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# Potomac

## ALMANAC

# Stand Up for Racial Justice

NEWS, PAGE 3



More than 400 members of several churches and synagogues in Potomac, Bethesda and Chevy Chase gathered for concurrent peaceful, interfaith vigils on June 7 to stand in support of racial justice.

# Graduation, Joy and Sorrow

NEWS, PAGE 6

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 REAL ESTATE SALES, 2 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

JUNE 17-23, 2020

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# Potomac REAL ESTATE

## April, 2020 Sales, \$1,350,000~\$1,148,000

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**8** 7  
Maplecrest  
Court  
— \$850,000



**3** 9806 Clagett Farm Drive — \$1,265,000



**5** 10900 Bells Ridge Drive  
— \$1,200,000

**7** 8008  
Horseshoe Lane  
— \$1,175,000



**4** 9421  
Turnberry Drive  
— \$1,236,000



Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price.....	Type.....	Lot AC	Postal Code.....	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 10221 HOLLY HILL PL.....	5...	4...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,350,000	.....Detached...	0.51	.....	20854....	POTOMAC VILLAGE.	04/30/20
<b>2</b> 9311 HARRINGTON DR....	5...	3...	2..	POTOMAC..	\$1,275,000	.....Detached...	3.27	.....	20854.....	BRADLEY FARMS...	04/01/20
<b>3</b> 9806 CLAGETT FARM DR....	4...	4...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,265,000	.....Detached...	0.26	.....	20854.....	CLAGETT FARM....	04/17/20
<b>4</b> 9421 TURNBERRY DR.....	4...	3...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,236,000	.....Townhouse...	0.15	.....	20854.....	AVENEL.....	04/24/20
<b>5</b> 10900 BELLS RIDGE DR ...	4...	3...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,200,000	.....Detached...	0.23	.....	20854....	BELLS MILL ESTATES.	04/30/20
<b>6</b> 11909 TRAILRIDGE DR....	4...	4...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,190,000	.....Detached...	0.35	.....	20854.....	WINTERSSET.....	04/24/20
<b>7</b> 8008 HORSESHOE LN .....	6...	4...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,175,000	.....Detached...	0.35	.....	20854.....	RIVER FALLS .....	04/07/20
<b>8</b> 7 MAPLECREST CT.....	5...	4...	1..	POTOMAC..	\$1,148,000	.....Detached...	0.37	.....	20854....	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE	04/16/20

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## Stand Up for Racial Justice

More than 400 members of several churches and synagogues in Potomac, Bethesda and Chevy Chase gathered for concurrent peaceful, interfaith vigils on June 7 to stand in support of racial justice. As part of "Stand Up for Racial Justice," demonstrators lined the streets along Bradley Boulevard, Old Georgetown Road and Connecticut Avenue wearing masks, and holding signs. Drivers blew their car horns as they passed the demonstrations in creating what sounded like a chorus of support.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE ALMANAC



Human Rights Director James Stowe said we all have the opportunity to read, listen, learn, and to invite others to share their experiences in the most personal and intimate ways. "We need to talk about why we are here."

## Racism: As American as Apple Pie?

One bill passed, one introduced, to start untangling systematic and institutional racism here in Montgomery County.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

"We are in a historic moment here in our country and in the world," said Councilmember Will Jawando.

James Stowe, Director of the Office of Human Rights, sees the opportunity to give all people their God-given right to be who they were meant to be for the betterment of all of us.

"We have never been here before," said Stowe.

Jawando told the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board Monday night, June 15, that the Montgomery County Council would pass his resolution to make

racism a public health emergency in Montgomery County.

"Some of us have worked on these issues for a long time and some of us are just waking up," said Jawando, of the pernicious impacts of systematic and institutional racism that has been part of this county since its beginning.

"It's as American as apple pie, it's so embedded in everything we do," he said.

It has also kept Jawando up at night since the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis police officer sworn to protect life at the time.

"To deprive someone of his life in that way," he said, "you can't value the life of that person and do that," he said. "This has kept me up quite a bit."

## Montgomery County Deaths by Ethnicity/Race\*

Deaths:	Number	Rate/100,000	Cases/Rate	Population
White	304	47.5	67.3	White 60.2
Black	152	23.75	79	Black 19.9
Asian	60	9.38	37.2	Asian 15.6
Latino	103	16.09	49.8	Latino 19.9
Other	21	3.28	xxx	
Total	640	100	61.5	

\* AS OF JUNE 13, 2020

SOURCE: MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/HHS/RIGHTNAV/CORONAVIRUS-DATA.HTML

HTTPS://WWW.CENSUS.GOV/QUICKFACTS/MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMARYLAND

## State of Maryland Deaths and Cases

	Cases	Deaths	% Population	% Deaths
Black	17692	1,154	30.9	41.05
Asians	1200	107	6.7	3.81
White	12022	1,192	58.8	42.4
Hispanic	16738	295	10.4	10.49
Other	3140	31	1.1	
Data not available	10909	32	1.14	

MARYLAND STATS FROM SUNDAY, JUNE 14

THE COUNCIL APPROVED Jawando's resolution to declare racism a public health crisis Tuesday, June 16, at The Almanac's presstime.

"Research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health," according to the Council documents, as well as poverty and economic consequences.

"Racism causes persistent discrimination and inequitable outcomes in many areas of life," according to a memo Jawando sent his colleagues.

Jawando will also introduce Tuesday an expedited bill cosponsored by Craig Rice, Nancy Navarro and Gabe Albornoz, to establish a Use of Force Policy that at a minimum would prohibit a police officer from using deadly techniques like neck restraints or carotid restraints.

"The bill seeks to make the use of deadly force the choice of last resort to protect one's life or the life of another, as there must be no reasonable alternative for less lethal force existing at the time of the police action," according to Council documents.

The policy would prohibit a police officer from striking a restrained individual and requires police officers to stop or attempt to stop the use of excessive force by another

police officer.

ALL AMERICANS should know George Floyd's words, "I can't breathe," which were also spoken by Eric Garner who died in a police choke hold in 2014.

At a Black Lives Matter rally held in Cabin John Park on Saturday, June 6, one mother said all mothers were summoned when Floyd called for his "mama" as he was murdered by Chauvin as three other officers, two on their first weeks on the job, stood guard and watched.

"It has sparked something in people who were not aware of this before," said Jawando.

But this is only the beginning of untangling the web of racism that impacts, health, housing, education, opportunity, transportation, as well as police treatment.

"We need to talk about why we are here," said Stowe, "This is the chance to learn from others in the most personal and intimate ways."

"Read, listen, learn," he said, "Invite others to share their experiences."

"Imagine if we open up the gates and allow everyone to actualize their right to be who God intends us to be," Jawando said.



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## News

# Danger in and Around Potomac River at Great Falls

## Observe the warnings, come prepared, enjoy the Potomac River.

Swift Water Rescue Crews and National Park Service Rangers have observed many people putting themselves in danger in and around the Potomac River the last few weeks, while area rescue crews have already responded to several drownings this year.

Capt. Ed Russell of Cabin John Park Swift Water Rescue shared his observations regarding activity along the Potomac River, on June 13, rescuing one 'exhausted' swimmer from a rock near the Virginia shoreline. Dozens of others were seen swimming in the area despite

large signs that warn swimming is prohibited, and of other dangers.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Swift Water Rescue boats and crews spent several hours on the Potomac this morning of June 2 searching for a missing swimmer, presumed drowning victim after an incident on Sunday, May 31. Relief crews recovered the body several days later.

Around 5 p.m. on May 31, on the Potomac River in the area of Billy Goat Trail A and Sandy Landing, south, downstream of Great Falls. The person jumped into the water



National Park Service helicopter has assisted in multiple rescues this season both of hikers on the Billy Goat Trail and people who have entered the Potomac River waters despite swimming being prohibited.



Billy Goat section A is challenging and dangerous. The terrain includes sharp drops, requires jumps across open areas, walking along the edges of rocks and a climb up a 50-foot-traverse. Here the traverse is marked with blazes stenciled on the rock.



There are many hazards in and around the Potomac River at Great Falls.



Swift Water Rescue Crews from Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department searching just below Great Falls.



Despite clear signs, many people have been seen entering the water from both the Maryland and Virginia sides of the Potomac River near Great Falls. There have been four drownings in recent weeks and multiple rescue missions.



Swift rescue crews from Cabin John Park Volunteer arrive at the Potomac River near Old Angler's Inn to search for a swimmer reported in distress, who was successfully rescued.

south of Great Falls from the rocks on the Virginia side, Pete Piring-er said. He never resurfaced. His friends tried to help him but were not able to do so.

The same day around 8 p.m. in the Potomac River, at Katie Island, Seneca area, a kayak boater was in distress, separated from their boat, and stranded on island. Swift Water boats deployed from Pennyfield Lock and also Riley's Lock/Seneca. They located the boater safe on an island, with no injuries, and that person was extracted via Montgomery County boat to back to land at Pennyfield Lock.

On a recent Saturday, Swift Water Rescue crews were dispatched for an injured hiker on the Billy Goat Trail, and then while still in the area another call was received for a medical emergency on another portion of Billy Goat Trail. Crews used boats, UTVs, fire engines, 4-wheel drive vehicles and US Park helicopter to locate the hikers.

The Billy Goat Trail, especially section A, is challenging and dangerous. A sign in early parts of the

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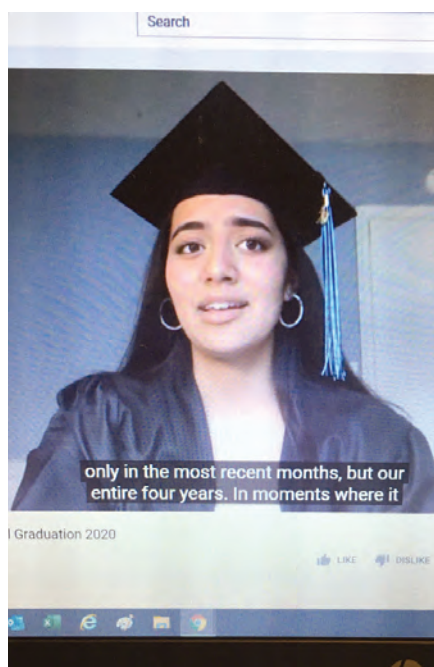
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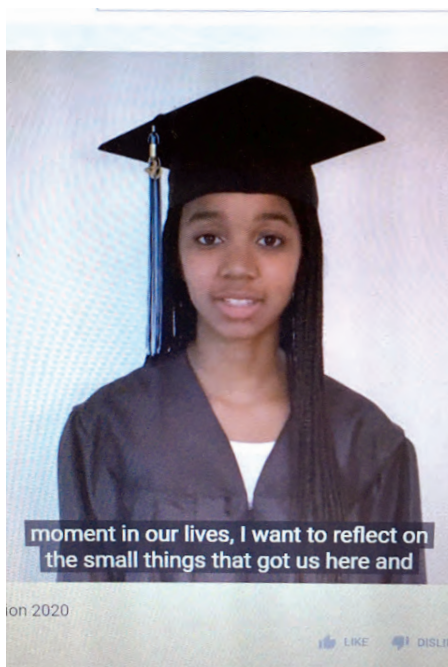


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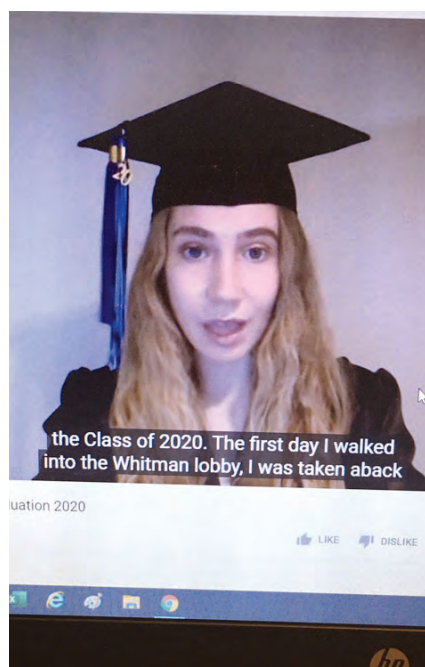




Jordan Sharbani addresses fellow classmates during the Walt Whitman High School virtual graduation June 12.



Kanya Dalton and Madeleine Mankas recall memories of their years at Whitman and offer encouragement to classmates during the school's virtual graduation.



Andrew Jin, senior class president, gives a welcoming speech at the Winston Churchill High School virtual graduation last Tuesday.

# Virtual Ceremonies for Churchill, Whitman Graduations

By PEGGY McEWAN  
POTOMAC ALMANAC

As with graduates from all Montgomery County public high schools, Winston Churchill and Walt Whitman students celebrated graduation virtually this year.

Though similar in some ways, each graduation ceremony took on the personality particular to its school's culture.

Senior class officers Andrew Jin, Lydia Lehr, William Ahn, Madison Cuthbert, Charlie Teixeira, Yunice Pyo and Nikka Givpoor each had a role in the ceremony at Churchill.

Speaking in front of the school, Andrew Jin gave the student address, expressing that he could not give wise words or share life lessons to his fellow graduates.

"After all it is becoming more and more apparent that no one really understands what to do," he said.

Instead he highlighted the achievements of "our class' unique spirit and accomplishments these past four years."

Churchill Principal Brandice Heckert told the seniors that their spirit still fills the halls of the school, even though they haven't been there in person since March.

"You have undeniable strength," Heckert said. "Among this class are activists, humanitarians, artists, caregivers, athletes, scientists, journalists and musicians. You are kind, compassionate, sympathetic, hard-working and resilient."

"I know the future is still unclear but be proud of what you have accomplished and continue to strive to achieve your goals," Heckert told the 560 graduates.

She challenged the class to continue with love, peace and justice.

Students officially received diplomas from Rebecca Smondrowski, Montgomery County Board of Education member.

As each graduate's name was announced, their picture was shown on the screen along with a message from one of the Churchill staff members who had worked with them, adding a very personal note to the ceremony.



Senior class officers from Winston Churchill High School throw their caps in the air and jump in celebration at the end of the school's virtual graduation ceremony June 9. Andrew Jin, Lydia Lehr, William Ahn, Madison Cuthbert, Charlie Teixeira, Yunice Pyo and Nikka Givpoor.



River Falls had a parade for their graduating seniors from Whitman and other schools that included vehicles from Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

As the ceremony ended, all the class officers were in front of the school, spaced according to social distancing recommendations, where they joined together for the tassel turning ceremony then threw their caps in the air and jumped in celebration.

Expecting to see socially distanced participants, the Walt Whitman High School graduation started with a view of a full class of graduates on the stage at D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington D.C., courtesy of photo editing.

Confusing, but perhaps a bow to what might have been!

The Whitman virtual ceremony also had music throughout: "A Solitary Wish" by Brian Balmages was performed by the school's orchestra, later "Benediction" by Owen Goldsmith, was sung by students from the choral groups and finally the senior class ended the ceremony singing the school song.

Dr. Robert Dodd, Whitman principal, addressed the class acknowledging the "profound sense of loss" many of the students must feel by having their school year end at home rather than celebrating with each other.

"In times of loss we must look to find the things and events that give us hope for the future," he said. "Today's commencement is one such event. Today we are going to recognize you for all you've accomplished over the years knowing full well that what you've been through recently will set you apart and uniquely prepare you for the changing future."

After recounting the successes of the graduating class, Dodd introduced Board of Education member Patricia O'Neill who officially awarded the class its diplomas.

Instead of walking across the stage, class members names were read, and photos shown, accompanied by canned applause to accomplish the Whitman graduates' leave taking.

In the words of Walt Whitman: "Now, Voyager, sail then forth, to seek and find."



# Discussing Racial Injustice with Children

**Books and visual art can help begin difficult conversations.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**A**s horrific scenes of police brutality and images of passionate protesters fighting for racial justice are ubiquitous in a smartphone and social media obsessed society, parental control over information that children receive can be limited. Framing and discussing such issues can be equally as challenging.

Children pick up on racial injustice earlier than parents might think, so toddlers can begin to learn about injustice early in very basic terms, says Glenda Hernández Tittle, Ph.D. Montgomery College, School of Education. "I think it's really important to start talking to children about racism and biases early and why it's wrong that people are mistreated," she said. "Ask how they would feel if they were treated that way themselves. Research shows that as early as two to three years old, children are quite aware of biases."

Parents can create a safe environment in which children and young adults can express their thoughts. "Conversations about racial injustice can be difficult, but they are necessary," said Karen Bentall, a librarian at Oakridge Elementary School in Arlington. "Books can help, [but] I must stress the importance of reading a wide variety of books where children can see themselves and others."

Reading can give children an appreciation of the experiences of those whose lives are different from their own. "Books can be windows into the lives of others, mirrors to reflect our own experience, and sliding glass doors that allow us to step into other worlds," said Bentall. "They help develop empathy."

Literary classics such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* can offer a springboard for lively discussions on race, suggests Bentall. "Many parents feel a sense of nostalgia toward their childhood books, but looking at them through a social-justice lens can spark conversations about the insidious bias that has crept into our language, thoughts, and patterns," she said.

Movies can also give children an opportunity to understand the lives of others. "You can ask questions about characters and why they did what they did," said Tittle. "You can also ask children about their own peers and who sits with whom at school and how they feel about that."

The types of characters that children see in books, movies, television and other types of media can have an impact on their cultural and racial understanding. "It's important for children to see diverse characters in positions of leadership and power," said Tittle. "Be cautious in selecting. Some classics often perpetuate biases and racist attitudes."

Visual art is another medium by which children



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**The types of characters that children see in books, movies, television and other types of media can have an impact on their cultural and racial understanding.**

**“Conversations about racial injustice can be difficult, but they are necessary.”**

— Karen Bentall,  
Oakridge Elementary School

can see and absorb beliefs about the characteristics of others. "Looking at art can also be a powerful part of raising awareness of racism and calling for needed change," said Kathryn Horn Coneway.

One example, says Coneway, is the Four Freedoms Project co-founded by Hank Willis Thomas. "[It] includes multiple versions of images that focus on freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of worship, freedom of speech," she said. "Families can view the original images created by [artist] Norman Rockwell 70 years ago and reflect on how the recreated versions made by the Four Freedoms Project both signify and call for change."

Parents can encourage their children to be agents of change, suggests Tittle. "Such as, 'What do you think we should do if we see something like that?' These prompts go beyond what we've typically done and help to develop a culture beyond awareness but also of advocacy and activism," she said.

Conversations around race should be ongoing, advises Tittle. "Parents will have different comfort levels about talking to kids about these topics and that's okay, she said."

An examination of the past can inform current conversations on racial justice. "Though parts of American history can be difficult and even heart wrenching, remain honest about our history, and that while we are proud of some of our history, there are things we didn't do right and that we need to work to change," said Tittle. "These conversations should be ongoing."

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

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## Taking the Results in Stride



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Apparently, I'm back in the lung cancer business. According to the video visit I had June 8 with my endocrinologist, my thyroid cancer has not moved into my lungs where my oncologist thought it might have - given the results of a previous biopsy and some surprising tumor inactivity in my lungs. The 'surprising inactivity' the tumors didn't kill me. Living, as they say is the best reward. And it sure beats the alternative.

Nevertheless, I can't say I'm thrilled with the outcome. All the tumors in my lungs still being non small cell lung cancer squashes my dream that those tumors were curable papillary thyroid cancer (as it had been suggested by my oncologist in a previous phone call) that had moved rather than the originally diagnosed incurable lung cancer which itself had metastasized. In fact, papillary thyroid cancer is called "the friendly cancer," according to one of my oncology nurses at the infusion center. There's nothing friendly about non small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

I was hoping that the diagnosis of thyroid cancer was going to change my life from being cancer-centric to being thyroid-cancer-are-you-kidding? You mean to tell me, after 11 years and four months living as, and being treated for, lung cancer, the actual diagnosis is thyroid cancer? But alas, poor Yorick, 'twas not to be. If what I've been told recently is the absolute-without-a-doubt truth/accurate diagnosis, than I am back on the emotional precipice waiting for the other shoe to drop or at the very least, have one of my socks fall down around my ankles and get all balled up in my sneakers. (Which I hate by the way; when socks get all rearranged like that. I like the heel of the sock to be lined up properly with my heel and the toe of my sock not twisted away from the toes and so forth.)

Once again, I suppose I'll have to pull myself up by my own boot straps, which I don't even own, and step lively, putting one foot ahead of the other and trying not to back up one step for every two I take. I've progressed too far for too long to backslide now. And even though my working thyroid-cancer-instead-of-lung-cancer narrative is now a thing of my medical past, it was sort of fun and uplifting - while it lasted. Now, I have to reconnect with my previous lung cancer reality and try to find some new approaches to living with a "terminal" disease.

It reminds me of what Cpl. Klinger (Jamie Farr) the cross-dresser from the television series *M\*A\*S\*H* once did when he returned to camp after assisting the doctors off-site at an aid station. He was all business away from the 4077th, but upon his return, a few hundred yards outside "the upholstered toilet seat" as Trapper John (Wayne McIntyre) once called it, Klinger put his female nurses cap back on and reverted to his previous form as a skirt-wearing Section 8 wannabe, and life for him and all the other *M\*A\*S\*H* personnel returned to their abnormal.

So too must I return to mine: as a stage IV, non small cell lung cancer patient who hasn't died and somehow has managed to keep under the reaper's radar. I mean, how else does one live so far beyond one's original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Granted, I have a good attitude and have made some changes to my diet and lifestyle, but hardly would I characterize my behavior as any kind of poster-boy status. Sure, I've tried to make light of an extraordinarily heavy burden and made lots of jokes in the face of what I was led to believe was certain premature death (what death isn't premature?), but that's more about personality than procedure. I was up for the challenge is all. Not everybody is. As Kenny Beatrice, a long time sports-talk-show host in the Washington DC area used to say: "You can't teach height." Lucky for me, as my late father often said, I was "born with broad shoulders."

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

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