

Potomac ALMANAC

One hundred-seventy acres of the original Mt. Prospect Farms — one of the last working farms in Potomac — will now be offered for sale.

Newcomers and Community Guide

INSIDE

Community Mourns Loss of Wootton Principal

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM



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MASS TIMES

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8:30am-10:30am
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Our Lady of Mercy School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for Excellence in 1998, and for the second time in 2009 by the United States Department of Education.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Dr. Alan Goodwin, principal of Walt Whitman High School, speaks at the memorial service for Dr. Michael Doran at Wootton High School football field on Friday, Aug. 21.

Community Mourns Principal

Michael Doran called
“A servant leader.”

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

“May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way to your door.”

This Irish blessing was read in harmony by the more than 3,000 mourners who attended the memorial service for Dr. Michael Doran, principal of Wootton High School for 12 years. Doran died suddenly on Wednesday, Aug. 19, of natural causes at his Bethesda apartment. He was 64-years-old, born in Ireland and fond of ending his speeches to the Wootton community with an Irish quotation.

Doran was much-loved by students, staff and parents. He was known as a caring educator who knew students by name, had an uncanny ability to remember their interests, enjoyed sharing their French fries and attending their soccer games, badminton club and football games — as well as the many other activities that his students participated in. He was a hands-on administrator who was highly regarded by the many teachers who worked for him at both Wootton and Pyle Middle School where he had previously been an administrator. His Irish sense of humor was quick and witty; he enjoyed attending principal’s meetings wearing shorts and a Hawaiian shirt and flip-flops. He was a one-of-a-kind principal for this award-winning high school — and a mentor to many Montgomery County Public Schools administrators who modeled their leadership styles after Doran. He didn’t strive for Wootton to be a “good” school; he wanted it to be the “best.”

Doran, who grew up in Reading, England, graduated from the Battle Secondary Modern School and then from the University of Southampton in Hampshire, England. He moved to the United States in 1976 to marry his sweetheart Kathy Lavinder with “a suitcase in each hand and \$50 in his pocket,” according to Father Phillip Ellsworth, Associate Rector

of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac which the Doran family has attended since 1988. Doran earned his Ph.D. in education at Columbia University in New York City and then moved to the mid-Atlantic. He was an employee of MCPS for 18 years. He is survived by his wife Kathy, children Samuel and Emma, and a brother, Ciaran Doran.



Michael Doran

Doran taught Sunday school at St. Francis for many years and the family has always been active in the church. “Michael was what every saint is, a ‘life-giver.’ I always felt more alive whenever I was around his fiercely vital impish Irish spirit,” Ellsworth said. “He was at St. Francis and everywhere else a constant source of joy. After the Mass here Saturday, his colleagues, one after the other spoke of their deep admiration and love for him, and why wouldn’t they? Michael was a servant leader who was always finding a way to help others do good and grow, personally and professionally. He was a legend for helping student, faculty, church members and associates grow and advance. For all his achievements, he was humble to a fault; if anyone tried to praise him, they might as well have saved their breath: Michael would change the subject. Michael (‘Mick’, his Irish brother calls him) lived life abundantly as a man does who knows he’s loved. Given who loved him most and best — his Irish Anglican mother, his Irish Catholic father, his lovely wife Kathy and his children Sam and Emma, and first and last the God who raised Jesus from the dead — of course he was a true gem. St. Francis Episcopal Church as a community suffered a terrible blow in his death, but death isn’t the end of Michael any more than it was the end of the One who promised him a resurrection.”

Wootton Drama teacher Jessica Speck said, “The loss of Dr. Doran so suddenly and at this time has been very difficult. We are all still processing and

SEE ‘A SERVANT LEADER’, PAGE 16

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Mt. Prospect Farms To Be Developed

One of last working farms in Potomac.

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

“I’ve been here since 1941 and I love this place. I rode horseback from here to Landon School and spent my summers farming,” said Bob Hanson, 91, recalling the days when Potomac was primarily farming and fox hunting country.

Nearly 75 years ago Hanson’s parents, Minna and William Hanson, bought the original property and named it Mt. Prospect Farms. It was the beginning of what was to become a conglomeration of many acres. “I think it was Dad who said, ‘If we can see other land from here we will see if it’s for sale, buy it and farm it,’” Bob Hanson’s son, John C. Hanson said.

He did, eventually accumulating nearly a thousand acres, many of which have been developed over the years. However, 170 acres of the original Mt. Prospect Farms have remained intact and will now be offered for sale.

A letter signed by John C. Hanson, Trustee, has been mailed to neighbors surrounding the Hanson property that is located near the intersection of Travilah, Dufief and Quince Orchard roads.

In essence, the letter states, “In the early 2000’s Montgomery County adopted the Potomac Subregion Master Plan. This plan created very specific requirements controlling the future development of the property.” Sixty-five percent single family detached homes, the rest single-family attached homes, will combine for an accumulation of 187 dwellings. “The developed area of the site shall not exceed 50 percent of the property, excluding a 10-acre local park,” John Hanson said.

He also stated in the letter, “The family reserves the right, at any time and for any reason, to cease or modify this selection



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Nearly 75 years ago, Minna and William Hanson bought the original property and named it Mt. Prospect Farms.

process and/or withdraw the property for sale.”

Hanson said, “I have enjoyed my association with the farm for my whole life. From going out this morning in my office suit and dress shoes to mend a fence a tree limb fell on, to working with the cattle all these years.” It was later learned Hanson had received an 8 a.m. call from a neighbor that morning that a black cow was in the Travilah School parking lot.

“We got the cow back in the field, counted the herd to make sure all were there and found an extra,” he said. A baby calf was born just minutes before the head count was taken.

“I’ve worked with cattle all these years and will miss that. But, the farm requires

SEE FROM FARM TO HOUSING, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

Robert M. Hanson inspects his Aberdeen Angus herd last fall.



The farm’s future should be decided by spring 2016.

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Cattle soak in the sun on a field at Mt. Prospect Farms.

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 ♦ 3



Weekday Shabbat & Holiday Services Early Childhood Center Religious School & Youth Programming



Visit **11510 Falls Road, Potomac, MD**
Call **301.299.7087**
Click **HarShalom.org**

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Almanac

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Potomac Almanac's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an expanded and updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

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

Keep in Touch

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Email to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

The Almanac is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in

SEE ABOUT THE ALMANAC, PAGE 20

Potomac Adaptive Sports Court Dedication Ceremony



*Montgomery County
Executive Isiah Leggett*

*Montgomery County
Council Members*

*Montgomery County
Recreation and The
Friends of Potomac
Recreation Center, Inc.*

*Cordially invite you
to the Dedication
Ceremony for the
**Potomac
Adaptive
Sports Court***



Potomac Community Recreation Center
11315 Falls Road Potomac, Maryland 20854
September 10, 2015 11:30 a.m.



Sign language interpreter services and other auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request. If you will need these services to participate in the event, please provide as much advanced notice as possible but no less than 3 business days prior to the event. Last minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fulfill. Please call 240-777-6870 (voice) or rec.mainstream@montgomerycountymd.gov to request these services.

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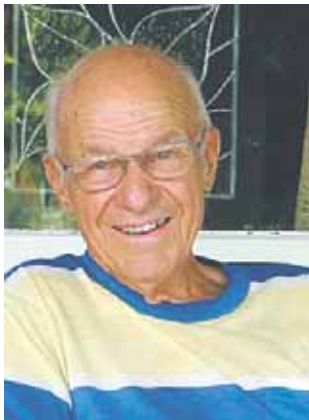
OBITUARY

William King Schumacher

William "Bill" Schumacher of Annapolis died on July 27, 2015 from complications suffered after a fall. He was 85. He is survived by his daughters, Linda Diane Schumacher (Mark Sides), Carol Schumacher Broome (John), and Debra Schumacher Mahoney (Christopher); his step-daughters, Cynda Green and Kinee Hanson (Jeff Rainsford); his grandchildren, Christopher, Andrew, Stephanie, Aimee, London, Chase, Claire, and Jillian, and his step-granddaughter, Jessica; his great-grandchildren, Charlee and Milo; his cousin and lifelong dearest friend, Tom Worthington; and his nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Bill was born in Annapolis in 1929 to Theodore and Elizabeth Thomas Schumacher, and together with his siblings, Tom, "Ted," and "Bette," spent his childhood moving about the U.S. as the son of a Navy Captain. The family would travel back to Annapolis each summer to Arundel on the Bay, where the extended family gathered at the summer home of their grandfather, William H. Thomas, for cherished days of swimming, boating, and crabbing. Bill's passion for the Chesapeake began in these early years.

His family moved to Chevy Chase, where Bill graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and earned a Business Associates degree from Montgomery College. In 1949, at the age of 20, he co-founded Mitch and Bill's Esso (Exxon) service station located at the crossroads in Potomac, together



with his partner and longtime friend Clyde E. "Mitch" Mitchell, a business they co-owned for more than 30 years and one that remains an institution in the Potomac community to this day. In 1950, Bill married Virginia Lee Bangs, with whom he raised three daughters in Bethesda. They built a summer home on the South River in Annapolis in 1967 where Bill continued his lifelong bond with the Chesapeake. After his divorce in 1972, Bill married Ruth Marie Culbertson (nee Peterson), and the two remained in Annapolis where

they spent many happy years living on the water. He retired in 1982.

Bill knew every river and creek on the Chesapeake and had traveled most of them by boat. He was an avid power boater, and as members of the Annapolis Sail and Power Squadron, Bill and Ruth enjoyed many overnight trips aboard their boat, the "2Schus II." Ruth died in 2011.

Bill could fix anything, loved cars and all things mechanical, and caught and steamed the best-tasting crabs on the Bay.

He also enjoyed years of morning walks with the Hillsmere Shores walking group. Above all, Bill loved spending long, beautiful days by the Bay with his family and friends, among whom he will be greatly missed and always loved. A Celebration of Life is planned for mid-September. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation <http://www.cbf.org/>

YOGA CLASSES IN POTOMAC

Kula Yoga

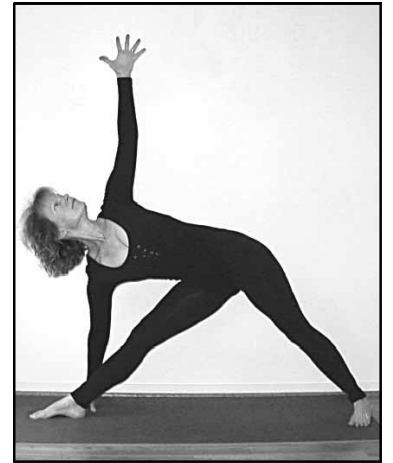
St. James Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road

Monday – Friday: 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday: 7:30 P.M.

For more information, please contact:

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Brains Don't Bounce: What You Should Know About Falls and Memory

A FREE DEMENTIA EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tuesday, September 1, 2015
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Featuring Guest Speaker Susan I. Wranik, MS, MA, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist, President
Susan I. Wranik Associates, LLC

Breaking a hip or a leg is a major concern with a fall. But what about your brain? Did you know that hitting your head can affect thought and memory, and even the ability to chew and swallow? Topics to be discussed include:

- Who is most likely to fall and why?
- Where do most falls occur?
- What happens to your memory when you fall?
- What is the special four-step memory sequence to keep you from falling?

RSVP for this event by calling (301) 980-2656
or e-mailing Potomac@arden-courts.com

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NEWCOMERS

To Protect and Preserve

By SUSANNE LEE
PRESIDENT, WEST MONTGOMERY
COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Wooded stream valley parks, wetlands, meadows, extensive tree canopy, rustic roads, rich biodiversity, including rare, threatened, and endangered species, and the crown jewels – the C & O Canal Historical Park and the Potomac River. These are the Potomac Subregion's environmental treasures. Their natural beauty enriches our personal lives in many intangible ways and the tangible environmental services they provide protect the area's soil, the air we breathe and the water we drink.

They are major draws for those who choose to live, work, and play here.

Established by concerned citizens in 1947, the West Montgomery County Citizens Association (WMCCA) works tirelessly to protect, preserve, and promote the very best of the Potomac Subregion while minimizing adverse impacts to the environment and our overall quality of life. The Subregion was designated by the Montgomery County Council as a "low density residential wedge area, which would complement the developed 1-270 corridor" and protect the public water supply and the agricultural reserve. The 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan reaffirmed this "Green Wedge" function and maintains Potomac's semi-rural character through low-density zoning, limited sewer capacity, the two-lane road network, and a confined commercial core.

These limit impervious surfaces, enhance forest and tree cover, and protect streams, wetlands and the Potomac River, the major source of public drinking water. WMCCA's primary focus remains grounded in the principles enunciated in the Master Plan.

WMCCA pursues its goals in a collaborative fashion working with citizens, scientific experts, and local, state, and national officials. A major emphasis is placed on the dissemination and consideration of information critical to the development of environmentally sound, practical approaches to decision making.

Citizen involvement is strengthened by providing individuals with the information and tools they need to address their particular concerns. As a result, WMCCA is

often the "go-to" organization when individuals are faced with unexpected, unwarranted threats to their neighborhoods. WMCCA members meet frequently with government officials, testify, and, if needed, initiate legal action to ensure citizen concerns are heard and that actions taken are consistent with the Master Plan and the relevant statutes and regulations.

Membership is open to all who live in the Potomac Subregion. If you haven't already, we encourage you to join and participate in our efforts. WMCCA holds monthly meetings open to all, not just WMCCA members, on the second Wednesday of the month from October through May at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road beginning at 7:15 p.m. Programs feature a wide range of speakers, citizen concerns, development proposals, and environmental issues relevant to our community. Additional information concerning WMCCA, including membership information, is available at www.wmcca.org. Check the Potomac Almanac and the WMCCA website for details on upcoming meetings.

WMCCA is currently following these important issues:

- ❖ Maryland Catering Co. (Mark Reges and Sara Reges) conditional use application to construct a 9,000 sq. ft. wedding/banquet/business meeting venue for 240 customers, a 4 unit motel, and 80 parking spaces on land north of Old Angler's Inn at 10801 MacArthur Blvd.;

- ❖ Rockwood Park Feasibility Study - proposal to make changes to this event venue operated by the Montgomery County Parks Department, including a possible new exit on Belfast Road;

- ❖ Glen Hills – Montgomery County Executive Leggett proposed sewer policy text amendments for adoption by the Montgomery County Council;

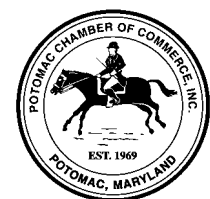
- ❖ Implementation of the new Montgomery County Zoning Code;

- ❖ WSSC's proposed Mid-River Intake at the River Road Infiltration Facility; and,

- ❖ Brandywine Senior Living conditional use application for a facility at the current site of the Potomac Tennis Club on Falls Road.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Robert M. Hanson in his car overlooking his livestock.

From Farm to Housing Development

FROM PAGE 3

more attention than we can give it now," he said.

His nonagenarian father, Bob, admitted he mowed and raked about 100 tons of hay this summer for his 42 head of cattle. For anyone who has known him over the years this would be no surprise. He has been involved over 50 years with the Boy Scouts of America, as a scout master and one year took 40 local boys to the 13th World Jamboree of Scouts in Japan, where he recalled they camped on Mt. Fuji.

He was also one of the 14 original founders of The Montgomery County Fair where he

helped build the original buildings, is a member of the Upper Montgomery County Farmer's Club, of

which his father was one of the founders, and he is involved in 4-H Club activities.

Another son, Tim, and his family, lives next door to Bob. Their home, where they keep their horses, will not be included in the sale. Charles "Chuck" Hanson, the third son, lives in Lakewood, Colo.

"We are going to take this slowly. We have been told this is a multi-year process," John

Hanson said, referring to the sale. According to the letter sent to neighbors, "We have not placed the property on the open market but have invited a select number of developers to join us in private negotiations. We hope to make a decision on the disposition of the property by spring 2016," it stated.

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POTOMAC ALMANAC GUIDE TO POTOMAC RIVER

Enjoy the Potomac River &

COMPILED BY KEN MOORE AND
MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC

Potomac is bordered by more than 12 miles of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, including the towpath and the Potomac River. Living in Potomac provides opportunities to enjoy the sights and sounds of the river with outdoor activities ranging from an easy stroll to a challenging hike; a flat bike ride of a few miles to multi-day bike trip; rock climbing, world-class whitewater kayaking or a gentle paddle on flatwater. Wildlife is abundant and birders flock to area. All outdoor areas of the C&O Canal National Historical Park are open daylight hours year round. Visitors pay an entrance fee at the entrance to Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center at Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard, but access everywhere else is free. Three-day pass for a vehicle is \$10; a person on foot is \$5; annual pass is \$30.

See www.nps.gov/choh

Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center and Olmsted Overlook

11710 MacArthur Blvd.
301-767-3714



Great Falls Tavern

If you haven't seen Great Falls, it's time. Enter the C&O Canal National Historical Park here for up close views of Great Falls by walking 0.2 miles over the Olmsted Island Bridges to the overlook at the end. Bridges and boardwalks traverse a rare floodplain terrace environment, ending with an observation deck over the spectacular views of the Falls and the head of Mather Gorge.

Accessible for wheelchairs and strollers. The tavern is open year round, seven days per week from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. <http://www.nps.gov/archive/choh/Visitor/Centers/GreatFalls.html>

ABOUT THE FALLS, from The Geologic Story of Great Falls and the Potomac River Gorge published by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1980:

"In its seaward course, the Potomac River crosses many small rapids and cascades, but these are insignificant in comparison with the foaming fury of Great Falls, where the river drops 12 meters in about 180 meters and is channeled into a narrow rock-walled gorge less than 25 meters wide in places. In the summer the flow may be less than 38,000 liters a second, but during floods the flow commonly reaches 40 million liters a second. The average flow pouring over the falls is 349,000 liters of water every second and in a year, more than 9.5 trillion liters, enough water to flood the entire District of Columbia to a depth of 55 meters, converting the Washington Monument into a tall lighthouse."

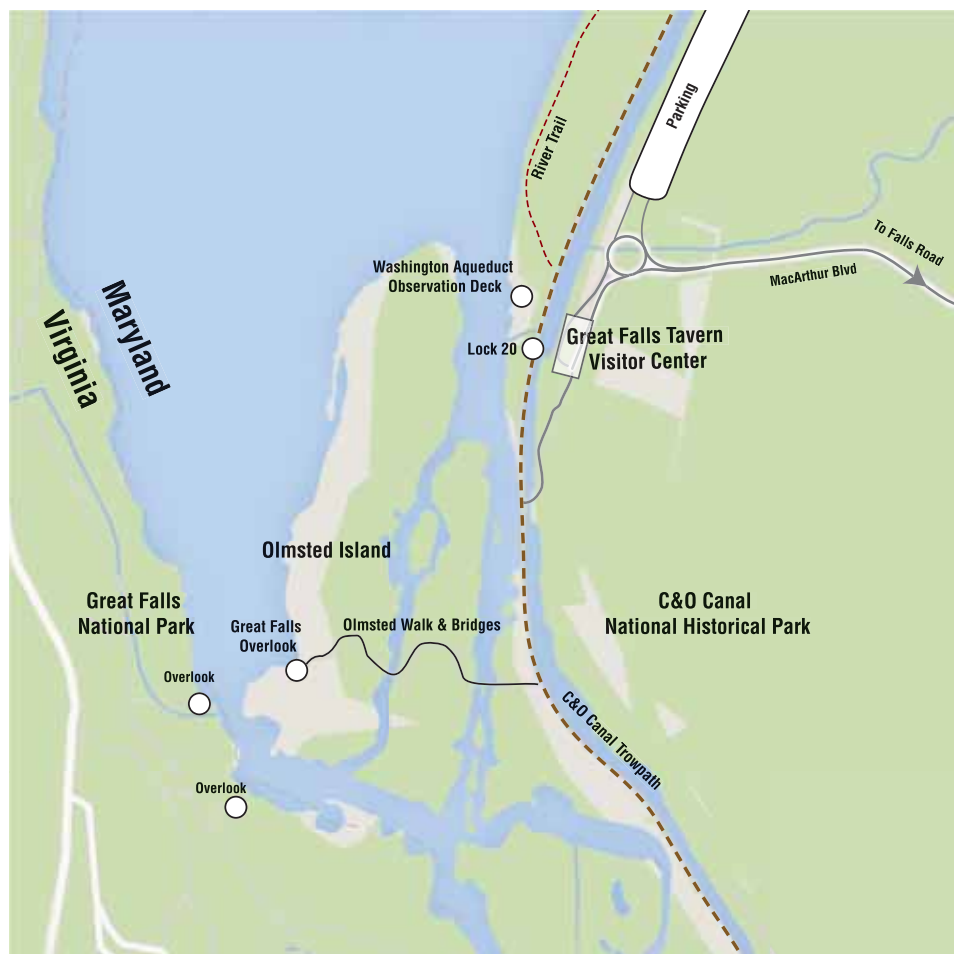
Great Falls Mule Drawn Boat Rides: Take a trip back in time to the 1870s Ride along the historic C&O Canal in a boat pulled by mules. Experience rising 8 feet in a lock. Hear park interpreters in period clothing describe what life was like for the families that lived and worked on the canal. \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children 4-15. Children under three ride free. The boat runs May to October, with a typical schedule on Saturday & Sunday - 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m. Call ahead to confirm. 301-767-3714

INSIDER'S TIP: The Gold Mine Trail can be accessed at the top of the entrance to Great Falls, at the intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard, or near the Great Falls Tavern Visitor's center. Trails, which can be used for running with some steep inclines, pass the remains of an old building that was used from 1900-1939 to mine gold.

BILLY GOAT TRAIL

Thousands hike the Billy Goat Trail every year, with access from the Old Angler's site or from the Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center or Carderock. The loop between the C&O Canal and Potomac River is less than five miles long but has steep and rocky sections. Bring water and wear good walking shoes. No flip flops or ballet slippers. Allow plenty to time to stop and enjoy spectacular views of the cliffs, Potomac River passing through the gorge and sensitive vegetation and rare plants. This hike that is marked by light blue trail blazes to keep visitors from trampling on Bear Island's many rare plants and sensitive vegetation. The trail can be rough and rocky with steep climbs. But the trail is one of the most popular hikes in all of the metropolitan area, which can be done by people of all ages.

INSIDER'S TIP: The park service seeks volunteer trail stewards willing to hike parts of the trail, educate visitors at the trailheads, protect the natural resources of Bear Island, ensure visitors are prepared for the strenuous hike, share stories about the sensitive vegetation, and reduce trampling of the Bear Island's many rare plants. Active trail stewards carry park radios for emergency communication and receive basic first aid training to help with minor injuries. www.chohvip.org/billy_goats/



Geese and gosling in the C&O Canal

C&O Canal National Park

Carderock Recreation Area

301-767-3731

Reach this 200-acre part of the park from the Clara Barton Parkway at the Naval Surface Warfare exit. Rock climbers visit Carderock daily for its famous for cliffs. The recreation area includes playing fields, a large picnic pavilion available by reservation and access to the Potomac River and the Billy Goat Trail.

INSIDER'S TIP: Get involved on the river by joining the Bike Patrol, becoming a Billy Goat Trail Steward, or volunteering to help run the Canal Boat, or serving as a docent at the River Center at Lockhouse 8. www.chohvip.org

Old Angler's Inn Access

Across from 10801 MacArthur Blvd.

Between Carderock and Great Falls, you can also get across the canal to the towpath and the River across from Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Boulevard. A popular spot for kayakers and stand-up paddleboarders, and a great spot to find outdoor adventure companies teaching beginning to advanced paddleboarding, kayaking and canoeing. Hiking enthusiasts have quick access to the Billy Goat Trail from here, or those who simply want to take an evening stroll or bike ride along the Berma Road or around Widewater, the area of the canal used for turning large boats around..

Swain's Lock

Swain's Lock Road (off River Road)

Campsites are available at Swain's Lock, one of the largest of the canal lockhouses. The lockhouse is named for Jess Swain, a lock-keeper in the early 1900s whose father helped in the excavation and construction of the canal. After running a boat rental and refreshment stand at Swain's Lock for almost a century, the family ceased operations in 2006.

Pennyfield Lock

Pennyfield Road (off River Road)

The three-mile walk from Pennyfield Lock to Violette's Lock takes you through many kinds of bird habitat and around Blockhouse Point. Pennyfield Lock was President Grover Cleveland's favorite destination when he went on fishing excursions, according to the Potomac Master Plan. The Pennyfield Lockhouse, built in 1879 inland from the lock house, was the home of lock-keeper Charles W. Pennyfield.

INSIDER'S TIP: Pennyfield Lock is also home to a lockhouse built in 1830 that you can rent by the night. The Canal Quarters Interpretive Program invites visitors to stay in a historic lockhouse for a day and night to learn about the living conditions of a lockkeeper's family. www.canalquarters.org/



Many kinds of boats and boards launch from the Seneca Creek boat ramp at Riley's Lock.

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

14750 River Road,
Darnestown, MD 20854

(301) 670-8080

www.blockhousepoint.org

Those who know the 630 acres of land that straddles River Road between Tobytown and Callithea Farm call Blockhouse Point the jewel of Potomac. The natural and cultural resources at Blockhouse Point are amongst the most valuable in the country.

The park contains a variety of exceptional and rare habitat, including mature upland forest, floodplain forest, wetlands, streams and river-rock outcrops. Nine species of threatened, endangered or watchlist species of plants have been identified in the park, along with 25 species of fish, nine species of amphibians, four species of reptiles, 39 species of nesting birds and 10 species of mammals.

Blockhouse Point also tells of Potomac's history. During the Civil War, the 19th



Bikes are available for to borrow for free at Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd. in Potomac.

Regiment Massachusetts Voluntary Infantry built three blockhouses in 1862 to guard Violette's Lock and Pennyfield Lock, taking advantage of panoramic

views from Blockhouse Point. Union sentries kept watch for Confederate movements across the river and at area fords.

SEE POTOMAC, PAGE 11

Potomac Almanac

Guide to Parks

Potomac is home to a remarkable diversity of parks, national parks, state parkland, county parks, conservation parks, equestrian parks, parks with adaptive playgrounds, parks with trains, dog parks, parks with ice skating rinks, parks that offer access to the Potomac River where the water is flat and inviting and parks that offer access to the Potomac River where the water can be deadly. Here, in an annual tradition, is our updated guide to much of what Potomac's parks have to offer.

SEE PAGES 6, 7 AND 11 FOR MORE ON RECREATION ALONG THE POTOMAC RIVER

1 Carderock Recreation Area

301-767-3731

Reach this 200-acre part of the park from the Clara Barton Parkway at the Naval Surface Warfare exit.

2 Old Angler's Inn Access

Across from 10801 MacArthur Blvd.

Between Carderock and Great Falls, you can also get across the canal to the towpath and the River across from Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Boulevard.

3 BILLY GOAT TRAIL

Access from the Old Angler's site or from the Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center or Carderock. The loop between the C&O Canal and Potomac River is less than five miles long but has steep and rocky sections.

4 Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center and Olmsted Overlook

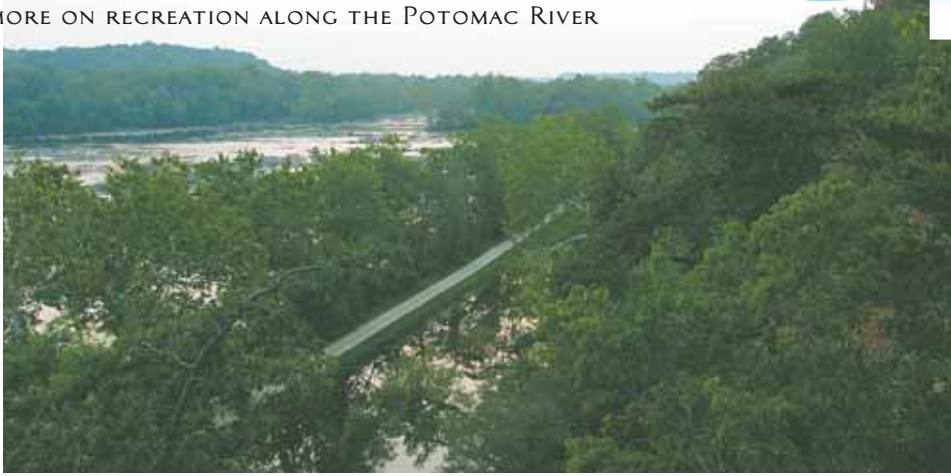
11710 MacArthur Blvd.
301-767-3714

5 Swain's Lock Road

Swain's Lock Road (off River Road)

6 Pennyfield Lock

Pennyfield Road (off River Road)



Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

7 The River Center (Lockhouse 8)

7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John
http://potomac.org/river-center
The River Center at Lockhouse 8, reached from the Clara Barton Parkway between Carderock and Cabin John, is open Saturdays and Sundays from May through October, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

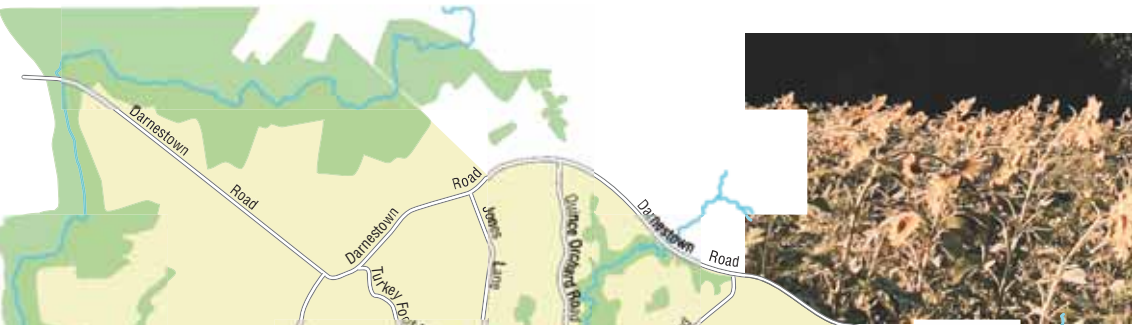
8 Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

14750 River Road, Darnestown, MD 20854
(301) 670-8080
www.blockhousepoint.org
http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/trailmap_pdfs/blockhouse_trails.pdf



County Executive Ike Leggett cuts the ribbon at the opening of the rebuilt and rededicated Bette Carol Thompson Scotland Community Center in November, 2014.

POTOMAC NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



20 Potomac Horse Center

14211 Quince Orchard Rd.
301-208-0200
potomachorse.com

County-owned and privately run, this large facility offers lessons at all levels year round, summer camp, birthday parties and special events. Featuring riding classes for "Mini Mites" (5-8 year old children) through adults of all levels. Classical Dressage, Combined Training, and a Hunter/Jumper program are available with riders competing under different trainers. Variety of activities with approximately 12 horse shows a year, as well as clinics featuring many disciplines, and other recreational opportunities such as birthday pony parties, individual pony rides, trail riding classes through wooded parkland, open houses, a summer horse camp program, therapeutic horseback riding, and more.



Falls Road Golf Course

21 Rockwood Manor Educational Center and Special Park

11001 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac
301-563-7510
http://www.montgomeryparks.org/event_centers/rockwood.shtm

Built in the 1920s, the Manor was the former country estate of Carolyn Gangwer Caughey. Set on 30 acres of woods and adjacent to the C&O Canal, Rockwood Manor offers a secluded and naturally beautiful venue. Rockwood Manor's overnight lodgings are available for destination weddings, multi-day business retreats or training sessions, family reunions, workshops, weekend or weekday getaways and other events. Facilities for weddings, meetings, with overnight accommodations and dormitories for youth groups.

13 Cabin Jo Regional Park

7400 Tuckerman Lane
www.montgomeryparks.org/facilities/regional_parks/cabinjohn/

This 528-acre park centrally located offers an Adventure playground, miniature train rides, dog park, picnic areas, campgrounds, nature center, a Tai Chi court, hiking and nature trails. Shirley Povich Field, one of several ball fields, is home to the Bethesda Big Train team and the Georgetown University baseball team, and seats 750. Other sports facilities include a lighted baseball field, 5 softball fields (1 lighted), 4 lighted tennis practice walls, 9 lighted tennis courts, a pee-wee soccer field, 4 single wall handball courts and one volleyball court.

14 Locust Grove Nature Center

7777 Democracy Boulevard
301-765-8660
www.montgomeryparks.org/nature_centers/locust/VirtualTour.shtm

Hike the upper meadow of the Locust Grove Nature Center and look for monarch butterflies and caterpillars, listen for wrens and bluebirds, or watch for box turtles crossing the path in the early morning. Wander to the Lower Meadow and watch bats in the late afternoon, sit under the shade of a 200-year-old sycamore and spot minnows, crayfish, bathing birds of beaver activity in the

Cabin John Creek. Locust Grove offers programs featuring local natural and cultural history for children, teens and adults. Currently, naturalists teach tots a class on "Bugs, Slugs and Other Thugs," 12-16 year olds how to become a virtual wildlife rehabilitator and treatment methods for injured and orphaned wildlife.

INSIDER'S TIP: The Locust Grove Nature Center trains adults to become volunteer naturalists, with courses on stream ecology and pollinators. Numerous civic leaders monitor water quality in streams throughout the Potomac region. Get involved.

15 Robert C. McDonell Campground

7701 Tuckerman Lane,
301-495-2525 (for permits)
16
Cabin John Ice Skating Rink
10610 Westlake Drive
301-765-8620

Ice skating in August? Yes indeed. An assortment of programs including lessons and rental times. Sessions are available for the general public, adults only and family time. Rental skates and a snack bar are located within the facility. Call for schedules and fees. http://www.cabinjohnice.org/



C.R. Huntington Miniature Train

17 Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center

7801 Democracy Boulevard
301-765-8650

Features six indoor tennis courts, a lounge area, and two locker rooms with showers for patrons' use. Professional on-site racquet restringing and regripping is also available. Private and group lessons for all ages and seasonal court rentals.

18 C.R. Huntington Miniature Train

7410 Tuckerman Lane
301-765-8670 Train Information; call 301-650-2880 Party Room Reservations

The miniature train is a replica of an 1863 C.P. Huntington, a locomotive purchased by the Southern Pacific Railroad, with five passenger cars, and carries visitors on a ten-minute, two-mile ride through the park. Aug. 25 - 29, Closed Aug. 30 & 31, Open 10am-6pm September, Open Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day, 10am-6pm

Dog Park

10900 Westlake Drive

Located near the miniature train, this half-acre dog park is enclosed with a 6-foot chain link fence, allowing dogs to run and exercise off-leash. The facility is open for use sunrise to sunset except on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. for weekly park maintenance. Dog-park users are encouraged to use the Westlake Drive parking lot. Please remember that all dogs should be on a leash before entering and exiting the park.

Tai Chi Court

7400 Tuckerman Lane

The Tai Chi Court at Cabin John Regional Park is the first Tai Chi court in Montgomery County and joins only few of its kind in the nation. Built through a public/private partnership between M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks and the Wu Wei Tai Chi Club, the Tai Chi court is a 48-foot-diameter circle of flagstone incorporating the shape of a yin/yang symbol and surrounded by benches in a serene natural setting. It is located near the dog park and miniature train at Cabin John Regional Park.



Neighborhood Parks

Potomac has many small neighborhood that offer hiking trails, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds and sports fields, picnic areas, paths suitable for tricycles and more.

22 Buck Branch Neighborhood Park

8704 Bells Mill Road

Playground, lighted ballfield, and lighted tennis court.

40 Highland Stone Neighborhood Park

8716 Post Oak

24 Heritage Farm Neighborhood Park

9520 Hall Road

Playground, multi-use field, softball field, two tennis courts, and picnic area.

25 Potomac Community Neighborhood Park

11301 Falls Rd.

Playground, lighted ballfield, and lighted tennis courts.



26 Fox Hills West Neighborhood Park

12710 North Commons Way

Two-acre park includes playground, tennis courts, multi-use field, and picnic shelter.

27 Bedfordshire Neighborhood Park

11416 Bedfordshire Ave.

This 7.8-acre park acquired in 1968 includes a playground and multi-use field.

29 Gregercroft Neighborhood Park

12021 Gregercroft Rd.

One-acre park with playground, picnic area, and open space.



Local Parks

Local parks serve a wider area and offer more facilities.

23 Avenel Local Park

10551 Oaklyn Drive

Playground, softball field, multi-use fields, and tennis courts. Paths suitable for bikes or children's tricycles. The 20.7-acre park was established in 1989.

28 Glen Hills Local Park

12511 Circle Drive

This 25.2-acre park, acquired in 1966, features a playground, softball field, baseball field and two lighted tennis courts and a picnic area.

31 Seven Locks Local Park

6922 Seven Locks Road, Cabin John

11.6 acres with playground, open shelter, lighted baseball field, and lighted tennis courts.

32 Cabin John Local Park

7401 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John

Six-acre park established in 1933 includes playground, multi-use field, lighted tennis court, basketball court, and picnic area.

41 Greenbriar Local Park

12525 Glen Road

Features of the park include a regulation soccer/football field with spectator areas, a single basketball/

multi-use court, a single grass volleyball court, a multi-age, interpretive playground, an asphalt loop path and pedestrian connections, entrance features, a picnic shelter, two stone pergolas, a parking area with 70 spaces. The park plan also preserves large portions of the site adjacent to the stream valley. The project was approved and funded for detailed design and construction by the Montgomery County Council and is scheduled for completion in Summer 2015 according to the parks website.

42 Beverly Farms Local Park

8505 Post Oak Road, Potomac

Beverly Farms Local Park is on 9.4 acres located behind the Beverly Farms Elementary School. The park features two playgrounds, a softball field, a baseball field, and a multi-use field. There are also two lighted tennis courts and a picnic area,

10 Falls Road Local Park

12600 Falls Road

Including Hadley's Playground

30 Tilden Woods Local Park

6800 Tilden Lane

Playground area, ballfield, lighted tennis courts, and picnic area.

POTOMAC NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Great Falls



McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area

Potomac Insider's Guide to Parks

33 Potomac Community Center

11315 Falls Road
240-777-6960
www.montgomerycounty.gov/rec

This is Montgomery County's busiest community center, providing a variety of recreation activities for all ages such as open gym, arts and crafts, exercise/leisure classes, group support meetings and socials, senior adult activities through the Potomac neighborhood, Senior program, area and county-wide sports programs, summer camps, programs for individuals with special needs, children and adult holiday parties, volunteer opportunities and more. Facilities include a gymnasium, exercise room, meeting rooms, art room, lounge area, community room and social hall. The outdoor area includes two baseball fields, lighted basketball and tennis courts, and a former in-line hockey rink. The Center offers table tennis, billiards and foosball, a gymnasium, weight room, social room, meeting rooms, and hundreds of classes through the Montgomery County Recreation Department. The Montgomery County Recreation Dept., along with the Friends of the PCC, Inc. is working to renovate and reopen the outside inline rink for children and adults with special needs, with opening day on Sept. 10 at 11:30 a.m.

The Friends of the PCC, Inc. is a non-profit organization which works in conjunction with the Montgomery County Recreation Department to support the wide array of activities offered by the PCC as well as raise monies for the Center.

INSIDER'S TIP: You're invited to the Potomac Adaptive Sports Court Dedication Ceremony is Sept. 10, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

Parents with children in grades three to six can register them now for Club Friday. Club Friday which began in 1991 is a fun-filled supervised evening of different activities. Club Friday will meet at PCC beginning Oct. 9 into March, 7-9 pm.

34 Bette Carol Thompson Scotland Community Center

7700 Scotland Drive
301-983-4455

Now named the Bette Carol Thompson Scotland Community Center, the rebuilt facility opened in November 2014. A larger gymnasium and modern interiors are a focal point. Upgrades to the site include improved landscaping and parking, meeting green building and sustainability goals; energy guidelines, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

35 Glen Echo Park

7300 MacArthur Blvd.,
Glen Echo
www.glenechopark.org

Originally a Chautauqua retreat, then an amusement park, Glen Echo National Park now hosts a variety of arts, environmental and history programs.

Classes are offered in pottery, painting, photography, glass art, silversmithing, textiles and other arts, as

well as in dance, writing and music.

The famous 1921 Dentzel Carousel in the center of the park has been giving rides to the public for 90 years.

The restored carousel is open for rides in August, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 6 p.m. In September, Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 6 p.m.

Adventure Theatre (www.adventuretheater.org, 301-634-2270) is one of the area's longest running children's theater companies, and the Puppet Co. Playhouse (www.puppetco.org) offers shows as well as was for children to be involved.

36 McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area

Located on River Road in Western Montgomery County, McKee-Beshers WMA is a 2,000-acre tract in a mixture of woodlands, fields, wooded bottomland and managed wetland impoundments (green-tree reservoirs). The wildlife management area shares a common boundary with the National

Park Service Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to the south and borders Seneca Creek State Park, a 1,200-acre public hunting area, on the east.

McKee-Beshers WMA provides habitat for a great diversity of wildlife species including deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, over 200 species of songbirds, and numerous reptiles and amphibians. Biologists deliberately flood forests during the fall and winter in "greentree reservoirs." These attract colorful wood ducks as well as other waterfowl which migrate through or spend the winter here.

Hikers will find trails for miles and miles, meandering through the forests, fields and wetlands. Hunters enjoy the pursuit of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, woodcock, squirrels, waterfowl and many other species.

Roads are maintained and suitable for hiking, nature photography, birding, hunting and other recreational activities. Visitors to the management area should be aware of biting insects, mosquitoes and ticks from April-December. Area is wet most of the year, wear appropriate footwear.

37 Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park North

12860 Piney Meeting House Road

38 Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park South

11825 Glen Road

The Serpentine Barrens Natural Area is considered one of the most important natural areas in the county because of its unique geology and plant community. Serpentine ecosystems are globally rare and occur intermittently in an arc east of the Appalachian Mountains from Alabama to Maine. The trees are unusually small relative to their age because of the challenging growing conditions of serpentine soils. Therefore, forests appear to be early successional, but in reality

are in a climax condition. Oaks as old as 175 years old will have a diameter of trees you would expect to be one or two decades old.

The large contiguous forest of the Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park provides critical habitat for forest interior dwelling species, particularly birds. These species require large unbroken tracts of forest to successfully breed. Large contiguous forest habitat is becoming increasingly scarce in Montgomery County as development continually fragments woodlands into smaller isolated tracts.

More than 60 species of birds have been detected in the park, including a significant number of forest interior dwelling species such as Louisiana waterthrush, scarlet tanager, ovenbird, pileated woodpecker, and barred owl.

Mammals include common species such as red fox, white-tailed deer and gray squirrel, as well as less common species such as eastern coyote.

Reptiles include most of the common species of the County as well as the less common eastern hognose snake, five lined skink, spotted turtle and a curiously abundant population of box turtles.

Wetlands and vernal pools provide breeding habitat for spotted salamanders, marbled salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers and other amphibians.

39 Callithea Farm Special Park

15000 River Road

Callithea Farm Park is a 97 acre property located adjacent to the M-NCPPC equestrian trails at Blockhouse Point Conservation Park and the C&O Canal. Horse boarding is available. Contact the farm manager at 301-977-7682.



Potomac Community Center

POTOMAC COMMUNITY GUIDE

Enjoy the Potomac

FROM PAGE 7

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/ParkTrails/trails_MAPS/trailmap_pdfs/blockhouse_trails.pdf

INSIDER'S TIP: Montgomery County developed a brochure so people can walk the footsteps of Union Soldiers. Blockhouse Point, often referred to as the jewel of Potomac, is an area to enjoy peace, solitude, and an example of the natural and cultural resources of Potomac that rival the most valuable in the country.

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Cultural_Resources_Stewardship/heritage/documents/blockhouse_broch_web.pdf



Caleva sailboats in the River just above Riley's Lock.

Violette's Lock

Violette's Lock Road (off River Road)
Violette's Lock offers one of the more beautiful views of the sunset over the Potomac River.

Riley's Lock

Riley's Lock Road (off River Road)
Riley's Lock features a boat ramp on Seneca Creek, the busiest in Montgomery County, that allows easy access to a quiet and inviting part of the Potomac River for canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and small motorboats. The Seneca Creek Aqueduct, opened in 1833 and made of red sandstone, allowed thousands of canal boats to move across Seneca Creek from 1833 to 1924, the year of the canal's closing. The aqueduct was protected by Union garrisons during the Civil War.

Rileys Lockhouse is open for tours on Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. in May and June, and September and October. Volunteers in period costume guide you through one of the C&O Canal's original lockhouses to explore the life of a lock-keeper.

Call the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center to confirm, 301-767-3714.



Kayakers pass under the historic aqueduct at Seneca Creek to reach the river.

INSIDER'S TIP: You can borrow a bike and helmet for free at the Great Falls Tavern, courtesy of the volunteer-run C&O Canal Bike Loaner program. The group reports lending bikes to nearly on a weekend of good weather.

The River Center (Lockhouse 8)

7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John
potomac.org/river-center

The River Center at Lockhouse 8, reached from the Clara Barton Parkway between Carderock and Cabin John, is open Saturdays and Sundays from May through October, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., operated by volunteers from Potomac Conservancy. Stop in for a tour, to browse educational exhibits, and meet volunteer guides. Visit the River Center on select Sundays for Voices of the River to learn more about the history, ecology, and diversity of the Potomac River, as told by storytellers, musicians, and scientists. Throughout the season, the Conservancy also hosts a variety of hands-on appreciation and restoration activities at the River Center. Canoes and lifejackets available. All activities are free and open to the public. Housed in an historic lockhouse along the C&O Canal, the River Center at Lock 8 offers visitors a glimpse into the history of



Views from the Billy Goat Trail, whitewater stand-up paddleboarders.

the Canal and the future of the Potomac River. The next cleanup day is Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering contact Katie Blackman at blackman@potomac.org or 301-608-1188 x213.



Violette's and Riley's locks offer some of the most spectacular sunsets in the region.

ENTERTAINMENT

A SAMPLING OF ANNUAL
COMMUNITY EVENTS

August 2015

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Great Falls Tavern, Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides. Through Aug. 30, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern Visitors Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd. Take a boat ride along the historic C&O Canal. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$5 for children, and children 3 and under ride for free. Visit www.nps.gov/choh/planyourvisit/great-falls-canal-boat-rides.htm.

WEDNESDAYS-SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

Carousel Rides. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 12-6 p.m. Take a ride on the historic 1921 Dentzel Carousel at Glen Echo Park. Tickets are \$1.25 per ride. Visit www.glenechopark.com.

September 2015

SEPT. 2-26

The Trawick Prize Exhibition. Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. This exhibition features The Trawick Prize finalists for the Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Art Walk in the Park. First Fridays through October. 6-8 p.m. Glen Echo Park. Enjoy pottery, calligraphy, glass work, and much more. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/SEPT. 4-7

5th Annual Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery Drawing Exhibition. 12-5 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. In cooperation with the Friends of the Yellow Barn, an exhibition open to all members of the Yellow Barn. A closing reception will be held on Monday, Sept. 7, 5-6:30 p.m. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Glen Echo Park Open House. 12-4 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The Glen Echo Park Partnership hosts an Open House to introduce visitors to arts, dance, theater, and classes at the park. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org/open-house-classes-2015.

SATURDAY AND MONDAY, SEPT. 5 AND 7

Irish Music and Dance Showcase. 1-5 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Attend two days of Irish music and dance presented by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 7

Labor Day Parade. 1 p.m. in the streets of Olde Towne Gaithersburg. Celebrate Labor Day with performances, antique cars, marching bands, and more. Free. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/leisure/labor-day-parade.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Parks Half Marathon. 7-10 a.m. Run from Rockville to Bethesda. Showcases Montgomery County's park system. Sponsored by Montgomery County Road Runners Club. Registration is \$67 until Aug. and \$73 Sept. 1-9. Visit www.mcrrc.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Park After Dark. 6 p.m. at Historic Great Falls Tavern, 11710 MacArthur Blvd. Find food, music, a bonfire and more at this outdoor educational event. Proceeds will benefit C&O Canal National Historical Park and its Canal Classroom program. Tickets are \$175 per person. Visit www.canaltrust.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Montgomery County Out of the Darkness Community Walk. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Rockville Town Center, 30 Maryland Ave., Rockville. This walk, in conjunction with 200 communities across the country this fall, benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Visit www.afsp.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Cabin John Kids Run. 9-10 a.m. at Cabin John Regional Park. Sunday, Sept. 15. A mile run, half-mile run and quarter mile young run is offered. Registration is race-day only. Free for runners 18 and under. See www.mcrrc.org.

Then & Wow 2015. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo Park's annual celebration of the park's past and present. Magicians, carousel rides, arcade games, face painting, mini golf, exhibits, tours and more. Free. See www.glenechopark.org.

October 2015

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

Art Walk in the Park. First Fridays through October. 6-8 p.m. Glen Echo Park. Enjoy pottery, calligraphy, glass work, and much more. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Taste of Bethesda. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. along Norfolk, St. Elmo, Cordell, Del Ray, and Auburn avenues. Local restaurants and entertainment come together for the 26th Annual Taste of Bethesda. Admission to the festival is free, taste tickets are sold in bundles of 4 for \$5. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Dr. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Antique and Classic Car Show. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Find more than 500 antique and classic cars. Free. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Potomac Day. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Arts and entertainment for all ages, ranging



PHOTO BY DEB STEVENS

Then & Wow, Glen Echo Park's annual celebration of the park's past and present, is held in September offering magicians, carousel rides, arcade games, face painting, mini golf and more.

from rides for children to an antique show and business fair. The highlight is the Potomac Day Parade at 10:30 a.m., featuring hundreds of entrants, including bands, horses, antique cars, school groups, scouting organizations, and candidates for elected office. Free. Call the Potomac Chamber of Commerce at 301-299-2170 or visit www.potomacchamber.org.

November 2015

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

Rockville 10K/5K. 8:15-10 a.m. at King Farm Village Center, King Farm Boulevard. and Pleasant Drive, Rockville. Annual race. Race registration is \$34 until Oct. 29 and \$40 until the event. Visit www.mcrrc.org for more.

THURSDAYS THROUGH NOVEMBER

Potomac Village Farmers Market. 2-6:30 p.m. at Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 S. Glen Road. Visit www.potomacvillagefarmersmarket.net for more.

Potomac Community Center Open Flea Market. Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, has been regularly scheduled on a biannual basis in November and May. Call the community center, 240-777-6960.

NOV. 5-15

Lessans Family Annual Book Festival. Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Now in its 46th year, this 10-day festival boasts more than 20 author events, book signings and children's programs. Call 301-881-0100. See www.jccgw.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Potomac Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. Normandie Farm, 10710 Falls Road. This event honors Potomac's citizen, businessperson and youth of the year. See www.potomacchamber.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1

and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Dinner of Champions. 7 p.m. at JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The annual event honors those who have achieved success in the world of sports, and those who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The dinner benefits the Jewish Community inclusion programs for individuals with special needs. Individual tickets are \$275. Visit www.jccgw.org for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 26

Turkey Chase. 8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The Turkey Chase 10K Run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Registration is \$10 for the Kid's Run, \$20 for the 2 mile race, and \$35 for the 10K. See www.turkeychase.com.

NOV. 27-DEC. 31

Winter Lights Festival. Sunday-Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. at Seneca Creek Park, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg. Winter Lights is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. Additional events include Wine Under the Lights, Run Under the Lights, Leashes 'n' Lights, and, S'More Lights & Trolley Rides. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

December 2015

Christmas Tree Sale. Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

Santa on Fire Engines Toy Collection. A procession of fire engines run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, carry Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings in December, collecting unwrapped new toys for needy children. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

DEC. 1-23

Friends of the Yellow Barn. The Yellow Barn Studio gives annual members show. Visit www.glenechopark.org or www.yellowbarnstudio.com. Call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Jingle Bell Jog. 9-10:30 a.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Registration is free for Montgomery County Road Runners Club, \$10 for non-members and \$5 for non-members under 18. See www.mcrrc.org.

January 2016

The Maryland General Assembly meets in Annapolis each year for 90 days to act on more than 2,500 bills including the state's annual budget. Potomac falls into two districts, District 15 and District 16, each one with one senator and three delegates. Visit www.mlis.state.md.us.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association. Second Wednesday, 7:15-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Attend the general meeting. See www.wmcca.org.

February 2016

FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 12-15

Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville. The festival provides live musical performances, workshops and seminars. See

ENTERTAINMENT

A SAMPLING OF ANNUAL
COMMUNITY EVENTS

www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association. Second Wednesday, 7:15-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Attend the general meeting. See www.wmcca.org.

March 2016

West Montgomery County Citizens Association. Second Wednesday, 7:15-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Attend the general meeting. See www.wmcca.org.

April 2016

APRIL-AUG.

Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides, Great Falls Tavern. Call the C&O Canal National Historical Park at Great Falls visitor center, 301-767-3714 or visit www.nps.gov.

The Bethesda Literary Festival is held annually in April. Features poets, authors, journalists, novelists, poetry slams, essay contests and youth book parties. Literary events take place in downtown Bethesda's bookstores, galleries and retail businesses, as well as the library and elementary school. Visit www.bethesda.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Pike's Peek 10K. 7:50 a.m. at the Shady Grove Metro Station. See www.pikespeek10k.com.

LATE APRIL, EARLY MAY

"Blast from the Past." Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. Attend an annual musical revue featuring student cast members, musicians and stage crew. Call 301-469-1200 or visit www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/churchillhs for dates.

The Annual C&O Canal Pride Days.

This is a joint effort between the park and C&O Canal Trust that brings hundreds of volunteers into the park to conduct maintenance projects. Work at C&O Canal National Historical Park at Great Falls (Md.) and other sites along the Potomac River and C&O Canal towpath. Call the Canal Trust at 301-714-2233, www.canaltrust.org, or see the park website at www.nps.gov/choh

Potomac Watershed Cleanup. This

volunteer event is sponsored annually by Alice Ferguson Foundation. Last year, more than 23,898 volunteers picked up 1,203,543 pounds of trash including 1,328 tires, 13,214 cigarette butts, 17,594 plastic bags, and 251,100 beverage containers. Volunteers helped at many sites along the Potomac River in Potomac. See www.fergusonfoundation.org.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association. Second Wednesday,

7:15-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Attend the general meeting. See www.wmcca.org.

May 2016

Potomac Horse Center Annual Spring Open House. See www.PotomacHorse.com.

Run Aware 5K. Race through woods, trails, and, if lucky, mud. Along with the 5K (Cross Country Series) race, there will be a 1K (Junior Participation Series) race. See www.mcrrc.org.

Potomac Village Farmers Market.

Through October (and sometimes into November), Thursdays, 2-6:30 p.m. Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 S. Glen Road at corner of Falls Road and Democracy Boulevard. Visit www.potomacvillagefarmersmarket.net.

Spring Festival. Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. The annual festival includes traditional Greek cuisine, outdoor/indoor dining, Greek dancing, church tours and Greek pastries. Visit www.stgeorge.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 16

The Potomac Hunt Races. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 14401B Partnership Road, Poolesville. This annual May tradition celebrates the sport of steeplechase racing and benefiting local charities. Race day festivities include steeplechase racing, thoroughbreds and festival tailgate parties, a car show, pony rides and more. General admission is \$40 per vehicle and Patron tickets are \$225. See www.potomachuntraces.com.

Strawberry Festival. Potomac United Methodist Church, 9908 S. Glen Road, Potomac. This festival dedicated to all things strawberry is traditionally held the weekend before Memorial Day. Berries, a silent auction, bake sale, rummage sale, craft fair, dollar items and games and activities for children. Call the church at 301-299-9383 or visit www.potomac-umc.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 29-MAY 1

The Landon Azalea Garden Festival. Perkins Garden and the

Landon campus, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. The annual festival dates back to the mid-1950s when Landon's founders, Paul and Mary Lee Banfield opened the newly acquired azalea garden to the public. Call 301-320-3200 or visit www.landon.net.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Mark's Run. 8-10 a.m. at Triplett Field, Bordley Stadium. a 5-K race and one-mile run also takes place during the Landon Azalea Garden festival. Mark's Run is held each year in memory of alumnus Mark Ferris '94, who lost his battle with juvenile diabetes. The run raises more than \$50,000 for the Mark Ferris Scholarship Fund and \$75,000 to the Joslin Diabetes Center. Call 301-320-3200 or visit www.landon.net.

The Bethesda Big Train begins its season at the Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Regional Park, 10600 Westlake Drive. The Big Train plays in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden-bat collegiate league that has sent athletes to Major League Baseball. See www.bigtrain.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 28-30

Hometown Holidays is a Memorial Day festival and parade in the City of Rockville with concerts, children's crafts and games. Call 240-314-5022 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov.

MAY-JULY

Bethesda Summer Concert Series.

Free. Last year's Thursday concerts took place at Veterans Park, at the corner of Norfolk and Woodmont

avenues. See www.bethesda.org.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association, general meeting, second Wednesday, Potomac Community Center, 7:15-9 p.m. Public is welcome. See www.wmcca.org.

June 2016

Attend **Imagination Bethesda**, 22nd annual children's street festival celebrating the arts. The festival features costume characters, face painters, international dance troupes, theater performances, a moon bounce and a variety of hands-on arts activities. Call 301-215-6660 or see www.bethesda.org.

JUNE 20-26

Quicken Loans National. This event features 120 PGA Tour professionals at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. who will compete for millions. The event raises funds and awareness for the Tiger Woods Foundation while paying tribute to U.S. armed forces. See www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org or www.usga.org.

Glen Echo Park's Summer Concert Series begins in June on Thursday evenings. Free. See www.glenechopark.org. 301-634-2222.

JULY 2016

Autism Speaks Annual 5K run and one-mile walk benefits research on autism. Last year's event raised more than \$230,000. See www.autismspeaks.org or email

autismspeaks5K@autismspeaks.org.

Montgomery County Fairgrounds 4th of July Fireworks activities include live music, games and food. Call 301-258-6350. See www.gaithersburgmd.gov

Montgomery College Rockville Campus 4th of July Fireworks, Rockville. Activities include live music and food. Call 240-314-5022. See www.rockvillemd.gov.

The **Potomac Whitewater Festival** in late June or early July is an annual fundraising event that celebrates kayaking in the Potomac River. Offers races for kayakers and clinics and activities for the public. See www.potomacfest.com or anadventures.com.

Bethesda Outdoor Movies. Annual outdoor movie series at corner of Norfolk and Auburn avenues. Contact 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

JULY 23-24

Montgomery County Farm Tour and Harvest Sale. Various times at various locations throughout the county. This annual event is sponsored by the Department of Economic Development. See www.montgomerycountymd.gov/farmtour

August 2016

Riley's Rumble Half-Marathon. See www.mcrrc.org.

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair is a favorite destination each August. See www.mcagfair.com.

Potomac Day is Coming! Be Sure to Join Us!

October 24, 2015

STEEPED IN TRADITION. COME FOR THE FUN. COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME








Sign Up Today



For more information, please contact Jennifer Matheson at jennifer@potomacpizza.com or 301-299-2170

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'Never Forget, Patriots'

BY EVVA STARR

Our beloved leader, Dr. Michael Doran, died today [Aug. 19]. The Wootton community is reeling. In the past two years, we've lost so many: Sam Williams, in a car accident in April 2014; Ryan Walden in a suicide that same month; Kira Harrison in another suicide in August 2014; Alex Murk and Calvin Li in a car accident this past June. And now the man who helped us all through those tragedies is gone. It feels like a lot of loss in a very short amount of time. It feels pointed, or targeted, or purposeful somehow. It feels like we in the Wootton community are cursed.

Just after I heard about Dr. Doran today, after my phone blew up and I tried to figure out what was going on, after the worst was confirmed and I texted the people who had asked me for news, I sat in my car and I cried, loud, painful, sobs of grief. I couldn't stop thinking about my dad. My beloved father, Bill Forster, died this past February. Since then I've been so careful of triggers.

At first they were everywhere. I saw a man wearing a tie that reminded me of a tie my father had, and I cried. I saw a man on the street with a slight limp, like my dad, and I cried. Every damn song on the radio seemed to be about him. It hurt all the time. So I started

anticipating triggers, so I could protect myself and control my feelings. It has been mostly successful. And then a man who felt like a father to me, who nurtured me in my career, and protected me and trusted me and supported me, just like my dad did, died. Out of the blue, for no reason, with no explanation.

It feels like the very ground under me is made of wavy, unsubstantial matter, and could give way without warning. Because it keeps doing that very thing. It feels like I can't take much more. It feels like we can't take much more. I know those of you who knew Sam, and Ryan, and Kira and Alex and Calvin and Dr. Doran feel the same way. I know because you've been texting me all day long.

I know because I read your Twitter posts. I know because I feel it too. It hurts. My heart and my head and my chest — they all hurt. I don't know what will happen next. I don't know who will possibly step in to fill the shoes of such a man as Michael Doran. Or how someone could even try. But they will.

Probably tomorrow someone will be in place to take charge and usher us into another school year. It won't possibly be the same, but we will carry on.

Life goes on. Dr. Michael Doran was tremendously respected in the very large community but very small world that is Montgomery County. His influence went wide.

His loss is felt deeply. No one could ask for more. I have my own memories of this great man.

The first is the day I met him, when he hired me and told me that if my previous principal, Michael Durso, had hired me, he didn't need to ask me a single question. He trusted those he respected.

The second memory is of the final words he spoke at the seven Wootton High School graduations I had the honor to attend as faculty. In his gentle Irish brogue, he gave the graduates this traditional Irish blessing: "May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way home."

Those you of privileged to receive that blessing in the past 12 years, count yourself lucky. As I weep for my own loss, and for the losses my community has suffered in the past two years, all I know is that we will make it through this together. It's our only option: together. After his Irish blessing, Dr. Doran's final words were, "Never forget, Patriots rule." And we do, oh how we do. Many might pity us now, for all that we have been through, but I am so, so honored to be a part of this community. Dr. Michael Doran sure was.

Evva Starr is the newspaper and yearbook adviser at Thomas S. Wootton High School. This is from her blog, "After Deadline."



A memorial tribute fills Dr. Michael Doran's parking spot at Wootton High School.

'A Servant Leader'

FROM PAGE 2

working to move forward. For me and I would imagine, much of the community, Dr. Doran was Wootton High School. His joy, his spirit, was reflected in every endeavor inside and outside of the classroom.

He was our biggest cheerleader and so engaged with the student body. If you were at the memorial last Friday, you heard many of the wonderful ways he interacted with

students throughout each school day. His leadership was unsurpassed because he saw each of us, students and staff, as people first and he cared and loved us as such."

Joey N. Jones, principal of Frost Middle School, said, "Dr. Doran was a great man, great principal and great friend. I will miss my friend and colleague, but his legacy will continue to live in the countless lives he touched."



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Students, parents and staff fill the Wootton High School football field during the memorial service for Dr. Michael Doran.

ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THROUGH SEPT. 30

Seasonal Walk. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at Safeway, Downtown Silver Spring, 909 Thayer Ave. Walk the sidewalk trails through residential and retail areas of Silver Spring and into Takoma Park. Follow either the 5 km or the 10 km routes. Trails suitable for wheelchairs and strollers. Free. Register at www.sugarloafers.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Potomac Chamber of Commerce Networking Event. 4-6 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. In partnership with Normandie Farm Restaurant, the Potomac Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event for business people in Potomac. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a bar will be available. Cost is \$10 for Potomac Chamber Members and \$15 for non-members. To reserve a place or for more information call 301-299-2170 or visit www.potomacchamber.org. R.S.V.P. by Aug. 24.

Melissa Etheridge Concert. 8 p.m. at The Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Academy Award and Grammy winning artist, Melissa Etheridge, takes the stage to perform songs from her new album, "This is M.E.," as well as some of her greatest hits. Tickets are \$48-88. Visit strathmore.org for tickets.

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

Fundraiser. 6-8:30 p.m. at Redwood Restaurant, 7121 Bethesda Lane, Bethesda. Support the Montgomery County Humane Society (MCHS) by dining at Redwood with your dog and Redwood will donate 20 percent of your check to MCHS. Visit www.mchumane.org.

Washington Redskins Cheerleaders Calendar Release Party. 7 p.m. at The Fillmore, 8656 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. \$15-\$40 admission. Visit www.fillmoresilverpring.com.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, Outdoor Pavilion, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The United States Air Force Band-Air Force Strings performs. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil for more.

Jelly Roll Mortals Performance. 8 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7141 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. The Jelly Roll Mortals are a rock and acoustic band. Tickets are \$7-8. Visit www.villainandsaint.com/.

FRIDAY/AUG. 28

South African Fashion Show And After-Party. Fashion show at 6 p.m., after party at 10 p.m. at Princess Mhoon Dance Studio, 926 Philadelphia Ave., Silver Spring. Attend a "Together as One" fashion show featuring eight designers from Southern Africa and throughout the Diaspora. Attend the after-party DJ'd by South African artists and mingle with the designers. For the fashion show, tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door for the after-party. Visit www.southafricancommunity.org for more.

Box Era. 9 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7147 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Pop funk band performs. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$7 admission. Visit www.villainandsaint.com/shows/.

AFI Theatre Presents "Heavy Metal Picnic." 7:30 p.m. at the AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road. This film celebrates mid-'80s Maryland rock and roll and heavy metal, focusing on the 1985 Full Moon Jamboree, a wild field party. General Admission \$12, Senior \$10, Child \$7. Visit www.silver.afi.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 29

"Potpourri" Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. at The Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Artist Kelly Posey celebrates the launch of her "Potpourri" exhibit. Admission is free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

Beggars Tomb. 9 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7141 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Listen to Grateful Dead hits by this tribute band. Doors open at 6 p.m. \$12 admission. Visit www.villainandsaint.com/shows/.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 29-30

Kelly Posey: "Potpourri." 12-5 p.m. at The Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Abstractionist painter Posey titled the exhibit "Potpourri" because her early work informs her new work. Admission is free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

Justin Trawick and The Common Good Performance. 8 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7141 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Justin Trawick and The Common Good are a four-person Americana band. Tickets are \$10. Visit villainandsaint.com/

FRIDAY-MONDAY/SEPT. 4-7

5th Annual Yellow Barn Studio

and Gallery Drawing Exhibition. 12-5 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. In cooperation with the Friends of the Yellow Barn, an exhibition open to all members of the Yellow Barn. A closing reception will be held on Monday, Sept. 7, 5-6:30 p.m. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

The Walking Guys Concert. 9 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7141 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. The Walking Guys are a four-person band consisting of songwriters and singers. Tickets are \$12-15. Visit www.villainandsaint.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Run/Kids' Fun Run. 8 a.m. on Main Street near the Kentlands/Lakelands Market Square Plaza. Registration for the Kids Fun Run is \$12, \$30 for the 5K Run/Walk if registered online, and \$35 on Sept. 3 and 4. Visit www.kentlands.org/5K/.

Glen Echo Park Open House. 12-4 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The Glen Echo Park Partnership hosts an Open House to introduce visitors to arts, dance, theater, and classes at the park. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org/open-house-classes-2015.

The Flashback Band Performance. 9 p.m. at Villain & Saint, 7141 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Members of the band include, Greg Gaines, "CJ" Lucas, Dave Spiegelthal, Willie "Mack" McElroy, and Gene Shuman. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.villainandsaint.com/.

SATURDAY AND MONDAY/SEPT. 5 AND 7

Irish Music and Dance Showcase. 1-5 p.m. at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Attend two days of Irish music and dance present by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. for



Thomas Pandolfini will join The National Philharmonic for kick-off performances of its 2015-2016 season. Performances will run Sept. 19-20 at The Strathmore. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Introductory Waltz Workshop, 3:30-6 p.m. for Dance at the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Dance to the lively mix of ensemble Latter Day Lizards' folk waltzes and other couple dances after taking a 45-minute dance lesson and workshop followed by social dancing until 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or visit www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 7

Labor Day Parade. 1 p.m. in the streets of Olde Towne Gaithersburg. Celebrate Labor Day with performances, antique cars, marching bands, and more. Free. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/leisure.

SEPT. 8-OCT. 3

"Blooming" by Wanjin Kim. Tuesday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Wanjin Kim's "Blooming" exhibit is a "conversation" between her small figurative sculptures and larger hanging wire sculptures. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Social Media and Real Estate: Make the Connection!

Facebook, Yelp, Foursquare, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, Wordpress, Tumblr, Blogger.....the face of social media is constantly changing—how do you keep on top of trends and utilize these tools to your best advantage? How do you avoid investing your effort into a social media graveyard? Buyers, sellers, REALTORS® and all the various agents associated with property transactions are more reliant than ever on the internet. Social media tools are one way for consumers to weed out the "junk" of information overload. Recommendations, referrals, testimonials and feedback are what consumers are looking for, and social media tools are one way for anyone involved in property transactions to boost their success. Once a private transaction between REALTOR® and client, the property transaction of today focuses more on the collective power of the social media community: photos are uploaded to Facebook or Google+ from an open house, sellers will comb Twitter feeds for mentions of their property, agents are rated on Yelp and network between one another on LinkedIn. A REALTOR® with social media savvy can be beneficial for both the seller looking for an expedient transaction and the buyer looking for the perfect property. Social media puts homes in the eyes of the consumers and connects the properties available to their target audience—increasing the chances of a bid and successful closing. The bottom line is social media, properly used, can give a REALTOR® a solid edge, which benefits all parties involved in a real estate purchase. Ice is yours, when letting a little light into your home!

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"Bulky Boy"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Although this title invokes the nickname of one of my three male cats – Andrew, to be specific – he is in fact not the point of this column. No, the “bulky boy” to whom I jokingly refer is yours truly, the shopper/consumer in our family. For as long as I’ve been married, and it’s been since 1978, I have been the buyer of most of our household products, paper goods, pet supplies, food, drink and assorted sundries familiar to us all; this list does not include hardware, lawn and garden and automobile, however – items with which I have minimal interest and even less aptitude. As such, I pay attention to sales and circulars and yes, coupons too (although I am not “extreme”). Accordingly, I try to buy low and buy in bulk/quantity. Still, with just two adults for whom to provide, some of the Costco-sized containers are simply too big, even for me/us, despite their super value. I could utilize 96 rolls of toilet paper – over time, but a 64 oz. tub of mayonnaise, as an example, would likely go to waist.

Nevertheless, I do try to buy in bulk, especially when non-perishables are involved. Recently, I made a few such purchases without thinking beyond their need and usefulness (and by “without thinking” I mean not thinking about having cancer and dying before I ever use all the quantity, and in turn feeling as if I’ve wasted the money on a benefit I’ll never realize). What I bought was a five-pack of rubber gloves for washing dishes – we don’t have a dishwasher – actually, I don’t have a dishwasher. My wife Dina, however, does have a dishwasher: me. Given the inevitable wear and most-definitely tear, this six pack will probably last six months at a minimum. Secondly, I bought a 240-count of dryer sheets. Considering that I occasionally we probably average two laundry loads a week, we now have enough dryer sheets (at one per dryer cycle) for 120 weeks, over two years! Now I don’t want to sound morbid, but I was given a “13-month to two-year” prognosis six and a half years ago by my oncologist when he initially told me that he “could treat me but he couldn’t cure me.” Which meant to me that I had quite unexpectedly drawn the short straw and long-range planning was probably a part of my past and that living forward, my life was forever changed.

But when I bought these two “bulky” items, I didn’t think cancer, life expectancy or time-value of money spent on purchases/quantities I’ll likely never use. I simply saw value and a presumptive need based on non-cancer considerations – and of course, I had some extra money. I’m not a consumer addict though; I buy for need, not misuse and abuse (although my wife might disagree. However, I didn’t hear any objections when I bought 10 cans of Bumble Bee Fancy Albacore All White tuna fish for \$8.80). Necessary? That’s the question. But is it also the answer?

Now that I’ve had some time to rethink my purchases, I am beginning to think that maybe I did overbuy. Two hundred and forty dryer sheets! Two-plus years! Rubber gloves for six months? Do I live in the sink? Did I really need to spend money to plan for washing dishes and drying laundry for the next six to 24 months? What was I thinking? Six months is an eternity in the “terminal” cancer world. Twenty-four months? A quadruple eternity. I want to live in the future but not at the expense of my present. Have I let my consuming ways get in the way of common sense? After all, rubber gloves and dryer sheets are not exactly staples (neither are staples, which I have not bought), they’re just basic supplies, not life-saving or life-affirming in the least. So far as I know, anyway.

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

Potomac Offers ‘A Sense of Place’

BY ROGER BERLINER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER

If you are a newcomer to Potomac, you are in for a real treat — as living there for 20-plus years showed me every day.

Each of us has different aspects of a community that we are passionate about. Mine is the environment. And in Potomac, that passion has been so fully satisfied. To this day, I marvel at the elemental wildness of the Potomac River so close to the heart of the free world. I enjoy fly fishing on it or simply finding a nice spot and letting the rest of the day’s concerns float away like the current before me.

And access isn’t limited to the hardy. The C&O Canal, one of the National Park Ser-

vices’ most popular parks, affords all of us an equal opportunity to appreciate the splendor of nature. With more than 5 million visitors annually, the C&O Canal offers wonderful hiking trails and beautiful views of the Potomac River. When the canal was badly damaged by a hurricane in 2008, I was pleased to work with Congressman Chris Van Hollen and the state of Maryland to secure the necessary funding to restore the canal to its status as one of the Park Service’s treasures.

Potomac is more than beautiful, of course. It has some of the finest residential neighborhoods anywhere; it has some of the finest schools anywhere; and it has one of the finest privately owned museums in the world in Glenstone. It has great golf courses; fine restaurants; and an active citizenry that

works hard to protect what is truly special about Potomac.

Ask anyone you meet on a crisp autumn morning at the Potomac Day Parade. Ask the person you pass hiking the Billie Goat Trail. Ask any of your new neighbors that moved to Potomac “for the schools” but have lingered long after their children donned graduation caps (with honors). They will tell you that beyond the beautiful parks, the outstanding schools, the top-notch golf courses, in Potomac you will find a genuine sense of place. A strong and vibrant community nestled just outside the nation’s capital. It has been my privilege to represent Potomac on the Montgomery County Council since 2006. Now it is my privilege to welcome you to Potomac — and to welcome you home.

Where Local Issues Find State Support

BY BRIAN J. FELDMAN
STATE SENATOR (DISTRICT 15)

As your state senator, one of the most rewarding pieces of legislation I sponsored during the 2015 Legislative Session created a Task Force to develop the framework and details for the establishment of Maryland’s Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program. The Maryland ABLE Program, when fully implemented, will allow individuals with disabilities and their families to set up and fund accounts similar to 529 College Savings Plans. The funds in the accounts will be used to cover employment training and assistance, educational expenses, transportation and medical expenses without adversely affecting eligibility for Federal Social Security and Med-

icaid funds. The Task Force, which I serve on, is meeting over the summer and into the fall to determine qualifying criteria regarding who can set up an ABLE account and what specific expenses the account can be used for under the program. The bill is the direct result of Federal bi-partisan ABLE legislation sponsored by Montgomery County’s own Congressman Chris Van Hollen and enacted in 2014 which authorizes individual states to implement their own ABLE programs.

It was particularly gratifying that I had the opportunity to collaborate with two local Potomac constituents – Heather Sachs and Stuart Spielman – on this important matter. Heather Sachs, director of State Government Affairs for the National Down Syndrome Society, together with Stuart

Spielman, the senior policy advisor and counsel at Autism Speaks, a national advocacy group, worked closely with me on the ABLE bill during the legislative session and are now key members of the Task Force. They brought this issue to my attention last January and then came to Annapolis and testified in both the House of Delegates and the State Senate where they effectively advocated for this critical piece of financial legislation. Heather and Stuart continue to work at the national level to pass ABLE legislation in all 50 states, as well as other measures to promote financial stability and independence for the disability community. It is our good fortune that they reside right here in our neighborhood. Their steadfast commitment to serve others is an inspiration and I salute them both.

Why I Live in Potomac ...

BY GINNY BARNES

It was love of a man that brought me to Potomac many years ago to live overlooking the Watts Branch stream in a log cabin moved in the 1940s from behind Great Falls Tavern. My husband George grew up here in the ‘50s and ‘60s in a childhood many of us only dream about with open space to explore and a small village where he had his first job in the pharmacy as a teenager. Potomac has grown of course. It is no longer a place for adventurous pioneers like his parents who wanted a rural country life to raise their kids. A lack of amenities like paved roads and electricity were acceptable inconveniences. Glen Road was a one lane stretch of concrete. If you met a car coming the other way, both had to drop right or left wheels off a steep edge onto washed out gravel. South Glen was still a dirt road. The Potomac Hunt met in our front pasture.

Settling here, I came to love the surrounding forests, the winding rustic roads and of course, the C&O Canal National Historic Park (NHP) where our home once lived. As

years have gone by, I’m constantly discovering new natural areas to explore. The federally owned C&O Canal stretches 184 miles and you could walk to Cumberland or Georgetown on the edge of a mighty river. I consider this the ultimate luxury of living in Potomac, even if I never do it. But Montgomery County itself has a wealth of parks and some of the largest are in Potomac. Blockhouse Point Conservation Park is likely the best of preserved natural areas, running along River Road from the Muddy Branch stream all the way to Calathea Farm. It adjoins the NHP with over 600 acres of mature forest and trails that lead to an overlook of breathtaking proportions. Named for the structures that allowed Civil War soldiers to see enemy movements, on a clear day you can see the Blue Ridge in the distance. Below you is a narrow ribbon of towpath between the canal and a long stretch of dancing river rapids with numerous rock islands where water birds gather to sit and sun themselves.

Visiting certain spots along the towpath has become ritual and I feel bereft if I miss those that rely on seasons. In Spring,

Violette’s Lock is an ode to bluebells that spread their dreamy color over the river banks. In the long narrow pools along the Berma Road at Old Anglers, wood frogs are an urgent chorus calling for mates. In summer, I take out-of-town visitors to Olmstead Island at Great Falls where we watch handsome great blue herons fish on rocks below the noisy crashing falls. Autumn colors in the woodlands lining the towpath at Widewater could not be more beautiful on a quiet Fall morning or afternoon walk. Untold pleasures are always awaiting any curious outdoor Rambler.

A Special place ... In the last year, I’ve taken frequently to the wooded slopes above the Berma Road at Old Angler’s for long walks in the Gold Mine Tract. Here live some of the most beautiful individual large trees to be found anywhere. You come upon them unexpectedly. Considered an invaluable biodiversity area, located between MacArthur Boulevard and the towpath, it was once the home of nesting wild turkeys and bobwhites. It still bears evidence of the destruction wreaked by gold mining in the late 19th century but offers some quiet walking on trails that can take you back to childhood reading of a tale from King Arthur. Noble knights traveling slowly through a narrow hidden valley, forest rising on either side of a small musical stream. The Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center has maps of the trail network.

