

Potomac ALMANAC

PES Music
Teacher Wins
National Award

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Lynn and Michael
Zacharia in their
outdoor living
room in Potomac.

HomeLifeStyle

Expansive Approach
To Outdoor Living

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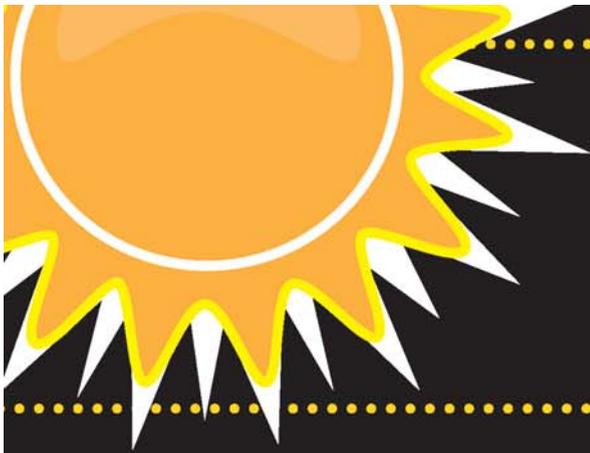
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AUGUST 10-16, 2011

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

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PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL



POTOMAC PIZZA IS READY TO BBQ THIS SUMMER!

SOUTHWESTERN BBQ CHICKEN PIZZA

BBQ has been an American tradition every summer. To honor that tradition, Potomac Pizza will be offering you a chance to enjoy our new Southwestern BBQ Chicken Pizza. This delicious summer special is made with our BBQ flavored pizza sauce, topped with juicy grilled chicken, fresh green peppers and sautéed onions. **\$9.79/ \$14.29/ \$17.49**



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Want to start your meal and summer off right? Well then try our newest appetizer featuring Potomac Pizza's signature chicken wings tossed in a tangy BBQ sauce. Served with a side of cool ranch or blue cheese dressing and crunchy celery sticks. **\$7.99**

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Our new summer salad is the perfect blend of mix greens, fresh tomatoes and cucumbers, then topped with juicy BBQ chicken and sautéed onions. To top it all off, we then sprinkle this salad with a delicious mix of cheddar and jack cheeses, perfect for a hot day! Recommended dressing: Ranch **\$8.49**



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We know that it's hot out there, and that's why we are offering this mouth-watering burger to keep it that way! Our new B.O.M.B Burger is made with ground beef mixed with mushrooms and onions. Then topped with bacon and BBQ sauce, all wrapped up in our spicy Chipotle Wrap. Want to add cheese too? No problem just let your server know. **\$6.99**

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NEWS

Potomac Music Teacher Wins National Award

Emphasizing the importance of music in education.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Potomac Elementary School music teacher Suzana Basaric-Ilic received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award earlier this summer. She was one of 50 teachers from around the country who were recognized for outstanding accomplishment in public school music education.

"I certainly feel honored to be awarded by the Yale School of Music and to be recognized for the work that I love and have a huge passion for," said Basaric-Ilic. "At the time when music education is under budget scrutiny and the corners are being cut around this subject area, this award means that the importance of the work that I and my fellow music educators do is still valued and appreciated."

Potomac Elementary School is one of three arts integration model schools in Montgomery County. School principal Linda Goldberg says Basaric-Ilic is a leader in sup-



PHOTO BY BILL MILLS/MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Potomac Elementary School music teacher Suzana Basaric won the Yale Distinguished Educator Award.

porting the integration of the arts into the curriculum.

"Suzana is a phenomenal teacher," said Goldberg. "She engages the students in the arts, and they learn so much about the arts and other content areas. She ensures that every student reaches their potential by providing opportunities for different learning styles. She is also an inspiration to the teachers."

Basaric-Ilic says her teaching philosophy is guided by three principles: connection, exploration and inspiration. "I try to inspire

my students' creativity and to help them develop a life-long appreciation for music," said Basaric-Ilic. "As an advocate for arts integration in education, my mission is to help my students make connections with music and other subject areas. My goal is to motivate my students to continuously explore the power of music while creating a community of introspective and inquisitive learners."

Basaric-Ilic, who is a flautist, has been teaching and performing music for more than 20 years, including 10 in Montgom-

ery County and six at Potomac Elementary. She teaches private flute and piano lessons and says that her love of music was inspired by her family.

"My father was a big art and music lover, and he was the one who introduced me to the world of music and performing arts by taking me to every possible concert and performance in our town," said Basaric-Ilic, who grew up in the former Yugoslavia. "My parents signed me up for private music lessons when I was 8 years old, and I guess I just continued discovering the beauty and the power of music."

Her colleagues say Basaric-Ilic's passion for music and an enthusiasm for teaching are contagious. "Her commitment to the students is very apparent," said Potomac Elementary School teacher Blake Giliotti. "She is a consummate professional whose talents are reflected in her teaching. I am always impressed with the performances that she puts on at the school."

"As a teacher she brings a wide breadth and depth of musical literacy," said Mitchell Schorr, Potomac Elementary Library Media specialist. "She can transition seamlessly from Mozart to Mariah Carrey. No matter if she's working one-to-one or leading an ensemble, she makes her students smile and challenges them to always push for a better performance."

GETTING AROUND

Oh, Deer! What Can the Matter Be?

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

It's the talk of the town. No matter where one goes there is a deer-related event. "We are inundated with them. We have 14 to 16 of them in our yard every day," Mary Kalagher reported. The Kalaghers, who live near Travilah Road have given up planting flowers and shrubbery except in a fenced pool area.

"Giving up" seems to be the operative phrase when the subject turns to those lovely, four-legged ruminants who either gracefully leap across yards and fields, or quietly chew their way through, depending on circumstances.

"We see them every morning around six or in the evenings about seven," Kalagher said. These are natural feeding times the Montgomery Parks: Planning and Stewardship pamphlet mentioned in a recent "Living With Wild Life Series."

"They are an adorable nuisance," Kalagher concluded, adding the worse they ever did was one evening devour 300 pansies she planted by her porch stairs. "I looked out the next morning and they were gone. Everyone of them," she said.

People cope with deer intrusion in many ways including an odious spray, family pooches and fences. "I don't cope with them. I just let them graze and enjoy," Joan del Castillo said. She admitted, "They do go into



PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

According to a Humane Society of the United States pamphlet, "It is normal for mother deer to leave their fawn alone for long periods of time to avoid attracting predators by the mother's scent. The young are odorless, therefore are safer without mom around." Above, "The Twins," as they are now called, hang out regularly on Rock Run Drive, Potomac.

the shrubbery. It's looking rather lean right now, but if I knock on the window, they just look up." At a recent luncheon when the subject of deer came up, del Castillo, who lives in the South Glen Road area, recalled that during the excessive heat, she noticed the deer arrived later in the mornings than usual and grazed under a huge tree where possibly the grass was still damp from the evening dew. "I think they were probably

getting water that way," she surmised.

In the Avenel section of Potomac where the open golf course area is a haven for deer, Nan Muntzing recalled an entirely different encounter — up close and personal. "Yes, we see them daily on the course, when we have morning coffee on the porch," she said. However, on another occasion, one came calling. Following a recent three-day, thorough power-washing of their home,



A car parked in a driveway provides shelter for this young fawn, left by its mother for at least four hours. First to notice the new born was a leashed Jack Russell terrier en route for an early morning walk. The fawn never budged from the disturbance.

from roof to driveway, Muntzing glanced out one of the two front windows adjacent to the front door and a deer was on the porch, looking in. "A doe was licking the bricks that were cleaned the previous day. I thought she would probably ring the doorbell next," Muntzing said. A neighbor suggested there could have been salt on the

SEE DEER, PAGE 5

ENTERTAINMENT

To have community events listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call 703-778-9412.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

Free Live Music. At the Beer Garden at Old Angler's Inn Restaurant all summer long. At 10801 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Call 301-299-9097.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 10

Red Baraat. 7 p.m., Gudelsky Concert Gazebo. Baraat is Hindi for a marriage procession and the joyous dancing and singing that ensues. Hear the infectious North Indian rhythm Bhangra meet the sound of a funky brass band, complete with a dhol, drumset, percussion, sousaphone and horns in a tantalizing mix of fresh originals and Bollywood favorites. At 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 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 at 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.
Summer Concert Series: "U.S. Navy Band Cruisers." 7:30 p.m. Free. Enjoy free music in the Park during the Summer Concert Series in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Call 301-634-2222.

FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Swing Dance. 9 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 Boilermaker Jazz Band. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.



NOW THROUGH AUG. 23

"Joy of Color." Presenting new artists Tom Hlas and Gina Cochran in E9's Summer Exhibit. Also a rare and permanent collection of well known Iranian artists (selling artworks at Christie's auction house). RSVP via email at 202-276-9419. At E9 Gallery in Potomac. Visit <http://www.tomhlas.com/html/paintings.html#>

Contact dbarker@glenechopark.org, call 301-634-2231, or go to www.DanceDC.net.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most hardback books and large paperbacks are \$1; regular paperbacks are \$.50. Also see "how-to" and books about art, cooking, non-fiction subjects and children's books. Sponsored by the Potomac Friends of the Library. At Potomac Library.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$20. With the Glen Miller Orchestra. Drop-in beginner swing lesson 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SUNDAY/AUG. 14

Cajun and Zydeco Dance Party. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$15. Introductory Cajun Lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3 to 6 p.m. With the Acadien Cajun Band. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

PJ Story Time. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Come to Har Shalom for an evening of family fun! Dress in your PJ's and bring your pillow. Hear a bed time story, do a simple craft and of course, have some milk & cookies. Open to all. Invite your friends and neighbors! No fee. At 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Email Rabbi Deborah Cohen at HYPERLINKmailto:rabbicohen@harshalom.org or rabbicohen@harshalom.org

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 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 at 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/AUG. 19

Artist Talk and Encaustic Demo. With Gina Cochran. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. At Exhibit9 gallery in Potomac. Light refreshments and great conversations are provided. RSVP to: exhibit9gallery@gmail.com

SUNDAY/AUG. 21

Save Nick's Organic Farm Potluck Party. 1-6 p.m. Live music, refreshments, farm tours with Nick, children's activities and more. Held in Conjunction with the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association (MOFFA). At 8565 Horseshoe Lane, Potomac. Call 301-983-2167. RSVP to volunteer@savenicksorganicfarm.org

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m.; Admission is \$10. With the band, Terpsichore. 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.

Voices of the River: Potomac Palette. 4 to 7 p.m. Come to an art exhibit at the River Center, featuring the work of local artists Adnan Alsaffar,



FRIDAY/AUG. 12

Concert. 8 p.m. Sephardic, Ladino, Judeo-Spanish songs featuring Dr. Judith R. Cohen with Tamara Ilana Cohen Adams. Vegetarian potluck 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Donation of \$20 requested. At the home of Jamie and Betsy Platt of Potomac. Reservations required. Call 301-717-4641 or glen.echo@erols.com.

Mimi Betz, Nan Fuhrman, and Hushang Tohidloo. Enjoy the beauty of local landscapes on canvas while listening to music by acclaimed banjoist, Reed Martin. Meets at River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John. Visit www.potomac.org/site/river-center-events/index.php.

Voices of the River: Reed Martin. 4 - 5 p.m. Reed Martin, winner of old-time banjo contests for 30 years, will play a very old claw-style banjo to the beat of the river. Come enjoy an interactive experience of storytelling and pictures while

listening to the tunes of the banjo on the steps of the River Center. Meets at River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John. Visit www.potomac.org/site/river-center-events/index.php.

Canal Stewards Cleanup. 2 to 4 p.m. Help the Conservancy clean up and beautify the land and water surrounding Lock 8, and along miles 8 and 9 of the C&O Canal towpath. Cleanup activities include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Meets at River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John. Visit www.potomac.org/site/river-center-events/index.php.

TUESDAY/AUG. 23

The Squid Jiggers. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. The Squid Jiggers are the Maine-based duo of musician-entertainers Dave Rowe and Troy R. Bennett, and they specialize in songs of Ireland, Scotland, Atlantic Canada, Maine and the sea. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville. Visit www.focusmusic.org. Contact David Spitzer at focusrockville@earthlink.net or 301-275-7459.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 24

Ukefest 2011. Put Up Your Ukes. 7 p.m., Gudelsky Concert Gazebo. Strathmore has a passion for the uke — and has made the UkeFest an annual occasion. Grammy winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer highlight the festival, bringing with them a merry assortment of uke soloists and uke bands including Gerald Ross, Victoria Vox and the Sweater Set, plus The Riders, The Piney Branch Kids Ukulele Ensemble and the Washington Ukulele Orchestra. At 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

THEATER

NOW THROUGH AUG. 14

The Wind in the Willows. Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances. Tickets are \$10-\$22, with group rates available. This musical retelling of the classic is faithful to the novel and features the characters Mr. Toad, Mole, Ratty and Mr. Badger. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda. Visit www.imaginationstage.org.

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 5

"Charlotte's Web." Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adventure Theatre presents "Charlotte's Web." E. B. White's popular tale of love and devotion takes theatergoers to Zuckerman's Farm, where the delightful runt pig Wilbur appears headed for the dinner table — as a main course, not as a guest! Yet he is saved by the remarkably crafty spider, Charlotte, and the whole town begins talking about it. Some pig! Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Tickets \$15. Call 301-634-2270 or visit: adventuretheatre.org.



NOW THROUGH SEPT. 4

"The Wizard of Oz." Ticket are \$10 adults and children. Presented by the Puppet Co. Playhouse. Set at the Kansas State Fair in 1900, live actors tell a story within a story using a wide variety of puppet styles, including masks, tabletop puppets, marionettes and moving-mouth puppets. Show times are Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org.

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Oh, Deer

FROM PAGE 3
bricks, a residual from the washing.

CLOSER TO Potomac Village is no different from the outer regions. "I looked up from working in my office the other day and saw a doe followed by two fawns leaping across my yard. It was a lovely sight," Dr. Fred Gill said. "I love deer. In my old age I have gotten to a stage where I have come to appreciate all of the beauty in the animal world, even in my own neighborhood," he continued. Although the Gills have a vegetable garden with no significant fencing, their two dogs discourage encroachers.

Family dogs are listed among deterrents in the aforementioned "Living With Wildlife Series" pamphlet as are mechanical noise-producing devices, fencing and spraying. The pamphlet stated that the average white tail deer "eats six-to-eight pounds of plants a day." It is also suggested homeowners plant flowers and shrubs their ruminant friends don't like, and stay away from "preferred foods" such as orchids and lilies.



A young doe is unperturbed by a Potomac homeowner's attempt to clear debris from a fallen limb. The doe periodically walked up to the fallen leaves and ate while the work was in progress, the owner reported.

Alex Dencker of the River Road Behnke's Nursery suggested, "Super-duper, tough, dark green leafed, evergreen such as Cherry Laurel, or, anything that's spruce. A Privet Hedge is good, but not near the house. It grows so fast your house will disappear," he laughingly advised. Boxwood, of course, is the number one preference. Deer will not eat it. "They love holly, unless it is the Dragon Lady Holly that is very prickly," he said.

For flowers, Dencker suggested

Vinca, an annual that produces lovely white, pink and red blossoms from May to frost time; Lantana, also an annual that prefers full sun for its pink and yellow flowers and Salvia. "Some have success with marigolds," he added.

Forget the Hosta. That is just dessert for deer. From personal experience it takes just one visit to turn an extensive bed of Hosta into an area that looks like it has been visited by an angry ogre with a buzz saw.

Deer me!

WEEK IN POTOMAC

Potluck Party To Support Nick's Organic Farm

Residents are invited to attend a Save Nick's Organic Farm Potluck Party on Sunday, Aug. 21, 1-6 p.m., held in conjunction with the Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association. See www.marylandorganic.org/.

The event will be held at 8565 Horseshoe Lane, Potomac.

Stop by to meet Nick Maravell and tour the Potomac Farm. Maravell has farmed 20-acres on Brickyard for more than 30 years to develop a "county organic incubator." The county is in the midst of a process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields encompassing the site.

The event is free, but donations via check or cash will be accepted. RSVP at volunteer@savenicksorganicfarm.org

Register for Club Friday

Club Friday is returning for its 20th year of Friday night fun at Potomac Community Center for children from grades 3 to 6 on Oct. 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. The last night of Club Friday is March 23, 2012.

Beginning Sept. 1, parents can register for a Club Friday membership online. Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec, Registration, Rec Web to register. The class # is 316575.

There will be a dance floor with a DJ, arts and crafts, sports, food, movies and other activities. Parents will be required to volunteer once per Club Friday member during the year.

For more information. Call 240-777-6960 or visit the Potomac Community Center.

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Home Life Style

Outdoor Rooms, Designed for Year-Round

Trend calls for expansive approach along with a sense of realism.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

When it comes to entertaining and spending time with family, Lynn and Michael Zacharia like to take it outside. So when they moved into their home in Potomac two years ago, they decided to create an open outdoor living space that they could use at least three seasons out of the year.

"Our plan was to get an eating space for the four of us and a lounge space to watch television," said Lynn Zacharia. The end result is a series of alfresco rooms that accommodate their active, young family, which includes two young sons: Justin, 5, and Dylan, 2.

The Zacharias enlisted Howard Kandel, President of Kandel Construction, to bring their ideas to fruition. "The whole project started with us renovating our kitchen. We were trying to bump out part of the kitchen and make it a little bit larger," said Michael Zacharia. "The plan was always to try to add some type of covered or screened in porch. As we started designing, we started adding space."

The space that evolved was a screened porch designed by architect Mike Fox, made of five archways with stone columns. It is enclosed with electric screens that are recessed into the top of each arch and go up and down at the touch of a button. The porch's beadboard ceiling is embellished with ornate wood trim, recessed lighting and ceiling heaters. The couple also built heaters into the room's travertine tile floor.

"We use this a lot more than our family room or any other room in our house," said Lynn Zacharia. "In the summer time when it is hot but we still want outdoor space,

we close the screened-in porch."

Kandel installed doors between the porch and the kitchen. "It is basically a wall of [clear glass] doors that are hinged so that they can slide completely out of the way and the entire house becomes a large screened porch. They are incredibly expensive, but they are really cool," said Kandel.

Steps from the porch lead to a larger outdoor area complete with a stone fireplace and sitting area designed by Greg Kenel of Creative Landscapes by Gregory, as well as a kitchen with a refrigerator and a range with a rotisserie and warming drawers, all suitable for withstanding the elements. The couple added a bar area with granite counter tops. The perimeter of the outdoor rooms is bordered by bursts of vibrantly colored impatiens.

The Zacharias decorated with understated, modern, weather-resistant furnishings. "The pieces are transitional with neutral colors," said Michael Zacharia. "We have brown-framed couches with cream cushions and cream a coffee table."

Kandel says the alfresco living trend is on the rise. "Over the last several years, outdoor spaces have become a pretty hot topic — a lot of screened porches, a lot of outdoor kitchens, a lot of trying to bring the outside in," said Kandel. The trend, he advises, should be tempered with realism.

While the Zacharias use their space on regular basis, Kandel says that is not always the case.

"People have a fantasy in their head of living a certain way, but the reality is they probably will never live that way, so we do a reality check with clients," said Kandel. "It sounds great, but is that how it's really going to work? Is that how you're really going to live?"

PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL



Lynn and Michael Zacharia built an outdoor living room with fireplace, as well as an outdoor kitchen and dining area.



Lynn and Michael Zacharia have an expansive outdoor living area.



Michael Zacharia in the outdoor kitchen.

Potomac REAL ESTATE

The Six Most Expensive Homes to Sell in June

IN JUNE 2011, 52 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$4,000,000-\$472,000.



1 9905 Bencross Drive, Potomac — \$4,000,000



3 9505 Newbridge Drive, Potomac — \$2,000,000



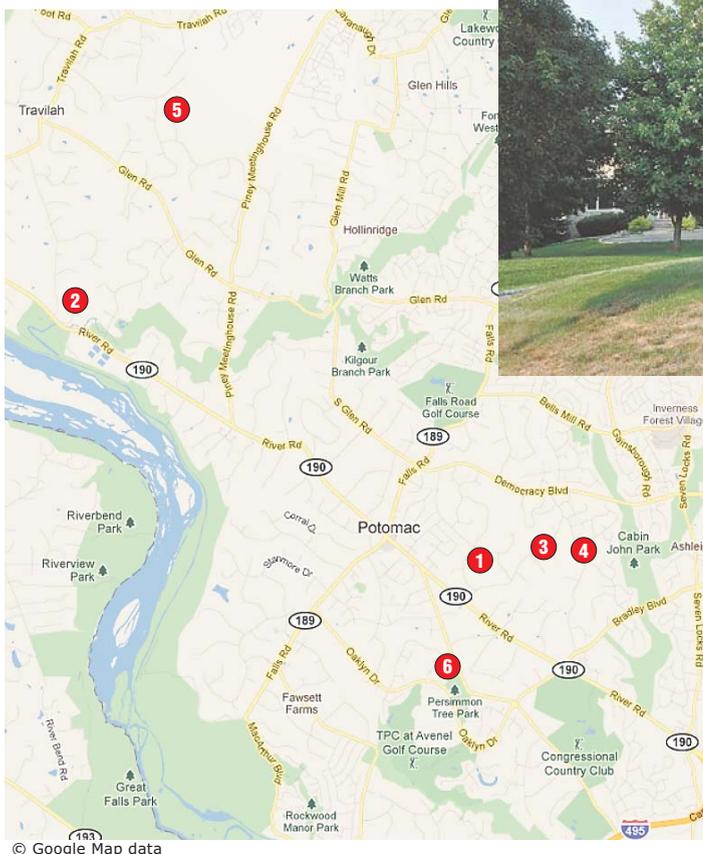
4 9838 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac — \$1,800,000



5 12621 Tribunal Lane, Potomac — \$1,725,000



6 9708 Avenel Farm Drive, Potomac — \$1,510,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9905 BENCROSS DR	9	15	4	POTOMAC	\$4,000,000	Detached	2.86	FALCONHURST	06/01/11
2 11700 BEALL MOUNTAIN RD	6	5	3	POTOMAC	\$2,285,000	Detached	5.00	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE	06/30/11
3 9505 NEWBRIDGE DR	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$2,000,000	Detached	2.00	FALCONHURST	06/30/11
4 9838 KENTSDALE DR	5	6	3	POTOMAC	\$1,800,000	Detached	2.00	FALCONHURST	06/30/11
5 12621 TRIBUNAL LN	5	4	2	POTOMAC	\$1,725,000	Detached	2.00	PALATINE	06/30/11
6 9708 AVENEL FARM DR	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,510,000	Detached	0.57	AVENEL	06/03/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Bethesda (20817)

6409 Wilson Ln.....\$1,395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Denise Szczur.....Long & Foster...301-468-0606
 7604 Carteret Rd.....\$700,000.....Sun 1-4.....Hilde Dachera.....Weichert...301-718-4080
 7807 Fox Gate Ct.....\$1,075,000.....Sun 2-3.....Sherry Davis.....Wash Fine Prop...202-944-5000

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Home Life Style

Top 10 Things to Know

BY JOSH BAKER



Too many times, I've had to deliver the upsetting news to new homebuyers: the project they are considering is not feasible. With a little due diligence and expertise, the new homebuyers' disappointment could have been avoided.

Here are 10 things to consider when purchasing a house with the intention of a future remodeling project.

1. Check the local government's zoning ordinances. Don't assume that you have identical building rights as your neighbors. Regulations change and the location of your lot may be impacted.

2. Research neighborhood association restrictions. If you conduct a title search of the property, you should find the following: architectural design guidelines and review, construction materials requirements and even restrictions on how close you can build on the property line.

3. Never assume that an existing structure is adequate for future modifications. For instance, second floor ceiling structures are often inadequate flooring structures for remodeling attic space. Similarly, deck structures may not be appropriately designed to handle enclosed spaces.

4. Check system capacities. When you increase the size of the house, you'll likely have to create new capacity for heating and cooling.

5. Investigate policies regarding septic systems. It is critical that you understand the capacity of your existing system and what is entailed with expanding it. New technologies are becoming more widespread, which gives more options for expansion.

6. Be aware of hazardous materials. Many homes built prior to 1972 have lead paint or asbestos tile. Plan on the extra cost associated with the safe remediation of these materials.

7. Make sure that you understand your landscaping. Some trees and plantings are delicate and may be damaged by construction in close proximity. Consult a professional arborist to minimize damage.

8. Think through access for construction. One of the most overlooked aspects of a remodeling project is the logistics of transporting materials, equipment and personnel to the construction site.

9. Be realistic about timing. The permitting process in particular can be a harrowing experience. With new local restrictions, permitting can often take as long as six months.

10. Be realistic about your budget. Make sure you're conservative in developing a budget that will meet your needs.

Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, www.bowa.com

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Fall Sports Tryouts

Fall sports tryouts — football, field hockey, girls volleyball, girls tennis, boys soccer, girls soccer, golf, cross country — for Churchill, Whitman and Wootton sports begin Saturday, Aug. 13. Check next week's Almanac for the start of fall sports coverage.

MCSL Individual All-Star Winners

The 54th MCSL Individual All-Stars meet was held July 31 at Rockville Municipal Swim Center.

Nozomi Hoikawa (Tilden Woods) won the boys 12U 100 IM with a time of 1 minute, 8.3 seconds. Jaycee Yegher (Darnestown) won the girls 12U 100 IM (1:12.36), Darius Truong (Rockville) captured the boys 8U 25 free title with a time of 15.57 and Malia Bush (Regency Estates) won the girls 8U 25 free (16.49).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Timmy Ellett (Tilden Woods) won the boys 9-10 50 free (29.58), Ophelie Loblack (Rockville) won the girls 9-10 50 free (30.43), Grant Goddard (Palisades) finished No. 1 in the boys 13-14 50 free (24.53) and Kyra Kondis (James Creek) finished atop the girls 13-14 40 free standings (27.82).

Devin Truong (Rockville) won the 11-12 boys 50 free (27.57), Audrey Richter (Norbeck Hills) was the 11-12 girls 50 free winner (28.18), Matt Thomas (Manor Woods) was the top 15-18 boys 100 free swimmer (50.47) and Sidney Drill (Tilden Woods) won the girls 15-18 100 free



Members of the Wootton football team take part in a recent offseason conditioning session. Fall sports tryouts begin Aug. 13.

(59.32).

Carsten Vissering (Old Georgetown) won the 13-14 boys 100 IM (1:03.10), Hanna Lindsey (Regency Estates) was the top girls 13-14 100 IM finisher (1:08.78), James Collishaw (Old Georgetown) won the boys 8U 25 backstroke (19.23) and Phoebe Bacon (Tallyho) won the girls 8U 25 backstroke (19.03).

Djordje Orcev (Woodley Gardens) won the boys 9-10 backstroke (16.50), Julia Wang (Westleigh) finished atop the girls 9-10 25 backstroke standings (17.33), Matt Gibson (Eldwick) won the boys 15-18 backstroke (59.70) and Kristina Li (Stonebridge)

won the girls 15-18 backstroke (1:04.12).

Matthew Tiberino (Potomac Glen) won the boys 11-12 50 backstroke (31.32), Emily Wang (Upper County) captured the girls 11-12 50 backstroke title (32.68), Andrew Gibson (Westleigh) won the boys 13-14 50 backstroke (29.11) and Natsumi Horikawa (Tilden Woods) won the girls 13-14 50 backstroke (30.97).

Other winners were: Matt Thomas (Manor Woods, boys 15-18 100 IM, 57.45), Caroline Clark

(Mill Creek Towne, girls 15-18 100 IM, boys 8U 25 breaststroke, 1:07.35), Daniel Garcia (Inverness Forest, 21.15), Leah Kannan (Bethesda, girls 8U 25 breaststroke, 22.09), John Howley (Potomac Woods, boys 9-10 breaststroke, 18.61), Rachel Danegger (Little Falls, girls 9-10 25 breaststroke, 17.42), Devin Truong (Rockville, boys 11-12 50 breaststroke, 34.49), Yegher (Darnestown, girls 11-12 50 breaststroke, 35.09), Vissering (Old Georgetown, boys 13-14, 50 breaststroke 31.03), Kelsey Song (Woodcliffe, girls 13-14 50 breaststroke, 35.90), Fletcher Tollefson (Garrett Park, boys 15-18 100 breaststroke, 1:07.15) and Kelsey Liu (Quince Orchard, girls 15-18 100 breaststroke, 1:14.54).

More winners: Darius Truong (Rockville, boys 8U 25 butterfly, 16.07), Phoebe Bacon (Tallyho, girls 8U 25 butterfly, 17.21), Ellett (Tilden Woods, boys 9-10 25 butterfly, 15.12), Sammie Grant (Daleview, girls 9-10 butterfly, 15.40), Griffin Alaniz (Connecticut Belair, 30.72), Audrey Richter (Norbeck Hills, girls 11-12 50 butterfly, 31.35), Goddard (Palisades, boys 13-14 50 butterfly, 26.05), Scarlett Sun (Rockville, girls 13-14 50 butterfly, 29.98), Will Lawler (Merrimack Park, boys 15-18 50 butterfly, 26.67) and Anna Epstein (Tilden Woods, girls 15-18 50 butterfly, 29.35).

Bulldog Golf Classic

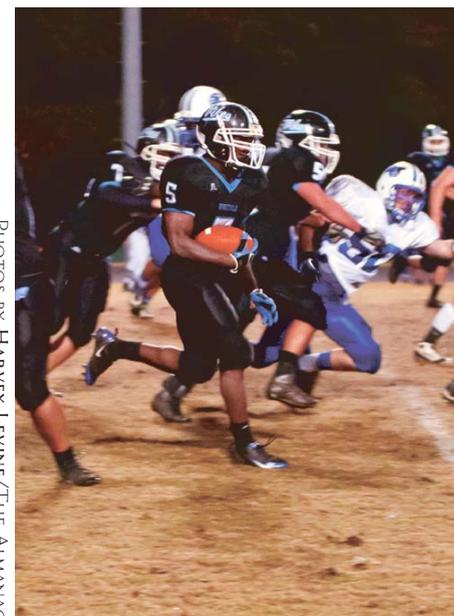
The Eighth Annual Bulldog Golf Classic, an event organized by the Winston Churchill High School Athletic Booster Club, will be held Aug. 10 at Whiskey Creek Golf Club at 4804 Whiskey Court in Ijamsville. The event is open to the community.

American Legion Baseball Players Wanted

The Montgomery College Rockville baseball team is looking for American Legion or showcase-quality players for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 seasons. The Rockville Express of the Cal Ripken League plays their home games at MC Rockville. Contact Coach Rick Price at 240-447-6948 for more information.

Sports Updates on Twitter

Follow sports editor Jon Roetman on Twitter at @jonroetman for sports updates around Montgomery County and Northern Virginia.



Whitman running back Val Djidotor carries the ball against Churchill last season. Fall sports tryouts for the 2011 season begin Aug. 13.



Whitman's Catherine Benz, left, swings against Churchill's Sarafina Arthur-Williams last season.



Alex Fox takes a swing last season for the Churchill field hockey team. Fall sports tryouts for the 2011 campaign begin Aug. 13.

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OPINION

Writing On!



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Having written a number of columns on the subject (probably close to 125 at this juncture), I suppose I could admit to being somewhat of a reasonable source of insight, and possibly even a provider of some actual information, about being a cancer patient; more specifically, a cancer patient who's received a terminal prognosis. Although in the past I've mocked my knowledge as maybe being worthy of a chapter or two in a book, 28 months post-diagnosis however, changes that. Perhaps there is indeed a book to be written, or at least an anthology of cancer columns (as I endearingly call them) offered for public consumption. Their publication has served my individual good; maybe the "greater good" could likewise be served.

Or maybe not. Maybe simply the act of writing them has served its purpose; extending my life way beyond what my initial prognosis: "13 months to two years" might have led me to believe. Perhaps because I've had an outlet that enabled me to regularly get out so much of what was in, I have endured my "terminal" status better than my oncologist anticipated. Moreover, in writing as often and as personally as I have, maybe I've simply – inadvertently – deluded myself into some kind of ongoing pursuit of life, liberty and happiness that has unwittingly sustained me. After all, it was the Fourth of July recently, which I hereby declare my new favorite holiday.

Then again, there may not be any rhyme or reason why here I sit – upright, pen in hand, 30 months after a biopsy indicated malignant stage IV tumors in my lungs resulting in the rather disappointing diagnosis/prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009. Nevertheless, not everybody dies from whatever they have despite what their attending physician tells and/or predicts for them. As my brother, Richard, said way back when: "There are exceptions to every rule. You'll be the exception that disproves the rule." And so far he's been right. I do seem to be an exception (we must know of half a dozen people who were similarly diagnosed – after me, who've not survived). Why he's right, exactly, is a topic of some debate (not that we argue about it though; duh!). Is it luck? Happenstance? Lifestyle changes? Diet? Stress reduction? Genetic anomalies? Who knows? So far, it just is. As Elaine from Seinfeld said, in a completely different subject: "Oh, it be." And I am sure thankful that it be.

Still, I can't stop questioning my good fortune – sometimes. I don't really need any kind of a definitive answer, but if I knew, maybe I'd be better able to accept my circumstances and not question every little thing that I think, feel, sense, think I feel I sense, etc. Sometimes, good fortune – in a peculiar way, is as thought-provoking and mind-altering as bad fortune. Good fortune – to me, is likely temporary. Bad fortune seems more permanent. As I further rationalize it: if good turns to bad, that's a negative reaction – which I'm trying to avoid; however, if bad turns to good, that's a positive reaction which is extremely beneficial. For me, it's easier to live with unexpectedly – and surprisingly – good news than it is to receive unexpectedly bad news. Good news I could handle ("bank error in your favor"). Bad news not so much. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best. That's how I roll: with the punches.

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

Going Behind Citizens' Backs

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Thank you for your July 11 response to my letter of June 13, in which I stated concerns about transparency, duty, and due process regarding the Brickyard Road public land use plan.

Since our last correspondence, the Maryland State Compliance Board has twice cited the

County Board of Education with violating the Open Meetings Act for conducting closed meetings with your office regarding re-leasing and repurposing the Brickyard tract, which has, for the past 31 years, been in the stewardship of an organic farmer.

In your response, you stated that the County had not contracted with anyone to construct soccer fields at Brickyard Road. You, in fact, met with Montgomery Soccer Incorporated's Field Development Task Force in early 2010 to discuss possible field development opportunities in the County, where points of contact were provided to help MSI continue to pursue future development opportunities. Your own website states you are seeking input regarding the construction of soccer fields on the Brickyard site and there is a Montgomery County webpage devoted to "Brickyard Road Soccer Fields."

In 2009, Montgomery Soccer Incorporated allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars to initiate a significant lobbying campaign in order to garner public land, including, but not limited to, the Brickyard Road organic farm tract. After your Nov. 10, 2009 letter to Board of Education Vice President Shirley Brandman, MCBOE gave control of the Brickyard lease to the County. We, your constituents in Potomac, were pur-

posely left out of the loop. You stated that you held public meetings to solicit input for the RFP and that you also met with community members opposed to the Brickyard school site. These meetings occurred in 2011, two years after you or your staff held closed meetings with MCBOE and members of MSI. Your decision to bulldoze a nationally-recognized organic farm and hand over the land to a private corporation is not like restoring a local public park for the benefit of a whole community. It is a major shift of public land to private use that will remove green space from the public domain and create a catastrophic impact on neighborhood life and the environment.

You said the Potomac Master Plan "explicitly recognizes that future school sites offer potential for fulfilling some of the recreation needs of the Potomac Subregion and that all school sites not otherwise recommended in the Plan for environmental conservation should be considered for other public uses." It is deplorable the way you have twisted the true intent of our Master Plan to achieve your own personal ends. I believe the citizens of the Potomac Community and Potomac Subregion have a constitutional right to participate in decisions regarding their public land use. Potomac has plenty of public soccer fields. This community doesn't need four more private ones.

You stated in your 2010 inaugural address, "I want to thank the County voters who elected me to a second term. I am humbled and honored because of the trust you have placed in me." You also said, "I talked about giving every County resident a seat at the table and a voice in the decisions that shape their lives." I hope you will re-consider your decision to go behind the backs of your constituents to make deals with special interest groups that will result in the destruction of communities.

Mary Kathleen Ernst

ENGAGEMENTS

Dickinson To Wed McCulloch

Mrs. Linda Yerg Dickinson Fuortes and Mr. Greg Fuortes of Potomac are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary-Helen Katherine Dickinson, to Mr. Tim McCulloch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCulloch of Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Miss Dickinson attended Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, and graduated from The Bullis School in Potomac. She graduated from Villanova University magna cum laude, with a bachelor of arts degree in communication in 2008. Currently Miss Dickinson is entering her third year at Villanova Law School.

Mr. McCulloch attended the Haverford School in Haverford, Pa. for 14 years before graduating in 2002. He graduated from Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., in 2006 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. Mr. McCulloch currently works for IMG College selling corporate sponsorships around Villanova athletics.

The wedding will take place in late August 2012, at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Villanova, Pa.



Mary-ellen Dickinson and Timothy McCulloch

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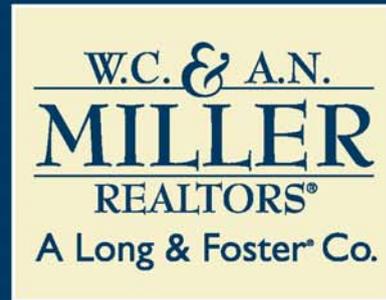
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