

Potomac ALMANAC

HomeLifeStyle
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Letter carrier Christopher Bucey pauses by his mail truck, decorated in honor of his last day on the job. Bucey retired Dec. 30 after 31 years of service, 17 as carrier in the McAuley Park neighborhood of Potomac. Customers decorated their mailboxes with balloons in celebration.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY CLARK

JANUARY 10-16, 2018

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Responding To the Cold

County offers advice for frigid weather.

Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security issued a Cold Emergency Alert last week.

This alert is issued when the temperature combined with wind chill are forecasted to be below 20 degrees and there are other conditions that pose a significant threat to exposed human and animal life. Those may include: wind chill advisories or warnings from the National Weather Service and/or significant snow fall.

There is particular concern during periods of extreme cold for children, seniors, homeless individuals and animals. Everyone spending time outside should take necessary precautions against the extreme cold. Frostbite can occur with as little as 30 minutes of exposure to the cold. Anyone being outside should dress in layers of warm clothing and wear a hat. Nearly half of body heat is lost through the head. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Do not ignore shivering. It's an important first sign that the body is losing heat. Persistent shivering is a signal to return indoors.

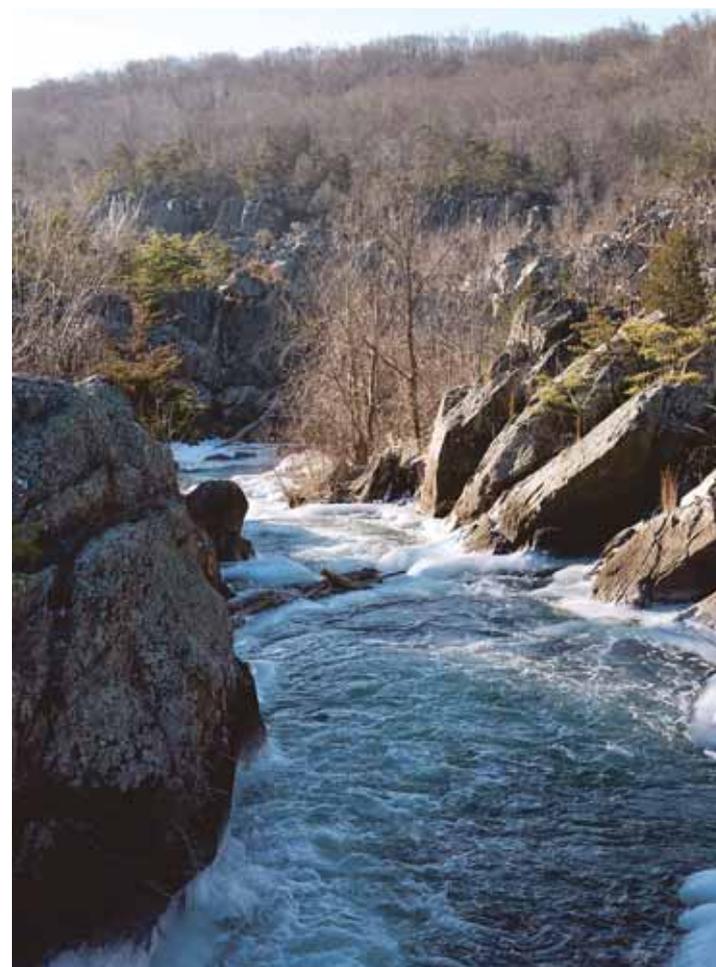
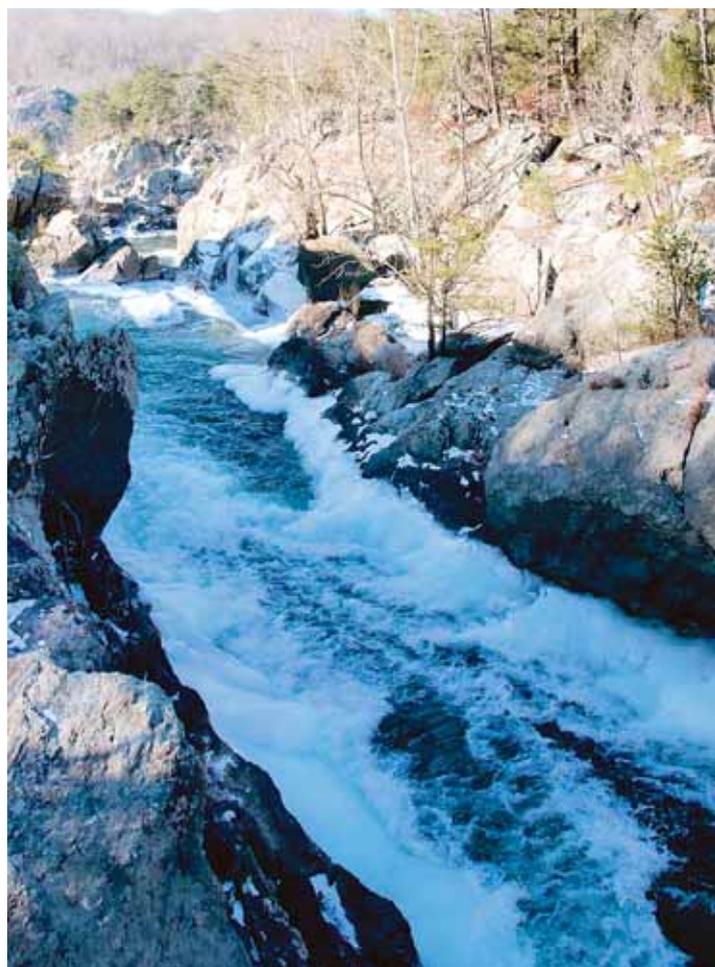
❖ Neighbors, friends or family members should check on the elderly, especially a senior living alone. Older people are particularly susceptible to hypothermia, even inside their homes and may need assistance.

❖ Montgomery County provides a variety of sheltering opportunities for the homeless.

❖ Animals should not be left outside unattended. Leaving animals outside unattended in these conditions may be considered an act of cruelty and pet owners could be charged and fined accordingly. Executive Regulation 10-10AM, unattended tethering of dogs remains in effect. Call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000, to report an animal that appears to be in danger.

Community members should be aware of

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Frigid
Views of the Potomac River caught during last weekend's plunging temperatures.

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/
THE ALMANAC

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A Fond Farewell

Potomac neighborhood congratulates its letter carrier on his retirement.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

When Christopher Bucy decided to retire from his job as a letter carrier with the Potomac Post Office on Dec. 30, he had no idea his best days of work were still ahead of him.

Bucy, who served 31 years with the U.S. Post Office, spent 17 of those years on the same Potomac route, serving the McAuley Park area along Kentsdale Drive, including side streets, from Bradley Boulevard to Newbridge Road.

Residents learned that Dec. 30 would be Bucy's last day on the route and decided to make the day special for him.

"Chris has been an amazing mailman," Nancy Clark, a McAuley Park resident, wrote in an email. "He brings mail and packages up to each door, knows all the family members by name, does a 'presentation ceremony' of the mail whenever someone gets a college acceptance, and always has biscuits for the dogs."

Clark said she thought her family was Bucy's favorite but learned that he treated all the residents on his route with the same courtesy and friendliness. "He was very special," neighbor Bunny Lamb said. "He gave personal attention ... sort of like Mayberry ... he got to personally know our family. You don't get that much anymore."

Clark said she posted a "let's do something" message on the neighborhood listserv and almost immediately neighbors agreed to put balloons on their mailboxes for Bucy's last day, attaching personal notes and cards



Letter carrier Christopher Bucy pauses by his mail truck, decorated in honor of his last day on the job. Bucy retired Dec. 30 after 31 years of service, 17 as carrier in the McAuley Park neighborhood of Potomac.

wishing him well.

"There had to be at least 150 balloons throughout the neighborhood," Clark said. "It was so heartwarming to see this outpouring." All this was a surprise to Bucy as he came to work for his final day. Clark and her daughter even got permission to decorate Bucy's mail truck with balloons and a "Happy retirement, Chris" sign.

"I was a one-man parade," Bucy said. "People came out to tell me they would miss me, it was a good feeling."

That last day was one of the best of his career, Bucy said. He said the secret to his success is treating people as he would like

to be treated.

"When I deliver parcels, I always ring the bell to see if someone's home," he said. "If no one was home, I'd hide the package so you couldn't see it from the street. If I knew [residents] were away, I'd keep an eye on the house. My customers are an extended part of my family."

After 31 years with the U. S. Postal Service, Bucy said he is retiring because of family. His mother now lives with him, he said, and she does not take well to the cold weather. So, he and his wife and mother will move to Florida soon.

Eduardo Lopez, Potomac Post Office



Nancy Clark with her daughter Stephanie got permission to decorate Bucy's mail truck with balloons and a "Happy retirement, Chris" sign.

branch manager, said it is not unusual for letter carriers and their customers to develop fond relationships.

"Think about it," he said. "If you had the same carrier for almost 20 years, he probably saw your children grow up, maybe even remembers them being born, leave for college, come home. He probably knows more about you than many of your neighbors."

One more contingent in the neighborhood that will miss Bucy is the dogs.

"Our dog knew the sound of his truck," Clark said. "he always has biscuits for the dogs."

Taller Monopole at Fire Station 30 Approved

County adds transparency to process.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

The Montgomery County Transmission Facility Coordination Group, also known as the Tower Committee, approved an increase in the height of the monopole at Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Station 30, on Falls Road at a meeting Jan. 3.

The approval allows for the construction of a new 185-foot monopole with five 21-foot high omni directional antennas at 165 feet and two six-foot microwave dish antennas at 180 feet, according to a press release announcing the change.

Twenty-two tower changes were approved at the meeting, five increasing the towers around the County as part of an ongoing work to increase communication coverage for Montgomery County fire and police.

Also approved and part of the Montgomery County Radio Communications changes was the construction a new 230-foot lat-

tice self-support tower and attaching one six-foot microwave dish antenna at 220 feet, two six-foot microwave dish antennas at 190 feet, two 21-foot-high omni directional antennas at 175 feet and three 21-foot-high omni directional antennas at 150 feet on the property of Bretton Woods, 15700 River Road.

One other tower change in the Potomac area, not related to emergency communications, was a Verizon tower on Falls Road at Aqueduct Road. The Antenna Change Out will remove 12 and add six 72-inch-high panel antennas at 131 feet on a 139-foot water tank. This approval is conditioned on the applicant providing written approval from WSSC of the attachment at the time of permitting.

Residents were invited to a public meeting regarding the increased height of the Station 30 tower last April 25. At that time, Gerry Adcock, manager of Radio Communications Services for the Montgomery County Department of Technology Services, explained the purpose of the higher mono-

pole is to increase communications coverage for county fire and police. It is planned as part of a 22-antenna system throughout the county.

"We already have 11 and are adding 11 more to fill our communication needs," Adcock said.

He assured the attendees that the monopole would only be used for official communications, not for commercial purposes.

Adcock said he understood objections to the increase but his mandate was to make fire and police communications coverage better.

"This is one of those necessary evils," he said. "It's necessary for public safety."

Meanwhile, Montgomery County announced Jan. 4 that it is making public its database of Online Requests for Wireless Telecommunications Sitings.

"Beginning today," the press release read, "the County's Transmission Facility Coordination Group ("TFCG," also known as the "Tower Committee") website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/towers, is making available to the public, online 24/365 access to over 3,100 wireless telecommunication siting applications filed by

telecom providers dating back to 1996."

Previously the database of application information could only be reviewed in person by appointment, according to the press release.

Interested residents or business persons will be able to sort and filter applications by type, structure, telecom provider, and dozens of other fields. The TFCG website also has an interactive GIS mapping feature that allows search capabilities for both current and proposed telecommunication facilities, according to the press release.

"This is a natural evolution we are making, consistent with open data," said Mitsuko Herrera, Montgomery County spokesperson for technology and special projects.

Herrera said the new web feature is part of the county's move towards more transparency.

"It is helping the public know what the county government does," she said

The new data base can be found at <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/towers>. Click on the Tower locations link for the applications and the map link to activate the interactive GIS mapping feature.

'A Day On, Not a Day Off'

To honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Montgomery County Volunteer Center is hosting several community-oriented volunteer events. The family friendly events will be held on MLK holiday, Jan. 15, and will give county residents an opportunity to learn about the work of various nonprofit organizations in the region and get involved with helping members of the community. The largest volunteer site is the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, located at 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda which will feature a volunteer fair and many service activities. These activities will run from 1 to 3 p.m.

There will be several opportunities to con-

tribute throughout MLK weekend. Volunteer activities include making toys for animals in the shelter, park cleanup projects, food drives, letter writing for seniors and members of the armed service, and making hand warmers for the homeless. Students interested in participating can receive student service learning hours for their contribution. If anyone is unable to attend the festivities on the 15th, Manna Food Center will be hosting food drives across the county on Saturday and Sunday, the details are available on <https://www.mannafood.org/>. For more information and to register for a project site or the volunteer fair visit www.montgomeryserves.org.

Bruce Adams, director of the county Office

of Community Partnerships, wants to turn MLK day into a "day on, not a day off." He encourages people to question what King would think about the way that people generally spend the MLK holiday.

Last year more than 4,000 people showed up to lend a hand and help others. Adams notes that this is a great opportunity for families to expose their children to service learning and the legacy of King. Adams says that people planning to attend "don't need to bring anything but a good attitude." The emphasis here is on lending a hand and building a stronger community.

— LOGAN BOTTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Schedule

Montgomery County government will observe the following holiday schedule for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday:

County Offices – Closed Jan. 15

Libraries – Closed Jan. 15

County Liquor stores (DLC) – all stores will be open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Recreation – aquatics programs and facilities open; all other classes and programs canceled. Administrative office, senior centers and community centers are closed

Montgomery Parks - Montgomery Parks - for operating schedule, including Brookside Gardens, ice rinks and tennis centers, visit www.MontgomeryParks.org.

Ride On – Modified Holiday Schedule. Route information available at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/SpecialHoliday.html

Metrorail – Information available at www.wmata.com

Metrobus – Information available at www.wmata.com

TRiPS Commuter Store at Silver Spring Transit Center – Open

TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store – Closed

Refuse/recycling pickup – No collection (Collection provided one day later for remainder of week: last collection day is Saturday)

The Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station – Closed Jan. 15

Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – Free

State offices and courts – Closed Monday, Jan. 15

County Offers Advice for Frigid Weather

FROM PAGE 2

the following important information:

All Montgomery County facilities, such as libraries, recreation centers and senior centers open during their regular hours can be used by anyone needing an escape from the cold. Public shopping centers are also available as warm locations during their hours of operation.

Anyone who has concern about the safety of a homeless individual should call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000 to report the location and provide a description of the individual.

The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless Men's Emergency Shelter, located at 600 East Gude Drive in Rockville and the Interfaith Works Progress Place Shelter for both men and women, located at 8106 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, are available around-the-clock to receive homeless individuals, without any pre-screening and are prepared to go over regular capacity during periods of extreme cold.

During periods of extreme cold, all emergency and transitional shelters will allow homeless individuals to stay inside until temperatures improve, and/or return to a shelter early from daytime activity programs. The Interfaith Works Empowerment Center, located at 8106 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring is also open during the day.

For additional information on county services contact MC311 by calling 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays, or through the www.MC311.com website address which is available to receive emails 24/7.

For timely severe weather and emergency notifications, sign up for Alert Montgomery at

alert.montgomerycountymd.gov.

Residents can subscribe to Hypothermia Alerts and Cold Emergency Alerts by selecting the "Public Health and Environmental Alerts" category in their Alert Montgomery account. Warnings and emergency updates will be sent directly to your cell phone (text), landline phone, computer (Twitter & Facebook) and/or email address. The service is free, but text charges may apply, so check with the cell phone carrier before selecting text alerts.

Extreme cold is a dangerous situation that can bring on health emergencies in susceptible people, such as the very young, seniors, those without shelter or who are stranded, or who live in a home that is poorly insulated and/or without heat.

Hypothermia can result from prolonged exposure to the cold. When exposed to cold temperatures, the body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. When the body's store of energy is used up, the result is hypothermia. Because hypothermia can affect the brain, a person may not be aware that it is happening, and not take appropriate steps to prevent damage.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

TUESDAY/JAN. 16

Afternoon Grief Support Group. Tuesdays from 1:30-3 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church 6810 Montrose Road, Rockville. A six-week group for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Registration required at 301-921-4400.

Public Hearing. 1:30 p.m. in the Third Floor Hearing Room of the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on Expedited Bill 40-17,

Warning Signs:

- ❖ Shivering, exhaustion
- ❖ Confusion, fumbling hands
- ❖ Memory loss, slurred speech
- ❖ Drowsiness
- ❖ For infants – bright red, cold skin, very low energy

What to do:

❖ If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95 degrees, the situation is an emergency – get medical attention immediately

❖ If the person is unconscious and does not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing, call 9-1-1

Prior to medical care:

- ❖ Get victim into a warm room or shelter
- ❖ Remove any wet clothing
- ❖ Warm the center of the body first – chest, neck, head and groin – using electric blanket if available, or use skin-to-skin-contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels or sheets

❖ Warm, nonalcoholic, beverages can help increase body temperatures if the victim is conscious.

Personnel - Merit System - Salary and Wage Plans - Police Leadership Service. Visit tinyurl.com/z9982v8.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

Evening Grief Support Group. Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hills Baptist Church, 9727 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring. A six-week group for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Registration required at 301-921-4400.

Loss Of A Child Support Group. Wednesdays 6:30-8 p.m. at the Montgomery Hospice offices at 1355 Piccard Drive, Suite 100, Rockville. A six-week group for parents grieving the death of a child of any age. Registration required at 301-921-4400.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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2018 Color of the Year: Ultra Violet

Mixed reactions from local tastemakers who offer design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

It's a moment that interior designers anticipate all year: the announcement of the Pantone Color of the Year. Ultra Violet is the selection for 2018, and local designers are giving it a mixed reception.

"Interiors have gone so neutral, I look forward to suggesting... Ultra Violet, a color [that] can bridge warm and cool gray neutrals," said Moira Denson, interior designer and assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University.

"There's nothing subtle about Ultra Violet. It's one-dimensional and difficult to decorate with, except in very small doses," said interior designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Interiors and Bossy Color. "I find the color loud. 'Look at me!' It screams."

The selection by Pantone, the self-described global authority on color, is intended to be a harbinger of the hue that will be on trend in the coming year. The organization's color gurus spend about nine months observing trends in industries ranging from film and entertainment to art and fashion.

This year's pick can add a burst of vibrancy to a home's interior in impermanent ways, advises interior designer Cathleen Gruver of Gruver Cooley. "Some quick easy ways to use the color are adding throw pillows, which are relatively inexpensive and easy to trade out," she said. "Accent plates on a dining table are an option for those who may not want to commit in their home."

"Use this color in extremely small doses," added Elliott. "If you really love this color, I suggest using it as part of a larger pattern. Don't buy a solid purple pillow; choose a pretty floral that has some Ultra Violet in it."

For those with less trepidation about Ultra Violet, interior designer Sarah Glenn of Braswell Design + Build in Alexandria, said, "The powder room is a great place to incorporate deep colors in interesting ways. Install a graphic violet wallpaper behind a bright white pedestal sink, or paint the ceiling a high gloss violet to reflect the decorative lighting in the room."

Dark and dramatic cabinetry, which Glenn says is trending this year, offers an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOIRA DENSON

"Ultra violet sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded," says artist Moira Denson, who is an assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University

other use for the Pantone pick. "Go bold and incorporate a deep violet island or base cabinets into a new kitchen," she said. "Incorporate a violet glass mosaic tile on your shower floor or as an accent stripe around tub walls. I especially love violet glass paired with the grey and taupe tones of

wooden white marble tile."

Some designers describe Ultra Violet as commanding, particularly when used inside a home. "This shade of purple is a powerful color and one that I would use as an accent," said interior designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. "A little bit will go a long way. It is also a great color to pair with other colors, it is a very friendly complementary color."

"Good pairings include green and purple, a classic combination, but I've always liked red with purple," added Elliott. "Ultra Violet is a vivid color, so make sure you use equally strong colors with it so it doesn't dominate a palette."

Pair it with gold and yellow tones, suggests Denson, who is also an artist. "I paint skies all the time," she said. "It's what watercolorists do. To me, shades of the ultra-violet are the most pleasing sky. It works super well with what we traditionally think of skies: blue toned. It sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded."

In announcing the selection, Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute described Ultra Violet as, "a blue-based purple that takes our awareness and potential to a higher level. Ultra Violet communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking that points us toward the future."

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TEL: 240-848-9128 • Email: camp@bwrc.org • www.bwrc.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

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. 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. capitalblues.org

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. www.glenchopark.org.

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. 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. glenchopark.org, 301-634-2222.

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. www.glenchopark.org, 301-634-2222.

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. www.BennysBarGrill.com.

Live Music & Dancing. Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. in Margery's Lounge, Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Dance to the music of Barry Gurley. 301-983-8838 www.popovers.com.

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. www.spagnvola.com.

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. 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.

FRIDAY/JAN. 12

Meet the Artist. 6-9 p.m. at the



The Harried Americans

Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. "Going for a Walk," paintings by Leni Berliner. Call 301-951-9441.

Meet the Artists. 6-9 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. "Points of View," will feature paintings by Sara Becker, Nancy Butler, Helen Gallagher, Caroline Orrick, Ann Rossilli, Elizabeth (Penny) Smith and Maureen Ward. Exhibit will be on display Jan. 10-Feb. 3. Call 301-215-7990.

WEEKEND OF SERVICE

Rock Creek Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service, and Montgomery County Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), is celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with their annual MLK Weekend of Service, a weekend full of events at 12 sites throughout the Rock Creek watershed. Visit www.rockcreekconservancy.org/what-we-do/upcoming-events/mlk-day.

Live Music

The Harried Americans and the Aloha Boys are in concert on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at Focus Bethesda at Positano's Restaurant, 4948-4940 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.



Aloha Boys

MONDAY/JAN. 15

Special Tribute Ceremony. at 3:30 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. This special presentation will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's life through readings, music, dance performances and a choral performance by the Carlton Reese Memorial Unity Choir. Visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

Fine Arts Quartet and pianist. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Fine Arts Quartet and pianist Alon Goldstein will be featured as part of the Washington Conservatory Concert Series. Email hschonberger@washingtonconservatory.org or call 301-320-2770.

SUNDAY/JAN. 21

Design Seminar. 1-3 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Subject: "How to Integrate

Artwork into your Home." Call 301-215-7990.

Hot Jazz Jam Session. 3-6 p.m. at The Potomac River Jazz Club at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Bring and instrument and sit in with the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band or just come on by to listen and enjoy. \$10 admission, free for jammers and students. 301-762-3323 or PRJC.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

MoComCon. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Montgomery County Library, Silver Spring branch located, 900 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring. Montgomery County Public Libraries will host its second comic convention. This event is open and accessible to all, including seasoned comic conventioners, novices and the curious of all ages. The comic convention will include a variety of presenters, workshops, programs, displays, exhibitors and cosplay (costume play, dressing up as a character) opportunities. Free. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/programs/mocomcon/.



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Obituary



Joan Lambert McPhee

Joan Lambert McPhee died on December 29, just a few days before her 90th birthday, following a brief illness. She died in Potomac, Maryland, in the company of extended family, including children Roemer, Joan, and Larkin McPhee and their spouses, daughter-in-law Petra McPhee, her former husband, Henry Roemer McPhee, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. McPhee was born January 9, 1928, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, the daughter of Charles and Dorothy Millen Lambert. The senior Lamberts moved to Louisville, Kentucky, in the 1940s, and resided there until their deaths. After attending boarding school, Mrs. McPhee graduated from Connecticut College in 1949, then pursued further study at the Université de Geneve Faculte des Lettres, where she earned a Certificat d'études Francaises in 1950.

After a year in New York, Mrs. McPhee moved to Washington, D.C., where she served as an aide to Congressman John Robison of Kentucky. She married Henry Roemer McPhee in 1956. Together they had four children: Roemer McPhee III and Joan McPhee of New York, NY, Larkin McPhee Perese of Minneapolis, MN, and Charles McPhee, who died of ALS at home in Woodland Hills, CA, in 2011. Survivors include, in addition to her three surviving children, two sons-in-law, Michael Gilson, MD (Joan), and Deniz Perese, MD (Larkin), two daughters-in-law, Constance McPhee (Roemer III), Petra McPhee (Charles), nine grandchildren, and her former husband, Roemer McPhee. A longtime resident of Potomac, for much of the last 25 years, she worked as a real estate agent for Long & Foster Realty in Potomac.

Joan McPhee served for many years on the Washington Committee of the Frontier Nursing Service and Frontier Nursing University in Kentucky. She was a trustee of the university until her death. The Frontier Nursing Service has since 1926 been providing healthcare services to rural, underserved populations. In the early years, the service sent nurses up mountain trails on horseback to reach patients in the Appalachian Mountains. In 1939, the service opened a Graduate School of Midwifery, now Frontier Nursing University in Hyden, Kentucky, which uses distance learning to train nurse midwives and family nurses who continue to serve rural populations.

Mrs. McPhee joined the Smithsonian Women's Committee in 1982, where she was an active volunteer for more than 30 years. She was for many years an active and valued member of the Country Gardeners in Potomac, Maryland.

A service in Joan McPhee's memory will be held at Potomac Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 13, at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, friends are encouraged to make contributions to Frontier Nursing University (www.frontier.edu) or the Smithsonian Women's Committee in her name (www.si.edu), or to the charity of your choice. Gifts to Frontier Nursing University should be addressed to 132 FNS Drive, Wendover, KY 41775. Gifts to the Smithsonian Women's Committee may be addressed c/o Heidi Austreng, Smithsonian Women's Committee, P.O. Box 37012, MRC 037, Washington, DC 20013.

Obituary

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Litter Box Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We have five indoor cats: Biscuit, Chino, Twinkle, Sloane and Andrew, ranging in ages from 11+ years to 5+ years. We live in a two-story converted log cabin with approximately 1,750 square feet, closets not included. Closets in which you're bound to find cats, especially in the winter.

A few moths back, we contracted to have our two full bathrooms, one on each floor, renovated. Given that our house is over 250 years old, not likely a normal renovation. So far the renovation has taken months, as we were told, and as such, we wanted to employ some kind of strategy where we weren't constantly worrying about cats coming and going, sneaking outside, disappearing, and getting in the way of the workman and/or possibly suffering some kind of injury in the process. (Particularly true of Andrew and Biscuit who, uncharacteristic of many cats, are not the least bit put off by unknown people wandering about the house.)

And sure enough, after dinner on the first night FOLLOWING DEMOLITION, Andrew and his sister, Sloane, managed to break through some protective plastic surrounding the door blocking entrance to the upstairs bathroom where they managed to get into the house through an internal wall which had been torn down to the studs. It was their faint meowing which led to their discovery - in the downstairs attic above the kitchen. Their subsequent rescue confirmed that we would need to be extra vigilant to prevent further ado.

To secure the perimeter, we decided to segregate the cats on one side of the house on the first floor: including the kitchen, dining room and my office, with two sets of doors connecting to the living room and to the hall leading past the downstairs bathroom. This disconnect works perfectly because it prevents any escape and it enables the workman to walk in and out of the front door to ply their trade without needing any access to either of the three rooms where the cats are confined.

The cats food and water remains in its usual place in the kitchen. However there is one item (two actually) which has required a major move. You recall I said our cats are 'indoor,' right? And we're confining them to three rooms, right? Have I mentioned their litter boxes yet? Well, I am now.

Not a Herculean task by any means because once cats are shown their litter box's new location, they figure it out. But now their litter boxes which had previously been out of sight and sort of out of mind - one on each floor, have now been placed in two of the three rooms where they've been living most days and they are now most definitely in sight and on my mind.

One box was placed in the dining room where we rarely go at present since it's somewhat cluttered due to the renovation, and the other box was placed in my home office - which box seems to get the most use. (We sort of figured that the kitchen was out of the question.)

My office is approximately eight feet wide by 20 feet long, a space which separates the dining room from the outside wall. The litter box is on the floor at the far end of the room, not at all under foot, but neither out of sight nor out of smell. Where I sit, I am a well-positioned observer of the cats visits to their litter box.

As a consequence of this segregation - designed to secure their safety, and for the subsequent relocation of their litter boxes, in effect, I am now sharing a bathroom with five indoor cats.

All day long I am witness to their litter box proclivities; their arrival and departure, the sights, sounds and smells; their individual tendencies and habits, and of course, their comparative interest in visiting me on my desk before and/or after the paperwork is finished.

Soon we'll have to decide whether to return the boxes to their original location, and risk disrupting yet another new routine. Perhaps we'll leave well enough alone. After all, as any devoted cat owner knows: it's not about us, it's about them.

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



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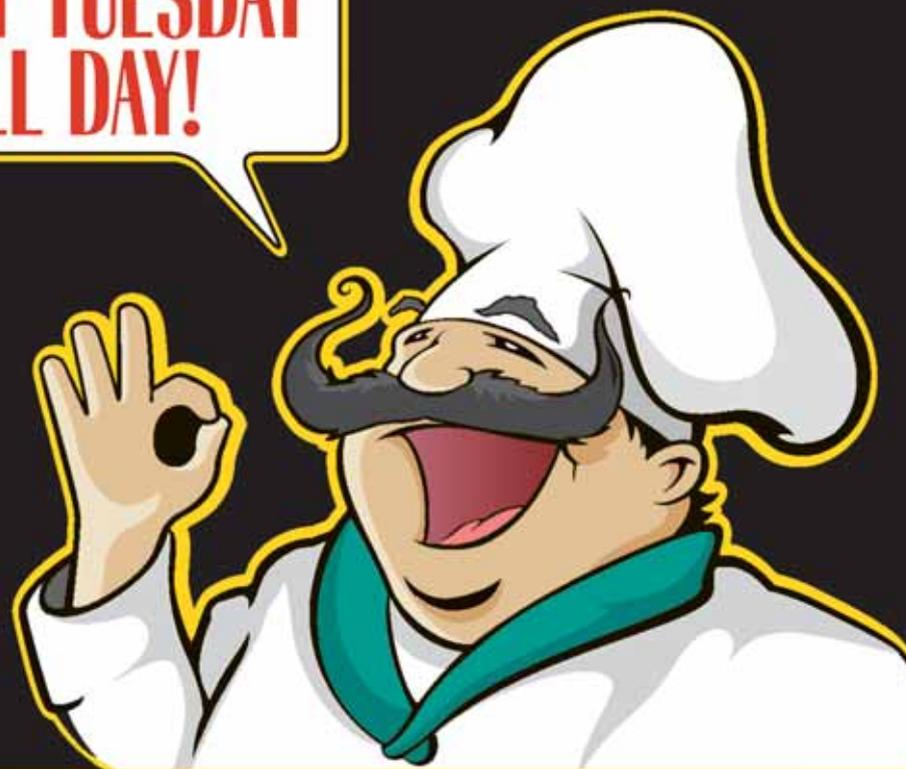
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