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# Potomac

## ALMANAC

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 5

Tom Wang, Tom Rossi, and Joe Ashcraft help prepare and serve Boy Scout Troop 773's 61st Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 9.



Prepared  
To Serve

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Violations cited  
In Tree Cutting

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PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## Fundraising Dinner

Dan, Diane, Jenna Berinstein; Michael and Ellie Grant; and Patrick and Maryellen Grant enjoy the spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 9, at Potomac United Methodist Parish Center. Boy Scout Troop 773 held its 61st Annual Spaghetti Dinner. The all-you-can-eat dinner selections were prepared and served by Boy Scouts and Scout parents in casual, family-style seating. The dinner is the Troop's only fundraiser for the year, and covers the cost of troop equipment and supplies.



Tommy Horton and Sue-Ann Norian.



Nicholas Sieg and Michael Mayhugh.



Senior Patrol Leader Parker Goodfellow



The Scouts sing "Happy Birthday" to Patrick Grant. Parker Goodfellow, Nathaniel Drexler, Vincent Barnaba, Joel Bernstein, Henry Bird, Jack Seig, Krishna Gupta, Gavin Vaughn, and Matthew Xu entertain Maryellen and Patrick Grant.

## Trump's Tree Trunks

More trees cut along Potomac River at Trump National Golf Course.

BY PEGGY MCEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

Environmentalists, conservationists and general river lovers were surprised to learn that more trees were cut last month from the edge of Trump National Golf Course along the Potomac River in Loudoun County, Va.

Steve McKone, a kayaker and group leader with Calleva Outdoors, which has offices on the Maryland side of the river, was the first to notice the change in the shoreline.

"I was out there on the G.W. Canal and on the way I noticed there weren't as many trees as there used to be," McKone said. "The trees were in the water; the river level was low, and they had not washed down."

McCone said he got off the river and called Potomac River Keepers to tell them about the trees. He also put notice on a paddlers' Internet message board alerting them of the possible danger as the trees washed down the river.

"It's a shame," he said. "These are big, full grown trees."

In 2010 the golf club cut down between 400 and 500 trees along the river. One story reported the trees were diseased and had to go, another, that they were felled to improve the view of the river from the golf course. There was no penalty for the cutting that time, as club officials first consulted with Loudoun County officials.

This time, they did not, and on March 6 Loudoun County issued a Notice of Violation for Tree Removal at Golf Course. A press release from Loudoun County reports that the county issued the following: "Loudoun County has issued a Notice of Violation of the county's zoning ordinance to the Trump National Golf Course located at 20391 Lowes Island Boulevard in Sterling following the improper removal of trees from a floodplain without a permit."

On Feb. 28, 2019, Loudoun County inspected the golf course property, which borders the Potomac River. In its Notice of Violation, the county noted three violations of the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance:

"General Prohibition, Section: 1-103(C): Inspectors observed approximately 31,000 square feet of land had been altered within the Floodplain Overlay District (FOD), commonly called the 'major floodplain.' Any man-made change to real estate in the major floodplain without first obtaining the required county approvals is a violation.

"Floodplain Alterations, Section: 4-SEE VIOLATIONS, PAGE 7



# OPINION

## Story of Unique Dollar Billy

Local author imagines a dollar bill with personality.

BY PEGGY MCEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

**T**his collection of children's short stories revolves around a one-dollar bill named Unique Dollar Billy (UDB) who lives with several families (in wallets, purses, and pockets) as he experiences what life has to offer .... The character of UDB will engage children's imaginations and minds as they read his stories. It will bring his experiences to life for readers as they wonder where and how a dollar bill travels in this world."

So reads the introduction to "The Adventures of Unique Dollar Billy," the children's book just published by Potomac author Sea Kay.

Sea Kay, real name Chitra Krishnamurti, retired in 2016 as a program director at National Institutes of Health. Though she still teaches traditional Indian Dance, she found herself thinking she would like to write a children's book.

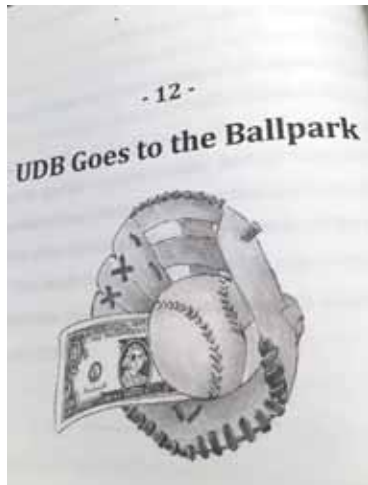
"My dream is to make the children laugh out loud and use their imaginations while learning some important lessons in life," Sea Kay said.

At a book launch party for family and friends at her home Sunday, March 10, she explained how the book came to be.

"I never thought I'd ever write a book," she said. "I just started writing at random."

And her first book was born. First book to be sure, she said, as she is well into another series of Unique Dollar Billy stories.

While she was writing, she was also dealing with the illness and death of her mother.



**"Unique Dollar Billy," by Potomac author Sea Kay, has black and white drawings to illustrate each chapter.**

"They say a lot of creativity comes from difficulty," she said.

And, while sharing her stories with her mother, she learned that she had a grandfather who was a well-known journalist of his time. So maybe writing was in her genes after all, she said.

Sea Kay shared her stories with many of her dance students who ended up being junior editors and illustrators for her book.

"The journey has been really interesting because of these girls," Sea Kay said.

Namya Nanda, 15, was an editor along with Viha Chakrapani, 14, and Taameen Mohammad, 21. Anunshka Tandon, 15, Juhi Dhanesha, 20, did the illustrations.

The girls said they worked on the project since last spring and are ready and excited that there is a second book in the works.

"I'm very excited about working on the second book," Anushka



**Author Chitra Krishnamurti, also known as Sea Kay, center, is surrounded by some of the young women who helped illustrate and edit her book "Unique Dollar Billy." Sea Kay held a book launch part at her Potomac home Sunday, March 10.**

said. "Before I didn't know how many drawings I'd be doing, so I just sketched on scraps of paper. For book two I have a new sketch book and I got new pens. I'm super pumped."

Having worked on the book for so long, each of the girls has at one or two favorite stories about UDB.

Namya said she loved all the stories, but "UDB Becomes a Foreigner" was probably her favorite.

"I loved it because it is about acceptance," she said. "I think it is cool that kids will read it and learn to accept themselves."

Viha liked "UDB Plays in the

Snow."

"UDB is with a family in the snow," she said. "It's a warm story and I love snow days."

To learn more about "The Adventures of Unique Dollar Bill," visit [uniquedollarbilly.com](http://uniquedollarbilly.com).

Potomac Library will host Sea Kay for a reading of "The Adventures of Unique Dollar Billy" at 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 20. She will also be available to answer questions about her writing process and sign copies of the book.

For more information call 240-777-0690.

PHOTOS BY PEGGY MCEWAN/THE ALMANAC

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Sprinkles and The Community

To the Editor:

Thirty years ago Sprinkles opened in the Village as "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt." For those who remember, we were much younger then. Recession hit in 1992; by 1995 yogurt retail was in decline and before the mid-90s most franchised yogurt stores nationally were out of business. If the property owners had not reduced my rent and permitted our expansion into bakery goods, the store would have failed. I remain grateful for their understanding and decency. And I recall with fondness when Mr. Zuckerman, one of the owners, would stop by for coffee in the morning, sometimes with his

wife (Rory).

Relationships, for me, were what it's all about. You may, as my Dad did, try to teach your kids the importance of money. I loved talking to people, hearing (without listening to) interactions in the store. I got to know people, sometimes in snippets compiled over years, and made friends. I enjoyed the communal feeling. I tried to hire people who were interesting and who might like and respect one another, so as to make the workday more pleasant and engender a relaxed atmosphere. Sprinkles is a happy place, a meeting place, a late spot for kids to meet friends and where parents can feel comfortable about where they are.

There are many ways in which Sprinkles can do more for the community. That will require

the efforts of a dedicated team. Over 30 years I owned Sprinkles by myself. Thanks to the community, the business has grown. So have I, personally, and in years. The time is right for ownership to transition to a family who can bring more energy and fresh dedication to the business. Modern marketing, to use an example, is foreign to me, and perhaps to my generation.

Sprinkles changed hands on Feb. 6, to a local Potomac family with whom I am working to make the transition smooth. Please come to meet them and to afford me the opportunity to thank you for your support of the store over three decades, which has felt amazing to me. I feel nothing but humility and gratitude.

Thank you.

**Tom Orban**

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

[www.PotomacAlmanac.com](http://www.PotomacAlmanac.com)

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# Pet-Friendly Decor

Pet-owning designers offer advice on practical design choices that don't sacrifice style.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**F**or pet owners, creating a home décor that's both aesthetically appealing and pet-friendly can be a delicate balance. From muddy paw prints on an heirloom area rug to a velvet sofa covered in cat hair, three local designers — all of whom own pets — share their best advice for addressing animal dilemmas and styling a chic interior that accommodates both man and his best friend.

"There are so many ways that pets enhance our quality of life in the same way that a serene, well-designed home might be a sanctuary for relaxation after a long day," said Karen McBride of Inspired Spaces. "The good news is that you really don't have to choose one or the other. The key is to make sure everything is durable and easily cleaned."

Flooring that can withstand paws with claws top the list of considerations for McBride. "Hardwood floors are beautiful, but they're easily scratched and dinged," she said. "Stone or ceramic tile flooring are ideal for pets owners. You can wipe up puddles and mop up muddy paw prints easily. Hardwood requires immediate cleaning because they absorb liquids and odor."

Rugs with patterns that can hide pet stains are what designer Rochelle Clark uses in



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

the Fairfax home that she shares with her two Italian Greyhounds, Lola and Fiona. "My dogs are not housebroken, so I have to use indoor-outdoor rugs made of polypropylene because I can just hose them down when they get dirty, which is often," she said. "Rugs made from sisal are also good choices if you have pets. I encourage my pet-owning clients to purchase inexpensive rugs because if you have dogs or cats, rug stains are inevitable. It's just a waste of money to invest in a high-end rug if you

have pets. There so many ways that they can be ruined and there are plenty of rugs that don't cost a lot, but have a high-end look to them."

When choosing fabrics for furniture or throw pillows, pet owners should steer clear of textures like velvet or chenille, which can be magnets for pet hair, advises designer and corgi owner, Tami Evers of The Simply Elegant Home. "You also want to avoid silk and other delicate fabrics that could tear easily," she said. "There are so many op-

**Pet owners should look for stain-resistant and durable upholstery fabrics when creating a stylish and animal-friendly interior.**

tions now for durable, stain resistant upholstery fabric that's as elegant and tasteful as its more traditional counterparts. Believe it or not, I finished a project for a client who had two giant labradoodles, and her living room furniture is entirely of Sunbrella fabric."

Other durable and easy to clean options that Evers recommends include leather and Crypton. "The only issue with leather is that it will scratch easily if you have pets with sharp nails, but some people think scratched leather has character," she said. "Crypton can withstand almost anything. If you have a dog or cat that barfs a lot or has lots of accidents, Crypton is the way to go. It's stain-proof, tear-proof and comes in a wide range of patterns and colors."

Built-in eating spaces and pet beds for her two Bichon Frises are ways that personal home organizer Becca Anderson of The Organized Life streamlines her pet spaces to maintain her home's aesthetic.

"Pet owners love their animals, but no one wants their home to look and smell like it's been overrun with animals," she said. "I advised one of my clients to add a custom, built-in litter box space to her laundry room for her three cats."

She even invested in a self-cleaning litter box, and those two features were transformative."

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## Talk About Wishful Thinking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Every morning, at the very least, I look into the bathroom mirror to brush my teeth and shave my stubble. And there, right below my Adam's apple, in plain site, is the tumor we're attempting to stabilize, and in a perfect scenario: shrink.

As I've said many times before during my 10 years of treatment: "I can live with 'stable,'" and/or "Stable is my new favorite word." But the only way I find out if my lung cancer tumors are stable/have shrunk/grown is when my oncologist tells me/ read the radiologist's report.

During this quarterly interval between scans, I'm like Sergeant Schultz from "Hogan's Heroes: "I see nothing." The tumors in my lungs are "like weeds," (meaning they're everywhere), said my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting in response to one of my wife, Dina's, questions about whether surgery was an option; "no" was that answer. But obviously, I can't see them and what feelings I've experienced in my mediastinum have likely been scar tissue forming (according to my oncologist) and not indicative of too much too often.

So, I've learned to not overreact to any discomfort I might experience. It might mean something or it might mean nothing. I've been to both places already.

However, the "Adam's apple" tumor is front and center. When I brush my teeth, I see it. When I shave I have to nearly shave over it. It's impossible to miss. It's not exactly a goiter but it's more than a lump.

It's not painful, but it's completely opposite to the tumors in my lungs; they're out of sight and because of that, occasionally out of mind. The "Adam's apple" tumor is totally in sight and because of that, is always on my mind. It's how I start my day and how I finish my evening. And in the hours between, I'm touching my throat to feel what I can feel and hope what I can hope. The effect is I'm reinforcing a negative every time I touch the tumor.

If I can't see the tumor (like the ones in my lungs), and I can't touch the tumors (like I can the "Adam's apple" tumor), I can delude myself more easily into not thinking/remembering I even have cancer; and more importantly, not thinking that I'm "terminal" as my oncologist characterized me all those years ago when he gave me a "13 month to two year" prognosis – on Feb. 27, 2009. Then I can pretend to live life as if the Sword of Damocles is not hanging over my head.

But, being able to touch the very thing that might be shortening my life makes it more real than it's ever been. And it's that reality that is making Kenny a very dull boy (no comments from the peanut gallery, please!).

I'll know something definitive on March 18, five days after my March 13 CT scan, the first scan I will have had since I began the immunotherapy. That's when we'll have our usual post-scan appointment with my oncologist to learn results and discuss alternatives, if necessary.

Surgery, as we've inquired about previously is out of the question. Therefore, we'll either continue to do what we've been doing, or start doing something we've never done before (you have to keep the cancer guessing).

On my most recent appointment, when asked by yours truly, my oncologist said we have lots of non-surgical options should change be warranted. (There was a time in the past when I asked my oncologist a similar question and he was not nearly so encouraging. In fact, he was downright discouraging when he told me that the drug he was giving me at the time was the last drug he had for me.) Having been dangling previously at a near end, I'm sure you can appreciate how a patient knowing there are other choices available should a drug fail to stop the growth, is very reassuring.

Nevertheless, facing off with this tumor every day and being able to touch it morning, noon and night, presents a real problem: how do I avoid thinking I have cancer?

It's always been my goal to try and assimilate the facts and hope not to be overwhelmed by the feelings. But how do I think it's nothing when it's obviously something?

I mean, it wouldn't be there if it was just minding its own business, would it?

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

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### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit by Morton Fine Art.** Through March 30, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery B's March exhibition is a group show by Morton Fine Art. The exhibit, curated by Amy Morton, will feature new works by several Morton Fine Art's artists including Victor Ekpuk, Katherine Hattam, Andrei Petrov and Vonn Sumner. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Photography Exhibit: "Visions, Reflections."** Through April 14, Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-8 p.m. at Photoworks, at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Photoworks presents "Visions, Reflections" by Roberto Frenandez Ibanez. Three of the four selected series do without the camera as an instrument to create images. They convey the artist's concern for the coexistence of humans with nature, the knowledge derived from observing it, and the use of the photographic medium as a material that not only changes when it is exposed to light, but can be transformed, tuned, and textured by techniques and laboratory processes. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 15

**Washington Conservatory Concert.** 7 p.m. At Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Washington Conservatory Faculty Members will present a potpourri of musical instruments, periods, and styles in this annual benefit concert to raise funds for scholarships for underserved students. Admission is free, and all donations at the door support scholarships. Guests are invited to attend a wine reception following the concert. Visit [www.westmorelanducc.org](http://www.westmorelanducc.org) or call 301-320-2770.

**Live Music: Out of the Blue.** 7 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac. Out of the Blue is an all male vocal group from Oxford University founded by Cabin John Middle School and Churchill High School graduate Derek Smith in 2000. Tickets are \$15, \$10 seniors/students available at the door. Advanced ticket sales: Potomac Presbyterian Church office, 10301 River Road, Potomac, 301-299-6007.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 16

**Women's History on the C&O Canal.** 11 a.m.-noon at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Canal historian Karen Gray will discuss the vital role of women who worked on the C&O Canal. The programs at Great Falls Tavern are free, but there is an entrance fee to the park of \$15 per single vehicle (subject to change). Call 301-767-3714 for more.

**Music from the 19th Century.** 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Join the Mountain Dulcimers of Northern Virginia for live music and try your hand at playing this unique instrument. The programs at Great Falls Tavern are free, but there is an entrance fee to the park of \$15 per single vehicle (subject to change). Call 301-767-3714 for more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**Stand-up Comedy.** 7:30 p.m. at Cissel-Saxon American Legion Post 41, 8110 Fenton St. (blue awning off Fenton Street parking lot). Stand-Up Silver Spring presents Robert Mac (Last Comic Standing, Comedy Central) along with Violet Gray (Baltimore D & D), Leon Scott ("Get Up DC") and Katie McKelvie (Charm City Comedy Festival). \$15 early bird; \$20 general admission. Recommended for 16 and older. Get tickets at [www.improbablecomedy.com](http://www.improbablecomedy.com).

### MONDAY/APRIL 1

**Health and Wellness Fair.** 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Potomac Community Village (PCV) is hosting a free and open-to-all Health and Wellness Fair, featuring a presentation on "Talking with Your Doctor – Making the Most of Your Healthcare Appointment," with Steve Lorberbaum, of Assisting Hands of Potomac, a home healthcare company. Also on tap: a prescription drug take-back collection; an opportunity to try some exercises for better balance and falls prevention; yoga instruction; and information on healthy eating, aging and sex, memory issues, eye care, skin care, mental health, much more. Refreshments and free raffle tickets are also included. RSVPs are suggested but not required, to 240-221-1370 or [info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org](mailto:info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org).

**Tannahill Weavers.** 7:30 p.m. at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. The Institute of Musical Traditions (IMT) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which preserves and promotes American and international folk music traditions, and nurtures new styles evolving from these cultural roots by presenting concerts, workshops, and educational programs. Tickets: \$22 advance, \$27 door. Students: \$17 advance, \$22 door. Visit [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org) or call 301-960-3655.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 7

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30-6 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45-3:30 p.m. Featuring the band Gyration, playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Admission is \$13, \$5 for full-time students with student ID. No partner required. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org) or e-mail [info@WaltzTimeDances.org](mailto:info@WaltzTimeDances.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 13

**Celebrate the Potomac River.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Visit the Chesapeake Bay Roving Ranger Mobile Visitor Center. Learn how to help maintain this beautiful area. The programs at Great Falls Tavern are free, but there is an entrance fee to the park of \$15 per single vehicle (subject to change). Call 301-767-3714 for more.

**Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.** Various locations across the Park. Join the 31st Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Learn more at [trashnetwork.fergusonfoundation.org](http://trashnetwork.fergusonfoundation.org).



# Violations Cited in Tree Cutting

FROM PAGE 3

1508(B): Inspectors observed development on the property, as defined in Section 4-1503(G), that includes the cutting/removal and clearing of trees located within the major floodplain resulting in an alteration to the characteristics of the major floodplain. This development, without first obtaining the required county approval of a 'Declaration of No Impact to Floodplain' or 'Floodplain Alteration,' is a violation.

"Zoning Permit Required, Section: 4-1508(C): Alteration of the major floodplain that resulted from the cutting/removal and clearing of trees without first obtaining the required zoning permit approval is a violation."

When Loudoun County issues a zoning violation notice, it includes specific measures the property owner must take to correct the situation. In accordance with Section 6-502 of the Revised 1993 Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance, the county notified Trump National Golf Course of correction actions that include:

- ❖ Discontinuing all development activities within the major floodplain on the property until all required approvals from the county are obtained; and submitting all required applications for review and approval by the county for the development that has occurred on the property within the major floodplain.

- ❖ Obtaining the approval of, and being in compliance with, a floodplain alteration (FPAL) application. Each development/alteration within the major floodplain requires the approval of a FPAL application in accordance with Section 4-1508(B) of the ordinance.

- ❖ Obtaining the approval of, and being in compliance with, a zoning permit application. Each development/alteration within the major floodplain requires the approval of a zoning permit application in accordance with Section 4-1508(C) of the ordinance.

The county's ordinance regarding the major floodplain is in place to protect property and public safety. Alterations to land in the major floodplain may impact the property on which the alterations occur as well as other properties located nearby or downstream. The required permits for alteration in the major floodplain include a review of plans prior to any changes in the major floodplain to ensure they do not have adverse effects.

The property owner has the option to appeal the county's Notice of Violation to the Board of Zoning



**Loudoun County has issued a Notice of Violation to the Trump National Golf Course following the improper removal of trees from a floodplain.**

Appeals within 30 days, during which time any enforcement actions are put on hold pending the outcome of the appeal.

If the corrective actions are not taken, an initial fine of \$200 for each offense will be issued. Loudoun County will continue to inspect the property in 10-day increments. Fines in the amount of \$500 for each subsequent offense may be issued every 10 days if the county determines that a violation still exists after the appeal date has expired.

More information about the administration and enforcement of the Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance is online at [www.loudoun.gov/zoning](http://www.loudoun.gov/zoning).

"The follow up now for us is to get Maryland to take action for unlawfully dumping wood and debris into the river," said Dean Naujoks, from Potomac Riverkeepers. "Though the trees were dumped in Virginia, the river is Maryland jurisdiction. Maryland must step up and take enforcement."

Naujoks said he believes the recent tree cutting and dumping the trees may have been done to save the money it would cost to have the trees cut up and hauled away.

"It is cheaper for them to pay a fine than pay a company," he said.

Gregg Bortz, media relations manager for Maryland Department of Natural Resources, said Natural Resource did send a boat patrol to investigate when the February tree cutting was reported and there were no obstructions in the water.

On March 11 he sent the following email: "Maryland Natural Resources Police completed a check of the Potomac River last weekend and found no current hazards. Anyone who does see significant debris or navigation hazards in Maryland waters should report it immediately to Natural Resources Police at 410-260-8888."

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