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Potomac ALMANAC

Learning to Draw Manga, at the Library

PAGE 6

Amy Chen, Assistant Supervisor at the Potomac Community Library, teaching a class in how to draw Manga and Anime on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. Chen has also run classes on teaching about Asian brush painting,

Two Men Could Push Tolls, Wider Bridge

PAGE 3

West Montgomery Meets on Jan. 15

PAGE 4

WELLBEING

PAGE 5

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3 13101 Brushwood Way
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October, 2019 Sales, \$1,245,000~\$1,530,000

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



8 6 Beall Spring Court
— \$1,245,000



5 10200 Bencross Drive
— \$1,400,000



7 10029 Carmelita Drive — \$1,250,000



4 10620 Belfast Place — \$1,465,000



2 9525 Newbridge Drive — \$1,472,500

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 12305 GLEN RD	7	..	6	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,530,000	Detached	3.00	20854	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE ...	10/04/19
2 9525 NEWBRIDGE DR	6	..	5	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,472,500	Detached	2.00	20854	FALCONHURST	10/18/19
3 13101 BRUSHWOOD WAY	4	..	4	..	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,470,000	Detached	2.01	20854	TRAVILAH MEADOWS	10/15/19
4 10620 BELFAST PL	4	..	3	..	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,465,000	Detached	1.25	20854	FAWCETT FARMS	10/08/19
5 10200 BENTCROSS DR	6	..	4	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,400,000	Detached	2.17	20854	CAMOTOP	10/28/19
6 9728 BEMAN WOODS WAY	4	..	4	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,385,000	Detached	0.19	20854	AVENEL	10/15/19
7 10029 CARMELITA DR	4	..	4	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.50	20854	MCAULEY PARK	10/10/19
8 6 BEALL SPRING CT	5	..	4	..	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,245,000	Detached	2.00	20854	BEALLMOUNT	10/01/19
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NEWS

Bridge Widening Back On

Potomac River, canal and habitat will be affected by new plan to widen the American Legion Bridge and add toll lanes.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Gov. Larry Hogan (R-Md.) revised his plan, securing the necessary vote from Comptroller Peter Franchot to widen the American Legion Bridge and add toll lanes up through I-270. But the new plan still leaves the Potomac River and residents of Potomac and Bethesda in the lurch.

Franchot appears poised to vote in favor of a modified plan, giving Hogan a victory:

"We can do nothing and just hope that the traffic will break itself up. Or we can get moving with better roads, better transit and a real partnership between our state and local governments," said Franchot. "This is a better deal for the taxpayers and a win for our region."

The Board of Public Works is expected to vote official approval and give more details on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2017, the day Maryland's General Assembly begins.

"This is an immediate threat to all of those who live anywhere near where the new lanes will be built," said Susanne Lee, president of West Montgomery County Citizens Association.

"In the last few weeks, Peter Franchot and [Maryland Department of Transportation] Action Secretary Greg Slater have pledged increased transparency and community participation. But actions speak louder than words," said Josh Tulkin, Director of Maryland Sierra Club. "No new data has been released for public review. We have not seen any change to the fuzzy math used to justify highway expansion as being good for the climate. And yet again, the [Board of Public Works] has dropped in a proposal at the last minute."

CONSTRUCTION IS PLANNED to begin as early as 2021.

"This amended agreement represents a far more balanced approach to the traffic gridlock that is inflicting more damage to our region's economy, environment and

quality of life with each passing day," Franchot said.

Hogan cancelled the Board of Public Works meeting in December in order to reach a compromise with Franchot.

Franchot's statement describes the new agreement:

"The first phase of this project will include the American Legion Bridge and the segment that extends from I-270 to I-370. It will not include the segment of the Capital Beltway between Interstate 270 and I-95, which would come with significant community impacts. Rather, that segment, along with other Beltway segments, will be considered by the Board of Public Works in the future.

"This agreement will provide Montgomery and Prince George's Counties with direct transit subsidies from the project's toll receipts, the details of which will be specified in a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] between the state and the two counties. This MOU will be agreed upon prior to the Board's final award of a vendor contract.

"Also included in this agreement is a commitment by the state to work directly with our local governments to mitigate any environmental and community impacts stemming from the project, as well as a commitment - which will be memorialized in writing - to complete this project with union workers at union wages."

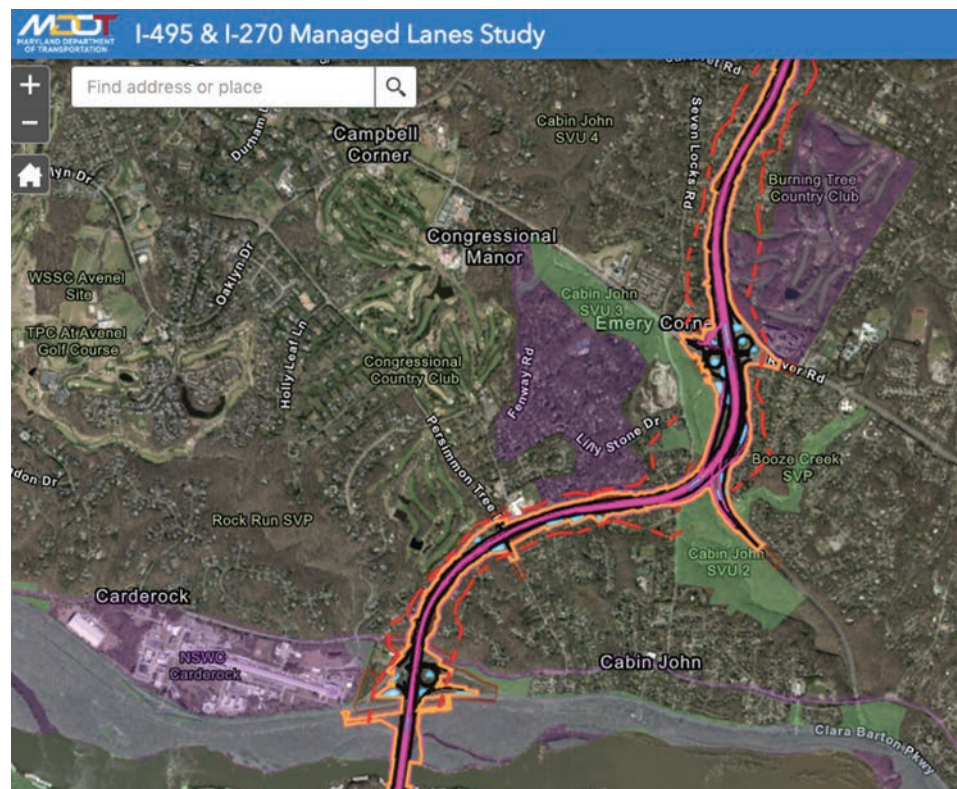
IN THE FACE of the climate crisis, this approach misses the mark, said Tulkin of the Sierra Club.

"Transportation is the leading source of climate pollution in Maryland. Our transportation strategy must, first and foremost, focus on reducing vehicle miles traveled and expanding mass transit," he said.

"In this New Year of 2020, we need to be honest about global warming and the impacts of our actions. You cannot expand highways and magically mitigate the carbon pollution. And the more people claim otherwise, the less credible they become."



Pothole repair backed traffic up for miles on Dec. 19. Imagine the construction ahead.



An interactive map shows sunny projections of how small the disturbance could be while adding four toll lanes to the Beltway and American Legion Bridge.

Maryland Casinos Generate \$149.1 Million During December Casino gaming revenue contributes \$60.6 million to the state

Maryland Lottery and Gaming today announced that December 2019 gaming revenues for the state's six casinos were \$149,087,494. The total represents a \$706,081 (0.5%) increase compared to the December 2018 total of \$148,381,413.

Contributions to the State of Maryland from December 2019 casino gaming revenue totaled \$60,612,440, including

\$45,459,073 for the Education Trust Fund. Casino gaming revenues also support local communities and jurisdictions where the six casinos are located, as well as Maryland's horse racing industry.

Maryland has six privately owned casinos that offer both slot machines and table games: MGM National Harbor in Prince George's County; Live! Casino & Hotel in

Anne Arundel County; Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City; Ocean Downs Casino in Worcester County; Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County; and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County.

Three of the six casinos saw year-over-year increases compared to their December 2018 gaming revenue totals:

MGM National Harbor (3,137 slot

machines, 207 table games)

\$62,615,156 in December 2019, an increase of \$2,698,530 (4.5%) from December 2018.

Live! Casino & Hotel (3,852 slot machines, 191 table games)

\$51,792,534 in December 2019, an increase of \$1,716,627 (3.4%) from December 2018.

SEE MARYLAND CASINOS, PAGE 7

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ JANUARY 8-14, 2020 ♦ 3

WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

WMCCA Meeting at the Potomac Community Center Updating the General Plan; Thrive 2050

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Jan, 15, 2020 – 7:15 p.m.

If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

SPEAKER: Steve Findlay, Planner Coordinator, Area 2 Planning Division, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

Thrive 2050 is the precursor to updating the 1964 General Plan and the 1993 General Plan Refinement. Initiated by MNCPPC, the purpose is to gather data from citizens and subject matter experts to consider a shared vision that allows us to retain what we love about the County, consider what we want for the future, and ultimately create a shared vision to guide the General Plan revision. Eight working groups have been assembled to seek input from citizens. The Environmental Working Group will address those issues that are most critical to protecting and preserving natural resources, addressing climate change and mitigating impacts of development on our diminishing available land. Three core themes have been identified for the plan: Economic health, Community equity, and Environmental resilience. Steve Findlay heads the Environmental Working Group for Thrive 2050. Since our Potomac Subregion Master Plan is based on protecting natural resources, this is a good lens through which our community can look at and start participating in the process. Bring your visions of the County you'd like to see in 30 years. For background on this initiative, go to: [https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-](https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/)

[plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/](https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/)
As always, the public is welcome to attend.

Looking Back 10 and Forward 10 – with Gratitude and Increased Resolve By President Susanne Lee

Having a decade roll over seems to prompt more than the usual New Year's introspection. Looking back over the last 10 years prompts us to express our deep gratitude to community members who have joined with WMCCA to help preserve the environmental green wedge and the quality of life in the Potomac Subregion. Individuals throughout the Subregion took time away from other responsibilities and dedicated hours and hours of their time and their creativity, financial, and other resources in these efforts. Here are just some of the groups of neighbors that have done so much in the past 10 years: Brickyard Coalition and River Falls and other abutting neighbors (Brickyard organic farm, soccerplex and solar installation, Old Angler's Inn events venue); East Gate (monopole); Potomac Tennis Club site Lockland Rd. neighbors (Brandywine Senior Living); Carderock (Artis Senior Living); Gary Road (WSSC and forest conservation); Glenstone neighbors (sewer extension, water table, and stream conservation); Query Mill Road (Potter Glen Subdivision); Glen Hills (County sewer policy); Oaklyn Drive (Potomac Swim and Tennis Club); Cutters Lane (Glen Mill Road Subdivision); Fire Station 30 neighbors (monopole); and, Woodrock (Rockwood Manor).

Countless other neighbors have worked with us to preserve or improve specific environmental con-

ditions, especially by stopping the destruction of forest stands and stream buffers throughout the Subregion. And then there is the ongoing work done by our Board members in coordination with others regarding artificial turf playing fields, cell towers, and preservation of the C&O Canal and the Agricultural Reserve. But what about the next 10 years? Certainly WMCCA will be engaged in similar issues.

We begin the new decade by joining with the Greater South Glen Neighborhood Association to oppose the massive Heritage Gardens townhouse development. The Spectrum Senior Living proposal for the Potomac Petals and Plants garden center site on River Road will likely be filed soon. But perhaps it is time for all of us, as individuals and in concert with others, to step up our game.

Think about the enormous impact overdevelopment throughout the Metropolitan Region in the past 10 years is already having on the quality of life for all of us and on the natural environment - from clogged roads and impaired water and air quality to likely declining songbird populations. Yet County policies encourage even more development. With the rollback of the EPA's air, water and toxics regulations and the failure of the Planning Board to enforce State and County environmental protections, we as individuals and organizations have to be even more proactive to ensure human health and safety. Most importantly, even here in our area away from the coast, EPA predicts rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are likely to increase the intensity of storms as well as both floods and droughts. We are already experiencing extreme

weather events - cars floating on Canal Road, historic flooding along Kendale Road.

In these next critical 10 years, our focus must be on solutions that don't involve more pavement and beltway expansion. It must instead be on whatever we can do to address the wider issues - reducing carbon in the atmosphere and slowing climate change.

Winter Salt Usage

Submitted by Ken Bawer

As stated in a December 10, 2019 article in WUSA9, "Montgomery County is taking an active approach to protect the environment and preserve road infrastructure this winter." The County's DOT wants to better manage how it uses salt on local roadways. "The goal is to use less," MCDOT Director Chris Conklin said. "Conklin explained that salt used to de-ice roadways can often end up in local waterways. On top of that, he added that the usage of salt can be corrosive on asphalt and concrete roads."

Salt run-off also kills plants and is harmful to aquatic organisms. A Wisconsin State Journal article (11/11/18) states that a myriad of problems arise from over-salting. The salt that is spread on pavement inevitably ends up in nearby soil - altering its composition and slowing plant growth - or washing into area waterways and polluting the water. One teaspoon of salt that washes into lakes, rivers, or streams can pollute five gallons of water to a toxic level. Salt causes seasonal chloride spikes that endanger the freshwater animal and plant life, and the salt does not break down once it is in the waterways.

This winter, consider using less salt for icy conditions around your

home. As alternatives, consider using sand or non-clumping kitty-litter to provide traction (although neither will melt the ice). But be sure to sweep it up later so that it doesn't get washed into our streams and cause sediment problems.

Heritage Gardens Townhouse Development

Submitted by Susanne Lee

Heritage Gardens LLC (HG) seeks to build 51 separately owned townhouses on individual lots on 30 acres zoned RE-2 (2 acre minimum detached houses). In order to build these townhouses in an RE-2 acre zone, the applicant seeks approval for them as a conditional use under the guise of Group Living, and in particular as an independent living facility for seniors. HG's conditional use application is currently pending before the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH). WMCCA filed a Motion to Dismiss the application because, on its face, the supporting documentation establishes that the intended project does not constitute an "independent living facility for seniors" as that conditional use is defined in §59.3.3.2.C.1. of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. Briefing has been concluded and the OZAH Hearing Examiner has requested that the County's Department of Permitting Services provide her with their totally advisory interpretation of the provision by January 8th. A hearing on the Motion is scheduled before the Hearing Examiner on January 13, 2020. If she grants the Motion, the application will be dismissed. If she does not, the hearing on the application is set to begin on Feb.10, 2020.

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WELLBEING

Giving up alcohol during “Dry January” can have positive health benefits.

PHOTO BY
MARILYN CAMPBELL



Dry January?

The benefits of and strategies for taking a month-long booze break.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

After a season filled with Champagne, Whiskey Sours, Gingerbread Martinis and other libations, some might need a break from booze. Dry January, a public health campaign that encourages giving up alcohol until the first of February – can help with that effort. The health benefits of staying dry for a month range from thinner thighs to a fatter wallet.

“It’s very common for people to come home after a stressful day and unwind with a glass of wine or two,” said Alexandria-based substance abuse counselor Sarah Brewer, Ph.D. “But the reality is that while alcohol does seem to make you more relaxed at first, it can lead to anxiety or a depressed mood.”

Weight loss can be a pleasant side effect of abstaining from an evening pour, says nutritionist Kathryn Armstrong, who cites a report by the National Institutes of Health that showed a strong link between weight gain and alcohol. “Basically, the cocktail or wine that you’re drinking has empty calories,” she said. “Also, many people tend to eat, especially junk food when they drink.”

“Another benefit of being alcohol-free for a month is that people often find that they don’t need that glass of wine to relax and unwind from a stressful day,” added Brewer. “Giving up alcohol for a month might give you an opportunity to find explore other relaxation methods like meditation or going for a walk or some other type of exercise.”

“By not drinking you might find that you’ve been using alcohol to help deal with other issues like depression, PTSD or anxiety. In those cases you should get help from a medical or mental health professional.”

— Sarah Brewer, Ph.D.

For those who regularly attend happy hours with friends or have a glass of wine to relax, abstaining during one of the longest months of the year might seem unpleasant or unappealing, says Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. “You might find things to distract you,” she said. “If you’re used to having a drink or going to a happy hour at the same time every day, you can schedule something else during that time so you’re mind isn’t on alcohol. People who enjoy the taste of alcohol might try eating fruit or drinking a fruit flavored sparkling water.”

“If you’re used to having a drink or going to a happy hour at the same time every day, you can schedule something else during that time so you’re mind isn’t on alcohol.”

— Carol Barnaby, LCSW

Attempting to take a break from alcohol might unmask deeper issues, suggests Brewer.

“If you find that you can’t stop drinking, it could mean that you have a problem with alcohol consumption,” she said. “By not drinking you might find that you’ve been using alcohol to help deal with other issues like depression, PTSD or anxiety. In those cases you should get help from a medical or mental health professional.”

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2/5/2020.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts
2/12/2020.....HomeLifeStyle
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

NOW THRU JAN. 29

Three Artists' Works. At Artists & Makers Studio 1, 11810 Parkland Drive, Suite 201, Rockville. Artists & Makers Studios shows off the talents of three unique metro-area artists in January 2020. They include the works of Lori Anne Boocks, Stephen Boocks, and Allen Hirsh. It's a small (art) world after all in the new miniature work of Lori Anne Boocks. Supported by a cast of model railroad figures, Boocks explores current events, imaginary large-scale installations, and how people experience art. Playful and often personal, her sparse dioramas invite you to leave our big noisy world behind and lean in for intimate adventures in "slow looking" where art becomes backdrop, mirror, and lens. Stephen Boocks uses a variety of processes associated with composers of minimalist music to create works that only ask to be considered and enjoyed as shapes, lines, and colors, without any specific agenda. Allen Hirsh draws inspiration for his mathematically transformed images from numerous antecedent artists, among them Washington painters of the color field school. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and Sundays/Mondays by chance or appointment.

JAN. 9-MARCH 1

Action and Reaction by Mark Goldman. At Sandy Spring Museum, 17091 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring. Action and Reaction by Mark Goldman captures the most iconic moments in sports. This photographic exhibition showcases the intensity, athleticism, and success behind the action of D.C. area professional and collegiate level sports teams, while also revealing the competitiveness, heart, and emotion behind each player's reaction. Hours: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the First Saturday of each month 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit the website: www.sandyspringmuseum.org

JAN. 9-MARCH 1

Art Dolls: Figurative Sculptures Tell a Story. At Sandy Spring

Museum, 17091 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring. Reception: Sunday, Jan. 12, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. This exhibit features the work of students enrolled in doll making classes at Montgomery College taught by Wendelin Daniels. The students explore mixed media art and the human form through the design and creation of original art dolls. The dolls span a wide range of persona, from portrait dolls of historical figures to fantasy dolls, and everything in between. Hours: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the First Saturday of each month 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit the website: www.sandyspringmuseum.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

Pianist Alexander Paley. 8 p.m. At Westmoreland Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. The Conservatory Concert Series presents Pianist Alexander Paley: Debussy, Scriabin, and Ravel. Guests are invited to attend Wine & Words after the concert for complimentary beverages and an informal Q & A with the performer. For more information: 301-320-2770 or washingtonconservatory.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Whiskey Rocks Celebration. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Clarksburg Village Liquor and Wine Store, 12051 Chestnut Branch Way, Suite 1, Clarksburg. The daylong event attracts hundreds of whiskey lovers who want to purchase limited release and highly sought after whiskey products, including Old Rip Van Winkle 10 Year, O.F.C. 1994 by Buffalo Trace, Weller Full Proof, Weller 12 Year, Orphan Barrel Rhetoric Library Pack and more. There will be a combination of timed product releases, tastings, engravings, barrel picks, bottle signings and an exclusive whiskey lunch with Maker's Mark Master Distiller Denny Potter. Visit the website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ABS/WhiskeyRocks/

JAN. 18 TO JAN. 20

Weekend of Service. At the Rock Creek watershed. Rock Creek Conservancy will host its 10th annual MLK Weekend of Service in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Conservancy volunteers will gather at sites across the Rock Creek watershed to serve their communities by picking up trash and removing invasive plants along the 33-mile length of Rock Creek and its tributaries. Visit www.rockcreekconservancy.org.

JAN. 18 AND 19

"The Wizard of Oz." Saturday at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. At the Randolph Road Theater, 4010 Randolph Road, Silver Spring. Dorothy (Molly Sylvester) and Toto (Jillian Zweig) travel down BRAVO's yellow brick road in the upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz" at Randolph Road Theater. Tickets are \$23 and are available at showtix4u.com or at the door.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Washington Gardener Seed Exchanges. 12:30-4 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, Wheaton. Washington Gardener magazine, the publication for DC-area gardening enthusiasts, is hosting the 15th annual Washington Gardener Seed Exchange at Brookside Gardens. These seed swaps are in-person and face-to-face. You bring your extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Everyone will leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Friends of Brookside members, Friends of Green Spring members, and current Washington Gardener subscribers receive a discount rate of \$15 per person. Register at WGSeedExchange-BR.brownpapertickets.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 27

Butterfly Gardening. 8 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, Visitors Center/Education Building, 1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton. With a bit of planning and a few simple tweaks, you can transform your patch of the world into a haven for butterflies. Whether you garden in a container or on several acres, you can make a difference – come and learn how. Speaker Marie Rojas has been providing Integrated Pest Management services for homeowners, nursery growers and property managers through her company, Borders & Butterflies, for

over 20 years. Free. The Facebook event page is - <https://www.facebook.com/events/577986419688672/>

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Jud Caswell at Focus Rockville. 7:30 p.m. At Tikvat Israel Congregation, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Jud Caswell is a talented multi-instrumentalist, wielding his guitar, banjo, whistle and cittern, who crafts songs that transport from a Maine old farmhouse, the salty shore and a wood full of birdsong. Tickets are \$18 in advance at <https://www.focusmusic.org/event-3675405> and for members, \$20 at the door.

FEB. 21 TO MARCH 1.

"The Pirates of Penzance." At F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents a new take on a beloved classic, "The Pirates of Penzance." Director Amy Sullivan's Old Hollywood inspired production will dazzle and delight audiences with all the glitz and glamour of your favorite movie musicals. This fully staged production, including full orchestra, captures the spirit of vintage Gilbert & Sullivan while charting course to wow a whole new generation of opera-goers. Show times are Friday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 29 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28 adults, \$24 seniors, \$20 students with valid ID. Call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at 240-314-8690 or go to www.vloc.org to purchase tickets online.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Pressenda Chamber Players. 8-9:30 p.m. At Westmoreland Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Pressenda Chamber Players will perform Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 127 and Schumann's String Quartet in a minor during a Conservatory Concert at Westmoreland Circle. Concert performers include Aaron Berofsky, violin; Kathryn Votapek, violin; Gregory Luce, viola; and Tobias Werner, cello. Admission is free with a \$20 suggested.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Explorers Open Studio. Every

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

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

DANCING

Weekly International Folkdancing.

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

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

Weekly Blues Dance. Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. capitalblues.org

Weekly Swing Dance. Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

Argentine Tango with Lessons.

Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga. For just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. www.glenechopark.org, 301-634-2222.

Learning to Draw Manga and Anime



Amy Chen, Assistant Supervisor at the Potomac Community Library, teaching a class in how to draw Manga and Anime on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020. Chen has also run classes on teaching aboAsian brush painting



A class at the Potomac Library, learning to draw in the Japanese style of Manga

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE STEVENS

The fee schedule will change according to the following:

Great Falls Park or C&O Canal at Great Falls				
	Per Vehicle	Per Person	Per Motorcycle	Park-Specific Annual Pass
Past	\$15	\$7	\$10	\$30
Jan. 1, 2020	\$20	\$10	\$15	\$35

Passes purchased at either park are valid at both parks.

Great Falls Entrance Fees Increased Jan. 1

Entrance fees for the Great Falls area at both Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (Md.) and Great Falls Park (Va.) will increase on Jan. 1, 2020 as part of the National Park Service's ongoing efforts to address infrastructure needs and improve future visitor experiences.

All money collected from entrance fees remains in the National Park Service, with at least 80 percent retained locally at C&O Canal and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. "Entrance fees collected are returned directly to the parks and help the National Park Service address deferred maintenance needs to improve the visitor experience," C&O Canal Acting Superintendent John Noel said. "Both C&O Canal and Great Falls Park, a site within George Washington Memorial Parkway, use fee money to directly benefit visitors such as offering educational programs, taking care of trails and buildings and being good stewards of the parks' nature and history."

During the past two years, entrance fees have supported many projects along the C&O Canal and Great Falls Park including:

- ❖ Rehabilitation of the Netherlands Carillon
- ❖ Rehabilitation of Locks 3 and 4 at the C&O Canal
- ❖ Rehabilitation of restrooms at both parks
- ❖ Rehabilitation of Lock 2 of the Potomack Canal at Great Falls Park
- ❖ Rehabilitation of Swains Lockhouse for the Canal Quarters Program at C&O Canal
- ❖ Milling and paving of the northern section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway
- ❖ Student Conservation Association youth maintenance crews to mow grass, clear culverts and remove vegetation on the western sections of C&O Canal

Anyone with a Great Falls Annual Park Pass can access both the Virginia and Maryland side of the Potomac River and it pays for itself in two visits, allowing visitors to enjoy

daily changes in the river levels and the seasonal changes in the park. The annual \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks.

There are also free or discounted passes available for senior citizens, active duty members of the U.S. military, fourth grade students and disabled citizens.

Visitors may also enjoy five entrance fee-free days in 2020. On these significant days of celebration or commemoration, all national parks will waive entrance fees. The dates for 2020 are:

- ❖ Monday, Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ❖ Saturday, April 18 – First Day of National Park Week/ National Junior Ranger Day
- ❖ Tuesday, Aug. 25 – National Park Service Birthday
- ❖ Saturday, Sept. 26 – National Public Lands Day
- ❖ Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

Maryland Casinos

FROM PAGE 3
ber 2018.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore (2,106 slot machines, 161 table games)

\$18,738,128 in December 2019, a decrease of \$3,488,338 (-15.7%) from December 2018.

Hollywood Casino Perryville (822 slot machines, 21 table games)

\$6,065,429 in December 2019, a decrease of \$221,081 (-3.5%) from December 2018.

Ocean Downs Casino (892 slot machines, 18 table games)

\$5,640,649 in December 2019, an increase of \$198,878 (3.7%) from December 2018.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort (665 slot machines, 18 table games)

\$4,235,598 in December 2019, a decrease of \$198,534 (-4.5%) from December 2018.

Details on each casino's gaming revenues and con-

tributions to the State of Maryland both fiscal and calendar year-to-date totals are available online www.mdgaming.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/December-2019-Casino-Revenue-Data.pdf

Maryland Lottery and Gaming is responsible for oversight of the state's casinos. In this role, the agency provides direction and guidance to its casino partners on financial, security, regulatory and licensing procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and to maintain transparency of casino operations, monthly financial reports are posted on mdgaming.com.

Maryland Lottery and Gaming reminds players to play responsibly and within their budget; resources are available at mdgamblinghelp.org or by calling 1-800-GAMBLER.

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OMG



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Are you sitting down? I wasn't when I got the call from my oncologist after hours this past Thursday. He was calling me with the results from the previous week's biopsy. He said he had "exciting news." He said the biopsy was not only "typed" (genetic mutation/biomarker) but, as he continued to bury the lead using medical jargon about the slide and stain, finally got around to it: I may not have (or have had, still to be discussed/possibly determined) non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Instead, I may have (always had) thyroid cancer, specifically, papillary thyroid cancer, referred to as "the friendly cancer," by my oncology nurse the following infusion when I shared with her these preliminary findings. 'Friendly' referring to one's survival/life expectancy after diagnosis.

Moving forward to begin/confirm this new working diagnosis, I had an ultrasound of my thyroid the next day and Friday the following week, Team Lourie will be meeting with an endocrinologist. She (I saw her picture on the wall outside her office) presumably will have had a discussion, or at the very least, received an email/referral from my oncologist citing chapter and a few verses about who I am, how I've been treated, what scan/results I've had and of course, the news of this most recent biopsy, explaining why he reached out. I really don't expect, given my oncologist's excitement, and the fact that he called me (only the second time in nearly 11 years) that the endocrinologist will be likewise informed and possibly even excited to share a similar diagnosis with a previously-characterized as "terminal" patient who (yours truly) might not be "terminal" after all. 'Might not' being the operative phrase I'm still having difficulty grasping.

Somehow, I have to slow my roll and pull back on the reins. We're still early days here. Right now, I don't know anything definitive, so I'm not quite ready to call this a "Festivus miracle." Though at present it all sounds fairly promising, it's not exactly cast in stone, and neither has a revised Thyroid-cancer-treatment plan been put in place. I'm still a lung cancer "diagnossee" and one still waiting for the other shoe to drop. Therefore, until I'm told otherwise, as of now, I'm scheduled for my bi-weekly opdivo immunotherapy infusion on Jan. 3, 2020.

Now, why all of this is worth writing about, prematurely as it is, is that oncologists, almost by definition, are typically not the bearer of "exciting news." Generally speaking, they are giving bad news and saying it very directly at that. As was said to me in late February 2009: "Why not take that vacation you've always dreamed of while you're still feeling good?" The implication being quite clear that it's likely to get worse from here. To receive a call like I did Thursday from my oncologist now implying that it might get better from here is completely out of the ordinary. Moreover, if he initiated such a communication, I should probably take him at his words and take him very seriously.

Right now, I am possibly elated to be over the moon. However, it's not as if I've been given a clean bill of health. Cleaner, yes, but one still with a significant balance. And until I look the endocrinologist in her stethoscope and hear some magic words, I am keeping my powder dry and not shouting off my mouth - too much.

Cancer is a funny business. There are twists and turns and unexpected results, much of it not controlled by the doctors. And though I may be on the precipice of being blessed with some amazing, life-altering news, this time for the unbelievably good, I am still a week, maybe even weeks away from knowing with any certainty. In the interim, however, I am certain of one thing. If this change in my status does occur and I'm given back my life expectancy, somehow, I will try and return the favor.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
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