

**Hadeed**  
ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING  
AND IN-HOME SERVICES

Let us help  
with your  
Spring  
Cleaning!

In Plant Express or Signature Rug Cleaning

FOR EVERY **2**  
RUGS CLEANED

GET THE **3<sup>RD</sup>**  
RUGS CLEANED

**FREE!**

SAVE up to  
**35%**

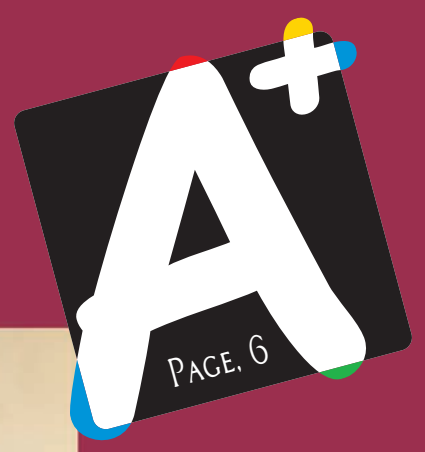
Or Take... **15% off**  
IN-PLANT CLEANING  
OF ONE RUG

\*Hurry! Offer Expires 4/21/19. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/ any other offers.

**703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com | Free Pickup & Delivery!! | 330 NORTH STONESTREET AVE., STE A, ROCKVILLE, MD**

# Potomac

## ALMANAC



## Browsing Among The Books

News, PAGE 5

## Rain, Shutdown Slow Things Down on C&O

News, PAGE 4

## Wider 495 and 270? With Tolls?

News, PAGE 3

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 4-18-19

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT #322

PHOTO BY DEBBIE STEVENS OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 11

APRIL 17-23, 2019

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM



# Spotlight on County's History

**M**atthew Logan, executive director of the Montgomery County Historical Society, will present "75 Years of Montgomery County History" to Potomac Community Village members and guests on Thursday, April 25 from 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing the more than 11,000 objects that tell the history of Montgomery County and its inhabitants is the mission of the society, located in Rockville.

Logan will discuss this year's 75th anniversary celebration of Montgomery History and plans for the future of its museums, including the historic Beall-Dawson House, library and exhibits, displaying thousands of letters, dresses, quilts, costumes, textiles, photos, and books that reveal the county's past. He and a staff of eight serve to discover and protect these treasures.

"We are especially proud of our collection of family bibles, which will be exhibited on-line, that offer a wealth of genealogical data and are truly works of art," Logan said. "And today is really rooted in the past, as we look back to the 1962 election and see the same issues we are focused on today in the county regarding the fast pace of development and frustrating transportation problems," he said.

Coming to Montgomery History in 2014, Logan has years of experience building the

capacity and effectiveness of small non-profit organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, including the Potomac Conservancy, the C&O Canal Trust and Potomac Riverkeeper. He holds MA degrees in history and environment/land use planning from his home state of Kansas.

PCV is a non-profit network of neighbors and friends geared to enabling older Potomac residents to age in place in their existing homes by creating social connections and providing volunteer services such as transportation, computer assistance and simple home repairs. For more information, to volunteer or get volunteer help, contact 240-221-1370, [info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org](mailto:info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org) or check out [www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org) or [www.Facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage](https://www.Facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage).

## Capital Improvements Program Forums

Residents and groups are invited to provide input into the County's next six-year capital construction budget by attending public forums that will be held in April and May by local citizen advisory boards. The forums will help define construction and planning priorities for the various regions.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 11



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
KRIEGER SCHOOL  
of ARTS & SCIENCES

**Spring Ahead.  
Advance Your Career Here.**

**JOHNS HOPKINS IN DC**

LEARN MORE  
**ADVANCED.JHU.EDU/OPENHOUSE**

1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW, SUITE 101 | WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
1.800.847.3330 | 202.452.1940

## This is more than great rates

This is more savings for wherever you're going.

**WELLS  
FARGO**

Platinum Savings Account

**2.10%**

Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months with new money deposits of at least \$25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 or more<sup>1</sup>

Guaranteed Fixed-Rate CD

**2.40%**

Annual Percentage Yield for an 11-month term with new money deposits of at least \$25,000<sup>2</sup>



**Talk to a banker for details. Offer expires May 31, 2019.** Business owner? Ask about our business savings rates.

Offers available in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA. *Portfolio by Wells Fargo*® customers are eligible to receive an additional bonus interest rate on these accounts.<sup>3</sup>

1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 03/25/2019 and 05/31/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking or Wealth customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 03/25/2019 to 05/31/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term. For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. 3. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer, except the Portfolio by Wells Fargo \$500 offer, available from March 25, 2019 until May 31, 2019. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. The Portfolio by Wells Fargo program has a \$30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: \$25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRAs) or \$50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed. © 2019 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Deposit products offered by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. NMLS ID 399801



# Widen 495 and 270? What about Tolls?

State moves ahead with proposals for extra lanes on Beltway and 270, presents options at citizen meetings.

BY PEGGY MCEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

Several hundred people met with Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration planners on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at Pyle Middle School in Bethesda to learn about State plans for I-495 and I-270.

They were there to learn about alternatives to improve traffic flow, relieve congestion and allow drivers to spend less time commuting, more time enjoying life.

How to get to that point seemed as difficult as driving the roads during a rush hour snowstorm.

The formal presentation offered twice on Saturday by Lisa Choplin, project head, and Jeff Folden, responsible for project development and delivery, included statistics on travel times, congestion now and in the future, and slides showing a confusing number of alternative solutions.

Confusing, in part because the project started with 15 alternatives in 2018, according to Folden, and is now down to seven, but the numbers haven't changed. Coming back from little daydreaming and hearing about number 13-B gives pause: "I thought there were only seven!"

Every option except number one, which is to leave everything as is, offered some form of toll lanes.

That does not seem right to Hija Yu, of Kensington. She said she feels toll lanes only benefit those who can pay.

"I think if they are going to widen highway lanes, I don't think they should have toll lanes," she said. "If they need to create more lanes, they need to benefit all."

Presentations state that the project would be funded through a public private partnership (P3). Nick Brand, outside of the school representing the Action Committee for Transit, said his group is in favor of improving traffic on I-270 by getting MARC Trains to run all day in both directions. MARC Trains currently only run during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

"It would provide the capacity of several lanes," he said. "It would be less costly and have less impact."

More can be learned at [www.ACTforTRANSIT.org](http://www.ACTforTRANSIT.org).

Another group outside the school talking to people as they came and went, was Citizens against Beltway Expansion joined by Sierra Club Maryland Chapter.

The group distributes a paper: Myths and Misperceptions Regarding the MDOT Plan for expanding I-270 and I-495, challenging the highway expansion plan. It also encourages citizens to "demand" answers to the current plan.

Citizens against Beltway Expansion cite nine "myths":

❖ Myth? Congestion on I-495 and I-270

will disappear by adding 2 toll lanes in each direction

❖ Myth? The State of Maryland and its taxpayers will not be financially liable if tolls do not cover the needed costs (assuming private financing).

❖ Myth? MDOT objectively considered all options before eliminating all mass transit options.

❖ Myth? The highway expansion will reduce air pollution because vehicles traveling at 50 mph emit less pollution than vehicles stuck in congested traffic going 5 to 10 mph.

❖ Myth? MDOT has shown transparency and accountability.

❖ Myth? Highway expansion is the only "concrete" solution to rush-hour congestion

❖ Myth? The forest buffer and adjacent properties will remain because the project will stay within the existing road footprint

❖ Myth? We need to rush this plan through, or Marylanders will pay more

❖ Myth? The public is powerless to affect the outcome.

For more information about these arguments against the State proposals, visit [CABE495.com](http://CABE495.com)

Six more MDOT workshops are scheduled

**Scores of people attending the workshop on proposals to widen the Beltway and I-270 spread out at different exhibits around the cafeteria of Pyle Middle School in Bethesda.**



PHOTOS BY PEGGY MCEWAN

for this spring. Closest to the Potomac area is the one planned for Thursday, April 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Thomas Wootton

High School, 2100 Wootton Pkwy, Rockville. For the Maryland proposal, visit [495-270-p3.com](http://495-270-p3.com).



**Attendees at Saturday's State Highway Administration workshop on proposed alternatives for I-495 and I-270 take time to comment before leaving.**



**Jeff Roberta, a consultant on the I-495 & I 270 Managed Lanes Study explains a slide of proposed lane changes at a community meeting Saturday.**



# Wet Weather Dampened Visitation on Canal

Sharpshooters employed by the Department of Agriculture culled 22 deer on the Gold Mine Loop area in March.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**W**est Montgomery members are known for being outspoken. “You all have never been shy about expressing yourself,” said C&O Canal National Historical Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt.

Brandt spoke to more than 40 people at West Montgomery County Citizens Associations meeting at the Potomac Community Center on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. Brandt gave an update on the state of the 184-mile park that runs adjacent to the Potomac River, and that many in this community consider part of their back yards.

“You’re such important stakeholders with

what happens in the park,” he said, “and your efforts is what will protect this resource for the next generations of users.”

**TWO THINGS** made the current status of the park different than most years. One, the never-ending volume of rain we have received week in and week out, including several floods, increasing the need — and cost — for repairs and maintenance up and down the towpath. Brandt said visitation was down about 10 percent over the past year, mostly due to rainy weather, with an associated decrease in revenues.

Although rainy weather decreased visitation, it increased costs and labor. Many areas of the towpath were washed

out with recent floods.

Second, every aspect of work in and about the park continues to be weeks or months behind because of the federal government shutdown at the beginning of the year. Everything from major construction projects to recruiting summer interns is behind schedule. “The shutdown affected all our construction projects. All work came to a halt and that’s all had a ripple effect.”

**THE PUBLIC** will get to see the five-year Strategic Plan for C&O Canal National Historical Park later this spring.

“Making sure the park’s goals and the community goals are in alignment, it’s going to take a lot of dialogue,” said Brandt.

Towpath conti-

**“The shutdown affected all our construction projects. All work came to a halt and that’s all had a ripple effect.”**

— Kevin Brandt



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

**West Montgomery members Barbara Hoover, Carol and Clayton Embrey chat after the well-attended meeting.**

nity takes the top priority, as does safety. “Our first concern is your safety, there’s nothing more important than that,” Brandt said.

The Park now has just four full-time maintenance employees to cover the 184.5 miles from Lock One in Georgetown to Cumberland.

“One of the strengths of this park are its patrons and its volunteers. Without these organizations, the park would be a much lesser place,” said Brandt.

The budget for the park has been flat for several years, “but in terms of real dollars of what the park can purchase and do has gone down.”

The park receives a significant portion of the admission fees too, so having the number of visitors drop by 10 percent doesn’t help the budget.

Great Falls, Georgetown and Williamsport have always been top spots for interpretive services. Staff is also discussing ways to decrease the wait time to enter the park. On the Virginia side of Great Falls National Historical Park, some patrons wait for an hour on a sunny day. Annual passes and senior passes help move the lines, Brandt said.

**DEER ARE DECIMATING** the forest understory and devouring saplings in the Gold Mine Loop (and many other) area of the park, said Peggy Dennis, who asked whether there was any plan to take action about the number of deer. “There is no understory,” Dennis said, adding that the deer eat all the saplings too, so trees lost to age, disease and weather don’t have replacements growing up. The high number of deer is also destroying smaller trees and shrubs that provide critical habitat for native birds and other wildlife.

The parks service has hired sharpshooters to cull the deer herd in the Gold Mine

Loop area, and several other areas, only during the month of March.

Sharpshooters employed by the Department of Agriculture killed 22 deer on the Gold Mine Loop in March, said Brandt. Estimates were that there were 33 deer too many, but federal restrictions prevented the program continuing past March. The program is expected to continue next year. All the deer are checked for chronic wasting disease.

**A MAJOR PROJECT** to repair watered structures from locks 5-22 is ongoing from Swains Lock (MP 16.9 Breach), around the Great Falls Tavern (Level #20 and Lock #19), Olmsted Island (Lock #18 and Lock #17), Carderock (Culvert #15), Lock #10 (Rock Run Culvert) and Level #7. During the construction, visitors will be directed to follow local detours around the work areas.

Other items in the free-ranging update:

- ❖ There is funding to rebuild footbridge over Seneca Aqueduct, and to remove

tree debris in the water blocking one of its arches.

- ❖ Park arborists are overseeing the ongoing removal of diseased trees, especially ash trees, in the park in areas where people might be stationary, especially by benches and picnic areas.

- ❖ No eBikes or motorized scooters are allowed on the towpath. No motorized vehicles at all are allowed unless they are assistive devices.

- ❖ There has been no movement on the mid-river intake that WSSC had proposed, and some have speculated that the new administration of Marc Erlich would press for restoration of the Watts Branch just above the intake instead.

- ❖ Swains Lock and Lockhouse 6 are both operated by C&O Canal Trust who mobilize volunteers in case of flood emergency.



**Kevin Brandt, superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park spoke to the West Montgomery meeting about many issues including the impact of so much rain on the park.**



# Make Yourself at Home at Potomac Library



The book sale was well attended. All the proceeds from donated books go to the library. The sale is put on by The Friends of the Potomac Library. The next book sale is May 11 at 10 a.m.

## Upcoming Potomac Library Events

See [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/programs/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/programs/)

**POTOMAC CONVERSATION CLUB**  
Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11 a.m., Age Group: ADULTS, SENIORS, Join us as we practice English conversation in an friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join us any time. For more information call 240-777-0690.

**FAMILY MOVIE EVENT - THE GREAT GATSBY**  
Saturday, April 27, 2019, 2 p.m., for all ages, Join us for an afternoon screening of *The Great Gatsby*, adapted from F.Scott Fitzgerald's classic. This is a lead-up program to the F.Scott Fitzgerald Festival coming in October. Free popcorn!

**BABY AND TODDLER STORYTIME**  
Thursday, May 02, 2019, 10:30 a.m. A storytime experience for our youngest library users and their caregivers. These 20-30 minute storytimes introduce a diverse collection of books, songs, rhymes and bounces developmentally appropriate for children from birth to when they start walking. This is a wonderful way to introduce your child to the joys and culture of

reading in a positive and fun atmosphere. This storytime is designed so the baby will be in their caregiver's lap and the grownup is actively involved in the program.

**POTOMAC CHINESE BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Saturday, May 04, 2019, 10:15 a.m. Chinese book discussion in Chinese language for adults. *Memory is a Faint Pain* by Long Yingtai. Ask for the book at the Circulation Desk. Free. 90 minutes. No registration.

**POTOMAC CONVERSATION CLUB**  
Saturday, May 04, 2019, 11 a.m. Join us as we practice English conversation in an friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join us any time! For more information call 240-777-0690.

**PANDAS KARATE: STICKS & STONES**  
Saturdays, May 04, May 11, May 18, May 25; 1 p.m. This program uses comedy and storytelling in a fun and innovative way to teach kids how to respond to bullying without using their fists. It looks at building self-esteem using Karate. This program is for elementary school aged children and their parents. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter.

**READ TO A DOG**  
Tuesday, May 07, 2019, 4:30 p.m. School-age children, especially beginners learning to read and those who want to improve their confidence in reading skills, are invited to practice reading aloud in short (10-15 minute) semi-private sessions with a certified therapy dog. Sign up begins 15 minutes before program. First-come, first-served.

**POTOMAC FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY-BOOK SALE**  
Saturday, May 11, 2019, 10 a.m. Join us for our monthly Potomac Friends of the Library Book Sale! Books, DVDs, and more available for children, teens, and adults. All are welcome.

**TEEN WRITERS' CLUB**  
Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Teens ages 13-18 with a passion for writing are invited to join our Teen Writers' Club. You'll learn new writing techniques, get practice in different writing exercises, share your work, and learn how to critique the work of others. Author Neal Gillen leads the club, which meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. This program is made possible through the collaboration and support of the



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE STEVENS

Francesca Ugdina was the winner of the raffle held in February at the library during Book Month by The Friends of the Potomac Library. Her prize was to fill up a bag full of books of her choice at the book sale.

Maryland Writers' Association.  
**POTOMAC ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 1 p.m. Adult book discussion. *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue. Ask for the book at the Circulation Desk. No registration needed. New members welcome.

**FAMILY STORYTIME**  
Thursday, May 16, 2019, 10:30 a.m. Family Storytime (All Ages) - These 25-30 minute programs are designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. These

programs encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning, and introduce them to the culture of reading.

**MEET A LIVE KANGAROO OR WALLABY AT THE POTOMAC LIBRARY!**  
Thursday, May 16, 2019, 11 a.m. Learn all about what they eat and where and how they live with Roos2U. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter.

**OFF THE HOOK STITCHING CLUB**  
Monday, May 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m. Crocheting and knitting. Bring your own needle crafts. For ages 8 and up.

Open to all...

**Wildflower Walks on the Canal**  
Wed., April 17 & Wed. May 1, 10 - 12

**"Montgomery History"**  
Thursday, April 25, 7 - 9 pm  
Potomac Community Center

**Bring a Friend Social Lunch**  
Tuesday, April 30, 12 noon  
Tally Ho Restaurant, Potomac Village

Details at  
[www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org)  
or call us at 240-221-1370

## We Bring the Zoo to You!







# SQUEALS

# N WHEELS

## Traveling Petting Zoo

[www.squealsnwhheels.us](http://www.squealsnwhheels.us)

301-765-0270







We are licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and Insured

jill@squealsnwhheels.us



**ANY TYPE OF RUG, ANY PRICE LEVEL, WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU!**

Now Servicing Every Type of Rug from Machine Made Synthetic to the Finest Handmade Silk. We Bring the Same Quality to Everyone with Our Multi-Pricing Level Menu that will Match Your Rug.

**We Have Developed a New Formula that Removes Most Pet Stains and Odors!**

**Let Us Help You with Your Spring Cleaning!**

**FOR EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> RUGS CLEANED GET THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FREE!**

3 Rugs = 1 Cleaned FREE! • 6 Rugs = 2 Cleaned FREE! • 9 Rugs = 3 Cleaned FREE! On & On

\*Hurry! Offer Expires 4/21/19. Valid on Express or Signature Rug Cleaning Services. Get the third rug of equal or smaller size for free. Not valid w/any other offers.

**JUST 1 RUG?**

<b>IN-PLANT RUG CLEANING</b> Expires 4/21/19. Valid on 1 rug. Not valid w/any other offers.	<b>15% off</b>
<b>IN-PLANT RUG RESTORATION</b> Expires 4/21/19. Not valid w/any other offers.	<b>10% off</b>
<b>WALL-TO-WALL CARPET STEAM CLEANING OR HARDWOOD FLOOR CLEANING &amp; POLISHING</b> Expires 4/21/19. Not valid w/any other offers.	<b>20% off</b>

**HADEED** SINCE 1929 **FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY!**

Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services

330 NORTH STONESTREET AVE., SUITE A, ROCKVILLE, MD

**703-836-1111 | JoeHadeed.com**

†Available in MD, DC, & VA. Min. order required, some restrictions apply. Doesn't include breakables. Call for details.

**Opportunities for community service and/or religious education are some of the reasons that parents might consider switching a child from public to private school.**



PHOTO COURTESY SSSAS

## Making the Leap from Public to Private School

**Signs that a public school isn't meeting your child's needs.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Elizabeth and Kent Hillegass noticed that their 6th grade son's grades began to drop while the number of times they received notices from the school regarding his misbehavior had increased. He was also having challenges socially.

"He was really unhappy, the other kids made fun of him, he didn't have any friends and to top it off his grades were awful," said Elizabeth. "I would lie awake at night crying because I felt helpless."

After a series of neuropsychological tests, the Hillegasses learned that their son had ADHD. The testing psychologist advised them to see an education consultant who helped them determine that a quiet school environment with small class sizes would best suit their son's needs. The Hillegasses ultimately decided to send their son to a private school with a student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1.

"We've always been supporters of public education, but the class sizes and noisy environment were too overwhelming for him," said Kent. "It was like he was lost and unable to focus when he was at school. He couldn't sit still and pay attention in classes and was always getting into trouble, which made him feel ostracized, like he was the bad kid in school."

A parent's decision to move a child from public to private school can be based on factors that run the gamut from smaller class sizes to tuition that can cost as much as \$50,000 annually. Although it's a choice that should not be taken lightly, there are signs that it might be time to make the change if it's possible, say education consultants.

"I suggest to parents that they focus on the needs of their child, not on the prestige that they think a private school holds or the sticker on the back of your car that lets everyone know that your child attends a certain school," said Kim Hardy who was the education consultant to the Hillegass family. "There's a range of factors that parents should take into consideration."

The first, advises Hardy, is whether their child is

happy and well adjusted. "If a child is bored or frustrated at school, not just because their grades aren't good and they've given up, but there are also cases where students are making straight As without much effort and are bored because they aren't being challenged."

When the accommodations that a school can offer don't meet the needs of one's child, that's another clue that a change is necessary, suggests Arlington-based education consultant Rita Feters.

"Some children need to be in a classroom with a low student teacher ratio so that teachers have time to redirect students who have trouble staying focused," she said. "Other students need a lot of exercise and outdoor activity to release energy so that they can focus better in class. Public schools may not be able to offer that."

The Heights in Potomac, Md. builds activity and exercise into each school day including outdoor recess and a challenging physical education program that not only releases energy, but teaches important life skills.

Feters says some parents make the change because they want specialized opportunities that a public school might not offer.

"If religious education is important to a family, that is certainly one reason to leave a public school," she said. "If a family wants their child to be involved in public service beyond what is required to graduate, they might choose a private school that has community service built in to the curriculum."

One such school is St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) in Alexandria, Va. "Our school offers religion classes and weekly chapels," said Mandi Sapp of SSSAS. "We also have a ton of service-learning opportunities that students ... do throughout the year, including global service trips offered in Middle and Upper School. We have done a lot of work with ALIVE (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) in Alexandria."

If a child is unhappy and asks repeatedly to change schools, Feters believes that is a reason to give serious consideration to academic switch.

"At the end of the day, parents have to take a long, hard look at their child and their family," Feters said. "They have to find the best school for their family, not the one that's most prestigious or most popular. Does what the school offers as a whole align with your family's values and your child's needs. Whether it's public or private, that's what a parent must determine."

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS**

**April**  
4/24/19.....Senior Living/Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts/Spring Outlook

**May**  
5/1/19.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II  
5/8/19.....HomeLifeStyle  
5/15/19.....A+ Camps & Schools  
5/22/19.....Senior Living  
5/29/19.....Connection Families: Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

Email [SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM) for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.

**POTOMAC ALMANAC** **Alexandria Gazette Packet** **CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS** **Mount Vernon Gazette** **CENTREVIEW**

**Have The Connection emailed directly to you every week!**  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION** Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Chlorine/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Hemdon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Riverton Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

703-778-9431  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)



# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## February, 2019 Sales, 775,000~\$875,000

IN FEBRUARY 2019, 34 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,000,000-\$475,000.



**8 11717 Gregerscroft Road**  
— \$775,000



**1 9824 Wilden Lane**  
— \$875,000



**2 11305 Colebrook Terrace** — \$850,000



**4 8101 Paisley Place**  
— \$835,000



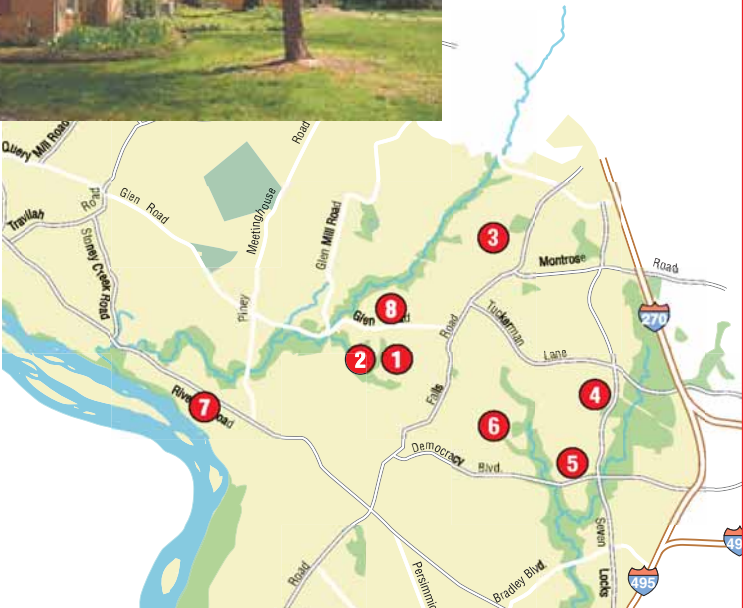
**7 11620 River Road**  
— \$799,000



**5 10261 Gainsborough Road**  
— \$830,000

Address .....	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City	Sold Price	...	Type	...	Lot AC	Postal Code	...	Subdivision	...	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 9824 WILDEN LN .....	4	2	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$875,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.31	20854	.....	BEDFORDSHIRE	.....	02/20/19
<b>2</b> 11305 COLEBROOK TER ...	4	3	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$850,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.29	20854	.....	BEDFORDSHIRE	.....	02/28/19
<b>3</b> 8900 WOODEN BRIDGE RD ..	5	3	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$850,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.31	20854	.....	COPENHAVER	.....	02/22/19
<b>4</b> 8101 PAISLEY PL .....	4	2	1	.....	ROCKVILLE	\$835,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.25	20854	.....	INVERNESS FOREST	.....	02/15/19
<b>5</b> 10261 GAINSBOROUGH RD ..	4	2	2	.....	POTOMAC	\$830,000	.....	Twin/Semi-Detached	.....	0.10	20854	.....	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC	.....	02/15/19
<b>6</b> 10621 GREAT ARBOR DR ...	5	2	2	.....	ROCKVILLE	\$800,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.24	20854	.....	RED COAT WOODS	.....	02/01/19
<b>7</b> 11620 RIVER RD .....	3	2	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$799,000	.....	Detached	.....	2.17	20854	.....	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE	...	02/07/19
<b>8</b> 11717 GREGERSCROFT RD ...	4	2	1	.....	ROCKVILLE	\$775,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.35	20854	.....	GLEN OAKS	.....	02/25/19

COPYRIGHT 2019 MARKETSTATS FOR SHOWINGTIME. SOURCE: BRIGHT MLS AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019.







COME CELEBRATE  
**“THIRSTY THURSDAYS”**  
AT POTOMAC PIZZA!



**ALL DAY ON THURSDAYS!**

**\$2.00 DRAFT BEERS**

**1/2 PRICED BOTTLES OF WINE**

Dine-in only. Please drink responsibly.

**POTOMAC PIZZA.**

**[www.potomacpizza.com](http://www.potomacpizza.com)**

**Dine-in, Carry-out, Delivery & Catering**

**Serving Our Communities Since 1978**

**CHEVY CHASE CENTER**

**301 951 1127**

19 Wisconsin Circle  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**COLLEGE PARK**

**240 582 5242**

7777 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

**POTOMAC PROMENADE**

**301 299 7700**

9812 Falls Road  
Potomac, MD 20854

**TRAVILLE VILLAGE CENTER**

**301 279 2234**

9709 Traville Gateway Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

**CHEERS!**





# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**VisAbility Art Lab Exhibition: Out of the Box.** Through April 21, 6-9 p.m. in the Concourse Gallery, VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Out of the Box is a group exhibition of artwork from the VisAbility Art Lab, a supported art studio for emerging adult artists with disabilities who have a strong interest in making art part of their professional careers. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) for more.

**Five Exhibits.** Through April 24, gallery hours at Artists & Makers Studios 1 and 2 (11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210 and 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville). Artists & Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive and Wilkins Avenue in Rockville are ushering in Spring with five exhibits at both studio centers. Visit [artistsandmakersstudios.com](http://artistsandmakersstudios.com).

**Art Exhibit by Morton Fine Art.** Through April 27, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery B's April exhibition is a group show by Morton Fine Art. The exhibit, curated by Amy Morton, will feature work by Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann and Astrid Kohler. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Eye Spy Trains.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Cabin John Train and Wheaton Train and Carousel. Ride each weekend in April and April 17-22. The miniature trains are replicas of the 1863 C.P. Huntington, a 4-2-4T steam locomotive purchased by the Southern Pacific Railroad and named in honor of Collis P. Huntington, President of the Southern Pacific Company. An activity great for families, each child under 2 rides free with a paying adult (\$4). Tickets can be purchased online at [ActiveMONTGOMERY.org](http://ActiveMONTGOMERY.org) or on site the day of. Visit [ow.ly/geOC30oa52p](http://ow.ly/geOC30oa52p) for more.

**Art Exhibit: Indeterminate Identities.** Through May 4 at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Through her fiber sculpture, Kristina Penhoet examines ways in which we identify and categorize one another and the subsequent elicited emotions from such actions and thoughts. Visit [www.waverlystreetgallery.com](http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com) for more.

**Art Exhibit: Birth of a Star.** Through May 19 at VisArts, Gibbs Street Gallery, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Birth of a Star is a series of four sculptures depicting different stages of a star's life: Protostar, Red Giant, Supernova and Black Hole. These works combine carpentry and playful materiality with hand-drawn animations that are incorporated into each sculpture using screens and projection. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: John Schlesinger.** Through May 19 in the Common Ground Gallery, VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. John Schlesinger presents a site-responsive sculpture rooted in the ceiling and walls of the gallery made from locally-sourced demolition rebar, bent neon, and resin-soaked photographs representing waste from the local area. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: Here and Where.** Through May 26 in the Kaplan Gallery, VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Richard L. Dana presents an optically explosive solo exhibition featuring recent digital prints that occupy the gallery in a variety of scales and configurations. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.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](mailto:acsagillen@aol.com) for more.

**THURSDAY/APRIL 18**

**Art Installation Debut.** Glenstone Museum announced that its first new art installations since opening the Pavilions in 2018 will feature two works by Ellsworth Kelly, on view starting today, and three works by Kerry James Marshall, debuting on April 18. The museum also will install a new outdoor sculpture by Charles Ray in late spring. Glenstone is open Thursdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors are invited to explore the grounds on their own or join one of several outdoor sculpture tours offered throughout the day. Admission to Glenstone is free and visits can be scheduled online at: [www.glenstone.org](http://www.glenstone.org). Same-day visits can be scheduled using the website or a smartphone.

**Animals, Textures and Colors with Echoes of Nature.** 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Discover the



Work by Susan Sinclair Galego

## Yellow Barn Studio Show

Featuring Vignettes, the Oil Paintings of Susan Sinclair Galego, a homegrown artist. Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. An artist's reception takes place Saturday, May 4, 6-8 p.m. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com).

world of animal textures and colors. Be an animal detective and meet some live animals to figure out if the animals are rough or smooth. What colors are the animals? Do they have stripes or spots? Recommended for children 3 years and above. Free. Email [cindy.gil@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:cindy.gil@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call 240-777-0690 for more.

**Appetizers and Art.** 5:30-8 p.m. Meet at TTT-Tacos, Tortas, & Tequila, 8407 Ramsey Ave., Silver Spring. Learn about Silver Spring's public art with free artwork tours on select Thursday evenings during spring and summer 2019. The opening event features an insider's look at treasured Silver Spring murals. Montgomery Planning will provide appetizers for attendees. Drinks and main entrees are available for individual purchase. The art walk is free to the community; however, registration is limited to make the tour enjoyable for all participants. Visit the [www.silverspringdowntown.com/art-walk-tour](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/art-walk-tour) to sign up.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Stream Cleanups.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. White Oak Park, Silver Spring (Stewart Lane and Lockwood Drive). Contact [stream.stewards@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:stream.stewards@montgomerycountymd.gov) for more information about the following cleanups and to ensure that sufficient supplies are provided for volunteers. Student Service Learning hours are available through this program.

## APRIL 19-MAY 26

**Photography Exhibit: "Human Landscapes."** Gallery hours at Photoworks, Glen Echo Park. Photoworks presents Human Landscapes featuring work by Alan Awakim, Hannah Fox, and David Pellegrini. Curated by Fabian Concalves Borrega, Human Landscapes is the conjunction of three photographic series that propose a dialogue between the subject and the objects with which they are surrounded. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Takoma Park Silver-Spring Coop Earth Day Celebration.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 201 Ethan Allen Ave., Takoma Park. Free day of events. There will be green vendors, local food, community groups, speakers, demonstrations, music and even a toy exchange for children. Visit [tpss.coop/earth-day-2019/](http://tpss.coop/earth-day-2019/).

**Mozart, Brahms, and Schubert.** 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational Church, One

Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Pianist Finghin Collins will perform Sonata in A Major, K. 331 "Alla Turca" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the Vier Klavierstücke, Op. 119 by Johannes Brahms, and Sonata in A Major, D. 959 by Franz Schubert as part of the Washington Conservatory of Music's Conservatory Concerts series. Guests are invited to Wine & Words after the concert for complimentary beverages and an informal Q&A. Families are welcome at all concerts. Free; suggested donation of \$20. Visit [washingtonconservatory.org](http://washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-634-2250.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 23

**Documentary Screening: The Human Element.** 6:30-8:30 at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. The Montgomery County GreenFest partners join the Environmental Film Festival to present the DC Environmental Film Festival (three Tuesdays in April). Free. Visit [montgomerycountygreenfest.org/schedule/dc-environmental-film-festival/](http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org/schedule/dc-environmental-film-festival/).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 25

**"75 Years of Montgomery County History."** 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Matthew Logan, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society, agrees with William Shakespeare that "What's Past is Prologue" as he illuminates "75 Years of Montgomery County History," to Potomac Community Village members and guests. Call 240-221-1370 or visit [www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org) to learn more about PCV.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Entry Deadline.** Photoworks revisits the American Dream. What does the American Dream look like in the 21st century, how has America changed? What are its most pressing challenges, what needs to be celebrated? Juror Molly Roberts is a photographer and photography editor with 25 years experience in the magazine publishing world. Entry fee is \$40 for up to five images. For details, visit [glenechophotoworks.org/2019/04/01/the-american-dream-revisited/](http://glenechophotoworks.org/2019/04/01/the-american-dream-revisited/).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Grow It Eat It Spring Event.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. Most parts of the

event are free; gardening workshops require a small fee. More info at [giei2019.eventbrite.com](http://giei2019.eventbrite.com). Visit [extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/grow-it-eat-it-0](http://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/grow-it-eat-it-0) for more.

**"Just for the Record-A Vinyl Day."** Noon-4 p.m. at the Silver Spring Library, 900 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring. The event will include a full lineup of panels, screenings and activities including a preview of the documentary "Feast Your Ears" about WHFS, the Bethesda-based radio station, that was the first in the region to broadcast in FM stereo. MCPL will host its first music competition, Make Music Montgomery, where previously selected submissions of musical acts will perform in front of community judges. No advanced registration is needed. Some programs may be space limited and time sensitive. Attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite recording artist. Visit [montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/branches/silverspring.html](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/branches/silverspring.html)

**Artist Talk: Indeterminate Identities.** 3-5 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Through her fiber sculpture, Kristina Penhoet examines ways in which we identify and categorize one another and the subsequent elicited emotions from such actions and thoughts. The exhibit runs through May 4. Visit [www.waverlystreetgallery.com](http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com) for more.

**Reception & Gallery Talk: "Human Landscapes."** 5-7 p.m. at Photoworks, Glen Echo Park. Photoworks presents Human Landscapes featuring work by Alan Awakim, Hannah Fox, and David Pellegrini. Curated by Fabian Concalves Borrega, Human Landscapes is the conjunction of three photographic series that propose a dialogue between the subject and the objects with which they are surrounded. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

**Benefit: VisAbility Art Lab.** 6-10:30 p.m. Join VisArts for a casual, fun-filled night of cocktails, cuisine, and painting (for artists of all experience levels). Proceeds benefit VisAbility Art Lab, VisArts' supportive studio for emerging adult artists with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. \$150. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org).

**Party with a Purpose.** 7 p.m.-midnight at Sheraton Hotel Silver Spring, 8777 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Enjoy an evening of food, fun, fashion and dancing to raise funds for the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Brain Injury Team. The Fundraiser Gala & Fashion Show will feature 13-year-old fashion designer Leah Howard with her Adaptive Style line for people with disabilities. Black tie, the red carpet will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets start at \$78. Visit [www.nightttorememberfundraiser.com](http://www.nightttorememberfundraiser.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**Montgomery County GreenFest.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Greenfest this year will combine with Brookside Gardens' annual Earth Day celebration, bringing two festivities to one site. GreenFest will feature fun for the whole family including entertainment, exhibitors, live music and dance performances, a native plant sale, tree climbing, an electric vehicle display, food trucks and interactive workshops. It provides an opportunity to share ideas and learn about local environmental initiatives. Greenfest visitors also will have the opportunity to enjoy the open space, walking trails and wildlife that call Brookside home. Admission is free. Visit [montgomerycountygreenfest.org/](http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org/).

**Paws in the Park.** Noon-4 p.m. at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. The Festival will include contests for dogs and people, prizes, kids' activities, a canine agility course and competition, music, food, vendors and a silent auction. Support Montgomery County Humane Society's largest fundraiser of the year. Registration is now open at [www.firstgiving.com/event/mchsm/d/PawsinthePark2019](http://www.firstgiving.com/event/mchsm/d/PawsinthePark2019).

**Rockville Science Day.** Noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery College-Rockville, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. The 30th annual Rockville Science Day offers a chance to experience science hands-on. Activities and exhibits include building and launching rockets, telescopes, robots and backyard wildlife, ship models, microscopes, snakes, stream science, a pigeon release, Civil War medical practice, coding challenges, math puzzles, chemistry in action (including flames, explosions and other reactions), electric vehicle demos, quadcopters, archaeology mini-digs, 3-D printing and brain games. Visit [rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day](http://rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day).



# Post Office Mural Stamps Include Sugarloaf

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration commissioned artwork in Post Offices across the nation to provide jobs to artists and illustrate the history and culture of local communities.

The U.S. Post Office printed 30 million Post Office Murals stamps, including a mural of Sugarloaf Mountain, described as "a landmark visible from many parts of northern Montgomery and southern Frederick Counties in Maryland." The Post Office Murals Forever stamp series was issued on April 10, 2019.

Sugarloaf is a beautiful small mountain, offering iconic views of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve.

The stamps feature five government-commissioned artworks from the 1930s and 1940s featured in Post Office lobbies. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration commissioned artwork in Post Offices across the nation to provide jobs to artists and illustrate the history and culture of local communities across America. These works of art were designed to help boost the morale of Americans during the Great Depression, and reported were funded by allocating one percent

of construction cost for art.

The mural, entitled "Sugarloaf Mountain," was painted by Judson Smith and can still be seen at the Rockville City Police Station on W. Montgomery Avenue, a building once home to the Rockville Post Office.

This pane of 10 stamps features five different murals. On the stamp art, the town or city and state in which the work of art is located is printed underneath each mural. So the Sugarloaf mural stamp says Rockville, Md.

The murals included are: "Kiowas Moving Camp" (1936), Anadarko, OK; "Mountains and Yucca" (1937), Deming, NM; "Antelope" (1939), Florence, CO; "Air Mail" (1941), Piggott, AR; and "Sugarloaf Mountain" (1940), Rockville, Md.

"Scores of wonderful murals illuminate Post Office lobbies across the nation and these stamps help celebrate them as American treasures," said Pat Mendonca, U.S. Postal Service Senior Director, Office of the Postmaster General and



IMAGE COURTESY OF U.S.P.S.

"Sugarloaf Mountain" (1940), Rockville, MD forever stamp issued on April 10.

Chief Executive Officer, who dedicated the stamps.

The origin of Post Office murals can be traced back to 1933. That year, in a letter to longtime acquaintance President Franklin D. Roosevelt, artist George Biddle suggested that the U.S. government should commission artists in need of work to enliven the walls of public buildings. Later that year, the Roosevelt administration established the Public Works of Art Project. Funded by the Civil Works Administration and overseen by

the Department of the Treasury, the New Deal program led to the hiring of more than 3,700 artists.

Under Public Works of Art Project leader Edward Bruce, the artists were encouraged to depict an American scene, a style of painting that eschewed modern trends and focused on the idealized portrayal of daily life in America. In less than a year, the artists created thousands of murals, and other artwork.

Following the expiration of the PWAP in 1934, the U.S. Treasury

formed the Section of Painting and Sculpture. Eventually renamed the Section of Fine Arts, the initiative sought to brighten newly built Post Office locations and federal buildings. From 1934 through 1943, the Section commissioned more than 1,000 murals. From 1935 through 1939, the Treasury Relief Art Project also funded a small number of murals at existing Post Offices. The buildings were some of the country's most visited public spaces, which meant many people could enjoy the murals.

## Local Business Pulls in Shark Tank Deal

BY PEGGY MCEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

Potomac residents Jamie and Brian Ratner pitched their website CertifiKID on the ABC show "Shark Tank" on April 7 and caught the interest of three of the Sharks.

After receiving the three offers, from Kevin O'Leary, Daymond John, and Barbara Corcoran, the Ratners accepted a \$600,000 investment from O'Leary for a 19 percent stake in CertifiKID, a website focused on connecting viewers with kids' activities and family entertainment.

O'Leary's investment in CertifiKID is one of the five largest investments he has made in any company in ten seasons of *Shark Tank*, according to CertifiKID. It was also the first external investment for CertifiKID.

"We are ecstatic that Kevin

O'Leary and his outstanding team have joined the CertifiKID family," CEO Jamie Ratner said. "We believe our partnership is going to open new doors and create so many opportunities for CertifiKID to be the go-to resource for parents all over the country."

CertifiKID was started by self-professed expert "Deal Finder," Jamie Ratner, in 2010. It is now a \$5M+ per year business and a household name in its Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area home base, according to a press release. The company has also expanded to other major markets across the country, including Chicago, Los Angeles, and Atlanta.

Those looking for affordable activities and entertainment for their kids, no matter where they live, will now be able to use CertifiKID for information, Jamie Ratner said.

"We are already seeing this po-

tential realized in a myriad of ways across all segments of our business," she said. "The sky is the limit and we are feeling 'wonderful!', referencing O'Leary's nickname on the show, "Mr. Wonderful."

"Jamie and Brian have the passion, vision and, most importantly, strategy to expand the CertifiKID footprint deeper and wider all across the U.S.," O'Leary said. "My team and I look forward to helping them accomplish this goal and making CertifiKID a true household name nationwide. We're off to a great start."

The Ratners joined O'Leary on ABC's *The View* on April 11 as his featured Shark Tank entrepreneurs.

"While we were open to an investment from any of the Sharks and saw the benefits that each of them could provide, Kevin O'Leary was clearly one that we were tar-



Jamie and Brian Ratner pitched their website CertifiKID on the ABC show Shark Tank, April 7, and got a deal.

geting," Brian Ratner said. "Kevin's listeners and audience are CertifiKID's. His mindset about teaching parents and kids how to save money, support for female-led businesses, and investments in our core market – the mom and fam-

ily space – are in perfect alignment with our business vision and strategy. We believe he saw this synergy right away, as well as our passion for the CertifiKID community we have built and how and why we have been successful."



# News

FROM PAGE 2

in the County as officials develop the Fiscal Years 2021 to 2026 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

The following links provide more information:

Open Budget (Montgomery County's interactive open data budget websites covering departments, agencies, projects and more)

❖ [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb/openbudget.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb/openbudget.html)

Office of Management and Budget Publications:

❖ [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb/publications.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/omb/publications.html)

The CIP includes costs for new, or renovated, major projects such as roads; public schools and Montgomery College facilities; water and sewer lines; parks, libraries, health and recreation facilities; and other public buildings and projects.

The schedule for forums in each regional area is listed below:

❖ **Silver Spring – Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.** – Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, 240-777-5307.

❖ **Bethesda-Chevy Chase – Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m.** – Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, 240-777-8200.

❖ **Upcounty – Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.** – BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, 240-777-8040.

❖ **Mid-County – Monday, May 20, 7 p.m.** – Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring, 240-777-8101 or 240-777-6820.

❖ **Eastern County – Thursday, May 23, 7 p.m.** – Eastern Montgomery Regional Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, 240-777-8414.

Suggestions and comments from participants will be considered by the regional citizen advisory boards for inclusion in the funding priority lists they submit to the County Executive. The lists will also be shared with County departments and agencies for consideration as they formulate the CIP for their departments.

## Grants for Security Needs of Faith-based Community

Twelve faith-based organizations in the county will receive grant funding from the Faith-based Facilities Security Operating Grants program.

The funds are provided to support faith-based institutions which have experienced, or are at high risk of experiencing, hate crimes. The funds are administered by the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Emergency Management (OEMHS).

"This faith-based security grant is another way Montgomery County affirms our support for our neighbors of every religion, race and ethnicity and demonstrates our steadfast commitment to protect basic human rights," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "While there is no information about specific, recent threats in Montgomery County,

the senseless and vile act that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand reminds us that hate and evil can callously destroy peace without warning. These grants will provide faith-based organizations with additional resources to enhance their security."

The program is a one-time grant that supports county faith-based religious institutions' efforts to enhance security staffing and planning. Funding for the grants was initially proposed by former County Executive Isiah Leggett in the wake of the Pittsburgh synagogue attack. It was approved by the previous Council in November of 2018.

Grant awardees include: Islamic Community Center of Potomac Inc.; Islamic Education Center Inc.; Islamic Society of the Washington Area;

Muslim Community Center Inc.; The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Inc.; Allen Chapel A M E Church Inc.; Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, Inc.; Guru Nanak Foundation of America; International Society for Krishna Consciousness ISKCON of DC; Olive Branch Community Church Inc.; Reid Temple AME Church; and Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The County Council approved the \$200,000 in grant funds as an amendment to the fiscal year 2019 budget in November 2018, which means funds will be available this spring, after formal council approval and the signing of contracts with the facilities listed above.

## Veterans Affairs Clinic in Gaithersburg Now Fully Operational

The Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for Veterans that was dedicated in September as Montgomery County's only clinic for veterans, recently became fully operational. In a short time, the clinic has surpassed the milestone of serving its 500th patient and is closing in on surpassing more than 3,500 visits.

More than 300 people attended the dedication of the clinic, which is located at 15810 Gaither Drive in Gaithersburg. There is ample parking and the center is conveniently located to the Shady Grove Metro Station. It is estimated that more than 45,000 veterans live in Montgomery County.

The Gaithersburg clinic has 11,600 square feet of space that provides primary care, mental health services, social work services, women's health and nutrition counseling and access to some specialty care via secure telehealth technology. It also has shared space for veterans' service organizations that offer claims assistance and community resources to veterans. A counselor from the Silver Spring Veterans Center is available on-site to provide services for combat veterans and their family members.

Eligibility criteria for those who can be served by veterans' clinics are determined by Congress. For eligibility questions, or to book an appointment at the Montgomery clinic, veterans should call the Washington area's main medical center at 202-745-8000. Select "Option 2" to make appointments. More information at <http://tinyurl.com/y5v2ok4b>. The clinic's direct local number is 301-591-5858.

**CLASSIFIED**  
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

### Announcements Announcements

**We pay top \$ for STERLING,**  
MEN'S WATCHES,  
JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY,  
FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.  
**Schefer Antiques**  
703-241-0790  
[theschefers@cox.net](mailto:theschefers@cox.net)

**EMPLOYMENT**  
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
To ADVERTISE in THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

**Forget Daily Commuting**  
Print and digital media  
sales consultant for area's  
most popular and trusted  
local news source  
Manage your own hours from home  
Enjoy flexible schedule  
plus no daily commute  
Help local businesses grow  
Unique opportunity to be a voice  
in your community  
Competitive compensation  
**Call Jerry Vernon**  
**703-549-0004**  
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media  
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:**  
expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with  
**THE CONNECTION DIGITAL**  
► Email Marketing  
► Social Media  
► Sponsored Content  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 703.778.9431  
OR VISIT  
[CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING](http://CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING)  
**CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & More  
703-778-9431  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)  
Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households  
• Arlington County • Fairfax County • Loudoun County • Prince Georges County  
• Montgomery County • Northern Virginia • Potomac County • Stafford County  
• Southern Virginia • Washington County • West Virginia • York County

**You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:**  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs)

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
**-Werner Heisenberg**

## As It Is Happening



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thankfully I woke up today (duh!) – without the crushing, incapacitating fatigue that I woke up with two weeks ago, post-my-last-immunotherapy infusion.

As I have written previously, I did not alert my oncologist to my bedridden status then or since as I have been trying not to worry that I had crossed some Rubicon-type line concerning my treatment and its side/straight-on effects. Apparently, and I will continue to believe (cling to this belief) that my inability to get out of bed two Saturdays ago was indeed an aberration rather than an actualization, of life in this new Kenny lane.

So here I sit at my desk writing away, fully dressed, teeth-brushed and clean-shaven, all by 8:15 am, pill-popping as I go.

As I recall two weeks ago, when I finally summoned the strength to extricate myself from under the covers to get dressed and attempt to walk downstairs and restart my day (I had gotten up earlier to feed our cats breakfast and give Chino his insulin shot), "The clock on the wall" (clock radio, actually), to quote George Thorogood, said 3:53 p.m. (And other than bathroom breaks, that was all I could muster in the nine hours since I woke up at 7 a.m.)

No pain, just zero energy. It was almost as if I was paralyzed.

Writing back to the present, anticipating this morning, I've been a bit apprehensive the last few days – fearful that when I awoke today, I would once again be fighting that terrible fatigue and considering a new reality in my cancer existence.

When my eyes popped open at 6:30 this morning, I was grateful (as my father used to say: "Any day that I wake up is a good day") and relieved that when I raised my right arm to roll back the covers, I did so with relative normalcy; and even more relieved when I was able to swing my legs out from underneath the covers and onto the bedroom floor where I had no difficulty getting my bearings. Before too long (maybe 30 seconds or so), and after a few deep breaths, I stood up and officially began my day without any further adieu. Although I hadn't taken any Roloids: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

Dare I say then it will be a normal day, up and at 'em with nary a hint of fatigue in the forecast.

Rain, however, is in the forecast and given the date on the calendar: April 13, 2019, I have to face an even greater challenge than the fatigue I experienced two weeks ago: clothes shopping.

More specifically, I have to buy a suit, as well as some upgraded good-looking casual attire which my wife, Dina will approve and that Kenny's budget will tolerate, as I'll be attending a family wedding and rehearsal dinner beginning May 3, 2019.

One more concern: my weight. It's not good. It's the talking-scale-joke-will-one-of-you-please-get-off, bad. But I have no choice. Today's the day (for availability reasons) or it will be "Good night, Irene." Is there a tent sale going on anywhere?

You know, now that I think about it – and feel it, I may be feeling a little fatigue.

Maybe it's not the best day to be trying on ill-fitting clothes ALL DAY. What if I don't have the manual dexterity to be in and out of dressing rooms, up and down while in them and back and forth to the clothing racks with shoes, slacks, shirts and suits?

What if today is another day in my life – which seemingly began at birth, where I spent hours in the "Husky"/"Portly" departments at Jordan Marsh, Filene's Basement and Kennedy's in downtown Boston, trying to find Kenny some "school clothes" that fit, that is excruciating AGAIN? Granted, it wasn't cancer then as it is now, but for an overweight young boy, it was torture personified and the experience imprinted me for life as a serial-clothes-shopping-hater.

Got to go. Wish me luck. I'll need it.

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





**6713 ARROYO COURT  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

NEW LISTING! Stunning contemporary residence sited on 1+ acre! Total of 5BR, 5FBA, 2HBA with 2 story living room, expansive family/dining room and gourmet kit. 2 car garage \$1,499,000

Nancy Itteilag 202-905-7762



**9728 BEMAN WOODS WAY  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

Prescott at Avenel's award winning "B" Model. Soaring views of the wooded side of the golf course. High ceilings, custom moldings, flooded with light. Gracious entertaining space. \$1,475,000

Nancy Itteilag 202-905-7762



**8302 TURNBERRY CT  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

Spacious custom TH on the 14th fairway of TPC at Avenel Golf Course. Plentiful views from all levels of this 4BR/3.5BA unique home. Open floor-plan grants easy access throughout. \$1,129,000

Nancy Itteilag 202-905-7762



Nancy Itteilag



**10836 ALLOWAY DRIVE  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

Elegant estate in Potomac Falls neighborhood, sited on 2+ landscaped ac. Spacious 5BR/5FBA/2HBA, renov kit, au-pair suite/ home office above gar + pool. Churchill. \$1,999,000

Kari Wilner 301-908-9111



**8586 BRICKYARD ROAD  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

Elegant custom home, 12 years old with high ceilings and great circular flow! 5BR each with an en-suite bath, gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, and media room. Whitman. \$1,590,000

Kari Wilner 301-908-9111



**5 CHINA ROSE COURT  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

Just listed & move in ready on a private, wooded lot! Open & airy for entertaining, 4 BR/4FBA/1HBA, Magruder upgrades, stone FP, newly fin HWD/paint, deck. \$999,000

Kari Wilner 301-908-9111



Kari Wilner



**13101 BRUSHWOOD WAY  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

Grand custom built estate on 2 acres. Well-appointed with elegant features, custom millwork + rich stone selections. Plenty of room for a pool + more! Wootton Schools. \$1,635,000

Meg Percesepe 301-765-8304



**10004 WEATHERWOOD COURT  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

NEW PRICE! Light & bright, masterfully remodeled 5BR/3.5BA in a quiet cul-de-sac. Gorgeous gourmet kit to fam rm, fab master BA. Steps to Wayside Elem + swim/tennis. \$1,095,000

Meg Percesepe 301-765-8304



**10509 STREAMVIEW CT  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**

A tranquil oasis! Sun-drenched Contemporary backing to parkland with fantastic multiple decks and sweeping views. 5BR/3.5BA with fab walk-out lower level & Churchill Schools. \$935,000

Meg Percesepe 301-765-8304



Meg Percesepe



**THE PREMIER BROKERAGE FIRM**  
REPRESENTING THE CAPITAL REGION

