

Potomac ALMANAC

Top Remodeling Trends For 2011

Home
Life
Style
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PAGE 7

Custom wood finishes add warmth to this kitchen remodel in Potomac by Bowa Builders. Custom finishes and more furniture-like detail, along with custom storage designs, are a trend for 2011.

'Make Way For Tomorrow'

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JANUARY 12-18, 2011

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'Make Way for Tomorrow'

Poole's General Store auction — dispersing an era.

BY CAROLE DELL
THE ALMANAC

When the Poole family's store inventory went on the block last Saturday, an era went with it. All day, in the flinty cold, the auctioneer's rhythmic call rang out like a sad song over what looked like an acre of goods.

"OK, what's next? How 'bout that bird feeder? Hold it up there, son," called the auctioneer, Rob Heyo, from the back of a

pickup truck. He looked down on a large milling crowd. "We'll start at 20 — can you give me \$20 — how about 17 and a half- we'll take 17- can you gimme 17- how about 15," he said. "Sold right there for \$15."

The goods auctioned were the nuts and bolts of the long life of Billie and Raymond Poole and their general store. More than 160 people picked up a bidding number from Carolyn, one of the Poole daughters.

Those not bidding came to say goodbye to the family or to just absorb a scene that could have been an old western movie set.

"They are part of history," said Margaret Heimbach, a neighbor. "The Pooles are Poolesville."

Raymond and Billie Poole considered all customers as friends and extended credit in good faith. When the economy declined, farmers cut back and bought fewer supplies.

Hardship soon spread to the store as bills became overdue and debt mounted. "We have been losing money for the past five years," said JoAnn (Poole) Clements. The rising customer debt, Southern States requirement of up-front payment for shipments and the declining health of Raymond, 84, and Billie, 80, made management of the store increasingly difficult, she said. That, and the Parks Department's notice to vacate, drove the Poole family to make the decision to move on.



PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

Brilliant in the sun, the Poole family home is now empty. Much of the personal life of Raymond and Billie Poole was displayed on the porch and later, toward the end of the day when the temperature dropped causing the crowds to thin, the lot was sold by the table-full. That hurt, said Marilyn Poole.



On tables on the front porch of the Poole family home, Kevin Heimbach, 15, and his mother Margaret, of Poolesville, look through mementos and lament the passing of an era.



Chris Baker of Gaithersburg, stands next to the now empty shelves that once contained more goods than they were built to hold.

SEE MAKE WAY, PAGE 6



Books, Books, Books

Dorothy Lewis checks the offerings at the Potomac Library book sale on Saturday, Jan. 8.



Laila Zafar looks at books.



Jianying Feng and Png Feng attend the book sale. The community donated the books for the sale and all proceeds benefit the library.

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

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**LET'S TALK
Real Estate**



by
Michael Matese

**Eco Friendly
Lighting**

With the trend towards eco-friendly homes becoming more and more popular even lighting for the home is hopping on the band wagon. New 'green' options have become widely available, priced competitively by manufacturers. Both young and older homeowners are aware of the importance of going green, not just for the planet, but for tax purposes.

Dimmers are a simple way to affect your home, as well as motion sensors that are wired into your lighting systems. CFL's are being manufactured that are color corrected and come in hundreds of style to fit every type of design. New LED lamps are available too, as well as tile and fabrics with lighting elements.

Even better, lighting and ceiling fan manufacturers have been working on creating eco-friendly options for fluorescent bulbs, managing to almost eliminate that off-color light we all know and hate. Ceiling fans, too, are making a big comeback because they help lower the carbon footprint and help heat and cool your home at a minimal cost. Not only that, but designers are creating fans that include integrated lighting systems in their ceiling fans, some that are created to look like chandeliers.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

The River Falls Tavern is proposed at the Potomac Shopping Center.

More Dining

River Falls Seafood group plans to create River Falls Tavern.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Jeff Grolig, owner of River Falls Seafood Company and Renato Restaurant, is hoping his building permits will be approved and he will be able to open River Falls Tavern in the Potomac Shopping Center.

He signed a lease to build out his seafood store and take over part of the M & T Bank space. He thought the construction would be complete by this past October but then he learned that Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) had to perform a site plan review.

"We are anticipating breaking ground on the project in two or three months," said Grolig. "Besides the confusion of who had to review and sign our permits, the cutbacks in our county government have also set us back."

The tavern would expand into the Courtyard at the Potomac

Shopping Center. This is the area near Starbucks, Chicken Out and River Falls Seafood frequented by many bikers and residents who patronize the establishments and enjoy sitting outside on pleasant days.

"The plan is not to take up table space used by the patrons of the center," said Grolig. "We would mainly be expanding under our store overhang and into the bank space. The tavern will be small with limited space."

The River Falls Tavern will feature Contemporary American style pub food. Like River Falls Seafood Company, the seafood will be exceptionally fresh. "We will keep the menu simple, and make it very high quality. We will use some of the most popular recipes from our store," said Grolig. He has a liquor license and thus will be able to establish a pub-like atmosphere and provide Potomac residents with another establishment where they can grab a drink and a bite to eat with friends.

Bank Robbery in Potomac

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Major Crimes Division - Robbery Section and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are investigating a bank robbery that occurred in Potomac.

On Jan. 7 at 1:31 p.m., officers from the 1st District responded to the report of a bank robbery from the Suntrust Bank located at 9812 Falls Road in Potomac.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect entered the bank, approached the teller, displayed a handgun, and demanded cash. After the suspect obtained an undisclosed amount of money, he fled on foot in an unknown direction. No one was injured during this incident.

The suspect is described as a black male in his early-to-mid 40's, 6' to 6'

2" tall, weighing between 170 and 190 pounds, with a mustache. He was dressed in all black and wore sunglasses and black gloves during the robbery.

Anyone who has information about this bank robbery or the suspect is asked to call the Major Crimes Division - Robbery Section at 240-773-5100. Those who wish to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County toll-free at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

Crime Solvers will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information provided to them that leads to an arrest and/or indictment for this felony crime. Anonymous tips can also be provided by typing "MCPD" plus the tip on a cell phone or PDA and texting it to 274637 (CRIMES).

FOOD

DC Restaurant Week Extends into Potomac

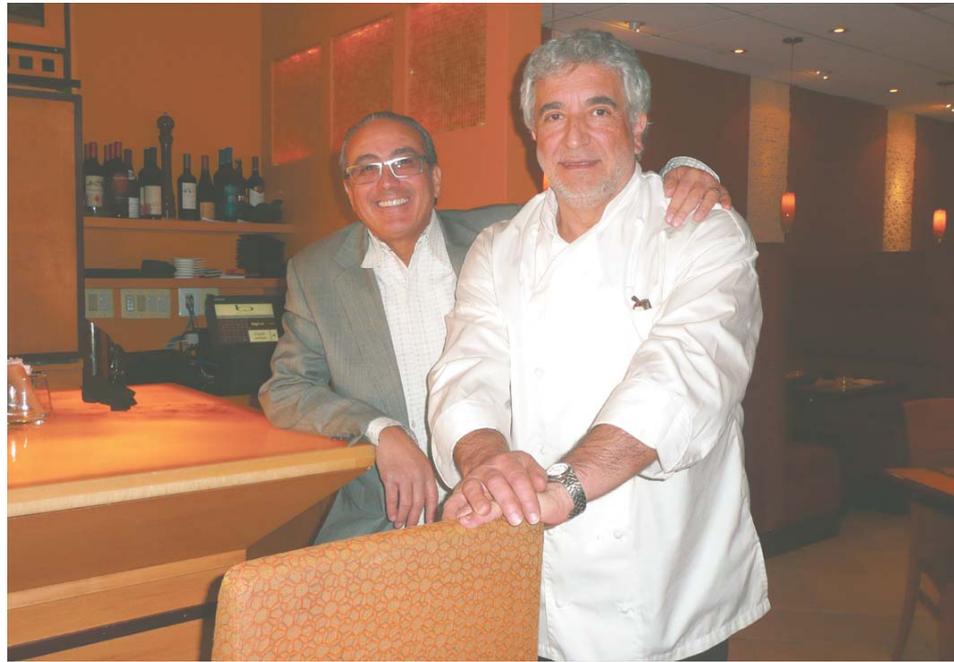
Bezu chef offers Regional French and Contemporary American cuisine.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Chef Francis Layrle of Bezu is excited that he will soon have the opportunity to display his gourmet cooking skills to patrons who take advantage of multiple cuisine choices at the low prices of DC Restaurant week — \$20.11 for a two-course lunch and \$35.11 for a three-course dinner.

Bezu, which is French for “kiss” is owned by Eddie and Lydia Benaim, previous owners of Tel Aviv Café in Bethesda. The restaurant received its name from Lydia Benaim’s habit of signing her letters to family and friends “Bezu.” The name also reflects the spirit of hospitality that welcomes each customer as they are greeted and seated in this French bistro.

Bezu Restaurant specializes in Regional French and Contemporary American cuisine. Eddie Benaim said, “We will be offering soup or salad as the first course, meat,



Eddie Benaim (left) and Chef Francis Layrle in Bezu

chicken, fish and vegetarian entrees and a wonderful dessert. Everything we serve is made right here in the restaurant — even our ice cream, sorbets and chocolate mousse cake are made by our chef. The menu is inspired by the available seasonal products. We buy as much locally as possible with an emphasis on organic ingredients.”

Bezu has participated in DC Restaurant Week since the restaurant opened over four years ago.

Layrle trained in Toulouse, France and served as head chef at the French Embassy for 25 years. He also owned a restaurant in Philadelphia but is happy to be working with the Benaims at Bezu. He is enthusias-

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC



Bezu Restaurant

tic about each specialty he prepares for his patrons.

Benaim stated that prices have been reduced at the restaurant since the new chef arrived and to accommodate the present economy. Entrees are primarily from \$19 - \$24. Bezu will also participate in Bethesda Chevy Chase Restaurant Week — Jan. 24 - 30.

Bezu offers Happy Hour with small plates and reduced price drinks nightly from 5 - 6:30. Monday evening is half-price wine night. They have also expanded into catering both on and off the premise for large and small festivities. The entire restaurant can be reserved for events and parties. Another offering is custom-designed dinner parties for groups of any size in a home or another venue.

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PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

It's heavy and it's mine. Rex Reed of Gaithersburg, president of Friends of The Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, bought this soda dispenser for \$80 for the organization. "It will either go there or to my home, but I am not moving it twice," he said.

William Young found what he wanted at the auction. He is loading his truck with several boxes of nails for use on his local farm. In the distance, auctioneer, Rob Heyo, calls out for bids on the next item.

'Make Way for Tomorrow'

FROM PAGE 3

THE MONDAY AFTER the sale, JoAnn and Marilyn were back, clearing out what remained in the store. "There is still horse feed on the property for those who need it," said Marilyn Poole.

Farm and Home Services, Inc. should take over as soon as the Parks Department signs the contract with the owners, the Day family, she said. The store will have an answering service in the meantime.

"We expect to have the last signature today which means they can move in as soon as it is signed," said Daniel Hertz, on Monday, Jan. 10. He is project manager for the Department of Parks. Having Farm and Home Services, Inc. on site until June 30 gives them time to assess the prop-

erty, he added.

After that, it will be open to public meetings in order to find a permanent operator. "We want to respect the tradition there and much depends on public input," said Hertz.

Rex Reed, of Gaithersburg, said he wants the store to continue as a farm and feed destination. "Sounds like, with all the community concern, it will stay on in one form or another," he said. Reed has been Poole's store customer since 1963.

"It's just hard to believe we own that much stuff," said Billie Poole, as she looked out the window of her now empty home where she greeted old friends and later chat-

More

For information on future park and planning meetings go to the website: www.montgomeryparks.org.

ted in the store about old times. Raymond Poole did not attend the auction due to ill health.

But when Raymond's longtime friend, Buddy Flint, of Boyds, realized the magnitude of his job as auctioneer, he asked Rob Heyo, of Virginia to help. They began at 9:30 in the morning and continued until 4:30 when a cold and overcast afternoon thinned the crowd.

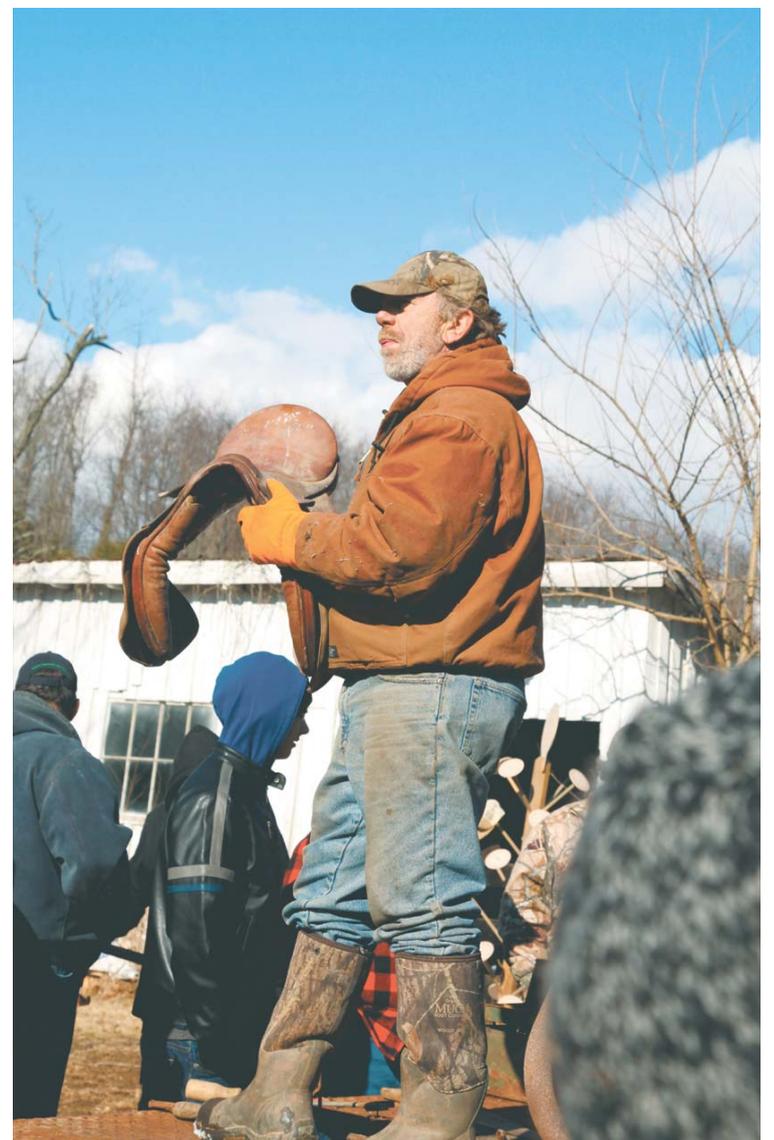
The "stuff" that Billie Poole referred to had been hidden in sheds and attics for more than 50 years and much of what the family uncovered turned into their own treasure hunt of sorts. Jimmy Poole worked in the attic for weeks and found an original toolbox from the store. Hundreds of items were uncovered and piled on flatbed trailers, others simply stacked on the ground.

FRIENDS HELPED gather the countless tools and gardening equipment and packed the pieces in buckets. They were sold as a bundle. Some bundles contained surprises for the high bidder, like

buying a grab bag of sorts. Heard in the crowd: "Gettin' it all for one money."

SEE AUCTIONEER, PAGE 7

Vying for attention, the Bentley in the foreground had to compete with an old-fashioned surrey with the fringe on the top and enough pick up trucks to start a dealership, not to mention flatbed trailers and a John Deere tractor or two.



With the advantage of standing on a flatbed trailer, Jack Poole could be seen by everyone, even Austin Kiplinger who bid on the old saddle and heard: "Sold."



PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

Visitors found much to review at the auction.

Many found something of interest to bid on.

Auctioneer Presides at End of Era

FROM PAGE 6

Austin Kiplinger, a neighbor who said he had been coming to the store since 1958, scooped up an old saddle that had seen a better day and bid on it. He recalled the

“old days” when the store had a social room in the back and the local men came to play cards on Tuesdays and Thursdays. “It was called “Pitch,” he said. “Ever hear of that?”

He was asked what he would do

with that stash of dusty leather and would he clean it up. “I wanted something sentimental so I’ll leave it the way it is,” he said.

And, that is the way it was for Raymond Poole, whose ancestors founded Poolesville. He began

working for the Allnutt family at age 18 and never left the store.

The Allnutts built the place in 1901 and when Guy Allnutt sold the property to the Parks Department in 1974, Raymond and Billie Poole leased it. They raised their children there in the big white

house in the back and all worked in the store at one time or another.

Eventually, Jack, Marilyn, JoAnn and Carolyn began managing the business for their aging parents. Jack Poole said it best for the family and their store: “The people made it worthwhile.”



Marilyn Poole found her grandmother’s old hats randomly placed on a table and decided to keep them.



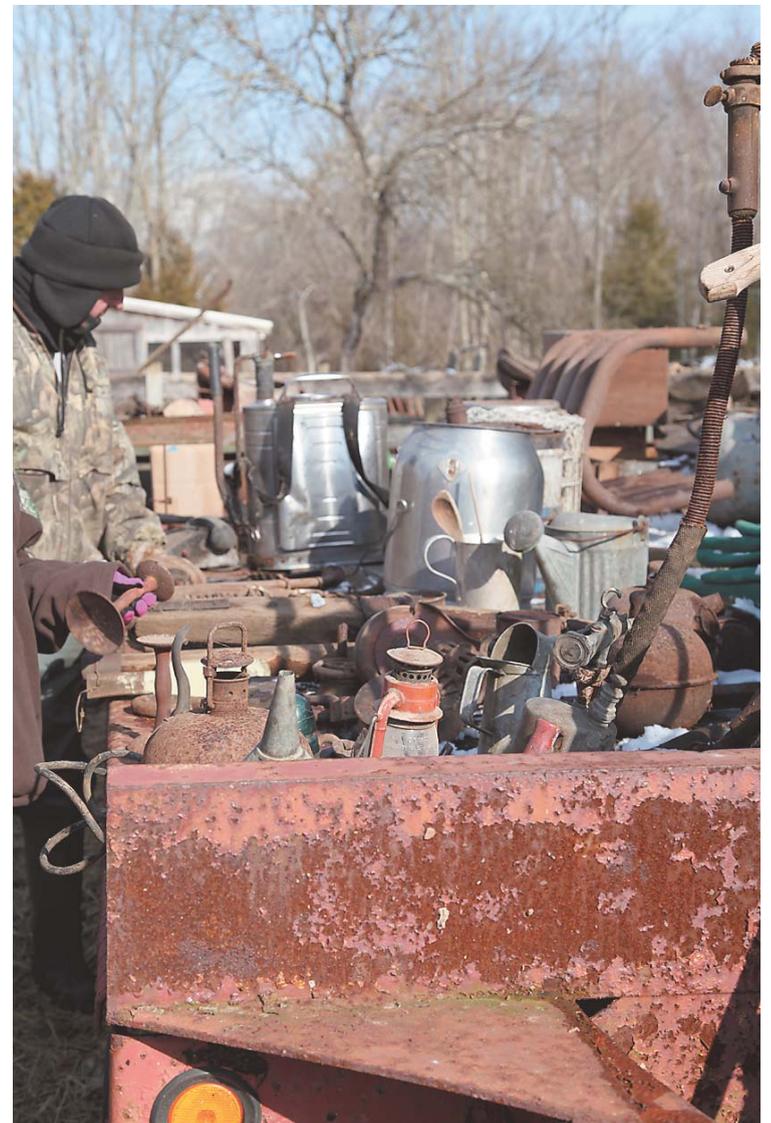
JoAnn and Marilyn, Billie and Raymond Poole’s daughters spent the day greeting friends, helping in the store and reclaiming pieces of their lives overlooked in the auction.



Billie and Raymond Poole’s daughter, Carolyn, tallies up the bid numbers for the auction outside.



Neighbor and longtime friend, Austin Kiplinger, bought an old saddle and decided to keep it in its original state of disrepair. “I wanted something sentimental,” he said.



More than 50 years of accumulation became a visual overload to the 160-plus bidders who came to find that special treasure.

Home Life Style Elegant and Efficient

By JOSHUA BAKER,
PRESIDENT, BOWA
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Today's homeowners are much more informed and educated about what they want in a home. Travel, home shows, the internet and a greater focus on the importance of transforming a house into a home, have led homeowners to be very particular about what renovations they do and how they go about them.

No longer are people limited to cookie-cutter plans from a builder selecting little more than the color of the tile or carpets. Instead today's homeowners have embraced

the idea of actively participating in determining customized solutions that will best suit their family's needs, wants and lifestyle.

Here are remodeling trends that BOWA Builders predicts for 2011.

2011 Trends

PROJECTS – SMALLER AND BETTER

The trend to smaller, higher quality spaces continues as many local residents discover that what they need is not more space, but better space. Often when talking with clients about possible projects we find that making a home larger is not the answer to their concerns. The problem is the bulk of the existing homes in our area were not designed for the way we live today. Small, compartmented rooms, a kitchen that is meant to be occupied by two or three people at most and formal rooms that separate the family from each other are no longer the types of spaces families' desire. As a result today's home remodeling projects often focus on reconfiguring, opening up and otherwise improving existing spaces to better suit the way today's families live, play and entertain. Because many BOWA clients lead hectic schedules outside of the home, they continue to trend toward remodeling projects that create highly usable, comfortable living spaces in their home. Families want practical and appropriate spaces in their home retreats because they treasure their time there.

KITCHENS – TRANSFORMATION BY DESIGN

Kitchens are the social center of our homes and need to accommodate a myriad of uses. While sometimes the solution is adding square footage, particularly in homes built 30 or more years ago, frequently the solution lies in re-thinking the layout and improving the connection to surrounding spaces, both interior and exterior. In one BOWA project, the wall separating the formal dining room from



Custom wood finishes add warmth to this kitchen remodel in Potomac by BOWA.

the kitchen was removed completely, creating a spacious casual kitchen. The new expanded eating area was a much improved use of the families existing space, and is now consistent with their lifestyle and priorities.

THEATERS – AS LIVING SPACES

Media rooms have become more and more prevalent as families look for ways to incorporate the latest technology into their homes and

lives. While these rooms began as home theaters they are evolving to fit many more aspects of family life. No longer is their sole purpose to showcase a movie while the audience sits quietly in the dark in rows of comfortable seating. Incorporating theater seating with lounge seating and counter space provides an opportunity to socialize with friends during the game or gather the family on a weekday evening. After a recent

BOWA renovation, the theater is now used each evening as the family relaxes together with their own focus or project.

flooring tiles provide radiant heat that is proven to keep homeowners warmer than forced-air heating systems, helping to save on energy costs.

8. Kitchen cabinet accessories – With drawer inserts for cutlery, spices or dividers, homeowners are making better use of every available space within their kitchens.

“The remodeling industry is poised for substantive growth in 2011 due to the number of options available to homeowners wanting to revitalize their living spaces,” said Millholland.

For more, see CaseDesign.com or call 800-513-2250.

Less is more as homeowners seek higher quality in smaller spaces.

REPEAT REMODELERS Requirements for homes change as the family grows and matures. Often what worked wonderfully when a couple is starting out with small children is no longer the best option as everyone gets older and schedules, hobbies and family dynamics evolve. Many families find that they decide to complete multiple projects during the life of the home. In other cases it just makes sense to phase projects to minimize interruption or spread the costs over time. Year after year, a number of BOWA clients return to us ready to take on the next phase of their home remodeling projects. For one local family, BOWA recently completed its fifth project including a family room expansion, a master suite addition and garage, a guest suite renovation, kids' bath renovations, and an exterior make-over.

HIGH PERFORMANCE HOMES For some homeowners the desire to be “green” and minimize their impact on the environment will drive them to investigate new available options, such as high-efficiency windows. For others it is the desire to reduce the costs of maintaining a home. For still others it is to reduce the contaminants that may exist in our homes. Today's answers to these issues can be flaunted in the design of a renovation or seamlessly incorporated into a home without compromising the integrity of the design. Whatever the goal, we recommend to all BOWA clients that they consider having an energy audit completed on their home before undergoing any renovations. The resulting report will pinpoint many small changes that can drastically improve a home's performance. Often these items can be incorporated into the planned renovation without driving substantial cost increases. These can include adding insulation in unseen gaps in the home envelope, changing the means of heating water or updating outmoded appliances and equipment. For more, see www.bowa.com.



One trend for 2011 is more efficiency, which can include spectacular windows in a major renovation like this one by BOWA, or small steps as a result of an energy audit.



A sophisticated media room renovation in McLean allows for much more than viewing movies.

Top 8

Case Design and Remodeling identified what they believe will be the top eight trends in home design and remodeling for 2011. Based on emerging industry developments and customer requests, the list was compiled by Bill Millholland, executive vice president at Case.

- 1. LED or compact fluorescent (CFL) lighting** – Homeowners are moving away from incandescent fixtures toward more energy-efficient choices such as LED and CFL bulbs.
- 2. High-quality synthetic materi-**

Home design and remodeling trends for 2011.

als for home exteriors – Synthetic materials such as Hardie Plank siding and PVC trim pieces mimic the look of natural materials like wood, but are much more durable and better able to withstand climate changes.

3. Large format bathroom tiles – Smaller square tiles are being replaced with tiles measuring 12" x 12" or larger, as well as non-square shapes (12" x 18"), producing flooring and walls that showcase more tile and fewer grout lines.

4. Multiple finishes on kitchen cabinetry – Complementary multiple stains and a mix of painted and stained finishes on cabinetry enables

homeowners to escape the look and feel of a “cookie cutter” kitchen where all surfaces match.

5. Screened porches – Homeowners are extending their living areas with screened porches that allow them to enjoy the outdoors throughout the year without the nuisance of insects.

6. “Furniture-like” detailing in kitchens – Varied cabinet and counter heights, distressed finishes and furniture-style toe kicks provide visual interest and help eliminate the “component” look of many kitchen cabinet designs.

7. Heated bathroom flooring – Heated mats underneath bathroom

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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, 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.

Author Isabel Wilkerson. 12:30 to 3 p.m. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author will discuss her book, "The Warmth of Other Suns." At Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville.

Open Rehearsals. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Encore Choral for singers 55-plus. Calling all former high school and college choristers, church, synagogue and community choral singers. Be a part of the Encore Chorale conducted by Jeanne Kelly, past conductor of the United States Naval Academy Women's Glee Club, Georgetown University Concert Choir and Senior Singers' Chorales of the Levine School of Music. Encore Choral of Washington Conservatory of Music at Glen Echo Park. At the South Arcade, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Bethesda. Call Jeanne Kelly at 301-261-5747 or email Jeanne.kelly@encorecreativity.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

Contra Dance. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. With the Friday Night Dancers. Beginner Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., followed by dancing to live music. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

Poetry Out Loud Contest. 4 p.m. Free. The Writer's Center will host the Montgomery County contest for the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. Students from Gaithersburg, Walt Whitman, Katherine Thomas, and Richard Montgomery High Schools will participate. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-0864 or visit www.writer.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

Living With Your New Dog. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Learn how to "socialize" your new pup; ways to prevent problems from developing; and common issues that many new dog parents face. Speaker: Michelle Mange (www.rightstartmaryland.com). At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Register at register@yourdogfriend.info.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Catherine Russell. Beginning swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m., followed by dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: wscdvolunteer@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances to live music by Night Watch from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Night Watch playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including

Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. 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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, 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/JAN. 21

Friday Night Eclectic Series. 9 p.m. The Petworth-raised X.O. joins forces with the DC rapper/singer RAtheMC, a 2009 MTV VMA Breakout Artist nominee who has toured alongside Wale, The Clipse and Afrika Bambaataa, for an evening of hook-ridden melodies, hard beats and hip hop artistry. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Contra Dance. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., followed by dances to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. Beginner swing lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing at 9 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.tomcunningham.com.

Shir Ami- Song of Our People. At 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 (Stars price \$25.20). Explore the rich mid-20th century musical heritage of the Jewish people. From Rimsky-Korsakov to Jewish composers who perished in the holocaust to musicians who emigrated after the holocaust and became cultural leaders, this moving performance recovers and rejuvenates music from this tumultuous period of history. At the Mansion at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5109 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Israeli Film Fest. 7:45 p.m. "Dear Mr. Waldman" ("Michtavim L'America"), a coming-of-age story in 1960s' Tel Aviv written and directed by the son of Holocaust survivors. The latter film is rated R. Film will be followed by moderated discussion and refreshments. Admission is \$10 for synagogue members, \$12 for the general public. At Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Call 301-762-7338.

SUNDAY/JAN. 23

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music by AP and the Banty Roosters from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Pianist Frederick Moyer. 4 p.m. Free. Reception to meet the artist follows. At the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, Washington, D.C.

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12. Lesson at 3 p.m. followed by dancing with the Hot Society Orchestra. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: dave@hotsociety.net



TUESDAY/JAN. 25

Small Potatoes. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Visit FocusMusic.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 24

James Hill in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door; \$10/students. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, 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/JAN. 28

Friday Night Eclectic Series. 9 p.m. Great Noise Ensemble: Paranoid Cheese. Great Noise Ensemble has become one of the most important ensembles in DC's new music scene, winning The Washington Area Music Association's 2007 WAMMIE Award for Best Chamber Ensemble. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Contra Dance. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., followed by called dance to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

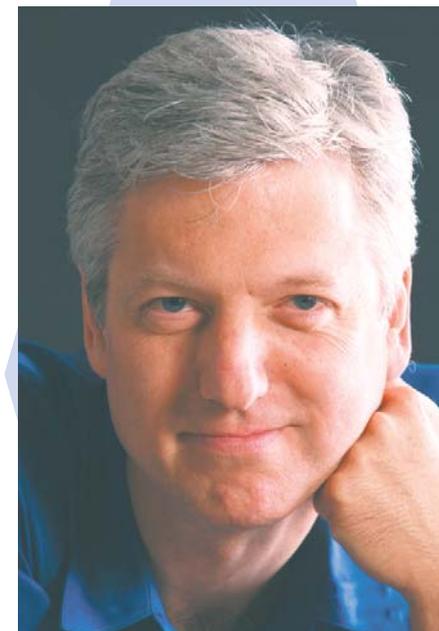
SATURDAY/JAN. 29

"Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing." 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight with the J Street Jumpers. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW members. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances to live music by Gypsy Meltdown from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit



SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Brian Ganz Chopin Piano Recital. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$34 to \$44. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore ticket office at 301-581-5100

www.fsgw.org

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. With the ensemble Trio con Brio. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

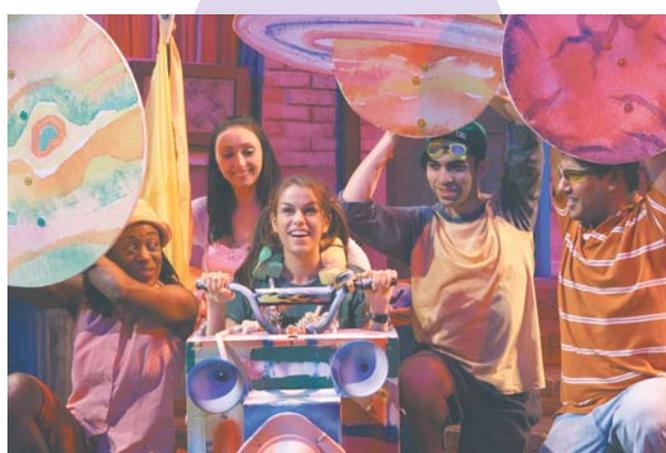
THURSDAY/FEB. 3

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Slow Blues Lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Back Room, 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/FEB. 4

"Inscape." 8 p.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Seldom Scene. At 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$42 (Stars price \$22.50-\$37.80). With a career that spans five decades, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band has influenced a generation of country rockers with hits like "Mr. Bojangles," "Dance little Jean" and "Fishin' in the Dark." Opening are bluegrass favorites, The Seldom Scene who pull up some chairs and start telling stories with their brilliant arrangements of tunes by Duane Allman, John Fogerty, Merle Haggard, Steve Earle and Bob Dylan. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.



(Left to Right): Erika Rose as Odette, Natascia Diaz as The Amazing Voice, Ana Nogueira as Ana, Christopher Wilson as Oscar and Vishal Vaidya as Sandip.

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

"Barrio Grrrr!" 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.



SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Bridal Expo. Noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5. The expo will feature more than two dozen vendors who will highlight their services, including caterers, florists, cake makers and designers, musicians and DJs, photographers and videographers, personal care attendants, rental accessory companies and travel agents. At Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Call 240-314-8660.

FINE ARTS

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Shir Ami – Song of Our People. 7:30 p.m.
 Tickets: \$28 (Stars Price \$25.20) At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 24

Janet Matthews and Bert Shankman.
 Photoworks, Glen Echo Park's resident photography studio and teaching facility, presents works by Janet Matthews and Bert Shankman. Open Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays and Mondays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 301-634-2274 or visit glenechophotoworks.org.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 30

Slices of Life. Artists include: Jerry Berry, Lucy Blankstein, Chuck Bress, Zandra Chestnut, Keith Egli, Nicholas Fan, Lee Goodwin, Michael Oberman, Arlene Polangin, and Jerry Weinstein. At the Dennis & Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 5

Artist Eric Harley Schweitzer. Artist's reception is Friday, Jan. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. Paintings and works on paper and new work by gallery artists. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441. Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6 p.m. Visit waverlystreetgallery.com.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 8

Painting with Fire. The Unique Art of Peter Kephart. In Zenith's Gallery, Chevy Chase Pavilion, Gallery on level 2 next to Embassy Suites Hotel. www.zenithgallery.com

NOW THROUGH FEB. 21

"Brush, Stone and Wood." Free. An exhibit by artists David Firestone, Carolyn Thorington, and Phil Brown. At Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087.
Fabric of Survival and Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery

County. Free admission. Gallery Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.



FEB. 8 THROUGH MARCH 5

Invitational Show. Waverly Street Gallery's 3rd Annual Invitational Show. 21+21 will feature nationally and locally recognized artists working in almost every medium — painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry, and ceramics. Reception is Friday, Feb. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Guest Artists: Carol Barsha, Lynda Smith-Bugge, JoAnn Clayton, Ellen Cornett, Pat French, Clara Graves, Paul Guilderson, Trudi Ludwig Johnson, Sunhee Jung, Lori Katz, Bonny Lundy, Barbara Mandel, Hunt Prothro, Gloria Rall, Massimo Righini, Diane Santarella, Matt Sesow, Greg Staley, Caryl Stern, Caroline Thorington, Pamela Zulli. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

THEATER

FEB. 17 TO APRIL 10

"Jack and the Beanstalk." Performances Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is recommended for K - Grade 6 and runs 45 minutes. Tickets are \$10, with group rates available. Presented by The Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park. For Information and Reservations: 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org



Rex Daugherty as Jack and Hyla Matthews Heynigher as Calypso in "Aquarium."

NOW THROUGH FEB. 26

"Tiny Tots @ 10." Saturdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Presented by The Puppet Co. Playhouse. "Tiny Tots @ 10" is designed for young children ages 0-4. Ticket: \$5 adults and children. Email: c.piper@thepuppetco.org or visit www.thepuppetco.org. For reservations, call 301-634-5380.

- ❖ Jan. 15 — "Penguins' Playground"
- ❖ Jan. 22 — "Snow Show"
- ❖ Jan. 26 — "Snow Show" - Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- ❖ Jan. 29 — "Panda-Monium"
- ❖ Feb. 5 — "Old McDonald's Farm"
- ❖ Feb. 16 — "Winter Wonderland"
- ❖ Feb. 19 — "Magic Toyshop"
- ❖ Feb. 23 — "Magic Toyshop"
- ❖ Feb. 26 — "Clowning Around"

JAN. 14 THROUGH FEB. 13

"The Velveteen Rabbit." Applause Unlimited returns with Margery William's gentle tale of how toys become real. Told with hand puppets, storytelling, and song, solo puppeteer Christopher Hudert takes children through this classic story of friendship, changes, and magic. The popular tale is of particular interest to youngsters learning to read and anyone who has ever had a favorite stuffed toy. Recommended for PreK - Grade 4. Running time is 45 minutes. Performances: Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30

JAN. 12 THROUGH FEB. 6

"Aquarium." The actors lead children and caregivers through an underwater world with a giant jellyfish, to a grassy patch where sheep love to graze, and to a garden where lemons create the sun in a pretend sky. Designed for very young audiences: 12 months to 5 years. Show times are Wednesday through Saturday 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.; Sunday, Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10/person; \$5/lap seat for children under 12 months. "Aquarium" Magical Moments Workshops will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 23 at 11 a.m.; Saturday, Jan. 29 at 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$7.50 per person. Imagination Stage is at 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or call 301-280-1660.

a.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. ASL performance, Feb. 6. Tickets \$10, group rates available. Call 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

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OPINION

Be Sure To Let Us Know in 2011

Reaffirming our mission in the new year.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Almanac's mission is to bring the news you need about your community that you are not likely to get anywhere else — to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones in community and people's lives.

At the Almanac, we begin 2011 by looking for more input from our readers.

First, send us photos of you and your pet plus a few sentences for our Pet Almanac, which will appear the first week in February. We'd like to have photos by Jan. 20.

Let us know how we're doing, and let us know what is going on in your part of the community.

We invite you to e-mail us letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage, and to write us let-

ters to the editor.

We learn a lot from readers' ideas and questions. 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 or your schools.

We'd like to hear your ideas about how to make things better. If you know of a person or an organization that is interesting, doing important work, and might make a good feature story, let us know.

We are looking for interesting people to feature in our pages each week. 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, these are all things that we want to know.

The Almanac will publish photos and notes of a variety of community events and milestones, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Muddy Paws

An open house and tour of Muddy Paws Farm on Sunday, Jan. 9, drew more than a hundred volunteers and supporters to the five-acre property located in Mount Airy.

The new Muddy Paws facility will open at the end of the month and serve as a landing place for dogs rescued through PetConnect.

Each animal will have a secure place to settle in as well as be evaluated during its transition from high-kill shelter to foster home. PetConnect hopes to expand in the future and include cats as well as other animals in need, said Lizette Chanock.

At the facilities, a resident caretaker will be on hand to oversee the property and care for the animals, before they move to private foster care and ultimately adoption.

In addition to the caretaker's private living quarters, the lower level of the house is devoted to caring for the dogs, with a bathing area, dog runs and a separate living space for each animal.

The outside area will include a space for dogs to run and play and a welcoming pond with a brick pathway leading to the house. Bricks will be available to supporters who wish to sponsor the memory of a pet, friend or loved one.

To volunteer or donate to PetConnect Rescue go to their website at: www.petconnectrescue.org.

Those interested in sponsoring a brick for the pathway, check the website.

— CAROLE DELL

Lyn Rales, Marie Feldman, Cheri Markey, and Lizette Chanock celebrate the five-year anniversary of Potomac's PetConnect Rescue and Wellness with the addition of a new dog rescue/foster facility called Muddy Paws Farm.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, school, 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.

We also publish notes about news and events in local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries and other accomplishments and events are welcome.

Our calendar of events lets people know about upcoming events. Send the information at least two weeks ahead of the event, and include a photo if possible. Events to be listed in calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you in 2011. We have a new website in the works (our current site has served us well but is best described as an antique) that will open up many more lines of communication. Stay tuned.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

Newspaper of Potomac
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned
weekly newspaper
delivered to homes and businesses.
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Potomac Almanac is published by
Connection Newspapers, L.L.C.

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SCHOOLS

Students Stress over Tests

BY DANIELLE COLLINS
FOR THE ALMANAC



Collins

For that one week at the end of each semester, Churchill becomes nothing short of a madhouse. Some students buzz with caffeine as they recite vocabulary words at warp-speed, others roam the halls in a zombie-like trance, eyes glued to the pages of their semester final review sheets.

Yes, this is exam week, and yes, it is a time no high school student will ever forget (or want to remember).

Amidst the stress and studying, students form an unlikely bond as they pour over a semester's-worth of notes, testing each other in everything from Chemistry to French, calming each other down the night before, and lending pencils to their frazzled classmates who arrived empty-handed.

With exam week quickly approaching, what do Churchill students think about the process?

Junior Maggie Pelta-Pauls explains exam week, saying, "We have a designated exam schedule where we have review day then exams for five days. We have between one and two exams each day with a half-hour break in the middle, and the last day is a day for make-ups if you missed one of the tests."

There always seems to be one subject that instills fear in a student, the class that meant an entire semester of struggle and borderline grades. Students rank their stress-levels on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being easy breezy and 10 being sheer panic.

Freshman Jeremyn Lee explains, "My stress is about a 6, but I am going to study hard and get tutored before the day of my exam. I am most worried about my Chemistry final because I have a low quarter grade."

Junior Maggie Pelta-Pauls agrees, saying, "Exams are very stressful, and at the moment, my stress is probably a 7 out of 10, but by review day I know it will be a 9! I am nervous for my Math and AP French exams because they are challenging classes."

Sophomore Jordan Li rates his stress level as a 7 and is nervous for "my Chinese test because the class is so difficult! The exam will be part oral, part writing and part listening comprehension."

In order to understand Churchill's grade trend policy, Jordan Li offers an explanation. "The grade trend policy takes into account both the exam and the first two-quarter grades to give a final grade for the semester. For example, if somebody gets A's in the class for the first two quarters, they can get a C on the exam and still receive an A for the semester. I definitely think there should be a double-A exam exemption, though."

Other students are fortunate to not feel the pressures of exam week, as Kayo Teramoto, senior, says she is "not as stressed for exams as much as I am stressed for all of the final quarter work before exams start! I am most nervous for my AP Physics semester exam, but I plan to study from the AP review book. Reading it through will really help me prepare. I love the exam schedule because we get to go home early and have plenty of time to study for the exam the next day. It definitely makes exam week less stressful."

Ali Lieberman, a freshman, states, "I am a bit nervous for exams because this is my freshman year, but I have had some experience with Churchill exams because I came last year for the high school



Jordan Li (left) and Ryan Kanfer

Spanish exam and know how they work."

MANY STUDENTS OFFERED helpful hints and techniques to study for exams. Sophomore Colin Kincaid uses "flashcards to learn vocabulary and go through all my class notes to learn the broad exam concepts. Teachers also give a lot of review packets, and it is really helpful to do them because they give you practice and let you know a lot of the topics on the exam. Even though I have 4 AP semester exams coming up, I am definitely nervous for my Foundations of Technology exam because I have no idea [about] the real format and think some of the computer work is hard."

Ali Lieberman studies by "going through all my papers and using the exam review guides that teachers provide. I also do sample problems for classes like math to practice."

Senior Ryan Kanfer has a similar approach to studying for exams. "I've been doing the review packets really thoroughly to study. I've learned from the past two years of Churchill exams that the review packets help a lot because teachers help write the exam using a lot of stuff in the packets. I also go over old quizzes to see what information I might have missed and I like reading through the AP review books."

Students also praise teachers for their efforts to prepare students for finals, also citing school programs that students can utilize to study.

Julianna Hsing, a junior, says her teachers have been "really helpful in preparing kids for exams. They give great review packets and give extra reviews in addition to the assigned review day. My anatomy teacher is reviewing with us for an extra day to get ready, which will help me a lot."

The school also offers lots of tutoring programs through the National Honor Societies, which are great resources for kids who need extra help before their test." As a tutor in this program, I can attest that it is a wonderful program and very worthwhile for any student struggling in a class or in search of a last-minute review session with a peer.

As for me, exam studying has claimed my social life for the past couple weekends as I begin to buckle down and crack those books.

While exams are unquestionably a time filled with stress, I find myself exhilarated as I meet up with friends during the mid-day break period, stuffing myself with granola bars and cramming those last few pages of textbook readings into my brain (but maybe that's just me!).

But however you Churchill students are feeling, just remember that exams will be over in the blink of an eye and you'll soon be moving on to your second semester!

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CRIME

❖ A commercial burglary occurred at Zoe's Kitchen, 12505 Park Potomac Drive, Potomac, between 10:40 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 6 and 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7. No forced entry; property was taken.

❖ A residential burglary occurred in the 9700 block of Avenel Farm Drive between 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5. No forced entry; property was taken.

❖ An attempted residential burglary occurred in the 9600 block of Pinkney Court, Potomac, between 10 a.m. and 11:56 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 22. No forced entry; nothing was taken.

❖ A residential burglary occurred in the 8700 block of Snowhill Court, Potomac, on Wednesday, Dec. 22 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Forced entry; property was taken.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



Arrow - Male, 4 years, 28 lbs., neutered, Jack Russell mix- Arrow is a loving, sweet little man who does everything with enthusiasm. He enjoys walks, adores people and loves chasing a tennis ball whenever he can do so. Arrow is a typical JRT in temperament and will do best with a JRT savvy owner.



Merry - Female, 1 year, 37 lbs., spayed, Beagle mix- Merry's name fits this sweet little hound, still in many ways a puppy, who seems to love everyone. She likes to romp and play and is good with other dogs. Merry would be a great pup for an active family with children who would give her a loving forever home.



Cashew - Male, 1 year, 13 lbs., neutered, Poodle mix- Cashew is a lively fellow who seems to love everybody- humans, dogs, and dog-savvy cats. He likes nothing better than having a tennis ball thrown and he will even return it to you to throw again! Smart, playful Cashew is still a puppy in many ways but is eager to please the right adopter.

Of Maximum Importance



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

By the time this column prints on Jan. 12, 2011, I will have met with my oncologist and discussed the results of my end-of-December scans. Given the Jan. 5, 2011 due date of this column however (as was the case with last week's column), it is being written and submitted for copy-editing consideration before the Jan. 7, 2011 appointment with my oncologist will actually have occurred. Ergo the continuing uncertainty.

This kind of waiting and wondering and mind-racing-out-of-control is nothing new for me, nor is it for any patient, terminal or otherwise, who is scanned/X-Rayed and/or examined regularly (women waiting for the results of a mammogram certainly come to mind). And though I don't think I feel any differently (meaning symptomatic/worse), I do feel something. And that something is inevitability. Consider the fact that my oncologist initially told Team Lourie back on Feb. 27, 2009 that I had 13 months to two years to live and Feb. 27, 2011 (the end of that two years) is merely six weeks away, and I'm sure you can imagine the calendar-watching I'm obsessing on.

And as much as I want to, try to, ignore that original prognosis (I hesitate to characterize it as fact since medicine is, after all, a science; it's not arithmetic), it is nearly impossible to do so. Moreover, I have made many changes in my life since first receiving my cancer diagnosis, and they, presumably, along with my attitude, have served me well and likely enabled me to maintain an atypical quality of life (for a terminal patient, I mean) and to outlive that original prognosis. However, as a long-time salesman, I can't shake one of the adages that many of us have learned to live by: "Waiting for the other shoe to drop." Meaning, something negative is lurking - which you can't control. And the corollary to that adage/attitude is inevitability: the longer the news is positive, the closer it gets to being negative. (Or for non-terminal salespersons - in general: "Every 'No' is one step closer to a 'Yes.'")

Not that I'm depressed or on any kind of mental slide, it's more that I'm living a very time-sensitive existence, according to my oncologist. And having been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer which, generally speaking, doesn't go away, and in my case is inoperable to boot, doesn't exactly enhance what quality of what life you do have. So minimizing anything that is happening to me: symptom-wise, diagnosis-to-date-wise or plain old words-to-the-wise-wise, is challenging to say the least; and the bane of that existence to say the most.

But what else is new? Nothing! This recurring quarterly cycle is of course familiar to me - at this juncture, and comfortable, sort of. I go to the same places, see the same people, follow the same routine. And for me, "same" is good as is "familiar." It lessens the impact and eliminates any of the awkwardness. All of which contributes to managing stress - and stress, as I've been repeatedly told, especially as it effects terminal/cancer patients, is a killer (literally and figuratively). And since being the exception that proves the rule has been my mantra, I am happy to find a path of less resistance.

Still, knowing what I know and doing what I do, doesn't make life any easier, it just doesn't make it more difficult than it already is. And simplifying the cancer tasks (as well as most others, if you want to know the truth) is my goal, because I've reached a point where I can no longer be bothered. I'm already bothered enough.

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

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Churchill Wrestling Team Splits Tri-Meet

The Churchill wrestling Team defeated Richard Montgomery and lost to Springbrook during a tri-meet at Richard Montgomery on Jan. 8. The Bulldogs moved to 6-1 on the season, including 5-0 in conference.

Churchill beat Richard Montgomery 55-21. Hunter Sutton (125 pounds), Peter Heilbron (140), Victor Caravajal (145), Greg Seymour (152), Marco Macedo (160), D.J. Gagner (171), Matt Schleckser (189) and Karou Diatkite (285) won by pin for Churchill. Hunter Daniels (103) and Wesley Deaver (112) won by technical fall.

Against undefeated Springbrook, Churchill lost 54-15. Deaver and Sutton (130) earned pins for Churchill.

Churchill Extends Winning Streak to Six

The Churchill boys basketball team defeated Wootton 51-50 on Jan. 4 and Walter Johnson 44-40 on Jan. 7 to improve its record to 8-2 and extend its winning streak to six.

Against Walter Johnson, Churchill led 39-31 in the fourth quarter before the Wildcats went on a 9-0 run to take a one-point lead. Jesse Simon then put Churchill back on top with a jump shot and the Bulldogs held on for the win.

"It wasn't very pretty, but we got the job done in the end," Churchill head coach Matt Miller wrote in an e-mail. "We don't have that dominant player who can take over games down the stretch so we have to rely on a total team effort with different guys stepping up on both ends of the floor as the situation presents itself. But I'm proud of the guys because this is another game where we showed some resilience when things looked tough.

"Our guys do give effort for 32 minutes and that is what is helping us win these close games. We've told them, 'Effort will keep you in games and execution will help you win it.'"

Jordan Bass led Churchill with 14 points. Thomas Geenen scored eight points, grabbed 12 rebounds and dished out four assists.

Against Wootton, Churchill survived a Patriots shot attempt at the buzzer, which came up empty, and poor free-throw shooting. The Bulldogs missed 9 of their final 12 attempts.

Bass led the team with 13 points. Simon and Sam Edens each scored 10 points and Geenen added nine.

"It was a good win — a rivalry game on the road," Miller wrote. "I thought this was really a team effort and several guys stepped up at different times to give us some big plays. ...

"But while it's good to enjoy this win for a moment, the simple fact is that we need to keep improving. We can't miss free throws down the stretch like we did tonight and expect to be successful. We caught a break because if that last shot goes in, we are feeling quite differently about this game



Churchill's Matt Schleckser, left, won by pin against Richard Montgomery on Jan 8.

right now."

Churchill was scheduled to face Richard Montgomery on Tuesday. Results were not available prior to The Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs will host Whitman on Jan. 14.

Churchill Girls Win A Pair to Start 2011

The Churchill girls basketball team defeated Wootton 46-44 on Jan. 4 and Walter Johnson 60-41 on Jan. 7 to improve to 6-4. The Bulldogs were scheduled to face Richard Montgomery on Tuesday. Results were

not available prior to The Almanac's deadline. Churchill will host Whitman on Jan. 14.

Whitman Girls Suffer First Loss

After a 10-0 start, the Whitman girls basketball team suffered its first loss of the season on Jan. 7, falling 67-45 against Northwest. The Vikings defeated Bethesda-Chevy Chase 41-37 on Jan. 4, Whitman's first contest of 2011. The Vikings will travel to face Churchill on Jan. 14.



Churchill's D.J. Gagner, right, helped the Bulldogs beat Richard Montgomery on Jan. 8.

SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call 703-778-9412.

Adam Logan Fox of Potomac graduated from Millersville University of Pennsylvania, during a Commencement Ceremony held Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010. Fox graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology.

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2010-11 academic year. The local students who met this standard are:

❖ **Hannah L. Davis**, of Potomac, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Davis of Potomac, and a 2008 graduate of Saint Andrews Episcopal School, Potomac.

❖ **Emily C. Fiuzat**, of Potomac, daughter of Homer and Cynthia Fiuzat of Potomac, and a 2008 graduate of Saint Andrews Episcopal School, Potomac.

Adam L. Fox of Potomac, a senior at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list at Millersville College for the fall 2010 semester.

Tracy Mardirossian of Potomac made the dean's list at Curry College for the Fall 2010 term.

April Htut, a senior at Walt Whitman High School, attending Bucknell University, has received a four-year, full tuition scholarship from the Posse Foundation worth about \$100,000.

The Posse program identifies high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential that may have been overlooked by traditional college selection processes.

MILITARY NOTES

Ben R. Jameson has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. The cadet is a student at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell. He is the son of Susan L. and stepson of Pierre Noel of Southwick St., Bethesda, Md. Jameson is a 2010 graduate of Walt Whitman High School.

Andrew K. Rampp of Potomac has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Rampp is the son of Peter M. and Cindy B. Rampp of Platinum Drive, North Potomac.

Michael S. Beloff has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Beloff is the son of Stewart M. Beloff of Nicholson Lane, Rockville, and Theresa L. Howard of N. Adams St., Arlington, Va. He is a 2007 graduate of Randolph-Macon Academy, Front Royal, Va.

Wesley B. Albritton graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The cadet is a student at North Georgia College and State University, Dahlonega, Ga. He is the son of Wesley H. Jenkins of Windsor St., and Sherri D. McDonald of N. Lee St., both of Valdosta, Ga. His wife, Victoria, is the daughter of Hilda Marzouka of North Bethesda. Albritton graduated in the year 2000 from Valdosta High School, and received an associate degree in 2009 from North Georgia College and State University.

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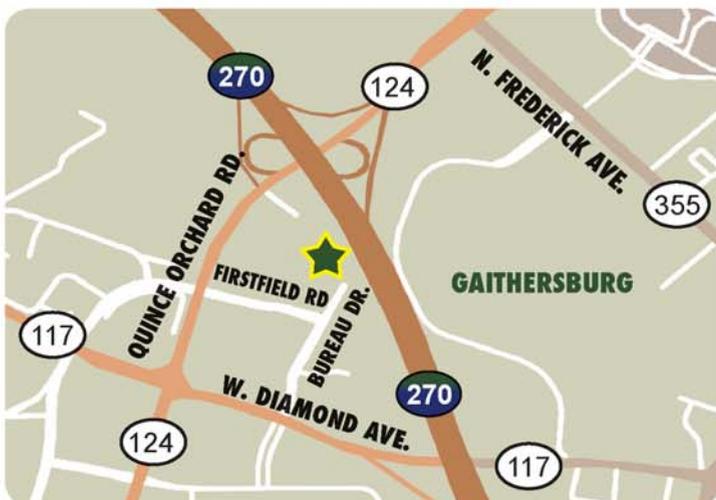
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