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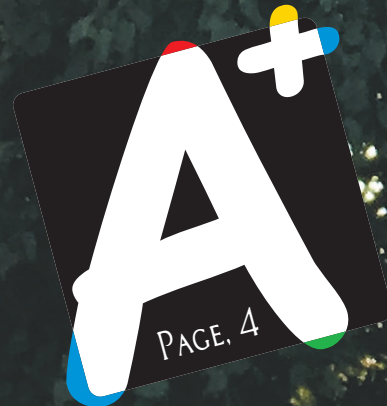
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# Potomac ALMANAC

Sunflowers are peaking right now. Photographers, families, birders and nature lovers of many kinds flocked to the sunflower fields at McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area off River Road.



## Sunflowers

NATURE, PAGE 7

Potomac  
French Market

FUN, PAGE 3

Coping with  
the Heat

CLIMATE CHANGE, PAGE 3

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NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 2 ♦ REAL ESTATE MAP, PAGE 5 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

JULY 17-23, 2019

ONLINE AT [POTOMACALMANAC.COM](http://POTOMACALMANAC.COM)



## NEWS BRIEFS

### County Council Considers Policing Advisory Commission

Councilmember Hans Riemer introduced Bill 14-19, Police – Policing Advisory Commission – Established, which would create a Policing Advisory Commission and specify its membership and duties. The goal of this legislation is to improve Council oversight of the Montgomery County Police Department and strengthen community trust in, and engagement with, the police. The Commission will advise the Council on policing matters, provide information regarding best practices, and recommend policies, programs, legislation or regulations.

Councilmembers Will Jawando, Tom Hucker and Evan Glass are cosponsors of Bill 14-19.

“I know that we have an excellent police department, full of conscientious and highly professional public servants,” Riemer said in a county release. “But we are not immune from the challenges that communities are facing all over the country.”

The Policing Advisory Commission would allow for civilian (resident) participation in police department policy formulation, using data and focusing on best practices, and strengthening the Council’s oversight role to prevent problems from occurring. The Commission would consist of 13 public members, individual residents or representatives of community organizations. Nine members would be appointed by the Council and four members would be appointed by the County Executive. A representative from the police department, either the police chief or the police chief’s designee and a representative of the Fraternal Order of Police will serve as ex-officio members.

“The creation of a Policing Advisory Commission will provide an opportunity for community participation in the review of police department policies and practices,” said Jawando. “This input is a critical component of community-based policing and will help create more transparency and trust between the police and the residents they serve.”

“The ability to analyze data, consider best practices from other jurisdictions, make recommendations and monitor progress creates the kind of accountability that will ensure good government for the residents of Montgomery County.”

The Commission would be tasked with producing an annual report by July 1 of each year covering its functions, activities, accomplishments, plans and objectives.

Learn more about Bill 14-19 at: <https://tinyurl.com/Bill1419Intro>

### Low-Cost Pet Clinic

**Low-Cost Pet Clinic**, Sunday, July 21 (and Aug. 25), 8-10:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood. Rabies vaccinations are free for dogs and cats with the purchase of a Montgomery County pet license for residents of Montgomery County, City of Rockville, and City of Gaithersburg. \$10 microchipping services are also offered. All pets must be brought to the clinic by a responsible adult. Dogs must be secured on a leash. Cats and ferrets must be secured in a carrier. \$10 fee for vaccination of ferrets. \$10 fee for vaccination of pets owned by non-county residents. Call 240-773-5900 for more.

### Potomac Rotary

**Potomac Rotary Gatherings**, Wednesday, Aug. 7, (and Aug. 21) 7:15-8:30 a.m. at Founding Farmers MoCo, 12505 Park Potomac Ave., Potomac. Rotary Club of Potomac meets for breakfast first and third Wednesday of each month and a Happy Hour at Sugo Pizzeria, 5-7 p.m., on the last Wednesday. Learn how to serve humanity globally. Individuals pay for their own breakfast. No admission fee. Visit [www.PotomacRotary.org](http://www.PotomacRotary.org) for more.

### Vision Zero Website on Efforts to Eliminate Traffic Deaths

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich has made the reduction of traffic-related deaths a priority of his administration and the efforts of many County departments and agencies toward that effort are now easily findable in a single place — the updated Vision Zero website.

The County has put resources in place to reduce severe and fatal collisions. The long-term goal is to have zero severe and fatal collisions by 2030.

A two-year County action plan details specific activities with deadlines. The Vision Zero Initiative has included the involvement of County Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Department of Transportation, the CountyStat Office, dataMontgomery, the Office of Public Information, the Department of Alcohol Beverage Services, Montgomery Planning, Montgomery County Public Schools and the Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. The Vision Zero Action Plan; statistics detailing pedestrian, vehicle and bicycle incidents; and the programs of each Vision Zero partner are now accessible at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/).



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## Surprising Art and More at Potomac French Market

If you head out River Road to see the sunflowers at McKee Beshers, you can stop in at the Potomac French Market, and its celebration of the sunflowers and more.

The Potomac French Market was established in 2017 by Teri Troxell and Rene Redfield Shaw, inspired by love of beautiful things to enhance the home.

They started by bringing special home decor items to farmers' markets.

"We are an experience store where products are different every time you come," from vintage antiques to upcycled modern. Potomac French Market, 12211 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Call or text 301-807-9945

potomacfrenchmarket@gmail.com

Open Thursdays, 11 am to 3 pm;

Fridays, 11 am to 6 pm; Saturdays, 11am to 5 pm; Sundays, 11 am to 5 pm.

More on FaceBook [www.facebook.com/potomacfrenchmarket/](http://www.facebook.com/potomacfrenchmarket/)



**Right and below: Demonstration of glass blowing. Philip Valencia with Valencia Glass creates a glass bowl.**



**Stephan Beauchesne at the Pop-Up Patisserie at the Potomac French Market, serves customer Laura King; top with Greta Ober.**

## Take Precautions During Excessive Heat

Residents concerned about the well-being of a homeless person can call the 24-hour Homeless Information Line at 240-907-2688.

With the scorching temperatures, Montgomery County has activated an extreme heat plan for hyperthermia several times recently. This warning means the heat index is expected to rise above 95 degrees. July and August are generally the County's hottest months, and it can be expected that hyperthermia alert extreme heat warning days will continue throughout the summer.

When the extreme heat plan is activated, County officials urge residents to take precautions to protect themselves and their pets against heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Extreme heat affects the body's ability to regulate temperature, which can create dangerous conditions if appropriate safety measures are not taken. Heat may affect air quality, especially in urban areas, and may

have a stronger impact on the elderly, children and anyone who is sick.

During excessive heat, homeless shelters operate under a hypothermia alert and allow people to return to the shelter after work or daytime activities. Outreach programs also encourage unsheltered individuals to seek cool indoor locations. Residents concerned about the well-being of a homeless person can call the 24-hour Homeless Information Line at 240-907-2688. Outreach partners will attempt to locate the individual and offer resources and support.

Residents are asked to check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbors who may be isolated to be sure they are not showing signs of heat-related illnesses. County facilities, including libraries, swimming pools, recreation and senior centers, as well as regional services centers are places to cool off during normal operating hours.

**SOME TIPS** to help residents remain safe and comfortable during excessive heat days:

- ❖ Stay indoors whenever possible. Visit nearby air-conditioned buildings in your community if your home is not air-conditioned, county facilities, shopping malls, movie theaters and museums.

- ❖ Be careful to avoid strenuous activities that can result in overexposure to the sun, such as sports and gardening. If you must do a strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning before 9 a.m.

- ❖ Drink plenty of water. Dehydration, cramps, exhaustion or heat stroke can result from not drinking enough fluids. Water is the safest liquid to drink. Avoid drinks containing alcohol or caffeine.

- ❖ When outdoors, wear proper protection from the sun: light-colored clothing, a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen protection.

- ❖ Never leave pets, young children, or vulnerable adults in a car. The temperature inside parked cars can reach 130 degrees in a few minutes.

- ❖ Check on those at high risk. Those at greatest risk of heat-related illness include: infants and children up to four years of age; individuals 65 years of age and older; individuals who are ill or on certain medications; and individuals who are overweight.

- ❖ Knowing the signs of heat exposure can prevent serious illness from becoming life threatening. Heat stroke is the most serious sign of overexposure, with red, hot, dry skin, weak pulse, rapid breathing and changes in consciousness. Seek medical attention by calling 9-1-1.

**PETS:** In the event of an extreme temperature situation or weather emergency, owners must not leave a pet unattended outdoors.



Want to know more about "aging in place" here in Potomac?

**Pot-Luck Dinner**  
Thursday, July 18. 6 pm  
Potomac Community Ctr, 11315 Falls Rd  
Entertainment included

Please bring 6- 8 servings to share

240-221-1370 to RSVP, for details

[www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org)

# Creating Travel Journal With Children

Helping children capture vacation memories through journaling.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A collection of rocks collected at Mt. Vesuvius in Naples, a souvenir from the leaning tower of Pisa, crayon-on-construction paper drawings of the beaches in Naples, Italy are all part of the travel journals that Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez preserved. These are keepsakes that her son began creating when he was in preschool. Recently she perused those journals, reliving the memories with her son who is now a 22 year-old college student.

"As a military spouse I had the opportunity to live in Naples, Italy," said Pruneda-Hernandez, who now works as the Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College. "When we traveled in Europe, I provided my son travel journals. As a preschooler, he drew pictures of the places we visited and I would write parts of our conversations on the drawings. As he learned to write, his travel journals began to become more complex with him drawing and writing. I saved those journals and he is able to relive the memories of those experiences."

Journals created during summer vacations allow families to maintain the experience of their trips long after they've returned home. Whether one's plans include a safari in Kenya or a staycation among the monuments along the National Mall, keeping detailed records gives children who are living in the age of selfies and social media posts, a thoughtful option for holding onto memories.

"Travel journals are important because they [allow children], to have those memories of those experiences," said Pruneda-Hernandez.

Advanced planning leads to creative journals that are a form of self-expression, suggests Wendy Rowe, a writing tutor and art teacher. "Before you leave for your trip, ask your child to think about what they're most excited about and the type of journal they'd like to keep," she said. "For example, my daughter likes to paint watercolor pictures of things that she sees. Other children might make a journal that's a written narrative. What's important is that parents allow children to choose the type of journal they want to make and then purchasing and packing the supplies that they might need, whether it's colored pencils and craft paper or a simple notebook and a pen."

Such diaries can spark family conversations and create opportunities to practice writing skills, advises Michelle Villano, a fourth grade teacher who encourages her students to write accounts of their summer adventures. "Children can enjoy a vacation and learn from the scenes around them," Villano said. "A child's travel journal shouldn't just be a list of things that

**"Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey."**

— Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at Montgomery College

they did or saw. Parents should encourage them to engage all of their senses like sound, touch, taste and feel. For example, if you're on a vacation in Paris, did you smell freshly baked baguettes when you walked into a restaurant for lunch? If you ate a croissant, could you taste the butter or feel the flakes on your tongue?"

The options for both the format of journals and the way that a child chooses to describe their experiences are abundant, says Rowe. "Children can include museum tickets, airplane boarding passes, leaves they collected from a park they visited," she said. "Parents should encourage them to think long-term about things they might enjoy remembering later."

"Travel journals allow young children to be actively involved in the experience of their journey," added Pruneda-Hernandez. "They do not have to be written. Children that are not able to write yet, should be provided opportunities and materials such as a simple notebook, markers, crayons, or pencils to draw what they see and their experiences."

Prompts can be used to encourage those who are resistant to keeping a record of their vacations, says Villano. "Start by asking them to write about something they saw by describing its color or shape," she said. "They can describe the shape and color of a rock they saw while hiking in the Grand Canyon."

"Parents can sit and ask open-ended questions at the end of the day," said Pruneda-Hernandez. "This provides a [them] an opportunity to express themselves orally and provides opportunities for them to think about the experience."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONIA PRUNEDA-HERNANDEZ

**Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez created this journal with her son when he was younger. Now that he's 22, he enjoys looking at them and reliving childhood memories.**

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**PET Almanac**

Publishes: July 31, 2019 • Ads close: July 25, 2019

Almanac readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

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# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



2 11711 Karen Drive — \$781,500

## April, 2019 Sales, \$755,000~\$799,900

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— \$755,000



3 8516 Bells Ridge Terrace  
— \$780,000



4 8438 Bells Ridge Terrace  
— \$775,000



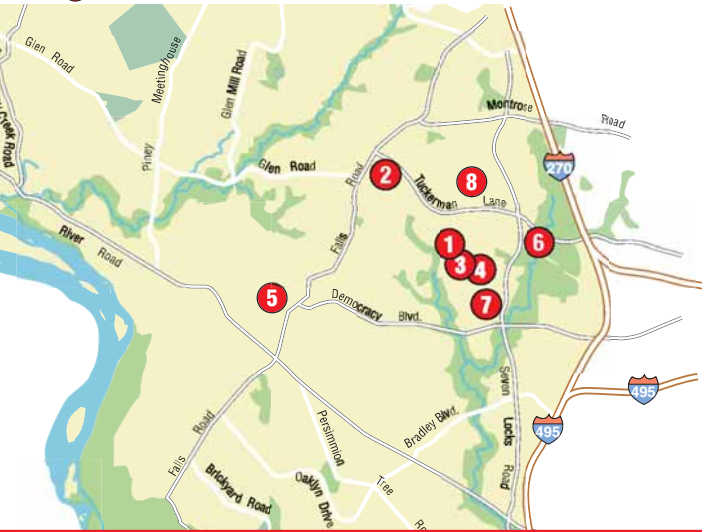
6 11209 Angus Place — \$762,000



7 10601 Deborah Drive — \$755,000

Address .....	BR	FB	HB	Postal City ..	Sold Price ....	Type .....	Lot AC	Postal Code .....	Subdivision .....	Date Sold
1 8534 BELLS RIDGE TER .....	4	3	1	POTOMAC .....	\$799,900	Townhouse .....	0.05	20854	BELLS MILL ESTATES .....	04/18/19
2 11711 KAREN DR .....	3	3		POTOMAC .....	\$781,500	Detached .....	0.49	20854	LAKE NORMANDY ESTATES ..	04/01/19
3 8516 BELLS RIDGE TER .....	3	3	1	POTOMAC .....	\$780,000	End of Townhouse	0.06	20854	BELLS MILL ESTATES .....	04/30/19
4 8438 BELLS RIDGE TER .....	3	3	1	POTOMAC .....	\$775,000	Row/Townhouse	0.05	20854	BELLS MILL ESTATES .....	04/12/19
5 10012 S GLEN RD .....	4	3	1	POTOMAC .....	\$765,000	Detached .....	0.69	20854	POTOMAC HILLS .....	04/12/19
6 11209 ANGUS PL .....	4	3		POTOMAC .....	\$762,000	Detached .....	0.20	20854	NONE AVAILABLE .....	04/26/19
7 10601 DEBORAH DR .....	4	2	1	POTOMAC .....	\$755,000	Detached .....	0.22	20854	INVERNESS FOREST .....	04/05/19
8 11313 GAINSBOROUGH RD ..	5	3	1	ROCKVILLE .....	\$755,000	Detached .....	0.22	20854	REGENCY ESTATES .....	04/22/19

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## NATURE

# Sunflower Fields Attract Birds, Bees, Nature Lovers

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM

**T**he sunflower fields at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area are now in “peak bloom,” as of July 16, according to Maryland Department of Natural Resources, with about 30 acres planted in three fields, providing a spectacular view and serving an important conservation purpose.

The Montgomery County area is just one of many sunflower fields the Maryland Department of Natural Resources plants each spring as a food source, primarily for mourning doves, as part of the department’s

SEE SUNFLOWER, PAGE 7



**Dragonflies, bees, Indigo Buntings, Goldfinches, Cardinals, and other birds and insects enjoyed the blooms.**



**Dragonflies, bees, Indigo Buntings, Goldfinches, Cardinals, and other birds and insects enjoyed the blooms.**

## ENTERTAINMENT AND CALENDAR

### ONGOING

#### Art Exhibits: Summer Takeover.

Through July 24, gallery hours at Artists & Makers Studios 1, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210, Rockville and Artists & Makers Studios 2, 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. Artists & Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive and Wilkins Avenue in Rockville will host two metro-area organizations in five galleries for the month of July. Black Artists of DC are back in three galleries at Parklawn, and the National League of American Pen Women – Chevy Chase Branch, are taking over two galleries at Wilkins. Visit [artistsandmakersstudios.com](http://artistsandmakersstudios.com)

#### Art Exhibition: Maryland

**Federation of Art.** Through July 27, Wednesday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery B presents its July exhibition, “MFA @ Gallery B,” a juried exhibition of work by Maryland Federation of Art members. Gallery B will be open for a public reception on Friday, July 12, 6-8 p.m. Opening receptions will also be held that evening at Studio B, 7475 Wisconsin Ave.; Triangle Art Studios, 7711 Old Georgetown Road and Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway in downtown Bethesda. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org)

**Summer Read and Learn** This year’s theme for The Montgomery County Public Libraries’ (MCPL) 2019 Summer Read and Learn Program is “A Universe of Stories,” encouraging children of all ages to dream big, believe in themselves, and create their own stories. Space is featured in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Children from newborn to 12 years old and teens, 13-17 years of age, are invited to sign up online or at any branch through Aug. 31. Earn prizes (while supplies last); vouchers to a Friends of the Library, Montgomery County bookstore; or raffle entries. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library).

**Wings of Fancy.** Exhibit hours through Aug. 31 are 10 a.m.-1 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends. Hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily Sept. 1-22 at Brookside Gardens South Conservatory, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. A live

butterfly and caterpillar exhibit. Visitors will be surrounded by hundreds of live butterflies from North America, Costa Rica, Africa and Asia. Learn about their metamorphosis, the role butterflies play in healthy ecosystems, and how to ensure these insects thrive. Call 301-962-1400 or visit [www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens).

### THURSDAY/JULY 18

**Escape from Earth.** 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. During a midnight meteor shower, something mysterious falls from the sky toward Earth — but it’s not a shooting star. Two curious kids venture into the forest to investigate and find themselves mixed up with a family of visitors from another planet. Don’t miss this action-packed and educational alien adventure using science experiments for special effects. Free. Call 240-777-0690.

**Thursday Night Concerts: Marc Berger Band (American Roots).** 7 p.m. at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring. The concert series returns with a full line-up, featuring touring artists and local favorites. From Motown to rock to Oldies, the popular summer concert series has music for everyone. Free. Visit [www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series) or call 240-777-0311.

### SATURDAY/JULY 20

**Artist Talk: Black Artists of DC.** 1-3 p.m. at Artists & Makers Studios 1, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210, Rockville. Artists & Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive and Wilkins Avenue in Rockville will host two metro-area organizations in five galleries for the month of July. Black Artists of DC are back in three galleries at Parklawn. Visit [artistsandmakersstudios.com](http://artistsandmakersstudios.com)

### SUNDAY/JULY 21

**Jazz and Jam.** 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Normandie Farms Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band opens

and closes with traditional jazz. A jam session is in the middle. People cheer, clap and dance and generally have fun. Students and jammers are free, others pay \$10. Call 240-447-2054 or visit [PRJC.org](http://PRJC.org) for more.

**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 ensemble Waltz Weavers, who will provide a mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polk. 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, or visit [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org).

### TUESDAY/JULY 23

**Family Movie: Bridge to Terabithia.** Noon at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Based on Katherine Paterson’s book published in 1977. Two children have adventures in a fantasy kingdom they create in their minds. Free. Call 240-777-0690.

### THURSDAY/JULY 25

**Thursday Night Concerts: MoCo’s Got Talent (Variety).** 7 p.m. at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring. The concert series returns with a full line-up, featuring touring artists and local favorites. From Motown to rock to Oldies, the popular summer concert series has music for everyone. Free. Visit [www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series) or call 240-777-0311.

### SATURDAY/JULY 27

**Farm Tour.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, 15200 Mt. Nebo Road, Poolesville. Meet the more than 250 rescued animals at Poplar Spring and enjoy hay rides, refreshments for sale, and a giant yard sale to benefit the animals. Musical group Buntopia perform a blend of rock, blues, country and more music. The gift shop will be open and visitors are welcome to

stroll around the sanctuary grounds to meet and visit with all the animals. Visit [www.animalsanctuary.org](http://www.animalsanctuary.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 1

**“Magic That Came From Outer Space!”** 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Magician Mike Rose presents a magic show that is not like other magic shows. Rose’s new show, “Magic That Came From Outer Space!” is created specifically for libraries and is designed to complement the 2019 Summer Reading theme “A Universe of Stories.” Free. Call 240-777-0690.

**Thursday Night Concerts: The HitTime Revue Featuring Jimi Smooth (R&B, Soul).** 7 p.m. at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring. The concert series returns with a full line-up, featuring touring artists and local favorites. From Motown to rock to Oldies, the popular summer concert series has music for everyone. Free. Visit [www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series) or call 240-777-0311.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 2

**Casual Concerts at Glen Echo.** 7:30 p.m. at Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Bethesda. Jazz trio: Marty Nau, saxophone; Robert Redd, piano; and Steve Novosel, bass; with music from the Great American Songbook. Each concert date will correspond with an Art Walk in the Park, an evening of open studios and artist talks organized by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. Admission is free, and donations are welcome at the door. Visit [washingtonconservatory.org](http://washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-634-2250.

### SUNDAY/AUG. 4

**Jazz and Jam.** 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Normandie Farms Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band opens and closes with traditional jazz. A jam session is in the middle. People cheer, clap and dance and generally

have fun. Students and jammers are free, others pay \$10. Call 240-447-2054 or visit [PRJC.org](http://PRJC.org) for more.

**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 Trio con Brio who will provide a 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, or visit [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org).

### MONDAY/AUG. 5

**Paperspace.** 12:30 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Come create with the Library’s Paperspace and a paper-based project for to make. Adult supervision is required for children 8 and under. Please ask for scissors and glue. While supplies last. Free. Call 240-777-0690.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 8

**Thursday Night Concerts: The Soul Crackers (Motown Soul).** 7 p.m. at Veterans Plaza, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring. The concert series returns with a full line-up, featuring touring artists and local favorites. From Motown to rock to Oldies, the popular summer concert series has music for everyone. Free. Visit [www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/summer-concert-series) or call 240-777-0311.

### SATURDAY/AUG. 10

**Strathmore’s Bloom Concert Series: Josanne Francis.** 6 p.m. at Good Hope Neighborhood Recreation Center, 14715 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring. The concerts are part of a collaboration and partnership with Montgomery County Recreation and Strathmore. The concerts are free and family-friendly. Reserve tickets at [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org). MoCoRec.com for more about Good Hope.



# NATURE



Photographers, families, birders and nature lovers of many kinds flocked to the sunflower fields at McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area off River Road.



## Sunflower

FROM PAGE 6

conservation and management programs. Mourning doves are hunted at the fields during the traditional fall season, which runs Sept. 1 through early January.

The blooming sunflowers flowers additionally nourish pollinators, song-

birds, and other wildlife. They are also a frequent subject for entries in the department's photo contest, which ends Aug. 31. <http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/photocontest.aspx>

Visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/publiclands/central/sunflowers.aspx> for links to a map and more information.



Some sunflowers towered up to seven feet and more, while others more modestly poked their heads above the weeds.

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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## Stamp of Disapproval



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you still going to the post office and buying/selecting stamps, this column is for you (and for others too with a memory of such tasks).

Since I am among a dwindling number of those who actually affix their own stamps and mail their own correspondence (bills, birthday cards and miscellaneous other such hard copies), rather than bill-pay online, greet electronically or text incessantly, I may be writing uphill here. (Remember readers, parking is almost always free at the post office). Nevertheless, I will continue trudging on.

Like many of my generation, I've been accustomed to having my hands wrapped around or placed in proximity to, that which I'm reading, writing or "rithmeticking" (tactile you might say). And in the course of such endeavors, doing so with a pen in hand rather than with opposing thumbs side-saddling a device.

In so doing, I am regularly buying stamps – myself – and selecting from a variety of seasonal, promotional and "commemorative" (I make up words, like my father did; "surgerize" and "confliction" being two of his favorites) offerings. However, I am not "philatelic" in the least. In the most, I am a buyer and a sticker. Not a collector at all.

To that end, I am merely at the post office to justify my means: mailing my correspondence/parcels in a timely and efficient manner. Other than Christmas stamps my wife, Dina, will request that I buy, I care very little about the particular stamp/book that I purchase.

In fact, you could call me a stamp-contrarian (among other descriptions, I'm sure).

What I typically say in response to the post office clerk's question about my stamp preference is: "Give me the stamps on top (as they flip through their stamp booklet)," or "Whatever you're tired of looking/wanting to get rid of." And generally speaking, they're happy to comply, as you might imagine, giggling a bit as they hand over the stamps.

When I'm given the stamps, often I'll make a casual comment about their look and then "Exit stage, left," (to quote Snagglepuss, the most famous cartoon cougar from the Yogi Bear Show of the 1960s). Never, ever, will I return/replace them. I will use them and not think once, let alone twice, about them. In fact, I prefer to use the stamps most out of favor, most inappropriate to the time (Christmas stamps in July, as an example; and I jokingly always ask for a discount) and most undesirable (apparently, to the stamp-buying public). It pleases me to be the user of these "undesirables" until yesterday, that is (or should that be, was).

I went to my local post office. Stood in line. Approached the counter when called and then made my usual/per-this-column request. I received my first class stamps and while barely taking notice of them, affixed them to my envelopes and "slotted" them in the outgoing mail. I then walked out to my car, opened the door and as I sat down, tossed the remaining stamps in my car's auxiliary tray.

That's when I actually took notice of them and "Heavens to Murgatroyd," realized what I had done/purchased. I had bought and then used "Love" stamps on two bill-payment envelopes. Can you imagine?

Hardly would I want to impart that message in a communication with VISA. I mean, it wasn't exactly a wedding invitation. Quite the opposite. It was more like a divorce, if anything, and love definitely wasn't in the air.

Unfortunately for me though, it was on the envelope.

"What do you say to that? What do you say to that?" (I learned while going online that, amazingly/coincidentally, Snagglepuss and I have the same birthday.)

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





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