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Potomac ALMANAC

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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Many Hands Helping

Marielena and Mariana Carrillo Velazquez, Ashley Gomez, and David Rivera remove graffiti as part of the 11th annual C&O Canal Pride Clean-Up At Great Falls on April 21.

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PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

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February, 2018 Sales, \$810,000~\$865,000

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2 11412
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3 9013
Marseille Drive
— \$840,000



4 11219 Willowbrook Drive — \$837,000



1 10702 Great Aabor Drive — \$865,000



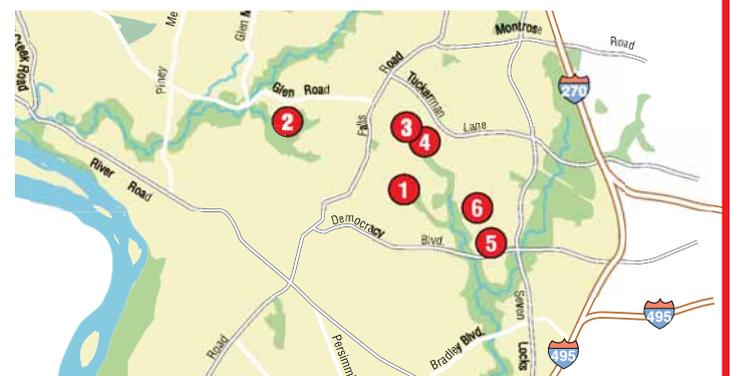
6 10328 Gainsborough Road — \$810,000



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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 10702 GREAT ARBOR DR	4	..	3	. 1	POTOMAC	\$865,000	Detached	0.37	20854	RED COAT WOODS	02/20/18
2 11412 BEECHGROVE LN	4	..	3	. 1	POTOMAC	\$860,000	Detached	0.24	20854	BEDFORDSHIRE	02/24/18
3 9013 MARSEILLE DR	5	..	3	. 0	ROCKVILLE	\$840,000	Detached	0.46	20854	LAKE NORMANDY ESTS	02/09/18
4 11219 WILLOWBROOK DR	4	..	3	. 1	POTOMAC	\$837,000	Detached	0.48	20854	WILLOWBROOK	02/22/18
5 10215 GAINSBOROUGH RD	5	..	2	. 1	POTOMAC	\$818,000	Townhouse	0.10	20854	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC	02/26/18
6 10328 GAINSBOROUGH RD	5	..	3	. 0	POTOMAC	\$810,000	Detached	0.27	20854	BELLS MILL VILLAGE	02/28/18

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How To Make River Road Safer?

Whitman community meets to discuss proposed safety enhancements.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

More than 200 members of the Walt Whitman High School community met at the school Monday night, April 23, to discuss Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) proposed safety enhancements along River Road near the school.

"This is just a community meeting to get feedback," said Richard Boltuck, who conducted the meeting.

Pedestrian and vehicular safety along River Road, Maryland State Route 190, between Pyle Road and Braeburn Parkway, has been an issue for years according to several community members who spoke at the meeting.

Citizen concern reached a new height in February 2016 when three members of the Buarque De Macedo family were killed while making a left turn off River Road onto Braeburn Parkway. They were on their way to a play at Whitman High School.

Community members met in June of that year to urge the SHA to create a plan for safety changes to the Braeburn Parkway intersection and to the pedestrian crosswalk nearby.

The proposed change for Braeburn Parkway is to replace the flexible posts installed after the 2016 accident with a concrete curb to channel left turns from River Road onto Braeburn Parkway. That also restricts through and left turns from Braeburn Parkway onto eastbound River Road.

The second change, to the current pedes-



PHOTO BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Richard Boltuck begins a meeting to discuss Maryland State Highway Administration changes to River Road at Walt Whitman High School Monday night. The changes focus on safety improvements at the intersection of Braeburn Parkway and River Road and the pedestrian crosswalk east of that intersection.

trian crosswalk on River Road, calls for the installation of pedestrian operated signals stopping traffic to allow for safe crossing of the road.

"There have finally been some important positive steps toward improving safety at the River Road crosswalk to Whitman and to the back entrance to the school at Braeburn Parkway," Whitman principal Alan Goodwin wrote in an email urging the Whitman community to attend the meeting. "We must make sure that the proposed improvements are made while continuing to explore further safety enhancements."

After an hour of comments from attendees, some urging the adoption of the SHA

improvements, others saying to reject them because there were better ideas ... more was needed, and still others calling for a combination: adopt and also move forward lobbying for other changes.

The community especially wants River Road, from Braeburn Parkway to Pyle Road, to be designated a school zone. So far, the SHA has rejected that idea.

Kate Robinson, who has a daughter at Whitman and a son in seventh grade who will attend the school, said she does not feel the current proposal is sufficient.

"I would like to add that [River Road] should be a school zone, the speed limit should be lowered and there should be

speed cameras," she said.

AT THE END of the evening, an informal vote was taken on each of the SHA's proposals.

"The SHA had legal authority to do what they want," Boltuck said. "[But] SHA does care about [public input]."

Voting to agree that SHA "designate the stretch of river Road including the stretch of River including the Braeburn Parkway intersection a school zone and to install speed cameras" was practically unanimous. Only one vote was cast against that idea.

The next vote, on the changes to the Braeburn Parkway intersection, was not in favor of SHA. A majority — 147 to 64 — did not agree that the proposal "improves safety sufficiently and provided adequate community benefits ..."

Most voters — 153 to 13 — voted to recommend "closure to through traffic on Braeburn Parkway and prohibition on left turns from both sides of [the Parkway] onto River Road. Install a traffic signal to regulate and protect traffic turning left from River Road ..."

As for changes to the crosswalk, most voters agreed to support the SHA proposal, voting that "... the proposal improves safety sufficiently and provides adequate community benefits." That vote was 182-11.

At the end of the meeting, Boltuck said he thought it went well.

"The ultimate objective was to get alignment between SHA and the community," he said. "Additionally, we want a designated school zone, we want to slow down traffic."

Whitman High School Principal Goodwin Retiring This June

Farewell after
19 years.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In the long history of Walt Whitman High School there have only been three principals. Daryl Shaw served as the inaugural principal from 1962 until 1975. Jerome Marco was principal from 1975 until his retirement in 2004. Today, the principal is Alan Goodwin who is retiring this June after 19 years with the Whitman community.

"I have very mixed feelings about leaving because I love and enjoy this community so much. I have 43 years with Montgomery County and feel it is time to move on in a different direction. It would be difficult no matter when I decided to leave. My first grandchild is arriving this summer and my second son is getting married — so I will be very busy this summer. Then I will



look at the possibilities."

Goodwin's record includes maintaining the national high ranking of the school, establishing an open-door policy with students, parents and staff, and furthering the philosophy that all students have an

equal opportunity to succeed, both in and out of school.

"Over the years, I have enjoyed giving students the opportunity to design their own activities in school," he said. "They can learn a lot by initiating an idea and seeing it come to fruition. I have also tried to downplay the many awards that Whitman students receive. Many students already feel too much stress and even though they work as hard as others, they do not always receive the recognition. I am most proud of the individual successes — the shining moments in drama, writing, sports and extra-

curricular activities."

One of the memorable moments for Goodwin was when seven congregants from Topeka's Westboro Baptist Church came to protest Whitman High School because of the sexual orientation of the poet for whom the school is named. Knowing that they were coming, the faculty turned the event an interdisciplinary lesson — English teachers taught Whitman's poetry and social studies teachers taught a unit on tolerance and the right to a peaceful protest. As school was dismissed, 700 students lined up along police tape separated from the congregants. They chanted alternately, "Walt Whitman High" and "Go home." Their group was so large, yet peaceful — and they completely drowned out the message coming from across the street. Goodwin was proud of his Whitman students because they acted in a quiet manner, yet they were powerful with their numbers and their message. "It was their school that was being attacked and they learned that they have the right to defend it peacefully."

As with other large high schools,

Whitman has had its share of teen suicides, car accidents and deaths due to underage drinking and drug usage. Goodwin led students, parents and faculty through these tragedies by creating a nurturing environment that responded to student stress and needs.

"I started a Stress Busters committee to respond to the high student stress levels in our school and to help students come up with strategies for dealing with it in a healthy manner — rather than to self-destruct."

Whitman Guidance Counselor William Toth said, "Alan is always a champion for every student. He is totally accessible to all parents, staff, and students — and has a personal touch that makes one feel as if they have known him forever. He attended almost every activity and knew most of the students by name."

He encouraged kids to join in and participate — and had a unique affinity for special needs students. He was a wonderful administrator — and a great guy to work with. He will be sorely missed."

**C&O Canal
Pride
Clean-Up**

Elise Schneider, Kylie Barrett, Mary Kate Gentile, Natalie and Nancy Springer, Jenna and Vicky Schneider, and Linda Nardone from Girl Scout Troop 2755 repaint the bathroom. About 150 people participated in the annual C&O Canal Pride Clean-up.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



Roberta Williams, Kirsten Denney, and Emily Guskin clean the fence at the Tavern.



Abby and Eric Zimmerman plant grass seed.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MEALS ON WHEELS.

Delivers meals to house-bound seniors, convalescents and persons with disabilities. It receives minimum government funding and relies instead on contributions. Donations are needed to help with unmet meals costs for clients who cannot afford to pay. If you can help, send a check to Rockville Meals on Wheels at P.O. Box 465, Rockville, MD 20848-0465 or visit the website to contribute through Pay Pal at www.rockvillemealsonwheels.org. For more information, call 301-340-1559, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - noon.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Spring Rummage Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Featuring antiques and collectibles, art, bicycles, books, clothing, jewelry

and more. There is a Ride-On Bus (Route #47) stop at the Church driveway. Call 301-762-8040 or visit www.stjamespotomac.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Chocolate. 2 p.m. at Davis Community Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Montgomery County Public Libraries is offering free STEM Smart programs in which children ages 10-14 will have the opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and do hands-on experiments led by retired scientists. Children can participate in all sessions or select sessions of interest. Registration is required for each session. Call 240-777-0006 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 3-4

Potomac Elementary School is holding Kindergarten Orientation on May 3 and May 4. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2018 are eligible for enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents/

guardians should notify the school at 301-469-1042 to receive enrollment information and to participate in the Orientation Program.

TUESDAY/MAY 8

Talk on Opioids. 10 a.m.-12 noon at Department of Health and Human Services, 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. Residents concerned about a friend or family member with an opioid addiction are invited to attend a free training to learn about reducing unintentional and life-threatening opioid overdoses with the use of Naloxone, a prescription medication that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Participants who complete the training will receive a free Naloxone kit. Tips on overdose prevention and resources detailing local and national resources will be provided. The training is free but registration is required. Call 240-777-1836 to register.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

Electronics. 2 p.m. at Davis Community Library, 6400 Democracy

Bld., Bethesda. Montgomery County Public Libraries is offering free STEM Smart programs in which children ages 10-14 will have the opportunity to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and do hands-on experiments led by retired scientists. Children can participate in all sessions or select sessions of interest. Registration is required for each session. Call 240-777-0006 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Author/Speaker. 7-9:30 at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Witness the unfolding of a mosaic-like representation of the figure and importance of Mary Magdalene, through the lenses of archaeological discoveries, historical texts, scriptural sources, and local traditions. Jennifer Ristine has been serving at the recently excavated site of ancient Magdala in the Holy Land since 2014. Suggested donation to attend: \$25 per person. Visit www.ourladyofbethesda.org.

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PEOPLE

Meet Superhero Heliora

St. Andrews Episcopal senior wins NSF award.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

“With science on my side, I fight for my city, the environment and for a brighter future,” says Superhero Heliora, the creation of Joy Reeves, a senior at St. Andrews Episcopal High School.

Reeves’ Superhero comic about a high-school science whiz who engages her engineered suit’s solar batteries and graphene nanoparticles to defeat the evil Dr. Blackburn to save the environment of Brightfield City won first place in the National Science Foundation’s Generation Nano completion.

She combined her love of drawing with her interest in solar technology and alternative energy to write and draw her project. When it captured first place, Reeves said she literally “screamed out loud. I never thought I would win at all – let alone first place.”

Reeves commended her AP Studio Art teacher Laura Cook for helping her to find her style and voice as an artist. “She has taught me so much about art as well as a variety of artistic techniques. She was instrumental in encouraging me to enter the competition. I was thrilled that Ms. Cook was also honored by Generation Nano for her mentoring of young STEM artists.”

Because she won the NSF competition, she was invited to take part in the 2018 USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington D.C., where she displayed her new superhero at a booth. Dressed as Heliora, she captured the interest of the crowd as she showed them her project, took photos with the children and discussed her interest in environmental science.

“It was such a thrill discussing my exhibit with students, teachers and scientists. I really enjoyed connecting with the kids who were fascinated by the costume I designed — ski goggles, spray painted shoulder pads, and a swim shirt from Walmart — and the story I created. After this festival, I’m now inspired to include Visual Arts in my studies,” she said. She is the daughter of Jill and David Reeves. Her twin brother is Gordon Reeves.



Joy Reeves, who created Superhero Heliora, won first place in the National Science Foundation’s Generation Nano completion.

Reeves is involved in a wealth of activities at St. Andrews. In September, she was selected to serve as a student research fellow at the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. “In this program, I research effective learning strategies, design and implement high school programs for neuroplasticity and present findings via panel to Harvard University faculty/graduate students and to MIT researchers.”

She also participated in creating an educational neuroscience app. She is president of the Environmental Club, founded the Outdoor Club and participated last summer in Field Ecology Studies through Drexel University.

The senior also won the National Scholastic Art & Writing Competition Regional Award for her comic art and editorial cartoon. She sings with her school’s *a capella* singing group, was named to the All-State-Team for Girls’ Cross Country, is fluent in Spanish and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society in 2017. She will attend Duke University in the fall where she is planning to study Environmental Science and Policy.

In the future, Reeves will most-likely be making her mark in environmental science, creating inventions – or providing teachable moments – and cartoons. When her comic-character says, “Thank you photovoltaic nanotechnology advancements,” and the villain replies, “What does that even mean?” you get a peek into Reeves’ sense of humor and goal to make science more understandable for all.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME
Children at Camp Invention create tracks for a self-driving robot. This camp has funding to sponsor low-income children this summer.

Affording Summer Camp

For families with a limited budget, paying for camp can be a challenge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the great pleasures of summer is going to camp. From kayaking and rock climbing to horseback riding and sailing, camp is a place where lifelong memories are created. A recent study by the non-profit, global policy think tank RAND Corporation shows that voluntary summer programs like camp have a significant, positive impact on low-income students during a time when they fall behind their wealthier peers both academically and socially.

Katie Crump, a case manager at Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poor and underserved, says that the luxury of summer camp often eludes those who need it most.

“The opportunity of attending a real summer camp is a big thing for them. Unfortunately, this experience can be unattainable due to the high cost and finding transportation among other things,” said Crump. “Attending summer camp affords kids a special and important experience that’s all their own. It allows

kids to be kids, something that is particularly vital for low-income children who are often forced to deal with the burdens of adulthood at a young age.”

Despite the cost of summer camp, keeping children engaged during the stretch of time between June and August when school is not in session is a critical part of their development, says Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

“Summer camps give opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral skills,” he said. “Some research shows that higher [socioeconomic status] children increase academic and behavioral skills over the summer and lower [socioeconomic status] children lose skills over the summer. Research shows that lower [socioeconomic status] children benefit from learning social and behavioral skills in different settings with new peers and challenges to apply their skills.”

Even with limited resources, summer camps can still be accessible, says Tom Rosenberg, president and CEO of the American Camp Association (ACA). “There is a camp for every budget,” he said “[Most] ACA-accredited camps provide some form of scholarship assistance. Reach out to the camp directly to ask about specific financial aid and scholarship options.”

The RAND study also showed that even though low-income students can lose up to two months of math and reading skills over the summer, high-quality summer programs can bridge that gap. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps are an example of programs that can be effective, but possibly unaffordable for some families.

Wolftrap and Colvin Run elementary schools in Fairfax County, Va., will be the site of a non-profit STEM camp called Camp Invention. Organized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), the hands-on program is designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Through activities like building robots and designing gadgets, campers get a sense of what it’s like to be a physicist or engineer.

“The program has sponsors that provide funding that’s used to help underrepresented kids attend the camps,” said Ken Torisky, spokesman for National Inventors Hall of Fame. “The money is distributed to students by the school district.”

Options for financial assistance for summer camp run the gamut from discounts for dependents of those serving in the military to camp funding offered by churches, synagogues, and civic organizations. “I would suggest to parents that they look into their child being sponsored by a local business to attend a camp or look into payment plan options at a camp that they are interested in attending,” advised Stacie Gottlieb, director, Bullis Summer and Extended Day

Programs in Potomac.

While Bullis does not offer financial assistance for summer camp, Gottlieb says that there are discounts for early registration and registering for multiple weeks of camp.

Parents should check to see if a camp participates in U.S. government assistance programs, particularly those with income eligibility requirements, like Title XX, advises Rosenberg. While it might be too late for this summer, he encourages parents to explore Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts and a Child and Dependent Care tax credit through the FSA Feds website: <https://www.fsafeds.com/>.

“I generally think lower income children benefit when they have access to the same opportunities as upper-income children and also gain cultural skills and knowledge important to upward mobility when they have opportunity to interact with upper-income kids,” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. “I also think upper-income kids gain mightily when they have genuine interactions with kids from other class backgrounds. Because empathy, cross cultural understanding, and an ability to work in diverse groups are skills that this new century demands, having opportunities to hone those skills are of value for all involved.”

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ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "Essence." Through April 28, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Featuring painter John Bodkin's colorful abstract paintings. Visit www.bethesda.org.

Photography Exhibit: "The Space Around Us." Through May 20, gallery hours at Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Md. "The Space Around Us: Photographs by Ira Tattelman." Tattelman, a registered architect and full-time artist, and guest curator Iason Demos will feature photos that call attention to the planned and unplanned outcomes of human actions. Exhibit reception scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

Art Exhibit: Color Combustion. Through June 27, office hours at Serendipity Labs, 4500 East West Highway, Suite 125, Bethesda. The Abstract Artists' Collective presents a group exhibition of work by women painters at Serendipity Labs. Eleven painters are included in the show: Tory Cowles, Lauren Chelec Cafritz, Camilla David, Jennifer Duncan, Patsy Fleming, Eleanor Glatty, Marthe McGrath, Michele Morgan, Hester Ohbi, Debra Perkins, and Helen Power. Visit [serendipity-labs-bethesda-md/](http://serendipitylabs.com/our-locations/serendipity-labs-bethesda-md/).

APRIL 25-28

"Othello" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." At Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center, Silver Spring. Traveling Players Ensemble alum Kai Tshikosi will be performing Othello and Oberon in Shakespeare & Company's touring productions of "Othello" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Tickets for the plays can be purchased at <http://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/cac/>. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 27-29

Spring Dance Concert. Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. The Montgomery College-Rockville Dance Company continues its annual tradition with a program of original dance works by Montgomery College students and faculty, as well as Washington, D.C.-area choreographers. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27-SUNDAY/MAY 6

"Radium Girls." At Rockville Little Theater, F Scott Fitzgerald Theatre 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville. Show times are Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m.; Friday, May 4 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 5 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. Visit www.rlt-online.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

National Philharmonic Northern Lights Concert. 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Philharmonic Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson leads a concert juxtaposing the rich traditions of Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* with new sounds by popular Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo and local/wunderkind/composer Alistair Coleman. A pre-concert lecture by Philharmonic Associate Director Victoria Gau begins at 6:45 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$23 and can be purchased at nationalphilharmonic.org or 301-581-5100

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

FRIDAY/MAY 4

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Artists & Makers Studios 1, 11810 Parklawn Dr., Suite 210, Rockville and Artists & Makers Studios 2, 12276/12280 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. Artists & Makers Studios are welcoming May at two locations with three solo exhibits and one mother/son exhibit, featuring the artwork of Rosana Azar, Michael Kraniski, Jun Lee, and Susan and Michael Makara in the galleries of



PHOTO BY SARAH TUNDERMANN

Pianist Audrey Andrist.

Washington Conservatory Concert Series

Pianist Audrey Andrist will be featured as part of the Washington Conservatory Concert Series. She will present a program of music spanning centuries and genres beginning with Sonata in A Major, W. 55 No. 4 by CPE Bach, to Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6 by Robert Schumann, three etudes by Earl Wilde – based on George Gershwin songs The Man I Love, Embraceable You, and I Got Rhythm – and Jerome Kern's All the Things You Are transcribed for left-hand only by Stephen Prutsman. Saturday, May 5, 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Free. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org.

both studio centers. These four exhibits will showcase resident artists' open studios for browsing as well. These exhibits continue through May 23. Visit www.artistsandmakersstudios.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Montgomery County GreenFest. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Jesup Blair Local Park, 900 Jesup Blair Drive, Silver Spring. The 4th Annual Greenfest, Montgomery County's largest environmental festival is designed to create opportunities for residents, businesses, nonprofits and neighbors to come together, share ideas and learn about local environmental initiatives. This year's event will offer a wide variety of activities to appeal to the whole family, from hands-on learning opportunities and live music and dance performances to tree climbing for kids. Visit montgomerycountygreenfest.org.

Mountain Dulcimers of Northern Virginia. 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern, 11710 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac. Visitors may try their hand at playing a mountain dulcimer, percussion instrument, or simply sing along. Programs at Great Falls Tavern are free, but there is an entrance fee to the park per vehicle. Call 301-767-3714.

National Philharmonic. 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. The National Philharmonic, led by Maestro Piotr Gajewski, celebrates Beethoven with a performance of Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral"). In addition, Philharmonic Concertmaster Colin Sorgi takes the stage for Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. Tickets are \$28-\$88 and are free for young people age 7-17. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call 301-581-5100.

Washington Conservatory of Music Chamber Concert. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Audrey Andrist, solo piano — From Baroque to Broadway. Andrist will present a program of music spanning centuries and genres beginning with music by CPE Bach, to the Davidsbündler Dances by Robert Schumann, and a group of engaging transcriptions including music from musical theater and Jerome Kern's left-hand-alone transcription of "All the Things You Are." Free (donations welcome). Visit www.westmorelanducc.org/.

35th Annual "An Evening with Strauss" Waltz Ball. 8 p.m.-midnight at the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Includes a Viennese Waltz lesson from 8-9 p.m., followed by a program of classical waltzes from 9-midnight. \$30. Tickets sold at the door only from 7:40 pm. No partner required. Visit www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

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You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that deadlines don't happen in the newspaper business; of course they do, every Tuesday for us weeklies. But when combined with my usual post-chemotherapy malaise, it is a bit more challenging. More so when the deadline is tightened up due to the nature of hitting and occasionally missing in-house communications, which is also not unreasonable given the multiple demands multi tasking imposes.

Compounding this task even more is that until I'm back to semi post-chemo normal, in the interim, I am not eating too much, not sleeping well, have low energy (related to the previous two deficiencies), my hands are shaky, my balance is off and I'm having some difficulty focusing. It's a good thing I'm sitting at a desk while attempting to write this column because operating any heavy machinery would definitely be out of the question. What I need to do is mind my own business.

Business which at the moment involves fending off my buff-colored male cat, Chino, as he angles to sit on my writing pad as I move him from left to right – and then right to left since he won't take "Chino, move!" for a directive. But if I know anything, other than what to expect post chemo, I also know what to expect from Chino – or any of the other cats we manage: independence, as any fellow cat owner knows. Unlike a "true and loyal dog," a cat, generally speaking, is not inclined to respond to your commands, well, too many of them, anyway. Nor are they likely to respond to any physical discipline and/or pushing/pulling/redirection. Invariably, if you push, they pull. If you pull, they push.

How Chino knows I'm not feeling well and on an unanticipated and abbreviated deadline, I'll never know. But rather than leave me to it, he'll interfere every way possible: nuzzling, nudging, leaning, rubbing, meowing, moving about and plopping down when all else fails. If you love cats as we do, this is their charm. If you don't love them and their antics, I can see how this kind of behavior can be very frustrating.

I mean, with all this activity, it's difficult to think about what I'm supposed to be doing when I'm so busy preventing things from getting done. I imagine Chino thinks he's doing me a favor, being so affectionate and so in the way. Maybe he thinks he's contributing to the creative process by sitting in the middle of my writing pad? In a way, maybe he is. He's forcing me to concentrate. Moreover, he's forcing me to focus on this most immediate task which, at the moment, has me fending him off with my left wrist while I'm scribbling prose with my right hand. Oddly enough, it might be working as I'm three-quarters finished with this column which 30 minutes ago was a weekend task until it became a today/Tuesday task.

Now if I didn't have a CT scan and lower abdomen MRI scheduled for Wednesday, I'd have a bit more time to sort out the details of writing this column. Unfortunately, post-chemo, mid-newspaper deadline and pre-scan is a triple threat which sometimes can impose its will. A 'will' which I take personally so I will persevere and complete this column with one final paragraph now that Chino has left my desk and likely ended up on some unoccupied couch to sleep; he's had a big day.

All kidding aside, if there's one behavior I need more than any other during these deadline triple threats, it's companionship. Because of Chino and our other four cats: Andrew, Sloane, Biscuit and Twinkle, I am never alone and always have someone to talk to who, occasionally talks back. Not that we understand one another, but it's giving and getting, and it's loving and affecting – me and my cancer; and everything in between.

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

Join us for a Free Community Event

THIRD ANNUAL RECYCLING & PAPER SHREDDING

WHEN: Saturday, April 28th, 9 AM—Noon

**WHERE: Ten Thousand Falls Road
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