

Potomac ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE SALES, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 4 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNCILMEMBER ANDREW FRIEDSON

Saving a Living Piece Of History

NEWS, PAGE 3

SENIOR LIVING

PAGE 6

Councilmember Andrew Friedson and Del. Lily Qi stands in front of idled White's Ferry at a meeting of local, state and federal representatives working to reopen the ferry.

AUGUST 25-31, 2021

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

June, 2021 Top Sales

IN JUNE, 2021, 101 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$3,850,000-\$449,000.



1 11517 Highland Farm Road — \$3,850,000



3 10850 Spring Knoll Drive — \$3,320,000



8 9944 Potomac Manors Drive — \$2,310,000



2 9805 Logan Drive — \$3,850,000



5 9325 Belle Terre — \$3,000,000



7 10024 Avenel Farm Drive — \$2,390,000

Address.....BR FB HB Postal City.....Sold Price... Type.....Lot AC. Postal Code ... Subdivision..... Date Sold

1	11517 HIGHLAND FARM RD .	8...	8...	2	....	ROCKVILLE	\$3,850,000	...	Detached ..	4.00.....	20854.....	ROUND HILL	.....	06/28/21
2	9805 LOGAN DR	6...	8...	2	....	POTOMAC	\$3,850,000	...	Detached ..	1.35.....	20854..	WILLIAMSBURG ESTS		06/30/21
3	10850 SPRING KNOLL DR...	5...	8...	3	....	POTOMAC	\$3,320,000	...	Detached ..	2.09.....	20854..	POTOMAC VILLAGE		06/15/21
4	9724 SORREL AVE.....	6...	7...	2	....	POTOMAC	\$3,100,000	...	Detached ..	2.03.....	20854.....	FALCONHURST	....	06/17/21
5	9325 BELLE TERRE	11..	10..	2	....	POTOMAC	\$3,000,000	...	Detached ..	2.08.....	20854.....	FALCONHURST	....	06/28/21
6	11508 DALYN TER	6...	6...	1	....	POTOMAC	\$2,450,000	...	Detached ..	0.66.....	20854	MERRY GO ROUND FARM		06/15/21
7	10024 AVENEL FARM DR...	7...	6...	2	....	POTOMAC	\$2,390,000	...	Detached ..	0.47.....	20854.....	AVENEL	.....	06/16/21
8	9944 POTOMAC MANORS DR.	6...	6...	2	POTOMAC	\$2,310,000	...	Detached ..	1.04.....	20854..	POTOMAC MANOR		06/18/21

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[HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2021/JUL/16/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-JUNE-2021/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/jul/16/potomac-home-sales-june-2021/)

NEWS

White's Ferry Running for 2022?

Eminent domain, condemnation, or more negotiation?

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

When Chuck and Stacy Kuhn purchased White's Ferry in February, they eagerly told their nine children the plan. "I went home and we were kind of excited about the investment, what we were doing to protect the ferry, and I told my son we bought White's Ferry," said Kuhn, owner of JK Moving Services.

"And he was like, 'You didn't buy a ferry. A ferry has two landings, Dad. You bought the Maryland shoreline and an old boat. You don't have a ferry,'" said Kuhn.

White's Ferry had operated since 1786 and was the last of 100 ferries that operated on the Potomac River, White's Ferry connected Whites Ferry Road in Montgomery County by a road by the same name in Loudoun County. The ferry took 600-860 vehicles across the Potomac River each day.

White's Ferry ceased operations on Dec. 28, 2020, following a Circuit Court opinion in a private dispute over the use of private land for the ferry landing in Virginia.

Shore disputes between Maryland and Virginia date back to colonial times. In 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States settled a dispute between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland regarding Virginia's rights to draw water from the Potomac River, *Virginia v. Maryland*. The court ruled in favor of Virginia, citing the Maryland-Virginia Compact of 1785, an agreement between the two states concerning navigational and riparian water rights along the Potomac River.

Kuhn was optimistic he would have the ferry running shortly after his purchase. "I'm sure we can get to a table and, man, this thing will be rolling like this," he said.

"I might have been a little too optimistic," Kuhn said at a Poolesville meeting last Wednesday, Aug. 18.

"I can assure you I put forth all of the effort that Stacy and I could put forth to work together with the Virginia shoreline to get this ferry open in some reasonable time line and some reasonable fashion. I hate to admit it, but I had to say, 'Uncle.' I couldn't get there from here regardless of our offers or our attempts.

There was just no reasonable conclusion to the negotiations," he said.

Loudoun County and Montgomery County's Departments of Transportation got involved in April to study available options for resuming ferry service between the two counties at the historic White's Ferry location.

"The real fate of this ferry is going to lie in the hands of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. If the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors after they review the study that



From Andrew Friedson on Twitter: "It was a hot day but we had a very productive meeting on-site at White's Ferry [on Aug. 13] with public & private sector stakeholders including officials at all levels of government (town, county, state & federal) to discuss our ongoing efforts to permanently Reopen Whites Ferry to the public."

they have commenced supports eminent domain, we will get control of the Virginia shoreline and this ferry will open," said Kuhn.

Loudoun County Catoclin Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner offered his support.

"As soon as this ferry shut down...I started getting a lot of calls," Kershner said. "I am fully committed to anything I can do from my position on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to make sure this ferry operates and runs again. We are looking at a number of different options."

The study is expected to be completed in September. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors is expected to hear the study's findings in October at an information item before the Board. According to Kershner, it will require a majority of the Board to move forward with some type of action.

"We are continuing in hope that both parties will come to some type of agreement to get this up and running, but at this point, from our position, we are looking to do what we can to bring about a renewal of this ferry," he said.

Kuhn was asked if a third party negotiator could help.

"I hate to ever say no, right, because I think you always need to keep options open and I want to be careful. I've always learned you never regret taking the high road, so I don't want to air dirty laundry or the history of these battles before my time or during my time," said Kuhn. "What I will say is I have zero optimism that continuing to try to negotiate directly with or without arbitration, mediation, with the Virginia shoreline will be successful in opening the ferry. I've tried," said the accomplished businessman.

"I've exhausted my abilities to be successful there."

Viewpoints

"As many of you know, this has been a dispute between two different parties in two different states. This is not an easy thing that someone can just snap their fingers and make go away. It's been a very very delicate subject to deal with. ... If you don't have all your ducks in a row, then you could lose four or six months just like that."

— Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo (D-15)

"It changed our whole life, it's changed our lives in tangible ways and not for the better. If the ferry doesn't open, It's going to be a big deal. This thing impacts this entire area and beyond. ... There are real people being negatively impacted in real ways because the ferry is not open."

— Pastor Chuck Copeland, Poolesville

"It's also a living piece of history. Not many infrastructures can claim a two-century run."

— Kerri Cook,
Poolesville Town Commissioner

"The ferry offers a historic transportation link to this area and its rich historic legacy on both sides of the river. ... Tourism is one of the economic engines that supports the health of Poolesville. We need White's Ferry."

— Maureen O'Connell, Historic Medley District

"Poolesville really has three arteries; if you use the image of a heart, you've got three arteries coming into this town.... One of these arteries was severed back in December of last year, it was very shocking to the local community."

— Tom Kettler,
Poolesville Chamber of Commerce

"Every year, we host several thousand children to the School where they can travel back in time to experience what ... a typical day would be like in 1865. The boys and girls come from public, private and homeschool groups from Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania and Virginia. And the easiest, most enjoyable, educational way for the children from Virginia to get here, of course, is the ferry."

— Maureen O'Connell, Historic Medley District

Senior Centers and Senior Activities

13850 Travilah Road,
Rockville, Md.

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday.

240-773-4805

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/seniorcenters/northpotomac.html>

Currently an indoor mask mandate is in effect requiring face coverings in all indoor areas open to the public, regardless of vaccination status.

The North Potomac Senior Center is located within the Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center. This large center offers exercise, health, sports, educational, wellness, and social activities daily. The center also offers workshops, short-term classes and introductory demonstrations, along with some regularly scheduled drop-in programs, sports activities (basketball, pickleball, volleyball, table tennis, etc.), informal social activities, exercise videos, lectures, and community services.

The center also offers technology programs, seminars, lectures, and individualized services for those needing community or county-based services. Parties, entertainment, volunteer and travel opportunities, ethnic and cultural programs, and just plain fun round out the daily activity schedule at this location.

There are six more centers. See <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/seniorcenters/>

For Adults Over 55

Montgomery County Recreation has many ways for independent adults, 55 and over to stay active and healthy. Whether you are still working, semi-retired, or fully retired, there are a variety of programs, activities, classes, and events available.

Travel programs- both close and throughout the mid-Atlantic region

Health and Wellness programs and services

Recreation programs - from Aerobics to Zumba and everything in between

Information and Referral Assistance - Need help? If we can't help you, we'll direct you to someone who can

Volunteer opportunities abound — talk to us about how we can put your talents to use

Exercise and fitness facilities, and educational programs to keep you feeling both physically and mentally fit and active

For more, see <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/seniors/>

SEE SENIOR LIVING, PAGES G-7

ENTERTAINMENT

Ongoing Entertainment

POTOMAC COMMUNITY CENTER.

11315 Falls Road. The Potomac Community Center has reopened. Table tennis, volleyball, badminton, basketball, pickleball, open gym and more <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/potomac-2021schedule.pdf> for details and hours.

POTOMAC VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET. Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 South Glen Road. Potomac Village Farmers Market operates all Thursdays, May through November.

PARK RANGERS AVAILABLE. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Chesapeake & Ohio National Historical Park at Great Falls, 11710 MacArthur Blvd. Park rangers are available to provide maps and information. See <https://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>

LOCK DEMONSTRATIONS. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. (30 minutes long). Saturdays and Sundays. Chesapeake & Ohio National Historical Park at Great Falls, 11710 MacArthur Blvd. Join park staff as they operate Lock 20 and demonstrate how it works. Lock 20 is next to the Visitors Center at the park.

RIDE THE CAROUSEL. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The 1921 Dentzel Carousel was installed in 1921 and celebrates its 100th Anniversary all season long. Purchase tickets at <https://glenechopark.simplenetix.com/>. \$5 per person for a four-hour time slot. See <https://glenechopark.org/carousel/> for additional information regarding covid protocols.

CABIN JOHN PARK MINIATURE TRAIN RIDE. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. 7410 Tuckerman Lane. Scenic two-mile, 15-minute train ride through Cabin John Regional Park. Tickets are limited and can be pre-purchased online at ActiveMontgomery.org -- \$2.50. (Children two and younger ride for free with an adult.) See <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/cabin-john-regional-park/miniature-train/>

BETHESDA CENTRAL FARM MARKET, Sundays, Open year round, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., March-December. (9:30am-1:30pm, January-February, closed Thanksgiving weekend) in the lot of Bethesda Elementary School. One of the largest farmers markets in the region, with more than 100 vendors and artisan food producers year-round. The market features table seating, music, local Maryland winery and farm brewery tastings, kids club activities, chef demos, and more. <https://bethesda.centralfarmmarkets.com/>

OUTDOOR SWIM HOURS. Bethesda Outdoor Pool, 6300 Hillandale Road, Bethesda. 301-652-1598. For more pools including upcountry in Poolesville and Gaithersburg, and for summer hours see [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/aquaticcenters/outdoor-](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/aquaticcenters/outdoor-pools.html)

[pools.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/facilities/aquaticcenters/outdoor-pools.html)

INDOOR SWIM HOURS. Shriver Aquatic Center, 5900 Executive Blvd, 240-777-8070 See. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/aquatics/KSAC.pdf>

ICE SKATING. Cabin John Ice Rink, 10610 Westlake Drive. Cabin John Ice Rink has numerous public skate sessions every day of the week. See cabinjohnice.org for details.

BETHESDA STREETERY: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. To create additional seating outdoors, the Bethesda Streeter, is set-up as open seating with all tables placed at least six feet apart and a limit of four people permitted per table. Restaurant patrons are invited to dine within this open-air area after picking up food and beverages from local Bethesda restaurants. Tables will be cleaned after each use.

- ❖ Norfolk Avenue, between St. Elmo Avenue and Cordell Avenue
- ❖ Norfolk Avenue, between Cordell Avenue and Del Ray Avenue
- ❖ Woodmont Avenue, between Elm Street and Bethesda Avenue
- ❖ Veterans Park, corner of Norfolk and Woodmont Avenues

See <https://www.bethesda.org/bethesda-streeter>

LOCUST GROVE NATURE CENTER, 7777 Democracy Blvd. Outdoor exhibits, natural features, and trails are open every day from dawn to dusk. In the Upper Meadow, look for Monarch butterflies, caterpillars and eggs on the milkweed in summer. Check out the dogbane for iridescent dogbane beetles. Listen for wrens and bluebirds near the bluebird nest boxes. Watch for box turtles crossing the path in the early morning. In Locust Grove's Lower Meadow, watch for bats hunting in late afternoon or early evening. Sit under the shade of the 200-year-old sycamore, and imagine what the park looked like when it was part of a large farm. Watch as Cabin John Creek flows briskly by. <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/cabin-john-regional-park/locust-grove-nature-center/> for planned activities.

JOSIAH HENSON MUSEUM AND PARK. Park is open from sunrise to sunset. Museum hours are Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 11410 Old Georgetown Road. The life and challenges of Reverend Josiah Henson, enslavement in Maryland, and the ongoing struggles of racial equality and justice on the former plantation property of Isaac Riley where Henson was enslaved. Henson, whose 1849 autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada*, inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. \$5 adults, \$4 youth, \$4 seniors. See <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-park/>

CALENDAR/ENTERTAINMENT

COMPILED BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

To include events in the Almanac's calendar, please contact Ken Moore at kmoores@connectionnewspapers.com; put Almanac Calendar Event

in the subject line.

THURSDAY, AUG. 12

TAX FREE WEEK. All shopping hours through Saturday, Aug. 14. Westfield Montgomery, 7101 Democracy Boulevard. See <https://www.westfield.com/montgomery/events> for details.

MARYLAND TAX FREE WEEK through Saturday, Aug. 14, qualifying clothing and footwear priced \$100 or less will be exempt from Maryland's six percent sales tax. The first \$40 of back/bookbag sales also qualify. A list of exempt and taxable items is available on the Comptroller's Website at www.marylandtaxes.gov, or by calling the Taxpayer Service Section at 410-260-7980 in Central Maryland or toll-free 1-800-MD TAXES from elsewhere. https://marylandtaxes.gov/divisions/comp/Shop_Maryland_Tax-free_Week/Tax_Free_Week_Facts.pdf

LIVE CONCERTS, BUMPER CAR PAVILION. 7:30 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. (Also streaming on YouTube.) Free. Registration preferred, but not required. Concerts repeat every Thursday through Sept. 9, 2021. United States Marine Band on Aug. 12; King Street Blue Grass on Aug. 19; Patrick Alban & Noche Latina (Latin) on Aug. 26; James Bazen Big Band (Big Band Jazz) on Sept. 2 and The Lovejoy Group (Swing/Standard) on Sept. 9. See <https://glenechopark.org/summerconcerts>

POTOMAC VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET. Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 South Glen Road. Potomac Village Farmers Market operates all Thursdays, May through November. <https://www.potomacumc.org/potomac-village-farmers-market/>

GLEN ECHO FOLK DANCERS. Virtual. Thursday 7:30 - 9 p.m. lesson, followed by dancing from 9-10:15 p.m. See <https://glenechopark.org/events-calendar>. Repeats weekly on Thursdays.

PARENT AND TOT SKATE. 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Cabin John Ice Rink, 10610 Westlake Drive. Try out ice skating with your preschool age skater. Fee of \$5 includes admission for a child age 3-5 plus a parent and skate rental. Repeats on Fridays. See <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/>

LIVE MUSIC. 6-8 p.m. Downtown Bethesda at the corners of Norfolk and Del Ray avenues. Bethesda Urban Partnership has helped organize additional restaurant seating outdoors in downtown Bethesda. The Bethesda Streeter will be set-up as open seating. Live music each Friday to enjoy while also enjoying outdoor dining. See <https://www.bethesda.org/bethesda-streeter> Repeats Friday evenings.

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCERS. 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Virtual, Glen Echo Park. Join Friday Night Dancers for a virtual contra dance and live music. See <https://glenechopark.org/events>. Repeats Fridays.

LIVE COMEDY. 8-10 p.m., Rock Bottom Restaurant, 7900 Norfolk Avenue. Live Standup Comedy Show with local DC-area standup comedians. Ongoing on Saturdays. \$15. Call 301/946-1102 for more information.



© JEFF KOONS; COURTESY: GLENSTONE MUSEUM

Jeff Koons, *Split-Rocker*, 2000; stainless steel, soil, geotextile fabric, internal irrigation system, and live flowering plants 37 x 39 x 36 feet.

Glenstone Expands Visitor Capacity

Guaranteed admission for students, active military personnel, museum professionals, and Ride-On Bus passengers, and extended summer hours.

Glenstone Museum will expand admission capacity while maintaining the uncrowded and unhurried visitor experience that has become its hallmark.

Glenstone is offering extended summer hours with guaranteed entry from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. These extended hours will offer visitors greater opportunities to enjoy the Faith Ringgold exhi-

bition at the Gallery (on view until October 24), the outdoor sculptures, walking trails, and dining at the Patio. The Pavilions will continue to close at 5 p.m., and the Café will continue to close at 4 p.m. As with normal hours, visitors must go through the "Schedule a Visit" page of the website, www.glenstone.org, to participate in ex-

SEE GLENSTONE, PAGE 5



PHOTO: IWAN BAAN; COURTESY: GLENSTONE MUSEUM

Water Court at the Pavilions at Glenstone Museum.

NEWS

Glenstone Expands Visitor Capacity

FROM PAGE 4

tended summer hours.

"Our visitors have told us they would like more opportunities to enjoy Glenstone, so we want to do everything we can to accommodate them while adhering to public health and safety guidelines, especially now, when we're about to present new installations and exhibitions in late summer and fall," said Emily Wei Rales, director and co-founder of Glenstone Museum.

Admission to Glenstone is free.

Students 12 and older, active-duty military personnel, and staff from other museums have guaranteed admission to Glenstone Museum for themselves and one guest with valid ID cards.

The museum will resume its program with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation that guarantees entry to passengers who arrive via Ride On bus through Sept. 5. The program brings riders to Glenstone via route 301 multiple times each visitor day. A full schedule is available here, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/routes-schedules/allroutes/Route301.html>

Glenstone, a museum of modern and contemporary art, is integrated into nearly 300 acres of gently rolling pasture and unspoiled woodland in Potomac. Glenstone is open Thursdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., extended until 7 p.m. from Aug. 5 to Sept. 5. Admission is free and visits can be scheduled online at: www.glenstone.org. Same-day visits can be scheduled online. General inquiries: info@glenstone.org



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COURTESY: GLENSTONE MUSEUM

Faith Ringgold The American Collection #6: The Flag is Bleeding #2, 1997 acrylic on canvas with painted and pieced border 76 inches x 79 inches.



PHOTO BY IWAN BAAN; COURTESY: GLENSTONE MUSEUM

Approach to the Pavilions at Glenstone Museum in Potomac.

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Including the history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made and other vital community information.

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SENIOR LIVING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



Gardening and landscaping opportunities abound for seniors and retirees with a penchant for gardening.



Fairfax County Park Authority volunteers lead children's education programs at one of the county's history centers.

Volunteering Can Give Seniors Purpose

Seniors and retirees can stay active and have a positive impact on the community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Every Tuesday this summer, Esther Rosenberg has welcomed two elementary school-aged students into her Potomac, Md. home. When they arrive, she offers them a snack and a stack of books. During their visit, Rosenberg reads to them and listens as they read to her. The students are the children of her housekeeper. As a former elementary school teacher, she enjoys sharing her love of reading with them.

"My children are adults now and I'm retired," she said. "I don't want to be a full-time teacher any more, but I love helping children who might not have access to books or a chance to practice reading over the summer." Opportunities abound for seniors and retirees who want to volunteer their time to a cause they support or an interest they'd like to pursue. From gardening and landscaping to assisting those with disabilities during swimming and water exercise classes, there are a myriad of ways to help others locally.

"Civic engagement not only benefits a community, but certainly brings value to those individuals who offer their service," said Lisa Fikes, of Volunteer Arlington. "For seniors, volunteering is a wonderful way to stay active physically and mentally as well as gain a renewed sense of self and purpose."

Those with green thumb and a passion for gardening, might find pleasure as volunteer gardeners. Local park authorities use volunteers to maintain the grounds of recreational centers. Retirees with an interest in physical fitness or water sports can pursue their passion by serving as an aquatics assistant. Seniors who enjoy golf can volunteer their time to public courses by helping to maintain the course grounds and ensuring the timely start of play.

"Volunteering [allows for] meeting people with



Seniors and retirees who enjoy fitness and aquatic pursuits might enjoy guiding those with disabilities during swimming and water exercise classes.

similar interests, being social and avoiding isolation," said Tammy Schwab, Education & Outreach Manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division. "Volunteers learn new skills which keeps their brain active and contributes to mental health. [It] can also increase physical activity which is so important these days as it is easier and easier to just stay home."

Seniors who want to offer services during a disaster or emergency situation or simply have a desire to improve healthcare in a local community can find fulfillment in serving in one of the area's Medical Reserve Corps (MCR). Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery counties and the City of Alexandria each have an Medical Reserve Corps. Volunteers receive training in public health, emergency and terrorism response, disaster mental health, CPR and First Aid.

"If you are retired, the Fairfax MRC would greatly benefit from your wealth of wisdom and experience, whether you have worked in the healthcare field or just want to be a positive force in the community," said Paula Rosca, Fairfax MRC Program Coordinator. "By assisting in our vaccination clinics, teaching your neighbors about healthy living, or improving community emergency preparedness, your time will be well spent and much appreciated."

Rosenberg says that she benefits as much from the students she tutors as they do from her. "They bring me so much joy," she said. "They lift my spirits and give me a sense of purpose."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Volunteer Montgomery County:
montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter



This RV was from California.

Area Campgrounds Offer a Rustic Oasis Just Outside the Beltway

Various levels of camping varies from roughing it in tents, to RV sites with running water.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

At a time when the travel and vacation industry took a hit from the pandemic, the few campgrounds in Northern Virginia stayed busy as people looked around for something to do within the COVID-19 restrictions.

There are several parks in the Fairfax County Park Authority system and Nova Parks where campers can sit around the campfire, telling ghost stories and roasting marshmallows, but still be a few miles from home.

"It was one of the few things you could do," said Nova Parks CEO Paul Gilbert. "It is an amazing alternative," he added.

At FCPA, there are campgrounds at Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax, and in Nova Parks, formerly the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, there are cabins, cottages and camping at Bull Run, Pohick Bay and



At Pohick Bay, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members.

Algonkian Regional Parks in the area.

AT POHICK BAY, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members in a big recreational vehicle-type camper. The camper was

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



Campers track the states they've visited on a map on the side of the RV.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Area Campgrounds Offer a Rustic Oasis Just Outside the Beltway

FROM PAGE 6

hooked up to water and electricity, and the campfire was the central gathering spot. Although campers at Pohick can only stay up to two weeks, their “Welcome to the Nelson’s” sign was up.

“It’s like saying ‘this is us,’ in a welcoming way,” said Ryan. They were right up the hill from Pohick Bay, and if there were any fisherman amongst the campers, they could just go down the trail and cast their line in. Pohick Bay has catfish, bass, crappie and other game fish.

Ryan’s son is a resident of Woodbridge, right across the Occoquan River, but to them, the campsite was a vacation. “Truly a treat for me,” said Ryan. She’s not alone either. According to the numbers, the popularity of camping is soaring too at Nova Parks. In FY2020, there were 10,910 nights of camping vs 13,800 in FY2021, and a projected 15,000 in FY2022. “That is a huge uptick for one year,” Gilbert said.

Pohick Bay Regional Park’s family campground features 150 shaded sites -- 100 with electric 50/30-amp hookups and 50 tent sites. Pohick has three campgrounds: family campground, youth and non-electric which was for tent campers who are closer to “roughing it.”

Burke Lake Campground is open daily beginning Friday, April 9. Last night to camp is Saturday, Oct. 30. Lake Fairfax camping is open March to November.

At Nova Parks, the variety of campsites available at Bull Run Campground are RV sites with electric only service, RV sites with full-service (which includes sewer, water and electric), rustic cabins and group camping areas. All campsites have a charcoal grill, fire ring and picnic table. There are two bathhouses in the campground that offer hot showers, sinks, toilets and laundry facilities. The camp store sells camping supplies, snacks, ice and firewood and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fees range from \$31 a night to \$55 a night.

At FCPS, the busiest season is fall, followed by spring. Summer sees regular RV visitation but the tent usage drops off due to the heat, they said.

Nearly eighty percent of FCPA campers are from the DMV area. The others are from just about anywhere in the country. The close proximity to the nation’s capital makes Fairfax County a destination location for both RVs and tourists while they are in town.

Camp Culture and Nomadland

The camping culture may have gotten a boost from the recent movie hit “Nomadland.” The plot is about a woman in her sixties embarking on a journey through the American West after losing



Pohick’s assistant manager Brad Jackson.

everything in the recent recession, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. Although the limit at Nova Parks campgrounds is two weeks, the folks in Nomadland find ways around stay-limits and other conventional rules. The movie, starring Frances McDormand, won three Oscars.

There is a two-week limit at FCPA too, but in the off season between Labor Day to Memorial Day, campers can stay the maximum of 28 consecutive nights.

One way to get free camping is to work at the campground as a camp host, and in FCPA, there is a three-month contract, and the host “provides services for the benefit of the campground,” said Brad Jackson, the assistant park manager at Pohick.

It’s a year-round effort with each camp host putting in a 16-20 hour week cleaning cabins, bathrooms, campsites and even manning the check-in counter in the office but then the site fee is waived, Jackson said. In Nomadland, the camp host job was one way they got by, and the other was working for Amazon.

At Lake Fairfax, Campground Hosts serve as a “live-in” host for a four week period, the park website said.

On occasion some campers may become a little loud after quiet hours. Generally the campground host resolves these behavioral situations, park officials said. Fairfax County Police support the campground operation with routine patrols through the Fairfax County parks.



A couple of cabins are part of the camping experience at Pohick Bay.

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“Enough Already”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As my late mother would have suggested after reading four consecutive weeks of Kenny’s column being on the same subject: the second degree burns on my feet, I am finally moving on. Though my feet and mobility have not entirely returned to normal, I am nonetheless finished with this arc and am returning to my regular subject: cancer.

After being a cancer patient for so long now, it’s easy to forget exactly what the side effects are for a particular medicine that you’re presently taking versus one that you used to take. Granted, it’s not rocket science, but it is confusing, especially after 12-plus years of treatment and having taken over a dozen different types of chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy; most for lung cancer, some for thyroid cancer. Throw in that the patient (yours truly) is over age 65 and likely experienced a touch or two of “chemo brain” (a kind of memory loss brought on by chemotherapy) over the many years of treatment and before you can say alimta, avastin, tarceva and opdivo, you can’t even distinguish one from the other. Considering these varying medicines kept you alive for a time, is a bit disconcerting at the least and really scary at the most. However, the bigger picture is that I’m still alive and whatever bumps and bruises I’ve experienced along the road, I’m still able to drive, if you know what I mean?

Nevertheless, it’s important to stay current and aware of the likely side effects because not knowing/recalling them can lead to unnecessary and unhelpful worry: is this the cancer or some predictable side effect? Whatever makes this awareness/lack of awareness challenging is that the side effects vary from one treatment/medicine to the next and are not always consistent in their occurrence and/or intensity.

As an example, currently, I am experiencing shortness of breath. It is a side effect of lenvima, the thyroid cancer drug I’m taking daily. However, I haven’t been as short of breath as I am now as I had been the previous few weeks. At least I know it’s a side effect so I’m not freaking out. Still, is a side effect that was not happening, problematic, when nothing else (increased dosage) has happened? In fact, I’ve already had the dosage reduced twice from 24 mg to 10 mg primarily because I was too short of breath, and experienced a touch of dizziness/vertigo as well. The goal in deciding dosage, as I understand it/have been told, is to try and find the “sweet spot” where the minimal dosage results in the maximum benefit: controlled disease/no progression. And now, with my most recent cancer marker down to seven from a high of over 200 last year, the medicine certainly seems to be working. The dilemma is determining how much can the dosage be reduced before it allows the cancer to grow? My oncologist has always been concerned with quality of life so we’ve regularly adjusted doses depending on the results of lab work and my quarterly scans.

It seems silly to mess with success. And besides shortness of breath - to me, is a minor inconvenience considering the stakes. I just have to be aware and remind myself that a cancer diagnosis, especially one which started with a “13 month to two year” prognosis, is fraught with many challenges and inconsistencies. Sometimes, what’s up is down and what’s down is up. It’s all very disorienting and if my life wasn’t at risk, I might find this experience mildly amusing, even curious (as Data from “Star Trek: Next Generation” might say). But, on the contrary, my situation is as serious as a heart attack, which fortunately I’ve never suffered, thank God! I just hope if it does occur, I’ll recognize the symptoms for what they are, rather than as a side effect of the medication I take for my thyroid cancer. What a mistake that would be. And I’d have no one to blame but myself. As a cancer patient, I have one key responsibility: pay attention to my body, and keep my eye on the ball.

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

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