Live Kangaroo Hops into Potomac Library

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‘Enhanced Juice’ in Annapolis

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Mules, Music and More by the C&O

News, Page 8

May 29-June 4, 2019
POTOMAC PIZZA LUNCH COMBOS

$9.99 PIZZA COMBO
• ANY TWO SLICES OF PIZZA WITH UP TO 3 TOPPINGS EACH
• CHOICE OF ONE:
  ◦ SMALL TOSSED SALAD
  ◦ CUP OF SOUP
  ◦ SMALL FRIES
• SMALL FOUNTAIN DRINK

$10.99 SUB COMBO
• ANY SUB, SANDWICH OR WRAP*
• CHOICE OF ONE:
  ◦ SMALL TOSSED SALAD
  ◦ CUP OF SOUP
  ◦ SMALL FRIES
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*Additional charge for Tuna Steak.

Combos available Monday thru Friday, 11am–4pm. Additional charge for priced condiments and Tuna Steak. Good for dine-in and carryout only. Not valid with other offers.

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NEWS

‘Enhanced Juice’ in Annapolis

Despite ‘gut-wrenching’ federal cuts on environment, Maryland passes initiatives.

By Ken Moore
The Almanac

The Bill to require Maryland to install oyster sanctuaries where oysters cannot be harvested, a project that would help the Chesapeake Bay, is necessary to save this historic species, according to Senator Brian Feldman. "We are at a tipping point and bold action is necessary to save this keystone species for the Chesapeake Bay."

“Environmentally a new bridge is a disaster,” said Feldman. “We represent the residential and business communities of Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville. The Board advises the Director of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, the County Executive, and the County Council on community needs and priorities such as transportation, human services, environmental, public safety, and other issues of local importance. Members serve three-year terms without compensation but are eligible for reimbursement for travel and dependent care for board and committee meetings. Board meetings are held the third Monday of the month and begin at 7 p.m. Committee meetings may be held in the morning or evening depending on the issues to be discussed. Members are expected to contribute approximately six hours each month, and to attend both board and committee meetings.

Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time. Members must complete training on the Maryland Open Meetings Act and basic parliamen
tory procedure. The County Executive’s appointments are subject to confirmation by the County Council. Applications of those selected for appointment are made public as part of the confirmation process. The deadline for application is June 10, 2019. To apply please click “Apply” below to complete the online form and provide a cover letter and resume (in one document).

DISTRIBUTION DELEGATION to the General Assembly updates West Montgomery County Citizens Association after the General Assembly session each year.

“This is an event we always enjoy,” said House Majority Leader Kathleen Dumais, on Wednesday, May 8 at the Potomac Community Center. More than 40 people attended. Legislators considered some 2,500 bills, Feldman said, a significant workload.

“Some people are coming,” he said. “Senators and 495 widening and tolls. The northern most Residents and businesses in the Potomac County to add toll lanes is less settled.

LACK OF LEADERSHIP at the Federal level impacts the state level, the four members of the delegation said.

“It’s gut wrenching to have the EPA programs that would help the Chesapeake Bay gutted by this [Trump] administration.” — Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

“Is it up to the states to take the lead in climate change action because of federal inaction,” Feldman said.

“It’s gut wrenching to have the EPA programs that would help the Chesapeake Bay gutted by this administration,” said Fraser-Hidalgo. This session, Maryland protected five sanctuaries where oysters cannot be harvested. Oyster populations, which help filter the Bay, are at an all-time low; “the population is just two percent of historic levels,” according to Dumais. “We are at a tipping point and bold action is necessary to save this keystone species for the Chesapeake Bay.”

“It was absolutely the right thing to do,” she said.

Maryland has also banned styrofoam carry-out containers, said Lily Qi, Maryland’s first Chinese-born member of the Maryland General Assembly. The Bill will go into effect on July 1, 2020, making Maryland one of two states to do so.

Fraser-Hidalgo started a push for zero-emission school busses, and his bill became a grant program to assist school boards and bus contractors with the purchase of zero-emission school busses and necessary infrastructure.

Senator Brian Feldman introduced his bill this session, which would ban all forms of single-use styrofoam containers, including the popular polystyrene foam cups and food containers, and his bill became law this session.

“Complete different ways of moving people are coming,” he said.

Some attendees pressed lawmakers on why more wasn’t done on climate change and reducing emissions.

“It takes time to educate people on cli

Applying to Serve on WMCCAB

C

Apply to Serve on WMCCAB
Live Kangaroo Hops into Potomac Library
Friends of the Library Potomac Chapter sponsors unusual animal encounter.

Children turned out at Potomac Library to meet a live kangaroo and a wallaby visiting from Roos2U, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Children had a chance to learn about what kangaroos eat and where and how they live, and to pet the kangaroo. There were two animals at the event, 7-year-old female Kangaroo named Boomeroo and an 8-month-old female Wallaby named Clara.

By Peggy McEwan

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Walking MoCo’s 250 Miles of Trails
Walking to help EveryMind end the silence around mental health.

Lauren Strawbridge walked the trails of Cabin John Regional Park Sunday. Not an unusual thing to do on a warm Sunday morning, but Strawbridge was walking for a purpose: to help break through the silence associated with mental illness.

Strawbridge, of Boyds, has been walking the park trails of Montgomery County during the month of May, Mental Health Awareness Month.

Her goal is to walk most of the 250 miles of Montgomery Parks’ hiking trails this month as part of a partnership between EveryMind, formerly the Montgomery County Mental Health Association, and Montgomery Parks. She also hopes to raise money for EveryMind and the Montgomery County Crisis Hotline.

This is Strawbridge’s second May walking for mental health issues.

Last year she walked most of the length of the C&O Canal, 184.5 miles.

“One of it was closed for repair so I couldn’t do it all,” she said.
Last year, she said, she hoped to raise $1,000 during her canal walk. She raised over $2,300.

“This year I aimed for $2,400 and I am almost at my goal,” she said.

The walk this year has morphed, she said. Last year it was mostly solo, a time for reflection.

“This year I decided to keep it close to home to call attention to the Crisis Hotline,” she said. “We are underfunded and overused.”

Strawbridge, 30, is a board member of EveryMind, so she knows the need. She also has bipolar disorder which has been managed for five years and has used the Crisis Hotline, she said, so she understands that need too.

Montgomery Park employees have walked along with Strawbridge.

Last week she walked at Fairland Recreation Park in Burtonsville. Joining her was Karishma Sheth, chief program officer at EveryMind.

The walk included conversation about the importance of removing the “invisibility” from mental illness.

The “S-Word” of mental health is Silence, they said.

“The more people who share their stories, it gives others [permission] to talk about mental illness,” Sheth said.

Sunday at Cabin John Regional Park there was a larger group.

Strawbridge’s husband, Matt Strawbridge was there with their dog Mila; Ann Mazur, CEO of EveryMind and her dog, Baloo, joined the group as did EveryMind board member Emily Rosado, her son, Gavin Ros, 13, and their dog Nina.

With only a few days left in May, Strawbridge is sometimes walking two or three trails a day.
Walking


To learn more about hiking on Montgomery parks trails visit www.MontgomeryParks.org.

To donate to Strawbridge’s fundraiser, visit runsignup.com/writeboldly.

Lauren Strawbridge, right, is joined by her husband, Matt, and EveryMind staff at Cabin John Regional Park Sunday. From left are Ann Mazur, CEO; Gavin Roz, Emily Rosado, board member; Matt and Lauren Strawbridge.

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

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Service Academy Information Night. 6-8 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Blvd., Gaithersburg. Interested students and their parents will have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives and graduates from each of the U.S. Service Academies. These representatives will be answer questions about life at the Academies, the application process, and the career opportunities that come afterwards. Free and open to the public. Email Trone.Academy@mail.house.gov or call 301-926-0300. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/montgomery-county-service-academy-information-night-tickets-61522551608.

MONDAY/JUNE 3

Swearing-In Ceremony and Open House. 2-4 p.m. at the Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Ave., Suite 105, Gaithersburg. The Montgomery County Board of Elections will host a public Swearing-In Ceremony and Open House for new and returning Board Members. The Ceremonial Oath of Office will take place at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments and facility tours will be available. Free and open to the public. Email info@montgomeryelections.org or call 301-949-4480.

See Bulletin. Page 8
## Potomac REAL ESTATE

**March, 2019 Sales, $749,000-$860,000**

In March 2019, 46 Potomac homes sold between $2,150,000-$545,000.

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Three days of Spring Festival at Great Falls Tavern with many traditional events and activities.

By Peggy McEwan

Visitors to Great Falls Park this past weekend were treated to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park’s first Spring in the Park, planned to be repeated annually.

Saturday’s events, Mules, Music and More, featured Dolly, one of the mules that pull the Charles F. Mercer canal boat. Dolly was just back from her winter at Mount Vernon in Virginia, ready to greet visitors, especially the children who couldn’t keep from petting her and asking Ranger Mark Myers questions about Dolly and the other mules who will summer at Great Falls.

“She came to meet her adoring public,” Myers said.

Emily Warren, 8, and her sister Caroline, 5, of Washington, D.C. were at the park for a hike with their parents. Dolly took a good bit of their planned hiking time.

“It was Caroline’s first time to see a mule – the offspring of a horse and a donkey.”

“At first I thought it was a horse,” she said. “I figured out it was a mule.”

Emily had her own thoughts about Dolly and other mules.

“Mules are docile creatures,” she said. “They might not be obedient, but they are very smart and friendly.”

Saturday would have been the first day for the Mercer to set off through Lock 20, in front of the Tavern and up the canal while riders learned about life on canal boats that used the canal between Georgetown, in DC to Cumberland, 184.5 miles west.

Unfortunately, the Mercer will not be sharing floating history lessons until late this summer. Work on locks below the Tavern was delayed by the federal government shutdown, and the weather, and the canal does not have water.

“You can’t float the boat unless you have water,” said Elizabeth Harrison, whose husband Donald is president of Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern. The Friends are the group that donated money to have the Mercer, a replica canal packet boat, built on 2006, Elizabeth Harrison said.

Adding to the festive atmosphere outside the Tavern was music by the Northern Virginia Mountain Players.

Three dulcimer players backed up by two banjo players played music and answered questions about their instruments. They had two dulcimers that visitors could try to play along with the “professionals.”

Also included on Saturday, were tents from the Mercer to set off through Lock 20, in front of the Tavern and up the canal while riders

Members of the Northern Virginia Mountain Players perform during the Great Falls Park Spring in the Park Festival Saturday.

Cheryl and Richard Hack, of Annapolis, demonstrated a crank organ and let passersby try for themselves.

Exchange students Balqis Maharsiwi, 18, from Indonesia, and Anna Furic, 15, from France, tried.

“At first, I was [turning the crank] too slow but found the perfect speed and I liked it,” Furic said.

Monday, the Festival wound down with a typical day at the Park, the tavern was open with displays and games for visitors and Park volunteers available to answer questions and point hikers to the different trails around the Tavern.

Pete Petersen, Supervisory Park Ranger at C&O Canal National Historical Park, said the Spring Festival was planned by the Park staff to group many traditional events together for visitors to enjoy.
Career Day offers 21 choices, including Chocolatier.

By Peggy McEwan
The Almanac

Students at Potomac Elementary School had the opportunity to learn about 21 different possibilities during the school’s Career Day, Thursday, May 23.

No one child could go to all 21 presentations, there just wasn’t enough time, but third through fifth graders could choose three sessions in the morning while kindergarten, first and second graders had two choices in the afternoon.

Third grader Austin Ma chose to hear local author Aimee Agresti talk about being a published writer. He wants to be a graphic novelist. Actually, he said, he is already working on one or two books.

“My friend’s a good drawer so we can work together,” he said.

One title, “The Devil Made Out of Blood,” is planned to be part of a series but they don’t know what the series will be called yet, he said.

Austin planned to round out his morning hearing about being a dentist and learning about being an Army Security professional.

Emergency Room Doctor Golru Ghaffari, who works at Suburban Hospital, had a series of slides to show the students some of the work she does.

Ghaffari showed pictures of EKGs, broken bones, the “bullseye” from a tick bite, even the skin of a person struck by lightning. She ended her slide presentation warning the students that the next picture might be “gross,” but it was a picture with a lesson she wanted the students to learn.

It showed the mouth and teeth of a young man who, while vaping, had his e-cigarette explode. These explosions are rare but dangerous, according to the Food and Drug Administration. She also had some doctor instruments for the students to hold and use.

Shaun Khanna, a fifth grader, said a lesson learned from the talk was do not vape.

Thomas Wu, a fourth grader, said he attended Dr. Ghaffari’s talk because his father is a doctor.

“I thought he would be proud if I became one one day,” he said.

How about ending your morning with learning about being a chocolatier?

“Never underestimate the power of chocolate,” read on of the small card given out by Gaithersburg Chocolatier Sarah Dwyer.

Dwyer encouraged the students to follow their passion in searching for the right career. Before she started her hand-crafted chocolate company Choquette in 2010, she spent 18 years in banking and retail and studied at Le Cordon Bleu Pastry School.

All the while, she said, dreaming of chocolate and creating chocolates to share with family and friends in her spare time.

And she had samples!

Julie Gupta tasted a chocolate with caramel which, the fourth grader said was “really good.”

It fuels their dreams,” she said.

One title, “The Devil Made Out of Blood,” is planned to be part of a series but they don’t know what the series will be called yet, he said.

Separation and Divorce: What Do I Need To Know?

7-8:30 p.m. at East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring. Local attorneys walk through the “ins” and “outs” of going through a separation and divorce in Maryland. Learn about: methods of dispute resolution, when and where to file, types of divorce and grounds, financial statements, alimony, property and equitable distribution, role of the attorney, and domestic violence/orders of protection. $5.


Application Deadline. County Executive Marc Elrich is seeking applicants to fill nine vacancies on the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. The Vo- member Board represents the residential and business communities of Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville. The Board advises the Director of the Bethesda-Cherry Chase Regional Services Center, the County Executive, and the County Council on community needs and priorities such as transportation, human services, environmental, public safety, and other issues of local importance. Visit www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/ BCC public to apply.

TUESDAY/JUNE 11
Career Gateway Program. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 620 Fleetwood Lane, Chevy Chase. 300 available seats. Join us at the Career Gateway Fair to explore careers, discuss educational opportunities and make connections. Register online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/career gateway.

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**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**CLEAN ENERGY** is critical to Maryland’s economy. The Clean Energy Jobs Act could stimulate 20,000 solar jobs, 5,000 wind jobs and $280 million in federal tax credits, said Feldman. Feldman was the primary sponsor of the Bill which increases Maryland’s renewable energy portfolio standard from 25 percent to 50 percent by 2030.

“This legislation will bolster the offshore wind and solar industries,” according to Dumais. Currently, Maryland has 170 solar companies. By 2028, it is predicted that there will be 20-25,000 solar jobs. Maryland is one of 11 states to receive a Triple-A bond rating. This session, it passed the Clean Cars Act of 2019. The Bill provides $6 million in excise tax credits each fiscal year to purchasers of new zero-emission vehicles. Maryland has a goal of 300,000 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025.

**MARYLAND ALSO PASSED** a bill called Protecting the Affordable Care Act, which will protect Marylanders with pre-existing conditions “in the event that the Supreme Court overturns protections provided in the Affordable Care Act,” according to Dumais.

Maryland also became the first state in the country to implement a program that allows families to use tax information to qualify for health programs. The legislation establishes Maryland’s Easy Enrollment Health Program, “a simple, seamless system for enrolling uninsured Marylanders into free or low-cost health insurance coverage by adding a checkbox on state income tax returns.”

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**MONDAY, JUNE 17**

**MCGOP’s 2019 Lincoln Day Dinner**

VIP reception, 6:30 p.m.; dinner, 7:30 p.m. at Double Tree Bethesda, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, keynote speaker, is the ninth Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland. He was elected to office with Governor Larry Hogan in 2014, and re-elected in 2018. He is the first Republican lieutenant governor to ever be re-elected in Maryland. $125. Visit www.mcgop.com; 2019_lincoln_day_dinner for more. **CRISIS PREVENTION SERVICES**

EveryMind Crisis Prevention and Intervention specialists are available by phone, text and chat every hour of every day. The community can also look to EveryMind for mental health professionals who are prepared to talk about warning signs and ways anyone can help to prevent suicide from ending lives far too soon. EveryMind is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit EveryMind.org. More resources include:

- Call or Text Montgomery County Hotline: 301-738-2255
- Chat: Crisis Prevention Chat: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/
- Call: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- www.every-mind.org/services/crisis/
- suicidepreventionlifeline.org
- www.suicidology.org

**June**

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**July**

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You can read any of this week’s 15 papers digital editions here:

**See Bulletin, Page 11**

**Support Program. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, downtown Silver Spring. Montgomery County’s Caregiver Support Program is hosting interactive sessions designed for family/friend unpaid caregivers. Attend and learn how to maintain well-being through support, community connections and education programs. Free. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e-care-for-the-caregiver-event-registration-57422198341.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 15**

**Caregiver Support Program. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, downtown Silver Spring. Montgomery County’s Caregiver Support Program is hosting interactive sessions designed for family and friends of unpaid caregivers. Attend and learn how to maintain well-being through support, community connections and education programs. Free. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e-care-for-the-caregiver-event-registration-57422198341.”

**From Page 3**

“I would like to see greater support for renewable energy,” said Fraser-Hidalgo, who is on the House’s environmental and transportation committee.

There is a limited amount one state can do to make progress on climate change, Feldman said. It requires leadership at the presidential level.

DEMOCRATS PICKED up eight seats in the last election, and now have 99 delegates, giving them extra power to push their agenda.

“This is the year we had enhanced Juice,” Feldman said.

To flex that muscle, Dumais led four veto overrides with the session still going on, including protecting Bay oysters with five sanctuaries, raising the minimum wage to $15, a minimum age requirement of 21 to buy tobacco, and allowing localities to decide when the school year starts and ends.

Another success, said Dumais, was increasing child care credit to $14,000 a year, fifth highest of any state.

Qi hopes to improve Maryland election law, which she called “not immigrant friendly.” But her bill on election access, which would give more access in the primary by allowing later registration by party, didn’t get a vote.

**MARYLAND ALSO PASSED** a bill called Protecting the Affordable Care Act, which will protect Marylanders with pre-existing conditions “in the event that the Supreme Court overturns protections provided in the Affordable Care Act,” according to Dumais.

Maryland also became the first state in the country to implement a program that allows families to use tax information to qualify for health programs. The legislation establishes Maryland’s Easy Enrollment Health Program, “a simple, seamless system for enrolling uninsured Marylanders into free or low-cost health insurance coverage by adding a checkbox on state income tax returns.”
Swing Dance With Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy continues its decades long mission to celebrate and revitalize jazz and swing music—America’s original musical form—and bring joy to audiences around the world. All ages welcome, no partner needed. Band plays two sets. Friday, June 7, beginner lesson, 8-9 p.m., dance, 9-11:30 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. $30 through June 6 at 5 p.m.; $40 after and at the door. Tickets at glenechopark.org/DanceTickets.

TUESDAY/JUNE 11
Teen Writers’ Club. 6:30 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Teens ages 13-18 can make a passion for writing a reality with the help of a live audience. Entries are $25 and there is a $20 submission fee. For full details on how to submit for this year’s Photo Slam, visit glenechophotoworks.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 13
Appetizers and Art. 5:30-8 p.m. Meet at the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, Silver Spring. Learn about Silver Spring’s public art with free artwork tours. Call 301-777-0690 or visit www.silverspringdowntown.com/art-walk-tour to sign up.

TUESDAY/JUNE 11
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POTOMAC CONVERSATION CLUB. 7:30 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. In his new exhibit, Cristian Ianculescu explores space as a medium for communication. His works use distance, posture, and rhythm to create volumes which facilitate or inhibit interactions. The intimate scale of the work allows the viewer to exercise the freedom of an outside observer, and maintain a god-like detachment. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2
Art Artist: “Dialogues.” 2-4 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. In his new exhibit, Cristian Ianculescu explores space as a medium for communication. His works use distance, posture, and rhythm to create volumes which facilitate or inhibit interactions. The intimate scale of the work allows the viewer to exercise the freedom of an outside observer, and maintain a god-like detachment. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

When Dance Meets Jazz: The Balalaika Society. 6:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Enjoy a showcase of songs from more than a dozen celebrated musicals. The lively event features cast members from 14 years of Har Shalom Players’ shows, along with special guest vocalist Ben Lurie. Wine and dessert will be served. $18-

TUESDAY/JUNE 4
Read a Dog. 4:30 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Gleneden Drive, Potomac. School-age children, especially beginners learning to read and those who want to improve their confidence in reading skills, are invited to practice reading aloud in short (10-15 minute) semi-private sessions with a certified therapy dog. Sign up begins 15 minutes before program. First-come, first-served. Call 240-777-0690 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 7
Swing Dance With Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Beginner lesson, 8-9 p.m.; dance, 9-11:30 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy will celebrate and revitalize jazz and swing music—America’s original musical form—and bring joy to audiences around the world. All ages welcome, no partner needed. Band plays two sets. Saturday, June 8 through June 10 at 5 p.m.; $40 after and at the door. Tickets at glenechopark.org/DanceTickets.

SATURDAY/JUNE 9
Jazz and Jam. 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Normandie Farms Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Conservatory Classic Jazz Band opens and closes this event with a Jam session in the middle. Anyone can jam and everyone has fun. Free for students, seniors, and those who want to improve their confidence in reading skills, are invited to practice reading aloud in short (10-15 minute) semi-private sessions with a certified therapy dog. Sign up begins 15 minutes before program. First-come, first-served. Call 240-777-0690 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html for more.

POTOMAC CONVERSATION CLUB. 11 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Gleneden Drive, Potomac. Practice English conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. Adults, seniors. No registration; join any time. Call 240-777-0690 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html for more.

POTOMAC CONVERSATION CLUB. 11 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Gleneden Drive, Potomac. Practice English conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. Adults, seniors. No registration; join any time. Call 240-777-0690 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/librarybranches/potomac.html for more.

DANCESLAM. 7-9 p.m. at Busboys and Poets, 14th and V St. NW. After continuing to draw a capacity crowd to Busboys and Poets as for the past eight years, the Photographers Photo Slam returns this year in conjunction with the DC Wilmington Art on the Mall celebration. This event is limited to 30 Photo Slammers who will face off with photography and performance and a live audience. Entries are $25 and there is a $20 submission fee. For full details on how to submit for this year’s Photo Slam, visit glenechophotoworks.org.
The Alzheimer’s Association’s Memory Cafes offer a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to get connected with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. The memory cafe in Rockville (4860 Boiling Brook Parkway) operates the third Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Lindsey Vujeysi at 240-642-1334 or ljvujeysi@gmail.com.

Suicide Grief Support Group. At JSJA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. This ongoing bereavement support group is for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This group meets every first and third Monday. No charge. Pre-registration is required to attend. Call 301-816-2708.

Because I Love You is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting parents of troubled children of any age. The group helps parents deal with drugs, runaway, truancy, verbal abuse, physical abuse, curfew violations and other misbehavior, as well as help parents deal with themselves, to manage and live their own lives without obsessing over their child’s behavior. The group meets 7:30-9:30 every Thursday at Bethesda United Methodist Church, 209, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Visit www.becauseloveyou.org, email hbr1e@netzero.com or call 301-530-3597.

Adult Bereavement Groups. Dates and times vary depending on group members. Hospice Care, 518 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg. Peer driven support groups in those in need of support. Free: Contact Penny Gladhill at 301-990-8906, or Penny@hospicecaring.org.

Ongoing

Potomac Rotary Gatherings, 7:15-8:30 a.m. at Founding Farmers McCo, 12505 Park Potomac Ave., Potomac. Rotary Club of Potomac meets for breakfast first and third Wednesday of each month and a Happy Hour at Sugo Pizzeria, 5-7 p.m., on the last Wednesday. Learn how to serve humanity globally. Individuals pay for their own breakfast. No admission fee. Visit www.PotomacRotary.org for more.

24/7 Homeless Information Line. Montgomery County’s Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with EveryMind, has launched a 24/7 Homeless Information Line, with trained specialists to provide information on County homeless services and shelter resources. Callers can also provide information about the location of individuals in the community experiencing homelessness. The reports will be forwarded to community outreach partners who will attempt to locate the individual and offer support and resources. The information line number is 240-907-2688. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness for more.

Senior SmartTrip Card. There is a SmartTrip card, for those 65 and older, that may be used to ride Metrorail at senior fares, ride free on Ride On buses and some Metrobuses in Montgomery County Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. or half fare at all other times. The cost of the SmartTrip card is $2. There is no value on the card at the time of purchase. Visit any library in Montgomery County, the Silver Spring TRIPS Store, the Mobile Commuter Store or the Montgomery County Treasury Office and bring proof of age (state ID, birth certificate or passport). For more information, call 311.
Washington, D.C. - Hundreds gathered at U.S. Capitol on Saturday, May 25 to mark the 6th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace. The anniversary was marked by a peace walk that began outside the U.S. Capitol, where participants urged heads of state from 193 countries, political leaders, and community leaders to support the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, or, the DPCW.

A diverse group of over 500 citizens from the D.C. metropolitan area and representing 21 countries walked for peace in conjunction with 52 other major cities including Boston and Atlanta. Volunteers from the D.C. Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL) have also been working in various countries within the Caribbean such as Haiti, Belize, Guyana and Grenada to help host local peace walks in each respective country.

Many participants wore traditional clothing to display their cultural differences and to convey that many countries, cultures, and ideologies are actively working together to achieve peace through the DPCW. Individuals from countries such as Madagascar, Guatemala, and India held large, colorful peace signs and props, and chanted, "The people, united, will never be divided!"

Sara Fawn, an HWPL volunteer, said she attended the event to ensure she could be part of a movement that is bigger than herself. "That's why we have all come together today to urge our elected officials — the public servants that have been put in position by the people and for the people — to support the DPCW. We all want the same thing."

The DPCW serves as the solution for worldwide peace and conflict resolution, and is a legal framework for spreading the culture of peace on a local, national and international level.

"I think our differences are what unite us - it's our strength. There is no religion, no nation that doesn't want peace" says local Woodbridge native, Michael Sarpong.

The DPCW has already been enacted as a National Declaration in various countries around the world including Antigua, eSwatini, and Seychelles. It is currently being presented to pass as law through the United Nations, and citizens around the world are urging their legislators to support the DPCW on a local and national level.

The group sponsoring the event is the "Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL)". The organization was founded in 2013 to build a worldwide network of people dedicated to achieving global peace in communities around the world.

HWPL is a peace NGO associated with the United Nation’s Economic and Social Council (UNESC), as well as the UN Department of Global Communications. Amidst rising global tensions, HWPL is engaging political and community leaders, journalists, and young people draw attention to its cause.