

Potomac ALMANAC

A+
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Clare Vinal, Fanny Malvezin of the Embassy of France, and Erin Lorano. Potomac Elementary School presented hearts to Malvezin for the city of Paris to show the school's love and respect for the French people who suffered terrorist attacks in November.



To Paris, With Love

Kumon Relocates to
Potomac Promenade Mall

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'Star Wars' Fans
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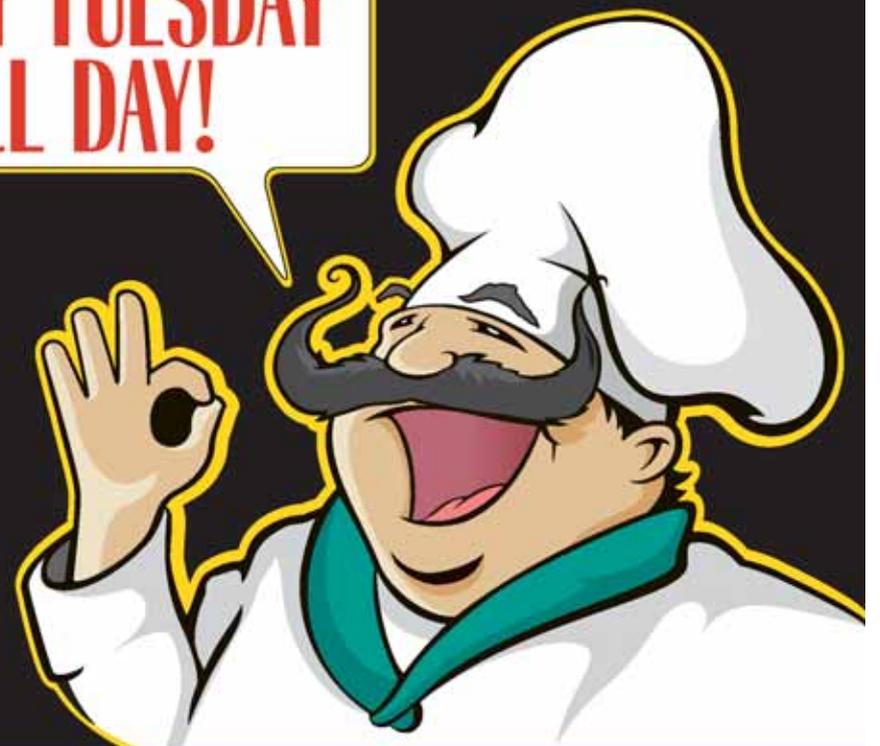
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With Hearts Filled with Kindness

Potomac Elementary School presented hearts to Fanny Malvezin of the French Embassy on Feb. 12. The hearts will be sent to the city of Paris to show the school's love and respect for the French people who suffered terrorist attacks in November. The entire student body, grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, made hearts and wrote messages — some in French. The idea came from two students who wanted to do something special for the city of Paris.

Kelly Callahan's third grade class.



PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH STEVENS
THE ALMANAC



Jonah Hill, Angie Chen, Kalena Yee, and Chiara Ganeayco



Mary Ellen Dixon, Catherine Allie, Fanny Malvezin from the French Embassy receiving the valentines, art teacher Tori Wenger, Jake and Joshua Le Hir.



Jake Le Hir and Jordan Thompson



Danna Park and Giovanni Qiao



Nicole-Marie Kouassi-Brou

OPINION

Manger Urges Support of Noah's Law

On the day that Montgomery County Officer Noah Leotta died, Chief of Police J. Thomas Manger spoke about Leotta's sacrifice. Manger talked about the driver who was under the influence of alcohol when he killed Leotta — the driver who had previously been arrested three times for driving under the influence (DUI) offenses.

DUI LAWS In honoring Leotta's sacrifice and in working to prevent impaired-driving tragedies in the future, Manger is collaborating with various people and agencies to include the following:

- ❖ Several legislators in Annapolis to strengthen the laws and penalties for drunk and impaired driving.

- ❖ The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office:

- To ensure that prosecutors are in agreement that strong prosecutions are needed, especially for repeat DUI offenders.

- On the development of a Court Watch program that involves volunteers who would observe court cases involving repeat DUI offenders and monitor judges' sentencing decisions.

- ❖ The Department of Corrections to ensure jail time is given to DUI offenders and that home detention is not an option.

Manger is urging community members and state-wide law enforcement personnel to support his efforts to make changes to the laws that pertain to driving while impaired: "I be-

lieve these changes are important and will make travel safer for everyone on Maryland roadways; these changes will save lives. I am asking that residents contact their delegates and senators and urge them to vote 'Yes' on the following bills:"

- ❖ Noah's Law – Mandatory Interlock for all Persons Convicted of Driving While Under the Influence (DUI)

Del. Benjamin Kramer and Sen. Jamie Raskin of Montgomery County have introduced legislation that will require interlock devices to be used by all drivers convicted of impaired driving. Presently under Maryland law, only persons who are convicted of DUI with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or more (.08 is the legal limit in Maryland) and repeat offenders are assigned interlocks by the Motor Vehicle Administration.

- ❖ Enhanced Penalties for Offenses of Manslaughter by Motor Vehicle and Homicide by Motor Vehicle while DUI

Manger is also asking the legislature to increase the penalties for anyone convicted of driving while impaired that results in a death of another person. Currently, the maximum penalty that a person faces for causing the death of another while operating a motor vehicle is 10 years in jail. In Maryland, the maximum penalty for homicide by motor vehicle while under the influence is 5 years and is one of the lowest penalties in the nation. This legislation is a top priority for Mothers Against

Drunk Driving (MADD) and has been identified as important legislation by Advocates for Auto and Highway Safety.

- ❖ Enhanced Penalties for Adults Who Host Underage Drinking Parties –Criminal Law – Providing Alcohol to Underage Drinkers

Del. David Fraser-Hildago has drafted legislation that adds a penalty of one-year maximum in jail and increases the already existing maximum fine amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for a first offense for providing alcohol to those who are underage. For a subsequent offense, the legislation would increase the existing maximum fine from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and add a penalty of a maximum of two years in jail.

- ❖ Civil Action – Wrongful Selling or Furnishing Alcoholic Beverages (Dram Shop Laws)

Del. Kathleen Dumais has drafted legislation that would allow a victim's family to seek civil action against an establishment and/or an individual who wrongfully sells or furnishes alcohol to a person. This law exists in several other states but does not exist in Maryland.

- ❖ Additional Traffic-Related Laws Related to DUI that the Department Supports

Fraser-Hidalgo proposes enhancing the Negligent Driving law. Currently, a person who drives negligently and causes the death of another is issued a pre-payable traffic citation for negligent driving; the person never has to appear in court. This new legislation requires that a person who drives negligently and causes the death of another person to appear in court.

LETTER

Beware of Puppy Mill Dogs

To the Editor:

While chocolates and flowers make great gifts for your sweet-heart on Feb. 14, a puppy from a pet store, flea market, or purchased online is a terrible decision. When you buy a dog from one of those sources, you unfortunately do not know what you are going to get and are likely supporting a puppy mill. Puppy mills are inhumane, commercial breeding facilities where dogs typically live in deplorable conditions.

The Humane Society of the United States recently released the results of a hidden-camera investigation which traced the sources of puppies sold in pet stores and flea markets. The investigation showed that some pet stores obtained puppies from puppy mills, including some of the worst facilities in the United States. These investigations show why lawmakers need to act now to regulate this industry and why it's best to adopt a dog from a shelter or rescue. Find your new love while saving a life shelterpetproject.org.

Marisa Landau
Potomac



Serving Refugees

Every year, Lutheran Social Service/National Capital Area welcomes hundreds of refugees from around the world to the U.S., averaging about 30 families a month. From the moment a new family arrives at the airport, Lutheran Social Service staff is at the

gate waiting to provide guidance, living arrangements and encouragement. While each family's story is different, their collective dreams are the same: to rebuild their lives in America and regain a sense of security after years of strife. LSS/NCA supports their clients during this transition by mobilizing community partners and offering a range of services to newcomers. In January, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda helped them stock the kitchens for their new homes. The kitchen items are a part of the 250 items it takes to stock an apartment for a family. Also, at this time of year, they especially need clean blankets to keep all our newly arriving refugees warm. To donate to support the refugee families, visit https://lssnca.org/lss/wwd_refugee. To learn more about the service activities, visit Emmanuel Lutheran Church at the corner of Seven Locks Road and Bradley Boulevard.

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www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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BUSINESS

Teaching through Problem-Solving

Kumon relocates to Potomac Promenade Mall.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Karen Forng of Potomac is the owner of the newly renovated and relocated Potomac Kumon Math and Reading Center. Because of her first-hand experience with the Kumon program, she is a true believer — and she opened her business to share Kumon with the many students who need academic support in reading, math and study skills.

She feels that the Kumon program is the reason her own son became a confident, successful student. Recently, she moved her business to the Potomac Promenade Mall, where the UPS, Kick's Karate and other new stores have made it come alive. Two-hundred to 300 students come on Monday and Thursday afternoons to hone their skills, improve their grades and discover methods for conquering the challenges of learning.

Kumon was created in 1954 by Toru Kumon, a Japanese father who wanted his son, Takeshi to develop a love for learning. He also wanted him to be thoroughly prepared for rigorous high school and college entrance exams. Each day, Toru gave his son "short incremental assignments" to complete, allowing for his son to master each concept completely before learning a new skill. This learning program was so successful, by 6th grade Takeshi was solving calculus problems. Other people noticed and wanted Toru to help their children. Thus, Kumon was created and has helped millions of children in 49 different countries. "Kumon is different from most tutoring programs because it instills the ability to work through problems in each child. Instead of taking notes, memorizing facts and being fed information from a



Karen Forng

teacher or a tutor, the child is actively engaged in developing critical self-learning skills," Forng said. "Kumon helps to accelerate learning in children as young as age 3 through high school." Forng has 10 years of elementary teaching experience in elementary schools. She also had a full year of Kumon training in Teaneck, N.J. and regularly attends workshops.

Students come to Forng's classroom twice a week for approximately 30 minutes each. They are introduced to new concepts, guided through worksheets to practice these concepts and then their mastery of the subject is checked. Forng develops a separate learning program for each time the student comes to Kumon as well as for practice at home. Kumon worksheets at home to enhance their skills and teach students to learn to work confidently within a measured amount of time. Special-needs students also find the reading, math and study skills support to be beneficial. "It's the specialization and working at one's own pace — I have many special-needs students," said Forng.

"Students gain self-confidence and become more interested in the subjects they are studying," said Forng. "When they have mistakes on their worksheets, they ask for help.

However, I don't just give them the answers, I make certain they figure out the correct answer on their own. I support them to learn."

Each class is supported by high school and college students who assist the Kumon students with one-on-one help.

"Education is so rewarding — I love seeing the children improve in their skills, earn better grades and feel better about themselves. I have a true desire to help students succeed," she said.

To learn more about the Potomac Kumon Reading, Math and Study Skills Center, contact Forng at 301-795-2788 or email her at karenforng@ikumon.com. Kumon is located at 7912 Falls Road, Suite 113 in the Potomac Promenade Shopping Center. Visit www.kumon.com/Potomac.

Transforming into New York-Style Deli

Since 1975, Potomac Village Deli in Gaithersburg has been the "Go-To" full-serve restaurant and delicatessen in the heart of Montgomery County.

Founder and "Deli Man" Sam Lerner along with business partner Adam Greenberg will bring a piece of Times Square to the Kentlands Market Square. Greenberg will close the Potomac Pizza location and redesign the interior as a New York, kosher-style deli.

The "new" Potomac Village Deli will feature fresh sliced, hot deli sandwiches, homemade matzo ball soup, hand-sliced lox, seating for up to 70, breakfast served all day, dinner specials and homemade cheesecake. The full service deli counter also will feature

bagels baked fresh in-house from Bagels 'n Grinds in addition to a variety of cream cheese selections. Bagels 'n Grinds uses a proprietary water treatment process that duplicates New York water. The restaurant and delicatessen will be open 365 days a year (366 this year).

Potomac Village Deli will feature pizza and calzones after 4 p.m. and the Traville Potomac Pizza location will absorb the delivery area. The restaurant doors will close on March 14; Phase I renovations will take place with the interior remodel, opening mid-April and Phase II will construct an outdoor patio area with additional seating for approximately 30 guests. Visit www.potomacvillagedeli.com.

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

Irene Wertheimer of the Potomac office of Weichert, Realtors, was recognized for her industry success during the month of January. A top producer, Wertheimer led the region, which is

comprised of locations throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well as areas in the District of Columbia, for resale dollar volume.

Cresa recently named **Christopher Crooks**, of Potomac, as a principal in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Crooks, who has nearly 25 years of real

estate experience, comes to D.C. after over 20 years of consulting and brokerage service at the Boston office of Cresa.

Crooks received a Bachelor of Science in finance and management from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Conn. He also studied at the University of Limburg, Maastricht, in the Netherlands.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

What's New in Luxury Bathroom Trends

The luxury home market is one that is energetic and always changing at a quick pace to meet the unique needs of its clients. Over the past decade, the trend of defining what makes luxury has shifted dramatically—once, an abundance of square footage was the primary aspect of defining a property as a luxury home. Today, the market and clientele have adjusted their needs, wants and long-term goals when purchasing luxury real estate. The new definition of luxury home places more emphasis on the ease, comfort, convenience and magnificence of the home's details, features and amenities, rather than the space that they take up. One such paradigm shift happens in the bathrooms of luxury homes, with a trend towards the creation of a spa-like atmosphere in the comfort of one's own home on the rise in popularity. Instead of adding more square footage to a home to provide a sense of escape, luxury and indulgence, the current market trend is in maximizing the efficiency, luxury, and sumptuousness of the home's square footage: essentially, why build extra rooms when you could be making the most of the ones you already have? For the coming year, simple upgrades that are hot commodities are standing spas, heated tile flooring, towel warming drawers and stone countertops. These improvements can take any luxury home's bathroom to the next level, entice prospective owners, indulge the current residents of the home and add to the home's long-term value over time.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Work with Victims of Sexual

Assault. Volunteers are needed to assist sexual assault victims and their families through the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program (VASAP) of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Interviews are currently being conducted for a spring 2016 training session. Volunteers provide 24-hour crisis counseling and companion services at Montgomery County hospitals and police stations for victims of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Bi-lingual volunteers are encouraged to apply. All potential volunteers must attend a training program. Call the Montgomery County Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program at 240-777-1355 or go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The spring issue of the **Montgomery County Guide for Recreation and Parks Programs** is now available to the public. Registration for programs and classes started Tuesday, Feb. 16. The Spring Guide features a wide variety of classes and programs designed to help participants stay active and have fun. There are offerings in aquatics, sports, therapeutic recreation services and active adult senior programming. For online registration and to view the guide online, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec. For additional information, call 240-777-6840.

COUNTY-WIDE EXERCISE PROGRAM

100 Mile Challenge. A new County Recreation Dept program, with prizes that rewards exercise, asks only that you exercise for 20 minutes a day. Called the "100 Mile Challenge," it started on Jan. 21 and will end 100 days later, with a party, the Move More Montgomery Festival, on April 30. Open to people of all ages (and their dogs), the program is self-reporting, with a goal of completing 100 miles (or more) in 100 days, with 20 minutes of continuous physical exercise (such as a yoga or aerobics class, or playing golf or going bike riding) counting as one mile, or just walk or run one mile or more. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/thingstodo/



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adding New Location

Kicks Karate is opening its 13th location at 9812 Falls Road in the Potomac Promenade shopping center. Kicks Karate has been serving both Montgomery and Frederick counties for more than 20 years and taught more than 50,000 residents the benefits of martial arts. Kicks Karate offers classes for students ages 3 and up and divides all classes by age and skill level. Adult Karate and Fitness Kickboxing is available for ages 13 and up. Visit KicksKarate.com.

events/100_mile_challenge_info.pdf.

THROUGH APRIL 18

Tax Preparation Assistance. The Montgomery County Volunteer Center's RSVP/AARP Tax-Aide Program is providing free tax preparation assistance. This service is available to low-to-moderate income taxpayers who live or work in Montgomery County. Special attention is given to those 60 years or older. Taxes are prepared at more than 20 different locations across Montgomery County and an appointment is required. Schedule an appointment at www.montgomeryserves.org/tax-aid/overview or call 240-777-2577.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Annual Spring Gardening Conference. At the University of Maryland Extension Montgomery County Office, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. Hosted by the Montgomery County Master Gardeners "Exploding the Myths: Fascinating Facts to Help You Avoid Common Gardening Mythstakes" will offer gardening workshops. \$55 or

\$50 each for groups of two or more. Admission covers coffee and refreshments, bag lunch, presentations, handouts, door prizes, access to speakers and on-line reference for presentations. The registration deadline is Feb. 16. Visit <https://www.extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/spring-miniconference>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Volunteer Training. 7 p.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center at 3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring. Consider volunteering with the Senior Connection to drive seniors to medical and other appointments. Training and liability coverage are provided, and volunteers create a schedule. Email volunteer@seniorconnectionmc.org, call 301-962-0820 or visit www.seniorconnectionmc.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Nomination Deadline. 5 p.m. Nominations Sought for Montgomery Serves and Neal Potter Volunteer Service Awards to honor some of the County's most dedicated volunteers.

- ❖ Neal Potter Path of Achievement Awards. In partnership with the Commission on Aging and "The Beacon Newspapers," two residents aged 60 and above will be selected for their lifetime of volunteer service to the County. This annual award is named in memory of former County Councilmember, County Executive and longtime community activist Neal Potter.
- ❖ Montgomery Serves Awards. These awards recognize special volunteer accomplishments during the calendar year 2015 in four categories: Youth (individuals 18 years and under and/or youth groups); Business (businesses that engage their employees as community volunteers); Community Service – Individual; and Community Service – Group. Nomination forms can be found at www.montgomeryserves.org, by calling the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or by sending an email to serviceawards@montgomerycountymd.gov. Winners are expected to be announced in mid-March. Awards will be presented on May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Imagination Stage in Bethesda.

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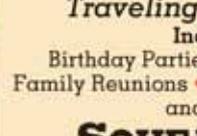






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‘Star Wars’ Fans Flock to Classes

Movie’s popularity leaves fans wanting to feel “The Force.”

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Beams of neon light flash around a dark room. Young Star Wars fans from a galaxy not so far away wield light sabers and move with carefully choreographed steps. These Jedis-in-training are undergoing a fantasy combat training that melds martial arts with light saber fighting, Star Wars-style.

“Star Wars fans are the ultimate martial arts enthusiasts. Star Wars is 100 percent developed on the concepts and philosophies of martial arts ... the use of the sword, the belief structure,” said Michael Dietrich of Dietrich’s Karate Fitness and Life Skills in Burke, Va. “Now we have an opportunity to invite students because of their interest in the movie. It’s an easy way to bring them into our schools and show them what martial arts are all about.”

Building on the hype surrounding the recent release of “Star Wars: Episode VII - The



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETRICH’S KARATE FITNESS AND LIFE SKILLS
Students work on light saber skills during a class at Dietrich’s Karate Fitness and Life Skills in Burke.

Force Awakens,” Dietrich began offering classes at his newly created “Laser Saber Academy.” Students sign up for a six-week class, where they learn how to use a light saber, tap into “The Force,” and improve their focus, discipline and determination.

“Any time a new movie or TV show comes out that features a robot, there is a spike in

interest in robotics,” said Dan Gallagher of RobotWorks in Burke, Va. “Every kid I’ve talked to since the Star Wars movie came out wants to know how BB-8 works. Before that, they talked about other robots like Wall-E, R2D2, and Baymax.”

At RobotWorks, Gallagher’s students learn basic robot design, construction and pro-

gramming. “In general, though, kids are always interested in robots and how they work. Robots are fun,” said Gallagher. “Building robots is even more fun, so we see a steady interest that might jump a little when a new movie robot makes an appearance because it acts as a reminder of that interest — bringing it back to the front burner.”

The concepts of the Star Wars universe are seeping into the extracurricular class choices at local schools, with students opting to take offerings like robotics and 3-D modeling. “I think that there is some interest in our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) activities that grows from sci-fi movies like Star Wars,” said Richard Rho, director of Technology Education and Innovation at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “I have had students 3D model and print the Tie Fighters and X Wing from the movies as well as talking about how we could create our own BB-8 droid in the robotics lab as the off season project.”

Educators say that such activities are fun and engaging while also educational. “It’s great students are getting inspired by the movie to create ideas and designs and spreading that interest with the rest of our community,” said Rho.

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PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

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5 9308 Mercy Hollow Lane — \$1,445,000



3 9009 Potomac Station Lane — \$1,735,000

6 9481 Turnberry Drive — \$1,350,000



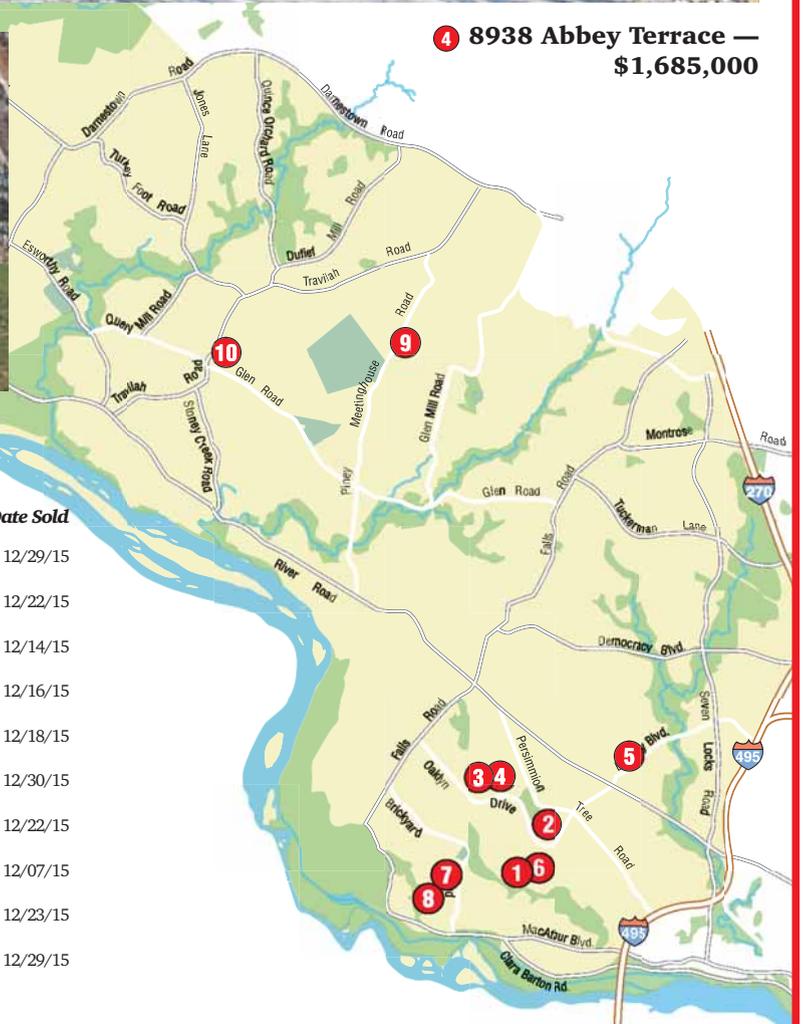
4 8938 Abbey Terrace — \$1,685,000



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3 9009 POTOMAC STATION LN	7	6	2	POTOMAC	\$1,735,000	Detached	2.00	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE		12/14/15
4 8938 ABBEY TER	5	4	2	POTOMAC	\$1,685,000	Detached	0.31	20854	AVENEL		12/16/15
5 9308 MERCY HOLLOW LN	6	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,445,000	Detached	1.82	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE		12/18/15
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7 7808 MASTERS DR	5	4	1	ROCKVILLE	\$1,310,000	Detached	0.43	20854	RIVER FALLS		12/22/15
8 7500 RIVER FALLS DR	6	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,275,000	Detached	0.38	20854	RIVER FALLS		12/07/15
9 10704 CLOVERBROOKE DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$1,238,000	Detached	0.35	20854	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE		12/23/15
10 12324 BRIARBUSH LN	5	4	2	POTOMAC	\$1,200,000	Detached	2.59	20854	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE		12/29/15

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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.

ONGOING

“Shades of Winter.” Through Feb. 20, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Artist Ken Bachman displays oil paintings. Free. Visit www.glenchopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

Creative Crafts Council Exhibit. Through Feb. 21, Saturday-Sunday 12-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. This exhibition features artists whose work had received awards at the Creative Crafts Council 30th Biennial Exhibition, which originally took place at Strathmore Mansion in June-July 2015. Free. Visit www.glenchopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

Phil Brown and Westen Muntain: “Alignment.” Through Feb. 21, Saturday-Sunday 12-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Phil Brown is a fine artist working in wood and wood turning. Westen Muntain is an accomplished intaglio printmaker and often combines painting with printmaking in her work. Free. Visit www.glenchopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

“Pinocchio.” Through Feb. 21, various times at the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. A life-size marionette version of Carlo Collodi’s classic children’s tale, created in the 1960s by the father of the Puppet Co.’s co-founder, Christopher Piper. Tickets are \$12. Visit www.thepuppetco.org for more.

“The Sound of Color.” Through Feb. 28, gallery hours at Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Sharon Dar prefers large canvases which allow her to apply paint in many layers. Free. Visit www.jccgw.org/exhibit/the-sound-of-color/.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Explorers Open Studio. Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Candy Corner Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Art activities for parents and children. Activities change weekly and there is no pre-registration; \$10 per child. Visit www.glenchopark.org/saturday-art-explorers for more.

Ceramic Classes. Various dates and times. VisArts, 155 Gibbs St, Rockville. An opportunity to try the new ceramic workshops. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/ceramics for a list of class dates, times.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

Potomac Chamber of Commerce Networking Event. 4-6 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Bring business cards, enjoy cash bar, etc. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, reservation required. Visit www.potomacchamber.org for more.

Artists in Residence Workshop: Bumper Jacks. 7:30 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Jess Eliot Myhre and Chris Ousley are the Bumper Jacks, an American roots project that combines country and traditional jazz. This workshop includes hands-on experimentation with handmade instruments as well as recorded and live musical examples. Through discussion, discover how early American country

music was shaped by technology and dance. Tickets are \$17. Visit www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

40th Anniversary: Art & Poetry. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Writer’s Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. In collaboration with the Corcoran School of Art/GW, The Writer’s Center presents “Ekphrasis,” an exhibition of artwork by advanced painters paired up with advanced poets and instructors from the Center. Free. Visit www.writer.org for more.

Book Talk: “Truthwitch” and “Riders.” 7-9 p.m. at Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda. Young adult authors Susan Dennard, Kami Garcia, and Veronica Rossi discuss. Free. Call 240-777-0970 for more.

FEB. 19-MARCH 13

Student Art Show. Gallery hours at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St. Students 14 and older may submit work to be considered for participation in a student art show. \$5 application fee. Apply by Thursday, Feb. 4. Visit visarts.submittable.com.

FEB. 19-MARCH 20

Rachel Hamel: “Necessarily Invisible.” Gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Rachel Hamel’s small sculptural paintings encourage visual and tactile encounters with distance, home, place, displacement, and landscape. Free. Visit visartsatrockville.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Spring Gardening Conference. 8:30 a.m. at University of Maryland Extension Montgomery County Office, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. The daylong event offers multiple workshops, networking with other gardeners, answers to gardening questions, handouts, and reference materials. Participants can attend three of nine concurrent workshops, and two lunch-time talks, all taught by Master Gardeners. Advance registration is \$55. Visit www.mcmgconference.eventbrite.com.

Lunar New Year Celebration. 11 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Performances by the Madison Chinese Dance Academy. Free. Call 240-221-1370 for more.

Play in a Day. 8 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Six professional Washington, D.C., area theatre companies will write, direct, rehearse and perform original plays based on similar themes in 24 hours. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 20-21

“The Music Man.” 8 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. A con man comes to small-town Iowa and organizes a children’s band. A cast/crew of 55 — including children from 15 area schools bring “The Music Man” to the Har Shalom Players’ stage. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for children under 13. Call 301-299-7087 or email play@harshalom.org for more.

Cellist Zuill Bailey. 8 p.m. on Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Cellist Zuill Bailey joins the National Philharmonic, led by Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski, in a performance of two concertos by the Baroque maestro Antonio Vivaldi. Tickets start at \$29, free for children 7-17. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. workshop, 3:30-6 p.m. dance at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The New Caledonia ensemble will provide music for folk waltzes including the Hambo, Schottische and more. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.waltztimedances.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Artists in Residence: Bumper Jacks. 7:30 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Jess Eliot Myhre and Chris Ousley are the Bumper Jacks, an American roots project that combines country and traditional jazz. Tickets are \$17. Visit www.strathmore.org.

FEB. 25-MARCH 6

Victorian Lyric Opera: “Robin Hood.” Various times at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre—Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Watch a performance following the folkloric outlaw as he robs the rich and gives to the poor. Tickets are \$28, \$24 for seniors, and \$20 for students. Visit www.vloc.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Art Exhibit Reception: “Cranes in Motion.” 7-9 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. As an artist and filmmaker, Cathy Cook is inspired by nature. “Cranes in Motion” aims to promote public interest, awareness, and appreciation of crane culture through a

multifaceted portrayal of the natural history of this species. Artist Cathy Cook will be on hand for questions and commentary. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

FEB. 26-APRIL 10

Art Exhibit: You and Me, You and I. Gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Artist Calla Thompson examines culture through visual art. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

FEB. 26-APRIL 24

Art Exhibit: “Cranes in Motion.” Gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. As an artist and filmmaker, Cathy Cook is inspired by nature. “Cranes in Motion” aims to promote public interest, awareness, and appreciation of crane culture through a multifaceted portrayal of the natural history of this species. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

FEB. 27-MARCH 27

Art Exhibit: “Fields of Inquiry.” 12-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. “Fields of Inquiry” brings together the work of three artists working the space of imagination: Mei Mei Chang, Pat Goslee, and Kathryn McDonnell. Free. Call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Victorian Lyric Opera: “Robin Hood” Special Event. 7 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre—Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Learn about the history of the creation of Robin Hood

from Felicity Ann Brown, Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies Librarian at the University of Maryland’s Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library. Free. Visit www.vloc.org for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

Vision Board Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. This two-hour workshop include laughter exercise, journaling, and make a vision board. \$40 fee and poster board not included. Email LaughingRx@gmail.com.

Dixieland Jazz Jam Session. 3-6 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Bring your instrument and sit in with the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band during the first set. Or just drop in to listen to classic jazz, Dixieland, and swing. \$10 admission, free for jammers and students. Call 301-762-3323 or visit www.prcj.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Flamenco Vivo: “Poema de Andalucía.” 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. There are four elements of flamenco: Cante—Voice, Baile—Dance, Toque—Guitar, and Jaleo—audience participation. Tickets are \$28-72. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

Potomac After Hours. 9:15-11 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Middle schoolers (6-8th graders) are invited to attend “live band night.” Find arts and crafts including tie dye and a live band. Admission is \$5. Visit www.activemontgomery.org and use code #11952 to register.



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One Hundred Pills



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What exactly am I going to do with 100 pills? Well, barring unforeseen (good or bad) circumstances, I'll certainly continue to take them every four weeks: two the day before my chemotherapy infusion, two the day of and two the day after, as I've done so now, for this particular medication, going on 30-plus months. "Not that there's anything wrong with that," or new, for that matter. But when I refilled this prescription last week, I was surprised when, after the pharmacy customer-server opened the bottle to show me the pills and ask if I had any questions, she then mentioned the count: "100." That's a lot of pills, I thought, more than usual. Typically, I receive only 30 pills.

As I drove home from the pharmacy, I began to think (always dangerous). Why would my oncologist prescribe so many pills? I only need six per month. Is there a minimum he must order? A maximum? Did he over prescribe? Does he even have any input? Perhaps he's projecting my life expectancy? One hundred pills divided by six per month calculates to 17 months/infusions for which I now have pills. I don't want to look a gift oncologist in the mouth, but as a seven-year cancer survivor, I'm well aware that cancer treatment/results are hardly cast in stone and 17 months seems like a long time not yet gone (David Crosby song title, sort of).

I'm sure part of my presumptuousness is naiveté. I want/need to believe in something/anything positive (any port in a storm) concerning/relating to my health/treatment. More so when I'm in between my every-three-month, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. That's when we review my most recent diagnostic scan and assess my overall status and consider treatment options before agreeing on a schedule for the next three months. Not that I'm discouraged from communicating with him in the interim. Quite the opposite in fact; he's very responsive to my e-mails. It's more that electronic communication is a "two-dimensional" type of communication, and I'm a "three-dimensional" kind of communicator. Obviously, I can respond electronically to his answers and presumably we could type back and forth, but dare I show my age and say: It's just not the same as being there/talking on the telephone. Ergo, during this between-appointment interval, I'm sort of left to my own devices and in turn inclined to wobble - and wonder, emotionally, about my life. Perhaps I should look on the bright side and be glad my oncologist didn't order six pills.

I suppose, if I wanted to be honest with myself, I'd say the number of the pills prescribed/in the bottle probably mean nothing. The doctor simply checked a box and off the order went with nary a consideration of the patient's reaction. Nor do I think the doctor is aware of patient co-pays, deductibles, percentage of benefits used or any of the other out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prescription/patient's health insurance. "Hippocratically" speaking, that's not his job. His job is to keep me/the patient alive.

And since I'm still alive, pill-count notwithstanding, I'm looking forward to the next 17 months. Seeing my bottles of pills become less full over time gives me a peculiar sense of accomplishment: that I continue to survive in the face of what was originally a fairly discouraging set of circumstances. Occasionally, however, I have to be realistic; 100 is simply a number, not a prognosis.

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

Churchill Boys Beat Whitman

The Churchill boys' basketball team snapped a two-game losing skid with a 58-57 victory at Whitman on Feb. 9.

Brad Leventhal led the Bulldogs with 19 points, according to allmetsports.com. Jon Wilson finished with 16 points, including four 3-pointers.

Shaq Diboti-Lobe led Whitman with 25 points and Max Oppenheim totaled 19.

SPORTS BRIEFS Churchill (11-8) had won seven consecutive games before suffering back-to-back losses against Walter Johnson and Richard Montgomery.

The loss to Churchill snapped a five-game win streak for Whitman (10-8).

Churchill has three regular season games remaining on its schedule, starting with a Wednesday home game against Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7:15 p.m. The Bulldogs will travel to take on Poolesville on Friday, Feb. 19, and will finish with a road game against Blair on Feb. 22.

Whitman will host Richard Montgomery at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, and will play road games against The Heights (Feb. 19) and Paint Branch (Feb. 22).

Whitman Girls Extend Win Streak to 10

The Whitman girls' basketball team defeated Churchill 54-32 on Feb. 9, improving its record to 15-3 and extending its win



Brad Leventhal, seen earlier this season, and the Churchill boys' basketball team snapped a two-game losing skid with a win over Whitman on Feb. 9.



Abby Meyers, seen earlier this season, and the Whitman girls' basketball team defeated Churchill on Feb. 9.

streak to 10 games.

Abby Meyers led the Vikings with 16 points, according to the Whitman athletics

Web site. Betsy Knox had 14 points and Emily Meyers added nine.

Whitman will host Richard Montgomery

at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17 and Holy Child at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Tufts University (Medford, Mass.) recently announced the dean's list for undergraduate students enrolled for the fall 2015 semester, including: **Scott Bettigole**, class of 2018; **Gil Jacobson**, class of 2019; **Ping Ni**, class of 2016; **Sarah Reitzes**, class of 2016; **Hershel Tamboli**, class of 2018; and **Michael Yang**, class of 2016.

Zoie Acadia and **Sydney Finfer** graduated from Frostburg State University (Frostburg, Md.) in December. Acadia, of Potomac, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Finfer, of Potomac, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

Victoria A. Barry and **Tim J. Nardi** earned dean's list honors for the spring 2015 semester at Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, Md.). Barry, of Potomac, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bertrand Barry. Nardi, of Potomac, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Nardi.

Nicole Manilich, of Potomac, has been named to the fall 2015 dean's list at John Carroll University (University Heights, Ohio).

The 2016 Student Series High School Challenge program (Pennies For Patients), began Monday, Feb. 1, with 13 local schools, including **Walt**

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Whitman High School and **Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School**, competing for the title of top fundraising high school in the D.C. Metropolitan Area. This four-week competition encourages students to think outside the box, and develop leadership and fundraising skills in support of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Capital Area Chapter.

Caroline M. Dove was named to the Colby College (Waterville, Maine) dean's list for the fall semester of the 2015-16 year. Dove is a member of the class of 2017, attended Potomac School and is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Katherine Dove of Potomac.

These Winston Churchill High School graduates were named to the dean's list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.) during the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year: **Emily Andrews**, class of 2018; **Katherine Lunceford**, class of 2017; **William Szamosszegi**, class of 2018; and **Kimberley Nidah**, class of 2016.

Ana Faguy earned dean's list honors for the fall 2015 semester at Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, Pa.). Ana studies political science.

Andrew Mokotoff of Potomac, a member of the class of 2017 majoring in computer science, was named to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Dean's List for academic excellence for the fall 2015 semester.

NEWS BRIEFS

Peace Groups Sponsor Writing Contest

All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice. The contest, sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Justice Center of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels. This is the 20th consecutive year the contest has been conducted.

Four cash prizes will be awarded: \$350 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place.

To enter, students must submit an entry of up to 1,200 words on the topic: "The United States is considering resettling as many as 10,000 refugees this year from the Syrian civil war. Approximately half of these refugees are children. Suppose that some of these children become students at your school. And suppose that your principal asks you to serve on a committee to develop a plan to welcome the new students and help them become part of your school and your community. Describe a plan of action that you would suggest to the committee to attain these goals."

Entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet including the student's name, address and phone number or e-mail address; school's name, address and phone number; and the name of the teacher sponsor if applicable.

Entries and accompanying materials must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2016 and mailed to Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328.

Anne Arundel Peace Action and the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund are affiliated with Peace Action, the country's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization with approximately 100,000 members nationwide.

Call 410-263-7409 or e-mail mjkeller@att.net for more.

Black History Tour Registration Opens

An annual civil rights historic bus tour retraces the steps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights heroes. The tour is hosted by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Public Libraries, the African American Employees Association, the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The bus tour leaves Rockville on April 3 and returns on April 10. The tour will travel to Greensboro, N.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama; Memphis and Nashville, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark., and Jackson, Miss., to retrace the Freedom Trail to learn about Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, voter's rights, Little Rock Nine and other significant events of the Civil Rights Movement.

Highlights on the tour include the Birth Home Museum of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; the new National Center for Civil and Human Rights; the Civil Rights Memorial Museum; the International Civil Rights Center and Museum; the Rosa Parks Museum; the Freedom Rides Museum; the National Voting Rights Museum; the famed Sixteenth Street Baptist Church; the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge; the Central High School, Fisk University, Medgar Evers' Home and the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel.

A pre-tour meeting will be held about one week prior to the tour in the Office of Human Rights Conference and Mediation Center, Suite 330, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. At least one member of each group is required to attend this meeting. A deposit for half the tour fee is due as soon as possible. Registration information and cost of the tour is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights/. Contact Beverly Marshall in the Office of Human Rights at beverly.marshall@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-8479.



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Lisa Stransky Brown 202-368-6060



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
NEW PRICE! Renovated home with over 6,000SF of finished space on three levels. Embassy sized rooms and a great floor plan make this an outstanding value. Four-car garage. \$1,195,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
Custom built home in Potomac Village with moldings, built-ins, lots of light, four fireplaces. Pool, built-in kitchen & outdoor bath. \$1,195,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598
Betsy Schuman 301-996-8700



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
Beautifully renovated move-in condition. Refinished floors, beamed ceiling family room, freshly painted, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances & perfectly level lot. Finished LL. \$1,185,000
Anne Kileen 301-706-0067



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
NEW PRICE! Updated Brendan O'Neill cape with renovated kitchen & baths, idyllic 1.7 acre lot, 4 fpl, open kitchen/family room & w/o LL. \$1,075,000
Meg Percesepe 240-441-8434
Alison Shutt 301-219-7671



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Luxmanor Charmer! Well priced col set on ¼ acre. 2-story foyer, spacious rooms, chef's kit off fam rm. Near shops, dining & parks. \$999,500
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214
Kari Dainty 240-888-2826



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
NEW PRICE! Stunning classic col on cul-de-sac. High end renovation. 4BR, 4.5BA. Walking dist. to Potomac Vil & parks. Churchill Cluster. \$969,000
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214
Kari Dainty 240-888-2826



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
Stylish updated col on cul-de-sac! 4BR/3.5BA w/ renov. gourmet kit, fab sunroom addition & bright W/O LL w/ guest room & BA. \$825,000
Meg Percesepe 240-441-8434
Alison Shutt 301-219-7671



TILDEN WOODS, NORTH BETHESDA, MD
NEW LISTING! Stunning rambler on corner lot. Tabor Design kit & sunroom addition. W/O LL. Close to park, dining & Metro. 4BR, 3BA. \$739,000
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214
Kari Dainty 240-888-2826

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