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Potomac ALMANAC



Leonard Proctor at the
2009 Opening Day of the
Potomac Hunt Races.

Giving Back To a Potomac Icon

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Adept at International Challenges

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Giving Back to a Potomac Icon

Community cares
for one of its own.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Known for his dedication, kindness, indomitable spirit, love of horses and loyalty to all, Leonard Proctor is a Potomac icon. He worked for 45 years for Mitch & Bill's Exxon until his retirement in 1995 and never missed one day of work. Additionally, he also worked after-hours caring for local families' horses, yards and stables. He tended bar at Potomac parties and drove older local residents to their appointments. He and his wife, Sue Lee (now deceased) were a Potomac presence – always helpful and smiling while they worked for generations of Potomac families.

Proctor was born on April 14, 1930 and grew up in Georgetown where he went to school. Both his parents died before he finished junior high. He was 17 years old when he started riding horses on the weekends with his Uncle Johnny Jackson, a Potomac legend who lived on Oaklyn Drive. Proctor fell in love with the horses and riding and soon earned his first job walking and tending the horses at the Potomac Hunt. He began riding with the Potomac Hunt in 1947 through 2016 when he retired at age 86.

While hunting, he was entrusted with the task of teaching the etiquette of the hunt to young equestrians. "I had the responsibility of most of the kids at one point," he said. One of the smallest children with whom he worked was long-time Potomac resident Sylvia Bogley Biggar. She said, "Like a mother or a father, Leonard has just always been there. I have never known life without him."

Into his 80s, he still rode 3 - 4 times a week and continued to be one of the most sought-after dancers at many parties including the Hunt Ball. His dance card was always full. "I just keep dancing all night,"



PHOTO BY ROBERT KELLER

Leonard Proctor — ever present at the Potomac Hunt.

he said with a smile. He was such a good dancer he entered regional dance competitions and won first-place for his merengue and second for his foxtrot.

Proctor explained that he knew everyone in Potomac in the '50s and '60s. "It was a small town — and I knew where everyone lived. I used to drive kids home when they were stuck in Potomac and it was too far for them to walk. Potomac was a really nice place and everyone had so much fun."

Proctor and Jackson were fixtures at the parties in Potomac. They cooked dinner, served it, took photos, and served drinks. No one planned a party with calling them first to be certain they were available. Once they approved the date, they were given the guest list and made all the alcohol purchases since they knew what everyone drank.

"I had their drinks poured as I saw them," said Proctor. "The exception was Dr. Kneipp; he would switch his drink at each party." Jackson and Proctor's lives were woven into the lives of the Potomac Hunt Club mem-

bers. He fixed their horses, their cars, and their drinks and was a loyal friend to all.

NOW 88, he is in need of financial help to ensure he can live out his life with dignity and peace of mind. His financial circumstances have declined since he can no longer perform the many jobs he used to. His income is limited to his Social Security pension.

He has exhausted his savings, depleted the equity in his home through a "reverse mortgage" arrangement, and has been prey to senior financial scams.

Potomac residents Janelle Sherfy Straszheim and Devereaux Raskauskas grew up with Proctor, who helped them improve their riding, and befriended them in many ways. They continued to be good friends and visit each other regularly. Over the course of several recent visits, they became aware of his declining financial circumstances. They are now devoting time and effort to assisting him. Since they both

have expertise in this area (Straszheim is employed by Sandy Springs Bank and Raskauskas works for Larmax Senior Assistant-living Homes), they have taken over his bill-paying to avoid any further elder financial exploitation.

Raskauskas said, "We are committed to helping him pay off household repair expenses finances at exorbitant interest rates (27.99 percent to be specific). We are also pursuing the availability of public assistance services."

Two fundraising goals have now been established for Proctor's benefit by Straszheim and Raskauskas. First, obtain sufficient funding through immediate donations and future pledges to supplement Proctor's monthly financial needs for the remainder of his life. Secondly, pay down his outstanding home improvement loans for a roof replacement (\$15,500) and an HVAC system (\$4,600.)

They have set up three different methods of making contributions:

- ❖ Go Fund Me payments at www.gofundme.com for Leonard Proctor.

- ❖ Periodic scheduled contributions to Proctor's PNC Savings account. Straszheim and Raskauskas will be overseeing the disbursements. Contact either to learn the details.

- ❖ Mail donations for Proctor directly to Janelle Straszheim, 10812 Fox Hunt Lane, Potomac 20854 or to Devereaux Raskauskas at 14709 Spring Meadow Drive 20874.

These two stewards of Proctor's well-being say: "You have our assurance that all funds will be used only for Leonard's living and health needs. We will be faithful stewards of these funds for Leonard's exclusive benefit. We are establishing a dual-control arrangement to ensure adequate supervision of all financial receipts and expenditures. Donors and gift amounts will be kept confidential."

For further information from Straszheim or Raskauskas, email them at: jstraszheim@gmail.com or devereaux03@msn.com.



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Leonard Proctor with his wife Sue Lee.

Leonard Proctor was grand marshal at an early Potomac Day parade.

Gathering to Support Animal Welfare

Attendees at the 2nd Annual MCPAW Party on Saturday, Oct. 13 reveled in the Great Gatsby theme, raising money for animal welfare.

MCPAW (Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being) is the non-profit partner of the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC). It works through MCASAC to keep homeless pets healthy and happy while awaiting adoption.

MCPAW goals are:

- ❖ Reduce the number of animals that come to MCASAC
- ❖ Pamper, protect and provide for animals inside MCASAC
- ❖ Educate and engage the community in causes for animal welfare

See www.mcpaw.org for more and to donate.



Jasmine, a two-year-old petite tabby has a big personality, and is up for adoption at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center. She accompanied Genevieve Warner to the MCPAW Gala, and showed little concern for the canines in attendance.



Risa Simon and Buddha.



Nyke and Milo ride in the arms of Louie Sweetenberg, chatting with Cassandra Overking at the MCPAW gala at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac. All of the dogs in attendance were beautifully turned out and brought even more joy to the occasion.



Dogs Grayson McCloud in the bow tie and Lia Mackenzie accompany Kimberly Agzigian at the MCPAW Gala. Grayson and Lia are adopted, and have three more canine counterparts in the Agzigian home.

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.

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide

code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

League of Women Voters. 7-9 p.m. At Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Potomac Community Village is offering a free presentation with the League of Women Voters' Carla Satinsky, current head of the Montgomery County Chapter. Satinsky will help attendees unravel what they are voting on when they are asked to consider the five questions that are on the ballot, and will share some of the League's history. For more

information, to volunteer or get volunteer help, contact 240-221-1370, email info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org or check out the website at www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org or our Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Community Meeting. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring. County residents are invited to learn about using data to improve health. "Envisioning Equity in Montgomery

County Using Data," will give attendees an opportunity to learn about various data sources that can help identify community health needs and to participate in discussions with stakeholders including local health providers, health plans, County government agencies, non-profit organizations and academic institutions about ways to share data across sectors and use shared data to improve population health. The events are free, but registration is required. Register at <https://bit.ly/2NOALUF>.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Workshop: Faith & Local Waters.

3-5 p.m. At Beth Shalom Congregation, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. FoCJC, working with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, has developed a two-hour workshop to inspire and inform local congregations about the Cabin John Creek Watershed in which they are located. The program will give attendees the inspiration and knowledge to undertake or further an earth friendly stewardship program with a stormwater management component after the workshop. In this workshop, participants will Discuss Green Ministry Principles;

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Check Ballot Ahead of Time

Election just three weeks away.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Ready for the midterms? The midterm elections will be held coming up Tuesday, Nov. 6 or next week if residents plan to vote early.

Gilberto Zelaya, outreach coordinator and public information officer with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, suggests voters prepare for the midterms before they vote. "It's a long ballot, there are numerous contests and lots of questions," he said.

He said before arriving at the polls is the time to check out a sample ballot — copies have been sent to all registered voters — and decide on choices.

"Read, review and premark the sample ballot," he said. "Bring it with you."

That way, he said, the whole process will run more smoothly.

With 21 races, ranging from that of Maryland governor to Montgomery County Board of Education, and five questions, it would be time consuming for voters to make all their decisions in the voting booth.

"The entire ballot is important," Zelaya said.

And so, Zelaya said, he hopes 100 percent of eligible voters actually do turn up

at the polls. "That's always the goal," he said. "We always prepare. Our desire is that the entire electorate comes to exercise their constitutional right." Generally, he said Montgomery County has about 60 percent turnout for elections. "When people ask me about how many people I expect to vote I say, 'worry less about how many will come out, worry about you coming out.'"

He did add, though, that weather is a big factor in voter turnout. Bad weather, like a cold and dreary day negatively affects the numbers at the polls.

REGISTRATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING

To vote in Montgomery County, you must:
Be a U.S. citizen.

Be a Montgomery County resident.
Be 18 years of age by Election Day, Nov. 6, 2018.

"All of this information is available on our website," Zelaya said. "777Vote.org."

After voting, Zelaya suggests that thanks be extended to the voting judges, who are volunteering their time to ensure the process runs smoothly.

EARLY VOTING

Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road is one of 11 early voting

centers around the county.

Others close to Potomac are Montgomery County Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St., Rockville and Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, 4301 Wil-

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Learn about your Local Watershed Environment; Share your Stormwater Problems; Consider Stormwater Management Solutions; Develop a Stewardship Plan specific to your Congregation; and Get Free Advice from Montgomery County RainScapes Experts. This workshop is co-hosted by Beth Shalom Congregation and St. James' Episcopal Church. RSVP: rsvp@cabinjohncreek.org

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

Youth Town Hall. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Council Office Building, third floor hearing room, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County Council wants to know what is on the minds of young residents when it hosts its eighth annual youth town hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a pre-meeting pizza reception for students and Councilmembers in the building's second-floor cafeteria. Call 240-777-7926 or learn more by watching tinyurl.com/ybfxo7h.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

Community Service Day. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation sponsor a bike collection during this year's Community Service Week celebration. Donate bicycles, bicycle parts, and/or helmets.

low Lane, Chevy Chase.

Early voting begins Thursday, Oct. 25 and runs until Thursday, Nov. 1. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Residents can vote at any early voting center.

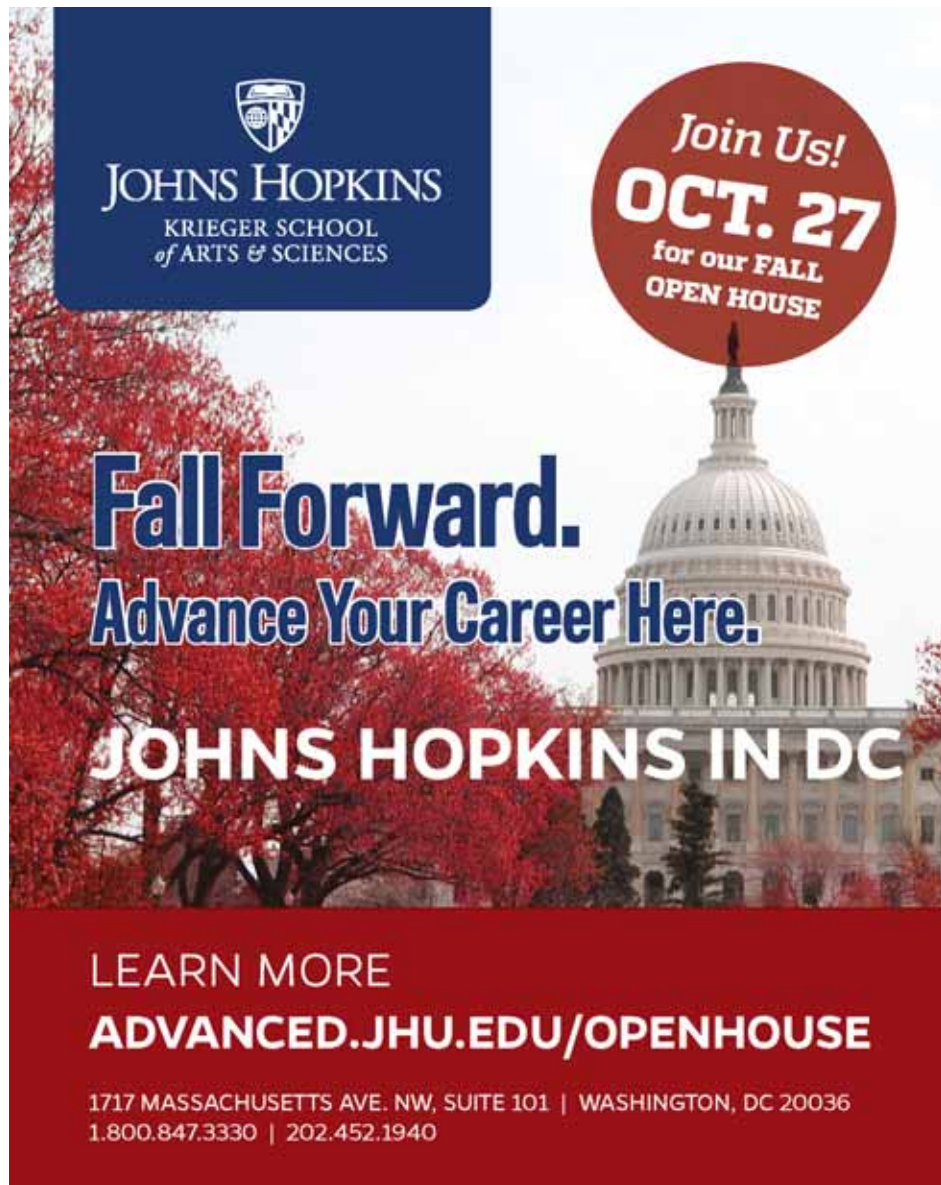
The collection will be held at the Council Office Building parking garage in Rockville outside the entrance on East Jefferson Street at its intersection with Monroe Street. Residents may also donate by check to Rockville Bike Hub during the collection. All donated funds will be used to purchase bike helmets and parts to repair the bikes. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-dir/bikedrive.html for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Preserving and Restoring Sight. 10 a.m.-noon at Leisure World Clubhouse Two, 3300 North Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring. Join Wai Wong, MD, PhD, Senior Retina Researcher at National Eye Institute (NEI) at the National Institute of Health (NIH) as he discusses the impact of regenerative medicine and the progress in preserving and restoring sight. Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, Director, Low Vision Learning Center will discuss new technologies that complement medical research. Visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/leisureworld for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Cancer Support Groups. Held at Hope Connections for Cancer Support, Beaumont House at FASEB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda. Free. RSVP at 301-634-7500.



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We hope our current patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Do sometime soon. And for anyone who requires the expertise of the area's only Uveitis specialist, he is ready and available whenever you need him.

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Adept at International Challenges

Potomac resident named ambassador to Democratic Republic of Congo.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

In a way, Mike Hammer has been preparing for his career as a diplomat all his life. He was born in Washington D.C. then lived in five countries in his first 14 years. He was bilingual from the beginning: his mother spoke to him in Spanish and his father, English.

This week he leaves to take up the post as U.S. ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It seems like a tough place to go. As Hammer said in his statement for his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations: "After two coups, more than 30 years of dictatorship under Mobutu, a regional war that left millions dead, and President Joseph Kabila's 17 years in power, the DRC is on the cusp of its first peaceful, democratic transition since independence. In holding these elections on Dec. 23, President Kabila can achieve a significant legacy that advances the interests of his country and delivers an opportunity for a more peaceful and prosperous future for the Congolese people."

Hammer is enthusiastic. "This is the kind of assignment [diplomats] relish," Hammer said. "The U.S. can make a difference. We can play a role, hopefully, helping the Congolese people realize their potential."

Hammer said his family's history motivated him to serve the United States through diplomacy. "As a youth," he said. "I liked the travel and being exposed to different cultures."



Mike Hammer with a student during one of his many school visits in Chile.

His father worked with international labor movements mostly in Central and South America and he learned to appreciate the ideal of community service from him. He was also deeply affected by the murder of his father in El Salvador while he [Mike] was a young teenager.

"I knew then that I wanted to become an American diplomat, and my mother unequivocally supported my dream despite the risks inherent in our profession," Hammer said.

Hammer attended Landon School in

Bethesda, received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and master's degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the National Defense University.

While at Tufts, he met his wife Margret Bjorgulfsdottir, who is from Iceland. They have three children, all who attended Winston Churchill High School. His youngest daughter is a senior there this year.

He is fluent in Spanish, French, and Icelandic, and speaks a bit of Portuguese and Danish, he said.

"Communication is key," he said. "Diplomatic relations are about people relations. It's a mutual respect."

Generally, he said, the world admires the people of the United States for their openness and democracy. He believes people need security, opportunities and education. "If you have those three you have what you need," he said.

Hammer said he is happy to have done a lot of work in public affairs — he was also ambassador to Chile and served in Bolivia, Norway, Iceland, and Denmark and worked under four presidents. He encourages others to consider diplomacy as a career.

It's important to bring the best of the best into the service if the United States is to help the people of other countries and look out for American citizens, businesses and foreign policy, he said.

For more information about a career with the State Department visit careers.state.gov.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Mike Hammer with Chile President Michelle Bachelet.



Mike Hammer delivers remarks at the National Defense University.

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POTOMAC DAY 2018

Honoring Community Service

Annual Potomac Day Parade
returns to Potomac Village on Oct. 20.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Three citizens and a Potomac nonprofit business have been selected by the Potomac Chamber of Commerce as its 2018 honorees. Not only do these honorees volunteer their time and talents to help the community, they give of themselves both professionally and personally in a multitude of ways. They will be featured in the Potomac Day parade and also recognized by the Potomac Chamber of Commerce in November at a dinner held at Normandy Farm Restaurant.

The honorees are: Grand Marshall of the Parade – Julia Perlman, Potomac Youth of the Year – Katelyn Foreman, Potomac Citizen of the Year – Susanne Lee and Potomac Non-Profit Business of the Year – Kindworks.

Julia Perlman, Grand Marshal of the Potomac Day Parade

Julia Perlman literally became a “mover and a shaker” in Potomac when she could no longer stand the deterioration of the grounds surrounding the Potomac Library. Working with Montgomery County Public Library representatives, the Friends of the Potomac Library and her own Potomac Village Garden Club, she personally moved and shook the earth — as well as people to improve the gardens. With shovel and pruning shears in hand, she tackled the task of turning the unkempt space into a beautiful arboretum setting on all four sides of the Potomac Library. She also wrote a brochure for library patrons, explaining which plants are in the garden. This garden serves as a teaching garden for the Girl Scouts and Brownies.

Perlman said, “I read a book called ‘Outside Lies



Julia Perlman – Grand Marshal of the Parade.

Magic’ about how important it is to incorporate visual things into spaces. I lobbied to plant upscale plants around the library and to create an oasis for all to enjoy. The Potomac Library is one of the most used libraries in Montgomery County and should be lovely on the outside as well as on the inside. Our Potomac Village Garden Club maintains the plantings and the space. We try to make it a beautiful spot that everyone in our community will enjoy.”

Perlman grew up in

Rochester, N.Y. and moved here in 1968. She was educated in chemistry at Mt. Holyoke and Yale. For the past 20 years she has volunteered as a Garden Docent at Hillwood. She also serves on the Board of the Chesapeake Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, volunteers as a member of the Canal Trust and at Real Foods for Kids Montgomery, lobbying for healthier foods to be served to school children.

“This award came as a complete surprise and I’m proud to serve as the Grand Marshal,” said Perlman. “I’m usually working behind the scenes so I feel completely honored to be out in front today. I am thrilled that Carol Jarvis and the Potomac Village Garden Club nominated me.”

Susanne Lee, Potomac Citizen of the Year

Susanne Lee is nominated for her leadership and service to the West Montgomery County Citizens Association (WMCCA) and, in turn to the Potomac community. She has spent countless hours ensuring

SEE HONORING, PAGE 8

Susanne Lee — Potomac Citizen of the Year.



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POTOMAC DAY 2018



Katelyn Foreman — Potomac Youth of the Year

Honoring Community Service

FROM PAGE 7

that the Potomac Master Plan is adhered to, the streams are kept clean, and the environment is sustained with green spaces remaining green.

Originally from Eagles Mere, Pa., a Victorian summer resort on a pristine lake in north central Pennsylvania, Susanne was surrounded by thousands of acres of state game lands. She said, “I think love for the outdoors and everything green was hardwired in my DNA and this is one of the reasons I love living in the Potomac Subregion.” She left this area to attend Dickinson College, earned her Masters at the University of Pittsburgh and her JD from George Washington University.

Ginny Barnes, president of the WMCCA, said, “Susanne’s knowledge of the law, ability to dig into tough legal issues with water and sewer policy, Special Exception uses and issues before the Board of Appeals has helped the Association navigate our way with County, State and even the Federal Government. Her contributions are nothing short of remarkable. Though self-effacing and quiet, Susanne has spent untold hours working for our community. She is well-respected by the Montgomery County Council, Parks and Planning Department and other governmental agencies. Susanne currently serves as zoning chair and is the president-elect of the WMCCA for 2019/2020.”

Lee said, “I feel so honored to receive this award for work that I love to do for my incredible neighbors and the awesome West Montgomery County Citizens Association. I am pleased to follow in the

footsteps of my heroes – former West Montgomery award winners Ginny and George Barnes and Lois Williams. In my professional and volunteer work, the goal has been to apply sound science, common sense, and the rule of law to ensure the very best outcome. Although the sound of chain saws still sends shivers down my back, the objective is not to stop development, but to ensure it is done intelligently.”

Retired from the EPA, Lee is now environmental counsel for the Government of Palau, an island nation in the western Pacific. Her love of diving and snorkeling exploded there and she spends a lot of time on coral reefs throughout the world.

Katelyn Foreman, Potomac Youth of the Year

Katelyn Foreman, a senior at The Bullis School, was nominated by her guidance counselor Lynn Kittel. She has attended Bullis since grade 6, and lived in Potomac her entire life. She is curious and kind – two features that allow her to achieve excellence in all aspects of her life. Her counselor wrote, “Katelyn must have some magical power that allows her to extend time! It just does not seem possible that she can accomplish as much in each day as she does. She appears to be superhuman in that regard, and yet, anyone who meets Katelyn will tell you she is as grounded, caring and as ‘real as they come.’ With her genuine kindness and gregarious nature, Katelyn puts everyone at ease and welcomes them into her sphere. She is the perfect example of someone who

SEE AT ANNUAL, PAGE 9



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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

POTOMAC DAY 2018

At Annual Potomac Day Parade

FROM PAGE 8

can be successful at all she attempts yet always be at ease and relatable.”

Not only does Katelyn carry the highest GPA in her class, she is an accomplished dancer at the CityDance Conservatory where she spends 15 hours each week in classes and rehearsals. She also dances and choreographs for the Bullis After-School Dance Program, represents her classmates in Student Government and is a leader in the Bullis Student Tutors Organization. She tutors many younger students and has served as head of marketing for the program. Additionally, she is involved in UNICEF and Booster Club and spent her summer teaching dance to senior citizens at the Hebrew Home. She wanted to share her love of dance with the residents of an assisted living facility and thoroughly enjoyed watching the seniors move and smile along with the music.

Katelyn said, “I am both humbled and honored to be named the Potomac Student of the Year. Throughout my many years in the Potomac area, I have always looked forward to the Parade as a celebration of this wonderful community. Dogs in tow and a Potomac Pizza slice in hand, the Potomac Day festivities have been surrounded by happy thoughts and joyous memories. I look forward to continuing this tradition with family and friends, adding a new special touch and an unforgettable memory.”

By the time she completes her senior year, Katelyn will have taken 18 Honors and Advanced Placement courses. She plans to attend a four-year university next year but is undecided about her major or long-term plans. Her interests are across the curriculum in science, global studies and the arts.

KindWorks – Nonprofit Business of the Year

KindWorks is a non-profit which brings people together to address some of the most urgent needs in the community, including poverty, hunger, environment, health, emergency relief, and promoting un-



Salma Hasan Ali, chief inspiration officer; Deb Lang, executive director; and Denise Schleckser, board chair, of Kindworks – nonprofit business of the year for Potomac Day.

derstanding. By making it easy for people to participate in volunteer projects, KindWorks makes service a part of everyone’s daily routine.

“We believe that by bringing people together as a group, not only can we provide much needed service and support, but we can also learn from and inspire one another, and therefore have a much more profound and long lasting impact,” said Executive Director Deb Lang.

KindWorks focuses its efforts in three main areas: helping low income neighbors, for example by preparing meals using recovered foods and organizing social and health related activities such as Bingo and yoga for area shelters; supporting new legal refugee neighbors, by gathering donated furniture and setting up welcoming apartments, along with other projects; and supporting inmates who will soon re-enter the community, through job-readiness train-


SEE HONOREES, PAGE 10

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POTOMAC DAY 2018



Visiting with Bert from Squeals on Wheels at last year's Potomac Day Parade.

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS /THE ALMANAC

Demonstration from East West Tae Kwon Do at last year's Potomac Day Parade.



Youths on the climbing wall at last year's Potomac Day Parade.

Honorees

FROM PAGE 9

ing, life coaching, weekly chess classes, and more.

"KindWorks is about understanding that each one of us can do something, however small or big, to impact the life of another person for the better," said Chief Inspiration Officer Salma Hasan Ali. "The world's problems can seem so overwhelming — it's easy to feel stuck. By helping our neighbors in need, at least we can take that first step in a positive direction."

For example, KindWorks just set up its 32nd apartment (in the past 18 months) for a refugee family of nine coming from Afghanistan. A group of more than 25 people, aged 10 to 60-plus, gathered on a Saturday morning to assemble furniture, stock the pantry, fill backpacks, sort toys and clothes, and decorate an apartment so it feels like a home. They even arranged for a home-cooked Afghani meal for the new neighbors upon their arrival. (Learn more about this KindWorks story on Salma's website: <http://www.salmahasanal.com/she-never-met-a-stranger/>.)

Sign up for KindWorks' newsletter at www.dokindworks.org and join their Facebook page.

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Carving Made Easy

A lesson in creating a front porch worthy Halloween pumpkin.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

“**I**ck, this is so gross,” said one 11-year-old girl with shoulder length blonde hair. “Those are the guts,” said her classmate, a 12-year-old, white apron-clad boy, as he pulled a handful of stringy, orange pulp out of a fat pumpkin.

“It’s part of the process. You have to clean out the messy insides before you can start carving a beautiful design,” said Lisa Searby, who was offering an in-home lesson in carving Halloween pumpkins to a group of middle school students and their parents.

A drive around most neighborhoods during this, the spookiest season of the year, will likely reveal the efforts of many to carve a sophisticated pumpkin. From frightening to fanciful, the art of pumpkin carving is a skill that eludes many. So on a chilly Sunday afternoon, Searby, who lives in Bethesda, Md. trekked to the Fairfax home of Katie and Luke Gunther to offer a class in pumpkin carving. With a few tricks and the right tools, Searby says that almost anyone can create a front-porch worthy gourd.

After the parent-child duos have donned aprons and the pumpkins are placed atop tables covered with plastic and topped with newspaper, the instruction begins. A set of



Investing in a set of carving tools helps create impressive Halloween pumpkins.

carving tools is something that Searby recommends to anyone who wants to create an impressive design.

“You don’t have to break the bank, but you need to get a set of tools that are sturdy enough to stand up the the heft of a thick-

skinned pumpkin,” she said. “You can usually find them online pretty easily. Choose a set that has a tool for each step of the process, like a little serrated saw to cut a hole in the top and a scooper to clean out the flesh. It makes carving so much easier.”

It appears that parents agree. “I didn’t realize that there was such a thing, but these little tools are awesome,” said Luke Gunther, the father of 12-year-old twins. “We usually use a kitchen knife and it’s hard to cut through and the edges of the designs are always jagged, but the tools make a much smoother cut.”

Once the tops of the pumpkins are removed and the pulp, flesh and seeds area cleared, the artistry begins. “Use a dry-erase marker to to sketch the design that you want to carve on the front of your pumpkin,” said Searby. “Does anyone know why we’re using a dry-erase marker instead of a Sharpie? Because if you make a mistake or don’t like your drawing, you can wipe off a dry-erase marker and start over. Sharpies are permanent.”

Three hearts are what Theresa Holt and her 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter choose for the front of their pumpkin. “This is such a fun thing to do, even if you don’t care about the outcome, it’s a great way to spend time together as a family,” she said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA SEARBY

Front-porch ready Halloween pumpkins.

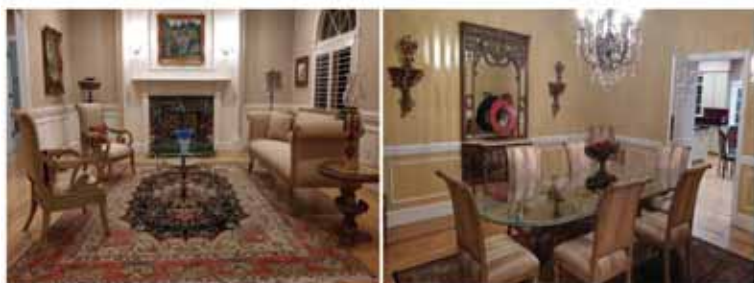
Those who choose to use one of Searby’s pre-designed templates are instructed to attach the template to the pumpkin and use the spike tool to trace the design onto the gourd, leaving tiny pinholes in its thick flesh. Next, the class uses one of the carving tools to cut out the facial features or other designs and, voila, in less than 30 minutes the group produces six pumpkins that are ready for Halloween.

“If you’re going to use candles illuminate your pumpkins at night, make sure you put the candles in a glass candle holder first,” said Searby. “Now the clean-up begins. It’s a messy process after all.”

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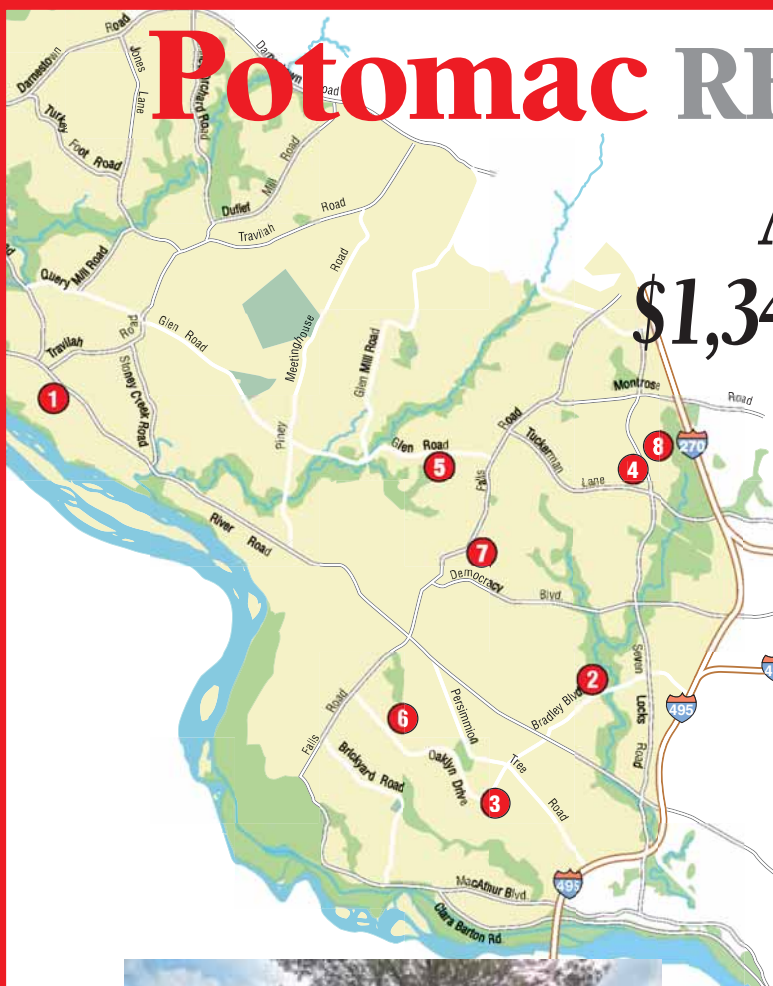
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6 9200 Falls Bridge Lane — \$1,375,000



3 9301 Crimson Leaf Terrace — \$1,430,000

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1 13516 MAIDSTONE LN	6	..	5	.	3	POTOMAC	\$1,550,000	...	Detached	2.1220854	RIVERS EDGE	08/15/18
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3 9301 CRIMSON LEAF TER ..	4	..	3	.	1	POTOMAC	\$1,430,000	...	Detached	0.4420854	AVENEL	08/15/18
4 11416 PATRIOT LN	4	..	6	.	1	POTOMAC	\$1,410,000	...	Detached	0.1720854	POTOMAC CREST	08/03/18
5 9808 GLYNESHIRE WAY	5	..	4	.	1	POTOMAC	\$1,400,000	...	Detached	0.5320854	CLAGETT FARM	08/27/18
6 9200 FALLS BRIDGE LN	5	..	4	.	1	POTOMAC	\$1,375,000	...	Detached	2.1720854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE ...	08/28/18
7 10818 NANTUCKET TER	4	..	3	.	1	POTOMAC	\$1,365,000	...	Detached	0.9320854	KENTSDALE ESTATES ..	08/15/18
8 7700 MARY CASSATT DR	5	..	6	.	0	POTOMAC	\$1,340,000	...	Detached	0.4020854	WILLERBURN ACRES ..	08/31/18
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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY KANIKA SIRCAR

Sculptural piece depicting melting glaciers and boiling Oceans.

Sculptural Ceramics

Exhibition of ceramics, now through Nov. 13, noon-6 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Free. Kanika Sircar is exhibiting contemporary sculptural ceramics that reference environmental and climate change. Her forms depict shorelines, waves and boats in surging seas, colors and texts interspersed on beautiful surfaces. Email: kanikas@starpower.net or visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com/october2018

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Autumn Adoption Fest. Through Oct. 25 at Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood. MCASAC will offer no-cost adoptions to encourage the public to adopt homeless pets and make room at the shelter for new arrivals needing placement. After a summer of high animal intakes, largely the result of multiple hoarding cases investigated by the Division, MCASAC has a wide-variety of pets ready to go to a new home. Visit www.montgomerycountmd.gov/asd for more.

Art Exhibit: "Abstract & The Figure." Gallery hours, through Oct. 31 at Framer's Choice Gallery, 402 Main St., Gaithersburg. Vian Borchert's collection consists of a melange of recent abstract paintings along with abstracted figurative artwork. Visit theframerschoicegallery.com/ or call 301-987-8711.

Art Exhibit: Paintings and Sculpture. Through Nov. 3, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery B presents the October exhibit, a group show by Nihal Kececi of Gallery NK, featuring work by Nadia Arditti, Claudia Cappelle, Gulten Imamoglu, Nihal Kececi and Eric Westbrook. Visit www.bethesda.org.

Exhibit: "Places We Find." Through Nov. 4, gallery hours at Photoworks Gallery in Glen Echo Park. "Places We Find" features work from Sandy Sugawara and Catiana Garcia Kilroy. The exhibit highlights how common places can become a source of surprise and discovery through the photographer's lens. Visit glenechophotoworks.org for more.

Teen Writers' Club. Tuesdays through May 28, 6:30-8 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Teens (13-18) with a passion for writing are invited to join

the Teen Writers' Club. Learn and practice new writing techniques, share your work, and learn how to critique other works with author Neal Gillen. Free. Email acsagillen@aol.com for more.

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 for more.

Children's Storytime. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda. Listen to employees read children's stories. Free. Visit www.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 for more.

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.

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 for more.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd.,



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ENTERTAINMENT

Glen Echo. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition, as well as sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. Free. Visit www.silverworksglenechopark.com.

Art Glass Center at Glen Echo. All day Wednesdays; Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Art Glass Center, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Ongoing exhibitions feature work of resident artists. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org for more.

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

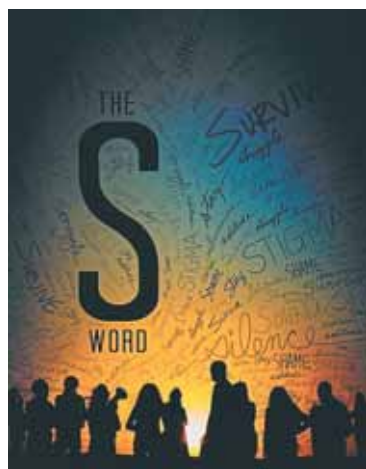
Art Explorers Open Studio. Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Candy Corner Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Art activities for parents and children. Activities change weekly and there is no pre-registration; \$10 per child. Visit www.glenechopark.org/saturday-art-explorers for more.

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

DANCING

Weekly International Folkdancing. Thursdays, 7:30-11 p.m. at Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive, Bethesda. Circle and line dances from Eastern Europe. Lesson at 7:30, followed by requests. Glen Echo Folkdancers welcome beginners of all ages; no partner needed. Wear comfortable shoes. \$7. Call 301-466-3018 or visit www.dancingplanetproductions.com.

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



The 'S' Word

Film screening of The "S" Word, Oct. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. Cost: \$5. In this award-winning documentary, a suicide attempt survivor is on a mission to find fellow survivors and document their stories of unguarded courage, insight, pain and humor. A presentation and Q&A session will follow the screening. Members of the community working to fight mental health stigma and to support individuals with a mental illness will be available to answer questions and share resources. Contact Laura Laskofski at LLaskofski@Every-Mind.org. Get tickets at www.every-mind.org/registration-forms/the-s-word/.

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. Visit 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.



'Places We Find'

Photoworks' new exhibit features work from Sandy Sugawara and Catiana Garcia Kilroy highlighting how common places can become a source of surprise and discovery through the photographer's lens. Exhibit runs through Nov. 4 at Photoworks at Glen Echo Park. Visit glenechophotoworks.org for more.

Contra and Square Dance. Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. www.glenechopark.org, 301-634-2222.

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

NOW THRU MAY 28, 2019

Teen Writers' Club. 6:30-8 p.m. Meets at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Free. Teens ages 13-18 with a passion for writing are invited to join in this Teen Writers' Club. Learn new writing techniques, get practice in different writing exercises, share work, and learn how

to critique work of others. Local author Neal Gillen leads the club, which meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each Month. Contact: Neal Gillen at acsagillen@aol.com.

NOW THRU NOV. 13

Exhibition of Ceramics. 12-6 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Free. Kanika Sircar is exhibiting contemporary sculptural ceramics that reference environmental and climate change. Her forms depict shorelines, waves and boats in surging seas, colors and texts interspersed on beautiful surfaces. Email: kanikas@starpower.net or visit the website www.waverlystreetgallery.com/october2018

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Halloween Slime. 4-5 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Get into the spirit of Halloween by making some ooey-goey slime. All supplies will be provided; open to children 8 years of

age and older. Free. Call 240-777-0690 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

Halloween Puppet Show. 10:30 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Free. A Spooktacular Spectacle of Ghostly Girls, Vinnie Vampire and His All Bats Trio, Napoleon Bone-A-Part, and the Tap Dancing Pumpkin Man. No goosebumps needed — this show is silly rather than scary. For all ages. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library-Potomac Chapter. Call Cindy Gil at 240-777-0690.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Heritage Harvest Festival. Noon-4 p.m. at locations throughout the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. Celebrate autumn and the fall harvest in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. Explore a farm market and winery, CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

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ENTERTAINMENT



“Sunset Over The Water” by Vian Borchert.

Solo Exhibit: ‘Abstract & The Figure’

Vian Borchert’s collection consists of a melange of recent abstract paintings along with abstracted figurative artwork. Gallery hours, through Oct. 31 at Framer’s Choice Gallery, 402 Main St., Gaithersburg. Visit theframerschoicegallery.com/ or call 301-987-8711.

farms, animal sanctuary, living history farm, lavender farm, and more. Family activities will include farm tours, markets, crafts for kids, adorable farm animals, historic structures, and food for sale. Free admission. Visit www.HeritageMontgomery.org/heritage-harvest/ or call 301-515-0753.

“10 Photographs: A Secret About A Secret.” 7-10 p.m. at Photoworks in Glen Echo. The event will include a casual buffet dinner, musical entertainment, and a silent auction. Sarah Gordon, independent curator and lecturer, will speak on the use of boxed collections by master photographers. Each guest will receive a boxed collection of work by Photoworks photographers. Tickets are \$100 for one or \$150 for two at glenechophotoworks.org/10-photos.

Fall Fest. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Geneva Day School, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, featuring bake sale, apple cider, arts and crafts, games, pumpkin painting, gift card prizes, face painting, vendor shops, raffle and bounce houses.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Fire Department Open House. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 8001 River Road, Bethesda. The Department will host its annual Open House with a day of activities that will appeal to all ages and interests. Check the station’s electronic sign or Facebook page for additional information. Visit www.cjpvfd.com for more.

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 waltz workshop; 3:30-6 p.m. dance at the Bumper Car Pavillion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Featuring the ensemble Rhapsody with a mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. 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.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 23-38

Washington International Horse Show. At Capital One Arena. America’s favorite horse show returns for its 60th Anniversary. General admission starting from \$25. Visit wihs.org/tickets.

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

Film Screening The “S” Word. 6:30-7:30 p.m. At AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. Cost: \$5. In this award-winning documentary, a suicide attempt survivor is on a mission to find fellow survivors and document their stories of unguarded courage, insight, pain

and humor. A presentation and Q&A session will follow the screening. Members of the community working to fight mental health stigma and to support individuals with a mental illness will be available to answer questions and share resources. Contact Laura Laskofski at LLaskofski@Every-Mind.org. Get tickets at www.every-mind.org/registration-forms/the-s-word/.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Stand-Up Comedy. 7-8:30 p.m. at Cissel-Saxon American Legion Post 41, 8110 Fenton Street, Silver Spring. Get in the Halloween spirit with a night of stand-up comedy from some of the most fun comics around.

Come in costume, enjoy a Candy Corn Cocktail and sit back to enjoy the comedy of Haywood Turnipseed, Jr., Rose Vineshank, Anthony Oakes and Monica Welham. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Cost is \$20 VIP tickets (includes reserved seating and a complimentary Candy Corn Cocktail); \$16 for general admission in advance / all door tickets will be \$20. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spooky-comedy-halloween-stand-up-show-at-post-41-tickets-50791276074>. Contact Kim at 301-351-2096 or improbablecomedy@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 28

Haunted House Number 13. 4-6 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Halloween harbors superstitions, one of which is that thirteen is unlucky. So be wary as you approach this year’s creepy Haunted House at the Clara Barton Community Center. Fortunes will be told, witches and zombies will haunt visitors’ paths, and games will challenge their nerve and skill. All ages are welcome, free of charge, though children up to age 12 are most likely to be spellbound. Little ones may want a hand to hold. Refreshments will be offered, and small gifts will be handed out to kids. Call 240-777-4910 for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 29

Live Music: Hanneke Cassel & Dave Wiesler. 7:30 p.m. at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Cassel and Wiesler met at Pinewoods Scottish Dance camp in 1998 and have been happily making music together since then. Tickets: \$20 advance, \$25 door. Students & Children: \$15 advance, \$20 door. Visit www.imtfolk.org or call 301-960-3655.



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