

German Bazaar This Saturday

GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 3

Gifts for piggies: Becky Pugh throws a pumpkin to the pigs at the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

Vikings Move On Without Kahlenberg, Russell

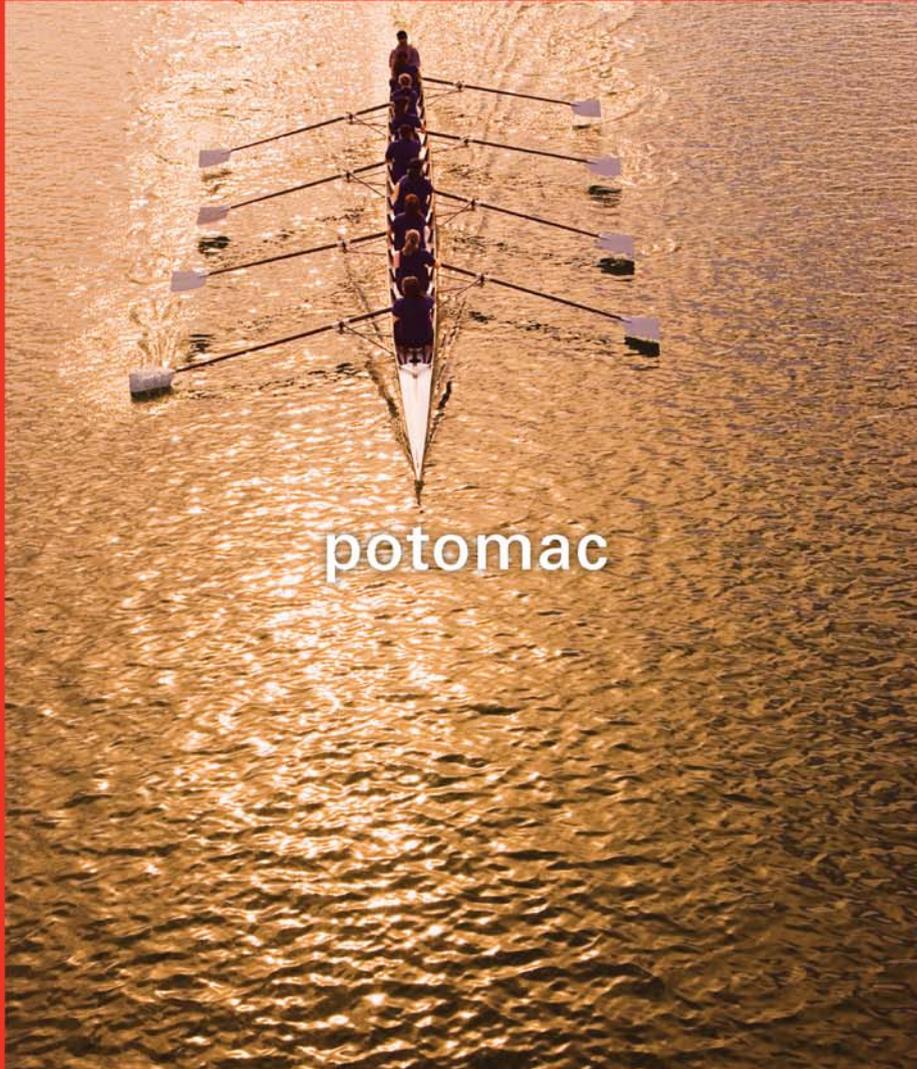
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Experts Advise on Wine Gifts

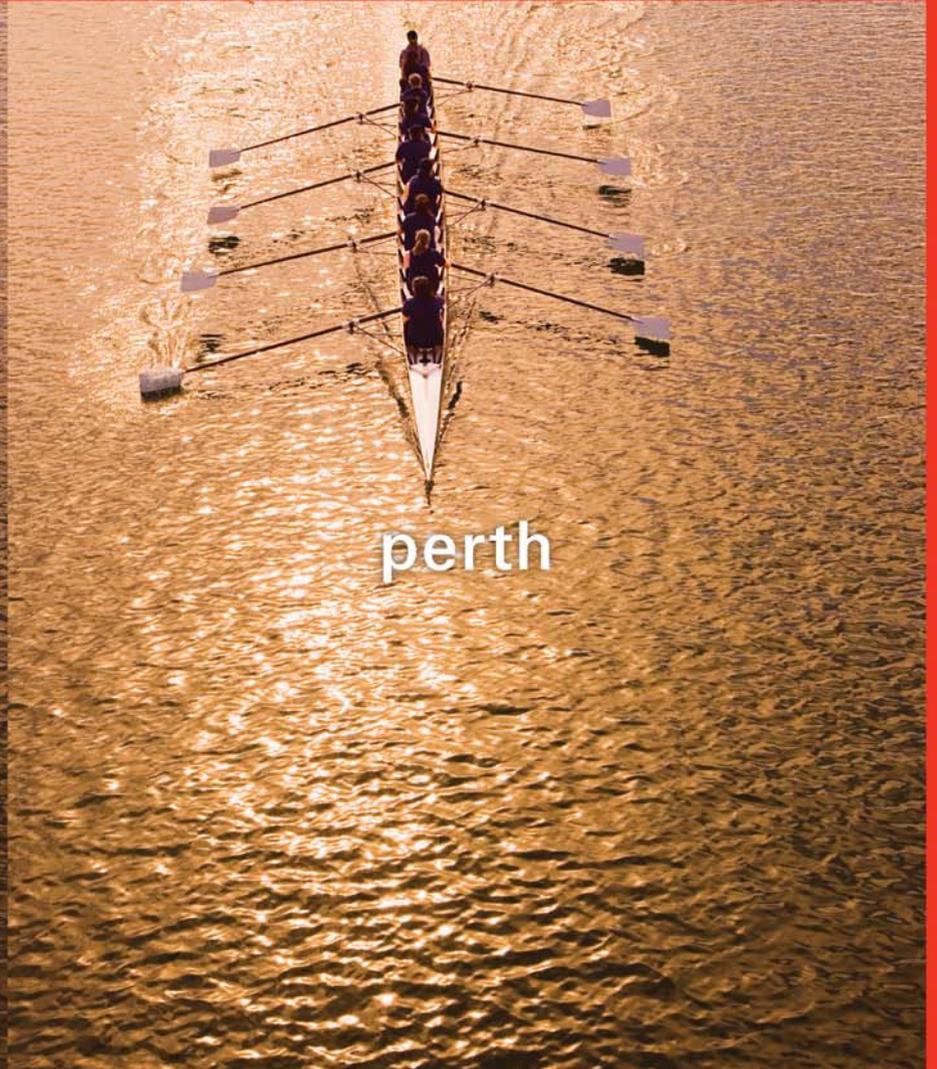
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Gifts for Piggies

Repurposed pumpkins feed lucky rescued pigs at Poplar Springs.

Last week, Becky Pugh made an offer to save her neighbors from a serious breach of intermingled seasons, offering them a way to “avoid the ‘Pumpkins and Wreaths’ faux pas and help a good cause.”

The offer resulted in Pugh and neighbor Tracy Kinol cruising their River Falls streets collecting more than 120 uncut, unpainted pumpkins left over from Halloween and Thanksgiving and delivering them early Sunday morning to some very thankful pigs.

Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville offers care, rehabilitation, and permanent sanctuary for neglected, abandoned or unwanted farm animals. Some of the pigs were rescued as babies 12 years ago from a truck abandoned in Washington, D.C. Two came to Poplar Spring after helping with insulin research at Georgetown University. One was found on the side of the road in North Carolina with scrapes that indicated she had fallen from a vehicle that probably was bound for the slaughter house. Another was rescued from a local high school where he had been greased and spray painted, according to Poplar Spring’s website.

Residents were thankful as well, happy to appease their vegetarian children, glad that the pumpkins were not going to waste, and thankful to have the pigs smash the pumpkins rather than find them smashed in the street.

SEE PIGS, PAGE 15



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The founders of Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, Terry Cummings and Dave Hoerauf, welcome the gift of more than 120 pumpkins from Potomac residents Tracy Kinol and her daughters Mackensie Kinol and Cassidy Lynch; Becky Pugh and her daughter Wren Jabs and Cassidy, an 8th grader at Pyle who finished all her Montgomery County High School Service Points with this project.



Wren Jabs feeds a little pig with a bright eye.



The pigs were delighted with the gifts.



Wren Jabs squeezes in with dozens of the pumpkins on the way to feed the pigs at Poplar Spring.

German School Prepares Its Annual Bazaar



Chef of the German School Susanne Köhler prepares food for the German bazaar.

Food, crafts, and fun ready for this Saturday.

This weekend Weihnachtsmann is coming to town. The German School Washington D.C., located at 8617 Chateau Drive in Potomac, will host its annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 11.30 a.m. until 4.30 pm.

Chef of the school Susanne Köhler will prepare dishes such as pretzels, sauerkraut and bratwurst using original German recipes. “I want the food to be as close to home as possible. This event draws people from all over the area. They come to eat the food and mingle. It is a very nice

SEE GERMAN BAZAAR, PAGE 15



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HEAVY/THE ALMANAC

Andrea Andrew prepares bread for the German bazaar. More than 500 dinner rolls and 600 pretzels are made for the festivities.

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Santa Has Arrived for wishes and portraits every weekend plus Christmas Eve from noon – 5 pm. Enjoy strolling entertainment while you shop!

Gift Wrapping Available Daily – your donations benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Toys for Tots

Friday, December 10, 6 am – 10 am

Join the US Marines at Mazza Gallerie for our MIX 107.3 live broadcast. Bring unwrapped toys and cash donations.

5300 WISCONSIN AVENUE, NW WWW.MAZZAGALLERIE.COM

GIFT GUIDE



6,910 Cans of Food Students at the McLean School of Maryland in Potomac worked to bring in 6,910 cans for the Manna Food Center in Rockville. The generosity of McLean School made the 2010 Food Drive a success and will help to feed many of Montgomery County families during the upcoming holidays.

HOLIDAY GIVING

Part of the holiday season includes contributing to local charities — to help provide holiday food baskets or to fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

GREENTREE SHELTER

6301 Greentree Road, Bethesda
301-365-4480

The Greentree Shelter serves as a transitional home for homeless families, primarily children with single mothers, and provides the basic support systems necessary for families to rebuild their lives. GTS is the only shelter for homeless families with an on-site structured child care center and therapeutic child access capability in Montgomery County.

Deliver unwrapped gifts to 6301 Greentree Road, Bethesda, to the receptionist in the John and Penny White Volunteer and Training Center (Building #3) by Wednesday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. Items are accepted Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Alisha Matlock at 301-365-4480 ext. 113 or amatlock@nccf-cares.

Purchase and donation of the items below will brighten a child's holiday:

Matchbox and Tonka cars and trucks; sports equipment (footballs, soccerballs, basketballs); bikes (boys and girls); pajamas (all sizes); push scooters; finger nail polish kits; African American dolls (Barbie, Bratz, & Baby Doll); Disney and young adult DVD's (G to PG13); hair accessories; MP3 players; ear phones; Easy Bake ovens; digital cameras and photo albums; arts & crafts kits; model cars; board games; Uno cards and other card games; hats and gloves (all sizes); slippers (all sizes); nonviolent action figures; portable boomboxes; journals & diaries; lotions & bath sets (Bath and Body & Victoria's Secret); Infant toys; mini basketball sets; gift cards (McDonalds, Target, Westfield Shopping Centers, Walmart, Safeway, Giant, Toys r Us, Best Buy, Payless Shoes, Old Navy, iTunes); movie passes (AMC, UA, and Loews); sleeping bags; Old Navy sweatshirts & t-shirts (all sizes); skate boards; educational toys; remote con-

trol cars; colorful socks for teenage girls, and Washington Redskins items.

BETHESDA CARES

7728 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda
301-907-9244

www.bethesda-cares.com

Bethesda Cares, Inc. addresses homelessness and poverty. Services are offered to those living on the street from the D.C. Metro area. Eviction prevention keeps people from becoming homeless and is a high priority of Bethesda Cares in stopping the creation of homeless people.

Donate Goods: Bethesda Cares clients need clothes, outgrown jackets and more, including toiletries such as travel size shampoo, lotion and soap, razors, deodorant. Non-perishable food as well as fresh fruit and vegetables are always welcome at our lunch program.

Donate Money: Bethesda Cares has no overhead as office and utilities are donated. Money goes immediately to work to assist those in the community.

Donate Time: Opportunities include but are not limited to preparing, serving lunch, assisting in the office and running drives for much needed items such as socks, toiletries and warm clothes.

MANNA FOOD CENTER

9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg
301-424-1130

www.mannafood.org

Manna Food Center is the main food bank in Montgomery County, and has distributed more than 33 million pounds of food to more than 2.1 million individuals in our community. ... Manna feeds about 3,300 families each month at 14 locations throughout the county.

Manna also provides food through an agency distribution program to 37 Montgomery County soup kitchens, food pantries, group homes, and emergency shelters.

MERCY HEALTH CLINIC

www.mercyhealthclinic.org

Mercy Health Clinic is a free, community based volunteer organization providing quality healthcare to uninsured, low-income residents of Montgomery County.

The clinic, located in Gaithersburg,

depends on the expertise of volunteers, healthcare professionals and support from community partners to provide quality care to those in need.

The clinic is staffed with medical professionals including family practice physicians, cardiologists, endocrinologists, nurse practitioners, nurse assistants, translators and behavioral health counselors.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

www.mchc.net

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, a community-based nonprofit organization, is a leading provider of permanent and transitional housing, emergency shelter and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. The coalition is also an umbrella membership organization serving the provider network in Montgomery County through advocacy efforts, program coordination and educational activities. The coalition spearheads a collaborative effort to implement a 10-year plan to end homelessness.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

www.nccf-cares.org

NCCF's mission is driven by a great sense of community responsibility for vulnerable children and their families. NCCF's residential programs serve homeless families, victims of domestic violence, and vulnerable adolescents, including the Green Tree Shelter and the Betty Ann Krahnke Center.

SHEPHERD'S TABLE

www.shepherdstable.org

For 27 years, Shepherd's Table has served a dinner meal seven nights a week in Silver Spring. Since 1983 they have served over 1,076,000 meals to hungry people.

SOME (So Others Might Eat)

www.some.org

SOME has been serving the homeless and poor in Washington, D.C. for 40 years, providing daily meals and programs that break the cycle of homelessness.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Santa Claus Make the Rounds With Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Dept.

The Santa on Fire Engines and Toy Collection is run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. A procession of fire engines carries Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings, collecting new, unwrapped toys for children who might otherwise not receive a single gift. Presents may also be brought to the Cabin John Fire Station. Donated toys should be unwrapped for ages 3 to 16. Visit www.cjpvfd.org or call 301-365-2255.

Friday, Dec. 10
Arrowood
Seven Locks Hills
Burning Tree Estates
Rose Hill Estates
Stonehurst Center
Smithfield

Saddle Ridge
Potomac Hunt Acres
Potomac View Estates
Tara

Wednesday, Dec. 15
Congressional Manor
Carderock Springs
Clewerwall (neighborhood)
Glengarry
Carderock
The Palisades

Saturday, Dec. 11
Bannockburn
Bannockburn Estates
Al Marah
Wilson Knolls

Thursday, Dec. 16
No runs

Sunday, Dec. 12
West Bethesda Park
Oakwood Knolls
Locust Ridge
Cohasset
Bradley Park
Burning Tree Valley
Bradley Hills Grove
Frenchman's Creek

Friday, Dec. 17
Alvermar Woods
Cabin John
Cabin John Park
Evergreen
Congressional Country
Club Estates

Monday, Dec. 13
No Runs — Annual Meeting and Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 18
Fox Meadow
River Oaks Farm
Potomac Farm Estates
Potomac Hills
Potomac Manors
Great Falls Estates
Potomac Falls Estates

Tuesday, Dec. 14
Merry Go Round Farm
Beallmount
Lake Potomac
Stoney Creek Farm

Sunday, Dec. 19
Avenel
River Road Estates
Williamsburg Estates
Concord
The Village (neighborhood)
Williamsburg Gardens

Monday, Dec. 20
Potomac Village
Camotop
Falconhurst
Bradley Farms
McAuley Park
Kenddale Estates
Bradley Blvd. Estates
Congressional Forest Estates

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Mountain Gate
Eagle Rock
Natelli Woods
Potomac Ranch
River Falls
Fawsett Farms

Thursday, Dec. 23
Make Up Days for Inclement Weather

Friday, Dec. 24
Santa delivers toys to the children.

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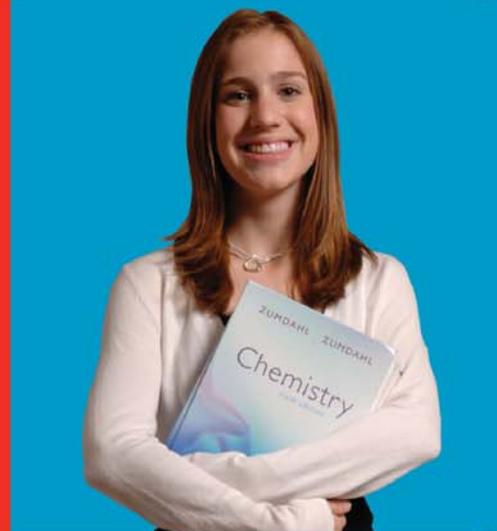
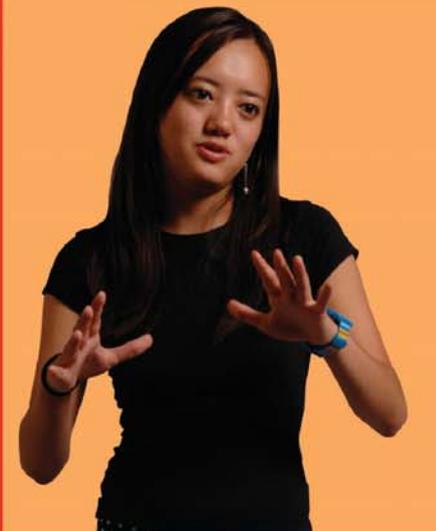
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OPINION

No Net Tree Loss: The Missing Piece

BY GINNY BARNES
WMCCA PRESIDENT

It has been six years since the 2004 massive tree cutting on private property overlooking the C&O Canal at Swains Lock drew attention to the inadequacy of laws to preserve our vital forests. That incident gave rise to the C&O Canal Task Force, initiated by Congressman Chris Van Hollen. The Task Force included representatives from the National Park Service, Federal, State and County staff as well as members of the public, environmental and civic organizations. The result was a finding that the current County Forest Conservation Law (FCL) lacks deterrents to cutting as well as incentives to value and protect existing forest canopy cover. Subsequently the County passed limited legislation to increase fines for destruction of forest, but two separate legislative efforts to reform our overly complicated and inadequate FCL by both Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and Councilmember Marc Elrich have died in Committee at the County Council. Meanwhile, it has become obvious that, while forest cover is inadequate under our current law, tree protection, particularly in the urban down county, is nonexistent.

Older neighborhoods in Bethesda, Kensington and Silver Spring were initially carved from forest, leaving stands of old trees and a sense of stability. Redevelopment has hit these communities hard. Houses are purchased, torn down and replaced with large mansions filling small lots. With no requirement to save trees, the lots are often completely denuded of any tree cover. This practice affects not only adjoining neighbors, but the entire community, not just visually, but through changes in local climate, energy consumption and property values for all residents. We know a lot more about what trees do for us than we did just six years ago. We know that, especially in urban areas, trees filter air pollution, provide shade that lowers temperatures and improve water quality. Trees cool air through evapotranspiration. A mature tree with a 30-foot crown transpires about 40 gallons of water a day. Hard surfaces like walls, roofs, streets and driveways may be 9 to 36 degrees F cooler than peak surface temperatures of unshaded surfaces. Mature trees can store 1,000 times more CO₂ annually than young trees. Additionally, homes with large trees sell for higher prices.

In companion areas of environmental policy, Montgomery County is more progressive,

WMCCA Meeting

The next West Montgomery County Citizens Association meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. at the Potomac Library.

If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

The speaker will be Councilmember Roger Berliner (District 1). A portion of the Potomac Subregion is included in District 1, and Berliner, fresh from a successful campaign for reelection, will be taking over as chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee (T&E). Councilmember Floreen, the former Chair, will remain on the committee and be joined by new Councilmember Hans Reimer (At Large). Many of the issues WMCCA routinely works on will pass directly through his hands and come under the jurisdiction of the T&E Committee — topics such as Sewer Category Change requests, air and water quality, energy, forest and tree reforms, transportation, sustainability, and climate change. Recently Berliner has taken a lead role in calling for greater accountability from Pepco. He will discuss the upcoming Council session. Bring questions and concerns. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

though, as usual, improvements are driven by forces from above — the Federal Clean Water Act, requirements for Environmental Site Design (ESD), new State stormwater regulations, and renewed Chesapeake Bay initiatives. Responding to the threats of climate change, Montgomery County convened a Sustainability Working Group and in January 2009 released a Montgomery County, Md. Climate Protection Plan which requires our county to reduce its carbon footprint by 80 percent by the year 2050, with specific targets along the way. The Plan recognizes the role trees and forests play in climate stability and urges development of accurate forest and tree canopy inventories, setting canopy goals, revising and updating the Roadside Tree Law (RTL), and extending tax credits for renewable energy measures to include tree planting. Nearly two years later, we've made very little, if any, progress fulfilling these particular recommendations.

Meanwhile, we continue to lose trees and forest. In January 2009, the Maryland state-mandated No Net Loss Task Force issued a Final Report and Recommendations, illustrating forest cover by tributary basins and counties. Montgomery County has only 29 percent forest cover compared to 41 percent for Anne Arundel and 42 percent for Prince George's County. Even Baltimore County beats us with 34 percent. It also recommends, in addition to mapping and tracking forest acreage, the need to chart urban tree cover and to set forest and canopy goals. American Forests recommends canopy goals of 25 percent for urban areas, 50 percent for Suburban areas and 40 percent overall. Comparative maps of Montgomery County forest cover show that in 1951 most of our forest cover was in the urban down county while in 2008 we've made some forest gains in the Agricultural Reserve but lost forest elsewhere. Were it not for Stream Valley Parks, we'd have little contiguous forest remaining in any of our urban areas.

So, what are we doing to stop the loss? Well, last year the County Executive budget cuts

suspended the roadside tree planting program, so we can't replace dead or cut trees in the public right of way. After an initial interest in creating a Countywide tree ordinance and amending the current FCL, the Council punted to a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) request to let them come up with an approach that would weave forest and tree protection into a single bill. That was two years ago. As yet, no draft language has emerged, and no Councilmember has taken initiative to move DEP forward. We do know their mystery legislation is based solely on a "pay to play" scenario — if a property owner is willing and able to pay enough money, they can cut down mature trees and forest. This should not be the only deterrent. We can't afford to ignore the simple fact that trees and forest are crucial to maintaining overall public health. Requiring a countywide level of canopy cover must be the basis of any new legislation.

STREET LIGHTS ON SOUTH GLEN ROAD?

Traveling along rustic roads takes us away from the hustle and bustle of our urban environment and transports us to a world of trees and pastoral tranquility. Montgomery County is blessed with a network of country roads that are designated as rustic and exceptional rustic roads by the Rustic Roads Function Master Plan created in 1996. WMCCA fought hard for the Rustic Roads Program. Potomac's roads in the Glen were the initial incentives for the program, and remain stellar examples of rustic roads.

A request from residents that street lights be installed on South Glen Road challenges the concept of "rustic" and its image of simple country living. There is no stated policy on how we should treat street lights on rustic roads, nor has our County Executive directed the establishment of such a policy for the Rustic Roads Program. County Council representatives have taken the stand that "rules are rules" in an absence of a policy, and that Montgomery County should proceed with the installation of the street lights. WMCCA believes that any action on this request must await the establishment of appropriate policy. We call for the Council to support the intent of the Rustic Roads Master Plan and not allow degradation of the rustic roads due to loopholes of omissions.

WMCCA RESPONDING TO BUDGET CRISIS

Budget cuts to County services and facilities will force changes in our meeting place and time. We are no longer able to procure the Potomac Library on a consistent monthly basis, so, starting in January 2011, we will move our General Meetings to the Potomac Community Center on Falls Road. Since County facilities are cutting back on hours they are open, we will start our meetings (beginning in January) at 7:15 p.m., since we must vacate the Community Center by 8:55 p.m. WMCCA General Meetings are the second Wednesdays of the month — Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11. Please put these dates on your calendars.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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FINE ARTS

DEC. 2-28

"The Nature of Things."

Contemporary works by Nebiur Arellano, Anita Bretzfeld, Jo Fleming, Mina Oka Hanig, Geri Smith, and Novie Trump. Meet the Artist's Reception is Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.



Brookside Gardens Patio

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Artist Nancy Heindl. Noon to 4 p.m. This is Potomac artist Nancy Heindl's 35th annual show of recent work. Opening reception is Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. Heindl specializes in plein air (outdoor on-location) oils and pastels of local scenes. At 8512 Victory Lane, Potomac. Show may also be seen by appointment for entire month of December. Call 301-299-6176 or visit nancyheindl.com.

Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-634-2274 or visit glenechophotoworks.org.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 9

Holiday Art Show and Sale.

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibition will feature works by resident artists, instructors and invited artists and will include glass, ceramics, jewelry, photographs, paintings, and more. In the Popcorn Gallery. An Artists' Reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m., and the Art Show will be open for our Winter's Eve event on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 301-634-2222 or visit glenechopark.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

End of Year Artfully. 4 p.m. With Exhibit9 artists: Fataneh Dadkhah (photography), Parisa Faghih (painting and children's book author), Elizabeth Grusin-Howe (print maker), Nasser Ovissi (water color and prints), Hanna Beth Sanford (watercolor), and Darab Shabahang (Persian calligraphy on copper). Collection: paintings, photographs, prints, jewelry and more. At Exhibit9 Gallery, 10116 Lloyd Road, Potomac. Contact Sarah at 202-276-9419 or visit www.exhibit9gallery.net.

DEC. 4 TO 19

Annual Members Show. Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 5 p.m. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents its 16th annual juried Friends of the Yellow Barn Members Show. In the Yellow Barn Gallery, An Artists' Reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. Call 301-371-5593, or visit yellowbarnstudio.com.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 5

Gabriela Bulisova: The Option of Last Resort-Iraqi Refugees in the United States. Photoworks, Glen Echo Park's resident photography studio and teaching facility, presents works by Gabriela Bulisova, a documentary photographer from the former Czechoslovakia. In the

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by

Michael Matese

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HOLIDAY GUIDE



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NOW THROUGH DEC. 20.

Holiday Food Collection. To benefit the Manna Food Center, a nonprofit food bank providing food to low-income households, food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes, and schools in Montgomery County. Bring non-perishable food to participating stores: Safeway, Chicken Out and PNC Bank, River and Falls Road in Potomac. Visit www.mannafood.org

NOW THROUGH JAN. 9

Junie B. in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances. Single ticket prices range from \$10-\$22, with group rates available. It's holiday time in Room One and that means drama! Tattletale May keeps picking on Junie B., and things get even worse when Junie B. draws May's name for Secret Santa. She hatches a plan to give May a lump of coal, while getting an awesome Squeeze-A-Burp for herself. At Imagination Stage 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda. Visit www.imaginationstage.org.

DEC. 3 TO JAN. 1

Winter Lights. A 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 350 illuminated displays. The 15th Annual Winter Lights Festival premiere is Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 - 27, then nightly Dec. 3 - Jan. 1 (closed Mondays and Dec. 24). Proceeds from the Festival benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit www.gathersburgmd.gov.

DEC. 2 AND 3

Greens Sale and Holiday Boutique. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A huge selection of specially designed quality greens to decorate inside and outside your home will be available. Holiday Boutique offers gifts for everyone on your list. Boutique items include: children's gifts, clothing, jewelry, specialty foods as well as home & garden accessories. There will be a Bake Sale



There will be a Holiday Cookie Sale at the Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church at 10201 Democracy Blvd. in Potomac on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Winter Lights Festival. A 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 350 illuminated displays. (Closed Mondays and Dec. 24). Proceeds from the Festival benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit www.gathersburgmd.gov.

DEC. 3-4

Bethesda's Winter Wonderland. At multiple locations, including concerts at Imagination Stage and in Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle. The events features caroling, ice sculpting, storytelling, holiday performances and hands-on craft activities for children. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

& Café on the premises. At Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

THURSDAY/DEC.2

The 2010 Kenny G Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Tickets \$38-\$125 (Stars price \$34.20-\$112.50). Grammy winner Kenny G brings a mellow holiday concert featuring favorites from his best-selling albums, including "The Greatest Holiday Classics" and "Miracles," which, in addition to being Kenny's first album to hit number one on the Billboard Top 200 chart, became the best-selling holiday album of all time. Co-presented with AM Productions. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

STARTING FRIDAY/DEC. 3

Christmas Tree Sale. Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. The 25th season of providing the community with Christmas trees — almost 1,000 trees to sell this year along with 125 wreaths. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

DEC. 3 THROUGH JAN. 1

SEE HOLIDAY GUIDE, PAGE 9

M
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Many thanks to the Girl Scout troops 5406,5900,5952, for assisting in helping with the collection!

HOLIDAY GUIDE

FROM PAGE 8

DEC. 3-5

Montgomery Potters Show & Sale. Free admission. An incredible range of pottery at affordable prices from 30 local potters. Friday, Dec. 3 from 3 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 4 p.m. At Garrett Park Town Hall, 10814 Kenilworth Ave., Garrett Park. Visit www.MontgomeryPotters.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Cookie Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church at 10201 Democracy Blvd. in Potomac 301-299-5120.

German Christmas Bazaar. 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Enjoy coffee and homemade cake, as well as traditional German Food. German wooden Christmas ornaments from the Erzgebirge, a variety of European Christmas decorations, and Christmas gifts. German meat products and Swiss-baked goods. Many activities for your children. Come and enjoy a European afternoon with delicious food and Christmas gifts. At the German School, 8617 Chateau Drive, Potomac.

Bazaar and Silent Auction. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. River Road Unitarian Church's 41st annual Bazaar and Silent Auction. A giant estate sale with garage sale prices. This year will include an enhanced Silent Auction with many more higher valuable donated items to sell along with innovative revolving auction close times. Special rooms will feature: books, CD/DVDs; computers; jewelry, linens, teens & jeans, art, children's toys and clothes, household goods (White Elephant), men's and women's clothing (from casual to formal). Retail sales close at 3 p.m. Silent Auction from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road (at Whittier Blvd.) in Bethesda. 301-229-0400 or visit www.rruuc.org/bazaar

Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$18. Swing dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. This event is part of the BamBLOOZled Blues Exchange Weekend of music and dancing, including all-day dance workshops on Saturday and Sunday. With instructors Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte and with the band Shemekia Copeland. At the Spanish Ballroom at



Great Falls Tavern in the C&O Canal National Historical Park is decorated for Christmas, and will feature Christmas music of the 19th century on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Go to www.CapitalBlues.org or call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Craft Show. 1 to 5 p.m. Crafts for sale — jewelry, beads, fiber arts, soaps, Christmas items, wood crafts, prints, metalwork, ceramics, glass, oils, watercolors, photography, books and more. At the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd. (at 75th Street) in Cabin John. Call 301-229-0010.

Chanukah Festival. All day, Jewish Community

Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Chanukah-related projects and activities. See www.jccgw.org.

Holiday Music at Great Falls Tavern. From 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Gilmore's Light Ensemble will perform 19th century holiday music and carols at the Great Falls Tavern. The ensemble uses hammered dulcimer, guitar, banjo, mandolin and accordion, and where clothing of the mid-1800s. (Entrance fee to the park is \$5 for a single vehicle one time or \$20 for an annual pass.) Entrance at the intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard. Call 301-767-3714.

Holiday Craft Show. 1 to 6 p.m. Crafts from 40 local artists for sale — jewelry, beads, fiber arts, soaps, Christmas items, wood crafts, prints, metalwork, ceramics, glass, oils, watercolors, photography, books and more. At the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd. (at 75th Street) in Cabin John. Call 301-229-0010.

Holiday Happenings Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A juried craft show with more than 60 artists and crafters participating; sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. At the Bauer Drive Community Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville. Call 240-777-6922.

MONDAY/DEC. 6

A Celtic Yule. 7:30 p.m. With Al Petteway, Amy White and Robin Bullock. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$25/door. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

Dave Koz and Friends. Performs their Smooth Jazz Christmas Tour. Will Feature Special Guests Jonathan Butler, Brian Culbertson and Candy Dulfer. At Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

DEC. 11-12

"Handel's Messiah." Performed by the National Philharmonic Chorale. Saturday, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. The concert will feature the National Philharmonic's nearly 200 voice all-volunteer Chorale, as well as soloists Audrey Elizabeth Luna (soprano); Yvette Smith (mezzo-soprano); Don Bernardini (tenor); and Christopheren Nomura (baritone). At the Music

Center at Strathmore. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call box office at 301-581-5100. Tickets are \$32-\$79; kids 7-17 are free.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Pancakes with Santa. Station 10, 8001 River Road. All-you-can-eat pancakes with Santa. Santa on Fire Engines, toy collection, is also run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. A procession of fire engines carry Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings in December. Check website for schedule by neighborhood. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

Bullis School Festival of Light. 6 p.m. Free. This year's theme, "A Holiday to Remember," will celebrate the season with vibrant performances by the school's Upper School jazz, string and concert bands along with choral performances from a variety of ensembles and choirs. At Blair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-634-3677 or www.bullis.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Jingle Bell Jog 8K. 9 a.m., at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. See www.mcrrc.org.

19th Century Christmas. 1 to 4 p.m. Join Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park staff and volunteers and the C&O Canal Trust at Lockhouse 22 for an afternoon of 19th Century Christmas along the Canal. Enjoy 19th century holiday music and carols performed by volunteers dressed in mid-1800's apparel and tour historic Lockhouse 22, featuring 19th-century era furnishings and holiday decorations. The Lockhouse 22/Pennyfield area of the C&O Canal National Historical Park is located at the end of Pennyfield Lock Road off River Road near Potomac. Call the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center at 301-767-3714.

MONDAY/DEC. 13

Scandinavian Christmas. 7:30 p.m. With Andrea Hoag, Loretta Kelley, and Charlie Pilzer. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

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WEDNESDAY/DEC. 1

Food Glorious Food Art Show. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Art on Display from Dec. 1 through Feb. 6. Presented by Zenith Community Arts Foundation to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. At a calendar launch celebration and silent auction on the Terrace Level at Embassy Suites Hotel, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Chevy Chase. To purchase tickets, call 202-783-8005.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

Brandeis National Committee Talk. 10:30 a.m. Paula Matuskey, Interim Sr. Vice-President for Academic and Student Services, will discuss Abraham Lincoln's challenges as well as the results of the newest mid-term elections. Cost is \$12. At Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travila Road, Rockville. Call 301-598-6952 or contact weismar@aol.com.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

Blues and Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the band Meschya Lake from New Orleans, and with instructors Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Go to www.CapitalBlues.org or call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231.

Contra Dance. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

DEC. 4 THROUGH 12.

"The Nutcracker." Presented annually since 1974 by the Rockville Civic Ballet, under the direction of Claudia Mangan, the show is a community favorite. Performances are Saturdays, Dec. 4 and 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Tickets are \$16/adults; \$12/children (12 years and younger), and \$12/seniors. Group rates available. For tickets call the box office at 240-314-8690 between 2 and 7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts.



Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This week TBA calls to Sugar Beat with Elke Baker on fiddle, Susan Brandt on flute, and Marc Glickman on piano. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Pianist Michael Adcock. 8 p.m. Free. Concert by pianist Michael Adcock who performs works by composers including Schubert, Ravel, Scriabin, and Granados, and pieces including "The Alcotts" from the Concord, Mass. 1840-1860 Sonata of Charles Ives and Listz's Sonetto 104 del Petrarca from Années de Pèlerinage, Italie. At Westmoreland

Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, at Massachusetts and Western Avenues, the boundary of D.C. and Bethesda.

Toys – Which Ones Satisfy Your Dog's Needs. 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Free. Learn about dog toys that provide mental stimulation, help occupy him, satisfy her need to chew, and use some of his hard-wired behaviors. Register ahead; no dogs. At Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd, Potomac. Call 301-983-5913; visit www.YourDogsFriend.info.

"Amber Brown is Not a Crayon." 11 a.m. This musical is about a feisty little girl who wonders what to do when her best friend is about to move away. Tickets are \$7/regular; \$6/seniors/students. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery

SEE CALENDAR PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301. To order tickets online, visit Web site at

www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Fund-raiser sponsored by the Friends of Davis Library Inc. Christmas and seasonal books, children's gift books, holiday cookbooks for sale. At Davis Library, Lower Level, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Call 240-777-0922.

Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight.

Admission is \$18. Swing dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. This event is part of the BamBLOOZled Blues Exchange Weekend of music and dancing, including all-day dance workshops on Saturday and Sunday. With instructors Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte and with the band Shemekia Copeland. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Go to www.CapitalBlues.org or call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Open Door Reading. 2 p.m. Free. Join

editor Philip Clark and local authors who will read work from the recent anthology Persistent Voices: Poetry by Writers Lost to AIDS. Readers include Dan Vera, Philip Clark, Charles Jensen, and Kim Roberts. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 or visit www.writer.org.

Blues Dance. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12. Live music by Brother Yusef. Blues lesson from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. included in the admission; dancing to live music from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: info@capitalblues.org

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30

p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contras and Square dances are taught, no partner is necessary. There is a lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music by Devine Comedy from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. fsgw.org

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission

is \$10. Introductory waltz workshop is 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. With the band, Some Assembly, which will provide a mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 6

Dave Koz and Friends. Performs their

Smooth Jazz Christmas Tour. Will Feature Special Guests Jonathan Butler, Brian Culbertson and Candy Dulfer. At Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to

11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

Celebrate the Arts Night. 6 to 8 p.m.

Students from Potomac Elementary will showcase their artwork that was entered in the National PTA Reflections Art Contest. The theme was "Together We Can", and students were challenged to create visual art, photography, dance choreography, film production, and musical composition with that theme in mind.

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December 8, 7:00, 8:30 & 11:00 am, 7:30 pm

Advent Penance Service

December 14, 7:30pm

Sacrament of Penance

(available all day)

December 18, 9:30-5:00pm

Christmas Eve Mass 4:00pm* 6:00pm
8:00pm 10:00pm

*Church & McAuley Hall

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11116 Korman Dr.....\$849,000.....Sun 1-4.....Homi Irani.....Coldwell Banker.....301-996-1695

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11000 Dobbins Drive.....\$1,124,000.....Sun 2-4.....Adaline Neely.....Washington Fine Prop.....301-580-2214

11621 Swains Locke Terrace.....\$1,279,000.....Sun 1-4.....Yasmin.....Long & Foster.....301-983-1212

11404 Falls Rd.....\$1,399,900.....Sun 1-4.....Rhonda Dolan.....Long & Foster.....301-975-9500

Bethesda (20817)

7032 Buxton Terrace.....\$889,000.....Sun 1-4.....Yasmin.....Long & Foster.....301-983-1212

9019 Burdette Rd.....\$1,695,000.....Sun 1:30-4.....Ruffin Maddox.....Washington Fine Prop.....301-922-4443

Cabin John (20818)

6424 83rd Place.....\$675,000.....Sun 2-4.....Holly Smith.....WC & AN Miller.....301-332-7176

North Potomac (20878)

15037 Joshua Tree Rd.....\$500,000.....Sun 1-4.....Alecia Scott.....Re/Max Centre.....301-774-5900

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All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Vikings Move On Without Kahlenberg, Russell

Whitman returns two starters from last year's region runner-up team.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

The 2009-10 Whitman girls basketball team epitomized execution. Led by seniors Caroline Kahlenberg and Susan Russell, the Vikings used precision passing and perimeter sharpshooting to earn the No. 2 seed in the 4A West postseason bracket and reach the regional championship game.

Kahlenberg, a true technician at the point guard position, commanded the Whitman halfcourt offense and distributed the ball. Russell, a versatile scoring threat at guard or forward, knocked down 3-pointers and slashed to the rim. The duo led Whitman to a stretch of 13 wins in 14 games and a pair of playoff victories.

One year later, Kahlenberg and Russell are playing at the collegiate level and Whitman has a new up-tempo look. The Vikings return only two starters, one of whom has changed positions, but head coach Pete Kenah is keeping expectations high.

"We have a very positive outlook," said Kenah, entering his ninth season as Whitman head coach. "Our goals haven't changed. We still want to get back to UMBC [for the state playoffs]. We played 34 games since our season ended last year with summer and team camps and fall basketball. It's been a great chance for new leaders to emerge."

One player looked upon for leadership is returning starter Rachel Sisco. The 5-foot-4 junior moves from shooting guard to point guard, giving the Vikings a scoring threat at the position.

"Rachel Sisco looks very good at the point guard position for us," Kenah said. "I think she's going to surprise some people. ... We're really expecting a lot. It's the first time I've had a scoring point guard. It really brings a new dimension."

Sisco is a left-handed perimeter threat

who Kenah said should give opponents fits coming off picks set by the team's other returning starter, center Whitney Kolakowski. Kenah called the 6-foot-3 senior the "best screen setter in the county," adding Kolakowski has continued to develop and will be looked at to anchor the team's defense.

"We played 34 games since our season ended last year with summer and team camps and fall basketball. It's been a great chance for new leaders to emerge."

— Whitman head girls basketball coach Pete Kenah

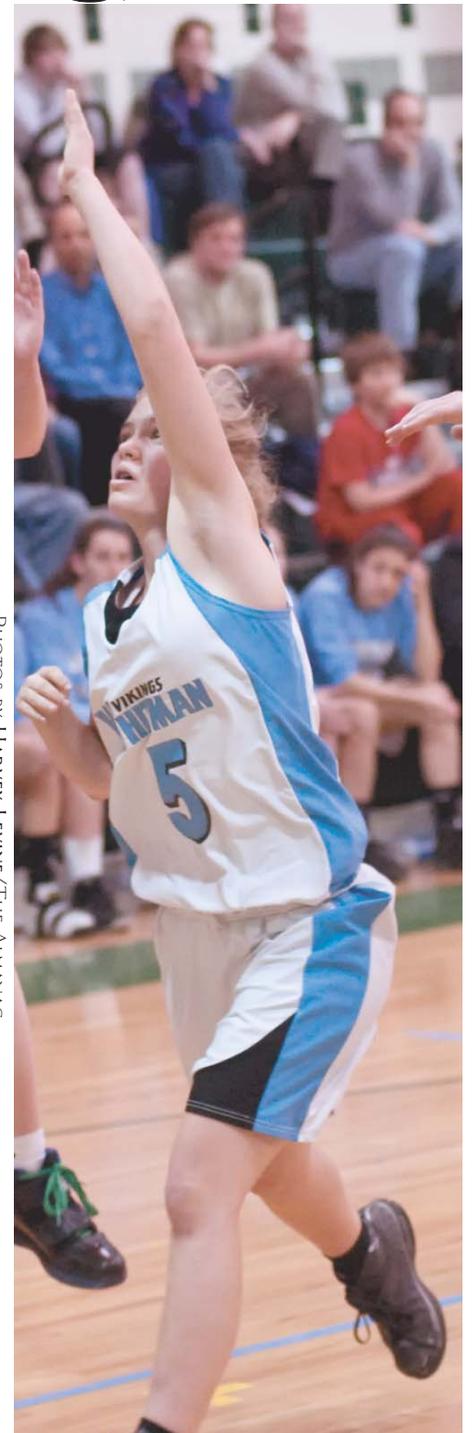
"She's grown into her body and has reached a comfort level," Kenah said. "We kid with her that as a sophomore she wore knee and elbow pads because she was always hitting the ground."

While the pick-and-roll will be a weapon for Whitman, Kenah said the Vikings won't have the same methodical halfcourt approach.

"We'll be more up-tempo," Kenah said. "Caroline was very comfortable setting things up. [This year, we have] a really good fast-break team. [Juniors] Angelica [Ceccone] and Kristina [Feldesman] can really get out there and run with Whitney and [senior] Clara Kelly. We're not the best team in the halfcourt offense. I think they know that and they like to get out there



Six-foot-3 senior Whitney Kolakowski is one of two returning starters for the Whitman girls basketball team.



Junior Rachel Sisco moves from shooting guard to point guard for the Whitman girls basketball team.

and run." Division I talent and considered the favorite.

The Vikings will open the season at home against Watkins Mill at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7.

and run."

Other than the 5-foot-4 Sisco, Whitman figures to be one of the taller teams in the division. Ceccone (5'8") will start at shooting guard, Feldesman (5'9") is the team's small forward and Kelly (5'11") will start at power forward. Include the 6-foot-3 Kolakowski and Whitman should be a strong rebounding team.

Juniors Alex Purdy (5'5"), Sammy Harman (5'8") and Yeiwah Brewa (5'7") and sophomores Lindsay Hershfeld (5'7") and Brittany Fleck (5'5") will provide depth.

Kenah said the West division is wide open and is optimistic about Whitman's chances. Gaithersburg, which beat the Vikings in the regional championship game and finished state runner-up last season, is loaded with

Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex at 9 a.m. on Dec. 4.

Bullis Athletics

The Bullis wrestling team will host Good Counsel at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 1.

The boys basketball team will travel to face Flint Hill at 6 p.m. on Dec. 1 and Good Counsel at 6 p.m. on Dec. 2. The girls basketball team will host Good Counsel at 6 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The boys swimming team will travel to face Landon at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. The

girls swim team travel to face Holton-Arms at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The ice hockey team will travel to face Gonzaga College High School at 4:15 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Wootton Athletics

The Wootton boys and girls basketball teams will face Paint Branch at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7. The Patriots boys will host and the girls will travel.

The Wootton wrestling team will host Springbrook at 6 p.m. on Dec. 14.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill Sports

The Churchill boys and girls basketball teams will open their seasons against Kennedy at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7. The Bulldog boys will be at home while the girls will travel.

The indoor track team will compete at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex at 9 a.m. on Dec. 4.

The swim and dive team will take on Northwest at Montgomery Aquatic Center at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 4.

The wrestling team will host Kennedy at

6 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Whitman Sports

The Whitman boys and girls basketball teams will face Watkins Mill at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7. The Vikings girls will host and the boys will travel.

The Whitman wrestling team will open its season at home against Kennedy on Dec. 8.

The swim and dive team will face Seneca Valley at the Gaithersburg Aquatic Center at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 4.

The indoor track team will compete at the

NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

In Concert

The C&O Canal NHP hosted an afternoon of music from the Civil War era on Sunday, Nov. 21. From left are Ellen Andersson, Bob Clayton and Douglas Jimerson of AmeriMusic, Inc. and Judy Cook.



Judy Cook sings historically themed songs during the free concert at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center.

OBITUARY

Charles E. Diss

Charles E. Diss of Potomac, died on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010. Beloved husband of 52 years of Sylvia Diss. Survived also by his children, Andrea Diss-Torrance and her husband Michael, C. Ted Diss, and Joseph Diss and his wife Tracey; and three granddaughters, Katelyn, Teagan and Shannon; and a brother, William T. Diss, and his wife Minnie.

Born in Wray, Colo., he graduated from Regis College in Denver, and received a master's degree in mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, after two years in the U.S. Army. He worked with IBM as a senior engineer for 35 years. He enjoyed

hiking, and bicycling, especially along the C & O Canal, going the length of the canal several times with family, friends, and neighbors' children. His favorite vacations were camping on beautiful beaches in the Caribbean.

A memorial service and reception took place at the PAX Community, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. on Friday, Nov. 26. In lieu of flowers, donations honoring him may be made to the C & O Canal Association, Box 366, Glen Echo, MD 20812, or the C & O Canal Trust, 1850 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740.

NEWS BRIEFS

Flu Vaccination Clinic Dec. 8

County health officials will hold an additional seasonal flu vaccination clinic on Wednesday, Dec. 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dennis Avenue Health Center. Residents are urged to protect themselves by getting vaccinated. The clinic will offer free vaccinations by appointment only. The Dennis Avenue Health Center is located at 2000 Dennis Avenue in Silver Spring. To make an online appointment, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu.

Food Co-op Delivers Harvest

For a farm-to-table experience, residents can join the Sandy Spring CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for the fall.

The McLean School at 8224 Lochinver Lane is a pick-up location, between 3-7 p.m., Wednesdays through Dec. 22.

Produce comes from Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative, made up of 75 organic farmers. To join, see www.sandyspringcsa.com/join.

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Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') ALMANAC

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Potomac Almanac turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: almanac@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

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Insurance Assurance



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I once sold life and health insurance for a living – and still maintain my license by fulfilling Continuing Education requirements every two years, I am no longer in “the business.” As a result, I know much less about policies and procedures now than I once did. And what policies and procedures I did know about – then, I knew primarily about “individual” life and health insurance as opposed to Group/Business/Employer-provided insurance. Factor in recent White House-initiated and recently passed Health Insurance legislation, euphemistically – and often disparagingly – referred to as, “Obama care,” and what little I did know/remember has been overtaken by what I don’t know.

Throw into this vat of change and uncertainty, the fact that I am an active cancer patient – undergoing treatment still, chemotherapy (\$7,500 per session) every three weeks, covered by a Group Health insurance plan provided by my “small” employer at Connection Newspapers, whose annual health insurance renewal is up now, and perhaps you can guess the anxiety and worry I’ve been experiencing of late: What if the coverage is dropped? What if the coverage is maintained but the price and/or benefits are modified – for the worse, because of my treatment and the average age of our group? Alternatively, what if the company changes insurers and I have to change oncologists? And if there is new coverage, given the size of our group, will my pre-existing condition be excluded? Not covered for 90 days? Or prohibitively expensive?

So you can imagine my relief when quite unexpectedly, I received my new health insurance identification card in the mail recently. It is from the same HMO/insurer whose oncologist has been treating me since Feb. 27, 2009, when my Internal Medicine doctor called to tell me the results of my week-previous biopsy, that the pain I had initially felt in my rib cage – two months prior (the time it took to be assessed and scanned by multiple doctors and machines to get to this current point), was unfortunately a malignant tumor. At that point, having health insurance mattered more to me than almost anything; my treatment could proceed without consideration of coverage and/or cost, and so it has.

Until possibly now. Or so I thought, given all the changes in the industry, and of course, the new legislation. But I tried not to think about it too much because it was mostly out of my control. And for cancer patients (maybe any terminal patient, or so I’ve been told), controlling what you can and letting go of what you can’t, is an adage to live by. Still, I was mindful of the calendar knowing that sometime in the fall, our policy renews/we shop carriers, and that change sometimes happens.

But since I’m scheduled for chemotherapy tomorrow, I can’t worry about it too much today. However, I haven’t been sleeping very well of late. Perhaps that was my insurance-coverage subconscious worried about its insured’s consciousness? No more. I have my new card. I have my new (same old) coverage. I don’t have to change doctors, change facilities, change how I buy my medication. The only thing I have to change is how much I co-pay, co-insure and premium-pay. Neither of which is an improvement/enhancement over my previous coverage. Nevertheless, it’s change I can live with, hopefully for a long time.

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

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Wine Gifts for the Holidays

BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND
DON WINKLER
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW



Mike Patashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review offer tips for the gift of wine this holiday season.

Why not give wine for the holidays? Wine makes a great gift. Both the casual wine drinker and the seasoned wine enthusiast will be excited to receive a gift of wine.

Local wine shops are a great place to browse for that special wine gift. One of the many benefits of living in Northern Virginia and Maryland is the abundance of choices of wines from all over the world and at every price level.

Make your gifts exotic by choosing wines from lesser known countries and producers. Some countries like Argentina and Chile are well known for their wines, whereas Austria and Portugal are relatively new international producers.

Of course, which wine you buy as a gift depends on both your pocketbook and the person you're giving to. We usually think of wine-drinkers as falling into three categories: The Casual Wine Drinker, who may not know the difference between Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. Serious Wine Drinkers, who know what they like but pretty much limit themselves to the popular brands. And the Semi-Pro who knows wine and probably has more than a few bottles stashed in a wine cooler, closet or cellar.

Let's consider which wines each of these might like to receive for the holidays. We've limited our choices to wines that should be available in most good wine stores. All prices are retail prices recommended by the winery or importer; the shelf price is often lower.

THE CASUAL WINE DRINKER. While you might not be spending lots of money on the casual wine drinker, you can still give a bottle that will give a lot of pleasure. Stick with the well-known varietals, but find a new producer or new region. Argentine Malbec would fit the bill. Ask your purveyor for a mid-priced Malbec from a producer like Andeluna, Salentein, or Doña Paula. We recently tasted the 2009 Doña Paula Los Cardos Malbec and especially like it. Best of all, it costs just \$10 a bottle.

Everyone these days loves Pinot Noir, and a good one for the casual drinker has been produced by Carneros winemaker, Sean Minor. His 2009 4 Bears Pinot Noir (\$17) is ripe, flavorful and fleshy and is unbeatable for the price.

A good, sparkling wine is another option. One that all casual wine drinkers would love is the Roederer Estate (\$18) from California's Anderson Valley.

If your friend prefers white wines, try a cool coastal Chardonnay from California. When we visited the Santa Lucia Highlands last year we enjoyed the 2008 Mer Soleil Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (\$19). While a little more pricey than the other wines recommended here, it's a sure thing.

THE SERIOUS WINE DRINKER. The Se-

rious Wine Drinker is likely to be a little more open than the Casual Wine Drinker to trying something new. Here we recommend you find something that will stretch his or her wine knowledge just a bit. Our first choice might be a different varietal from a reliable producer. One such bottle we tasted this past year is Montes Alpha Carmenere (\$19) from Chile. It's a reasonably priced, delicious, full-bodied red wine from a very good Chilean winery. (We also offer many suggestions on pairing Carmenere and food on our website www.iwinereview.com.) Among white wines, we'd recommend an Austrian Grüner Veltliner such as Anton Bauer's 2009 Rosenberg Reserve (\$24) or other Anton Bauer cuvees. They combine flavor, acidity, and minerality that is hard to find in one bottle.

Red table wine from Portugal would also be different. We recommend the 2008 Quinta Vale Meão Meandro (\$20), the 2008 Quinta do Vallado Tinto (\$29), or the Herdade do Esporão Reserva (\$21) all wines which have abundant red and black fruit, spice, and complex flavors.

THE SEMI-PRO. The Semi-Pro is the most difficult to buy for. If you have lots to spend, you can pick a top end wine that is certain not to disappoint. The 2008 Phelps Insignia (\$185) is one such wine — expensive but worth it, and the person receiving it will recognize both its quality and value. If your pocketbook is looking for something a little lower in price, there are many options. Everyone loves a good Oregon Pinot Noir, and Cristom produces some of the best. The 2007 Cristom Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$50) is exceptionally good, but so are Cristom's other bottlings, (reviews at www.iwinereview.com).

Another option is a rich, full-bodied Ribera del Duero wine like the 2006 Bodegas Condado de Haza Crianza (\$30) or the 2006 Cyclo (\$51). If these specific bottlings are not available in your local store, ask for something similar from Ribera del Duero.

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Students of the German School Washington D.C. enjoy a Santa cookie and peppermint tea for snack.

Chef Susanne Koehler and Karola Mulcahy prepare many German dishes for the bazaar.



German Bazaar This Saturday

FROM PAGE 3

atmosphere. There are games for the children and we also make a very nice spiced red wine called Glühwein," she said.

Chair of the Friends of the German School Christine Weber agrees: "Ours is the biggest public access German bazaar in the area. The homemade bakery is really worth coming for. Our craft group of moms works all year long to offer hand-painted and hand-knitted items. We also have advent wreaths and chocolate filled calenders as well as imported Erzgebirge wooden crafts. All the proceeds from our crafts goes towards the school."

Yummy Prospects

Since 1999, with this slogan Susanne Köhler runs the kitchen of the German School Washington. With the help of three volunteer parents, she leads the preparation of a healthy, child-friendly homestyle-cooked meal every day. Some days Köhler feeds over 400 students for lunch. She plans the menu, orders the food and does the cooking with an all volunteer staff. All of the lunches are made from scratch. Three times per week salads are the main dish and the menu varies from German, International and American food.

"We serve a wide variety with a focus on nutrition. I use all natural chicken in dishes and good ingredients so the children have a healthy lunch. Here, eating is part of the curriculum. Children learn how to eat here. They try food here they would not try at home because they see their friends trying it," she said.

Pigs Benefit from Delivery

FROM PAGE 3

"It was a huge success," Pugh said, who plans to make it an annual event. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is a 400-acre home to rescued or abused farm animals. The fortunate cows, horses, mules, goats, chickens, pigs, turkeys, ducks and several peacocks who live at Poplar Spring enjoy a peaceful, permanent home for the rest of their lives.

Help Rescued Farm Animals

Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary is just north of Potomac in Poolesville, and needs volunteers, contributions and more. Poplar Spring is a 501 (c) 3 organization entirely funded through donations from the public. All donations go directly to feeding and caring for the animals. The farm is sometimes open for visitors as well. See www.animalsanctuary.org.

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