

Amanda Ellauri, Cora Roberts, Francis Scarborough, Christian Ellauri, Erin Ellauri and Mason and Marcel Girasso. A family get-together with Ruben their dog on the towpath near Great Falls.

Potomac ALMANAC

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

PHOTO BY DEBBIE STEVENS/POTOMAC ALMANAC

Garden Club Celebrates 60 Years

GREEN, PAGE 4

Snakeheads Thriving In Local Waters

NATURE, PAGE 6-7

Sunny and Spectacular In November

FUN, PAGE 3

NOVEMBER 10-16, 2021

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

August, 2021 Sales,
\$1,500,000~\$1,440,000

IN AUGUST, 2021, 76 POTOMAC HOMES
SOLD BETWEEN \$4.675,000-\$455,000.

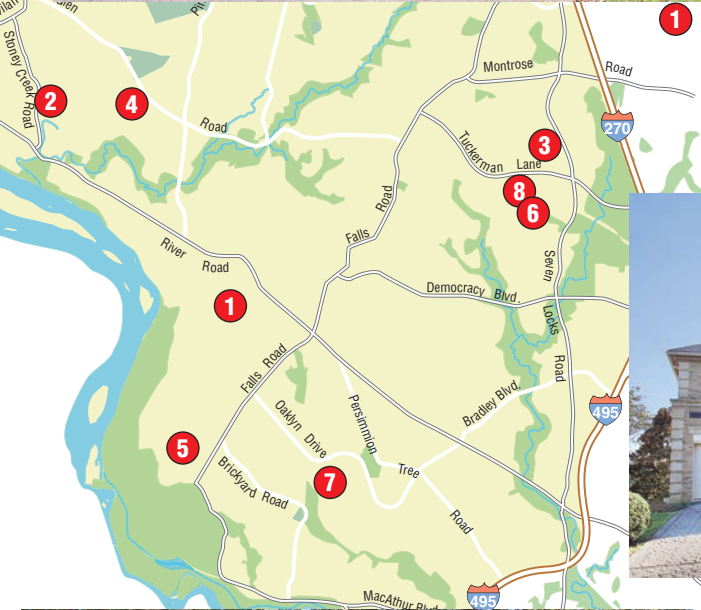
3 11410
Patriot Lane
— \$1,400,000



8 8021
Cobble Creek Circle
— \$1,440,000



1 10861 Spring Knoll Drive
— \$1,500,000



6 8031 Cobble Creek Circle
— \$1,449,900



7 10040
Chartwell Manor Court
— \$1,445,000



5 8915 Bel Air Place — \$1,450,000

Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal City.....	Sold Price...	Type.....	Lot AC.	Postal Code ...	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
1 10861 SPRING KNOLL DR.....	6...	4.....		POTOMAC	\$1,500,000 ...	Detached..	2.22.....	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	08/11/21
2 11911 STONEY CREEK RD ..	7...	4...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,500,000 ...	Detached..	1.56.....	20854	BEALLMOUNT.....	08/12/21
3 11410 PATRIOT LN	5...	6...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,490,000 ...	Detached..	0.16.....	20854	POTOMAC CREST ..	08/10/21
4 11628 GLEN RD	4...	3...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,450,000 ...	Detached..	2.03.....	20854	POTOMAC	08/03/21
5 8915 BEL AIR PL	4...	3...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,450,000 ...	Detached..	2.16.....	20854	POTOMAC FALLS...	08/20/21
6 8031 COBBLE CREEK CIR.....	5...	4...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,449,900 ...	Detached..	0.15.....	20854	POTOMAC CREST ...	08/13/21
7 10040 CHARTWELL MANOR CT 5...	5...	5...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,445,000 ...	Detached..	0.27.....	20854	AVENEL	08/06/21
8 8021 COBBLE CREEK CIR	5...	4...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,440,000 ...	Detached..	0.19.....	20854	POTOMAC CREST ..	08/20/21

COPYRIGHT 2021 MARK ETSTATS FOR SHOWINGTIME. SOURCE: BRIGHT MLS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2021
HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2021/JUL/16/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-JUNE-2021/

Stunning Fall Day Along the C&O Canal



Julie Perlman and her friend from Jerusalem Rachel P. Cohen.



Abigail Weiss and her 2-week-old son Zeke Lipson out in the sunshine along the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

PHOTOS BY
DEBBIE STEVENS

Monday was a November day to remember, with sunshine, peak fall colors and temperatures in the mid 60s. Families and friends of all ages turned out to hike and enjoy the day along the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Quang Pham, Will Patt, Joseph Whelpley, Mike Christenson, Recca Rae, Geneva Clarke and Lucy Treene. The friends were taking a hike on the canal together on Monday, Nov. 8 to enjoy such a warm beautiful day when the trees were so colorful.



Amanda Ellauri, Cora Roberts, Francis Scarborough, Christian Ellauri, Erin Ellauri and Mason and Marcel Girasso. A family get-together with Ruben their dog on the towpath near Great Falls.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Kayaker Jim Barry heads off into the Potomac River.



More than 40 members of the Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac turned out for a brunch to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary.

Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a brunch at Congressional Country Club on Oct. 7. Using the theme "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (which also has its 60th anniversary this year), the planning committee designed centerpieces, programs, a menu card, and filled Tiffany gift bags with party favors. Over 40 members attended, all dressed to emulate Katherine Hepburn's role of Holly Golightly, so there was a lot of sparkle and glitter.

After the brunch, the club recognized past presidents, emeritus members, and new members. Emeritus members spoke on what they had learned from being a member and the meaning it has had in their lives. Patricia Olsen, president, noted that while the club has increased their gardening knowledge and contributed to the beautification of the community, the real reason ladies have joined, gotten involved and stayed involved through time is because of the relationships they have developed through the years.

Little Farms Garden Club has been a fixture in Potomac since 1961. Its objectives have always been civic responsibility, neighborhood beautification and horticultural education. Past projects in Potomac have been landscaping

areas of Potomac Elementary, the construction of the Gazebo at Potomac Place Shopping Center on River Road, planting cherry trees in the Village, raising funds for the construction of a brick median on River Road & Falls Roads, Christmas decorating of Great Falls Tavern, developing the Blue Star Memorial Garden honoring members of our Armed Forces at the Potomac Community Center, installing an additional LFGC memorial garden at the Community Center, landscaping Rockland House for women in transition from homelessness, work with developmentally challenged individuals in their Garden Therapy program, and most recently patio pot landscaping for Byron House, an assisted living facility.

Outside Potomac, the club has volunteered at the National Arboretum, participated in the Washington Cathedral Flower Mart Show, and furnished decorated trees and wreaths at the Botanical Gardens and Strathmore Hall. In addition to their monthly presentations on gardening and nature preservation, the club often takes educational tours of historic gardens and homes and has conducted formal flower shows.

Every December at their Gathering for Giving holiday party, they collect gift cards to be donated to families in need through Potomac



Club President Patricia Olsen received the Eleanor Kaiser award. Trish Lavelle received the Virginia Merchant award. From left, Patricia Olsen, president; Trish Lavelle; and Jean Mullan, past president.

Community Resources. Last year the club donated money to MANNA and Nourish Now food banks.

LFGC is a testimony to the philosophy that good things do stand the test of time.



Linda Sillin and Sandy Lavery, chair and co chair of the event.



The 60th anniversary centerpieces were done in Tiffany-blue boxes in keeping with the "Breakfast at Tiffany's" theme.



What the Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act Will Deliver for Maryland

The more than \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed on Friday, Nov. 5 will bring much needed help to Maryland, according to this statement from the White House.

Recently released state-level data demonstrates that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver for Maryland. For decades, infrastructure in Maryland has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Maryland a C grade on its infrastructure report card. The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for millions of Maryland residents, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century.

Specifically, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will repair and rebuild roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety

for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. In Maryland there are 273 bridges and over 2,201 miles of highway in poor condition.

Since 2011, commute times have increased by 5.1% in Maryland and on average, each driver pays \$637 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. Based on formula funding alone, Maryland would expect to receive \$4.1 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and \$409 million for bridge replacement and repairs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years.

Maryland can also compete for the \$12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges and nearly \$16 billion of national funding in the bill dedicated for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will also:

- ❖ Improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans. Marylanders who take public transportation spend an extra 66.3% of their time commuting and non-White households are 2.7 times more likely to commute via public transportation. 23% of transit vehicles in the state are past useful life. Based on formula funding alone, Maryland would expect to receive \$1.7 billion over five years under the

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the state.

- ❖ Build a network of EV chargers to facilitate long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options. The U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) sales is only one-third the size of the Chinese EV market. The President believes that must change. The bill invests \$7.5 billion to build out the first-ever national network of EV chargers in the United States

and is a critical element in the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to accelerate the adoption of EVs to address the climate crisis and

support domestic manufacturing jobs. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Maryland would expect to receive \$63 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state.

Maryland will also have the opportunity to apply for the \$2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.

- ❖ Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet. Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health care, and to stay connected. Yet 11% of Maryland households do not have an internet subscription, and 2% of Marylanders live in areas where, under the FCC's benchmark, there is no broadband infrastructure. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Maryland will receive a

minimum allocation of \$100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 148,000 Marylanders who currently lack it. And, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 1,042,000 or 17% of people in Maryland will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.

- ❖ Prepare more of our infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events. From 2010 to 2020, Maryland has experienced 31 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$10 billion in damages. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on historical formula funding levels, Maryland will expect to receive \$7.9 million over five years to protect against wildfires and \$15.9 million to protect against cyberattacks. Marylanders will also bene-

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE, PAGE 10



HOME SERVICES

Cabinet Makeover



Before & After

Hello there, Our local team is based in your area. We'd like to provide you with a free in-home or virtual Cabinet Makeover consultation and quote.

Sincerely,

Paul Ginnetti
Home Depot Installation Services
Local Team Leader

LET US HELP YOU REDO YOUR CABINETS

in as few as 3-5 days*

- Minimal Downtime**
Quick install in as few as 3-5 days, once product has been custom made
- Smart & Stylish Upgrades**
Add cabinet organization, countertops, sinks, and backsplashes to your project
- Options for Every Style**
Choose from a wide variety of style, finish and hardware options
- Project Management**
Start-to-finish project management backed by The Home Depot



Scan this QR Code

Call or visit for your **FREE IN-HOME OR VIRTUAL CONSULTATION**

HOMEDOT.COM/MYCABINETMAKEOVER

240-945-2683

YOUR SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY The health and safety of our customers, associates and service providers is our top priority, and we're continuing to take extra precautions. Visit [homedepot.com/hscovidsafety](https://www.homedepot.com/hscovidsafety) for more information about how we are responding to COVID-19.

Home Depot local Service Providers are background checked, insured, licensed and/or registered. License or registration numbers held by or on behalf of Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. are available at [homedepot.com/licenses](https://www.homedepot.com/licenses) or at the Special Services Desk in The Home Depot store. State specific licensing information includes: AL 51289, 1924; AK 25084; AZ ROC252435, ROC092581; AR 0228160520; CA 602331; CT HIC.533772; DC 420214000109, 410517000372; FL CRC046858, CGC1514813; GA RBC0005730, GCC0005540; HI CT-22120; ID RCE-19683; IA C091302; LA 43960, 557308, 883162; MD 85434, 42144; MA 112785, CS-107774; MI 2101089942, 2102119069; MN BC147263; MS 22222-MC; MT 37730; NE 26085; NV 38686; NJ 13VH09277500; NM 86302; NC 31521; ND 29073; OR 95843; The Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. is a Registered General Contractor in Rhode Island and its Registration Number is 9480; SC GLG110120; TN 47781; UT 286936-5501; VA 2705-068841; WA HOMED088RH; WV WV036104; WI 1046796. ©2021 Home Depot Product Authority, LLC. All rights reserved. *The addition of countertops, backsplash, lighting and/or organization may add additional time to your project.

LCL21K_CM02

Snakeheads Are Thriving in Area Waters

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE ALMANAC

They lurk in the murky, sluggish shallows, their elongated bodies and splotchy, brown skin camouflaged in the shoreline's woody detritus and dense vegetation. With gaping mouths and sharp, canine-type teeth, they snatch and devour any unsuspecting prey that happens by. They are invasive northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*). They hit hard and fight hard, say anglers who relish the challenge. Think of a writhing snake up to 35 inches long on the end of your fishing line.

Virginia ichthyologist John Odenkirk and his Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources team are probing Potomac River tributaries -- Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek, Aquia Creek and Pohick Creek -- and Belmont Bay and Gunston Cove, to get snakehead population estimates, sampling research he began in 2004. His team buzzes around in a 17-foot aluminum jon boat and "electrofishes" with a metal, spider-like device that dangles off the bow and shoots pulses into the water.

The electrical current temporarily stuns all fish within six-to-eight feet, which causes the exposed fish to float around aimlessly for about 20 seconds. Then the team scoops up the snakeheads with a net, not always effortlessly.

"The snakehead is the hardest fish to shock," Odenkirk explains. They are strong and belligerent and they recover quickly.

The team attaches tags to some in hopes of eventually recapturing tagged fish to collect data on the fish's lifespan, migration, growth, spawning success and diet.

Odenkirk records his catch rate, number of fish caught per hour of electrofishing. In Little Hunting Creek, the catch rate peaked in 2012 and 2013 when he caught 11.5 a hour. It's been declining since and this year, they are catching six snakeheads an hour there. This catch rate is typical of other area waterways as well, he says. But while the catch rate may have dropped since 2013, snakeheads

are here "for the foreseeable future," he says.

Snakeheads have made it as far inland as Huntley Meadows Park. Snakeheads and other fish travel up and down the streams that connect to the Potomac River. Karen Sheffield, the park's manager, says that occasionally, people want to fish in the park, but she stresses that fishing is not allowed there. "Touching, capturing and removing species from the park is prohibited," she says.

The snakehead's super-aggressive reputation has attracted eager anglers from as far away as England, Japan and Africa, says Mount Vernon resident Steve Chaconas who runs National Bass Guide Service. "I see snakeheads quite frequently," he says, "but catching them is a different story as angling skills need to be up to the challenge. They put up a fierce fight."

SEE SNAKEHEADS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The team scoops up stunned snakeheads for study.

Snakeheads taste like a tender pork chop, some say.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Odenkirk shows the snakehead's mouth and teeth.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

John Odenkirk and team at the Wessynton community dock.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The electrofishing device, a boom and anode array used on Little Hunting Creek and other waterways. The Potomac River is in the background.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Team members measure the caught snakeheads.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Tagging snakeheads



PHOTO BY JACK EYLER

A snakehead's mouth.

Snakeheads Are Thriving in Area Waters

FROM PAGE 6

How Did They Get Here?

Snakeheads are native to Asia. Ecologists generally view invasive or exotic species as problematic because many can outcompete native species, disrupt native biological communities and degrade natural ecosystems.

It's unclear how northern snakeheads got to metropolitan Washington-area waters, but experts speculate that aquarists may have released them when the fish outgrew home tanks, or someone may have intentionally introduced them for food. They have a muscular texture, don't flake and taste like a tender pork chop, some say.

The first, widely-reported snakehead surfaced in the news in 2002 when one was found in a Crofton, Md., pond. Tall tales viralized across the media, hyperbolic reports claiming that the fish could attack people, eat pets and walk on land. These exaggerated claims led to nicknames like "Frankenfish" and "Fishzilla."

Northern Snakeheads were discovered in Virginia in 2004 and can be found in the Potomac River almost anywhere, according to the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, from above Great Falls downstream to Chesapeake Bay.

Survivors

Because they can survive in both fresh and saltwater and tolerate polluted, poorly oxygenated water, they have a competitive advantage over many other fish. Females can lay 30,000 to 50,000 eggs.

Snakeheads are opportunistic, voracious eaters. Odenkirk has found 16 fish species, crayfish and frogs in their stomachs. "They'll even eat their own young," he says. "If it's hungry, it will eat it."

The current world record for a snakehead caught was a snakehead shot with a bow and arrow in 2018 in a Potomac tributary, Mattawoman Creek, in Charles County, Md. It was 35 inches long and weighed 19.9 pounds.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Impacts

When snakeheads were first discovered in area waters, some worried that they might adversely affect the Potomac's renowned large-mouth bass fishery because snakeheads and this bass species have the same prey base at certain times of the year. But Odenkirk has not confirmed any negative impacts on large-mouth bass from his 20 years of data for the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers.

Snakeheads find banded killifish a favored prey. George Mason University data show an increase in banded killifish after the snakeheads arrived, so Odenkirk has concluded that snakeheads' impact on the fish he's studied is not significant. He is not aware of studies of snakehead impact on amphibian or invertebrate populations, such as frogs, crayfish and aquatic insects.

The Future

Snakeheads will expand their range and colonize new waters on their own and through human intervention, Odenkirk predicts. They will be all over the U.S. eventually, he says. Their population numbers seem to peak and then decline and stabilize. "That's what's happening in the Mount Vernon area because they are expanding their range," he explains.

"They are here to stay."

Snakehead Rules

If you catch a snakehead and want to possess it, kill it (by removing the head, gutting it or separating the gill arches from the body), and contact the Department of Wildlife Resources at 804-367-2925. It is illegal to own a live northern snakehead in Virginia without a permit. Visit <https://dwr.virginia.gov/fishing/snakehead/>.

For a Robert Field video, "Fishing for Invasive Northern Snakehead Field Trips Virginia," visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HdWNN3HVGQ>.

Like to help others?



Potomac
Community
Village

Volunteer with us. Meet new neighbors.
It's all about helping Potomac seniors
remain in their homes as they age.

to learn more or to volunteer:

info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org

240-221-1370

Past issues of

**THE
CONNECTION**
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

15th Annual



Alexandria
Film Festival

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENTS FOR 15 YEARS!

STREAMING

November 11-25

Tickets and Schedule at

AlexFilmFest.com

#AlexFilmFest

@AlexFilmFest

Creating a Holiday-Ready Kitchen

Local designers offer tips for a quick spruce-up.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the holiday season begins in less than two weeks, a home's kitchen is the center stage for holiday parties and even casual gatherings with friends. But many people feel that their kitchen could use an overhaul. Local designers offer suggestions for making the best of your space.

"Though a remodeling project is unrealistic given the time constraints, minor tweaks can spruce up or refresh a kitchen," said Angela Morrison, designer and founder of Morrison Style in Vienna. "You don't have to redo your entire house for the holidays. You can easily do a few easy things to make it look updated for the holidays."

After giving her kitchen a quick makeover in advance of a Hanukkah party that she hosted for her children's friends and their parents three years ago, Linda Goldstein, a Bethesda based mother and interior designer, says that she developed several strategies for making a big impact on a dated kitchen in a minimal amount of time.

"I tried several design tricks, so I know that they work," she said. "I have shared these with my clients who have short lead times, but they want to have a kitchen that looks decent for the holidays. You can make mini adjustments that have a big impact and don't cost a lot of money."

Before tackling any design project, Fairfax based designer Julia Tull of Tull and Foley Designs believes in starting with the basics.

"Anytime you're sprucing up a space, it's a good idea to start by taking inventory of the space," she said. "During the holidays we are cooking a lot more food at one time, it's important to make a note of the things that are currently on your countertops and see what can be packed away to free up much needed space. Crockpots and waffle irons can be stored elsewhere."

Something as simple as a fresh coat of paint can transform a kitchen with a minimal investment in time and money. "Over even just a few years, paint can start to look dingy and dirty, and this can really bring down the look and feel of your kitchen," said Jennifer Moriarty, an interior design student who lives in Alexandria. "Instead of leaving it, take a day or two and add a fresh coat of paint to your cabinets and kitchen walls."

"In most cases it's better to hire a professional painter, but you can also do it yourself and make them look respectable and save



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adding holiday accessories to a kitchen countertop can create a festive space.

money," added Goldstein.

Updating hardware can give an outdated kitchen an updated look. "Replace the kitchen pulls and handles," said Moriarty. "It's not a bad idea to splurge on them and reuse them if you decide to remodel your kitchen in the near future."

"Another easy thing you could do in a day is to replace the faucets," continued Moriarty. "It can be done in a day and is another inexpensive option."

Replacing a kitchen's window treatments can transform a room instantly, easily and inexpensively suggests private interior designer Anita Stanley of Woodbridge. "The design options are plentiful," she said. "Very few things transform the

style of a room like window treatments."

Replacing outdated or worn flooring might be a long-term project, but Chris Katkish, general manager, InSite Builders & Remodeling in Bethesda suggests a quick fix.

"Consider using Peel and stick tile for flooring," he said. "Not a permanent solution but could be just enough to get through the holidays."

Replacing lighting will brighten a kitchen space and create an updated look. "Add inexpensive under-counter LED lighting," said Katkish. "Toe kick lighting is not very common, but a great way to make a space pop."

Lighting can make even the most dated cabinets look chic, said Linda Berkson of Berkson Interiors in Vienna. "Under cabinet lighting brings attention to the beautiful tile work of your backsplash and adds a festive glow to your kitchen," she said. "Under cabinet lighting kits are easy to install and can be found on Amazon."

Holiday lights are for more than trimming the tree. "As the days grow shorter, lighting becomes more comforting," said Morrison.



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design suggests selecting one section of a countertop and making it a drink center during the holiday season.

"Put mini lights on top of your cabinets. You buy different color lights and swap out the color for the particular holiday. Orange lights work for Thanksgiving, blue for Hanukkah and red and green for Christmas."

Try adding accessories in holiday colors, suggests lead designer Jen Patton of Patton and Patton Interiors. "You can swap out things like potholders, vases, dishware, and candles from everyday patterns to holiday-inspired ones," she said. "Add a few cheerful touches of red, green, and silver. Maybe you could add a garland on the wall or a small vase with pinecones, festive berries, and candles for a centerpiece."

"If you have the space, you can hang a wreath on one of your walls or drape garland on top of a cabinet," said Patton. "Use a mini-Christmas tree, holiday candles or ornaments, to create a centerpiece."

"Do you get a lot of cards?" asks Berkson. "Perhaps attach them to cascading grosgrain or another type of ribbon and turn a plain wall into a festive display."

Even those with Formica countertops that are reminiscent of the 1970s, can create the illusion of elegance and festivity. "If you don't like your counters and don't have the time or money to redo them, you can always cover sections with holiday placemats or nice cutting boards," said Patton.

When the counters are satisfactory, they can be versatile. "Take one section of a



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Creating a beverage station keeps guests out of the work space, but still part of the conversation, says Allie Mann of Case Architects & Remodelers.

countertop and make it the drink center," said Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design, based in McLean, VA. "That way, you will not have guests making drinks where you are trying to cook. Line up the bottles, fill a decanter and show your guests a great time."

Use the space to create stations that are streamlined and inviting. "It's a quick way to update the kitchen for the holidays and keeps [guests] out of the work space, but still part of the conversation," said Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist with Case Architects & Remodelers in Falls Church, VA.

Those fortunate enough to have a kitchen island can enjoy the luxury of an additional canvas on which to express holiday creativity. "Consider using it to lay out a buffet," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design in Bethesda. "It could also serve as a great

kids' table."

As with other facets of the impending holiday festivities, practicing expectation management with kitchen design is essential for a peaceful Yuletide season. "You have to be realistic about what can and can't be done," said Berkson. "You can embellish your kitchen table and counters with simple seasonal décor, but you can't redesign it in two weeks. Try to get easy kitchen maintenance done now and make a mental note of any bigger projects you'd like to complete next year."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"Anytime you're sprucing up a space, it's a good idea to edit the room first."

— Julia Tull,
Tull and Foley Designs, Fairfax

"You can embellish your kitchen table and counters with simple seasonal décor, but you can't redesign it in two weeks."

— Linda Berkson,
Berkson Interiors in Vienna

I-495 and I-270 P-3 Toll Lanes Project

Letters Requesting Extension of Comment Time

TO: Jeanette Mar, Environmental Program Manager Federal Highway Administration, Maryland Division

Jeff Folden, Project Director I-495 and I-270 P-3 Project Office Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration

FROM: Josh Tulkin, Director Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Nov. 9, 2021

According to the National Environmental Policy Act, the public must be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the likely I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Study project impacts.

"Each environmental impact statement shall contain a summary that adequately and accurately summarizes the statement." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.12.

We have learned that the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for this project was so hastily issued that there are gross errors that need to be corrected, without which the public has an impaired understanding of the project impacts. The only appropriate course of action is to reissue the SDEIS with these significant errors corrected. The SDEIS contains up to order-of-magnitude errors in seven different types of environmental impacts. This misinformation is presented in three different links on the SDEIS webpage (Executive Summary, page ES-13). Anyone seeking to comment on the SDEIS would have seen these (in the Executive Summary and in the full SDEIS without appendices), and unless they read far enough in the SDEIS they would likely not have caught the errors. Anyone who utilized the executive summary to formulate comments had incorrect information and may have thereby underestimated impacts in their area(s) of specific concern.

About 3,000 comments were received on the DEIS so these mistakes could impact a large number of public comments or could lead some people not to comment at all because of the false information. For example, the SDEIS Executive Summary wrongly says 48.8 acres of forest canopy will be impacted. The number should be 500.1. The Executive Summary wrongly says 500.1 acres of rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat will be impacted.

According to Chapter 4, the number of acres should be 56.4. Instead of 46,553 linear feet of stream being impacted, the Executive Summary wrongly says 1,017,702 would be impacted. Unique and sensitive areas acreage should be 168.5, but in the Executive Summary it is wrongly listed as 44.5. The Executive Summary lists 100-year floodplain impacts as 0 when it should be 48.8 acres. MDOT has made no effort to correct these numbers for the public in the past 40 days.

These numbers urgently require correction and re-release of the documents to the public.

These errors in the scale of the environmental impacts of the project come on top of flaws and errors in the traffic model, which were raised in letters from the Montgomery County Council and U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and U.S. Reps. Anthony Brown and Jamie Raskin. Errors in the traffic modeling have wide reaching influence in estimation of project impacts, including toll rate assumptions, financial assumptions, congestion delay, and air quality, greenhouse gas, noise, and environmental justice impacts. These are areas of concern for groups and municipalities, who are now reviewing the SDEIS.

Note, the Mayor and Council of Rockville stated in their letter to you: "Our residents are greatly concerned about this project's physical and equity impacts on their communities, encroachment on their lands, effects on traffic, and the high tolls."

The SDEIS currently available for public comment has errors so substantial that the only adequate way to address this is to withdraw the SDEIS for comment, correct

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement contains up to order-of-magnitude errors in seven different types of environmental impacts.

the errors, and reissue the SDEIS with the corrections for a new 45-day or more comment period. We look forward to your timely re-



Even short lane closures for construction cause large backups.

sponse to this urgent matter.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/maryland-chapter/MDSC-Letter-Mar-Folden-Nov9-2021.pdf>

TO: Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration

FROM: Benjamin Ross, Chair, Maryland Transit Opportunities Coalition; Barbara Coufal, Co-Chair, Citizens Against Beltway Expansion; Janet Gallant and Sally Stolz, Coordinators, DontWiden270.org

October 18, 2021

On October 1, FHWA and the Maryland Dept. of Transportation issued a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. The subject of the SDEIS is a new alternative, not addressed in the DEIS, which adds toll lanes from the George Washington Bridge in Virginia to I-370 in Maryland. MDOT has selected this as the Preferred Alternative, leaving the choice of alternative for the remainder of I-495 undetermined. The SDEIS contains no valid information on how the Preferred Alternative will affect vehicle movement because

its traffic model is invalid. The output of the SDEIS's traffic model is contrary to common sense, logic, and traffic forecasting done by MDOT itself before Maryland

This project will cost billions of dollars in taxpayer money and will affect the lives of Maryland residents and their communities, lands, and water for generations.

suddenly reversed its policy. As a result, the SDEIS provides no basis for determining whether the Preferred Alternative satisfies the project's Purpose and Need, what the air pollution and noise impacts will be, and whether it will disproportionately harm Environmental Justice populations. We therefore request that you withdraw the SDEIS and instruct MDOT to identify the causes of the traffic model's failure, develop a valid model, and reissue the SDEIS with an explanation of the reasons for the previous failure and a thorough validation of the new model. A key location where the SDEIS traffic model fails spectacularly is the merge at Wisconsin Avenue where the I-270 east spur meets the Capital Beltway. This is already one of the most congested parts of the Beltway. It is obvious

that feeding in three more lanes of traffic (two from the Beltway and one from I-270), without adding capacity at the merge point, will worsen congestion there. This is a crucial difference between the new Preferred Alternative and the build alternatives studied in the DEIS, which all increase capacity at that merge point.

<https://transitformaryland.org/sites/default/files/pollackletter.pdf>

TO: Jeanette Mar, Jeff Folden

FROM: Montgomery County Council: Tom Hucker, president; Gabe Albornoz, vice president; Evan Glass, At-Large; Will Jawando, At-Large; Sidney Katz, District 3; Nancy Navarro, District 4

We are writing to ask for an extension of the comment period on the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Preparation of an SDEIS was required due to a major change in scope of the project. The SDEIS was issued for public comment on October 1 with a 45-day comment period and a Nov. 1 hearing date. Serious questions have been raised about the validity of the traffic modeling that underpins the SDEIS, which focuses on

the new project scope (Phase 1 South). The traffic modeling feeds into toll rate assumptions, financial assumptions, and congestion, air quality, and noise impacts, so errors in the traffic modeling affect determination

of impacts across a wide range of types. We need time for our county's transportation and planning staff to independently analyze the traffic effects of this project. The comment period for the SDEIS has been set at 45 days, which is 78 days shorter than the comment period for the earlier Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This compressed time period of 45 days does [not] allow our county staff time for meaningful review and comment.

Our constituents, including over 40 stakeholder groups, the City of Rockville, and citizen groups, have already raised concerns and requested a longer comment period. Among the reasons are that the 8,000-page SDEIS cross-references a 19,000-page DEIS and that mul-

SEE TOLL LANES, PAGE 11

Millionaires Surtax on Incomes Above \$10 Million

U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md) and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va) applauded the inclusion of their millionaires surtax within the Build Back Better Framework. Van Hollen and Beyer initially introduced this concept in their Millionaires Surtax Act in November 2019 and reintroduced this legislation in June of this year.

The millionaires surtax included in the Build Back Better Framework would impose a 5% tax on incomes above \$10 million and an 8% tax on incomes above \$25 million, raising \$230 billion over 10 years from the wealthiest 0.02% of Americans.

This provision had already received broad support, having been included in the House Ways & Means Committee's reconciliation legislation passed by the Committee in September. <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-beyer-introduce-new-millionaires-surtax-to-invest-in-working-families>

"It's time for the wealthy to do more to help our entire country succeed. That's why Congressman Beyer and I have repeatedly pushed for a millionaires surtax, and why we fought to use this common-sense measure to fund the historic investments

in the Build Back Better Framework. This provision will help bring greater equity to our tax system and will allow us to invest in policies that bring more prosperity and opportunity to all Americans," said Van Hollen.

"Millionaires and billionaires largely prospered during the pandemic, seeing a huge explosion of wealth while the rest of the country endured a recession, and it's time that they paid their fair share of the tax burden and helped shoulder the cost of building a better society," said Beyer. "Our idea of a surtax has an elegant simplicity, capturing all income without loopholes or carveouts for the rich, and it only affects the very wealthy, raising billions we always hoped would be spent on priorities like early child care, health care, and fighting climate change."

Beyer previously issued a statement on the revised corporate minimum tax introduced by Senators Warren, King, and Wyden, which was also included in the Build Back Better framework.

Beyer is the House sponsor of Warren/King corporate minimum tax legislation. <https://beyer.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx>

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.

REGISTRATION FOR RECREATION WINTER PROGRAMS BEGINS NOV. 8

Registration for the Montgomery County Recreation (MCR) and Montgomery Parks winter classes and programs opens Monday, Nov. 8. MCR winter offerings include fitness, sports, visual and performing arts and more. In addition to swim lessons, the winter aquatic programming includes activities such as Waterbabies, Scuba and Aqua Spin. Online registration is available at ActiveMONTGOMERY.org. Registration is

also available by mail or limited in-person appointments.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Scouting for Food. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At William F. Bolger Center upper parking lot off Democracy Blvd., 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Please help the Scouts reach 1 million pounds in food donations for the National Capital Area Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to help the hungry. Two additional sites will be held at the same time at Holy Redeemer Catholic School (parking lot), 9715 Summit Ave, Kensington, and Loehmann's Plaza parking lot, 5296 Randolph

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Infrastructure Investment

FROM PAGE 5

fit from the bill's historic \$3.5 billion national investment in weatherization which will reduce

energy costs for families.

❖ Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation's lead service lines and pipes. Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water.

Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on the traditional state revolving fund formula, Maryland will expect to receive \$844 million over five years to im-

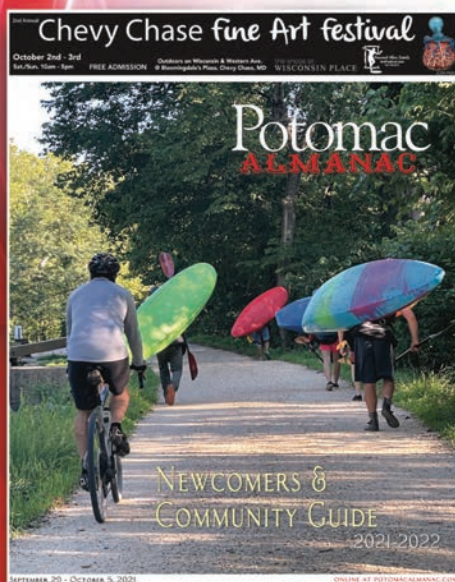
prove water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.

❖ Improve our nation's airports. The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, airports in Maryland would receive approximately \$158 million for infrastructure development for airports over five years.

Over the coming days and weeks, we will expect to receive additional data on the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in Maryland.

SHOUT OUT YOUR MESSAGE

- Exclusive message to affluent readers and viewers -
- ONLY advertiser on front page of each 8 markets -
- Show an event, sale, new product or service & more -



AVAILABLE FOR:

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Mount Vernon Gazette

POTOMAC
ALMANAC

For Advertising: Call 703-778-9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

We Bring the Zoo to You!



Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

News

Toll Lanes Project

FROM PAGE 9

tiple comment periods (Section 106 and toll rate range setting) for the project have overlapped the current SDEIS comment period. The COVID epidemic and delta variant also present difficulties for review and information sharing with affected groups. Furthermore, the project is highly controversial, may not address congestion, and has known adverse impacts on communities, environment, and nationally and internationally important historic sites. We support our constituents' reasonable requests for comment period extension, and we need the extension to conduct our own traffic analysis given the questionable validity of the traffic modeling used in the SDEIS. We strongly urge the agencies to extend the comment period until the questions about the validity of the traffic model have been resolved with a minimum of 120 days. We also suggest there be at least two hearing dates after the traffic modeling issue has been resolved.

TO: Jeanette Mar, Jeff Folden
FROM: U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin; U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen; U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin; U.S. Rep. Anthony Brown
 We write with respect to the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) on the proposed Managed Lanes I-495 & I-270 Public-Private Partnership (P3) for the Preferred Alternative 9 - Phase 1 South. In May, the preferred alternative was substantially altered, triggering the need for the SDEIS which was issued on October 1. Given the significant changes to the project, the length of the SDEIS and the ongoing difficulties with the COVID-19 epidemic, we urge the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and the Federal Highway Administration to extend the public comment to at least 90 days and to add an additional day of hearings to ensure that the public has adequate time to review and comment on the SDEIS.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Road, Rockville.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

THANKSGIVING PARADE ON NOV. 20

Looking for a safe and fun outdoor family event for the holidays? The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will usher in the holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m.

The parade kicks off with the thrilling sounds of marching bands, spinners with gold and orange hoops and streamers, and Thanksgiving-themed costumes and units, as well as a 12-foot turkey. Brian van de Graaff, ABC7 meteorologist, will be returning as the parade emcee.

In this year's parade, the Chanukah celebratory units appear early on because Chanukah comes early this year, just after Thanksgiving. The parade is filled with gymnasts and tumblers, performing dogs, colorful Mexican, Peruvian, and Bolivian dancing groups, fire trucks, music, colorful inflatable characters, and ends with Christmas trees, reindeer, presents, elves, and Santa! Special performances include dances from The Nutcracker's The Waltz

The extension should be sufficient for the agencies to address the traffic model issues and give the public the time and opportunity to provide meaningful public review and comment on all aspects of the SDEIS. The National Environmental Policy Act is designed to ensure the discovery and disclosure of the environmental and public health impacts of a project before construction is allowed.

Transparency by agencies and meaningful public participation are essential to the environmental review process. This is a substantial project that would stretch 12 miles through many communities as well as environmentally sensitive and culturally significant areas.

The SDEIS is 288 pages with just over 7,400 pages of technical reports. While lengthy in itself, the document draws on the original DEIS, which is more than 18,000 pages in total. Given the volume of material that the public and local agencies must review, the 45-day comment period is not sufficient to allow for meaningful participation.

As you know, COVID-19 creates significant challenges for many stakeholders. Some stakeholders have additional challenges when accessing the materials. Reviewing materials at local libraries is risky for those who are older and immunocompromised and virtual hearings create differential access for communities with lesser access to internet. To ensure the broadest engagement by the public, we urge the agencies to extend the comment period.

This project will cost billions of dollars in taxpayer money and will affect the lives of Maryland residents and their communities, lands, and water for generations. We therefore request that the agencies extend the public comment period to at least 90 days and add an additional day of hearings later in the process on the Managed Lanes I-495/I-270 P3 SDEIS. We look forward to your response and thank you for your serious attention to this matter.

of the Flowers by the Maryland Youth Ballet and Akhmedova Ballet's choreographed interpretation of ice skating at the Silver Spring Rink.

Families in attendance will be able to socially distance themselves, as the parade route continues for a mile along Ellsworth Drive, to and along Georgia Avenue, ending at Spring Street. The best area for those seeking more personal space is Georgia Avenue, since Ellsworth Drive can become quite crowded.

More information about the parade can be found at: <https://www.silverspringdowntown.com/montgomery-county-thanksgiving-parade>. You can also call MC311 at 3-1-1 (or 240-777-0311 if outside the County) Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

LIBRARIES OFFERS FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR JOB SEEKERS

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) is offering free online workshops and one-on-one sessions geared toward assisting job seekers and entrepreneurs throughout November. All workshops are offered virtually.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

@PotomacAlmanac

Newspaper of **Potomac**
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
 @MaryKimm

EDITORIAL

PHONE: 703-778-9415

E-MAIL:

almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Carole Dell, Kenny Lourie, Peggy McEwan, Ken Moore

Contributing Photographers

Deborah Stevens, Carole Dell

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh

Production Manager

Geovani Flores

ADVERTISING

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
 703-778-9431

Display Advertising:

Kenny Lourie 301-325-1398
klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
 703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President
 703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Potomac Almanac is published by Local Media Connection LLC

Five Time First Place Award-Winner Public Service
 MDDC Press Association

Four Time Newspaper of the Year
 An Award-winning Newspaper in Writing, Photography, Editing, Graphics and Design

"I Hope Nothing Bad Has Happened"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As heart-warming and sincere as this sentiment is, it's a bit of a window into my presumptive future. Similar in effect to the obituary I happened upon once in The Washington Post years ago. Randomly perusing the Obituary section, my eyes wandered up and to the right, and there it/he was: Samuel Tyson. You don't know him? Neither do I. But there it was beneath his photo, my exact date of birth including year: 9/30/54. It shook me up, I can tell you that. Seeing one's date of birth in the agate type of an Obituary section does give one pause: so that's what my date of birth is going to look like in the Obituary section. Yikes. It wasn't exactly a look into my future, but it was my birthdate.

This title was part of an email sent to our publisher inquiring about my whereabouts since the sender/reader hadn't seen my column for a few months. Again, so this is how some people might react when my column is no longer being printed, as in I'm no longer writing it, or anything else for that matter because I'll be "gishtorben," (Yiddish for dead). Again, a slice of death. It reminded me of a voice message my oncologist left me June of '20 - during the height of the pandemic. Because of an internal mechanism at my HMO, files on the computer are shrouded/darkened to indicate a patient's death. My oncologist came upon my computer file and it exhibited these patient-died clues. Shocked. My oncologist called my cell phone - hoping to talk to my wife, Dina, and when no one answered, proceeded to leave a nearly minute-long condolence message concerning my surprise death. Hearing that message was uncomfortable, sort of. Again, another slice of death moment. And not that we all don't occasionally have these near-misses in life, but when you're a cancer patient who originally received a "13 month to two year" prognosis, a "terminal" diagnosis if there ever was one; death/people dying/your proximity to any of it takes on an entirely new life - so to speak. You try not to get consumed by it, but when you've been told - quite unexpectedly, at age 54 and half that your life expectancy has just taken a 30-year hit, given your parent's age when they both died, the news tends to attach itself to you. As much as you try to be normal/you're pre-diagnosed self, after the medical facts are presented, jokes just aren't as funny, music isn't as uplifting and dancing - for me anyway, seemed particularly pointless. But since that's no way to live, I made a conscious effort to try to find humor in all of it and be as positive and upbeat as I could. Easier written than done.

That's because cancer/a serious medical condition is no laughing matter; "serious as a heart attack" to invoke an all-too-familiar refrain. But unless you find a way to navigate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (make that misfortune) to quote Cerphe from his old "WHFS" days, life becomes dreary and not worth living. Somehow, one must find light in the all-encompassing darkness and push back against the forces of negativity/death. There's a spiral out there and the more you're able to fight back - emotionally, and not become a victim of your own circumstances, the greater your chances of finding some kind of happiness/accommodation/assimilation in your life. Still, having a less-than-ideal medical prognosis/diagnosis is all it's cracked up to be. Nevertheless, making the best of a bad situation seemed the only logical option for me. My diagnosis was bad enough on its own, I didn't need to make it any worse by droning on about it. I had to accept it and move on, which is exactly what I did. And now I find humor in the blackest of contexts.

Unlike the popular country-music song from a few years ago that sang "Live like you were dying," I want to live like I was living. I don't want to be affected by my disease. I've found a way to live with it, not simply to die from it. Life's too short. Don't I know it.

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

POTOMAC PIZZA®

www.potomacpizza.com



CHEVY CHASE

COLLEGE PARK

MIDDLE RIVER

POTOMAC

TRAVILLE

**ALWAYS
FREE
DELIVERY!**

. CURBSIDE PICK UP .

. CONTACT-FREE DELIVERY .