

Potomac ALMANAC

Sisters Grace, left, and Julie Zettler play together Monday, the first day Potomac Swim and Tennis Club opened its pool.

Beginning of Summer, Time for Pools to Open?

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Pools In For Summer

BY PEGGY MCEWAN
POTOMAC ALMANAC

The good news came just hours before the actual beginning of summer. Public swimming pools in Montgomery County could open.

County Executive Marc Elrich announced June 18 that the county would enter Phase 2 of its re-opening plan to take effect at 5 p.m. Friday, June 19.

One local pool opened at 5 p.m. that day, but most others needed a few days to understand the new operating regulations and get up to speed. There were signs to create and display, pool capacity to figure out, furniture to reconfigure and staff to bring up to speed.

Country Glen Swim and Tennis Club on Glen Road opened Monday. Michael Abbott, a pool manager at Country Glen met with his guard staff Sunday to go over the reservation system they would use to limit the number of people in the pool at any one time.

County guidelines required limited use: "Pools may open after determining the maximum number of people who may be permitted in the pool fenced enclosure (this includes pool deck and grounds). To determine this, divide the square footage surface area of the pool by 36. This ensures 6 feet of separation between pool patrons in the water."

Country Glen board member John Mackey did not say what the pool's new capacity was but said they do not plan to reach it right away.

"We're starting slow until we get used to this," he said.

At Potomac Swim and Tennis Club on Oaklyn Drive, Bruce Goldstein, general manager, said that with the guidelines the pool could handle 60 swimmers per hour.



Just out of the pool at River Falls Swim and Tennis Club are, from left, Yasmine, Sophie and Harry Coyle and Chloe Murphy. The group and their parents were practicing social distancing while visiting in the parking lot after their swim.

Time slots were for an hour but, Goldstein said, members could sign up more than one hour at a time.

He said he does not think the reservations system will be a problem.

River Falls Swim and Tennis Club on Horseshoe Lane was ahead of the rest, opening on Sunday. They, too, were using the reservation system up to a capacity of 75 people per session. Like the others, they did not start off with 75, planning to start slower to see how pool use in the time of COVID-19 worked out, according to a gate attendant.

A group of friends had just finished their swim time at River Falls Sunday and were visiting in the

parking lot while socially distancing.

Chloe Murphy, 14, said she was the first in the group to get in the water.

"I was waiting and waiting to go in the pool," she said. "I reserved my spot and jumped in the water. I was so excited about being in the water."

Patrons of Montgomery County Recreation pools will have to wait awhile for their chance to jump into the water:

"In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, all Montgomery County Recreation aquatic, recreation and senior centers will remain closed until further notice," according to the website montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.



Members enjoy the water Monday, the first day Country Glen Swim and Tennis Club pool was open.

PHOTOS BY PEGGY MCEWAN



Pool manager Michael Abbott, left, leads a life guard meeting at Country Glen Swim and Tennis Club on Sunday. The pool opened Monday.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 24

The Gaithersburg Book Festival will host a panel of four authors for a live YouTube discussion entitled "How Diverse Stories can Open Minds and Change the World" on Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. This timely event is an extension of this year's virtual Gaithersburg Book Festival, which counts among its goals the promotion of literature as a means to enrich the human experience. The event will be moderated by author Wade Hudson, and features Dhonielle Clayton, Adam Gidwitz, and

Hena Khan. Visit www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 25

Washington Balalaika Society Trio Performs. 7:30 p.m. Virtual performance on Facebook. Even though they will not be able to present a live concert at Glen Echo Park, they are excited to report that the park will instead be streaming a concert by the Washington Balalaika Society Trio, composed of Svetlana Nikonova (domra), Zhenya Tochenaya (domra), and Vladimir Zacharevich (bayan). The trio will be playing Russian and

Ukrainian favorites and you are sure to recognize many of the delightful selections. The concert will be streamed by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture on June 25 at 7:30 p.m. from their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/glenechopark/>

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE BUDGETING PROCESS WORKGROUP

Montgomery County is convening a specialized workgroup to develop ideas for incorporating a climate change lens into the County

budgeting processes. Creating the "Budgeting Process" workgroup was a recommendation from the community-based climate workgroups that concluded their work in February 2020. The groups were formed by County Executive Marc Elrich as part of the County's effort to develop a Climate Action and Resilience Plan by early 2021. Montgomery County has a goal to reduce its community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and by 100 percent by 2035. Interested individuals should have demonstrable expertise in budget-

ing and financial management, particularly as they relate to climate and energy issues. Individuals with the following skill sets and/or experience are particularly encouraged to apply: Budgeting in the public sector Establishing evaluation systems Greenhouse gas or carbon accounting The deadline to submit expressions of interest to serve on the workgroup is July 8. Letters of interest can be submitted to climate@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Signs of the Times



We suspect that graduation signs are probably here to stay, even if graduations are able to go forward in person next year. Here's a sampler from a neighborhood walk.



Covid-19 Response in Potomac

By KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Monday, June 22

METRO: Metro announced that 15 rail stations that had been closed as part of the transit agency's Covid-19 response will reopen on Sunday, June 28. In addition, beginning Monday, June 28, buses will be added to the system's 14 busiest bus lines to provide more capacity and more frequent service as the region reopens.

MALL LIQUOR STORE: Montgomery County's Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) today reopened its Cabin John store located within the Cabin John Village Center mall. The store had been closed since March 19 when Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced the closure of all enclosed malls in the state.

Friday, June 19

PHASE TWO: Montgomery County enters Phase 2 of reopening at 5 p.m.

"But I cannot emphasize enough – Phase 2 comes with limitations and restrictions for businesses, organizations and individuals. Wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance is essential," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "Even though all of us are eager to resume activities, we cannot get careless."

Retail businesses, houses of worship, swimming pools, indoor dining, nail salons, gyms and playgrounds will all reopen - with limitations. See montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-reopening for full list.

The following businesses and services will remain closed in Phase 2: concerts and theaters, senior centers, libraries and recreation facilities.

POOLS: Indoor and outdoor pools were permitted to reopen at 5 p.m. on June 19 with capacity limits and other health and safety measures, including limits on the number of patrons allowed in both the swimming pool and the surrounding grounds based on square footage. Limits are based on the ability to ensure six feet of separation between swimmers in the water, on the pool deck, and in the surrounding area.

Other measures include:
Restricting the use of lap lanes to one patron at a time;
The mandatory use of face coverings by staff and patrons unless the individual is in the pool;

Implementing physical distancing requirements between patrons or household groups to ensure at least six feet of separation in the standing or seating areas;

No gatherings or event;
Ensuring physical distancing while patrons wait to use a diving board or water slide;

All hot tubs, spray or splash pads, wading pools and lazy river pools must remain closed until Phase 3.

Wednesday, June 17

COVID CORPS: COVID Corps is a summer employment program that creates a pathway between service and recovery for County residents ages 16-23. Members of the COVID Corps, coached by Montgomery County Recreation staff, will be deployed to work throughout the County supporting its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All participants will take part in job-readiness training as well as ongoing skill-building, safety protocols, workshops, financial-literacy training and a variety of career-building internships as part of the program. Participants will also receive instruction in resume writing, office etiquette, customer service, professionalism, safety on the job, teamwork and excellence in the workplace.

Available positions in the COVID Corps include:

Food Security supporting the county, school system and other food-serving organizations that package, distribute and deliver meals to vulnerable populations;

Community Outreach & Translation assistance with the Montgomery County Volunteer Center and efforts of other non-profits in need;

Tech Connect teaching and mentoring seniors how to use technology and online resources and opportunities to stay connected;

Operational Recovery assisting County departments prepare for employee's return to work through inventorying,
SEE COVID-19, PAGE 5

Three Suspects Charged for Vandalism To Walt Whitman High School

Officers from the 2nd District of the Montgomery County Department of Police have charged a 17-year-old male juvenile for the June 13 and the March 1 racist vandalisms that occurred to Walt Whitman High School. Officers have also charged Jake Foster Hoffman, age 18, of the 8700 block of Grant Street in Bethesda, and an additional 17-year-old male with conspiracy to commit the June 13 vandalism. All the suspects are residents of Montgomery County.

On Saturday, June 13, at approximately 9:32 a.m., a 2nd District officer who was on patrol was flagged down by a resident who reported that racist words and image had been spray-painted on property belonging to Walt Whitman High School located at 7100 Whittier Boulevard in Bethesda.

Upon checking the school, the officer located a utility shed near the front entrance of the school. The officers observed that a noose along with a racial slur had been spray-painted on the shed. The officer also observed a racial slur spray-painted on the pavement in front of the storage shed.

On Sunday, June 14, one of the juvenile male suspects and Hoffman (who were both accompanied by a parent) walked into the 2nd District station to speak with officers regarding the June 13 vandalism at the school.

During a police interview, the juvenile male took full responsibility for the June 13 vandalism and stated that he committed this racist vandalism because he thought it would be fun to have something make the

news given the current events occurring in the United States.

This juvenile and Hoffman stated that they felt regret soon after the vandalism and that they wanted to turn themselves in.

During the investigation, officers identified a second male juvenile suspect in the June 13 vandalism. Subsequent police interviews with the three suspects determined that the second juvenile male suggested to the first juvenile male suspect that if he wanted to commit a racist vandalism to the school that he should do it to the front of the school.

Hoffman stated that he told the first juvenile male that he should vandalize the utility shed instead of the front of the school.

Second District officers have been investigating a similar racist vandalism that occurred to the high school on March 1. Officers determined that the language used, and the drawings made in both vandalisms were similar. During a subsequent police interview regarding the June 13 vandalism, the first juvenile suspect admitted to committing the March 1 vandalism as well.

The first 17-year-old male was charged as a juvenile with two counts of destruction of property and released to the custody of his parent.

The second 17-year-old male was charged as a juvenile with conspiracy to commit destruction of property. He was released to the custody of a parent.

Hoffman was charged via District Court Summons with conspiracy to commit destruction of property.

Covid-19 Response in Potomac

FROM PAGE 4

sanitizing of vehicles, installation of social distancing signage, re-configuring spaces as well as serving as greeters and counters; and

Special Projects in which crews can respond quickly to urgent eligible project requests from County non-profits and County agencies.

The hourly rate for these positions is \$14 per hour.

Tuesday, June 16

CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE:

Childcare providers in Montgomery County can apply for financial assistance to offset reopening expenses and losses due to COVID-19 beginning later in June. Licensed child care center programs, registered family child care homes, and letter of compliance programs will be eligible for one month of expenses as programs reopen, as well as compensation for financial losses caused by COVID-19. Ten million dollars in emergency funding was approved by the County Council.

FOOD SECURITY PARTNERSHIP:

Montgomery County Council introduced a special appropriation of \$10,500,00

to address the food security challenges of County residents, while simultaneously supporting local food banks, restaurants and farmers through a public-private partnership with the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

This appropriation will provide up to \$500,000 to the Greater Washington Community Foundation to initiate and administer the Montgomery County Food Security Fund, which will accept private donations that will support implementation of the food security response strategy. This appropriation also provides \$10 million to implement the strategy with the goal of raising \$5,000,000 in private donations.

Councilmember Jawando introduced the concept of a public fundraising program structured around incentives to draw greater participation from major donors while including smaller individual donors and expanding the base of overall participants supporting food security efforts. The Council is tentatively scheduled to receive public testimony on the special appropriation on June 23, after the Almanac's presstime.



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SENIOR LIVING

Seniors Join Protests for Racial Injustice

Remembering the past to inform the future.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Long before there was a Black Lives Matter movement and smart phones that captured police brutality on video, and long before throngs of people filled streets around the world to protest racial injustice, there were smaller crowds of pioneers fighting to tear down barriers imposed by Jim Crow laws. Now in their 70s and 80s, the activists of the 1960s are proud that a new generation has picked up and is now carrying their torch. A few locals share their reaction to the current protests and their recollections of the past.

"These protests are necessary," said Annie Lou Copeland Johnson, 80, who now lives with her daughter in Arlington. "We've been fighting for freedom for 400 years and we still don't have it."

Johnson was inspired to get involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the 60s after an incident involving a city bus ride. "My family and I boarded the bus, but we were told to get to the back of the bus, that was everyone except my uncle who had light skin and green eyes," she said. "He was often mistaken for being white." When he told the driver that he was Black, the driver told them all to go to the back of the bus.

One of the most poignant memories of her activism, says, Johnson was attending The Great March on Washington in 1963. "It was hot, people fainted and we couldn't use the bathroom, but we stayed," she said. "We knew that we had to agitate and agitate until our voices were heard."

Audrey Nell Edwards Hamilton, now 74, was arrested in 1963 for sitting at a lunch counter and ordering a hamburger. Today she's awestruck by the worldwide protests she's seeing on television.

"I never thought that in my lifetime, I would see people of different shades and colors from all over the world saying, 'Enough is enough,'" said Hamilton, a civil rights leader who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and who was part of the St. Augustine Four. "I'm proud of the young people who are marching today. It's wonderful and it's long overdue."

In 1963, Hamilton and three other teens sat at the lunch counter inside a Florida Woolworth's, a discount department store chain, and ordered hamburgers. At the time, laws that enforced racial segregation in the South, made it illegal for African Americans to do such a thing.

"My mother used to go to Woolworth's to buy my school supplies, but she couldn't go to the lunch counter and get a glass of water," said Hamilton. "We were tired of being treated that way. We were told to leave and stop protesting, but we didn't."

As a result, the four teens were sent to jail for six months. "It was mentally draining," said Hamilton. "They tried to break us down. We had to scrub floors on our knees until our knees were bloody."

The attempt to chip away at their resolve was in vain. "We were determined not to accept being treated like second-class citizens," said Hamilton. "We were attacked with dogs and fire hoses, but we were still in the streets picketing every day."

Hamilton, who shared her experience in a video interview that is now part of the collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, says that she was contacted by a woman in Black Lives Matter who



COURTESY OF ELAINE LEE TURNER

Known as the most arrested family in the country during the Civil Rights Movement, the Lee family fought to break down barriers imposed by Jim Crow laws and racism. Turner is pictured with five of her 13 siblings (l-r) Peggy J. Lee, Sandra Lee Swift, Elaine Lee Turner, Ernestine Lee Henning and Brenda Lee Turner.

was looking for advice.

"I believe that protesters have to be consistent and constant," she said. "You have to take to the streets and stay there until you get a change."

For Elaine Lee Turner, civil rights activism was a family affair. So important was the movement to the Lee family that they were also ready to go to jail for the cause. "My entire family was involved," said Turner. "There were 7 girls and 7 boys. We were arrested for protesting. In fact, we were called the most arrested family in the movement, but we did affect change by being consistent." The current protests, says Lee, are a continuation of the work from the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s. "The protests now are much needed," said Turner. "In the 60s we made changes, but we didn't correct all of the changes that were needed in this country. There's still so much systemic racism."

Turner says that she became involved in civil rights activism after being inspired by her older sister who was in college at the time. "There were sit-ins and marches throughout the 1960s until the laws began to change," said Lee. "When Dr. King called everyone to come from around the country to Montgomery, Alabama, to march, I came."

Lee has several nieces and nephews taking part in the current protest and her daughter, who's an attorney, is offering pro bono services to protesters who've been arrested. The size of the crowds demanding change today, says Lee, offers an opportunity for making monumental changes.

"We were smaller in number in the 1960s and we did make changes, but there are so many things that we could not change," she said. "This is another generation, we have more people involved who are diverse and who finally understand what we were fighting for which is justice for Black people." Modern technology is one of the major differences between the two movements. "There is still racism, but today people have a better understanding because of the camera phone video tapings of things like police brutality," she said. "We didn't have videos back then."

Those advancements have offered a view of the reality that Black Americans face, says Lee. "People all over the world are seeing what America is all about," she said. "America pretends to be the home of the free, but it's not the home of the free for Black people. Even when slaves were emancipated we weren't free. After the Civil Rights Movement we still weren't free, and as long as people are still being beaten and killed on the street by police and vigilantes, we won't be free."

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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Masking My True Feelings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of us living in states where mask-wearing is mostly mandatory (indoors: yes, outdoors: not nearly as much), it is very easy to hide one's emotions. If your mouth is undercover, and being that it is located under your nose and above your chin, it most definitely is, communicating with the public has become strictly verbal. Body language as personified by the expression on one's face has become non grata. All that remains - above the mask, are your eyes and to a much lesser effect, your ears, your hair and your forehead. If words are not spoken when passing by, either within the six-foot cone of safety or not, no one knows whether they've been greeted with a smile or disparaged with a frown.

Still, I can't help doing either the former or the latter which invariably leads me to remind myself that what can't be seen must either be heard or not considered part of the new social-distancing equation. After a few months of donning the mask and viewing others donning the mask, I can't really see how I'm able to read the tea leaves, so to speak, that is, one's eyes. And how frustrating, because eyes have often been described as "windows to the soul." Unfortunately, without one's other facial features visible to the naked eye, interpreting one's eyes has become the only clue in conversation.

I refer you all back to the early game-show television, specifically to "Make a Face" which aired between 1961 and 1962. In the game, contestants attempted to name the famous celebrities after seeing only a portion of their faces. Of course there was a revolving wheel whose spin would provide clues to the celebrities being featured that day. I vaguely remember anything more, except I thought the host was Art James (who was actually the host of "Say When," another game show from the same era). The host was actually Robert Clayton for whom I have zero recollection. I can still see the wheel however, sort of, and I can recall seeing images of eyes, ears, noses, etc., and contestants trying to guess identities based on these facial fragments.

Life is sort of like that now. We're all receiving incomplete information. The masks are hiding all manner of interesting and identifiable characteristics which we've all spent years interpreting. Just the other day, I met a woman from the local tree-service company offering free quotes to me and my neighbors. As she walked around our property with us, mask on and clipboard in hand, she identified trees which needed to be come down and limbs which needed to be trimmed back. And while she spoke, naturally there was eye contact, from which I developed an impression. A few days later, she was back in our neighborhood supervising her company's work cutting down some neighbor's trees. I inadvertently bumped into her while she was driving up the street just as I was at my on-street mailbox. She stopped her car and when she rolled down the passenger window to say "Hello", I could see she was not wearing a mask. I saw her entire face and I thought she was older than her eyes had led me to believe ("not that there's anything wrong with that"). It only confirmed my suspicions of just how poor my judgment had been after initially having only seen her wearing a mask. And then later I realized that just as I hadn't seen her face entirely, so too would other folks not be seeing mine. So regardless of any facial gesture I had made, it was only my words that mattered, not my deeds. But since I hadn't "deeded" anything, I realized that an entire level of communication and impression is now missing.

It feels like a combination of Halloween and Stanley Kubricks' "Eyes Wide Shut" where you're not sure who you are, but neither is anybody else. And in that anonymity breeds some contempt and lack of need for any familiarity. It's that lack of familiarity while quarantining at home which has led to the infrequent opportunity to interact socially - from distance or not. As a result, I believe I've lost some of my humanity, some of my dignity and perhaps even some of my friends.

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



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