

Potomac ALMANAC

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PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

Maryland
Passes Forest
Protections

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Outdoor Fitness Center
Coming to PCC

PAGE 4

Library to Reopen
Saturday

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APRIL 12-18, 2023

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS FROM BRIGHT MLS

January, 2023 Sales

IN JANUARY, 2023, 23 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$4,000,000-\$534,000.



3 8916 Copenhaver Drive — \$1,365,000



5 1401 Kersey Lane — \$1,012,500



4 12005 Starview Court — \$1,035,000



6 11517 Deborah Drive — \$995,000



1 7801 Hidden Meadow Terrace — \$1,490,000

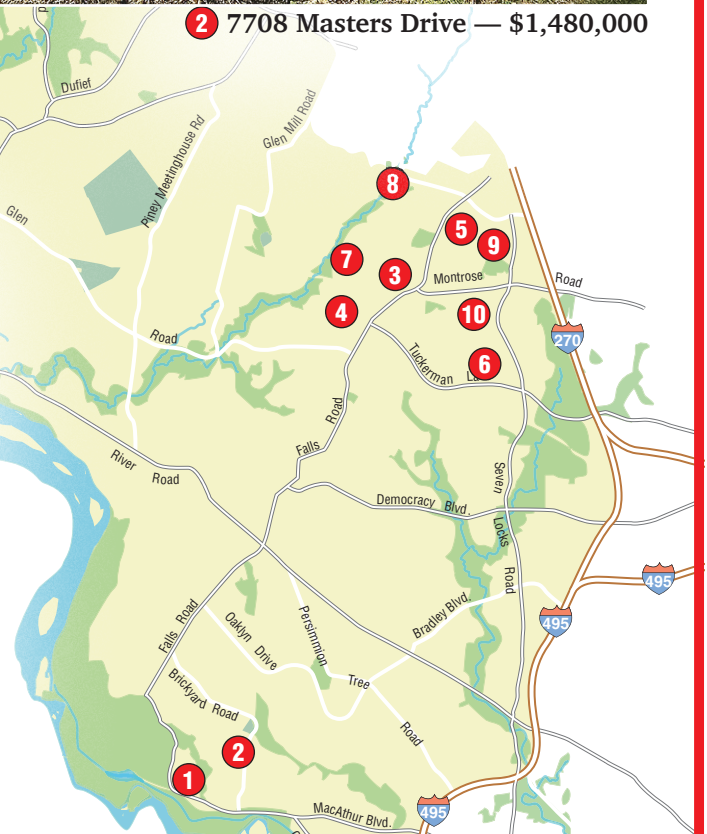


2 7708 Masters Drive — \$1,480,000

Address.....BR FB HB Postal City.....Sold Price... Type.....Lot AC. Postal Code ... Subdivision..... Date Sold
1 7801 HIDDEN MEADOW TER. 431 ... POTOMAC.....\$1,490,000.....Townhouse . 0.11 20854 RIVER FALLS 01/31/23
2 7708 MASTERS DR.....431 ... POTOMAC.....\$1,480,000.....Detached..... 0.35 20854 RIVER FALLS 01/23/23
3 8916 COPENHAVER DR651 ... POTOMAC.....\$1,365,000.....Detached..... 0.25 20854 COPENHAVER..... 01/31/23
4 12005 STARVIEW CT.....651 ... POTOMAC.....\$1,035,000.....Detached..... 0.28 20854 FALLSREACH..... 01/20/23
5 1401 KERSEY LN.....431 ... POTOMAC.....\$1,012,500.....Detached..... 0.22 20854 ... POTOMAC WOODS..... 01/11/23
6 11517 DEBORAH DR.....531 ... POTOMAC.....\$995,000.....Detached..... 0.50 20854 ... REGENCY ESTATES..... 01/20/23
7 9313 WOODEN BRIDGE RD.421 ... POTOMAC.....\$985,000.....Detached..... 0.25 20854 . POTOMAC COMMONS ... 01/27/23
8 6 STARLIGHT CT431 ... POTOMAC.....\$937,000.....Detached..... 0.24 20854 HORIZON HILL..... 01/09/23
9 912 TWIN OAKS DR.....43 POTOMAC.....\$879,999.....Detached..... 0.21 20854 .. POTOMAC SPRINGS 01/04/23
10 8109 POSTOAK RD431 ... POTOMAC.....\$860,000.....Detached..... 0.23 20854 REGENT PARK..... 01/13/23

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[HTTP://POTOMACALMANAC.WWW.CLIENTS.ELLINGTONCMS.COM/NEWS/2023/FEB/17/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-JANUARY-2023/](http://POTOMACALMANAC.WWW.CLIENTS.ELLINGTONCMS.COM/NEWS/2023/FEB/17/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-JANUARY-2023/)



Maryland Passes Critical Update to Forest Conservation

The state will now have a no-net loss standard for counties and developers to conserve forests AND a net-gain goal statewide.

“We might not be able to speak for the trees — but Senate Bill 526/House Bill 723 definitely does,” said Sen. Sarah Elfreth on her Facebook page, celebrating the passage of legislation to protect Maryland’s forests earlier this week. “Five years of work, one long-awaited study, and many hands went into crafting this critical update to the Forest Conservation Act.”

Del. Sara Love (D-16), who represents parts of Potomac in the Maryland House of Delegates, filed the House version, House Bill 723. “So thrilled that the House passed my bill to strengthen our Forest Preservation law,” she said.

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the Montgomery County Council unanimously voted to update its Forest Conservation Law (Bill 25-22) which will guarantee more forests are protected from development.

It’s the first significant update to the law in 30 years. The bill, many years in the making, was recommended by the County Planning Department and backed by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, a network of two dozen environmental organizations and community leaders.

Now Maryland has updated statewide protections for tree canopy and forests.

“First passed and not meaningfully updated since 1991, the antiquated and convoluted FCA resulted in steady and significant forest loss and forest fragmentation across Maryland over the last 32 years,” wrote Elfreth. “But here’s the good news: after the Governor signs these bills into law, Maryland will now have a no-net loss standard for counties and developers to conserve forests AND a net-gain goal statewide for conserving and re-planting forests and



The vote in the Maryland House of Delegates to preserve Maryland’s forests. “So thrilled that the House passed my bill to strengthen our Forest Preservation law. Thanks to my crossfile Senator Sarah Elfreth, our staff, and the advocates for their hard work.”



Sen. Sarah Elfreth (D-30), Del Sara Love (D-16) and allies in passing Senate Bill 526/ House Bill 723 to protect Maryland’s forests.



Tree canopy cover is essential to protect the health of the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay and surrounding watershed, including the region’s drinking water supply.

tree canopy. It prioritizes forests closest to streams and watersheds, invests in restoring degraded forests, and sets in motion greater incentives for landowners to conserve forests from the pressures of

development.” Tree canopy in Maryland and locally has been decreasing instead of increasing. Maryland completed in November 2023 the most comprehensive



Montgomery and Prince George’s counties experienced the most significant conversion of tree canopy to developed land, representing more than 50% of the state’s tree canopy loss to development. Here, WSSC plant on River Road makes way for expanded drinking water treatment.

study of its forest cover and tree canopy ever. Forest cover and tree canopy is essential infrastructure to keep the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed clean.

Prince George’s and Montgom-

ery counties experienced the most significant conversion of tree canopy to developed land, representing more than half of the state’s tree

SEE MARYLAND PASSES, PAGE 4 POTOMAC ALMANAC ❖ APRIL 12-18, 2023 ❖ 3

Funding for Outdoor Fitness Park at Potomac Community Center

During the just concluded session of the Maryland General Assembly, Del. Linda Foley (D-15) and Sen. Brian Feldman (D-15) secured \$200,000 for the Potomac Community Center Fitness Facility, an innovative outdoor facility designed for a wide range of needs with specific equipment for seniors and people with mobility challenges.

The planned outdoor fitness center for the Potomac Community Center is the brainchild of Allan Cohen and the Friends of the Potomac Community Center, who will engage in fundraising for \$25,000 or more still needed.

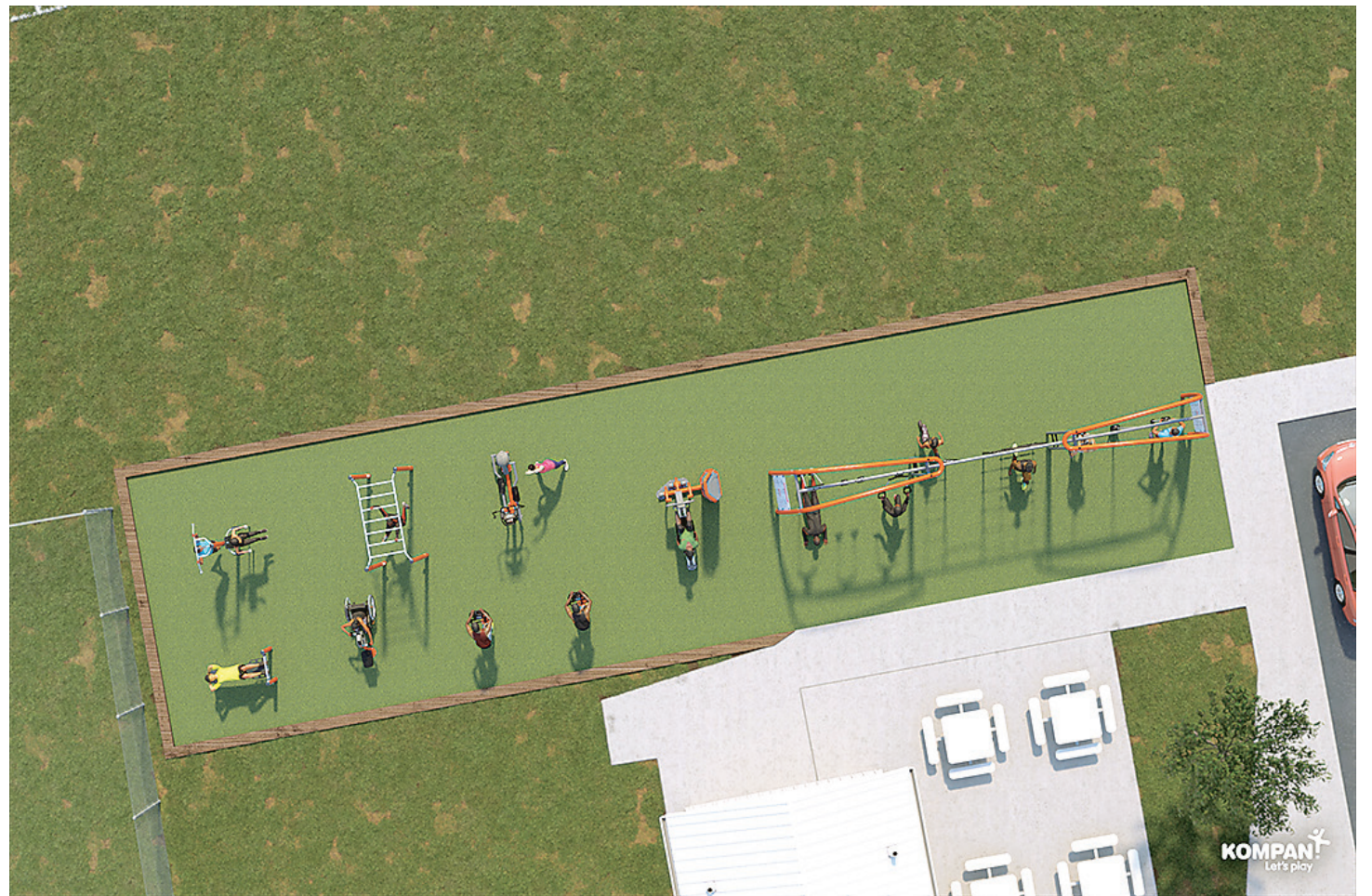
According to the proposal, input from Seniors and members of the High School Student Advisory Board suggested and emphasized the need for an outdoor fitness and health facility.

In addition to providing a safe space to exercise, an imperative during a time when so many are still fearful of indoor activities, the outdoor facilities would also provide access to fitness opportunities when the community center is closed in off hours.

“We’re so excited,” said Allan Cohen of the Friends of the Potomac Community Center, expressing thanks to Foley and Feldman for their support. “We really feel this outdoor fitness park will be a model for the county.” There has been a lot of interest from groups around the county, Cohen said.

Youth, teens, parents, and grandparents will be able to exercise together to enhance mental and physical well-being.

The Friends of the Potomac Community Center in partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department selected a 4400 square foot unused open space to build the 1950 square foot Outdoor Fitness Park plus a 2400 square foot open exercise/aerobic area. This is above the community center playing fields, and next to two stor-



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age buildings and picnic table/patio which the friends group provided years ago. The site is handicap accessible and shovel ready.

There are hundreds of children playing on the fields weekly while parents are waiting and watching — another group that could

use the fitness park.

More than 100,000 patrons visited the PCC last year for activities/programs. The proposal estimates more than 17,000 current and new patrons will use the Outdoor Fitness Park.

To make a tax-deductible contribution, send checks payable to Friends of the Potomac Community Center to Friends of the Potomac Community Center to Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Maryland Passes Critical Update to Forest Conservation

FROM PAGE 3

canopy loss to development, according to the study.

The Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Planning, the Department of Agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Chesapeake Conservancy and others used high-resolution landuse and land cover data as well as satellite imagery, ground research and other information to analyze forest and tree canopy change. <https://agnr.umd.edu/research/research-and-education-centers-locations/harry-r-hughes-center-agro-ecology>

The report was released on Nov. 16, 2022.

In the last decade, Montgomery County lost 4,000 acres of forests — the second highest rate of loss in the state, according to Montgomery Countryside Alliance in pressing Montgomery County Council for action.

Tree canopy loss in Potomac accounted for more than 500 acres, according to the report.

Now there is cause for genuine optimism.

“It was a “hail Mary” bill from the day last fall when my Chesapeake Bay Commission colleagues and I dug through the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology/Chesapeake Conservancy study showing the forest loss and admitted to each other that we just couldn’t see the proverbial forest for the trees,” said Elfreth.

“Thankfully, dozens of meetings with stakeholders, the technical expertise of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the partnership of the Maryland Association of Counties and Maryland Municipal League and many local elected officials and county executives, and more than a few Sunday afternoons working through the details of amendments with stakeholders resulted in today’s passage.”

“This is an outstanding win for our trees and natural resources. As the Lorax said “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

“Tree-mendous news alert,” posted Potomac Conservancy. “Last night, the Maryland General Assembly passed historic for-



The study makes use of a newly released, innovative, very high-resolution land use and land cover dataset for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed used for the first time to monitor individual trees within and outside forests across Maryland.

est preservation legislation that will ensure a net gain of forests throughout the state. This will

have significant benefits for clean water, our community’s health, and local wildlife.”

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.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS AT CABIN JOHN REGIONAL PARK

Montgomery Parks hosts four outdoor concerts on Sundays this spring in Cabin John Regional Park in Bethesda. The concerts are free and registration is not required. The concerts take place at the amphitheater from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The series, Sunday Serenade, features local jazz musicians. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnics to enjoy the concert. Food trucks serving pastries and coffee will also be available.

Cabin John Regional Park is located at 7400 Tuckerman Lane in Bethesda.

Performance Schedule

April 16: Bruce Swaim Quartet

The Bruce Swaim Quartet, consisting of Bruce Swaim on tenor sax, Paul Langosch on bass, Jay Cooley on piano and Dominic Smith on drums, are recognized as one of Washington D.C.'s premier jazz quartets.

April 23: Robbin Kapsalis and The Vintage #18

Robbin Kapsalis and Vintage #18 ignited the Washington D.C. Blues and Soul music scene in 2013, but they've already racked up a slew of well-deserved accolades. Their 2017 debut "Grit" was nominated for a Blues Blast Music Award (New Artist Debut Album) and they've been featured artists everywhere from Memphis, TN all the way to the Kennedy Center's New Year's Eve Celebration.

April 30: Bach to Rock

Bach to Rock is a music school that offers programs for all ages and all skill levels. Students master the songs they love, join forces with peers through jam sessions, and let loose in the spotlight.

May 7: Eric Scott Duo

Washington, DC, singer/songwriter and bassist Eric Scott has thus far had an interesting musical and life journey. As an artist and sideman, he has toured internationally, sharing the stage with B.B. King, Mavis Staples, Aaron Neville, REO Speedwagon, Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, and many more.

POTOMAC LIBRARY BRANCH TO REOPEN SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich will join Montgomery County Public Libraries, other officials and community members at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, for ceremonies reopening the Potomac Library. The branch has been closed since May 22, 2022, for significant renovations.

The renovation work included the replacement of all flooring, reconfiguration and updating of shelving, painting throughout, a new service desk, new lighting, redesign of the children's reading nook, installation of security equipment, addition of lounge seating and study areas, replacement of the entry doors, creation of a family restroom and the updating of interior and exterior signs.

Work was also performed to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Carousel Day. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Performances, Hands-On Arts and Crafts, Carousel Rides. Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture.

JOB FAIRS SCHEDULED

Montgomery County Recreation is hiring part-time seasonal employees to work during the 2023 summer season. Available positions include lifeguards, camp counselors, camp directors and more.

Job fairs are scheduled at the following locations and dates:

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 - 8 p.m. at Upper County Community Recreation Center, 8201 Emory Grove Road, Gaithersburg

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring

Sunday, May 7, noon - 4 p.m. at Wheaton Community Recreation Center, 11701 Georgia Ave., Wheaton

The part-time/seasonal pay rate begins at \$15.65 an hour and increases based on experience. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applicants should bring their resumes, come dressed for success and be prepared to discuss their experience. The department is looking for dedicated, hardworking and motivated individuals. Applicants should note these job fairs are not job or location specific. Applicants may attend any job fair regardless of where they are seeking to work in the County.

As a condition of employment, applicants will be required to pass a criminal background investigation. The investigation will include state, federal and sex offender background checks.

LIBRARIES TO HOST DENTAL HEALTH FAIR

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will host a Dental Health Fair at the Long Branch Library from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. The Dental Health Fair will provide free oral health screenings for all ages (from young children to older adults) and general information about dental care, hygiene and dental services.

The Long Branch Library is located at 8800 Garland Ave. in Silver Spring. No registration is required to attend.

The Dental Health Fair is part of the Narratives and Medical Education (NAME) Project. NAME is an experimental National Institutes of Health funded project that brings together different disciplines focusing on the role of racism in health care, specifically in dental care disparities.

The free screenings will be provided by students of the Dental Hygiene Program at the University of Maryland (UMD) School of Dentistry.

The Dental Health Fair is a collaboration between UMD School of Dentistry, UMD College Park, UMD Libraries at the Universities at Shady Grove and MCPL.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAREER FAIR AND HIRING EXPO

Montgomery County will hold a career fair for job seekers 18-and-over from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, at the Silver Spring Civic

Building. The County is searching for candidates to fill more than 30 types of available positions across a variety of industries.

The Silver Spring Civic Building is located at 1 Veterans Place in Silver Spring.

Registration is not required to attend, but attendees are encouraged to register in advance at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/JOBFAIR.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING FORUM

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging will join in the celebration of May as "Older Americans Month" by hosting its annual free forum on Thursday, May 4, at the Bohrer Park Activity Center in Gaithersburg. This year's theme is "Smart Homes—Smarter Care: Technology that Supports Aging in Place" and it will be held during the City of Gaithersburg's Active Aging Expo.

The forum will be held from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Bohrer Park, which is located at 506 South Frederick Road in Gaithersburg. The event also will be available virtually through Zoom. Although the event is free, registration is encouraged. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/CoA2023PublicForum>.

The event will offer insights into how 'Smart Homes—Smarter Care' devices can enable doctors and caregivers to remotely monitor a patient's vital signs, signal remote alerts, monitor mental and physical states in real time, and provide rapid intervention when the situation is warranted.

SUNDAY/MAY 21

Potomac Hunt Races. 10 a.m. gates open. Activities start at 12 p.m. At Bittersweet Field, Partnership Road, Poolesville. Held in the heart of Montgomery County's horse country, the Potomac Hunt Races is an annual tradition, celebrating the sport of steeplechase racing. Amidst the thrill of thundering hooves and soaring horses, race day festivities include mounted police demonstrations, a Kid Zone and Vendor Village.

Enjoy the camaraderie of friends and colleagues, the beauty of nature, and the majesty of the equine athletes — all within the pristine rolling fields of the Kiplinger estate in Poolesville, Maryland.

For optimum tailgating, railside parking passes must be purchased in advance. We also offer Premium Unreserved Parking for those who wish to park in the lot on the race grounds. All other attendees must purchase a Shuttle Pass take a shuttle from the Polo Grounds at 15598 Hughes Road, Poolesville, MD.

The Potomac Hunt Races offers customized Sponsorship Opportunities for companies wishing to entertain clients and/or employees.

Once you're here, sit back, relax, and enjoy the adrenaline rush of the racing horses!

MAY 13 AND 14

Save the date! The Bethesda Fine Arts Festival returns this May 13 and 14 to downtown Bethesda. Featuring 130 of the nation's best artists, live entertainment and Bethesda restaurants! Admission to the event is free. More details - <https://www.bethesda.org/arts/artsfestival.htm>

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7



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OPINION

WMCCA VIRTUAL MEETING Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83122503169?pwd=UE56U1VubmxhaE1DaVZiMlMwODdQQT09> or call in with 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 831 2250 3169, Passcode: 799027)

A recording of this meeting, and hotlinks within the Newsletter, will be available on our website: www.WMCCA.org

SPEAKERS:

MIKE RILEY, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

BILL HAMILTON, Manager, Natural Resources Stewardship Section

The Parks Department's annual operating budget is to be considered by the County Council during coming weeks and, in particular, this year the budget includes three Career positions to be dedicated to strengthening the Department's Vegetation Ecology & Management Unit's efforts for inventory, monitoring, and management of habitat; with a focus being on exponential growth toward non-native, invasive plant management. The County Executive's recommended budget falls short of these critical stewardship needs. The advocacy of citizens is vital to making sure we maintain long term sustainability of rare habitats and the ecological functions of all our natural resource areas. Our speakers will give an overview of budget needs and answer questions.

Celebrate Spring in Montgomery County

President's Letter by Barbara Brown

Montgomery County offers 420 parks on 37,220 acres. There are 4 lakes, 27 activity buildings, 102 campsites, 114 historic structures, 136 picnic areas, 27 basketball courts, 276 playgrounds, 269.6 miles of trails, and 297 outdoor tennis courts. It will be a fascinating program!! Please come out and enjoy!

Expedited Bill 25-22, Forest Conservation – Trees

Submitted by Ginny Barnes

The Montgomery County Council has passed, and the County Executive signed, legislation which will help the County achieve greater forest planting and forest conservation with a goal of no net loss. Specifically, the amendments will require maintenance plans in some instances if mature forest is struggling to compete with non-native invasive plants. They will discourage forest clearing and incentivize forest planting in areas with low forest cover; strengthen reforestation ratios; increase required planting in stream valley buffers; and require more mitigation for removal of large trees, among other measures. This revision has been a long process and the updated legislation will protect and expand Montgomery County forests and move the County closer towards its ambitious climate goals.

Yes !!! Maryland Rejects Certain of the Council's Proposed Changes to the County Water and Sewer Plan

Submitted by Susanne Lee

In the last days of the prior County Council's terms in office, and within hours of when the Lame Duck prohibitions would prohibit them, the Council passed a variety of changes to the County's Water and Sewer Plan that WMCCA believed were dead wrong. Following the debacle that was the prior Planning Board, this last minute move by the Council, many running for election within days of the vote, seemed to epitomize exactly how far afield from basic principles of the rule of law, and in particular administrative and environmental law, both entities had strayed. These changes, however, required approval by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) after consultation with the Maryland Department of Planning. We at WMCCA submitted the following to MDE requesting that they reject certain changes that had specific relevance to the Potomac Subregion.

https://wmcca.files.wordpress.com/2023/04/moco_ws_wmcca.pdf

On March 16, 2023, MDE issued its decision and rejected those that WMCCA had asserted should be rejected. While the State references the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, the State's decision relies heavily as well on Thrive Montgomery 2050 and the Water Resources Plan.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/supply/Montgomery%20County%20-%202022-2031%20CWSP%20-%20Resolution%2019-1423%20-%20Final%20Action%20Letter%20-%20signed.pdf>

In particular, MDE denied two new policies in the Plan that dealt with transferring connections under the abutting mains policy and community service for commercial uses outside the sewer envelope. MDE also denied in part and revised the new main extension element of the abutting mains policy placing additional limitations on its application. The new County Council has six months from the date of receipt of MDE's March 16, 2023 letter to request reconsideration by MDE. In the meantime, the County has informed the applicants that these category requests approved by the Council based on the provisions in the disapproved amendments are on hold:

WSSCR 20-TRV-03A (Arora) WSSCR 20-TRV-05A (Kapoor) WSSCR 20-TRV-09A (Ainane)

WSSCR 20-TRV-14A (Transquest LLC) WSSCR 20-TRV-15A (Travilah Oak LLC)

Bullis Plans Artificial Field

Submitted by Carol Van Dam Falk

A hearing before the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) on the Bullis School application for a major revision to their Special Exception scheduled for late January was postponed. The revision includes plans

for a new synthetic turf playing field. A Bullis modification of conditional use hearing is scheduled for April 13th before the Planning Board. On May 2, it goes before OZAH.

Synthetic turf contains toxic chemicals including PFAs or "Forever Chemicals," and presents a host of other problems including a higher rate of injuries to players vs. natural grass and serious disposal questions. Last month, a report on a possible link between a rare brain cancer that killed six professional US baseball players and toxic chemicals in artificial turf has raised new questions over whether synthetic sports fields pose a health threat to athletes and others using them. The six athletes, who all died from glioblastoma, played most of their professional lives with the Philadelphia Phillies, a team that for decades competed on artificial turf in Veterans Stadium, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer. While no causality has been proven between cancer and synthetic turf, we do know heavy metals, carcinogens, and endocrine disruptors exist in artificial turf. We urge you to contact the Planning Board and tell them you oppose Bullis' construction of synthetic turf fields.

Norman Knopf

Submitted by Susanne Lee and Ginny Barnes

We were so very sorry to hear that Norman Knopf died recently. He was WMCCA's go to attorney for over 30 years until his retirement from active practice several years ago. He himself was a community activist so in addition to his remarkable legal skills he brought enormous commitment to our efforts as well. The law firm of Knopf and Brown that he founded is one of the few that will represent community groups as most in the land use bar will only represent development interests. He was an absolute expert on zoning statutes and a joy to work with; patient, collegial, and always mindful of optimizing the use of citizens' often limited financial resources.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/norman-knopf-obituary?id=51388661>

WMCCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following individuals will nominate Officers and Directors to be voted upon at the May 10, 2023 General Meeting: Chairperson – Ginny Barnes, Members: Susanne Lee, Theodora Scarato, Nancy Madden, Ken Bawer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for our MAY 10TH GENERAL MEETING!

Our Speakers will be Senator Brian Feldman and District 15 Delegates Lily Qi, Linda Foley, and David Fraser-Hidalgo. They will provide their annual update on their work in the Maryland General Assembly. Their efforts to improve the lives of citizens in their District and throughout Maryland are always important. Please join this meeting and bring your interests and questions.



BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK WITH VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Volunteers are needed to assist sexual assault victims and their families through Montgomery County's Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP), part of the County's Department of Health and Human Services. Interviews are currently being conducted for the 2023 winter training session. VASAP outreach volunteers donate their time serving victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Volunteers provide 24-hour crisis counseling and companion services at County hospitals and police stations for victims of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. Bilingual volunteers are encouraged to apply.

Volunteers must attend a training program that covers crisis intervention skills and the specialized knowledge of the emotional, medical and legal issues that victims face.

Volunteers must commit to serve for one year. They are needed in on-call capacity and for one 12-hour shift or two six-hour shifts per week.

Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age, County residents, have a valid driver's license and immediate access to transportation.

For more information or to arrange an interview, call the Montgomery County Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program at 240-777-1355 or visit the VASAP website.

CRISIS PREVENTION SERVICES

EveryMind Crisis Prevention and Intervention specialists are available 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

ONGOING

24/7 Homeless Information Line. Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with EveryMind, has launched a 24/7 Homeless Information Line, with trained specialists to provide information on County homeless services and shelter resources. Callers can also provide information about the location of individuals in the community experiencing homelessness. The reports will be forwarded to community outreach partners who will attempt to locate the individual and offer support and resources. The information line number is 240-907-2688. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness for more.

Members Wanted. The Potomac Area Newcomers Club is a group of more than 200 women who have moved to the Potomac area. The club offers bridge, mah jong, book groups, golf, luncheons and museum trips as a way to help newcomers and current residents form new friendships, expand horizons and take advantage of opportunities in the area. Visit www.potomacnewcomers.com

Senior SmarTrip Card. There is a SmarTrip card, for those 65 and older, that may be used to ride Metrorail at senior fares, ride free on Ride On buses and some Metrobuses in Montgomery County Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. or half fare at all other times. The cost of the Senior SmarTrip card is \$2. There is no value on the card at the time of purchase. Visit any library in Montgomery County, the Silver Spring TRiPS Store, the Mobile Commuter Store, or the Montgomery County Treasury Office and bring proof of age (state ID, birth certificate or passport). For more information, call 311.

Seeking Applicants. Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is looking to increase their service to the veteran community and all Veterans or spouses if Veteran spouse has died who meet our income limits are encouraged to apply. Applications are accepted year round. The application is at rebuildingtogethermc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/FY18-Homeowner-Application.pdf. Income requirements are listed on the first page.

SUPPORT. Two county services can help residents find out more about services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Aging & Disability Resource Unit (ADRU), part of the Department of Health and Human Services, provides assistance, referrals to services and specific information to seniors, individuals with disabilities and caregivers by telephone and in-person. The Connect-A-Ride program provides information and referral for older adults and adults with disabilities about transportation options; including public, private and volunteer transportation services. In addition, the program assists callers with applications for programs such as the Escorted Transportation Program, Call-n-Ride and Metro Access. Language interpretation is available for both services. The Aging & Disability Resource Unit is open Monday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call the ADRU at 240-777-3000. The Connect-a-Ride program, funded by Montgomery County and operated by the Jewish Council for the Aging, is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Connect-a-Ride at 301-738-3252.

The Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities (CCOC) has launched a new online training program for common ownership community board members. Visit www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/CCOC-Training.

Master Gardener Plant Clinics. Montgomery County Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions at walk-in plant clinics. Bring plant and insect samples, garden problems and questions. Drop off plant and insect samples, Monday-Friday, year-round, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 18410 Muncaster Road, lower level, Ballard Phone Room.

English Classes. The Literacy Council of Montgomery County is offering free day and evening English classes (beginning, intermediate and advanced levels) to adult county residents at several locations. Prospective students must attend a 3 1/2 hour orientation in Rockville. The Literacy Council is always looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. For more information email info@literacycouncilmd.org or call 301-610-0030.

Shades of Green Program. The Montgomery County Planning Department is offering free trees to qualifying property owners in certain urban districts of Montgomery County. Qualifying property owners are invited to participate in the program by filling out a form at www.montgomeryplanning.org/shadesofgreen.

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

EDITORIAL

E-MAIL:
almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Carole Dell, Kenny Lourie,
Ken Moore

Contributing Photographers

Deborah Stevens, Carole Dell

Art/Design

Laurence Foong
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

ADVERTISING

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

Debbie Funk

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

David Griffin

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

Jerry Vernon

Publisher
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Untethered



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

For the first time in 68-plus years/my entire life, I am not considering the consequences – too much anyway, of my miscellaneous actions/behaviors, encompassing all facets of my life. With my brother's recent death in addition to our parent's respective deaths in 2006 (father) and 2008 (mother), yours truly is it. 'It' being the last man standing of the Newton Centre Louries.

With neither my brother nor I fathered any children/heirs to carry on our family traditions, "The buck," as it did with President Harry S. Truman, "stops here." Because, quite frankly, it has nowhere else to go. Moreover, whatever bucks remain after Dina, and I die will go who knows where? If to err is human, and we have no significant heirs, then there will be no heir apparent to the Lourie legacy.

As such, I have fewer people to answer to/concern myself with or worry about in any shape or form now, other than my wife, Dina. I'm not exactly adrift. But I am something, what that is exactly, I can't say. Whatever it will be, it will be very unnatural. 'Unnatural' as in behaviors/responsibilities I've had to do (happily and willingly) my entire life, I no longer must do as there's no one left to answer to. Still, I have never chafed at the responsibilities/obligations to my parents and brother. Nevertheless, as I live/survive forward, I do not have any of the checks and balances that previously characterized my life. Unfortunately, as this column's title says, I am now free of many of the ties which on and off have knotted me up, while likely keeping me between the lines, and mostly out of trouble.

I am now left to fend for myself (Dina notwithstanding). My entire life I've never had to fend for myself. It seems silly that after all these decades of organizing my life/adhering to certain guidelines, something should change. Boy, did it. With my last blood family member predeceasing me, I am free to fail. In spectacular fashion if I so desire or succeed in ways never imagined/considered given the non-literal, non-verbal constraints I was bound to, especially since I was "The baby of the family," (as was my mother). Just as last week's column described my new scan interval taking me into "new territory," so too does living my life without my brother stagger me forward into uncharted waters. I will live on for sure, but for a while, the loss will be difficult, especially with baseball season upon us. If my brother and I shared anything, it was the love of the Boston Red Sox (and The Three Stooges, but that's for another column). And did I ever feel it on Sunday, April 2nd. On that day, the Orioles played the Red Sox in Boston. It was scheduled for 1:35 pm. That would have been the exact time that my brother and I would have gotten together to watch the ballgame. And aside from watching the game, it would have given me the opportunity to make sure Richard had the details about how to sign up for the MLB package on Cable so he could see as many Red Sox games as possible. (There are certain tasks that fell to me, as the younger brother. Advising Richard when and how he could watch Red Sox games on television was one of the most important.) Sitting at home alone on that first Sunday of the season watching the Red Sox game, all I could think about was my brother and all the conversations we'd be having about the Red Sox – and of course, life. Never again would we be together, except in my dreams (I can hope, can't?)

Aside from my brother being older and wiser – and a more experienced salesperson than I was, he was a great brother ("my best man" in fact) – and friend, and my biggest booster as well. I remember when I was hospitalized for a week in August 2015, my brother was at the hospital every day, all day, encouraging me on the one hand, and interfacing with the doctors and staff on the other to make sure I was getting the best, most hands-on care. And when I had an opportunity to return the favor this past July through mid-Sept., when he was hospitalized; to visit and support my brother, bring him food, run any outside errands he needed, whatever, I was available every day, all day, whatever he or his wife, Vanessa needed me to do. With his passing, I feel as if I'm only living part time, if you know what I mean? And unfortunately, I don't suppose it's going to get any better for a while.

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

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