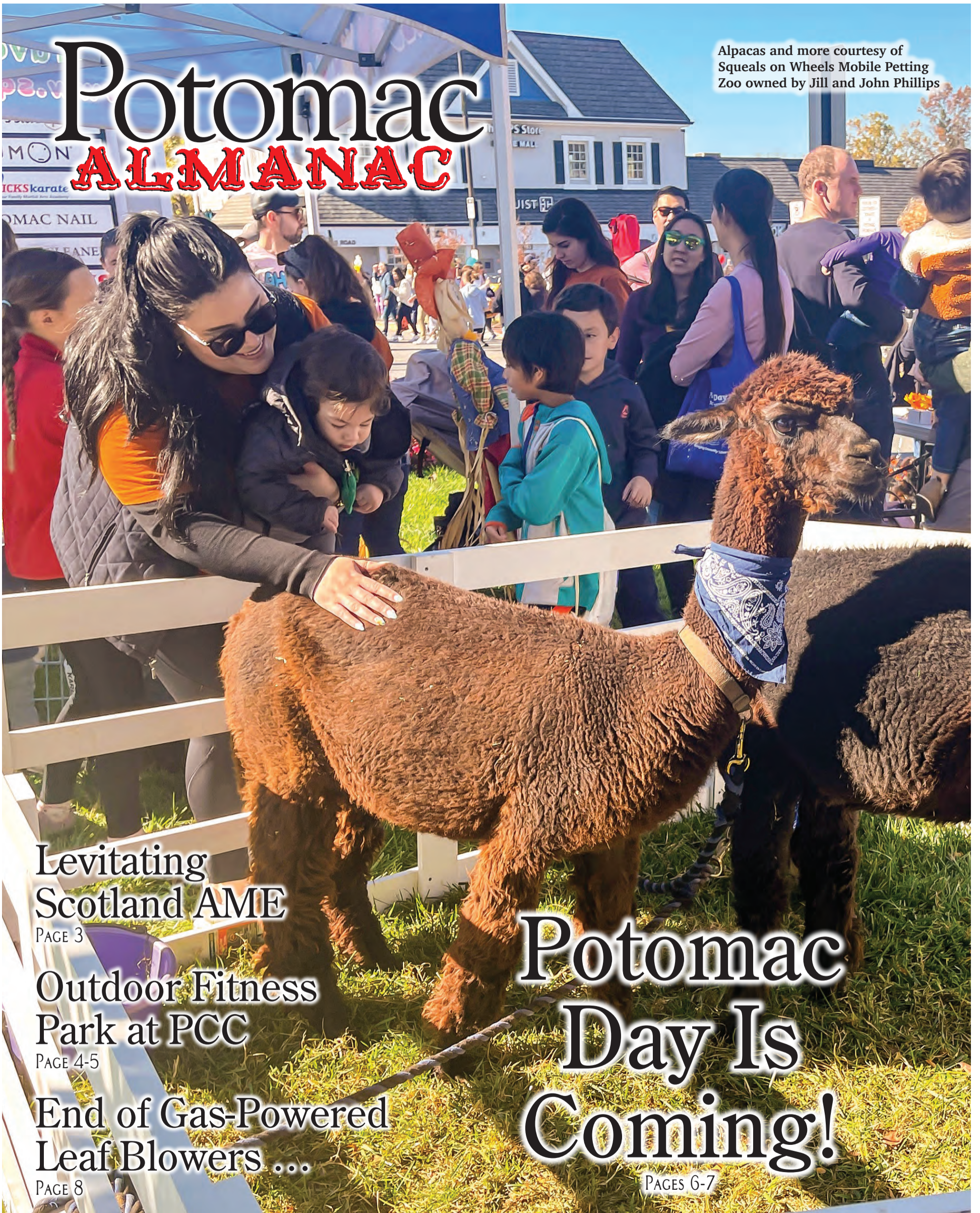


Potomac ALMANAC

Alpacas and more courtesy of
Squeals on Wheels Mobile Petting
Zoo owned by Jill and John Phillips



Levitating
Scotland AME

PAGE 3

Outdoor Fitness
Park at PCC

PAGE 4-5

End of Gas-Powered
Leaf Blowers ...

PAGE 8

Potomac
Day Is
Coming!

PAGES 6-7

REAL ESTATE, PAGE 2 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 11

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

OCTOBER 4-10, 2023

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

June, 2023 Top Sales

IN JUNE, 2023, 69 POTOMAC HOMES
SOLD BETWEEN \$3,595,000-\$560,000.



5 12616 Tribunal Lane
— \$2,625,000



3 11704 Centurion Way — \$2,650,000



2 10100 Gary Road
— \$2,725,000



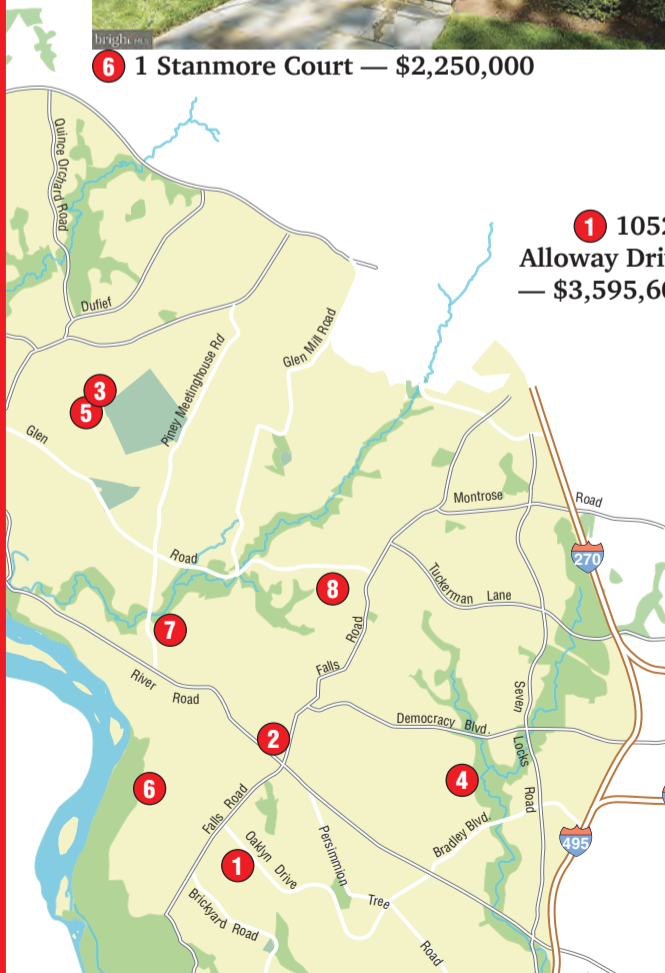
4 6 Purcell Court — \$2,640,000



6 1 Stanmore Court — \$2,250,000



1 10525 Alloway Drive
— \$3,595,600



Address.....	BR	FB	HB...	Postal City ...	Sold Price.....	Type.....	Lot AC..	Postal Code.....	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
1 10525 ALLOWAY DR.....	5	....8	....1	POTOMAC	\$3,595,000	...Detached.....	2.00.....	20854.....	POTOMAC RANCH	06/21/23
2 10100 GARY RD	7	....8	....3	POTOMAC	\$2,725,000	...Detached.....	1.17.....	20854.....	POTOMAC HILLS	06/15/23
3 11704 CENTURION WAY	9	....8	....2	POTOMAC	\$2,650,000	...Detached.....	2.00.....	20854.....	PALATINE.....	06/09/23
4 6 PURCELL CT	7	....6	....1	POTOMAC	\$2,640,000	...Detached.....	0.63.....	20854.....	MCAULEY PARK	06/20/23
5 12616 TRIBUNAL LN	7	....5	....1	POTOMAC	\$2,625,000	...Detached.....	2.00.....	20854.....	PALATINE.....	06/23/23
6 1 STANMORE CT.....	6	....5	....1	POTOMAC	\$2,250,000	...Detached.....	2.55.....	20854.....	GREAT FALLS ESTATES....	06/05/23
7 10 PINEY MEETINGHSE CT.....	5	....6	....2	POTOMAC	\$2,020,000	...Detached.....	2.38.....	20854.....	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS....	06/30/23
8 11316 RIDGE MIST TER.....	5	....4	....1	POTOMAC	\$1,930,500	...Detached.....	0.36.....	20854.....	CLAGETT FARM	06/22/23

COPYRIGHT 2023 MARKETSTATS FOR SHOWINGTIME. SOURCE: BRIGHT MLS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023.
[HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2023/JUL/17/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-JUNE-2023/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/jul/17/potomac-home-sales-june-2023/)

“We are lifting up not only the church, but our community as well.”

— Latisha Gasaway-Paul, Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church



LaTisha Gasaway-Paul expresses gratitude for the latest milestone in the restoration of Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church.



County officials, church members and community leaders attend a raising ceremony, a critical step to restore the historic Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church

Rising Again

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
POTOMAC ALMANAC

County officials, church members and community leaders gathered under a cloudy sky for a raising ceremony, the latest step in an effort to restore the historic Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church, located on Seven Locks Road in Potomac.

“This is a huge event,” said LaTisha Gasaway-Paul, a church member and descendant of the church’s founder. We are finally able to see all our hard work come to life. We are lifting up not only the church, but

our community as well.”

The structure was damaged by flooding in 2019, leaving it uninhabitable and unusable.

The fragile, historic building was raised to a height of about two-and-a-half-feet above the road to help prevent further flooding.

This significant milestone represents the progress made in the 2nd Century Project, a community-led initiative to restore the church and construct a new worship space, honoring its enduring legacy since it was established in 1924.

“Like the old spiritual song says, ‘We can’t turn around. We’ve come this far by faith leaning on the Lord,’” said church member

Ernestine Baker.

“Scotland is more than just a church,” said Larry Sanders who attends the church. “It stands as a symbol of blood, sweat and tears of those who came before us. It represents our resilience and perseverance of our small, but mighty community.”

To protect the 99-year-old section of the church, and to be sure the building “didn’t implode or come apart” when it was lifted, the contractors installed steel turnbuckles, plates and cables.

With the building successfully raised, the congregation can now focus on fundraising efforts. While they have already secured \$6

million in funding, an additional \$4 million is required to complete the project. There were many complications and surprises and the project has proceeded.

“What we need from the community is your support,” said Gasaway-Paul. “We are not too proud to ask for help, we need your help with this battle. We need the community to recognize that just because the church has been raised, doesn’t mean we’re done. There is still much more to be done before we can be in our home again.”

For those interested in supporting the 2nd Century Project or learning more, <https://scotlandamezion.org/donate/>

Potomac’s Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church marks a milestone with raising ceremony.



Potomac’s Councilmember Andrew Friedson stood in the same spot three-and-a-half years ago pledging to help restore the Scotland AME Zion Church rebuild. “Yesterday, he was able to confidently state that we will not only repair the church, we will expand it. We are not just fixing a building, we are righting the wrongs of centuries of misguided decisions. But we need everyone’s help. We need everyone to do what they can. www.scotlandamezion.org,” wrote Paul Tukey on Facebook.



Two leading members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Carrie Marriott and Chris Mathews, pictured with LaTisha Gasaway-Paul. They have been great supporters of our 2nd Century Project and hope to become more involved, says Paul Tukey on Facebook, see Friends of Scotland in Potomac, MD on Facebook. www.scotlandamezion.org

Outdoor Gymming

High-tech, accessible outdoor fitness park opens at Potomac Community Center. Open to all, 24/7; stop by and try it out.

Donors Included

Srour Family in Memory of Farid and Kathleen Srour
 Michaels Family in honor of son Aaron
 Hal and Penny Heltzer and Family
 PCC Tai Chi Group
 PCC Table Tennis Club
 Potomac Soccer Association
 National Convenience Distributors; Century Distributors
 Colony Grill, Cabin John
 Mitch and Bill's Exxon
 O'Donnell's Market
 David Wu
 Sophia Wang

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

More than 100 people use the Potomac Community Center gym, the busiest room of the facility, every day.

When the pandemic kept the community center closed, Allan Cohen thought about them, as well as people of all ages and abilities throughout Potomac, who couldn't use the facility.

Cohen, of Friends of the Potomac Community Center, remembers the next Election Day when he and District 15 Del. Linda K. Foley had a conversation.

"Del. Foley and I stood out at the polls and were talking about what we needed here," Cohen said. "We thought about needing an outdoor park."

On Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, at a ribbon cutting ceremony, Cohen introduced the Potomac Community Center's new Outdoor Fitness Park.

"Something like this offers us the chance to be outside and focus on fitness," said Pam Yerg, member of the Friends of the Potomac Community Center. "For those who know Allan, when he talks about something you know it's going to happen," she said. "There are all kinds of options and possibilities that we will be exploring for programming," from Tai Chi, Zumba, Yoga and other classes, Yerg said. "The Friends of the Potomac Community Center really tries to focus on the health and wellbeing of our community."

More than 189 exercises can be performed at 47 different outdoor workout stations at the outdoor fitness park, including strength, cardio and balance training.

"It's a pleasure to see a project come to completion," said Cohen.

"It's another exciting day in Potomac," said Councilmember Gabe SEE OUTDOOR FITNESS, PAGE 5

To Donate

Friends of the Potomac Community Center are still raising funds to complete Community Health and Wellness Initiatives which includes the Outdoor Fitness Park and the fitness room expansion. Write Health and Wellness Initiatives on memo line.

Make checks payable to Friends of the PCC, mail or drop off to 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, Md. 20854



Del. Linda Foley, whose early advocacy for the outdoor fitness park paved the way for \$200,000 in state funding, tries out the elliptical while Del. Lily Qi looks on.



Allan Cohen, Captain Amy Daum, and Page Castle of KOMPAN Playgrounds.



Ribbon cutting outside: Del. Lily Qi; Del. Linda Foley; students Andrew Wang, Zayden Schaffer, Kyle Lin and David Yao; Sen. Brian Feldman; Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo; Councilmembers Gabe Alborno and Andrew Friedson; catalyst-in-chief Allan Cohen.



Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo tries out the bike.



Ribbon cutting inside: Gabe Alborno, Lily Qi, Andrew Friedson, Linda Foley, Allan Cohen, Brian Feldman, David Fraser-Hidalgo.



Allan Cohen receiving a commendation from County Councilmembers Gabe Alborno and Andrew Friedson.

Outdoor Fitness Park Opens at Potomac Community Center

FROM PAGE 4

Albornoz, former director of Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

Albornoz and others hope the outdoor fitness park will be replicated across Montgomery County. “This facility is going to expand on health and wellness opportunities and should serve as a model for all our community recreation facilities across the county. All of them should have a similar amenity,” said Albornoz.

THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY included the entire District 15 delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, and each thanked Del. Linda Foley for her leadership on this project.

“Linda Foley got this whole project going,” said Sen. Brian J. Feldman.

The Outdoor Fitness Park was made possible through capital funds from the state of Maryland and fundraising by the Friends of the Potomac Community Center, including donations from community members.

“One of the best things we’re able to do is go to Annapolis and bring capital dollars home,” said Feldman. “Linda [Foley] brought it to my attention and literally on day 90 [of the Maryland General Assembly] we were able to find \$200,000 to deploy to this very worthwhile project.”

When Lake Normandy Elementary School closed because of declining enrollment, it almost became a storage facility for Montgomery County Public Schools, Albornoz reminded the hundred who attended the ceremony. Allan Cohen and others advocated and “demanded that this be a community amenity.” It opened as one of the busiest community centers and 34 years later, it continues as one of Montgomery County’s busiest community centers.

“Allan Cohen has been here every step of the way,” said Albornoz.

Councilmember Andrew Friedson grew up near the community center. He played his first little league game in the fields behind the building, his first basketball game in the gymnasium and had his first slow dance at Club Friday, he said.

“This isn’t a recreation center, this is my rec center,” said Friedson.

The outdoor fitness park can be used by people of all ages and abilities, he said. “This is an exciting project.”

People using the equipment can access virtual trainers via an app,

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Councilmember Gabe Albornoz said when he was director of Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Allan Cohen called him a lot.



Andrew Friedson tells of growing up around the Potomac Community Center with Gabe Albornoz mugging along.



Allan Cohen at the podium.



Robin Riley, Director, Montgomery County Department of Recreation.



Del. Lily Qi.



Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo.

“One of the best things that we’re able to do is go to Annapolis and bring home capital dollars to the community.”

— Sen. Brian J. Feldman, D-15

“I’m so proud of the Potomac Community Center... I hope that [this outdoor fitness park] gets to be used every day, all the time. It took a team effort to get there.”

— Del. Linda K. Foley, D-15

“I’m super excited to get on the equipment.”

— Del. David V. Fraser-Hidalgo, D-15

“This project is really exciting.”

— Councilmember Andrew Friedson, District 1

although the equipment works with or without the app. Download KOMPAN’s Outdoor Fitness app either through Google or Apple. The app will demonstrate how to use the machines and exercise

stations and offer instructions on how to use the equipment. Signs explaining the equipment are also on display at the fitness park.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held as rains from Tropi-



Sen. Brian Feldman at the podium with delegates (from left) Lily Qi, David Fraser-Hidalgo and Linda Foley, looking on.

“This is the place where the community gathers.”

— Del. Lily Qi, D-15

cal Storm Ophelia were winding down. Cohen said all equipment was built in Europe to withstand the outdoor elements as well as continuous, every day, every hour use. Rain did not stop the celebration. A canopy covers a good portion of the equipment.

“We hope everyone comes out and uses it and enjoys it, and stays

well and healthy,” said Robin Riley, director of the County’s Recreation Department.

“This offers us a chance to be outside and focus on fitness,” said Pam Yerg. “It’s sort of a build-it-and-they-will-come situation.”

“I can’t wait to get on the equipment,” said Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo.

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

POTOMAC DAY

Potomac Day Is Saturday, Oct. 21

Potomac Day is a gift from the Potomac Chamber of Commerce to the community.

Potomac Day is Saturday, Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a delightful, fun day for all.

All events are rain or shine. The Parade is a rain or shine event. Line-up for the parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Chapel Road. You must register and will receive a call the week of the event with your section placement and/or monitors will be on hand the day of to help you find your spot.

Falls and River Roads will close promptly at 10 a.m., so be sure to find your parking spot and walk to

the Chapel Road start before then. The only vehicles allowed on Chapel Road are the vehicles that will be in the parade.

This year, the Potomac Chamber of Commerce is holding a parade float contest with the theme horsing around. We hear that Scotland AME Church will have a remarkable float, and we can't wait to see the others.

The parade will kick off at 10:30 a.m., ending around 11:45 a.m. behind the shopping centers. Then the Children's Festival and Business Fair will be in full swing.



Fire trucks on display, old and new. Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department is a big part of the day.



It's the spooky season.



These guys are everywhere. Sen. Brian Feldman and Councilmember Andrew Friedson.



In 2022, many candidates were part of the Potomac Day Parade.



East-West Tae Kwon Do students line up waiting for the Parade to begin.



Bagels and Grinds, part of Adam Greenburg's restaurant empire that includes Potomac Pizza and now, Hunters Inn, as well as Potomac Pizza of course.



Cub Scouts. Look at those faces. Are they cute enough?



Colorful floats are part of the fun, and this year there will be a float contest.



American Originals Fife and Drum.



Potomac Pizza, major sponsor.

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Our services are open to all! Wherever you are on your faith journey you are welcome!

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POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ OCTOBER 4-10, 2023 ♦ 7

Montgomery County Council Enacts Legislation that Will Prohibit Sale and Use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

The Montgomery County Council enacted legislation today that will prohibit the sale and use of combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and leaf vacuums in most areas of the County. The vote was 10 - 1, with Council President Evan Glass, Vice President Andrew Friedson and Councilmembers Marilyn Balcombe, Natali Fani-González, Will Jawando, Sidney Katz, Dawn Luedtke, Kristin Mink, Laurie-Anne Sayles and Kate Stewart voting for the bill.

Bill 18-22, Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments, was proposed by County Executive Marc Elrich and introduced by former Council President Gabe Albornoz. As enacted by the Council, the effective date of the ban on the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums will be July 1, 2024. The ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

“Montgomery County is moving toward electric leaf blowers because it is an important step to address environmental, noise and health concerns in our community,” said

Council President Glass, who also serves as chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee. “The legislation enacted by the Council today is one example of the many steps we are taking to help combat climate change, while also working with our small businesses to offset the initial fiscal impacts of going green. I want to thank County Executive Elrich and his team for sending this bill to the Council.”

The legislation also authorizes the creation of a grant program that will be established by regulation to partially offset the cost of replacing a combustion engine-powered leaf blower or leaf vacuum with an electric model. Information about the grants will be available after the Council receives the proposed regulations.

“This legislation is a good step forward toward meeting our climate goals,” said Councilmember Balcombe, who is a member of the Transportation and Environment Committee. “The bill has a lot of moving parts. ... I’m glad that we took the time to discuss it thoroughly, so that we passed the best bill possible.”

Under the legislation, the County Executive must transmit regulations to the Council to establish the reimbursement program no later than March 30, 2024. The regulations will not go into effect until they are approved by the Council.

“Today we took action to reduce disruptive, excessive and unhealthy noise in our communities, following our Climate Action Plan to reduce fossil emissions,” said Councilmember Stewart, who is also a member of the Transportation and Environment Committee. “We will work with our Department of Environmental Protection to ensure we have a robust incentive program that smooths the transition to electric leaf blowers, especially for our smallest landscapers.”

Additionally, the bill exempts the use of gas leaf blower equipment for agricultural producers on agriculturally assessed properties, requires an annual report by the Department of Environmental Protection, and generally amends the law regarding noise control.

“As the only immigrant on the Montgomery County Council, I am particularly proud

to represent the many immigrants who do these incredibly tough and dangerous jobs,” said Councilmember Fani-González, who serves as chair of the Economic Development Committee. “Today’s vote shows that we are taking action to improve the health of landscape workers, as electric leaf blowers eliminate emissions that heighten respiratory conditions like asthma. These battery-powered blowers are effective and contribute to a healthier environment and improved air quality for all.”

Retailers will be required to provide notice to customers on the forthcoming ban on combustion powered leaf blowers in Montgomery County. The County’s Department of Environmental Protection will provide the notice signs for retail businesses to use in their stores.

The full, 92-page staff report can be viewed here. https://montgomery-countymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=15903&meta_id=164666

Source: Montgomery County Council press release.

Changes to Support Suburban And Urban Agriculture

The Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) has removed permitting barriers to allow produce growers to build high tunnel-type greenhouses on urban and suburban properties, a benefit previously reserved for land designated as agricultural.

High tunnels can be a key piece of farm infrastructure for vegetable growers to increase food production. Similar to a greenhouse, a high tunnel is a less permanent structure, built with a metal frame and plastic cover instead of glass and metal. High tunnels extend the growing season by trapping heat and protect crops from diseases and pests.

Urban agriculture is fundamental to achieving food systems resilience in the County, increasing urban access to nutritious food and empowering urban residents. Previously, a building permit from the County was required for high tunnels on properties not agriculturally assessed for tax purposes. It is often difficult for properties with fewer than three acres to obtain the necessary agricultural assessment. This requirement had presented a barrier to new farmers and those with fewer means on urban and suburban properties.

“Ag growers who are Black, indigenous or people of color often operate on properties with fewer than three acres of land, so this policy change was made to increase racial equity,” said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. “This policy change also is expected to increase local food production, which helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions from long-distance food transport on our roads and increase urban access to healthy and nutritious food. I thank the local grower who advocated for change and the Office of Agriculture and Department of Permitting Services for implementing the new policy.”

Department of Permitting Services, based on recommendations from the Office of Agriculture (OAG) and



Similar to a greenhouse, a high tunnel is a less permanent structure, built with a metal frame and plastic cover instead of glass and metal. High tunnels extend the growing season

with support from County Executive Elrich, recently made the policy decision to allow properties that are not agriculturally assessed to install a high tunnel without a building permit. The applicant must submit to the DPS a certificate showing that the high tunnel proposal has been reviewed by the Montgomery Soil Conservation District and the OAG to ensure that it will comply with sediment and erosion control, stormwater management, zoning, and any HOA requirements.

Tope Fajingbesi and her husband Niyi Balogun, owners of Dodo Farms in Brookeville, grow several different vegetables from their home country of Nigeria.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and the following supply chain disruptions really exposed the vulnerability of our food systems, and more than any other events I have witnessed, showed the need to increase food production in the County,” said Tope. “Therefore, this gesture by the County Executive is a step in the right direction. Not only will food production increase, but I also anticipate that we will see an increase in culturally appropriate food for the County’s diverse residents.”

Learn About Safe Streets and Vision Zero

“Safe Streets Act of 2023,” signed by County Executive Marc Elrich this week, will add new measures to help protect people on our roads and sidewalks.

So far in 2023, 11 people have been killed on roads across Montgomery County compared to 19 last year — still too many. More than 400 pedestrians and cyclists have suffered serious injuries this year, said Elrich in his blog.

The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously on Sept. 19 to approve the Safe Streets Act of 2023 (Bill 11-23). The new law, spearheaded by Council President Evan Glass, will create safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers on Montgomery County roadways.

The legislation prioritizes pedestrians by enhancing walk times at crosswalks, and prohibits “right turn on red” at busy intersections in downtown areas. To create safer routes to school, the legislation will also require infrastructure reviews following incidents in school zones, “walk-sheds” and bus stops.

“The Safe Streets Act of 2023 will bring much-needed safety improvements to our roads and help prevent injuries and death,” said Glass. “The United

States has the highest rate of roadway incidents in the developed world.”

“Students deserve to have a safe passage as they travel to and from school by walking, cycling, riding a bus, or driving in a car. The routes and bus stops are too often dangerous. By including school zones improvements, the Safe Streets Bill supports safety measures for our youngest travelers. Parents commend this legislation,” said Melissa Regan, Co-chair of MCCPTA Safe Routes to School.

“We have to rethink roadway design to meet our commitment to eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries,” said Seth Grimes, Maryland Organizer for WABA.

“We congratulate the Montgomery County Council on passing the Safe Streets Act while considering the expansion of safe, comfortable, and accessible transportation through the Pedestrian Master Plan,” said Amy Frieder, President of Action Committee for Transit. “Our members look forward to working with our political leaders on a steady effort to make all roads in the county safer for everyone.”

SEE SAFE STREET, PAGE 9

COMMENTARY

West Montgomery County Citizens Association

Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

IN-PERSON AT THE POTOMAC COMMUNITY CENTER

SPEAKER: Ryan Colliton, Principal Natural Resources Specialist – Vegetation Ecologist, Montgomery Parks, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)

The Vegetation Ecology and Management Unit is focused on the conservation of native biological diversity, accomplished through a variety of programs and efforts including the use of contractors, staff, and volunteers to address issues detrimental to conservation. The last three years the program has experienced significant changes to refocus efforts to on-the ground management. This presentation will focus on the efforts taken to enhance the Weed Warrior volunteer program from a strictly invasive plant control program to a restoration framework, the methods used to prioritize resources in over 26,000 acres of high-quality natural areas, and results of baseline resource inventories for planning and future plans for program enhancements. Mr. Colliton will also highlight some of the unique natural areas of Montgomery County and share new exciting developments regarding conservation in Montgomery County.

As always, the public is welcome to attend!

YES !! In-Person WMCCA General Meetings are Back !!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER BY SUSANNE LEE

Our last in-person meeting was in March, 2020. It's all been Zooming since then - truly an amazing technology but definitely not the same. Zoom, along with other meeting

technologies, allowed us to "be together" and participate not just in our meetings, but also before the County Council, the Planning Board, and the Office of Zoning and Administrative Appeals (OZAH). And to do so no matter the weather, clothing choices, or remote overseas locations. But there were many drawbacks and limitations – especially when public participation processes were already unnecessarily opaque. During this time, WMCCA was active in multiple issues involving Thrive Montgomery 2050, stream restorations, the proposed Beltway widening, and the County's 2022 Water and Sewer Plan, to name just a few.

But the real heroes were the neighbors surrounding the proposed Spectrum Senior Living site on River Road (previously Petals and Plants and Behnke Nurseries) and those surrounding the Heritage Gardens (now Heritage Potomac) site on South Glen Road (previously the 4th Presbyterian School). Big, new development plans for these sites were being proposed just as the pandemic hit. Notwithstanding everything else they were dealing with personally and professionally during COVID, they reached out to other neighbors, organized, raised funds, hired legal and technical expertise, and participated in extensive Planning Board and OZAH processes. The Heritage Potomac neighbors had already spent several years successfully opposing the developer's illegal attempts to develop the property. Going forward they stepped up their efforts, formed a new South Glen Community Association, engaged and funded legal and technical experts, did extensive analyses of multiple issues and spent days preparing and testifying before the Planning Board and OZAH. We thank them!

Looking back over this period, there were certainly some good things that happened. An outrageous Planning Board is gone. But unfortunately, already some staff decisions indicate old ways continue. Notwithstanding our concerns about the process, Thrive

has confirmed the basic principles set forth in the Potomac Subregion Master Plan. Notwithstanding the Council's actions, the Maryland State Department of Environment has rejected the extension of sewer lines to commercial sites outside the community sewer envelope. Going forward a great challenge will be the development of the Potomac Gardens site. The OZAH hearing examiner approved a massive age-restricted townhouse development, a separate large independent and assisted living facility, and destruction of a protected forest tract and construction in the Watts Branch stream valley buffer.

In the 20 years since the enactment of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, all such other large scale developments have occurred as directed by the Master Plan – Park Potomac, The Quarry, Cabin John Shopping Center, etc. Potomac Gardens is unfortunately an outrageous outlier inconsistent with the Master Plan and its basic principles of community planning and land use. Given the scope of potential harms, we are increasing our efforts to ensure the construction phase is totally transparent and the scant protections provided are stringently enforced and not further diluted, waived, or ignored.

Write the FAA about Airplane Noise

SUBMITTED BY CAROL VAN DAM FALK

Due to heavy pressure from communities like ours from all across the country, the FAA has begun to update its aviation noise policies, which means we can provide input. Montgomery County Skies Coalition calls it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity (the current noise policy dates to the 1970s). As a first step, the FAA has asked the public (and the scientific community) to provide feedback that will inform its updated civil aviation noise policies. If you are impacted by abnormally loud aviation noise, we strongly encourage you to write to the FAA. Simply describe your personal, lived experience with aviation noise and send it in as an official comment and state that you want the FAA to revise its noise policies to protect people

like you from the harms you have described.

The deadline was 11:59pm September 29, 2023 but we recommend you write anyway.

Submit online by pasting into this form: <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/FAA-2023-0855-0001>

Describe in detail the problems you have experienced with aviation noise, to the best of your ability including mental and emotional stress, loss of sleep, etc. Make sure your submission includes Docket No. FAA-2023-0855.

REMINDER: IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023-2024!

Please renew or become a new member of WMCCA. Go to our website www.wmcca.org to download a membership form or join using PayPal: Individual: \$25 / Family: \$50. We encourage donations to our Legal Fund. While we strive for positive results without litigation, sometimes it is unavoidable and highly effective. Contributions from members enabled us to join efforts to successfully address several issues as they affect the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, zoning, and environmental threats to the "Green Wedge", our creeks and water supplies, and the Agricultural Reserve. If you have any issues or concerns in your neighborhood, please contact WMCCA. We appreciate the input from our neighbors. Thank you for your support !! Our Membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Mark Your Calendars for October 21, 2023 – POTOMAC DAY!

Visit our WMCCA Booth #76 and enjoy a treat from the Ag Reserve!

Our Speaker for the November 8, 2023 General Meeting will be

Andrew Friedson, District 1 Councilmember – Don't Miss It!

IN-PERSON WMCCA Meeting October 11, 2023 - 7:30 p.m.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 59335, Potomac, MD 20854-9335

President – Susanne Lee: President@WMCCA.org

Website: WMCCA.org – Thomas Fahey, Newsletter Editor – Nancy Madden

Safe Streets Act of 2023

FROM PAGE 8

The legislation aims to advance the County's Vision Zero goals of eliminating serious and fatal crashes by addressing specific transportation initiatives.

"This common-sense legislation will go a long way to make sure the county's town centers and school zones are safer places to walk, which is good for public health and for our environment. However, this is only the beginning," said Dan Reed, Regional Policy Director of Greater Greater Washington. "We look forward to working with Council President Glass and the County Council to secure a future in which people are no longer killed walking or bicycling on Montgomery County streets."

Councilmembers Dawn Luedtke, Kate Stewart, Sidney Katz, Natali Fani-

González, Council Vice President Andrew Friedson, and Councilmembers Will Jawando, Marilyn Balcombe, Kristin Mink, Laurie-Anne Sayles and Gabe Albornoz cosponsored the legislation.

A supplemental budget item will fund the anticipated \$1.6 million first-year costs tied to the Safe Streets Act. The county devotes significant resources to implementing Vision Zero, the pedestrian safety plan.

"In the end, though, it will take commitment from everyone who uses the road to make them safer for everyone," said Elrich. But bike and pedestrian advocates point to a need for better design to separate and protect bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicle traffic.

For more information about Safe Streets and Vision Zero efforts, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero

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NEWS

Taste of Bethesda Is Saturday Oct. 7

The 31st annual Taste of Bethesda is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. The day features Bethesda's best restaurants, five stages of live entertainment, an activity area for kids and more.

2023 Entertainment Schedule

Cordell Stage

11:30am - 1:30pm, Chop Teeth

2:00pm - 4:00pm, TolumiDE

Norfolk Stage

11:15am - 3:15pm, Patrick Alban & Noche Latina

1:45pm - 3:45pm, Carly Harvey

St. Elmo Stage

11:15am - 1:15pm, Eric Scott

1:45pm - 3:45pm, Jay Byrd & The Musical Trust

Veterans Park

11am - 1pm, Sara Jones

1:30 - 3:30pm, Juliet Lloyd Trio

2023 Participating Restaurants

BENIHANA

California Rolls, Ramune, Hibachi Chicken Rice

CASA OAXACA

Menu is TBD

CEREMONY COFFEE ROASTERS

Cold Brew Coffee

CHIKO

Chicken Dumpling, Hibachi Chicken Rice, Chiko Lemonade, Pear Limeade

DELHI SPICE

Tikka Masala (Chicken), Momo (Steam Dumpling), Masala Chai, Samosa, Saag Makai, Mango Lassi

DOG HAUS BIERGARTEN

Haus Dogs, Haus Sliders, Beer & Wine

EAT THE CHANGE

Just Ice Tea, Cosmic Carrot Chews, Mushroom Jerky

FIALOVA

Crack Cake Sliders, Short Rib Quesadillas

GEORGETOWN CUPCAKE

Red Velvet & Cookies and Crème, Pumpkin Spice & Salted Caramel, Vanilla Birthday & Lava Fudge

GOOD DUCKING BURGER

Delhi Hot Fried Chicken Slider, Walks like a Duck Slider, Truffle Butter Beef Slider, Basic Slider, Fries

GUAPO'S

Street Tacos, Quesadillas, Elote Loco, Beer & Wine

HAWKERS ASIAN STREET FARE

Baos, Roti, Noodles, Dumplings, Curry, Rice

KADHAI BOUTIQUE INDIAN CUISINE

Chicken Makhani, Saag Paneer, Rice, Samosa

LEVAIN BAKERY

Two Chip Chocolate Chip Cookies, Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies, Chocolate Chip Walnut Cookies, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Caramel Coconut Chocolate Chip Cookies

LUKE'S LOBSTER

Lobster Roll, Crab Roll, Chips

MAMAN

Milk & Cookie Shots, Mini Croissants, Mini Chocolate Croissants

MAMMA LUCIA

Pizza, Garlic Knots, Salads, Meatballs

Medium Rare

Steak, Bread, Fries, Sangria

MI CAFE AT MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL HQ

Oatmilk Draft Latte, Pumpkin Spice Oatmilk Draft Latte

MOBY DICK/HOUSE OF KABOB

Kubide, Chicken

MON AMI GABI

Frites with Assorted Sauces, Chocolate Mousse Cups

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES BETHESDA

Red Velvet Bundtini, Chocolate Chocolate Chip Bundtini, Lemon Bundtini, White Chocolate Raspberry Bundtini

THE ORGANIC BUTCHER OF BETHESDA

Crab Cake Bites, Mini Steak, Crostini, Bratwurst/Sauerkraut

THE ORIGINAL PANCAKE HOUSE

Nutella Crepes, Lemon Crepes,

Mini Breakfast Burritos

PLANTA

Mini Planta Burger, Spicy Lumaconi Pasta, Bao Slider

POKE DOJO & KUSSHI

Takoyaki, Shrimp Shumai, Pork Gyoza, Tuna Poke, Fried Chicken Skewer, Inari

THE RED BANDANA BAKERY

Cupcakes, Donuts, Cookies, Brownies, Cake Pops, Hammentashen

ROCK BOTTOM RESTAURANT & BREWERY

Fried Chicken Sliders, Burger Sliders, Southwest Egg Rolls, Light Beer (Kolsh), Hop Bomb IPA, Octoberfest Beer

SEVENTH STATE

Food Menu TBD, Beer, Wine

SILVER

Summer Berry Salad, Tuna Tartare, Pistachio Mousse

SMOKE BBQ

Pork and Chicken Sliders, Mac and Cheese, Wings, Beer & Wine

SMOOTHIE KING

Angel Food

SPANISH DINER

Gazpacho, Paella de Pollo con Verduras, José Andrés Potato Chips, Sangria Roja

TACOMBI

Beef Birria Tacos, Corn Esquites, Monopolio Ciara (Beer), Monopolio Negra (Beer), Monopolio IPA (Beer)

TOUT DE SWEET

French Macarons, Mini Pastries

WORLD OF BEER

Mac & Cheese Bites, German Pretzel Bites, Crispy Chicken Sliders, Beer



POTOMAC DAY PARADE FLOAT CONTEST
It'll be a blast, and we aren't horsing around!

POTOMAC
Chamber of Commerce

POTOMAC DAY PARADE
October 21st, 2023
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
THEME: HORSING AROUND

PRIZES
1st Place : Trophy
2nd Place : Plaque
3rd Place : Plaque

TO SIGN UP:
EMAIL: JENNIFER@POTOMACPIZZA.COM
OR
CALL: 301-299-2170

*float and/or group must be in theme to be considered for a prize.

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.

ADAM GREENBERG ACQUIRES POTOMAC'S HUNTER'S BAR AND GRILL

Adam Greenberg, the restaurateur behind Potomac Pizza, Bagels 'n Grinds, and College Park Grill, announced the acquisition of Hunter's Bar and Grill, located at 10123 River Road in Potomac. Hunter's Bar and Grill first opened as Hunter's Inn in 1978, the same year the original Potomac Pizza opened, changing its name to Hunter's Bar and Grill in 2014 under longtime owners Fred and Murray Berman's leadership.

Over the course of their 20-plus years of ownership, the Berman brothers transformed Hunter's into a Potomac staple. With over 60 years of combined restaurant experience, the brothers created a wonderful and welcoming atmosphere for all to come, eat, and enjoy, leaving behind a rich legacy the new ownership seeks to preserve. The restaurant will remain open during the transition, with Greenberg's team expected to take over full operations starting mid-September.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

Solo Bagpiping Judges' Recital. 7:30 p.m. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. IMT, in partnership with Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest Presents their Solo Bagpiping Judges' Recital. The weekend will begin with a judges' recital on Friday evening, Oct. 6, a rare opportunity to listen to performances from three of

the world's premier pipers and authorities on pipe music. The contest and award ceremony will follow on Saturday, October 7. Visit www.imtfolk.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Solo Bagpiping Contest. 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Ten of the finest Amateur pipers from across North America have earned invitations to play in this elite solo competition consisting of three events: 6/8 Marches, Piobaireachd and MSR. The contest is dedicated annually to the memory of Robert U. Brown and Robert B. Nicol, the Masters of Piobaireachd. Visit www.imtfolk.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Taste of Bethesda. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prepare your taste buds, Nearly 40 downtown Bethesda restaurants - Live music throughout the day - Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda. Visit: <https://www.bethesda.org/bethesda/taste-bethesda>

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer with Chao Tian. 7:30 p.m. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Tickets : \$20 advance (+\$2 box office fee) / \$25 door. Grammy Award winning American Roots artists Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer join with Chinese classical hammered dulcimer player Chao Tian in a show that combines music from China to Appalachia and beyond. Instrumentation includes yangqin (Chinese hammered dulcimer), gourd banjo, five-string banjo, ukulele, guitars, dumbek, cel-

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 10

lo-banjo and mandolin. Tickets at imtfolk.org | Info: rob Hinkal at publicity@imtfolk.org or www.imtfolk.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Cuentos Del Arbol. 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. "Cuentos del Arbol" is designed to bring Spanish to life and make theatre accessible to students, parents and grandparents for whom English is a second language. The centerpiece of all the "tales" is a tree (Un Arbol) that has sheltered, shielded and nurtured countless characters who have passed her way over the years. The tree's caretaker, Arbolita, shares four of these stories with Tomas, a storyteller, who is looking for tales for his collection. For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 240-567-5301, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. To order tickets online, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC.

NOW THRU OCT. 31

Elevation Exhibition Featuring Artist Vian Borchert. Reception: Saturday, October 14, 3-5 p.m. At The Framer's Choice Gallery, 402 Main Street, Gaithersburg. Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In the solo exhibition titled "Elevation", artist Vian Borchert presents new paintings

that embody a sense of elevated elements through color and theme. Skyscapes within landscape and seascapes aim to elevate the viewer into a higher realm of consciousness along with attaining a sense of meditative enlightenment that transforms one towards a Zen state of peace and harmony.

ARTISTS & MAKERS STUDIOS HOSTS NEW IMAGE ARTISTS FOR THE EXHIBIT "LONG VIEW 2"

Artists & Makers Studios on Parklawn Drive in Rockville is delighted to host New Image Artists for the month of October. The exhibit, "Long View 2" runs from Oct. 4th through Oct. 25th at Artists & Makers Studios, with an opening reception on Friday, Oct. 6, from 5 - 8 p.m. "Long View 2" is an exhibition by members of the New Image Artists. New Image celebrates the diversity of expression of its members' individual styles. The members are professional studio artists who work primarily with fabric, paper and alternative materials. This exhibition features a collection of work showcasing the uniqueness of each artists' vision and media while being challenged to create in a vertical format. Exhibiting artists - B.J. Adams, Mary Beth Bellah, Linda Colsh, Joan Dreyer, Candace Edgerley, Lesly-Claire Greenberg, Catherine Kleeman, Verena Levine, Dominic Nash, Ginny Smith, Andrea Uravitch, and Saaraliisa Ylitalo.

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Obituary

Obituary



James Joseph Brennan, long-time resident of Potomac, passed away on Sunday, July 2, 2023 at the age of 46 from complications caused by ALS.

He was at his home in New York City, surrounded by his beloved wife, Linda Cho, his brother, Andy, and children Harry, age 12 and Callie, age 6.

Jim was born on August 10, 1976, just outside Washington, D.C., to Hugh Brennan and the late Mary Brennan.

Youngest of four children, Jim is survived by Maryanne Gaffney, Andrew Brennan, Michael Brennan and their respective spouses Charlie Gaffney, Polly Giragosian, Valerie Courtois and his nieces and nephews, Erin, Meaghan, Charlie, Samara, Mina, Nathan, Cullen and Charlotte.

James, more commonly known as Jim or Jimmy (or "J.J." as his grandfather, the late Supreme Court Justice, William Brennan Jr. Called him,) grew up in Potomac, MD, and later studied at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. After graduation, he moved to New York City and then Chicago where he studied law at Northwestern University.

Jim clerked for the Federal District Court in Scranton, PA for Judge Vanaskie, where he met his future wife, Linda Cho.

Jim and Linda fell in love quickly while skiing and rallying on the tennis courts. In 2007, the couple returned to New York City and married on June 19, 2009. Jim started his career as a legal associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison where he practiced commercial litigation.

He then transitioned to Wollmuth, Maher and Deutsch as Counsel. Jim had a sharp legal mind, calm demeanor and strong work ethic.

He was loved and supported by his colleagues, and appreciated by his clients.

Jim and Linda loved to travel, and after the birth of their son, Harry and daughter, Callie, the young family continued to explore the world.

This continued even after the onset of ALS in 2018 and Jim was determined to bring his family to their favorite places right up to the time of his death.

Jim fought this cruel disease with incredible strength and grace. He was determined to stay as long as he could for his family.

To his last day, he gave himself selflessly and despite the struggles and limits of the disease, he continued to engage his friends and family meaningfully.

Jim shared his love for boardgames, reading and movies with Harry and Callie.

He continued to be a supporting husband to Linda. He engaged in long texts with friends and family.

Jim enjoyed watching sports, solving NYT crossword puzzles and Wordle with his friends and family.

Jim and the family thanks Jim's caregivers Carlene and Norda who cared for him with love.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating in Jim's memory to Compassionate Care ALS (<http://ccals.org/donate/>) or for his children's education at The Dwight School Foundation (<http://give.dwight.edu>)

Memorials are welcome at www.dignitymemorial.com for Walter B. Cooke Funeral Home.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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Certain About Burton



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

The little dog, affectionately referred to as, recently celebrated his first birthday. And as I anticipated when I wrote my initial column about him/me having gotten a puppy for the first time in 28 years or so: "Burton For Certain," he has been everything a dog owner could want. He's a sweet and loving golden retriever (it's rare that the breed is anything else) who still believes - at almost 75 pounds, that he's a lapdog. Have you ever tried eating off a snack table with a big dog sitting on your lap and sniffing your plate/fork? It's not easy. Part of what brings me joy about Burton is the story of how and why he was christened, so to speak, with his name. I'm always interested in pet names and their stories, if any, which people are only too happy to share about their pet's given name. And Burton, as with Brandy and Bailey before him (both liquor-related), has a good backstory which I will now share.

My wife, Dina surprised me with puppy-Burton on a Saturday morning in early October one year ago. Dina was helping a neighbor, or so I was told, that morning, when she got up at 6 am to drive four hours to Lexington, Va. What little did I know?: As Seargent Schultz said so often on "Hogan's' Heroes" so too did "I know nothing." Of course, I didn't have a dog name at the ready since I was clueless what Dina had started planning three months earlier in June when she first met the breeder in Harper's Ferry on a Saturday when we took a day trip with some friends. Fast forward, when she arrived home later that afternoon, puppy in tow, with the associated puppy paraphernalia, some of which had been spread around the neighborhood - to maintain the surprise, I was nearly speechless at the sight of him. He was adorable and lovable. Dina placed him in my arms, and I very nearly started to cry. I really hadn't thought much about a puppy. Ever since I was diagnosed with cancer, I had always thought that with the indeterminate issues with my health and life expectancy, especially factoring in the side effects - and demands of chemotherapy, that adding to the family when we might be subtracting from it was a risky proposition. Nevertheless, here I was back in the dog business for the first time in 14 years. Having not considered a canine addition, given the cancer diagnosis and the five cats we already had in house, I was not thinking expansion. As such, I was totally unprepared for Burton emotionally (physically I could mostly manage, although occasionally a little challenging on some days when I felt the effects of 14 years of chemotherapy), and since I had no inkling as to what Dina was planning, I certainly didn't know what to call him.

For the next day, we struggled to give him a proper name. We did agree that his name should begin with the letter "B," given the names of our two previous goldens, but other than that, we were stuck. The only name we could produce was "Buddy," but other than the "B" part, we weren't all that enamored, particularly Dina. I can still see her sitting on our living room couch that morning, cellphone in hand, scrolling pet name lists on the internet, as we tried to resolve this pet-naming dilemma. Frustrated by the choices we were considering; we were temporarily at a loss. Then, out of the blue, as I'm sitting in a wingchair perpendicular to the couch, I get a text from Dina's father in New York - who rarely texts. He knew about the puppy surprise but had no idea that we were focused on finding a name at that moment or were as stuck as we were, struggling to find a suitable name and beginning quite frankly to get a bit frustrated. Granted, it was barely a day, and we hadn't had much time to get our arms - and head around the changes to our life (me more so than Dina obviously since she was the "surpriser"), but we wanted to call him something other than "puppy." And until we had a name, it's almost as if the surprise wasn't quite finished and therefore, we couldn't move on and/or plan for our new future as dog owners once again.

Then I hear my phone-text ring, look down on my lap, and see a text out of the blue/unsolicited, from Dina's father. I click on his name and read the message. I immediately smile and look over to the Dina on the couch, still scrolling/researching names. I snicker and say, "Dina, your father has just come up with the dog's name: Burton." And since we live in Burtonsville and live in the Isaac Burton House and the name begins with "B," we had found/been given Burton's name. And when I said so, Dina smiled back at me and chuckled: "Perfect," and so he was officially named. Soon thereafter, his AKC registration confirmed it: "Sir Isaac Burton of Burtonsville."

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

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