

Potomac ALMANAC

Japanese stilt grass,
also known as Nepalese
browntop, quickly
crowds out and destroys
native species.

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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.

JACKETS WANTED

Fleeces or Hoodies. Spring is here, but the nights are still cold. If you have clean, gently used fleeces or hoodies suitable for men, Bethesda Cares requests that donors bring them to 7728 Woodmont Ave. Tax receipts are available for donations. Visit bethesda-cares.org/ or call 301-907-9244.

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. Appointment required, at www.montgomeryserves.org/tax-aide/overview or call 240-777-2577.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Self-Defense for Women. 7 p.m. at Rockville Memorial Library, first floor meeting room., 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. SAFE: A self defense workshop for women. \$10. Space is limited. Visit <http://bit.ly/1XYkWnb> for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Amateur Radio Classes. 9 a.m.-noon at Science Center, room SC 463, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club is offering a free amateur radio technician class Saturday mornings from through May 7. Free. Register at www.marclub.org/mweb/education/classes/index.html. Contact David Bern, W2LNX, at education@marclub.org or 240-242-5660.

Aging in Place

Eric Stewart, a real estate broker will share his strategies at the April 14 Potomac Community Village meeting for keeping one's home easy to manage, and a place of comfort, familiarity and safety. The program, "How to Stay in Your Home As You Age — and What to Do if You Can't," is free and open to all. While admission is free, tax-deductible donations are very much appreciated.



Stewart

With a lifelong commitment to community and social good, Stewart has founded the non-profit, WidowCare, serving widows and widowers in distress. He also draws on his over 28 years of experience for his listeners on WMAL radio every Sunday morning. PCV's April 14 meeting takes place from 7-9 p.m. at The Bolger Center's Franklin Building, 9800 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Use Parking Lot #1.

Potomac Community Village is a non-profit all-volunteer network of neighbors and friends that enhances quality of life for older Potomac residents by creating social connections and providing services such as transportation, computer assistance and simple home repairs. For more information, to volunteer or to get volunteer help, contact info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

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David Trone: Potomac Resident and Entrepreneur

And one of nine seeking Democratic nomination in 8th Congressional District.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

David Trone, co-owner and president of Total Wine & More, is an entrepreneur known for his community involvement and philanthropy, as well as his candidacy for U.S. Congress.

He is also a committed dad whose favorite activity over the years has been coaching his children's sports teams. "In one single year I coached 13 teams," he said with a grin. "Each of my four kids played on baseball, softball, soccer or lacrosse teams. I volunteered to coach them because I love working with kids and seeing them learn a sport while having fun. I wasn't the type of coach who worried about winning – I just wanted each child to have a chance to play all the positions, to learn teamwork and sportsmanship. For me, it was relaxing and fun."

Born in Cheverly, Md., Trone and his family moved to a 200-acre farm when he was 11 to raise chickens, hogs, corn and wheat. For a year, the farm had no indoor plumbing. Since their father had little farming experience, David and his brother Robert often carried the load of selling eggs and cleaning the hog pens and chicken houses.

The Trone farm fell into insolvency and his father filed for bankruptcy in 1983.

Trone graduated from Furman University and earned an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. While in graduate school, Trone bought a beer and wine store in Delaware. "It was a good time to enter the business of retailing beer and wine," he said. "There wasn't a lot of competition at the time."

He acquired more small beer and wine stores and in 1991, he and his brother Robert purchased five Total Beverage stores. The business name was changed to Total Wine & More. It is now the largest privately owned retailer of beer, wine and spirits in the U.S. and has expanded to 21 states. "Owning a business is a lot of hard work, perseverance and determination — but we our share of luck. When we opened, we were selling beer and wine — probably more beer than wine. That same year, '60 Minutes' aired a story which hailed wine (particularly red) as being good for your health. Right after that, wine sales took off. Neither my brother nor I knew much about



June and David Trone of Potomac.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

fine wines — or any kind of wine — so we had to quickly learn. Our wine business has grown and grown — and we feature wines from many states in addition to 112 foreign countries," said Trone.

The Trones moved to Potomac in 1999 from the Pittsburgh area. "June fell in love with the beauty of Potomac, the good schools and our temple, Beth Ami," said Trone. "We chose the Cabin John Mall as our first office space — the shortest commute ever for me. We just recently opened an expanded headquarters on Rock Spring Drive in Bethesda."

Although the Trone's children are now young adults, Trone still places a priority on mentoring young people. He has made certain that his business focuses on provid-

ing internships and educational scholarships. His employees can earn their GED at company expense, and a new program is currently being tested to provide opportunities for employees to earn a four-year college degree with company help. The company has also given significant donations to a wide range of nonprofits which support the humanities, health services and education. Trone serves as a trustee on the Bullis Board of Directors, leading their strategic campaign for the building of the new state-of-the-art STEM building. The building will provide specialized classrooms for science, technology, engineering and math classes as well as for programs in leadership and entrepreneurship.

Working with the ACLU, the Trones recently gifted \$15 million to establish the Trone Criminal Justice Center. Trone is passionate about restructuring U.S. prison programs to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment. He believes incarceration programs should concentrate on improving the mental and physical health of prisoners and teach them job skills to lower the rates of recidivism: "The current system severely reduces the chances for those who have served their time to start a new life after their release."

The Trones also donated funds to establish the Trone Family Public Policy Initiative Fund at the Wharton School to "provide funding for research and other critical support, promoting clear, fact-driven accessible knowledge to stimulate policies that will benefit the American Public."

About the 8th Congressional Election

The presidential primary is April 26, with polls open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

David Trone (www.davidtrone.com/congress) is one of nine candidates vying for the Democratic nomination to replace U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen in the 8th Congressional District, which includes parts of Potomac. Other candidates include David Anderson (www.andersonforcongress.com/), Kumar Barve (www.kumarbarve.com/), Dan Bolling (www.linkedin.com/in/danmontgomerycounty), Ana Sol Gutierrez (www.anasolgutierrez.com/), William Jawando (www.willjawando.com/), Kathleen Matthews (www.kathleenmatthewsforcongress.com/), Jamie Raskin (www.jamieraskin.com/), and Joel Rubin (www.joelrubinforcongress.com/).

On the Republican ballot: Dan Cox (www.coxforcongress.org/), Jeffrey Jones (www.facebook.com/JeffJonesforCongress/), Liz Matory (www.lizforcongress.nationbuilder.com/), Aryeh Shudofsky (www.aryehforcongress.com/), and Shelly Skolnick (www.shellyskolnickforcongress.com/).

http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2016/primary_candidates/gen_cand_lists_2016_3_00808.html

Democrats



David Anderson



Kumar Barve



Dan Bolling



Dan Cox



Jeffrey Jones



Ana Sol Gutierrez



William Jawando



Kathleen Matthews



Liz Matory



Aryeh Shudofsky



Jamie Raskin



Joel Rubin



David Trone



Shelly Skolnick

Republicans

Early Voting

Early voting starts April 14. For those registered to vote, the Montgomery County Board of Elections is mailing a personalized sample ballot, along with all of the information needed to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election, depending on which political party one is registered with and where one lives. The sample ballot is an 8 and a half x 11 booklet and has information on Early Voting locations on the front cover and Election Day polling place on the back cover.

Review the sample ballot for the following information:

- ❖ The locations of the Montgomery County Early Voting Centers where one may choose to cast a ballot between April 14 and 21;
- ❖ The location of the assigned polling place on Election Day – April 26;
- ❖ Instructions on how to use the new paper based, digital image scan voting system;
- ❖ Directions on how to review the choices prior to casting a ballot; and
- ❖ Pictures of the actual ballot.

To facilitate the voting process, the Board of Elections encourages voters to mark the sample ballot in advance and take it with them.

The county's Early Voting Centers will be open from Thursday, April 14 through Thursday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. During Early Voting, the Board of Elections encourages voters to visit its website – www.777vote.org – to view the wait time scroll bar and for voting locations and information.

Before Planting ... Get to know Maryland's invasive species.

BY CAROLE FUNGER
THE ALMANAC

This spring, you may have noticed many beautiful white flowering trees dotting the Maryland landscape. Rising up from the banks of the highway or clustered in large masses on the fringes of forests, they appear to be the essence of springtime. These are no friendly trees, however. These are non-native species that have become invasive. And, they are steadily contributing to the demise of many of our local flora and fauna.

What is this tree? It is none other than the Bradford or ornamental pear. Initially developed as an ornamental hybrid, the tree's tendency to collapse as it aged led to the introduction of more sturdy hybrids. Cross-pollination among hybrids resulted in fertile offspring with berry-sized fruits. Over the past decade, the seeds of those fruits have sown rapidly in the wild, disturbing natural areas and displacing native species.

The Bradford Pear is just one of many non-native plants that were brought to our area either accidentally or on purpose from other countries or regions of the United States. Most of the species have become naturalized and cohabit peacefully with their native plant neighbors. Some, though, have become extremely aggressive over time. These foreign plants have since become "alien" species, wreaking havoc on our local landscape.

How do these plants get so aggressive? They do so because they've left behind most of their natural predators and diseases in their places of origin. Without these natural curbs, invasive plants are free to grow unchecked once they've gained a foothold. Local deer populations stay clear of them (since they can't digest non-native plants) as they rapidly overrun parks, farms and woodlands. Left unchecked, invasive plants can swallow up millions of acres a year, destroying vulnerable native species and dramatically altering our landscape.

Of course, some invasive plants wreak more havoc than others.

Following are some non-native species that in recent years have become extremely aggressive. Once you familiarize yourself with them, you'll start noticing these plants everywhere; on the towpath, on the fringes of woodlands, alongside the road, maybe even in your back yard. If possible, try to avoid purchasing these species at the plant store and consider planting native alternatives.

Bamboo

Many of you may already be aware of bamboo's vigorous growth habits. It spreads rapidly by rhizomes and in one day can put on up to 3 feet of growth. There are two types of bamboo that origi-



Bamboo

nated in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia: running and clumping. Running bamboo may act as a great privacy screen, but its deep, near impenetrable roots make it next to impossible to remove. Yes, it may make a great natural screen, but before you know it, the plant will be encroaching on you and your neighbor.

English Ivy

English ivy is not from England, but from Eurasia. It is a stunning groundcover, but once it starts to climb, this evergreen vine smothers branches, girdles trees and slowly kills them. In trees, the vine produces toxic berries that when eaten by birds, causes them to vomit them out, seeding the invasive species everywhere. Waxy leaf surfaces make it impervious to herbicides and it can sprout from any rooted section.



English ivy

Porcelainberry

This Asian vine, greatly admired for its multi-colored berries, easily climbs over shrubs and trees, eventually strangling and killing them. The leaves resemble grape leaves, but the bark does not peel. The vine will invade in sunny or partially shaded areas. In Maryland, it is slowly taking over the local forest understory.



Porcelainberry vine



Japanese honeysuckle

Japanese Honeysuckle

This beautiful vine was first introduced in 1906 from Japan to the United States as an ornamental plant. Fast growing, with showy, fragrant flowers it was an instant hit among gardeners. Highway planners began using it to control erosion. Unfortunately, the vine has now become aggressive and is engulfing trees and shrubs, shading much of the natural forest understory and choking out many native species.

Japanese Stilt Grass

If you've been hiking on the towpath lately, you may have noticed dense stands of a small sized grass with bright green elongated leaves.

This is Japanese stilt grass, also known as Nepalese browntop, a highly aggressive invader in the eastern United States. Growing rapidly in environments from deeply shaded forests to open hillsides, it quickly crowds out and destroys native species. It has few known predators and white-tailed deer steer clear of it.

Mile-a-Minute

By now, most of us can recognize the invasive vine, kudzu that blankets many of the trees in our area parks and by the beltway. But, it isn't only kudzu that is choking off Maryland woodlands. The miniature heart-shaped vine called Mile-a-Minute (also known as Devil's Tear-Thumb) is a barbed annual vine that comes up in spring and is already making seeds by June. Native to Asia, it can grow 25 feet in one season in the sun or shade. Like kudzu, it kills the trees and shrubs it climbs on by shading and girdling them, occasionally even toppling them with its extra weight.



Mile-a-minute

Tree of Heaven

This fast-growing tree is native to China. It can thrive in the most inhospitable of conditions. Its long compound leaves resemble walnut (with which it is often confused); however unlike walnut, its bark is smooth and gray. The plant produces papery samara seeds in the early fall that hang in brown clusters all winter, while the roots produce toxins that kill competing plants. Suckers create huge colonies and cutting can't control them; instead it stimulates a whole mass of new sprouts.

What can we do about this? Start with looking to buy native species. Or, if you buy non-native plants, make sure they're not on the Maryland Invasive Species list. As regards the Bradford Pear, the native tree, Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier), is a great substitute. A Missouri native, it is not invasive in our area. Each spring at this time, it produces heavy white blooms. It also produces masses of edible red berries that are delicious not only to wildlife but humans as well.

Interested in learning more? Join the Montgomery Parks Weed Warriors, a program dedicated to protecting the biodiversity in our area and combating invasive plants.

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Veg_Management/weed_warriors/.

Or, go to Maryland Invasive Species at http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invasive_species_md.html for up-to-date lists and information on all Maryland invasive plants.

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SPORTS

Churchill Boys' Lax To Compete in Bel Air Tournament

The Churchill boys' lacrosse team will play two games on Saturday at Bel Air High School. The Bulldogs will take on Franklin (Reisterstown) at 10:45 a.m. and face Bel Air at 5:45 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS The Bulldogs will travel to face Springbrook at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 4 and will host Poolesville for their home opener at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6.

The Bulldogs opened the season with an 11-10 victory over The Heights on March 23.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE

Ryan Sorkin, seen last season, and the Churchill boys' lacrosse team will host Poolesville on April 6.

Tyler Hwang pitched a scoreless seventh and got the save.

Noah Clement and Noah Abramowitz each had two hits and an RBI for Whitman. Sean Cook and Sean Hannegan each had an RBI.

Whitman Baseball To Face Blair, WJ

The Whitman baseball team will travel to face Blair at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1 before hosting Walter Johnson at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

The Vikings are off to a 2-0 start, including a 4-3 victory over Poolesville on March 23 at Whitman High School. Whitman trailed 3-0 entering the bottom of the sixth inning before scoring four runs in the frame.

Starting pitcher Max Palermo earned the win, allowing three runs — two earned — and seven hits in six innings. He struck out eight and walked none.

Wootton Baseball To Play Two Saturday

The Wootton baseball team will host a pair of games on Saturday, taking on Walter Johnson at 11 a.m. and Damascus at 2 p.m.

The Patriots opened the 2016 season with a 20-9 loss to Magruder on March 21 and followed with a 4-3 win over Churchill on March 23.

Lax Max Youth Lacrosse Tournament

Team registrations are now being accepted for the 22nd Annual Lax Max Youth Lacrosse Tournament scheduled for the weekend of June 10-12 in Westminster.

The event is open to all boys and girls youth lacrosse teams within the mid-Atlantic region. Competition is available in the dual age groupings of U8 through U19 in either the recreation travel & town teams A, B and C levels; or for club and tournament all-star teams in the AA, A and B levels.

Lax Max features round-robin competition, guaranteeing all teams a minimum of three games; with additional playoff and championship games where applicable.

Additional information and registration forms are available at www.laxmax.com or by emailing mdsports.events.skip@comcast.net or pikesvillelaxmax@aol.com.

Troop Honors New Eagle Scout Ian B. Granthon



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ian B. Granthon

Ian B. Granthon from Troop 944 recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He is the troop's 126th Eagle Scout since the troop's founding in 1968. Troop 944 is sponsored by St. Raphael Catholic Church in Rockville.

Ian received his Eagle rank at age 14 and attends Robert Frost Middle School.

His passion is soccer, which he has been playing since he could walk.

He has been volunteering as an assistant coach to a MSI team for the past two years. For his Eagle project he built a soccer field in his old elementary school Fallsmead with his Scout Troop 944 and friends.

The school has many children who wanted to play

structured soccer but couldn't because there were no fields or goals. Measurements and corners were made according to MSI Regulations for children, and then they spray painted the field. Lastly they built and set-up the goals.

One of his strengths is his willingness to help others.

He is serious about his Catholic faith helping with charities, such as Stepping Stones in Rockville by cooking meals, donating clothes, and participating in fundraisers. In addition, he completed 27 merit badges — six more than the 21 required for Eagle. In the next school year Ian will be attending Gonzaga College High School.

The Eagle Court of Honor was held on March 18.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Secret to Successful Buying

There's an old secret to buying a new home that Realtors® have known for years. Don't buy the most expensive property in the community. This secret is a tactic that's been tested and proven over time, and if you follow it while shopping for your dream home, you'll be investing in both your home and your future possibilities for its resale value. While it's appealing to buy a home in a well-established community full of modern homes and meticulously maintained lawns, what happens to that neighborhood in a soft market? What would the ramifications be for your home, valued highest in the neighborhood, is suddenly flanked on all sides by a slew of lesser-valued homes? What happens is this: your perfectly maintained home will be undermined, despite its state-of-the-art amenities, its sleek, modern kitchen and its impressive whirlpool tubs. Your ability to sell your home will be compromised by its proximity to a number of lesser-priced homes, while those same homes will benefit from their proximity to your home. In a market evaluation, this phenomenon is called the negative effect. As a home buyer, it's incredibly important to be informed and educated in home value trends and the real estate market, especially in light of the turbulence of recent years. Every home is an investment, so make sure you engage the services of a professional Realtor® to help you make an informed, well-planned decision and don't forget to keep the secret of successful buying in mind as you tour your potential dream home.

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Potomac Community Village

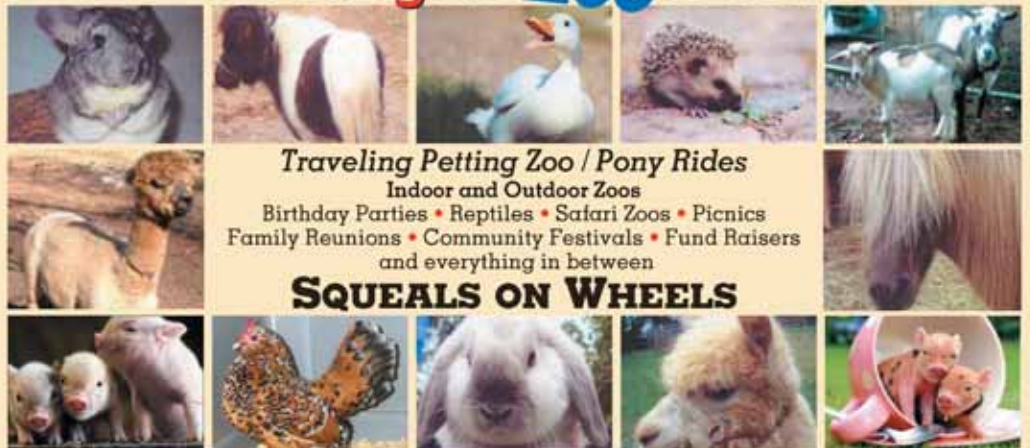
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

“City Scapes.” Through April 2, Gallery hours at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. “City Scapes” explores the beauty and fragility of urban life through the lenses of members of The North Bethesda Camera Club. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

Art Exhibit: You and Me, You and I.” Through April 10, 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.

“Rendering The Spirit: The Personal Image in Alternative Media.” Gallery hours at Glen Echo Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. This exhibit will highlight the work of 12 photographers and artists currently working with alternative photographic processes. Free. Visit www.glenechphotoworks.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Cranes in Motion.” Through April 24, 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.

Children’s Storytime. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda Listen to employees read children’s stories. Free. Visit www.store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/4824850-21.

Adult Single Night. Saturdays, 9 p.m. at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Find a DJ, open dance floor, and other singles. No cover charge. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

VisArts Cocktails and Canvas Class. at VisArts in the Painting & Drawing Studio, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Price \$40. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas for more.

Thang Ta. Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts, 1525 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. Learn the ancient art of the sword and spear. \$25. Visit www.dancesidra.org.

Weekly Blues Dance. Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. Visit www.capitalblues.org for more.

Weekly Swing Dance. Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. Visit www.glenechpark.org for more.

Argentine Tango with Lessons. Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings.



The Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery presents “Dancing Lights” with original art by Potomac artist Martha Lechner Spak and 20 of her landscape painting art students April 9-10. The original landscape oil paintings are of the mid-Atlantic area, including the Potomac River and canal. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. reception on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Free. Call 301-469-0189 for more.

Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga. For just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222 for more.

Contra and Square Dance. Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222 for more.

Late Night Comedy. Fridays (open mic night) and Saturdays (established comedians) at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Benny’s is open 8 a.m.-1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Visit www.BennysBarGrill.com.

Drop in Art Activities. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Candy Corner Studio at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., parents and children can explore a new art form or theme. \$10/child, parent combo. Drop-in only. Visit www.pgip.org for more.

Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too). Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. Visit rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me.

Live Music & Dancing. Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. in Margery’s Lounge, Normandie Farm Restaurant 10710 Falls Road. Dance to the music of Barry Gurlay. Call 301-983-8838 or visit www.popovers.com for more.

Chocolate Factory Tours. Fridays and Saturdays, 2-5:45 p.m. at SPAGNVOLA Chocolatier, 360 Main St., Gaithersburg. Take a short tour of The Truffle Factory facilities. Free. Visit www.spagnvola.com.

Glen Echo Park Films. Saturdays and Sundays. Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Films about the Park’s history are shown on rotation in the lobby. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition, as well as sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. Free. Visit www.silverworksglenechopark.com.

Art Glass Center at Glen Echo. All day Wednesdays; Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Art Glass Center, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Ongoing exhibitions feature work of Resident Artists. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org.

Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. The Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery presents free exhibitions of emerging artists’ work. Each weekend features the work of a different artist. Most artwork is also for sale. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

Acoustic Open Mic. Wednesdays, 7-11 p.m. at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane. Everyone welcome to perform. Wine bottles are 50 percent off. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

Potomac Games Group.

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. The world is in the midst of a Golden Age of new board and card games for players of all ages. Free. Contact event host Randy Hoffman at 412-983-5411 or wrandyhoffman@gmail.com.

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.glenechopark.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.

MARCH 31-APRIL 9

“Idle Playthings” and “Crimes of Fashion.” Various times at Gunston Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. First, in “Crimes of Fashion,” superheroes fight fashion designers bent on world domination. Then, a group of toys come to life and team up to save a family-owned toy store in “Idle Playthings.” Silver Spring-based Inclusive Theatre Companies are directed by trained theatre professionals and feature actors who have intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities, or are on the autism spectrum. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for ArtStream students. Visit www.art-stream.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Pianist Edvinas Minkstimas. 8 p.m.

at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Minkstimas will perform a program including Davidsbündler, op. 6 by Robert Schumann, Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Franz Liszt, Sonata in a minor, Op. 164 by Franz Schubert. The program will conclude with Tarantella from “Annees de Pelerinage” by Liszt. Following the concert, the audience is invited to a wine reception with Minkstimas in the lower-level Social Hall of the church. Free. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 1-2

St. Francis Thrift Sale. 8 a.m. -4 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday at 10033 River Road, Potomac. Call Church office- 301-365-2055 or Carol Jarvis- 301-299-4296.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-3

Broadway Bios. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at The Writer’s Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. A local community theatre company presents an original musical revue. Tickets are \$12 for children, \$15 for seniors, \$20 for adults. Visit www.fedesp.com/nihblt.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Wines & Equines. 6 p.m. at Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Days End Farm Horse Rescue, a nationally recognized non-profit equine rescue and rehabilitation organization, is hosting its “Wines & Equines” event, featuring wine sampling and paired dinner, live and silent auction, live music. Tickets are \$80. Visit www.defhr.org for more.

Lord Nelson Mass. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform Haydn’s “Lord Nelson Mass.” The concert will feature the National Philharmonic’s nearly 200 voice chorale, as well as soloists Danielle Talamantes (soprano); Magdalena Wór (mezzo-soprano); Robert Baker (tenor); and Kevin Deas (baritone). Tickets start at \$29, free for children 7-17. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Open Studio Weekend: A Festival of the Arts. 12-5 p.m. at Washington ArtWorks, 12276 Wilkins Ave. Rockville. Over 70 artists create work in studios at Washington ArtWorks in sculpture, painting, glass, fibers, jewelry, photography, and more. Visitors can shop, watch demos, and network. Also find a variety of food trucks and live music. Free. Visit www.washingtonartworks.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Panel Talk with Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists. 2 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Discussion of artist Cathy Cook’s “Cranes in Motions”. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. lesson, 3:30-6 p.m. dance at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The ensemble Devine Comedy plays a mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambro, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.waltztimesdances.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Book Club: “The Language of

ENTERTAINMENT

Flowers. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac. Women of St. Francis Episcopal Church Book Club will meet to discuss "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Free. Call Church office- 301-365-2055.

APRIL 5-MAY 7

Art Exhibit: "Intimate Landscapes." Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Great Decisions: The Future of Kurdistan. 12:30-2 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Kurdistan, a mountainous region made up of parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Syria, is home to one of the largest ethnic groups in West Asia, the Kurds. Kurds are known to the West mainly for their small, oil-rich autonomous region in northern Iraq called Iraqi Kurdistan, one of the closest allies of the U.S. and a bulwark against the expansion of the Islamic State. What does the success of Iraqi Kurdistan mean for Kurds in the surrounding region? Free. Call 240-777-0690.

Heroes Against Hunger. 5:30-8 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Manna Food Center honors community leader for making an impact in the fight against hunger. Tickets are \$75. Visit www.mannafood.org for more.

Sip & Bend. 7-9 p.m. at Pike & Rose - The Mind and Body Studio at Sport & Health, 11594 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda. All levels yoga class and wine. Free. Visit www.pikeandrose.com for more.

Roomful of Blues. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Blues band will perform. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.bethesdabluesjazz.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Art Reception: "Intimate Landscapes." 6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

An Evening With Molly Ringwald. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Teen idol-turned-jazz-singer Molly Ringwald perform with her quartet. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit www.ampbystrathmore.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 "mystery night" and participate in a scavenger hunt. Admission is \$5. Visit www.activemontgomery.org and use code #11953 to register.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 8-10

Broadway Bios. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. A local community theatre company presents an original musical revue. Tickets are \$12 for children, \$15 for seniors, \$20 for adults. Visit www.fedesp.com/nihblt.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Camellia Show Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallen Ave., Silver Spring. The Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley will be holding its annual show and sale.

Free. Visit www.cspv.org for more.
Latin Jazz Workshop. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Join Manny Arciniega for an afternoon of exploring music from Cuba, Brazil, West Africa and more. All instruments welcome. Free, but RSVP required. Visit www.levinemusic.org.

Performance Lecture. 2-3 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. A jazz performance lecture presented by Levine Jazz Faculty Duane Moody (voice) and Bob Sykes (piano). Designed for vocalists, the instrumentalists who accompany them, and those who enjoy listening to the results, Duane and Paul will explore the perspectives of the vocalist and accompanist, their roles, and the interplay that makes for a good performance. Free, but RSVP required. Visit www.levinemusic.org.

Flight of Fancy. 6:30-10:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Attend participatory art fundraiser featuring painting, aerial performance, live music, food and drinks. Proceeds from the evening support our philanthropic programs such as artist stipends, inclusion classes, and camp scholarships. Tickets are \$85 until March 15, \$105 after that. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org.

Library After Dark. 7:30 p.m. at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Library After Dark is held in celebration of National Library Week to recognize the library staff, volunteers, donor and community leaders. Tickets are \$75. Visit www.folmc.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 9-10

Art Exhibit: "Dancing Lights." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. reception on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Yellow Barn Studio and Gallery presents "Dancing Lights" with original art by artist Martha Lechner Spak and 20 of her landscape painting students. Free. Call 301-469-0189 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Tech N9ne Independent Powerhouse Tour. 8 p.m. at the Fillmore Silver Spring, 8656 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. The tour features six acts from Strange Music, an independent hip-hop label: Ces Cru, Stevie Stone, iMayday!, Ritz, Krizz Kaliko and Tech N9ne. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.fillmoresilverpring.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 15-17

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. In addition to shopping, guests may also visit with expert craftspeople, who will explain their processes. Admission is \$8 for adults when purchased online, \$10 at the door, and free for children under 12. Admission is good for all three days of the festival. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com for more.

Bethesda Literary Festival. Various times and locations throughout downtown Bethesda. The 17th annual Bethesda Literary Festival will host an array of local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and poetry contests. Free. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Discussion: "The Language of Flowers." 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road,

Potomac. Free. Call 301-299-4296.
Art Demonstration: "Intimate Landscapes." 6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Waltz Dance. 2:45-3:30 p.m. lesson, 3:30-6 p.m. dance at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The ensemble Rosinace plays a mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.waltztimesdances.org for more.

APRIL 18-24

Bethesda Row Restaurant Week. At 4950 Elm St., Bethesda. Bethesda row restaurants offer lunch and dinner specials. Visit www.bethesdarow.com/events.

THURSDAY/APRIL 21

Zero: 2016 Gala. 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda. The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless honors Father John Enzler of Catholic Charities for his work with the homeless. Tickets are \$150. Visit www.mcch.net for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

March for Babies. 9:30 a.m. at Mattie Stepanek Park, 1800 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Walk three miles to benefit community children. Registration is free. Visit www.marchofdimes.org/marylandmetrodc for more.

Paws in the Park. 12-4 p.m. at Bohrer Park at Summit Hill Farm, 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. Raise funds for the Montgomery County Humane Society by participating in contests for dogs and people, a 1K walk, and more. Registration is \$20-45 in advance, \$25-\$55 at the event. Visit www.mchumane.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Heartsongs Luncheon. 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Bethesda Marriott Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda. Children's National Health System honors and recognizes nurses and survivors. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.heartsongsfund.org for more.

Movie Screening: "The Martian." 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Watch the film starring Matt Damon. Tickets are \$5, adults only. Register in person at the center or at ActiveMontgomery.org under course #17744.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Gardening Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring. Find information on how to make the most of gardening. Also find activities for children. Free. Visit www.extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/montgomerycounty-master-gardeners.

Montgomery County GreenFest. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. The 2nd annual Montgomery County GreenFest is a family-friendly festival with music, films, speakers, exhibitors and workshops all focused on building community and educating on our environment. Free. Visit www.montgomerycountygreenfest.org for more.

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No Real "APptitude"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or interest, either. However, unless I get in the game somehow, I fear I'll likely be tossed and/or discarded into the dustbin; along with the pay phone, pay toilet, land line, and of particular relevance to me: the flip phone, a.k.a "the stupid phone," as my wife, Dina, is fond of calling it (not a reflection or characterization of the user, though). But of course, that's the problem. I don't have a "smart" phone any more than I am a smart user. So apps are not exactly in my current vocabulary, although they used to be in my pre-Connection vocabulary when I sold insurance. The paper on which answers to questions were written for an insurance company/home office to consider was called an application, commonly referred to as an "app." Perhaps you can appreciate my confusion at not being able to integrate such new technology. After all, I am an old dog; presumably you know it's very difficult to teach an old dog new tricks – regardless of whether you change their food.

Nevertheless, I suppose that if I want to be part of the future (not a cancer reference or cancer-column-to-be, by the way), I can't hold onto the present so tightly and I definitely need to let go of the past. When I watch "smart"-phone users – including my wife, scroll their "smart"-phone screens and then stop on an "app," it all seems easy and sensible. I don't imagine however, that in my hands, with my brain, with my lack of intuition and instincts for such technological two-steps (or one step) the scrolling would get me anywhere. But it does appear as if it would get me there quickly.

I have to admit, I am a bit envious of the scrolling and access to the internet/information "smart" phones seem to offer. Who, what, where, when and why intrigue me. It's the how that intimidates, though. Sure, I'd love to be one touch or a few scrolls away from the answers to any and all questions, but it's the learning curve for the device which scares me. In taking on this task, I feel as if I'll become a modern day Sisyphus – of Greek mythology. But instead of pushing a boulder up a mountain only to have it roll back down before ever reaching the top, I'll be pushing keys and constantly scrolling only to end up back at my cell phone's home screen setting. And since this is not a game – and not "Monopoly," landing on my home screen rather than passing it won't double my pleasure, and neither will I find myself on my intended target/"app." After repeated failures, no doubt I'll begin boiling over my level of incompetence. A "smart" phone needs to be in competent hands; mine are anything but.

If only I could receive 'round-the-clock training (actually, 8 am to about 9 pm); I'd like to think that with that kind of coaching, I would begin to assimilate the device into my head (sort of a reverse Borg effect). I mean, I'm not a complete moron. (Why, are there incomplete morons?) Presumably, after repeated and vigorous instruction, correction, re-instruction and re-correction, I'd likely become the master of this domain. It's not a contest, after all, and I'm probably not going to be graded on a curve, so if there was someone with sufficient patience (maybe patients, too) and perseverance, perhaps there would be a future for me living in the hand-help information age. I just have to repeat five simple words: "The phone is my friend. The phone is my friend. The phone is my friend." APPsolutely!

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

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