one evening,” Friedman said. “Each of these professionals has experience helping seniors work through the moving or staying process and



Friedman

understand just how difficult these life decisions are. They are excellent at setting one’s mind at ease.

“One of our speakers will be Freda Resnick from Decorating Spaces,” said Friedman. She is skilled in design, paint choices and home staging. Color is so important in one’s home — in selling a home — but also in living in it. Color can refresh an older home — taking it from dark and dank to light and airy. Home staging may sell a home — but can also help to eliminate unnecessary clutter of one remaining in his/her home and make the most important beloved items stand out.”

Other items that will be covered in the seminar will be home health care services, evidenced-based fitness for people who wish to age in place, personal money management, financing for homeowners 62-plus, safety and security for seniors and how to cover the costs of long term care and aging in place.

To learn more or to register, call 240-778-2319 or email lifetransitionsandoptions@gmail.com.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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SUMMER FUN



Small Sculptures

Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. A reception will be held Friday, May 25, 6-8:30 p.m. Visit torpedofactory.org or www.torycowles.com.

Small Sculptures by Tory Cowles.

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "A Color Affair." Through May 26 at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Born in Argentina, Alexandra Arata moved to the Greater Washington, D.C. area in 2002. Visit www.bethesda.org.

25th Anniversary Exhibit. Through June 2 at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway in Bethesda. Featuring the work of present and past Waverly Street Gallery members from D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The Gallery is open Wednesday – Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Call 301-951-9441 or visit www.facebook.com/waverlygallery/ or visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

Art Exhibit: Color Combustion. Through June 27, office hours at Serendipity Labs, 4500 East West Highway, Suite 125, Bethesda. The Abstract Artists' Collective presents a group exhibition of work by women painters at Serendipity Labs. Eleven painters are included in the show: Tory Cowles, Lauren Chelec Cafritz, Camilla David, Jennifer Duncan, Patsy Fleming, Eleanor Glatty, Marthe McGrath, Michele Morgan, Hester Ohbi, Debra Perkins, and Helen Power. Visit serendipitylabs.com/our-locations/serendipity-labs-bethesda-md/.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Weekly Outdoor Concert. 6-8 p.m. in Veterans Park, at the corner of Woodmont and Norfolk avenues in Bethesda. Free evening concerts offer a range of music including rock, funk, jazz, swing, and reggae. Music by Moonshine Society (Blues) with food and drink by Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

Reception: Small Sculptures. 6-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 7, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory. Visit torpedofactory.org or www.torycowles.com.

United/Divided 2: Call for Entries. At Photoworks 2018 Gallery. Juror Robert Miller, Deputy Director of Photography at The Washington Post, will serve as the juror of the exhibition. Submit up to five images to photoworks.gallery@gmail.com. There is a \$40 entry fee for up to five images. For instructions on submitting work, visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

MAY 26-JULY 1

Photography Exhibit: United/Divided 2. Gallery hours at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd; Glen Echo. Photoworks' latest exhibit strives to initiate a visual dialogue at one of the most divisive times in our Nation's history. The exhibiting photographers' work features everything from political protests to daily life in the D.C. region. Call 301-634-2226 or visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Organ Grinders. At Great Falls Tavern, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. The National Capital

Chapter of Music Box Society International demonstrates this unique and historic type of entertainment. Programs at Great Falls Tavern are free, but there is an entrance fee of \$10 to the park per vehicle. Call 301-767-3714.

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Featuring the ensemble Addison Bleufonte playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couples dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45-3:30 p.m. Social dancing follows until 6 p.m. Admission is \$13. No partner required. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 27-29

Hometown Holidays is a Memorial Day festival and parade in the City of Rockville with concerts, children's crafts and games. Call 240-314-5022 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

8 Ohms Band (Funk). 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Woodmont and Norfolk Avenues, Bethesda. Free. Part of weekly outdoor concerts produced by the Bethesda Urban Partnership. Contact 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Celebrate Children and the Arts. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. along Elm Street and Woodmont Avenue in downtown Bethesda. The 24th annual Imagination Bethesda, a children's street festival celebrating children and the arts features musical performances and professional children's entertainers, while hands-on art & craft activities will line the streets along Elm St. and Woodmont Avenue in downtown Bethesda. Free. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more.

Maritime Voices. Noon and 2 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Boulevard. The Washington Revels Maritime Voices musical ensemble revives songs featuring life on the canals and waterways of 19th-Century America. Park entrance fees may be charged at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center but park ranger programs are free. Call 301-767-3714.

Washington Balalaika Society Concert. 8 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. 55 members on stage with balalaikas, domras, and other Russian folk instruments. Adults, \$25; seniors, \$20; students, \$25; 12 and under, free. Call 240-314-8690 or visit www.balalaika.org for tickets.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Reception and Artist Talk: United/Divided. 6-8 p.m. at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd; Glen Echo. Photoworks' latest exhibit strives to initiate a visual dialogue at one of the most divisive times in our Nation's history. The exhibiting photographers' work features everything from political protests to daily life in the D.C. region. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

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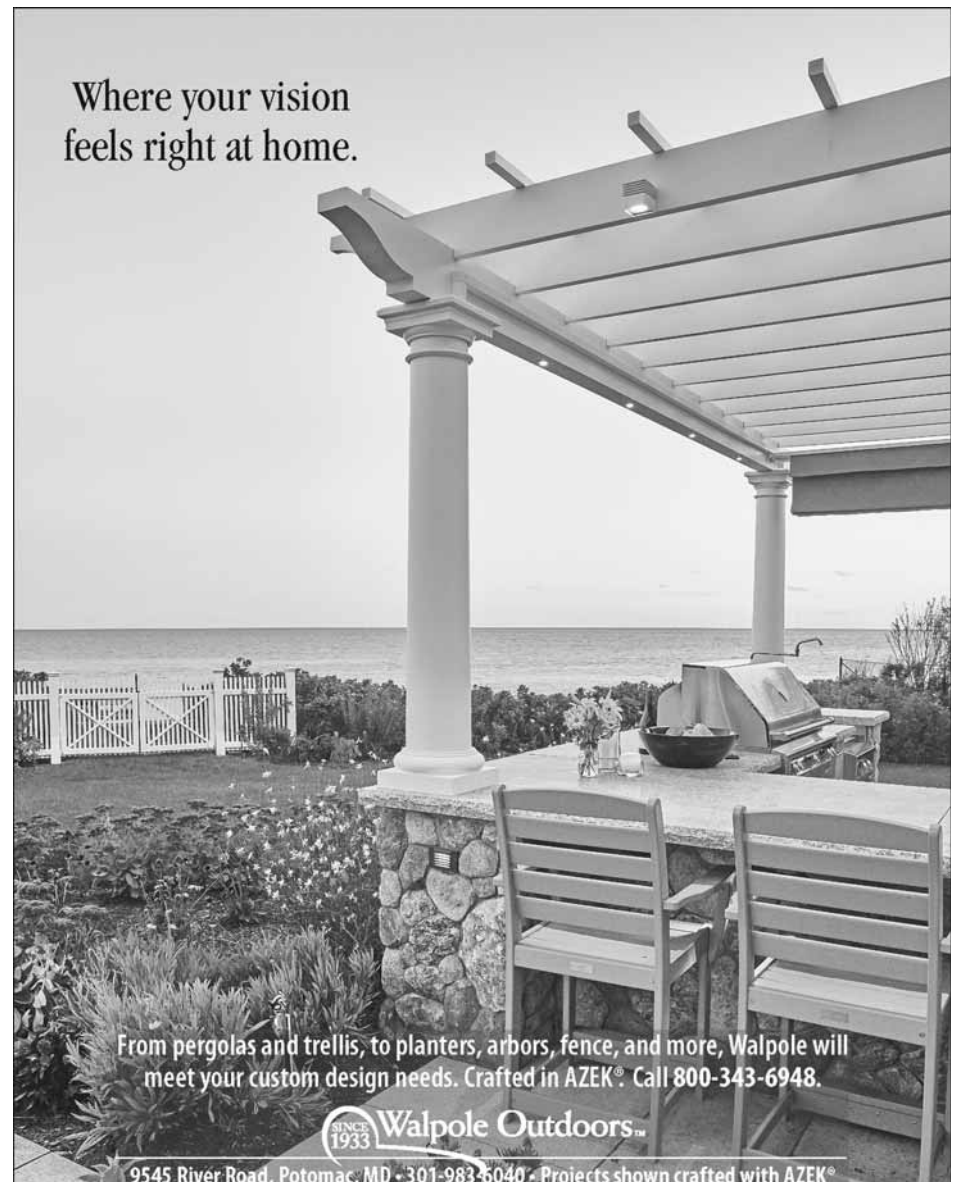
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NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Growing Memorial

More than 200 shirts with the names of teens killed by gun violence were displayed on a fence at Winston Church High School on Monday morning, May 21; 258 students have been shot and killed in 2018.



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.

MEALS ON WHEELS.

Delivers meals to house-bound seniors, convalescents and persons with disabilities. It receives minimum government funding and relies instead on contributions. Donations are needed to help with unmet meals costs for clients who cannot afford to pay. If you can help, send a check to Rockville Meals on Wheels at P.O. Box 465, Rockville, MD 20848-0465 or visit the website to contribute through Pay Pal at www.rockvillemealsonwheels.org. For more information, call 301-340-1559, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - noon.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

Alzheimer's Association Workshop. 6:30 p.m. at Brookdale Potomac, 11215 Seven Locks Road,

Potomac. "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research." At any age, there are lifestyle habits people can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve their health. These habits may also help to keep brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline. Free. For more information and to register, call 800-272-3900.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Grateful Shred. 9 a.m.-noon at the Clara Barton Community Center (CBCC), 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Bring unwanted documents to "The Grateful Shred," and watch an industrial-size shredder reduce papers to confetti, safe from fraud and identity theft. \$5 donation

per one-cubic-foot parcel of paper. Proceeds help support events and programs at CBCC. Call 240-777-4910 or visit www.friendscbcc.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Candidate Forum. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville. All candidates (Republican and Democrat) for State Delegate in Districts 15, 16, 17, 39 and all candidates for County Executive will be there for a moderated Q & A. Free. Details at Eventbrite.com, search June 3 Forum. Visit www.bethami.org/images/events/CandidatesForum.June2018.pdf.

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BUSINESS

Sweetly Anchored

New bakery is a dream come true for owner.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

A hoy! A new bakery called Sweetly Anchored Patisserie opened this month inside of Cabin John Mall. Owner and pastry chef Lindsay Miniaci said, "It has been a dream of mine to open a bakery since I was a little girl. When I was young I would sit and play for hour making 'cookies' using a plastic egg from the Leggs pantyhose packaging. I would take the egg and pretend to cut cookies into the carpet to make trays of cookies. Then I would rub the carpet to erase them and start again with a new tray. One year for Halloween I was the Pillsbury Doughboy. I still have the hat. So, from way back I have always loved to bake and this is what I always wanted to do."

Miniaci got her start by working in the catering industry as an executive pastry chef. Then she started a side business making cakes and cookies for friends. It was always her goal to open a storefront bakery.

The name Sweetly Anchored was inspired by the anchor being a symbol of being grounded and water imagery. She grew up near the Finger Lakes in New York and has always lived near water so Maryland and the Chesapeake is reflected in the decor of the bakery.

As a child Miniaci remembers her grandmother loved sweets and pastries and was always baking. She taught her how to bake and encouraged her to go to culinary school. Her specialties, offered at the bakery, were angel food cake, molasses cookies and rhubarb pie. Coincidentally, the bakery opened on May 7, her grandmother's birthday.

The bakery uses quality ingredients such as Valrhona chocolate, real vanilla extract, vanilla bean and high end European but-



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

Lindsay Miniaci, owner and pastry chef of Sweetly Anchored Patisserie.

ter. Everything is made fresh everyday in small batches onsite.

Miniaci wants her customers "to feel like they are going to their grandmother's house to have cookies and pie. I hope they come in and sit down and feel like they are on vacation or at a beach house. I hope they come in to enjoy coffee or tea and a cookie and relax even if it is for 10 minutes. We hope our customers see my and my husband's passion for food. We are a family run, small business. We live in the neighborhood and hope the bakery will be a neighborhood gathering spot. We love Potomac and have been meeting other store owners and employees in Cabin John Mall. It is like a small family. We all look out for each other and they are just as excited for us to be open as we are to finally be open."

In the future the bakery plans to offer children's cake decorating birthday parties and adult baking classes based on holiday themes.

The bakery can do custom order for anything but just requires 24 to 48 hours notice. Custom cakes need three days notice.

Sweetly Anchored Patisserie is located at 11325 Seven Locks Road. Potomac, inside the Cabin John Mall. Hours are: Monday-closed; Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Phone 301-299-8809. Visit www.sweetlyanchored.com.



Pastries from Sweetly Anchored Patisserie



Cupcakes from Sweetly Anchored Patisserie

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

PEOPLE

Potomac Author To Host Book Signing Saturday

Aimee Agresti celebrates publication of first adult novel.

By PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Like many journalists, Potomac resident Aimee Agresti always wanted to write novels.

Her recently published novel, "Campaign Widows," was one she said she had in her head for a long time.

"I had the kernel of the idea and I had a title," she said in an interview at the Potomac Library last week.

But she was busy.

Agresti grew up in Olney.

"I was a [Sherwood High School] Warrior," she said.

She attended Northwestern University, majored in journalism, and moved to New York City to write for entertainment magazines.

"I've always been interested in entertainment," she said.

And she got right to it. Among the publications she wrote for are Us Weekly, People,

Premiere, DC magazine, Capitol File, the Washington Post, Washingtonian and the Washington City Paper.

She said she loved the work, getting to do lots of celebrity interviews, attending premiers, and learning the inside scoop of the entertainment industry. Her favorite celebrity?

"My favorite is George Clooney," she said. "He's so charming. He's everybody's favorite."

Somehow, Agresti found time to write a trilogy of young adult novels, "The Gilded Wings Trilogy."

"I thought, why don't I try to write a book I would have loved as a teen," she said.

Those books are available in this library, she said, getting up to look for a copy and, happily returning without one – it was checked out.

For "Campaign Widows," her first novel for adults, Agresti married her experience as an entertainment journalist with Washington politics.



Potomac author Aimee Agresti.

"Some people say its like Sex in the City and The West Wing," Agresti said.

"It's all fiction," she said. "A book about unlikely friendships, people at different places in their lives."

The characters are each left alone as their significant others are away working the long hours required of politicians seeking election wins.

Agresti said she knows a bit about that as her now husband did a lot of politicking before they married.

Mostly, she said, the book is a fun read.

"It's lighthearted, upbeat, a lot of fun, escapism ...," she said.

Early reviews back that up.

Cosmopolitan listed "Campaign Widows" among its "Must have beach reads" and Us Magazine includes it in its "Best of Spring Reads."

Agresti will be signing copies of "Campaign Widows" at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 26 at Barnes & Noble, 12089 Rockville Pike.

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