

Potomac ALMANAC

Newcomers
& Community Guide 2008-2009

PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON/THE CONNECTION

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OUT & ABOUT

Things To Do and Places To See ...

Here are some of the more interesting places in the area. Sites include popular historical landmarks, outings and shopping centers along with information on a few local services.

— COMPILED BY CHANDOS CULLEEN, JAMES GISCHE AND MATT RAZAK;
MAP BY JOHN SMITH / THE ALMANAC

1. Potomac Village

Arguably the heart of Potomac, the Village is a shopping center located at the intersection of River and Falls roads. Though in recent years more chain businesses have opened stores in the Village, it remains a quiet shopping center with a homey feel, with many stores still family-owned or operated. An excellent place to eat, there are several restaurants as well as coffee shops and a bakery for those on the go. Potomac residents often plan to meet in the Village, or they bump into each other there accidentally, a mark of the tight-knit community.



part of local Civil War history. The Montgomery County Department of Parks offers guided tours of the area, including the remains of the blockhouse Union soldiers used to defend the Potomac River. Call 301-840-5848

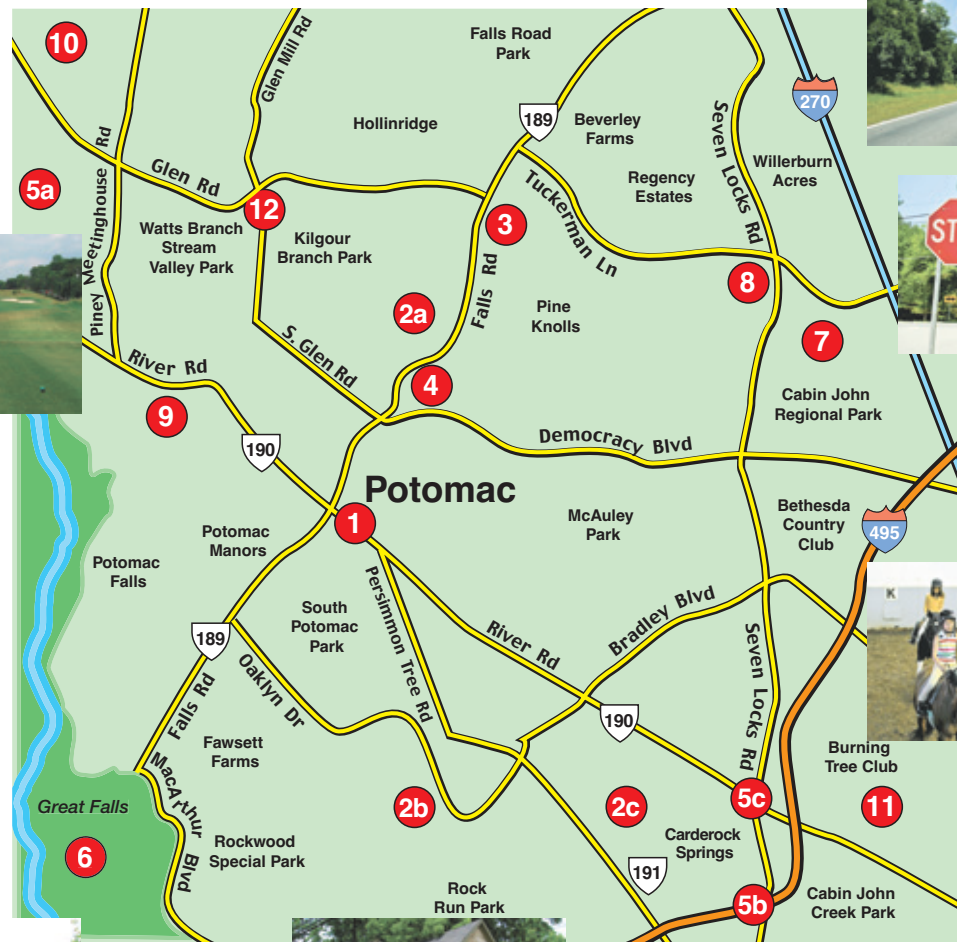
largest in the state of Maryland, cascading 76 feet over two-thirds of a mile. Also available are rides on the historically accurate canal boats and interaction with historical impersonators.

traditionally African-American neighborhood in a generally white affluent community, Scotland embodied the racial struggles of the civil rights movement in Potomac. Running water, indoor plumbing, and electricity were all slow in coming

to Scotland, with many residents living in the original 19th century homes well into the 1960s and '70s. Eventually, due to development and the gradual change of the surrounding area, Scotland developed into its current design of a ten-acre townhouse neighborhood.

2. Golf Courses

Potomac offers a range of golf options. The public Falls Road Golf Course (2a), at 10800 Falls Road, Potomac, is a good choice for casual players looking for a reasonably priced round. The course does get crowded on weekends, though, and the pace of play can suffer as a result. More serious golfers may look to Potomac's luxurious options. The newly renovated TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm (2b), at 10000 Oaklyn Drive, Potomac, provides a PGA Tour-quality golfing experience. Finally, residents looking to do their best Tiger Woods imitation should try Congressional Country Club (2c), at 8500 River Road, Bethesda. The area's only PGA Tour event, the new AT&T National – Tiger's signature event – is held here.



9. River Road

River Road offers more than just a central point for the Potomac area. Take a northwest drive on the scenic road for about 20 minutes on a weekend with the windows rolled down and the radio turned off. River Road's serenity offers a relaxing drive or bike ride with a heartland landscape. The farther one drives, the narrower the road becomes, eventually turning into a dirt road. Golden waves of wheat border the road from various farms in the area.

Watch out for wildlife, especially turtles crossing the road around the bridges. Since many cars do not drive down out that far, feel free to pull over and help one of those turtles cross the road. River Road: Potomac's most obvious hidden treasure.



3. Potomac Community Center

The Potomac Community Center, at 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, is one of the town's most popular spots. In addition to the standard gymnasium and exercise room, it features a social hall and art room. There are also outdoor baseball fields, basketball courts, and a roller-hockey rink, and it is also the hub of local competitive table tennis. One of the community center's most-loved offerings is Club Friday, which provides fun games and activities for children in third through sixth grade during the school year.



to check the schedule of guided tours. Another significant local site is the Gibson Grove A.M.E. Zion



7. Cabin John Regional Park

Cabin John Regional Park, located off of Tuckerman Lane, provides Potomac with a wealth of recreational opportunities. The park consists of a

large area with playground equipment and walking trails as well as a variety of athletic fields (baseball, softball, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, and a Pee-Wee soccer field), an ice rink featuring different rinks of varying size, the Locust Grove Nature Center, and the Robert C. McDonnell campground. The park is open from sunrise to sunset, with the individual facilities each having their own hours of operation. While some athletic fields and the campground require a permit to use, the park and Nature Center are open to all, free of charge. A special feature of the park is the miniature train ride. The miniature train is a replica of an 1863 C.P. Huntington locomotive and it takes riders on a 10 minute, 2-mile ride around the park. Visit http://www.mc-mncppc.org/Parks/facilities/regional_parks/cabinjohn/index.shtm.



4. Potomac Theatre Company

The Potomac Theatre Company puts on three performances per year — in the fall, spring and summer. The fall show is usually a musical, which makes it a great choice for families getting together during Thanksgiving. According to its director, the purpose of the group is to “enhance community spirit” while encouraging a “cohesive community.” The company performs at the Blair Family Center at The Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Also, the organization encourages residents new and old to volunteer with them as a way to support local arts and get involved in the community.



Church (5b), at 7700 Seven Locks Road, Bethesda. A group of freed slaves founded the church in 1898. Just on the other side of the Beltway from the church is a short path leading to the Gibson Grove Cemetery, which the African-American community has used for nearly a century. A third historic location nearby is a blacksmith shop (5c) built by Ninian Magruder in the mid-18th century at the intersection of Seven Locks Road and River Road. Although it is not accessible to the public, the site is a reminder of the region's history.



6. C&O Canal

A distinct National Park located right in Potomac. Originally intended as a pathway for goods flowing from the eastern seaboard into the interior of America when it opened in 1836, the C&O Canal has since become a National Park. The park is open year-round during daylight hours. Visitors have a number of activities available to them. Many choose to hike or bike the towpath, or explore the numerous hiking trails available. Often, these hikers and bikers choose to camp at the various campgrounds located along the canal. A walk to Great Falls is also popular. These waterfalls are the second

5. Historic Sites

Potomac is home to many historic sites. Blockhouse Point Conservation Park (5a), accessible at 15000 River Road, is an important

10. Potomac Horse Center

Horseback riding is a traditional activity of the Potomac area and the Potomac Horse Center located on Quince Orchard Road in Northern Potomac offers many great opportunities to continue that tradition. From May until August, various summer camp programs teach people of all ages the correct and safe way to ride horses. The center is also popular for birthday parties. Therapeutic riding is an opportunity for people recovering from illnesses, people with development problems, or autistic children. For more information on the Potomac Horse Center visit www.potomachorse.com.

11. Glen Echo Park

Glen Echo Park was a premier amusement park in the Washington D.C. area from the early 1900s to 1968. Today it is a center for classes in the arts and crafts. From drawing and painting, to calligraphy, and to dance programs, today Glen Echo Park offers an activity for everyone. The historical carousel is a central landmark of the park and continues to operate. The park also offers a great area for walking and there are plenty of benches to enjoy on a nice day. The park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd.

12. The Glen

Though not a specific landmark on any Potomac map, the Glen is the tree-covered area where Glen Road, South Glen Road, and Glen Mill Road meet together. Joined by a one-way bridge, drivers must drive carefully, because the bridge will only fit one car. A swampy waterway runs beneath the bridge along with varieties of wildlife. There are no sidewalks to stroll around the area, but the Glen is a local landmark of natural beauty and a glimpse into Potomac's rural past and rustic present. South Glen road takes one back to Democracy Boulevard, which leads to Seven Locks, finally, leading to River to go back into Potomac Village, or get onto I-495.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Get Involved

BY JEAN CRYOR

In Potomac, as across America, the character of a hometown is framed and carried forward by its people, those who have lived here for decades and those for a few months. Involvement by volunteers creates a hometown. Schools, places of worship, sports, protection of the environment, all reflect the goals and depth of dedication of its people.

In June, Potomac is a place of grinning graduates and proud parents. Potomac schools, according to Newsweek magazine, are among the best in the nation. Their success is tied to the vigorous support of its parents groups.

Volunteers make our Potomac a fun place. What is more delicious than seeing at the Potomac Library very young children sprawl in over-stuffed cushions, half-hidden behind huge picture books? Or, we all can enjoy a production of the Potomac Community Theater.

If we were to keep a photo album of Potomac events, we would include the meets at swim clubs and the Fourth of July Run for Autism. And for those less athletic, we would want a photo of the canal barge.

And, of course, each year, a huge corps of volunteers pulls off one of the best hometown parades: The Potomac Day Parade. Scouts, kids dressed in Halloween costumes, pickup trucks gussied up as floats, smiling politicians, march up River Road. Realtors distribute balloons from huge, airy bouquets. DAR members pass out tiny American flags. For glamour, the parade often has the Potomac Hunt. Its members, dressed in luxurious black and brilliant red, carefully guide their horses and seem not to notice that they look drop-dead gorgeous.

Fire engines, sirens cranked up high, and the brassy high school band, pound out the song of October and hometown parades. What a parade, what a community!

It is not, of course, all parades and fun events. The identity of a community needs vigilant safe-guarding. The West Montgomery County Citizens Association a volunteer, tenacious watchdog, gathers data, holds meetings, and testifies before the County Council and the Planning Board.

Along with its identity, a community must have a soul. Its people must look beyond their own lives. Charities that raise funds for research and organizations that need a host of volunteers to provide individual care look to Potomac people for support.

Potomac, like every hometown, is never finished. Its people determine its character. Come along and be involved in creating your own hometown.

(Jean Cryor is a commissioner of the Montgomery County Planning Board, a former three-term state delegate and a long-time Potomac resident.)



PHOTO BY ANDREW DOBSON/THE ALMANAC

A deer peeks up through some plants on a trail by the C&O Canal.

Looking To Hear from Our Readers

As a local, weekly newspaper, the Potomac Almanac's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to advocate for community good, to share profiles that give insight to interesting people, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in people's lives and in the community.

We understand that local issues matter, from property values and taxes, to land use, to public services and safety, to quality schools, to teen driving, to fiscal responsibility. We know that it's our job to let you know about fun things too, about the arts, parks, nightlife, festivals and celebrations.

Local people matter, too. We're interested in the way our readers live, what they love about their homes and neighborhoods, their favorite pastimes, places and restaurants.

The Potomac Almanac is part of the Connection Newspapers that publishes 17 additional weekly papers in Northern Virginia. We strive to deliver the most local information possible to each of our readers.

But our Web site offers the opportunity to read any or all of the hundreds of items we report each week. If you go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, you can browse our stories by community, see what's new on any given day, or research past coverage of an issue. You can check out sports features for the region, or just your high school. There are some new developments on our site. Each week, you can download the print edition of any or all of our papers, identical to the printed paper including photographs, display ads and classifieds.

The classified, employment and real estate listings from our papers are also avail-

able in several different formats.

AT THE ALMANAC, we invite newcomers to the area and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input.

Let us know how we're doing, and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an email.

EDITORIAL We invite you to send letters to the editor, or just to send an email letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage. We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or just something you wonder about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

We want to know if you have an idea for fixing traffic in your part of the world. We want to know if you've had a good or bad experience with local government. We'd like to hear your ideas about how to make things better, or just to hear what you have to say about things that should be different.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We are looking for people to feature in our "Neighbor Question and Answer" section each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, wed-

dings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email or mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. If you want a hard copy of a photo returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and please do not send us anything that is irreplaceable.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

As independently owned newspapers, we can respond to our readers in a way that others cannot. If you email me, or a community editor or reporter, you'll hear back from us. If you call, I'm likely to answer my own phone, and any of us will return your call if you leave a message.

Call Potomac reporter and sports editor Aaron Stern at 703-917-6476 or 301-802-6203 (cell), or editor Steven Mauren at 703-917-6451. Send mail to the Potomac Almanac, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM, PUBLISHER,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
703-917-6416

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like about Potomac?

“I like the Potomac Village shops. It’s like a little park that is a different pace to the working world.”



— Cliff Neely



“It’s green, open, and friendly here.”

— Susan Mann

“It’s my hometown, it’s a wonderful community, and there is a little bit of everything here.”

— Amy Musher



It’s really laid back and peaceful. I think the weather is a lot better

here too.”

— Nathan Drew

“Potomac is very accessible and central and I like its friendly atmosphere and public schools.”



— Adarsh Gupta, Potomac

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Bridge to Past, Glimpse of Future

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

A drive down Glen Road is an instant time portal into a time not long ago when the suburbs outside of Washington, D.C. were outposts in a rural land marked by rolling hills of farmland cut through by streams that eventually feed the Potomac River.

Turning off of Falls Road one soon passes Wayside Elementary School, then heads downhill where the road winds through a dense canopy of trees to a bridged intersection with South Glen Road atop a split of the Watts Branch stream. Firmly in an area known as the Glen, a turn in either direction from that intersection sends a driver down narrow roads best taken slowly to ensure that two cars can pass one another in opposing directions, and to give the driver a chance to appreciate the rolling hills, and large, ambling estates that once defined Potomac.

The maintenance of this rural character lies at the heart of the major issues that define Potomac. The outward suburban spread has turned much of Potomac’s old country into sprawling new homes and upscale subdivisions in recent decades, yet the roads that service all of Potomac are all two lanes wide (except at some major intersections), a County policy mandated to preserve the areas rustic history.

“One of the qualities that makes Potomac unique is its commitment to preserving its heritage, a heritage rooted in a rural tradition,” said Montgomery County Councilman Roger Berliner, a Potomac resident and the District 1 (Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase) representative to the Council.

IT IS THE BALANCE between the constant push of suburban sprawl and the desire to protect the rustic, small-town character of Potomac that defines the town’s major issues. Nowhere is this better epitomized than an ongoing attempt in North Potomac to extend a sewer line to the Potomac Oak shopping center. The center’s owners, long-time Potomac residents Guy Semmes and Michael Denker, hope to revitalize what has historically been a community nexus – the bygone town of Travilah had its town hall located in the same area – and want to expand the center and attract new tenants to it to do so but believe that they are unable to do so unless they can increase the facility’s waste capacity.

Conversely, opponents say that extending a sewer line to the property would set a dangerous precedent. In particular, the proposal flies in the face of the Potomac Subregion Master Plan, which was adopted by the Montgomery County Planning Board and the County Council first in 1980 and amended in 2002, said George Barnes recently. Barnes is a board member of the West Montgomery Citizens Association, a group

The balance between preservation and expansion defines many of the issues facing Potomac.



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

The County Council and Planning Board have differing views on how best to protect the county’s trees; a tree ordinance that would restrict the removal of individual trees on all lots of all sizes in the county could be proposed later this year.

that frequently finds itself in the midst of such battles. Much of Potomac – particularly North Potomac – relies on septic systems instead of sewer. That has helped maintain, at least to an extent, the rural, quiet nature of much of Potomac through the years and is key to continuing to do so, said Barnes, who has studied local zoning and land use issues for years.

If approved, private residents, businesses and residential developers in Potomac, North Potomac, and nearby Gaithersburg and Darnestown would need only to cite Semmes and Denker’s project as justification for why their requests should be approved, and the Council would have a hard time disagreeing, Barnes said.

“Some other commercial interest or people in Darnestown are going to say, ‘What do you mean? What’s the problem

with doing it for us? You did it for them,” said Barnes. “That’s just always going to be the basic problem. Once you allow something like that you have essentially broken the Master Plan.”

ANOTHER PROPOSAL related to waste disposal earlier rankled opponents earlier this year who similarly rallied behind the warning of dangerous precedent-setting. The Planning Board in January approved a new subdivision in North Potomac on a parcel of land known as the Sutton property that will be the first in the County to rely on sandmound septic systems for waste treatment. The Planning Board is part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and oversees land use

SEE VIGILANCE, PAGE 5

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Vigilance over Development

FROM PAGE 4

in Montgomery County.

Many upcounty areas – including large swaths of Potomac and North Potomac – lay outside of what is known as the sewer envelope, or the area served by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) sewer system. Yet many of these places do not pass percolation tests and are not suitable to the County's standards to install septic systems.

Enter sandmounds, a relatively new technology in which waste is pre-treated before being pumped into tractor-trailer-sized, grass-covered mounds of sand where it can break down further. Opponents to the plan feared what could happen if these sandmounds broke down and waste began to seep away from the mounds.

Consultants to the plan's developers and County officials alike repeatedly said that sandmounds have a lifespan of twenty to twenty-five years and do not have a history of breaking down. Not all of the board's commissioners were convinced, but the proposal was approved.

Opponents said beforehand and afterwards that the decision would open the door for new subdivisions in previously low-density areas.

"It's not just the adjoining properties, its all over the county," said Tom Moseley, an organic tree farmer who lives next door to the Sutton property in a hearing on the issue late last year. "If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere," he said.

SIMILAR CONCERNS SURROUND a planned expansion of the 4th Presbyterian School on South Glen Road and a proposed inn/restaurant facility on River Road (coincidentally directly across the road from the WSSC intake plant).

The 4th Presbyterian School is set to break ground on a new facility later this summer that would eventually triple its current 96-student enrollment. That increase in student population would add traffic to an already busy road, particularly during high-volume traffic hours in the morning and afternoon rush hours. School officials have suggested adding deceleration and acceleration lanes to the west-bound side of the road, but some residents have opposed the idea because of its alteration of a typically rustic Potomac road. Neighbors fear the construction and operation of the larger facility will increase noise and light pollution in their quiet neighborhoods.

Francis Koh and his family want to turn the property they own on River Road into a inn/restaurant hybrid facility where residents could enjoy an upscale dining experience and stay the night – or mul-

Get Involved

Potomac has no centralized governing body and is overseen by the Montgomery County Council, but various civic groups play large roles in determining the outcomes of issues in Potomac. There is a wealth of information available online about various topics in this article, and here are links to some of them, including links to previous Almanac articles on some of the recent and ongoing issues of concern to Potomac residents.

Montgomery County Council:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/>

Montgomery County Planning Board:
<http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/>

Potomac Subregion Master Plan:
http://www.mc-mncppc.org/community/plan_areas/master_plans.shtm

West Montgomery County Citizens Association:
<http://www.wmcca.org/>

Potomac Oak Shopping Center:
<http://www.hopkinsandporter.com/poc/>
<http://beta.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=316794&paper=70&cat=104>

Forest Conservation Law:
<http://www.mc-mncppc.org/environment/forest/>
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=310406&paper=70&cat=104>

Fourth Presbyterian School Expansion:
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=316558&paper=70&cat=104>

iple nights – in a quaint inn environment. The first step in their plan is to have their property rezoned from residential use to a Country Inn zone designation. The red tape involved in such a conversion creates an uphill battle for any applicant, but the Kohs have been met with neighbors and citizens who fear the operation would be highly out of character with the quiet, residential atmosphere that defines that area.

After his initial proposal was turned down by the Planning Board earlier this year, Koh complained that seemingly any type of new construction would always be opposed in Potomac.

"A lot of [people], I think if you tried to propose anything they would challenge it," he said at the time.

The Kohs met last month with members of the community as they try to build community support before they take their revised plan back to the board for another attempt at approval. The meeting was characterized coldly the residents who attended.

SEE BALANCING, PAGE 18

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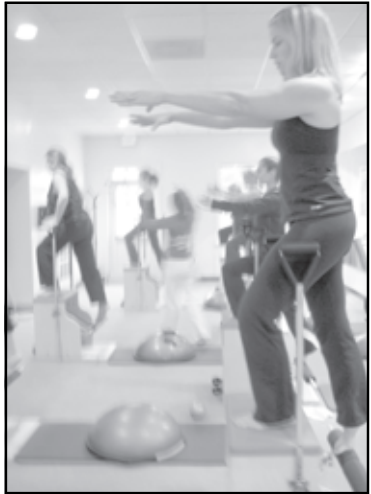
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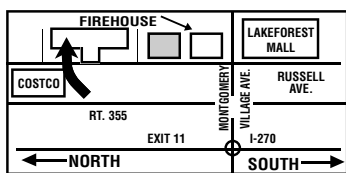
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WHO'S IN CHARGE?

The Governing of Potomac

Potomac is governed at the county and state levels. The county government consists of an elected nine-member County Council and an elected county executive.

Five of the councilmembers are elected from districts, with Potomac, Chevy Chase and Bethesda represented by District 1 Council member Roger Berliner (D). The other four members are elected at large, or by voters from the entire county. This is to ensure that Potomac residents are represented on County Council by five of the nine members: the District 1 member and four at-large members.

Councilmembers and the executive serve four-year terms, and the Council appoints a president and vice president who each serve a one-year term.

The Council meets as a whole on Tuesdays, with committee meetings throughout the week. Public hearings on proposed legislation usually take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Stella V. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue,

Rockville.

Council meetings, as well as news and analysis shows dealing with the issues raised, air on the County Cable Channel 6.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive **Isiah Leggett** (D)

240-777-2500

e-mail:

ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov

FAX: 240-777-2517

101 Monroe St., Second Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

Potomac is represented in County Council by the District 1 councilmember and four at-large members. Visit the council Web site at montgomerycountymd.gov/council.

Any correspondence sent to the Council president is shared with all other members of the Council. The current president is Michael Knapp (D-2). With very rare exceptions, all correspondence sent to any councilmember becomes part of the public record and is available for review by interested parties.

Contact information for individual council members is listed below. Written correspondence to the whole council or individual council members may be sent to:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue Rockville, MD 20850.

Call 240-777-7900, fax to 240-777-7888 or e-mail county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

montgomerycountymd.gov. Hearing-impaired citizens may call the TTY line at 240-777-7914.

The County Council is a public body subject to local and state sunshine laws. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are open to the public. Closed sessions are allowed in certain prescribed circumstances, such as to discuss personnel matters or government real estate acquisitions, or to receive advice from attorneys.

The Council offers free subscriptions to the weekly mailing of the Council and committee agendas by e-mail, and the cable television schedule of broadcasts of Council sessions. To get on the mailing list, call Legislative Information Services 240-777-7910 or e-mail the Council at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Roger Berliner (D-1)

District 1 includes Potomac, Bethesda and Chevy Chase.

240-777-7828

councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marc Elrich (D-At Large)

240-777-7966

councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

Nancy Floreen (D-At Large)

240-777-7959

councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov

George Leventhal (D-At Large)

240-777-7811

councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov

SEE OFFICIALS, PAGE 7



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WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Roles of Elected Officials

FROM PAGE 6

Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At Large)
240-777-7964
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The eight-member board is the county's official educational policy-making body and is responsible for the direction and operation of the public school system.

Although board members are divided into regions (Potomac falls in District 2) in order to ensure that there is representation from different geographical areas of the county, all members are elected at-large. There is one student member of the board who is elected by the middle- and high-school students of the county. The student member's vote does not count in certain cases.

To contact the School Board, go to www.mcps.k12.md.us/boe, call 301-279-3617 or fax 301-279-3860. The web site is updated regularly with Board of Education agendas, minutes, announcements, invitations for public comment on new policies and other information. E-mail for any Board of Education member should be sent to boe@mcpsmd.org. E-mail is shared with all members of the Board.

Nancy Navarro (District 5), current board president, second term expires 2010

301-680-7170

Shirley Brandman (At Large), current board vice president, first term expires 2010

301-320-6564

Judy Docca (District 1)

301-670-3234

Term expires in 2010

Stephen Abrams (District 2)

301-279-3774

Term expires in 2008

Patricia O'Neill (District 3)

301-320-7600

Term expires 2010

Christopher S. Barclay (District 4)

301-431-7736

Term expires in 2008

Sharon Cox (At Large)

301-540-7970

Term expires 2008

Student Board Member: Term expires June 30, 2009

Quratul-Ann Malik

301-840-3730

STATE GOVERNMENT

The state legislature convenes in Annapolis for 90-day sessions to consider and pass legislation. The session begins in early January and ends in early April. Potomac is represented by Districts 15

and 16. Maryland has a bicameral legislature with 141 delegates in the House and 47 senators in the Senate.

Elections for governor and all members of the General Assembly were held in 2006.

Executive Branch

Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), Lt. Gov.

Anthony G. Brown (D)

100 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

410-974-3901

1-800-811-8336

fax: 410-974-3275

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY District 15

Sen. Rob Garagiola (D)

James Senate Office Building, Room 104

11 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3169

rob.garagiola@senate.state.md.us

Del. Kathleen Dumais (D)

House Office Building, Room 350

6 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3052

kathleen.dumais@house.state.md.us

Del. Brian Feldman (D)

House Office Building, Room 223

6 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3186

brian.feldman@house.state.md.us

Del. Craig Rice (D)

House Office Building, Room 223

6 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3090

craig.rice@house.state.md.us

District 16

Sen. Brian Frosh (D)

Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing

11 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3124

brian.frosh@senate.state.md.us

Del. William Bronrott (D)

House Office Building, Room 411

6 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3642

william.bronrott@house.state.md.us

Del. William Frick (D)

House Office Building, Room 217

6 Bladen St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

301-858-3454

bill.frick@house.state.md.us

Del. Susan C. Lee (D)

House Office Building, Room 414

6 Bladen St.

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301-858-3649

susan.lee@house.state.md.us

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2008-09 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST 2008

Bethesda Outdoor Movies:

Stars on the Ave. from July 29-Aug. 2 at 9 p.m. Enjoy films at downtown Bethesda's outdoor movie series at the corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenues. Admission is free. Contact 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for movie schedule.

Montgomery County

Agricultural Fair takes place each year at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. This year the fair is scheduled from Aug. 8-16. Call 301-926-3100 or visit www.mcagfair.com.

Scotland Community Day

is Aug. 9 from 1-6 p.m. at the Scotland Community Center, 7700 Scotland Drive, Potomac. Arts and crafts, moon bounce, clown, DJ, public health service booths and entertainment stage. Call 301-983-4455 for more information.

Backyard BBQ

is Aug. 12 from 4-7 p.m. with grilled hotdogs and hamburgers, games, and music at Holiday Park Senior Park, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. Admission is \$10. Call 240-777-4999.

The Annual Comcast Outdoor

Film Festival, Aug. 16-24 at 8:30 p.m., Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike. Restaurants and grounds open at 6:30 p.m. Call 301-816-6958 or visit www.filmfestnih.org.

The Historic Glen Echo Park

Dentzel Carousel will be open Wednesday through Sunday, through Sept. 28. Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenchopark.org.

Concerts on the Square.

Enjoy a concert from local and national bands every Thursday night at the Rockville Town Square off of Maryland Ave. in Rockville. Concerts run from 6-8 p.m. and are free. Visit www.rocvilletownsquare.com.

SEPTEMBER 2008

The 38th Annual Labor Day

Art Show, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1, features different types of artwork, ranging from painting to pottery. Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenchopark.org for more information.

Wine, Women, and Song

celebrates the culture and food of Spain at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 6. Tickets are \$125 per person. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Tour De Canal

Sept. 6-7, is a bicycle tour where riders can choose either 184, 100 or 20 miles of towpath riding from Cumberland to Georgetown. The ride benefits the Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area. Riders must qualify through a mandatory training ride. Call 703-359-4440, e-mail toudecanalna@alz.org or visit www.alz-nca.org/development/tour.php.

Cabin John Kids Run.

Join in a fun run for children ages 18 and under at Cabin John Park on Sept. 7. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

Bethesda Artist Market

Sept. 13 at the Bethesda Place Plaza from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Woodmont Ave. Delight in fine art and fine craft at the Bethesda Artist Market, an



The Potomac Hunt Club leads the 27th annual Potomac Day Parade.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

outdoor market featuring 30 local and regional artists plus continuous live entertainment. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more information.

Marathon in the Parks

goes from Rockville to Bethesda on Sept. 14. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

www.glenchopark.org.

Concerts on the Square. Enjoy a concert from local and national bands every Thursday night through Sept. 11 at the Rockville Town Square off of Maryland Ave. in Rockville. Concerts run from 6-8 p.m. and are free. Visit www.rocvilletownsquare.com.

Fall Festival at Wayside Elementary School, 10011 Glen Road. Features a Haunted House, face painting, and food. Call 301-279-8484.

Potomac Day in Potomac Village, the annual community festival, will be held on Oct. 18. Arts and entertainment for all ages, ranging from rides for children to an antique show for adults.

OCTOBER 2008

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents "The Music of Billy Joel" on Oct. 2 at 8 p.m. and "Mendelssohn Italian Symphony" on Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8000 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

18th Annual Taste of

Bethesda, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The Taste of Bethesda in the Woodmont Triangle area of downtown Bethesda. Enjoy "tastes" from nearly 50 participating restaurants. Four stages of entertainment will be featured as well as a children's activities area. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

The Potomac Country

House Tour, Oct. 4-5, with St. Francis Episcopal Church at 10033 River Road. Call 301-365-2055 or visit www.stfrancispotomac.org.

Bethesda Artist Market, Oct. 11 at the Bethesda Place Plaza from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Woodmont Ave. Delight in fine art and fine craft at the Bethesda Artist Market, an outdoor market featuring 30 local and regional artists plus continuous live entertainment. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more information.

Annual Middle Eastern Bazaar

from Oct. 17-19, featuring homemade Arabic food, crafts and items for Christmas gifts. There is also an Arabic Music concert. Both events at the Sts. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, 10620 River Road, Potomac. Call 301-765-9188 or visit www.peterpaul.net.

Darcars Young Run

with .25, .5 and 1 mile fun runs on Oct. 19. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.



A full spectrum of colors was on display at the Landon School during the annual Azalea Festival which takes place in May.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

The highlight is the Potomac Day Parade, featuring hundreds of entrants, including bands, horses, antique cars, school groups, scouting organizations, and candidates for elected office. The Potomac 5K run raises money for local charities. Call the Potomac Chamber of Commerce at 301-299-2170 or visit www.potomacchamber.org.

Montgomery County Annual Dog

Walk and Pet Fair, at Potomac Elementary, 10311 River Road, and benefits the Montgomery County SPCA. Activities include walks, pet contests, silent auction and lunch. Call 301-469-1042.

Life and Death on the C&O Canal

an annual event hosted by the Friends of the Historic Great Falls Tavern, takes place Oct. 18. Groups are taken every 15 minutes. Volunteers and National Park staff dressed in period costume take participants for a fun and educational

look at the darker side of canal history. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 301-767-3714 or visit www.nps.gov/choh.

Annual Walkathon for the homeless with Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Call 301-299-7087 or visit www.harshalom.org for date and more information.

Halloween Happening at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Oct. 26 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Call 240-777-6960 for details.

Fire Station Open House at the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department Station 10, 8001 River Road. Activities include live action demonstrations, including stop, drop and roll, stove fire demonstrations and automobile extrication. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

NOVEMBER 2008

Rockville 10K/5K, Montgomery County's oldest race, returns on Nov. 2. There is an entry fee. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

International Fair at

Beverly Farms Elementary School, 8501 Post Oak Road. More than 20 countries will be represented serving food. Entertainment includes music and dancing. Call 301-469-1050.

Table Tennis Tournament in early November at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. All levels are welcome.

Applications are available in October. Call 240-777-6960 for more information.

39th Annual Book Festival in early November at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The JCC Book Festival features over 30 newly-published and nationally recognized authors, including lectures, luncheons, breakfasts, cooking demonstrations and extensive children's and family programs. Call the Literary Arts Director Barbara Winnik at 301-348-3778 or visit www.jccgw.org.

Potomac Community Open Flea

Market, Nov. 8, at the Potomac Community Center, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Buy tables at \$25 each to sell goods. Take home all profits. Open to all. Call 240-777-6960.

Annual German School Choir

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

2008-09 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Concert takes place in mid-November at the Sts. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, 10620 River Road, Potomac. Call 301-765-9188 or visit www.peterpaul.net.

Dinner of Champions, mid-November at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The 16th annual Greater Washington DC Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Dinner of Champions will honor local Jewish sports figures. Event proceeds help support JCC programs for children and adults with special needs. Call Eva Cowen at 301-348-3881 or visit www.jccgw.org for more information.

Turkey Chase 10K Run benefits charities supported by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club on Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, at 8:30 a.m., at 9401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The 2-mile walk/run for children is at about 8:40 a.m.; wheelchairs welcome. Visit www.turkeychase.com or call John Sissala at 301-340-8107.

Scrooge the Musical by the Potomac Theatre Company Nov. 21-23, 28-30 and Dec. 5-7. The PTC performs at the Blair Family Center for the Arts at The Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.potomactheatrec.org or call 301-299-8571.

DECEMBER 2008

3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar at Beverly Farms Elementary School, 8501 Postoak Road. Designated booths for scrap books, jewelry, baskets and a book sale. A special section for children will have arts and crafts. Call 301-469-1050.

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland takes place in early December. The event features caroling, ice sculpting, storytelling, holiday performances and hands-on craft activities for kids. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Winter Lights is a 3.5 mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg. There are more than 380 illuminated displays and 60 animated ones. Open for a sneak preview on Nov. 23-24 and then nightly from Nov. 30 to Dec. 30. Closed Dec. 25. Admission is \$10 per car on Sunday through Thursday and \$12 per car on Friday and Saturday. Proceeds from the Festival benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

Jingle Bell Jog 8K championship series on Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. and a 1-



Dance Bethesda will take place in early March.

mile Fun Run at 9:10 a.m., at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or see www.mccrc.org.

Drug Awareness Open House/Carnival at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. The carnival features games, moon bounces, a DJ, laser tag for a charge of \$5, and a snack bar. Ages 7-13 welcome. Call 240-777-6960 for more information.

Chanukah Festival in late December at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Play games, create beautiful decorations, listen to music, enjoy family entertainment and snack on holiday treats. Come celebrate Chanukah with other families at the JCC. Call 301-248-3760 or visit www.jccgw.org for more information.

JANUARY 2009

Shooting Starr 5-mile run. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mccrc.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 80th Birthday Celebration presented by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Classical Saturdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Classical Thursdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents Slavonic Dances Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701



The Potomac Hunt Races take place every year in May.

Rockville
Pike in North Bethesda.
Call 410-783-8100 or visit
www.bsomusic.org.

FEBRUARY 2009

Jazz Festival is a five-day event, held over President's Day weekend, at the Doubletree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike. The festival provides live musical performances, workshops and seminars. Call 301-468-1100.

Superpops Series: Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents "Cirque de la Symphonie" Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Symphony with a Twist Series: Marin Alsop and Savion Glover with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

The Ahn Trio performs Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

MARCH 2009

Superpops Series: Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents "Patti Austin: An Ella Fitzgerald Tribute" March 12 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Classical Thursdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra March 26 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Academic Arts Fair at Robert Frost Middle School, 9201 Scott Drive. Student presentations of art, theater reenactments, science experiments,

and math competitions. Call 301-279-3949.

Dance Bethesda is a weekend of dance festivities in early March including a formal dance concert at Round House Theatre at 7502 Wisconsin Ave., free lessons and parties at downtown Bethesda's dance studios and master classes. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Purim Carnival, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Pick Haman's pocket, snack on delicious holiday treats, play games, enjoy entertainment and make Purim decorations. Don't forget to come in costume! Call 301-348-3760 or visit www.jccgw.org for more information.

Children's Book Fair and Character Dinner, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Don't miss this opportunity to read and buy the best of children's literature, both Judaic and secular. The fair's outstanding selection includes a wide variety of Judaic titles, books by award-winning authors and illustrators, fiction and nonfiction, and the newest releases. Call 301-348-3837 or visit www.jccgw.org for more information.

12th Annual CollegeQuest College Fair, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. This is a great opportunity for students in grades 9 to 11 to meet with representatives from more than 40 colleges and universities. In addition, professional counselors conduct informative workshops and seminars

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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10 Miles on the C&O Canal

Some people live in Potomac for years without paying a visit to the national park that runs through town, but most are well aware of the treasure awaiting them in their proverbial backyard. The C&O Canal National Historical Park has something to offer for nearly anybody — rock climbers, bird watchers, kayakers and canoeists, hikers, history buffs, and those who simply want an afternoon outdoors.

The C&O Canal runs 184 miles to Cumberland, Md., but the most highly visited portion of the park is that between Great Falls and Georgetown. The portion of the canal that runs through Potomac features “hotspots” like Great Falls Tavern, as well as quieter places upstream, like Swains and Violettes Locks. Below are several local areas of note along the canal.



Great Falls Tavern reopened earlier this year after renovations to the historical building and its visitor center.

5. Great Falls Parking Lot Entrance

Where: Intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard
How much: Parking is \$5 per vehicle, \$3 per cyclist/walker.
Why: The Great Falls entrance to the park is a popular one. Historic Great Falls Tavern is there, offering information on the history of the Canal. The towpath is a popular spot for hikers and bikers and the mule-drawn Charles F. Mercer packet boat — a replica of the boats that traveled the Canal in its heyday in the mid to late 1800s — docks up here. A short walk downstream on the towpath from the Tavern leads to a catwalk that carries visitors to a scenic overlook of the roaring rapids of Great Falls.

8. Violette's Lock

What: Lock 24 of the C&O Canal, and the end of the 22-mile watered portion of the lower canal.
Where: Mile 22.1 of the C&O Canal towpath
How: Take River Road (Route 190 north) and turn left onto Violettes Lock Road, just before Bretton Woods Country Club. The turn is a half-mile before Route 112 and is easy to miss.
Why: Like Swain's Lock, this is a much quieter, less frequently visited portion of the canal. It is a popular spot with local birdwatchers, and for fishing enthusiasts — it is home to sunfish and smallmouth bass. It also is a popular spot for kayakers and canoeists and has easy shoots for beginners to get experience on rapids. As always, safety is urged in water sports and swimming anywhere in the Potomac Gorge — generally the area from above Great Falls to Theodore Roosevelt Island — is strictly prohibited.

6. Great Falls Tavern

Where: At the Great Falls Entrance to the park.
What: The Great Falls Tavern has served in a variety of capacities since it opened in 1828. Originally a lock-keepers home, the building eventually became a tavern, then a hotel for travelers along the Canal. After the Canal went under in 1924 due to the convenience of train transport the building continued to function as a hotel, fueled by the rising popularity of the automobile, but its days as a hotel or a tavern ended for good during the Great Depression.

The building sat empty for several years until the Canal became part of the National Park Service and the tavern was reopened as a visitor's center with historical displays. The building has recently reopened after a renovation that made it look like the tavern that it was in its 19th-century heyday. It now features updated historical displays about the history of the Canal and the natural history of the Potomac Gorge.

Public boat rides on the newly refurbished Canal Clipper are offered during the spring, summer and fall months. Boat rides run five days a week, Wednesday to Sunday. Call 301-767-3714.

4. Billy Goat Trail Section A

What: A physically demanding hiking trail.
Where: The closest parking to Section A is the Old Angler's Inn lot — Section A begins a half-mile upstream from the lot. It runs between Miles 12.8 and 13.8 of the C&O Canal towpath
Why or why not: Section A is the most difficult part of the Billy Goat Trail and is not recommended for hikers without experience. Those who choose to hike it should be well-prepared: make sure to wear trail sneakers or hiking boots, bring plenty of water and be sure to stay on the path. Walking off-path is both harmful to the environment and potentially dangerous for hikers. Dogs are not allowed on Section A.

3. Old Angler's Inn Parking Lot

What: A parking area by the C&O Canal, located across the street from the famed Old Angler's Inn restaurant.
Where: Across the street from Old Angler's, located at 10801 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac.
Why: Located two miles downstream from Great Falls Tavern, there is no charge to park in this lot. It is a popular spot for kayakers — beginners often take lessons in the canal, and there is a put-in for advanced paddlers who brave the Potomac River.
What else: Widewater, a scenic natural opening in the canal, is a half-mile upstream from the parking lot. Berma Road is a 1.4-mile gravel path that begins by the parking lot, and offers scenic vistas of Widewater, before it joins the towpath near Great Falls.
And ...: Hot, sweaty and hungry canal-goers that don't want to eat that last banana for lunch or wait until they get home can head to Old Angler's Inn and enjoy the casual fare served on the restaurant's shaded patio, which the restaurant calls “Angler's Garden.” Menu items in the “Garden” include hot dogs, pulled pork barbecue sandwiches, soft-serve custard — and cheaper prices than the restaurant's regular menu. Entrees on the garden menu range from \$7-\$12.

7. Swain's Lock

What: Lock 21 of the C&O Canal located on Swain's Lock Road.
Where: Drive north on River Road (Route 190) and turn left on Swain's Lock Road. This is an easy turn to miss — if you pass Smoky Quartz Lane or Spur Wheel Lane on the right side of the road you've gone too far.
Why: Swain's Lock is quieter than Great Falls Tavern and has several picnic spots between the towpath and the Potomac River. It is a favorite of those looking to get out into the park but away from the more crowded parts. Hikers, bikers and dog-walkers are frequent visitors here.

1. Carderock Recreation Area

What: A portion of C&O Canal National Historical Park featuring a picnic pavilion and dramatic cliffs.
Where: Off the Clara Barton Parkway.
Why: Carderock has a picnic pavilion, and is a popular rock-climbing spot.

What: Top-roping, bouldering and soloing on cliffs as high as 80 feet are frequent activities at Carderock, but for less experienced climbers there are several beginner climbs available. Picnic areas for hungry hikers and climbers are also popular.

How: Take I-495 (Capitol Beltway) to Exit 41, Clara Barton Parkway, Carderock/Glen Echo. Follow Clara Barton Parkway west for .7 miles to Carderock exit. At the top of the ramp, turn left across the bridge and at the “T” turn, turn right and continue .4 miles to the last parking lot. Access to the C&O Canal towpath is on the right side of the parking lot.

2. Billy Goat Trail, Sections B & C

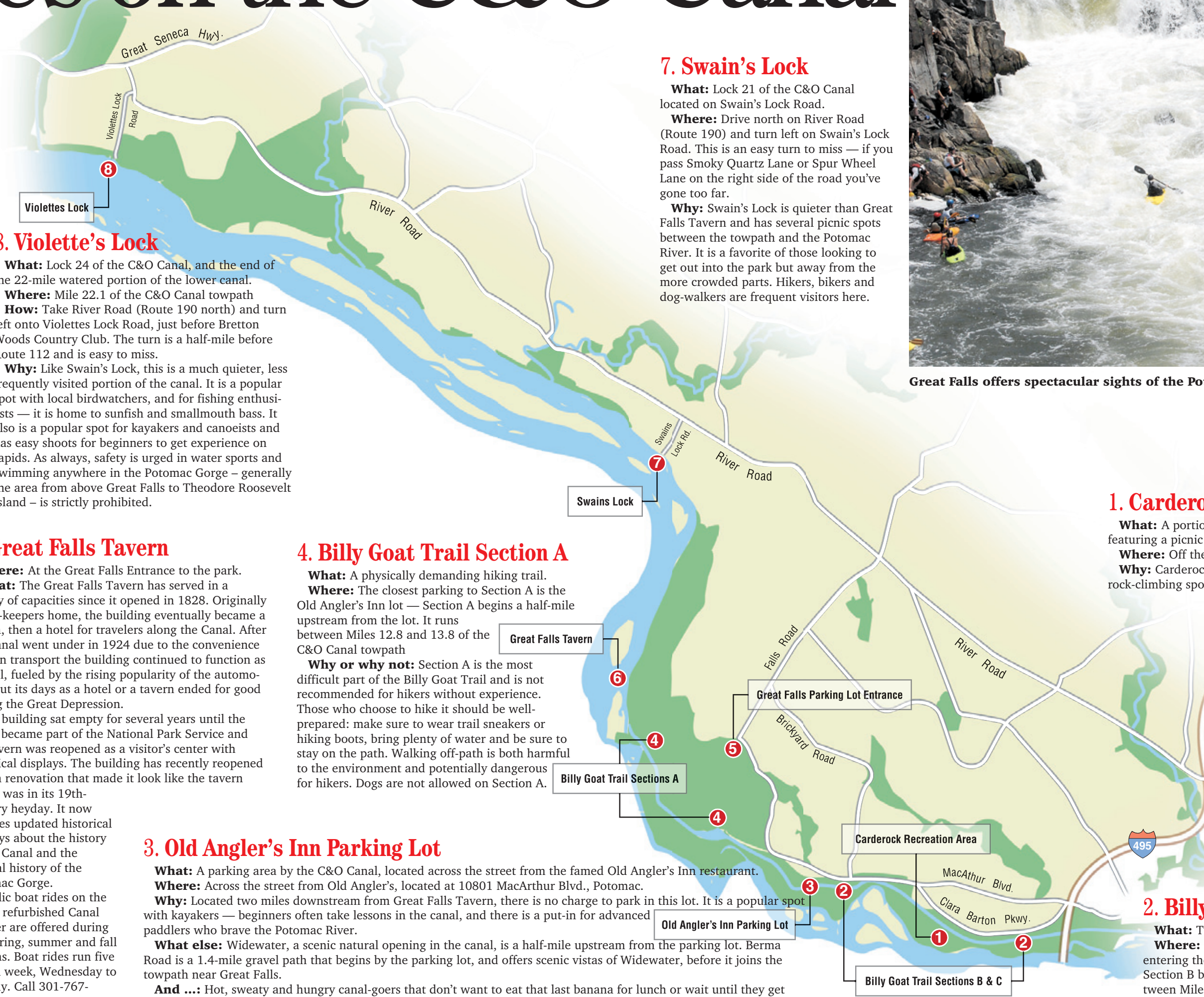
What: Two hiking trails accessible from the C&O Canal towpath.
Where: Section C begins at the westernmost end of the Carderock parking lot (turn right when entering the lots, and go to the end); it runs between Mile 9.9 and 11.0 of the C&O Canal towpath. Section B begins a tenth of a mile downstream from the Old Angler's Inn parking lot; it runs between Mile 11.4 and 12.3 of the C&O Canal towpath.
Why: Trails B and C are different from Section A. For one, hikers can bring their dogs — on leashes — with them on B and C, but not on A. The three hikes vary in difficulty levels: Trail C is the easiest, B the intermediate, and A is for serious hikers.



Great Falls offers spectacular sights of the Potomac River, and extreme paddling for kayakers.



The C&O Canal has 74 locks, including this one in front of Great Falls Tavern which is still operational.



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FROM PAGE 9

on relevant topics, such as financial aid and life on campus. High school students are encouraged to attend with their parents. Call Joy Rosenthal at 301-348-3889 or visit www.jccgw.org for more information.

The Potomac Theatre Company will present a fun children's show in late March and early April that will be announced later in the year. The PTC performs at the Blair Family Center for the Arts at The Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.potomactheatreco.org or call 301-299-8571.

APRIL 2009

Pike's Peek 10K run along Rockville Pike. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

"Blast from the Past" at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, an annual rock and roll musical revue featuring student cast members, musicians and stage crew under the direction of area professionals. The show will take place in late April and early May. Call 301-469-1200 or visit www.churchillhs.org for dates and more information.

Classical Saturdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents Mahler's Sixth Symphony April 4 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

The Annual Bethesda Literary Festival features poets, authors, journalists, novelists, poetry slams, essay contests and youth book parties. Literary events take place the third weekend in April in downtown Bethesda's bookstores, galleries and retail businesses, as well as the library and elementary school. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Symphony with a Twist Series: Romeo and Juliet with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra April 24 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

American Odyssey Relay Run Adventure, a 24 hour, 200 mile race from Gettysburg, Pa. to Washington, D.C. that will pass through Potomac on the C&O canal, will be April 24-25. See www.americanodysseyrelay.com for more information and to register for the race.

MAY 2009

Classical Saturdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 May 2 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

The Audubon Nature Fair takes place May 3 at the 40-acre Woodend Sanctuary of the Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase. Call 301-652-9188 ext. 10 or visit www.audubonnaturalist.org.

Superpops Series: Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents "Leading Men of Broadway" May 7 at 8 p.m. and "Disco Days and Boogie Nights" May 28 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

The Community Service Fair at Beverly Farms Elementary School is a fundraiser for Mary Vale Elementary School and Steppingstone Shelter. There will be a clothing drive and

collections. Featuring a dunk tank, moon bounce and carnival atmosphere. Call 301-469-1050.

Earth Day Celebration at Rockville Quarry, 13900 Piney Meetinghouse Road, Rockville. Quarry tours and hands-on exhibits help guests understand the safe, efficient process of producing crushed stone products at the nearly 50-year-old quarry. The annual event is traditionally held in early May. Call 301-294-6404 or visit www.quarryearthday.com.

Spring Festival in early May at The Greek Orthodox Church of St. George 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. The festival includes traditional Greek cuisine, outdoor/indoor dining, Greek dancing, church tours and Greek pastries. Admission and parking are free. Call 301-469-7990 or visit www.stgeorge.org.

Hills Cabin John Cross Country 5K Run, with 1k, .25 and .5 mile young runs. Call Montgomery County Road Runners at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

Bethesda Fine Arts Festival in mid-May on Norfolk and Auburn Ave.s features 130 booths of contemporary fine arts and crafts, jewelry, furniture and live entertainment. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

The Potomac Hunt Races feature steeplechase racing, thoroughbreds and festival tailgate parties. Contact Shady Grove Adventist Hospital or visit www.potomachuntraces.com for more information.

Strawberry Festival at Potomac United Methodist Church, 10300 Falls Road in Potomac, takes place in May. Berries, a silent auction, bake sale, rummage sale, craft fair, dollar items and games and activities for children. Proceeds benefit charitable programs for women and children in need. Call the church at 301-299-9383 or visit www.potomac-umc.org.

Hometown Holidays is a three-day Memorial Day festival with concerts, children's crafts and games. Call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.

The Landon Azalea Festival takes place in the Perkins Garden and throughout the entire Landon 75-acre wooded campus and gardens. Attend the Maryland Craft Show, purchase many varieties of plants and flowers as well as items from the festival boutiques. 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Call 301-320-3200 or visit www.landon.net.

Spring Fling at Wayside Elementary School, 10011 Glen Road, featuring rides, dunk booths, a moon bounce, mountain wall and raffles. Call 301-279-8484.

Summer Concert Series, runs May-July on Wednesday afternoons from 12-2 p.m. at the Bethesda Place Plaza and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at Veterans Park in Bethesda. Enjoy free summer concerts featuring the best in local rock, swing, jazz and international music. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more information.

Bethesda Art Walk, second Friday of every month from 6-9 p.m. at the Bethesda Metro Center. The Bethesda Art walk features unique local galleries and studios that open their doors to showcase work created locally, nationally and internationally. Art Walk attendees are invited to walk the fun-filled streets of Bethesda to each gallery or joint he free guided tours. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more information.

Bethesda Farmers Market, every Tuesday, May through Oct. from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Veterans Park. Employees, residents and visitors can purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, breads and plants at this weekly market. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more

information.

JUNE 2009

Capital Crescent 5K Run. Call Montgomery County Road Runners at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

The 15th Annual Imagination Bethesda is a children's street festival celebrating the arts in early June. The festival will feature costumed characters, face painters, international dance troupes, theater performances, a moon bounce and a variety of hands-on arts activities. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Summer Music Festival, at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 7611 Clarendon Road, Bethesda. The festival is open to the public and is the culmination of music camps put on by a church member. Call 301-986-1137 or visit www.bethesdapresbyterian.org.

Bethesda Painting Awards at the Fraser Gallery, 7700 Wisconsin Ave. Suite E, is an annual juried art competition that exclusively honors painters. Four selected artists are awarded \$14,000 including a \$10,000 prize for Best in Show. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Classical Saturdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents Marin Alsop and Hilary Hahn June 6 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

Classical Thursdays with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents Marin Alsop and Yefim Bronfman June 11 at 8 p.m. at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. Call 410-783-8100 or visit www.bsomusic.org.

JULY 2009

Cure Autism Now 9th Annual 5K Run and 1-mile Walk to benefit research on autism takes place July 4 at the Potomac Library at the intersection of River and Falls Roads at 8 a.m. Call 301-419-8198. See www.canrun.org to register.

Montgomery County Fairgrounds 4th of July Fireworks, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. Activities include live music, games and food. Call 301-258-6350.

Montgomery College Rockville Campus 4th of July Fireworks, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Activities include live music and food. Call 240-314-5022 for more information.

Germantown Glory. Celebrate 4th of July in Germantown. Includes family activities and music at South Germantown Recreational Park, 18041 Central Park Circle, Boyds. Call 240-777-6820.

Gaithersburg Independence Day. Bring a blanket for a picnic and fireworks. Call 301-258-6350 or visit parksrec@gaithersburgmd.gov.

22nd Annual Rockville Rotary Twilight Runfest 8K and 1K Fun Run, at the Rockville Town Center at North Washington Street and Middle Lane. There is an entry fee. Stay for the post-race party. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or visit www.mcrrc.org.

Riley's Rumble Half Marathon. at 13015 Riley's Lock Road. Race day registration or on-line. Free for members and \$7 for non-members. Call Montgomery County Road Runners Club at 301-353-0200 or see www.mcrrc.org.

Outdoor Concerts at Strathmore Hall, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda, take place Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

OUT AND ABOUT



PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON/THE ALMANAC

Several long and winding trails help frame the Potomac River along the C&O Canal.

And for Some Fun ...

Where to go, what to do on the weekends in Potomac.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The best place to be after a long week at the office haggling with colleagues and having your decisions scrutinized and double-guessed? That's easy for Potomac resident and County Councilman Roger Berliner (D-1).

"I think it's sort of hard to get past the C&O Canal and our Potomac River," said Berliner.

Potomac offers a wealth of weekend activities from eating and shopping to sports and theater, but the two local outdoor gems are a mandatory cornerstone for any weekend activity in and around Potomac. The C&O Canal National Historical Park runs through Potomac, a sliver of parkland filled with hiking trails of all skill levels, bike paths, and opportunities galore for dogwalkers and kayakers alike.

"Great Falls park is always fun," said Adam Greenberg, Potomac resident and owner of the ever-popular Potomac Pizza. Great Falls is the main access point to the C&O Canal Park in Potomac, the entrance of which is at the intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard. Parks and bike paths abound around Potomac and make for good personal or family afternoons.

"We've got some nice parks including Hadley's Park [on Falls Road]," said Greenberg. "It's a nice to take your kids to. Cabin John Park [off of Tuckerman Road] is a nice place too."

When it comes to food, there are high end restaurants like Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Boulevard or fast and easy family places like California Tortilla in the Cabin John Mall. Starbucks is a popular place to meet in both Cabin John Mall and Potomac Village.

"They both have a lot of people sitting outside," said Potomac resident Bonnie Berliner — no relation to Roger Berliner — of a typical scene.

Renato's is a popular Italian restaurant in the Village, as is Hunter's Inn, which is famous not just for its gigantic martinis but its bar scene in general.

"The Hunter's Inn bar on Thursday nights is a great meeting place," Bonnie Berliner said. "For some reason Thursday night the Hunter's Inn bar is packed."

More family-friendly nighttime entertainment can be had across the street from Hunter's at Sprinkles ice cream store or at Baskin Robbins in Cabin John Mall, which would make a perfect end to an evening of summer baseball watching the Bethesda Big Train minor league baseball team that plays its home games in Cabin John Park.

Or, if the timing is right, the Potomac Theater Company offers top-notch local theater talent in its seasonal performances in the Bullis School's Blair Family Center for the Arts.

Bethesda, Rockville, and of course Washington, D.C. are always just a hop, skip and a jump away, but more often than not newcomers to Potomac are likely to find that anything they want to do on a weekend is just around the corner.

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BUSINESS

People of the Chamber

Working and contributing to the Potomac lifestyle.

BY ANDREW DODSON
THE ALMANAC

When Adam Greenberg was growing up in Bethesda, Potomac was different world. In 1994, he opened up his ice cream business in Potomac and witnessed the changes in that different world.

"Potomac was a horse country," said Greenberg. "Not at all what it is today, though we still have that country look."

Greenberg is the president of Potomac's Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held in years past. His involvement with the chamber dates back to 1994, when he opened up his ice cream shop, The Cone Zone.

"I began meeting lots of people and was invited to join the board," said Greenberg. "I've been the treasurer and the president a few times."

GREENBERG ALSO earned businessperson of the year for his work with the Cone Zone and Potomac Pizza, which nestles in the Potomac Village.

Potomac's atmosphere of maintaining a limited-sized village center and staying close to its horse country roots are aspects that Greenberg says make it a great place to live.

"It's a great place to live and raise a family," Greenberg said. "It's a small community and the people who live here are great."

Great Falls Park is a landmark that is a great treasure according to Greenberg, saying it is a place where all should witness its beauty.

Currently, Greenberg is planning for Potomac Day, the largest festival in Potomac which includes a parade, festival, business fair, car show, and 5-kilometer road race, all free to the public. Greenberg works along side the chamber's secretary, Jennifer Matheson.

"Jennifer is a very dynamic person," said Greenberg. "Planning Potomac Day takes a lot of work, and she does a great job in doing it."

Matheson's dedication to the board is evident through her hour and a half drive each morning. She now lives in Charles Town, W.Va., and needs to leave even earlier when schools are in session.

"I enjoy the chamber, even with the drive," Matheson said. "It's very casual, and the people are



PHOTOS BY ANDREW DODSON/THE ALMANAC

Adam Greenberg owns Potomac Pizza and the Potomac Village Deli and is president of Potomac's Chamber of Commerce.



Jennifer Matheson is the secretary of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce and one of the main planners of the annual Potomac Day festival.

great."

POTOMAC DAY is the chamber's largest project of the year, but Matheson works on other projects as well. Each month, she sends out welcome letters as well as promotional coupons and advertisements from local businesses to new residents. There are about 20 to 30 packages sent out each month.

"Potomac is a quiet, friendly, family community," said Matheson. "It is definitely a great place to live."

For more information on the Chamber of Commerce and Potomac day, visit <http://www.potomacchamber.org>.



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To contact police about a non-emergency, call 301-279-8000. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police.

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BUSINESS



PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON/THE ALMANAC

Potomac Village offers many little cafes and shopping opportunities in a community atmosphere.

What's New in Potomac Village?

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The intersection of Falls and River Roads — an area known as Potomac Village — has long been the community and cultural nexus of Potomac. Long before there was a Starbucks, two gas stations and a bevy of banks, there was a post office and blacksmith's shop that sat at what back then was the crossing of two major dirt roads.

Times have changed, and continue to do so. Potomac Village offers a range of shopping and meeting venues, but as rents have increased in the Village, the number of locally-owned stores has decreased. Stores such as Rocky's Video, La-De-Da, a small crafts store, and Flaps Restaurant closed, and some units have remained empty for months on end. More often than not they have been replaced by national chains, particularly banks.

"I think we're losing our sense of community by moving to all big corporations and things like that but I don't think we really have a choice in that," said Adam Greenberg, the owner of Potomac Pizza

and the president of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce. "It's really the landlords dictating that, which is dictated by their mortgages and things like that. It's just out of control."

Not that all change is bad. Walgreen's recently became the Village's first 24-hour store, while across the street Rite-Aid is set to expand into the old Flaps space and Giant supermarket just underwent a facelift.

The Village has gotten more walkable, as well. For years residents complained about the lack of sidewalks in and around the village, but Montgomery County's Department of Public Works and Transportation has installed long stretches of sidewalk leading to and through the village in recent months.

"It was actually a nice addition, it was something that's been needed for a long time," said Greenberg. Still, Greenberg said that he hopes for a return to a Village with a more local feel, but he knows that that is something that will be determined by the market and those who set the rates for rent in the Village, not the average Potomac resident.

"I don't think we really ultimately have a choice," said Greenberg.

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COMMUNITY



Sunny Days

At Glen Echo Park, from left, are Bella Sayle — “I really like the carousel because it has been here for so long” — and Vivienne Sayle — “I like the playground the best.”



PHOTOS BY ANDREW DODSON/THE ALMANAC
Orange flowers saturate the foreground while a calligraphy class is in session in the background at Glen Echo Park.

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REAL ESTATE

What's New in Housing Market?

Like the rest of the country, Potomac felt the effects of the downturn in the housing market that has taken place in the last two years. Prices have leveled off and sales have fallen, and no longer can sellers hope to see the same increase in home values over short periods of time that not long ago had become the norm.

The number of homes sold in Potomac in May was down over 30 percent from May 2007 figures and average sale prices declined 26 percent (\$985,728 in May 2008, down from \$1,332,254 in May 2007) in the same period as well, according to data from the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems.

Yet there are signs, however, that the market could be getting better, both anecdotal and statistical. The average number of days a sold house spent on the market in May 2008 was 74, down from a 96-day average in May 2007.

"We've actually had a good late spring," said Anne Killeen, a Washington Fine Properties Realtor and Potomac resident. "I think sellers got more realistic in their pricing and buyers started to see that inter-

est rates were going to rise a little bit."

While the market isn't what it was in 2005, sellers who take a realistic approach to moving their house can meet with success. Getting a home into mint condition helps, and using recent comparables — sales that occurred this year as opposed to in years past — can help sellers set a realistic price.

Killeen said that she has seen a lot of listings in the last six months get multiple offers, but in Potomac those homes have tended to be closer in to Potomac Village. Homes further out in Potomac continue to have a more difficult time, she said.

Yet as always, hard times for sellers can mean opportunity for potential buyers.

"I think it's a great time to purchase," Killeen said. "I think most of the sellers on the market right now have priced their houses [reasonably] ... and are anxious and interested to get their houses off the market."

For more news and statistics on Potomac and area real estate, visit Metropolitan Regional Information Systems at www.mris.com.

Balancing Preservation, Development

FROM PAGE 5

"We all pay top dollar for our homes and this is going to ruin it in every way you can imagine," said one man who lives near the Koh's property.

ANY PROPOSED EXPANSION — be it residential or commercial — will have to pass County standards for environmental protection and mitigation, not to mention intense public scrutiny of those intentions.

Many citizens have lobbied the Montgomery County Council for a tree ordinance that would regulate the removal of any tree on residential lots of any size. The matter was most recently debated earlier this year as the County Council weighed proposed revisions to its Forest Conservation Law, which regulates the removal of forest on lots larger than 10,000 square feet in size. Many urged the Council to add a tree ordinance to any

amendments to the Forest Conservation Law.

The tree ordinance met with strong opposition from the development community and citizens who cited property rights, as did proposed changes to the Forest Conservation Law to make it applicable to lots 5,000 square feet in size, and possibly smaller lots as well.

The Planning Board and County Council have been weighing separate proposals that would strengthen the current Forest Conservation Law for over a year, but the Council, which ultimately will approve the new law, has yet to reconcile the two different proposals. A hearing before the County's Transportation and Environment Committee could take place either in late July or when the Council returns from its August recess.

While many have pushed for a tree ordinance to be included in the bill, indications have been that

such a possibility is not likely and that if it is to pass it will be in the future as its own separate measure.

SIMILARLY, NO PROPOSED expansion or new development of any type can be had without strong consideration to the impact on the local watershed. The Forest Conservation Law is designed to stem the tide in tree loss that much of the County's tree cover in the last 40 years. The impact of that tree loss has been felt nowhere more acutely than in local watersheds, whose health has declined steadily as well. Without trees and vegetation to filter and slow stormwater runoff, streams become inundated with dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, pet excrement, motor oils and anything else that makes its way onto roads, sidewalks and yards before it is washed away by rain. The ultimate result has been devastating not just to the local watersheds, but also to the health and the Chesapeake Bay. Numerous studies have documented the steady downward decline to the near-desperate states that they now are in.

The County has taken measures in recent years to try to regulate stormwater runoff and development tactics have shifted from treating runoff in enormous basins to on-site treatment through a variety of smaller filtration techniques. Strengthening storm water management laws is difficult because coming up with quantifiable measurements is a challenging task.

Like all things in Potomac, it will take time, commitment, and citizen involvement, and governmental execution.



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SPORTS

Churchill's Denzel Payne drives past two defenders in a Bulldogs' first-round playoff win last winter.



PHOTOS BY TERESA BURNELL/THE ALMANAC



Wootton senior Julie Klatzkin led the Patriots last season with 65 goals and 32 assists, both team highs. She will play lacrosse at Cornell University next year. The Wootton boys and were regional champions last year.

A Glance at High School Sports

In addition to an all-around educational experience, the three public high schools that serve Potomac are second to none. Each of the three — Winston Churchill, Thomas S. Wootton, and Walt Whitman High Schools — consistently rank among the top 100 in U.S. News and World Reports, Newsweek, and other highly-regarded rating systems, yet each of the three offers an array of activities to students outside of the classroom as well, and in recent years the schools have excelled athletically as well.

Churchill — which is the only one of the three schools to draw its population exclusively from Potomac — has long-standing traditions of excellence when it comes to golf, tennis, and track and field. The Bulldog golf team, in particular, has been a banner team, winning five straight state titles before being knocked off this year — by Whitman. Yet Churchill is also highly competitive in other major sports like football, basketball, field hockey, and la-

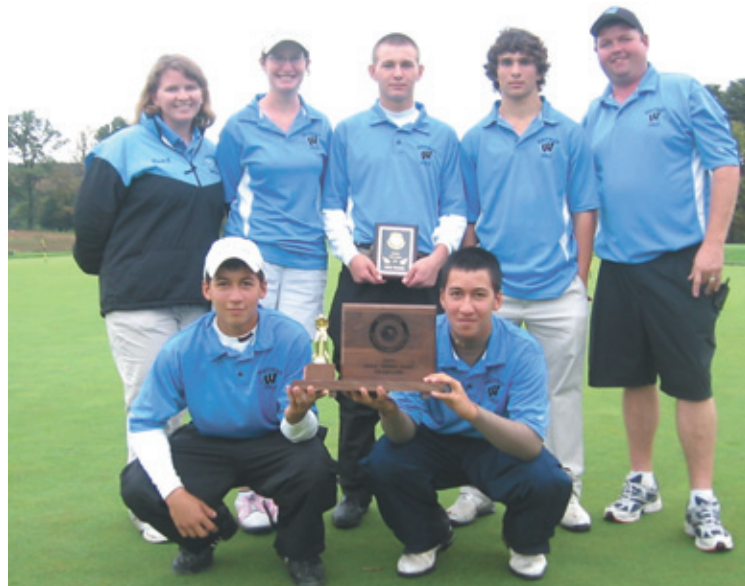
crosse.

Whitman's victory over Churchill on the links this year was an upset to some, but not to the Vikings who have had a strong golf team for some time now. They also have something else that few area public schools can boast about — a crew team. The Viking girls basketball team has been extremely competitive in recent years, winning regional titles each of the last two years and falling one game short of the state final two years ago.

Lacrosse has grown immensely in popularity both regionally and nationally in the last decade and the three Potomac schools exemplify that. Each sends competitive boys and girls teams deep into the playoffs each year, but Wootton has established itself as the best of the three in the past two years. Two seasons ago the Patriot boys were the first Montgomery County team ever to advance to the state championship game and this year their girls' team fell one game short of achieving the same honor.

No matter the sport and no matter how each team's record at the time, any matchup between these schools is a hotly contested one. The athletes involved often times are going up against friends and others that they have played against in recreation leagues over the years and when pride is on the line, the result is an intense battle.

— AARON STERN



Whitman's golf team shot a record 596 and won the state varsity golf championship on last fall to defeat five-time defending champion Churchill. Pictured here are assistant coach Anne Marie O'Donoghue, senior Caroline Nathan, senior Louis Spear, junior Steven Fisher, head coach Karl O'Donoghue, senior Alex Kamargo and senior Michael Kamargo.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH DILLON

Wootton sophomore Allison Yeager led the Wootton girls' soccer team in scoring this season, and she scored the game-winner in Wootton's 2-1 overtime victory over Churchill in the regional playoff semifinals last year.

PHOTO BY ALEX SCOFIELD/THE ALMANAC

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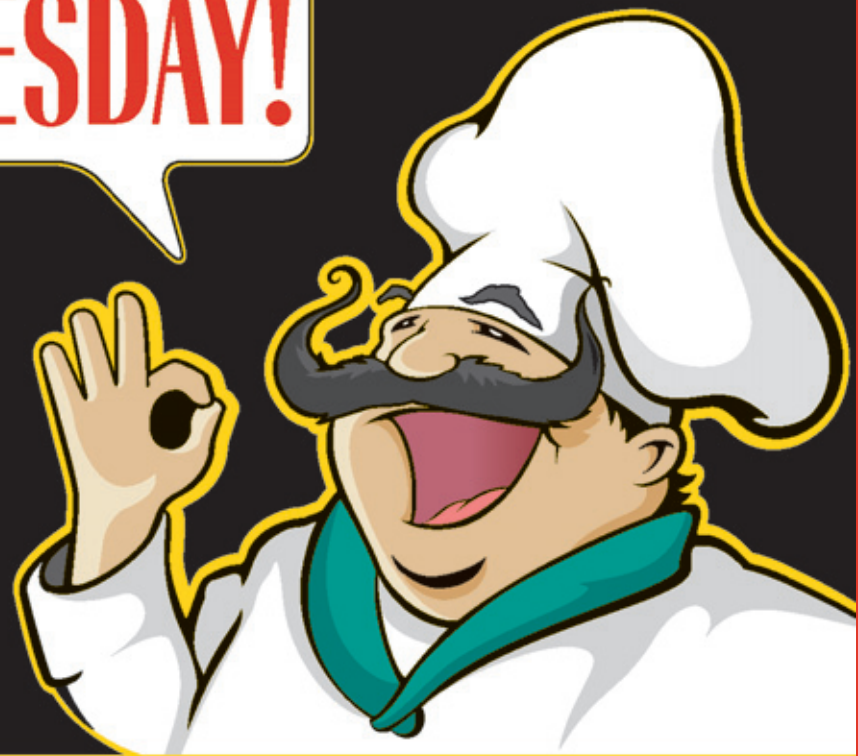
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