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Potomac ALMANAC

Civil War reenactors from the 20th Maine Regiment stand at attention before their tent Saturday. The group held a Civil War Encampment at Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center Nov. 2 and 3. More re-enactments will take place Sunday, Nov. 10, 1-2 p.m.

Living History at Great Falls Tavern

HISTORY, PAGE 2

Renovations in Scotland

FRIEDSON FIGURES, PAGE 3

West Montgomery Get Involved

PAGE 4

WELLBEING

PAGE 5

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HISTORY



PHOTOS BY PEGGY MCEWAN

Sue Youhn, part of the Civil War Encampment at Great Falls last weekend, shows visitors a cone of sugar. Women were auxiliary to the 20th Maine Regiment in providing medicines and supplementary food to the troops.

Not So Quiet Along the Potomac

The Union Army and the 1st Year of the Civil War in Montgomery and Frederick County.

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019, 1-2 p.m. Discover the history of the Civil War coming to the Potomac River and the C&O Canal, presented by Jim Buchanan. This presentation will cover the period from April 1861 through April 1862.

This was the time that saw the growth of the Union army as it first moved to protect the capital city and then began to secure the border, set up camps of instruction, and in other ways protect the Canal (and the railroad) from Confederate regulars and partisan raiders. This is the story of thousands of young citizens marching off to war for the first time in their lives. Boys and young men never outside of Boston or Philadelphia, farm lads never outside their county. Nearly all away from their families for the first time.

Thrown into the field along the Potomac frontier in Montgomery and Frederick counties. Union commanders quickly set up camps of instruction and drill to ready their troops for the bigger conflict that was sure to come. The officers were literally one step ahead of those they led often reviewing the manual of arms in the morning and instructing the same in the afternoon. It was literally, the birth of an army.

Nothing quite equaled the sense of emergency and the sheer numbers of troops as did that first year

of the war. After the spring of 1862, the seat of war in the East shifted to the south – to the Peninsula campaign, Seven Days, Cedar Mountain, Second Manassas. Most of the regiments who spent the summer and fall of 1861 along the Potomac would abandon their camps and take to the front lines. By spring of 1862, the war had taken on a new dynamic as armies on both sides turned from inexperienced civilians to battle weary veterans. The Potomac of their early days a mere memory.



Civil War reenactors from the 20th Maine Regiment stand at attention before their tent Saturday. The group held a Civil War Encampment at Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center Nov. 2 and 3.



The Potomac Chamber of Commerce Presents

Annual Awards Dinner

November 19, 2019 Six O'clock, pm
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| Friends of the Library | Falls Road Veterinary Hosp | Caleb Robinson | Ellen Cromwell |

Annual Awards Dinner

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 6:00PM – 9:00PM
 Please respond by Friday, November 12, 2019

Mr./Ms. _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

_____ Number of Individual attendees (\$60.00 per Person)

_____ I am unable to attend.

Please choose a dish for each individual:

_____ # of Grilled Filet, Sauce Bearnaise

_____ # of Filet of Cod Stuffed with Crab Imperial-Citrus Drizzle (or)

_____ # Roasted Vegetable Plate

R.S.V.P and checks payable to: **The Potomac Chamber of Commerce, Inc.**
 PO Box 59160, Potomac, MD 20859 • 301-299-2170



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Scotland Community grand reopening Sept. 25, with Christine Madigan, Executive Vice President of Development, Acquisitions and Asset Management – Enterprise Homes; Roderick Simpson, Senior Planning Specialist, Montgomery County DHCA; Aseem Nigam, Director, Montgomery County DHCA; Miles Cary, Senior Vice President – Bank of America; Andrew Friedson, District 1 Councilmember; Lily Qi, D15 Delegate; Scotland Community Board Member; Will Jawando, At-Large Councilmember; Scotland Community Board Member; Hans Riemer, At-Large Councilmember; Scotland Community Board Member; Brien O'Toole, Deputy Director, Rental Lending, Maryland DHCD; Brian McLaughlin, President & CEO, Community Preservation Development Corporation; Enterprise Homes, Inc.

Celebrating and Investing In Potomac's Historic Communities

BY ANDREW FRIEDSON,
COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER



Friedson

FRIEDSON FIGURES

On Sept. 25, I joined colleagues Hans Riemer and Will Jawando, county and state representatives, along with the Scotland Community Development Board and Enterprise Development for the Grand Re-Opening of the Scotland Community in Potomac. It was an amazing day, celebrating a public-private partnership that spans all levels of government along with the private sector so 75 affordable rental homes could receive a complete transformation inside and out.

Scotland is one of Montgomery County's historic African-American communities, founded in 1880 by William Dove, who purchased 36 acres at an auction for \$210.

Having grown up with several members of the Dove family, and having been coached by two of them at Churchill High School, it was a particular thrill for me to bridge the county's history with my own. This housing initiative, along with the county's significant investment in modernizing the Scotland Community Recreation Center, will help Scotland endure as an affordable and desirable place to live, and embodies Montgomery County's commitment to affordable housing.

Potomac has a rich cultural history of historic African American communities. I recently visited and toured Tobytown, another historic community established by emancipated slaves following the Civil

War near River Road by Pennyfield Lock. Joining local residents and neighborhood leaders, we discussed drainage, parking, light poles and other everyday quality of life issues.

Tobytown and similar historic African-American communities in Montgomery County such as Ken-

Gar and Lyttonsville have deep and complicated histories.

Tobytown lacked indoor plumbing and running water until the 1960s and public transportation until just a few years ago. The county and Housing Opportunities Commission have made investments to renovate the community center and playground and to extend Ride-On bus service in recent years, but that legacy remains and we cannot ignore it.

We must ensure that these communities remain connected to their past while providing access to opportunities to benefit from Montgomery County's progress and prosperity.

That requires a significant commitment – both in moral fortitude and financial resources. As the successful housing partnership in Scotland and recent improvements in Tobytown show, together we can make that commitment, and our entire community will be better and stronger for it.



Councilmember Andrew Friedson visits Tobytown.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE STEVENS/POTOMAC ALMANAC

Jim Viner on Falls Road shows enthusiasm for the Washington Nationals winning the World Series by constructing a nearly house-sized replica of the trophy. While below, team manager Davy Martinez hefts the real thing at Saturday's parade.

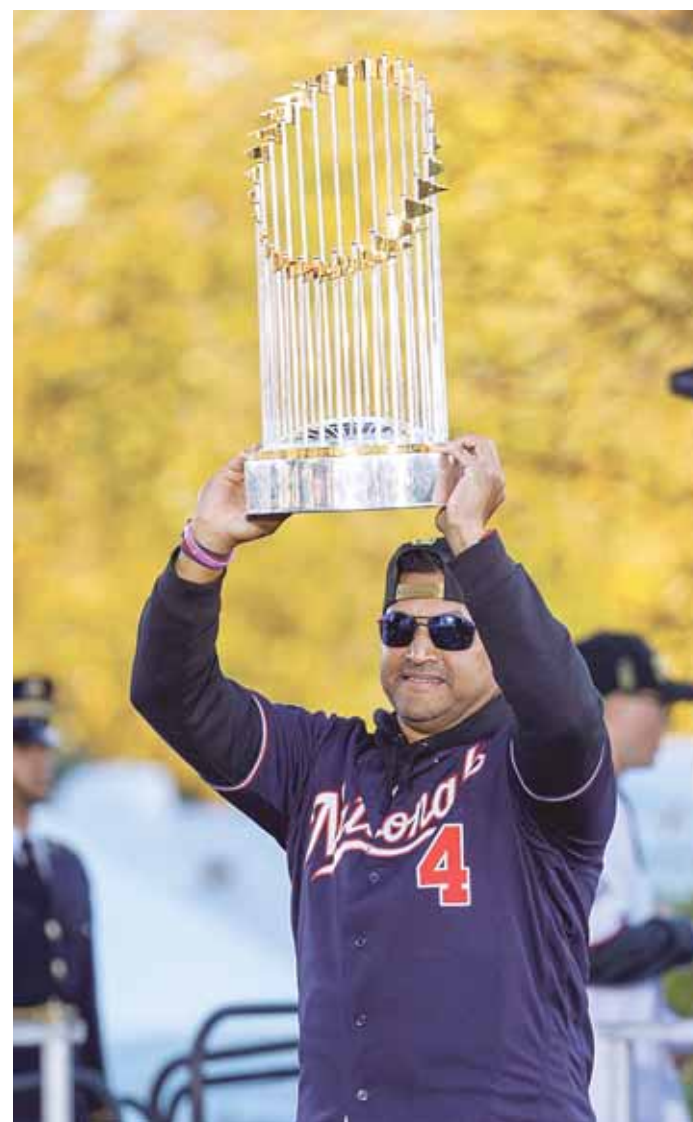


PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/POTOMAC ALMANAC

OPINION

West Montgomery County Citizens Assn Meeting

RainScapes rebates, appealing wetlands violations, members corner, Thriving with a General Plan.

WMCCA Meeting at the Potomac Community Center Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019 – 7:15 p.m.

SPEAKER: Ann English, Program Manager for DEP RainScapes Program

This past summer, many of us experienced the damaging effects of uncontrolled stormwater on our personal properties. Damage from stormwater extended to our public infrastructure (think roads and bridges) and natural areas (washed out and degraded stream valleys). One way we all can help is by installing a RainScape. A RainScape is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties. Our speaker, Ann English, PLA, is the Program Manager for the Department of Environmental Protection's RainScapes Program. This program offers education and rebates for qualified RainScapes projects which reduce runoff voluntarily from private property. Native plants add further ecological benefit to the onsite solutions offered using a RainScapes approach. She will bring information on the RainScapes Rewards rebate program including easy native plants, RainScapes Rewards Rebate amounts (now a maximum of \$7,500 for residential properties), and how to apply to do a project.

Detailed information can be found at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/ As always, the public is welcome to attend.

President's Letter

By Susanne Lee

So Glad WMCCA Appealed

Given the size and impact of this summer's wet weather events, even the current County, State, and Federal stream buffer and wetlands requirements may not prove adequate to protect our streams and homes. But what is clear is that the Montgomery County Planning Board has utterly failed to apply even the current bare minimum legal requirements. And they are doing so with impunity. Our most recent example occurred when they approved construction in the Piney Branch Special Protection Area (SPA) stream buffer. The lot in question is on Glen Mill Road just northeast of the intersection with Boswell Lane. It has severe environmental constraints – wetlands, steep slopes, mature forest, and the Piney Branch stream runs right through it. One house maybe could be squeezed onto the lot. But the developer wanted two and the Planning Board obliged approving a site plan that illegally provides for construction of the 2nd house on steep slopes in the stream buffer.

We joined with abutting neighbors who opposed the development and WMCCA recently appealed the decision to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

We thought long and hard about whether to appeal. Litigation is expensive and although in the SPA, it is only one lot. In the end we decided we had to appeal. We could not let stand a Planning Board decision that so clearly violated the legal requirements for development in the County, putting streams and homes at risk, and doing so in a way that violated basic tenets of administrative law.

At issue are the Environmental Guidelines for Environmental Management of Development in Montgomery County at:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/environmental-guidelines-reports/environmental-guidelines/>

The Guidelines are not just recommendations. The document is a compilation of the County, State, and Federal laws and regulations that govern the "protection of sensitive areas during the planning and development process." (p. viii) They are scientifically based and written in simple, plain English. It does not take a rocket scientist to perform the calculations for stream valley and wetlands buffers. The developer did not follow the requirements and when we documented the errors the Planning Staff failed to make the corrections. Instead, they invented their own bizarre stream buffer calculations allowing the second house while also admitting that they had no wetlands expertise. We pressed the Planning Board to correct the calculations. We also demanded that if they did not, that they make clear the basis for their decision. The public has an absolute right to know which requirements the Planning Board has decided it will not enforce. They did neither. They merely rubber stamped, with no findings, a plan that clearly violates the requirements for stream buffer and wetlands protections.

The wisdom of appealing was further confirmed when we received the developer's revised plan for the 30 acre Heritage Gardens townhouse development on South Glen Road. Notwithstanding the fact that the Planning Staff correctly determined the first plan violated the Environmental Guidelines prohibiting buildings and construction in stream buffers and on steep slopes, the revised Plan appears to continue these violations. Now more than ever we need the Courts, the Planning Board, and the Office of Zoning and Administrative Appeals to enforce these requirements essential for protecting our streams, our water quality, and our downstream homes.

INTRODUCING THE WMCCA MEMBERS CORNER Tell us your story!

Moderated by Barbara Hoover

Many of our members are involved in advocacy and activities that benefit our community. We would like to "shine the spotlight" on your activities via a "Members Corner" as part of our monthly e-Newsletter. Because our printed newsletter is limited to one page, there are many things going on in our area that we do not have room to include, but are important to the Community. Please email a summary of your issues, or civic and environmental activities you have participated in that affect the Potomac Subregion, or tell us what brought you to WMCCA, or how WMCCA has helped you. Please include your name and contact information when you send your information to me at: membership@WMCCA.org. We reserve the right to edit, include or exclude submissions.

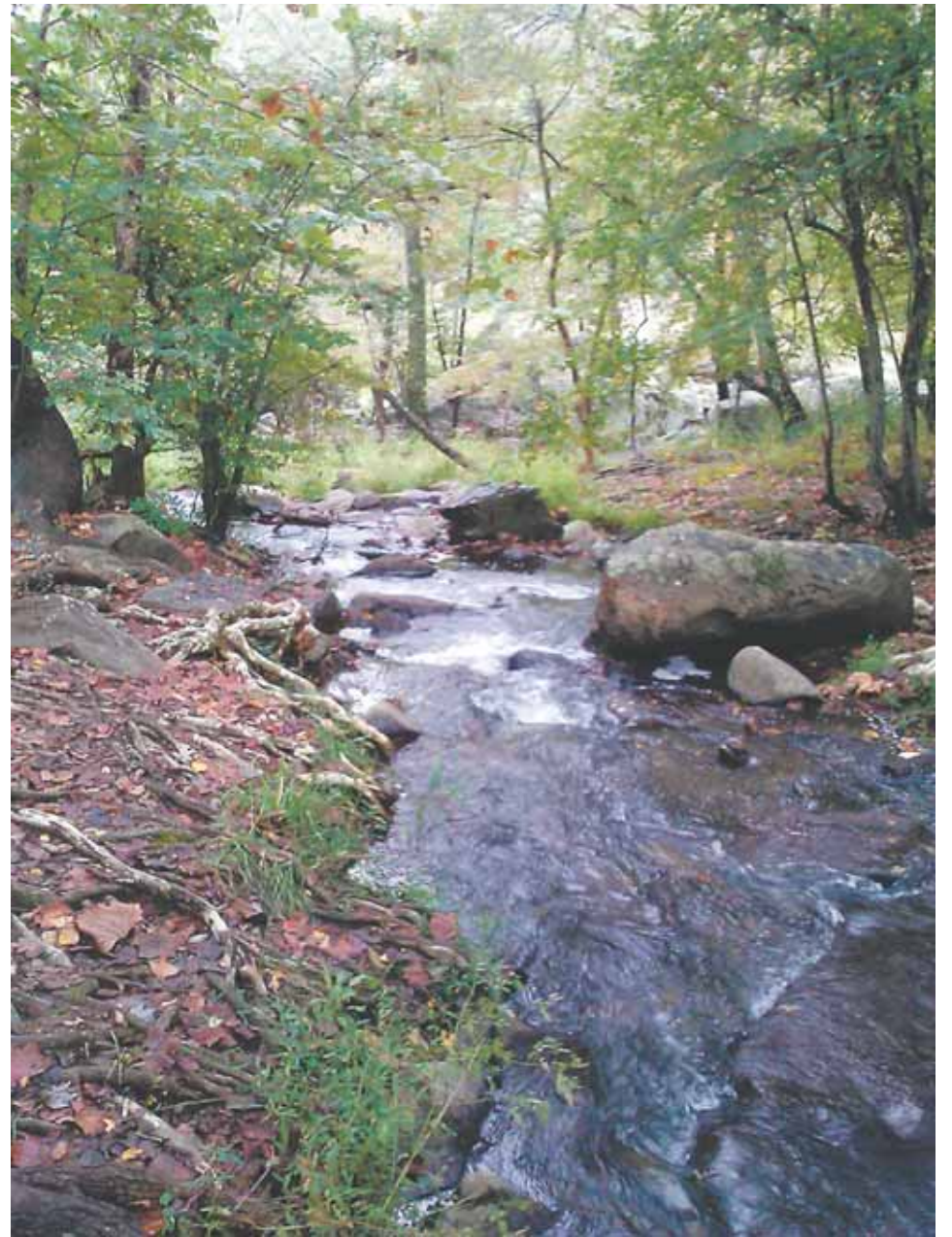


PHOTO BY CAROL FALK

Protecting the areas at the edges of streams is critical to protecting the environment and the region's drinking water.

ited to one page, there are many things going on in our area that we do not have room to include, but are important to the Community. Please email a summary of your issues, or civic and environmental activities you have participated in that affect the Potomac Subregion, or tell us what brought you to WMCCA, or how WMCCA has helped you. Please include your name and contact information when you send your information to me at: membership@WMCCA.org. We reserve the right to edit, include or exclude submissions.

THRIVE 2050 Submitted by Ginny Barnes

Park and Planning has started the process of updating the 1964 General Plan and the 1993 General Plan Refinement. This document drives all individual master plans. Planners are seeking input from citizens in creating a shared vision of how the County will address three core themes in the next 30 years: economic health, community equity, and environmental resilience. For background on the initiative go to [montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-](http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/)

montgomery-2050/.

WMCCA is looking to schedule a presentation on the initiative for an upcoming General Meeting.

REMINDER: It's time to renew your membership for 2019-2020!

Please renew or become a new member of WMCCA. Go to our website www.wmcca.org to download a membership form or join using PayPal: Individual: \$25 / Family: \$50. We welcome donations to our Legal Fund. Over the past decade, we have spent over \$50,000 in legal fees to protect your local interests. For example, contributions from members enabled us to join the fight against the Brickyard Road soccerplex, the Old Anglers Inn event complex, the Brandywine Senior Living facility, and most recently the Glen Mill Road Piney Branch Stream Valley subdivision.

If you have any issues or concerns in your neighborhood, please contact WMCCA. We are glad to review and address issues as they affect the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, zoning, and environmental threats to the "Green Wedge," our creeks and water supplies, and the Agricultural Reserve.

Diffusing Holiday Drama

Sanity-saving strategies to get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Later this month, Thanksgiving will usher in the holiday season, family gatherings and expectations of celebrations that are reminiscent of Currier and Ives-type scenes. For those who deal with difficult family members be they cousins, siblings, in-laws or outlaws, the most wonderful time of year can be met with dread. Having a few sanity-saving strategies can help get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

"Often, those closest to us can unfortunately spark the most amount of stress" said Nathan Leslie, Professor of Creative Writing at Northern Virginia Community College and author of the book "Hurry Up and Relax."

Focusing on one's own behaviors and responses rather than those we find difficult can offer a sense of empowerment "That's because in the end you cannot control how anyone else acts during this time, or ever," said Lorente. "The only thing that you really can control is how you react and respond to different people and situations. Being aware of your behavior and changing your mindset might be the best — and only way to survive the holiday drama this season."

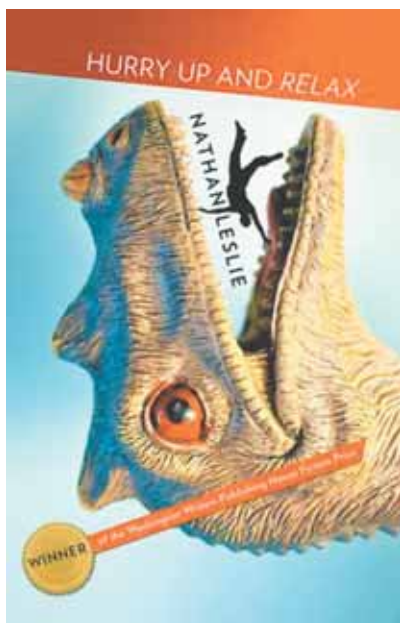
Whether it's a feeling of obligation or hope for holiday cheer, before you head over the river and through the woods, know the reason for your trip. "First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation. I think that a lot of the negative feelings stem from feeling out of control, obligated, and frustrated."

Setting boundaries and having an exit strategy can be sanity-saving. "[For example,] 'when we start talking about topics such as my parenting style, or my politics, or my hair, I will leave the room,'" said Lorente. "Not with anger but with a sense that I am control of me not of my family member."

A family ally can offer support or an exit strategy if family gatherings turn sour. "You can even develop a code word or phrase you can say to prompt your ally to intervene, politely interrupt, or help you get out of the situation promptly," said Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College. "A family ally is also a good person to have for support."

For those who know that difficult family situations are unavoidable, set time limits. "Plan ahead to organize your time spent in this situation, and avoid staying at family members' homes if your relationship is challenging," said Bagshaw. "Also, structure your time, make sure there's not a lot of downtime that can lead to awkward conversations."

Choosing to give attention to the positive aspects of one's familial relationships can help diffuse tension, suggests Lorente. "Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring," she said. "You and your Mom may not agree on certain adult issues but look at what a great grandmother she is to your children."



COURTESY OF NATHAN LESLIE

Nathan Leslie, author of the book, "Hurry Up and Relax," says journaling can help relieve stress during the holidays.

"Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring."

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

"First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult. This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation."

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D Northern Virginia Community College

Putting pen to paper can help relieve stress. "Journaling is an excellent way to relieve stress and make sense out of chaos," said Leslie. "Writing...can be useful in giving mental order to the disorientation that the holidays might bring."

Visualize family events going well. Positive thoughts lead to positive feelings, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "Be curious instead of critical," he said. "Wonder how others are thinking and feeling, and why," said Short. "Give others the benefit of the doubt."

"Wait before speaking if you have negative thoughts," continued Short. "Take a deep breath, visualize a favorite place, or walk away if you might regret what you say in the moment."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

"The New Wave." At The Framer's Choice Gallery, 402 Main Street, Gaithersburg. Featuring works by Vian Borchert. The exhibit consists of 20 paintings of his latest modern work ranging in all sizes. This new collection is derived from his love of nature. Visit the website: www.vianborchert.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Bilingual Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. This bilingual storytime is just right for toddlers and preschoolers. Stories in Chinese and English, songs and rhymes, too. 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.

Playdate at the Library. 11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. This is a drop-in social playtime for toddlers/preschoolers/Kindergarten and their caregivers. Come meet new friends and enjoy blocks and

educational toys. No registration required.

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

7th Annual Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Ingleside King Farm, 701 King Farm Blvd., Rockville. Sponsored by the Residents of Ingleside at King Farm. The sale will include: Baked Goods, Jewelry, Crafts, Art, Knitted/Sewed/Needlework Items, Holiday Decorations, Attic and Boutique Treasures, and more. There will also be raffles and cash prizes. Accepting cash, check and credit cards. All proceeds go to the Ingleside at King Farm Resident Supporting Fund. Call Joan Harrison, Bazaar Coordinator, at 301-330-1297.

Book Sale. 10 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Join in this monthly Potomac Friends of the Library Book Sale. Books, DVDs, and more available for children, teens, and adults. All are welcome.

Potomac Conversation Club. 11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Practice English conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join any time! For more information call 240-777-0690.

Pressenda Chamber Players. 8 p.m. At Westmoreland Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. The Pressenda Chamber Players will present J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 3 and 5 as part of the Conservatory Concerts series. Vivaldi's Cello Concerto in C major, J.S. Bach's famous Air, and



Meghan Cary will perform at Focus Rockville on Sunday, Nov. 24.

SUNDAY/NOV 24

Meghan Cary at Focus Rockville

7:30 p.m. At Tikvat Israel Congregation, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. With masterful storytelling and award-winning songs, Meghan Cary engages audiences on a powerfully personal level, inviting them into and leading them through an experience that has been called healing, inspiring and outrageously joyful. Tickets are \$18 in advance at <https://www.focusmusic.org/event-3485192> and for members, \$20 at the door.

works of Handel and Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre complete the evening's Baroque celebration. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$20 to support the programs of the Washington Conservatory of Music. Guests are invited to attend Wine & Words after the concert for complimentary beverages and an informal Q & A with the performers. For more information: 301-320-2770 or washingtonconservatory.org

NOV. 9-10

Double Bill: "Cox & Box" and "Brides & Mothers." 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. At Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. The Forgotten Opera Company presents Victorian-era composer Arthur Sullivan's comedic "Cox & Box" and the world premiere of "Brides and Mothers" by composer Sean Pflueger and librettist Laura Wehrmeyer-Fuentes. Tickets are \$24 per person. Visit <https://foc.ticketspice.com/cox-box-brides-mothers>

TUESDAY/NOV. 12

Census 2020 Jobs Information Session. 11:30 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking qualified workers for 2020 Census operations in Montgomery County. Join an information session to learn more about available Census 2020 jobs – which offer competitive wages and flexible hours. There are opportunities for everyone – whether you're seeking full-time work or just looking to earn extra money on the side. Census Bureau Recruiting Assistants will be on hand to assist with filling out Census 2020 online job

applications. Registration is recommended, but not required.

Teen Writers' Club. 6:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Teens ages 13-18 with a passion for writing are invited to join the 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 Maryland Writers' Association. Call 240-777-0690.

Genticorum Band. 7:30 p.m. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Tickets \$20/advance; \$25/door. Presented by the Institute of Musical Traditions. Visit www.imtfolk.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Roy Orbison and Buddy Holly. 7:30 p.m. At The Music Center at Strathmore. Presenting the Rock 'N' Roll Dream Tour for one night accompanied by a live band in a cutting edge holographic performance. For tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit www.Strathmore.org. Presented by Metropolitan Entertainment and The Birchmere <https://basehologram.com/productions/roy-orbison-buddy-holly-the-rock-n-roll-dream-tour>

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Meet a Live Kangaroo or Wallaby. 11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7



Sophia Loren will perform Nov. 20-21 at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center in Rockville.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/NOV. 20-21

Sophia Loren in Person

7:30 p.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Ms. Loren will reminisce about her life and career, with a live interview on stage, hosted by Entertainment Tonight's Bill Harris. Amazing film clips will be shown, and your questions will be answered by Ms. Loren herself. Tickets \$100. Call the Box Office: 240-567-5301 or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

Potomac. For elementary school age, preschool and Kindergarten. Learn all about what they eat and where and how they live with Roos2U. Tickets will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter.

NOV. 15-23

"Legally Blonde The Musical." At Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. Show times are Nov. 15, 16, 22, and 23, at 7 p.m.; Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Winston Churchill High School presents the fabulously fun, award-winning comedy, "Legally Blonde The Musical," based on the beloved movie, Legally Blonde, starring Reese Witherspoon. Winston Churchill musical productions are known for being consistently entertaining, full of non-stop momentum, and this show promises to be exceedingly enjoyable and full of sass from start to finish. This performance is appropriate for middle school-aged children and up. Visit the website: wchsarts.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Potomac Conversation Club. 11 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Practice English conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join any time. Call 240-777-0690.

Author Visit: Julie Langsdorf. 1 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Local author Julie Langsdorf will visit the branch to discuss her new hit novel *White Elephant*. Her satirical debut novel is about a behemoth of a new house in a DC suburb just like Montgomery County. This program is being brought to you by the Friends of the Library-Potomac Chapter.

Sensory-Friendly Storytime. 2:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Sensory-friendly storytime is designed for children of all ages who prefer smaller groups due to sensory processing disorders, including those on the autism spectrum, with ADHD, and other special needs. Storytime is followed by social playtime with educational toys and

an opportunity for parents to socialize. Participants are encouraged to bring their own noise reduction earmuffs and weighted items. Siblings are welcome. To register for the program, contact Potomac Library, 240-777-0690.

Kassia Music. 7 p.m. At Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur, Bethesda. Classical and neo-classical music. Pre-concert reception at 6 p.m. The Kassia Kids Spot will start at 6:45 p.m., featuring performers from the artists' studios.

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. At Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Featuring Green Light Karma band. This versatile band will provide a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. The 45-minute dance lesson begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 pm. Admission is \$13, \$5 full-time students with ID. No partner required.

Monteverdi: The Other Vespers (1641). 5 p.m. At Bradley Hills Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Featuring The Thirteen, D.C.'s all-star professional choir. Monteverdi's 1610 collection, The Monteverdi Vespers, containing a mass, a Vespers service, and motets, has dwarfed his later works. He gathered many of his late compositions in one massive volume: Selva morale e spirituale – "the moral and spiritual wood." It is from this 1641 publication that The Thirteen has assembled a Vespers of 1641, with the well-loved motet Beatus vir at its core and many fine period instrumentalists in accompaniment. Cost is \$30/\$25/\$15. For tickets, visit <https://www.thethirteenchoir.org>.

CD Sampler Release Concert. 6:30 p.m. At El Golfo Restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring. Featuring: Ruthie and the Wranglers, Patty Reese, Little Red and the Renegades, Seth Kibel and Flo Anito, Craig Cummings, Annette Wasilik, Jesse Palidofsky, Bill Starks, plus Karen Collins & the Backroads Band. Tickets are \$15 at the door entitles you to a copy of New Roots: Azalea City Recordings Sampler 7. Call 301-608-2121 or -2122 to reserve a table.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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Please Relief Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or let me go. So sang Engelbert Humperdink way back in 1967 about having lost that loving feeling. His lost loving feeling was not about his mortgage. The lyrics: "I have found a new love dear" imply if not clearly state that there's a woman involved. My lost loving feeling is about my mortgage. And contrary to Engelbert, I can't leave it, and believe me, I've tried, though I've never sung about it, only droned on about it in print. To invoke the legendary Ricky Ricardo, aka Desi Arnaz, from "I Love Lucy," originally broadcast in the mid- to late-50s: Let me 'splain.

It's been over 15 years since my last successful refinance. Twice in the intervening years I've tried to refinance. In each case, I've been denied even though I've had upwards of 50 percent equity and an 800 or so credit rating.

Between multiple problems with the house (lead paint on the exterior, broken windows, etc.) and less than ideal income documentation, debt to income ratio, yada, yada, yada, we've regularly been kicked to the curb, which we also don't have, so I gave up; and have proceeded over the years to fix some of the problems mentioned which unfortunately has not led to an acceptable resolution.

Time has passed, and after years of television advertisements by Henry Winkler, Fred Thompson and most recently, Thomas Magnum himself: Tom Selleck, promoting reverse mortgages for those nearing retirement, I buckled under the pressure of these years of paid celebrity endorsements and made a few inquiries. It turns out that given my age — and circumstances semi-unique to us (no kids, lots of equity, need the money), we're perfect candidates. So we applied to company number one (denied) which led to company number two: denied. The second time the denial was not about income documentation and so forth as it was with the first "reverse-mortgager." No. It wasn't even about the house. This time it was about an out-building on our property, specifically the foundation of a "shed"/stable standing derelict in its duties and of no use to anyone. Not however of 'no use' to the appraiser, apparently, who mentioned its condition in his report to the mortgage underwriter who now has because of those findings, slam-dunked us (put our application on hold) pending the shed's disposition.

To summarize and recall another legendary figure from the 50s: author Joseph Heller, I'm in a bit of a "Catch-22." I can't refinance the house and get access to its equity because I can't meet the financial qualifications. And I can't reverse-mortgage the house — to gain access to the equity I need to live on, because the out-building on my property ("Belly Acres" as I call it) is a shell of its former self, so to speak, and needs upwards of \$100,000 of repairs (I've gotten an estimate), money that if I had/could even get to, I'd need to live on, not spend on a building I'll never use/don't need. And neither can I sell the house (nor do we want to quite frankly) because the "shed" would be part of any deal, which means its repair would still be required. And one more thing, because the house is registered with the Federal Government as "Historic," we can't demolish this out-building either. In effect, we are stuck between a rock — as in those missing and cracked in the 100 year-old shed's foundation — and a hard place: the underwriter's intransigence and the Historic Preservation's rules. Let's call it a Catch-22 "A."

At this point, I don't really know which way to turn. I'm not exactly damned if I do, I'm more damned because I can't. I don't think I'm asking for any kind of special dispensation. I'm not involving the Pope. I just want, to quote singer/songwriter Nick Lowe from his 1974 song, ("What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding," some 'peace, love and understanding.' I'm not looking to make any trouble. In fact, I'm looking for the opposite: serenity, now and forever, with or without Seinfeld reruns. And I can afford it if the powers that be, won't be less omnipotent and help a fella out. I swear I won't bother them if they won't bother me. Make the approval a Festivus-type occasion except it won't be for the rest of us, it will be just for me and my wife. I promise I won't tell a soul.

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

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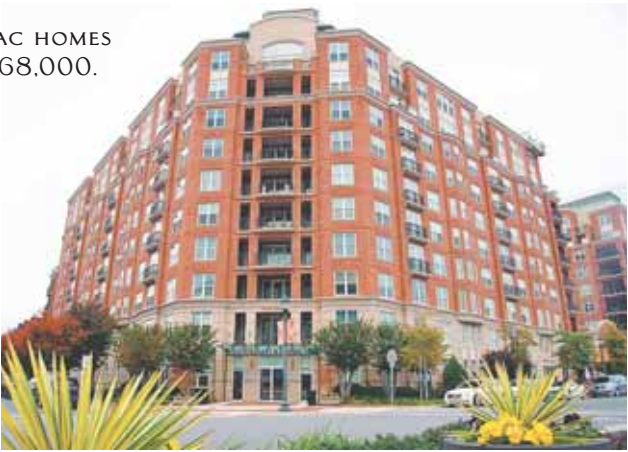
PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

September, 2019 Sales, \$975,000~\$1,220,000

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, 41 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,500,000-\$768,000.



5 10603 Beechknoll Lane — \$1,090,000



7 12500 Park Potomac Avenue #708S — \$1,025,000



6 12213 Meadow Creek Court — \$1,031,000



8 9 Paddock Court — \$975,000



3 9408 Falls Bridge Lane — \$1,160,000

1 10105 Sorrel Avenue — \$1,220,000



| Address | BR | FB | HB | Postal City .. | Sold Price | Type | Lot AC | PostalCode | Subdivision | Date Sold |
|---|----|----|-----|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 10105 SORREL AVE | 6 | .. | 5.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,220,000 | Detached | 0.72 | 20854 | POTOMAC VILLAGE | 09/27/19 |
| 2 10921 LAMPLIGHTER LN | 4 | .. | 3.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,180,000 | Detached | 0.19 | 20854 | BELLS MILL ESTATES | 09/18/19 |
| 3 9408 FALLS BRIDGE LN | 5 | .. | 4.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,160,000 | Detached | 0.57 | 20854 | HERITAGE FARM | 09/09/19 |
| 4 3 WARDE CT | 4 | .. | 3.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,105,000 | Detached | 0.52 | 20854 | MCAULEY PARK | 09/04/19 |
| 5 10603 BEECHKNOLL LN | 5 | .. | 4.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,090,000 | Detached | 0.23 | 20854 | PINEY GLEN VILLAGE | 09/02/19 |
| 6 12213 MEADOW CREEK CT | 5 | .. | 4.. | 2 ... ROCKVILLE ... | \$1,031,000 | Detached | 2.37 | 20854 | PINEY GLEN FARMS | 09/30/19 |
| 7 12500 PARK POTOMAC AVE#708S 2 .. | 2 | .. | 2.. | 1 POTOMAC ... | \$1,025,000 | Unit/Flat/Apartment | | 20854 | PARK POTOMAC | 09/03/19 |
| 8 9 PADDOCK CT | 5 | .. | 3.. | 1 POTOMAC | \$975,000 | Detached | 0.25 | 20854 | POTOMAC COMMONS | 09/20/19 |

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