

Potomac ALMANAC

Sign announcing cleanup at Dyke Marsh along the Potomac River and group gathering to start.



Earth Month

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More on Friends Of the Library

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Storage Solutions

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ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
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Potomac REAL ESTATE

February, 2022 Top Sales

IN FEBRUARY, 2022, 24 POTOMAC HOMES
SOLD BETWEEN \$2,275,000-\$525,000.



6 12100 Drews — \$1,660,000



5 10804 Balantre Lane — \$1,700,000



1 11510
Springridge Road
— \$2,275,000



4 9809 Hall Road — \$1,750,000

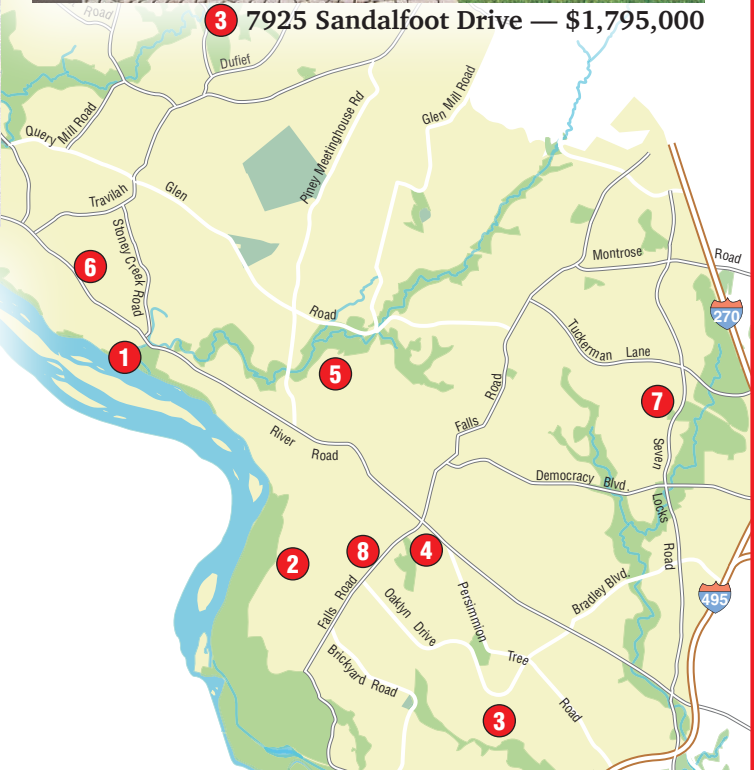
2 6 Stanmore Court
— \$2,000,000



3 7925 Sandalfoot Drive — \$1,795,000

Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City.....	Sold Price...	Type.....	Lot AC.	Postal Code ...	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
1 11510 SPRINGRIDGE RD.....	4	..	5	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,275,000	Detached..	3.16.....	20854.....	POTOMAC	02/18/22
2 6 STANMORE CT.....	7	...	5	...2	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,000,000	Detached..	2.00.....	20854..	GREAT FALLS ESTS.. 02/25/22
3 7925 SANDALFOOT DR.....	7	...	5	...2	.....	POTOMAC	\$1,795,000	Detached..	0.15.....	20854.....	AVENEL..... 02/17/22
4 9809 HALL RD.....	6	...	4	...2	.....	POTOMAC	\$1,750,000	Detached..	0.48.....	20854..	POTOMAC OUTSIDE 02/01/22
5 10804 BALANTRE LN.....	4	...	1	...1	.....	POTOMAC	\$1,700,000	Detached..	3.23.....	20854..	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS. 02/18/22
6 12100 DREWS.....	4	...	4	...1	.....	POTOMAC	\$1,660,000	Detached..	2.00.....	20854.....	BEALLMOUNT..... 02/28/22
7 7932 LAKENHEATH WAY.....	5	...	3	...1	.....	POTOMAC	\$1,650,000	Detached..	0.21.....	20854..	INVERNESS FOREST. 02/22/22
8 10509 BURBANK DR.....	7	...	5	...1	POTOMAC	\$1,650,000	Detached..	3.18.....	20854..	POTOMAC MANOR. 02/18/22

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[HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2022/APR/01/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-FEBRUARY-2022/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/APR/01/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-FEBRUARY-2022/)



One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest, Honorable Mention

Herbert Hoover Middle School 7th grade student Callie Deng won an Honorable Mention Award for her film about an oil spill in the national One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest in March. Callie's film will screen in a free, online event near Earth Day, on Monday, April 18, at 6 p.m. Registration is at bit.ly/YFCWinners.

Callie verbally and visually honors the beauty of Alaska's pristine natural setting in her 7.5-minute film "Sealing the Leak." Then she reminds us that in 1989, 11 million gallons of crude oil spilled into Prince William Sound after the Exxon Valdez super tanker ran aground, puncturing several cargo holds.

Callie interviews two experts about this disastrous accident and the lingering impact on wildlife and the local economy. Safety improvements have resulted, but we can

all reduce our use of oil by driving less and avoiding plastics, she concludes.

Seven other short, winning student films from among 13 honorable mention/notable winners will screen along with the Callie's film on Monday, April 18, at 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

The One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest will continue the celebration of award-winning student films via a virtual event to kick off Earth Week Mini Film Fest. See eight short, student films from among 13 honorable mention/notable winners.

Topics range from conserving the last frontier of Alaska, to reducing ocean waste, to disconnecting from electronics and re-connecting with the nature. Founding Director Sue Crothers will facilitate a short Q&A with each filmmaker after their film screens.

Contest Founding Director Sue Crothers will facilitate a short Q&A with each film-



Herbert Hoover Middle School 7th grade student Callie Deng.

maker after their films screen.

"There are some very thought-provoking films that should lead to interesting discus-

sions," said Crothers. "Students will Zoom in from the Midwest, East Coast, Scotland, and even Turkey."

These films are among the best from 148 submissions, as rated by a jury of 16 film and sustainability professionals. The Young Filmmakers Contest asks students from grade 3 to age 25 to create a 3- to 8-minute environmental film that inspires change or action. Animated or stop-motion films can be a minimum of 45 seconds long.

This Young Filmmakers event kicks off a week-long series of environmental documentaries, Earth Week Mini Film Fest from April 18 to 24, by One Earth Collective. Learn more at oneearthfilmfest.org. Register for the Young Filmmakers screening at bit.ly/YFCWinners.

Callie's film also premiered on March 12, prior to the feature films "Understory" and "Here We Stand," as part of the One Earth Film Festival.



Environmental Film Screening On Demand

YOUTH v GOV is the story of the Juliana v. The United States of America constitutional lawsuit and the 21 American youth, ages 14 to 25, who are taking on the world's most powerful government. Since 2015, the legal non-profit Our Children's Trust, has been representing these youth in their landmark case against the U.S. government for violating their constitutional rights to life, liberty, personal safety, and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit.

The Montgomery County GreenFest partners join the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital to offer this documentary free to view during Earth Month. Watch the film online at your convenience prior to the scheduled live panel discussion. Registrants will be sent a link to watch the film online in addition to the Zoom webinar link for the live panel discussion.

Virtual Panel Discussion

April 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Moderator: Wendy Howard, Executive Director, ONE Montgomery Green

Panelists

Bri Akuamoah-Boateng, sophomore at Poolesville High School and student in the Global Ecology Program

Meg Graham, senior at Walt Whitman High School and intern with Bethesda Green's Environmental Leader Program

Rishi Iyer, sophomore at Wootton High School, developer of an application that tracks the carbon footprint of Montgomery County Public School buildings.

This live Zoom panel will discuss the innovative projects and activism among Montgomery County youth and shed light on their generation's understanding and approach to the climate crisis. Learn more about these young activists' perspectives and how we can all work together to protect the planet's future. <https://web1.myvcloud.com/wbwc/mdmontgomeryctywt.wsc/iteminfo.html?Module=AR&FMID=17648202>

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.

NOW THRU APRIL 30

Exhibition Title: "Essence". Solo Art Exhibition for Artist: Vian Borchert. At The Framer's Choice Gallery, 402 Main Street, Gaithersburg. Artist Talk and Reception: Saturday, April 23, 3-5 p.m. Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibition link: <https://www.vianborchert.com/exhibitions/386-essence-fcg-2022.html>

NOW THRU APRIL 27

"The Prayer for Peace." At Artists & Makers Studios, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. Featuring artist Nana Bagdavadze who will exhibit her work to honor Ukraine as well as resident artists' "Threads." The April 2 opening is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. An Artist Talk will be held Saturday, April 16 from 1-3 p.m.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Waltz Dance in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park on Sunday, April 17, 2022 featuring the ensemble Waltz Sisters. This band will provide a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. The 45-minute dance lesson begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 p.m. Admission

is \$15, \$5 for full-time students with student ID. No partner required. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

LIBRARIES PRESENTS AUTHOR SERIES 'STORIES TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING'

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will offer a series of free virtual author talks from April to June in partnership with the Office of Community Partnerships' Middle Eastern American Advisory Group and the Baltimore Luxor Alexandria Sister City Committee.

Information about the participating authors, their works, and dates and times of the programs is listed below. Registration for all programs is required.

April 19, 6-7 p.m. Meet Author Eman Quotah

Born in Saudi Arabia, Eman Quotah will discuss her work, "Bride of the Sea," named the best debut novel of 2021 by Booklist. The Washington Post described it as a "nuanced view of the Saudi kingdom through a cast of compelling characters and a sweeping plot that spans continents and decades." Register: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/6347985>

May 10, 7-8 p.m. Meet Author Ruby Namdar

Born and raised in Jerusalem to a family of Iranian-Jewish heritage, Ruby Namdar will discuss his book, "The Ruined House," which won the 2015 Sapir Prize, Israel's most prestigious literary prize and described by Newsweek as a "wildly original novel...unsettling and beautifully written." Register: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/>

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4

The End of Community at the Potomac Community Library

On June 24, 1991 15 concerned citizens of Potomac were elected to the first Board of Directors of the newly incorporated Friends of the Potomac Community Library, Inc. whose purpose was to stimulate interest in, engender goodwill toward, and promote the use of the Public Libraries of Montgomery County in general and the Potomac Community Library in particular. Also in attendance was the Potomac Library Manager Barbara Harr who had lobbied for the formation of this Friends chapter. An independently incorporated nonprofit organization, the Potomac Friends were the first affiliated chapter of FOLMC, the Rockville Montgomery County Friends Organization which provided umbrella 501-3-c status and insurance. By the end of Potomac's first year of operation we had 91 members.

That same year saw the sharpest cuts in Library funding in Montgomery County. Urgent notices were sent out from the Montgomery County Library Board and the Montgomery County (MD) Department of Public Libraries.

There were cuts in personnel back to the 1987 level when there were three fewer libraries, library hours were reduced, a 10% cut in the book budget, patron services and children's programs also deeply cut. The Chevy Chase Library would stay closed for yet another year. Communities rallied. More chapters were formed.

In Potomac volunteers came forward. Over the years, book sales were organized. Literary and musical events were held. Children's programs were funded. Computers, books, magazine subscriptions, CDs, furniture and carpeting were purchased. Piano tuning was paid for. Funding was given to the Potomac Village Garden Club – all volunteers – who maintain the beautiful grounds at the Library. Staff appreciation was funded. A \$30,000 donation was made to MCPL for collection development. \$40,000 was allocated to providing a new staff kitchen which is delayed until after the coming refresh of the library. An offer to provide a matching grant to benefit other libraries in Montgomery County wasn't responded to.

MCPL has announced that in July of this year it will reorganize its structure. For every three community libraries there will be one manager. Already long gone are the days of a manager like Barbara Harr who became totally involved in the community her library served. Active in the Potomac Community Theatre and the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, Barbara put the interests of Potomac first. In the last 10 years Potomac



ALMANAC FILE PHOTO

Potomac Chamber of Commerce 2019 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: Friends of the Library-Potomac Chapter board members and supporters. From left, Neil Currie, Geraldine Bernard, Margaret Vogel, Jacqueline Etelson, Denise Pierson, Karin Currie (FOL-Potomac vice president and founder), Judy Davis, Lysette House (Friends of the Library-Montgomery County), Edythe Wingate (FOL-Potomac board president), Carol Westrick (seated, holding inscribed plate), Ralph Buglass, Ginny Barnes (nominator, holding Maryland Proclamation), Adrienne Miles Holderbaum (Potomac Library Manager), Sheila Graves, Selby McPhee, Doris Valis

was lucky to have a manager for a full 2 years, sometimes only a shared one, as is the case right now.

The 51 Potomac volunteers who were recognized for their service during Library Lovers Month this February will now have to apply to Rockville to be a volunteer in Potomac. I have been told that it is most unlikely that they will. There may be many more weeds in the library garden.

The reason given by FOLMC for closing the chapters is an insult to all the volunteers who have worked so hard for their libraries. In 2019 alone, 149 volunteers donated 4,538 hours of their time. Of the 15 chapters in existence on March 19, 2022 one had fallen behind on required filings with the IRS. The Secretary of that chapter resigned her

post in November, 2021. She is the deputy director of FOLMC. Despite being privy to what was planned, neither she nor her husband, the Chapter's President – who also resigned – alerted the chapter to the situation. One or two others had similar problems in the past, an understandable situation with all volunteer organizations with frequent board turnover. Why didn't the parent organization, FOLMC, step in with help? Offer accounting services? A portion of every chapter's membership dues is given to FOLMC. It would have been in their interest to keep those funds coming. When a large retail company has underperforming stores it either revamps them or closes them. It does not shut down the whole company.

Potomac and the 14 other communities

deserve to have their libraries reflect the needs of their citizens. Some need more children's activities, others more daytime programs for retirees. Community based Friends groups help to provide what the county budget can't. Rockville is not Chevy Chase, Silver Spring or Potomac.

I urge you to send a letter decrying this decision to Pamela Saussy the President of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Library to pam.saussy@gmail.com or Montgomery County, 21 Maryland Ave., Suite 310 Rockville, MD 20850

Karin Currie
Founder and Vice-President
Friends of the Potomac
Community Library

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

event/6348066
June 14, 7-8 p.m. Meet Author
Laila el-Haddad
Howard County author, social
activist, policy analyst, and
journalist Laila el-Haddad
will discuss her work, "The
Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian

Culinary Journey," which received
the "Best Arab Cuisine Book."
With photographs by Maddie
Schmitt, it recounts stories about
cooking, farming, and family.
Register: [https://mcpl.libnet.info/
event/6348097](https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/6348097)
MCPL Contact: Clotilde Puértolas,
[Clotilde.puertolas@montgomery-
countymd.gov](mailto:Clotilde.puertolas@montgomery-countymd.gov)

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

St. Francis Spring Market. 9 a.m.
to 2 p.m. At 10033 River Road,
Potomac. Spring Market features
a huge variety of vendors, Amish
food, art, flowers. Flames and
Cones and Bangin Barbeque food
trucks. Mother's Day gift ideas. St.
Francis proceeds benefit Afghan

refugee program and Rise Against
Hunger. Visit the website: [www.
stfrancispotomac.org](http://www.stfrancispotomac.org)

LIBRARIES OFFERS FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Montgomery County Public Libraries
is offering online workshops and
one-on-one sessions geared toward
assisting job seekers and entre-

preneurs throughout April. All
workshops are free and offered
virtually.
An internet connection and a de-
vice (such as a smartphone, tab-
let or computer) are required
for participation.
Throughout April – Every Monday:
9:30-11:30 a.m. H.I.R.E. (Help-
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

EARTH MONTH

BULLETIN BOARD



Soon the sky won't be visible through the trees as the leaves grow. It's fully spring but the green has a long way to go.



It's a great time to pull garlic mustard, a non-native invasive weed that damages the ecosystem. The ground is soft enough to make it possible to get most of the roots when you pull. But dispose of the pulled weeds in the trash, or you might find that it reseeds itself.



Domestic bliss: a male bluebird atop a nesting box.

FROM PAGE 4

ing Individuals Reach Employment) Sessions
Sign up to meet virtually/confidentially one-on-one with a career counselor for advice and assistance with your job search. Register:
Monday, April 18: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/6205874>
Monday, April 25: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/6205918>
Tuesday, April 19: 10-11:30 a.m. Introduction to Entrepreneurship
Are you just starting your entrepreneurial journey? This workshop will cover the fundamentals of building a business and help you determine if you're ready to become a small business owner. Presented in partnership with the Maryland Women's Business Center. Register: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/6377009>
Tuesday/Thursday, April 19 and 21: 5:30-8 p.m. LinkedIn Boot Camp for 45+ Job Seekers (Sessions I and II)
This popular two-session/two-day workshop focuses on both the mechanics and strategy of using LinkedIn as a tool to conduct a successful job search. Register: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/5958971>
Wednesday, April 20: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. How to Apply for Jobs with Montgomery County Government
Find out everything you need to know about applying for jobs with Montgomery County Government. Register: <https://mcpl.libnet.info/event/5842237>
Program Contact: Adrienne Van Lare, adrienne.vanlare@montgomery-countymd.gov

MONTGOMERY COUNTY WILL OFFER BIKE CLASSES

Adults who want to learn more about riding bicycles will have the opportunity to take reduced-price classes this spring sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). "Adult Learn to Ride" and "Basic Skills" classes this spring will be offered for \$10 for County residents and free for Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and Capital Bikeshare For All members. Classes are led by WABA instructors and are designed for residents 18 or older. Bikes and helmets are provided to participants. Classes will be offered in April, May and June. To register, visit the WABA website here.
The Learn to Ride Class is for individuals who have never ridden a bike before, have tried to learn but have been unsuccessful or who have not ridden for some time. Classes

will cover the basics of balancing, gliding, pedaling and stopping. The Basic Skills Clinic is the next step for those who have recently taken a Learn to Ride class or who know how to ride a bike but have not been on one in some time. The class will focus on skills such as turning, shifting, braking gradually and weaving.
Classes run from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the following days:
❖Saturday, April 30: Learn to Ride Class: Upper County Recreation Center (center parking lot), Gaithersburg.
❖Saturday, May 7: Basic Skills Clinic: Wheaton Ice Arena (back left parking lot), Wheaton.
Saturday, May 21: Learn to Ride Class: GEICO (front parking lot), Chevy Chase.
❖Saturday, June 11: Basic Skills Clinic: Montgomery College (Parking Lot 13), Rockville.
❖Saturday, June 25: Learn to Ride: Burtonsville Park and Ride lot (behind Burtonsville Crossing shopping center), Burtonsville.
*Select classes will offer a free e-scooter safety training and test ride from noon until 2 p.m. There is no registration required for the scooter class and walk-ups are welcome.
The classes are an affordable way to include biking as another form of transportation. They also are a great way to prepare to participate in Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 20.

REQUEST FOOD ASSISTANCE

Residents looking for information on food assistance resources can request help by completing an online form. Available in seven languages (Amharic, Chinese, English, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese), the form is reviewed by a trained resource specialist, and residents receive a return phone call within one business day. The specialist will determine a resident's individual food needs and help them locate food assistance in their community. No personally identifiable information is needed to get help. Information is available about free food distribution sites, free meal and grocery delivery, SNAP (Food Stamps), local food assistance providers, and other resources in Montgomery County. Residents can also call 311 and ask for the Food Access Call Center to get help with their food needs.

CRISIS PREVENTION SERVICES

EveryMind Crisis Prevention and Intervention specialists are available

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Past issues of

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back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

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EARTH MONTH

Weed Warriors Earth Day

Fri April 22nd 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Bethesda Urban Partnership, 7700 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814

Help keep Bethesda weed free! Bethesda Green and Bethesda Urban Partnership are working together to keep downtown Bethesda beautiful, and we need your help. Join us for one (or more!) of our upcoming dates to pull weeds from sidewalks and tree boxes all through Bethesda. No prior knowledge needed - team leaders will help distinguish between weeds and wanted plants! Participants will be provided with tools and water. SSL hours available for students.

The 2022 events will take place once a month:

Friday, April 22nd, 3pm-5pm (Earth Day!)

Saturday, May 21st, 10am-12pm

Saturday, June 18th, 10am - 12pm

Meet at Bethesda Urban Partnership Inc, 7700 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA

This event is free, and open to all - come individually or bring a friend! If you'd like to support Bethesda Green programming, you can add a \$5 donation ticket at check out. We hope to see you there! Register here: <https://bethesdaweedwarriors.eventbrite.com>



Educational Environmental Workshops

GreenFest partnered with industry experts to offer five free educational workshops on a variety of topics to help you to "green" the Earth and your home environment. All lectures were held online using Zoom.

Beautifying Montgomery County through Plogging

Leslie Wilcox, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Valeria Espinoza, Montgomery Parks

Plogging? Never heard of it? Join this virtual lecture to learn about this new trend in environmental activism. Plogging is a great challenge to take on this spring while helping you to get outdoors. Its part jogging, part picking up litter. You'll learn about the community cleanup initiatives of Montgomery County groups working together on this important campaign and how you can get involved throughout Earth Month in April. There will be weekly challenges for you to tackle that offer an assortment of prizes.

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/X33PNMUM2XE>

Become a Scientist in Your Own Backyard – Join the City Nature Challenge

Jacqueline Raiford, Naturalist, Locust Grove Nature Center, Montgomery Parks

Have you heard of the City Nature Challenge? From April 29 to May 2, and from May 3-May 8, cities around the world are competing to see who can make the most observations of nature, find the most species, and engage the most people. When you submit photos of wildlife through the iNaturalist app, you contribute to important ecological studies that help scientists better understand the plants and animals of our local landscape. Join us to find out just how easy it is to participate, including how to use the iNaturalist app to submit your observations. Anyone can participate and become a citizen scientist! Please have your smart phone with the free iNaturalist app pre-downloaded.

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WI1W6cdd-nTw>

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS, PAGE 7

GreenFest 2022

Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brookside Gardens
1800 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902

Due to anticipated high attendance, parking at Brookside Gardens is reserved for ADA accessible parking only.

<https://montgomerycountyg reenfest.org/directions/>

Brookside Gardens will be hosting GreenFest on Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This free event is one of the county's largest Earth Day festivals and is a chance for residents, businesses, and nonprofits to share ideas, learn together, and have fun!

Face painting and children's activities

Interactive musical petting zoo and games

Kids tree climbing

Plant and tree giveaways

Green Arts & Crafts Fair

Over 60 exhibitors featuring environmental non-profits

Children's yoga

Electric vehicle and car show: World's first electric truck (Rivian) will be on display!

Food trucks (vegan options available)

Free parking and shuttle service between Glenmont Metro Station and Brookside Gardens And more!

Walk the trails, chill out on the grass, and explore the neighboring Brookside Nature Center, all while discovering how you can go green at home and in the community.

2022 Vendors and Exhibitors

Tour the exhibits featuring almost 60 businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Visit our exhibitors and vendors along the beautiful paths and walkways in Brookside Gardens.

Food Vendors
Bun'd Up
Korean + vegetarian options
Charlie's Empanadas
Chix & Stix
chicken & fries
Kona Ice
Money Muscle BBQ
vegetarian options
Sexy Veggie
And more!
Green Businesses
All Eco Design Center
Compost Crew
Neighborhood Sun
Non-profits
A Vegan Life, Inc.
American Hiking Society
Bethesda Green
Chesapeake Wild Ones
Citizen's Climate Lobby
Climate First!

Conservation Montgomery
Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

HarvestShare
Homestead Hustle & Healing
Interfaith Power & Light (DC. MD.NoVA)

Manna Food Center Community Food Rescue

Montgomery County Beekeepers Association

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery County Greenbank

Montgomery County Master Gardeners

One Montgomery Green
Poolesville Green

Rise N Shine Foundation
Rock Creek Conservancy

Sierra Club Montgomery County

Solar Household Energy
Solar United Neighbors

Student Global Ambassador Program (SGAP Leaders)

Sustainable Earth Eating
The Climate Mobilization

Montgomery County Chapter Arts & Crafts

Cedarberry
ChrisBrenSchmidt Photography

Donna's Decollage
Grand Gondwana

Jim Oliver Woodturning
Lisa's Personal Touch

Mio Reggio
Montgomery Potters

RareGlo Organic Shea Products

Real Food Real Tasty
Sarah's Stitches & Green Ginger Goods

Silk Reincarnations
Sparkling Ideas

Corporate
A.I.R.

Clean Choice Energy
Gardenology

GoGardeners-Garden Coaching

Go Native Tree Farm

John Young, GREEN Realtor

Pepco
Sandbox Financial Partners

SavATree, LLC
Sustainable Design Group

Government
Brookside Gardens

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Montgomery County Electric Vehicle (EV) Purchasing Cooperative (DEP)

Montgomery Energy Connection (DEP)

Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Montgomery County Police
Montgomery Parks

WSSC Water

EARTH MONTH



Rent a Campfire Ring

https://montgomeryparks.org/campfire-ring-rentals/?_ga=2.254713921.874279246.1649690791-1751650455.1644885091

Imagine sitting around a cozy campfire roasting marshmallows and sharing stories with friends and family... Montgomery Parks can help you make it happen. Private groups may reserve campfire rings at five different locations.

Campfire Ring Rental Locations:

- ❖ Black Hill Nature Programs
20926 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds, Maryland 20841
- ❖ Brookside Nature Center
1400 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, Maryland 20902
- ❖ Locust Grove Nature Center
7777 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817
- ❖ Maydale Nature Classroom

1638 Maydale Drive, Colesville, MD 20905

❖ Daytime rentals at Robert C. McDonell Campground

7701 Tuckerman Lane, Rockville, MD 20854

Included in All Fire Ring Rentals:

Enough fuel (wood logs) for your reservation. Additional firewood available at no additional charge. Flames must be under 3 feet high at all times.

An empty safety bucket. You are required to fill this with water and keep it close to the lit ring at all times. The bucket can be filled in one of our nearby spigots or in the creek, and must be returned to the Nature Center at the end of your rental.

You Must Provide:

A starter, such as matches or a lighter, and any kindling needed to start the fire.
Marshmallows, roasting sticks, and any other food your group wishes to enjoy.
Trash bags (you must pack out all trash).



Someone to start the fire, and someone to watch the lit fire at all times.

Locust Grove Nature Center

7777 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

❖ Campfire Ring Permits available 7 days a week, 3 hours/\$150-\$175 permit fee. Choose from three campfire locations at Locust Grove (listed below)

❖ Firewood and fire starter materials are included. You are responsible for starting and extinguishing the fire when ready.

❖ You must have a permit to reserve a campfire ring at Locust Grove Nature Center.

New Online Booking—Reservations can be made on ActiveMontgomery.org

Questions: call 301-765-8660

❖ You can also have a naturalist provide a campfire program for you and your group for an additional fee.

Choose the location of the campfire at Locust Grove Nature Center.

Robert C. McDonell Campground

The Robert C. McDonell Campground offers seven walk-in primitive sites. There are two tent pads, two picnic tables, a grill, and a fire pit on each campsite. Depending on the site, up to 10 campers can be accommodated. Daytime and overnight rentals are available.

To obtain a permit to reserve a campsite:

Call 301-495-2525 or email ParkPermits@MontgomeryParks.org

NOTE: Campsites are available year round with no running water between November 1 and March 31 at lower sites # 1, 2, 6, 7 and upper sites # 3, 4, 5. There are Porta Johns in each parking lot.

Chess in the Park

Join Montgomery Parks and the U.S Chess Center at Chess in the Park! On Saturday, April 30, at Fairview Road Urban Park from 10 am to 1 pm, players in grades 2 to 8 are invited to participate in an outdoor drop-in chess tournament. <https://chessctr.org/>

Registration is recommended, but not required. <https://register.chessctr.org/a/fairviewroadpark>

Parents, families, and spectators are encouraged, and will be able, to watch their loved ones play. Pop-Up Patisserie will be onsite selling food and drinks. Fairview Road Urban Park is accessible either by public transportation or personal vehicle. There is ample street parking along the side of the park, as well as a parking garage across the street. If using the Metro, the Red Line Metro station at Silver Spring is the closest stop. There is also a bus stop at the intersection of Spring Street and Georgia Avenue (Stop ID: 2000214), as well as at the

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intersection of Colesville Road and Spring Street (Stop ID: 2000209).

General Chess Guidelines:

Players should be in grades 2 to 8 to participate.

Players must know the full rules of chess and obey standard rules of etiquette.

Players will not be required to record their moves.

General Event Guidelines:

Players are encouraged to register ahead of time, but it is not required.

Players must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the duration of their game.

Dogs are permitted at the event, but must be leashed

and picked up after.

This event is free, but food and drinks are available for purchase.

This event will be held at Fairview Road Urban Park 8900 Fairview Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Educational Environmental Workshops

FROM PAGE 6

Aiming for Zero Waste: Compost Food Scraps in Your Backyard

Kathy Vazquez, Recycling and Resource Management Division

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Join DEP for a virtual hands-on workshop to learn how to compost certain types of food scraps in your backyard using rodent-proof compost bins. We will discuss the acceptable types of materials that can be composted, best practices to manage the composting process to prevent critters and odor, and what to do with the amazing “black gold” after the materials are composted. Composting food scraps in your backyard reduces the amount of trash disposed at County disposal facilities, while providing you with nutrient-rich soil amendments to grow

healthier plants.

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/sWJTgzXpBRo>

Creating a Planter with Native Plants

Ann English, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Program Manager

This lecture will highlight the benefits of using native plants to beautify your garden while helping to support local wildlife and pollinators. Ann will walk participants through the steps needed to create a beautiful planter using plants native to our region. Ann will demonstrate how to plant the right combination of thrillers, fillers, and spillers to create a beautiful composition rich in color, texture, and form. Plant options will be discussed for both sun and shade gardens.

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/qZiV3iRzPzg>

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Creating an Elegant and ADHD-friendly Home

Designers share tips for combining style and effective organization.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Large, plastic storage containers often come to mind when decluttering and organizing one's home. While effective, those receptacles might look unsightly sitting in the middle of the living room or in the corner of the dining room.

For an adult with ADHD, managing clutter and organization can be particularly difficult. Combining those challenges with the desire for an elegant interior can be particularly daunting. Local designers offer ideas for using storage containers to achieve that goal.

HOMELIFESTYLE

"Think of them as an opportunity to be creative with a home's décor," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design. "Storage solutions are a wonderful way to add color and visual interest to living spaces."

Use boxes in bright colors to hold papers, pens and other office supplies, suggests Walker. "Arranging the boxes in groups on open shelves makes them easy to access and very functional,

"Think of them as an opportunity to be creative with a home's décor. Storage solutions are a wonderful way to add color and visual interest to living spaces."

— Anne Walker of
Anne Walker Design.

she said. [Placing] labels on each box makes organization quick and easy."

A bedside table can become a cluttered eye sore when topped with a pile of items like books, magazines, tissue or lip balm. "Try [using] small dressers for night stands so that you have more storage space," said interior designer Sallie Lord of GreyHunt Interiors. "We love using boxes on night stands that store your favorite items such as nighttime lotion or keep sakes or jewelry."

When one needs a storage space that keeps items visible, Lord recommends open shelving. "They can be added to each room and they have a chic look," she said. "This works particularly well in the bathroom and kitchen. They are both pretty and functional. In the kitchen they can be used to hold cooking utensils and mixing bowls. In the bathroom they can hold a toothbrush and toothpaste."

Ideally a dining room should be used to house traditional items such as china, silver and table linens. If space is an issue in one's home a dining room table must be used for completing homework or playing family games, someone with



Small boxes on a night stand can be used to store jewelry or nighttime necessities.

PHOTO BY STACY GOLDBERG



Placing labeled boxes in groups on an open shelf, makes them functional and easily accessible.

PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER



The box on this coffee table helps prevent clutter while blending seamlessly into the room's decor.

PHOTO BY CHRISTY KOSNIC

ADHD might allow the space to become overrun with clutter unless a designated storage is conveniently located. "A low cabinet in a color and style that is consistent with the decor of the rest of the room is the perfect storage space, said Lord.

For someone with ADHD, returning household items to their appropriate location is necessary for maintaining organization. "For example, in addition to having a space for papers in your home office, you have to set aside a specific time each day to clean up those papers and return them to that space, said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW.

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www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org

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15 papers digital editions here:

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs



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3/16/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2022.....Senior Living
3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

APRIL

4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
4/13/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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EARTH MONTH

‘Detrashing’ the Potomac



PHOTO BY NED STONE

Trash accumulated in Dyke Marsh along the Potomac River.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE ALMANAC

St. Stephens high school student Charlie Desun- tets lugged a dingy, water-logged pillow off the Potomac River shoreline on Saturday. Volkmar Heratsch crawled around on his hands and knees, collecting tiny crumbles of poly-

styrene or Styrofoam. Kathleen Fleming, a Hollin Hills resident, was surprised by the proliferation of plastic bottle caps and cigarette butts she found.

On April 9, in two hours, 20 volunteers collected 13 bags of trash in Dyke Marsh and along the Belle Haven Park shoreline, from remnants of plastic straws to chunks of coolers.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

National Park Service volunteer coordinator Trudy Roth checked in volunteers at Belle Haven Park.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The Swanson family came from Washington, D. C. to help.



ALMANAC FILE PHOTO

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help perform cleanup and beautification projects on April 23 at the C&O Canal National Historical Park Great Falls. See registration below.

“We want to do our part to keep this place in better shape for our children and their children,” said Heratsch. The Friends of Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service’s George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) cosponsored the event.

The cleanup was part of the annual Ferguson Foundation’s watershed-wide trash cleanup in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D. C., and West Virginia at 130 sites over the next month. In Virginia on Saturday, volunteers picked up litter in Alexandria and Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties. Some worked at Jones Point, Roaches Run, Columbia Island, Belle Haven Park, Dyke Marsh and Theodore Roosevelt Island, for example.

Laura Kazo with the Ferguson Foundation reeled off these statistics: In the last 20 years, volunteers have collected over 7,000 bags of trash. In the last 30 years, over 170,000 volunteers have collected over eight million pounds of trash. The top five items historically have been plastic bags, plastic straws, Styrofoam, glass bottles and aluminum cans.

Clean Virginia Waterways’ fall 2021 International Coastal Cleanup tallied as the top five, cigarette butts, bottle caps and lids, food wrappers and beverage bottles and cans. Dyke Marsh volunteers over the years have found items like dental flossers, balloons, coolers, balls, toys, car parts, fishing gear, barrels, even a sofa and refrigerator.

GWMP Superintendent Charles Cuvelier lauded the efforts: “Volunteers are key to keeping the park

Upcoming Events

April 16 - 24 is National Park Week, and this year the theme is Park Connections. Celebrate the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Canal Community Day events. C&O Canal Trust will hold its first event of the season on April 23 at the C&O Canal National Historical Park Great Falls. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help perform cleanup and beautification projects. Fill out the registration form to sign up.

<https://www.canaltrust.org/2022/01/great-falls-canal-community-days-event-on-april-23-2022/>

Kids to Parks Day is a national day of outdoor play celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. The day connects kids and families with their local, state, and national parks and public lands through thousands of park events that promote discovery and exploration in the great outdoors.

The C&O Canal Trust will hold fun and educational activities at Fletchers Cove. Explore a wild, diverse world that may be brand-new to you or might feel like part of your own backyard. The C&O Canal Trust will be on hand with family-friendly activities, challenges and tools to help visitors of all ages learn more about the natural, human, and historical resources all around us.

When: Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10:00am – 2:00pm

Where: C&O Canal NHP – Fletchers Cove
4940 Canal Rd NW, Washington, D.C. 20007

Online activities: <https://www.nps.gov/choh/learn/kidsyouth/main.htm>

Find a Cleanup to Join

To find a cleanup, visit <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/get-involved/upcoming-community-events/>.

Ongoing in Cabin John

<https://www.fergusonfoundation.org/event/potomac-river-cleanup-cabin-john-picnic-area/>

beautiful. Last year, 3,240 volunteers contributed over 18,000 hours of their time valued at more than \$500,000. They are essential when it comes to trail maintenance, invasive plant removal and litter cleanup,” he said.

Sources and Solutions

Where does all the trash come from? Jen Cole, Executive Director of the Clean Fairfax Council offers this explanation: “What we find is a perfect storm of broken systems: not enough trash containers for

residential or commercial properties, poorly managed solid waste at both of those, a disposable society that thinks single use is somehow cleaner or more hygienic than washing and reusing something and a sheer lack of political will to make meaningful change that would not just protect the environment but protect our health from the harmful chemicals in polystyrene and microplastics.”

Fees on single-use plastic bags are now in place in Montgomery

SEE HELPING, PAGE 11

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EARTH MONTH



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Four students from St. Stephens and St. Agnes School volunteered.

‘Detrashing’ the Potomac

FROM PAGE 10

County, Md. and five Northern Virginia jurisdictions, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties and cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. Bills to require monetary deposits on plastic and aluminum beverage containers have not garnered sufficient support for approval. Some advocates support what’s called “extended producer responsibility,” a concept under which producers of items like batteries, plastic packaging and fast food containers bear financial and/or physical responsibility for the treatment or disposal of products past the consumer stage of a product’s life cycle.

Belle Haven resident Marilou Livingood helped in Dyke Marsh.

“I want to reduce plastics in the river and increase stewardship of this important resource, one of the last remaining wetlands in the D.C. area,” she said, hauling a bag.

Looking at the bigger picture, Superintendent Cuvelier commented, “This work is important for the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Since the park was created to help protect the Potomac River,



Charlie Desuntels found a soggy pillow along with other trash. He volunteered with three fellow St. Stephens students.

we receive much of the trash that washes downstream from adjacent communities. If we catch it and clean it up in the park, it stays out of the Bay. Effective stormwater management, household recycling and motorists not littering all contribute to a healthier ecosystem.”

To find a cleanup, visit <https://www.ferguson-foundation.org/get-involved/upcoming-community-events/>.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

by phone, text and chat every hour of every day. The community can also look to EveryMind for mental health professionals who are prepared to talk about warning signs and ways anyone can help to prevent suicide from ending lives far too soon. EveryMind is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit Every-Mind.org. More resources include:

- ❖ Call or Text Montgomery County Hotline: 301-738-2255

- ❖ Chat: Crisis Prevention Chat: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>
- ❖ Call: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- ❖ www.every-mind.org/services/crisis/
- ❖ www.every-mind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Talking-to-Kids-about-Suicide.pdf
- ❖ suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- ❖ www.suicidology.org

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Going, Going, I Wish They Were Gone

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



All those Charmin and Cottonelle television commercials for “the go”/“down there care.” As my late mother used to say about so many nauseating subjects: “It’s enough already.” I realize toilet paper is a staple, especially during a pandemic, but is it necessary that there are so many television advertisements? They’re appearing so often that I’ve even seen these competing companies/products advertise during the same commercial break. Not exactly back-to-back, but very nearly so. Talk about overkill. If these brands aren’t careful, they’re going to kill the goose that laid ply at their doorstep.

I mean, how much prodding/encouragement do I need every day to assist me with my toilet paper decisions? Not nearly as much as I’m getting, that’s for sure. How many more times must I see that adolescent bear wiggle his butt? And how many more times must I hear about treating “the skin that I don’t see as well as I treat the skin that I do see?” No more, please? I have enough visuals of forearms being wiped to last me a lifetime. I know that toilet paper sales are a huge business with endless repeat customer buys, but I’ve reached my point of no return. As in there’s no more return on their advertising investment in my household. We have been saturated with toilet paper problems/solutions so much so that if I never see another television commercial, funny or not, it will be soon enough for me.

Besides, I’m a grown man. I know what works for me – and what doesn’t. And that awareness most definitely includes toilet paper and all its features and benefits – and innuendos. I may be stubborn or a creature of consumer habit – or merely protective of my privacy, but all this recurring toilet paper market penetration/saturation is becoming too much to bear. I’m not a prude in the least, but I do feel as if there are certain subjects/descriptions which are off limits – or rather should be. However, the recent spate of toilet paper verbal and visual manipulation has crossed the line I never thought needed to be drawn because it was clear to everybody that it already existed. Apparently, the rules of advertising aren’t aware of these lines.

I understand that market share and profit are crucial to a commercial ventures’ success/viability. But to invoke a famous question from the 1954 McCarthy hearings: “Where’s your decency?” Gone. That’s where if the frequency and substance of these toilet paper advertisements are allowed to continue. Enough is enough, which for Scott brands is 1000 sheets. For me however, it’s really none of anybody’s business what I do in the privacy of my own bathroom. Whether I use an off-brand, single, double, or triple ply or paper infused with aloe. I’m happy to be left to my own devices. I’ll figure it out and the less the advertisers have to do with it, the better.

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



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