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Potomac ALMANAC

HOME LIFE STYLE
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Churchill Grad Appointed Rutgers University's 21st president

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Building a Snowman

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This part of River Road near Edwards Ferry follows a Native American Trail. It has been in the Rustic Roads program since 1996. See the story on Page 3.

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PHOTO BY MONTGOMERY CO. PLANNING ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

NEWS

Thursday, February 20, 7-9 pm

"We moved. Is that still aging-in-place?"

Hear from a couple who recently downsized - the what, why and how of their decision AND why it's still aging in place.

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www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tribute to Aretha Franklin.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra presents:

Aretha - A Tribute

A tribute to the Queen of Soul, this program features symphony favorite Capathia Jenkins and Darryl Williams performing such iconic

hits as "Respect," "A Natural Woman," "Chain of Fools," "Amazing Grace" and much more. Starring Lucas Waldin, conductor; Capathia Jenkins, vocalist and Darryl Williams, vocalist.

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Rustic Roads in the Area Get An Update

Preservation program highlights 20 more roads in Montgomery County.

By MIKE SALMON
THE ALMANAC

Montgomery County has a program called “Rustic Roads,” to highlight a lesser known asset in the county which comes in the form of country roads that wind through the countryside to the small towns that dot the Maryland countryside. Officials are looking to expand the number of roads in the program to preserve historic and picturesque nature of this asset.

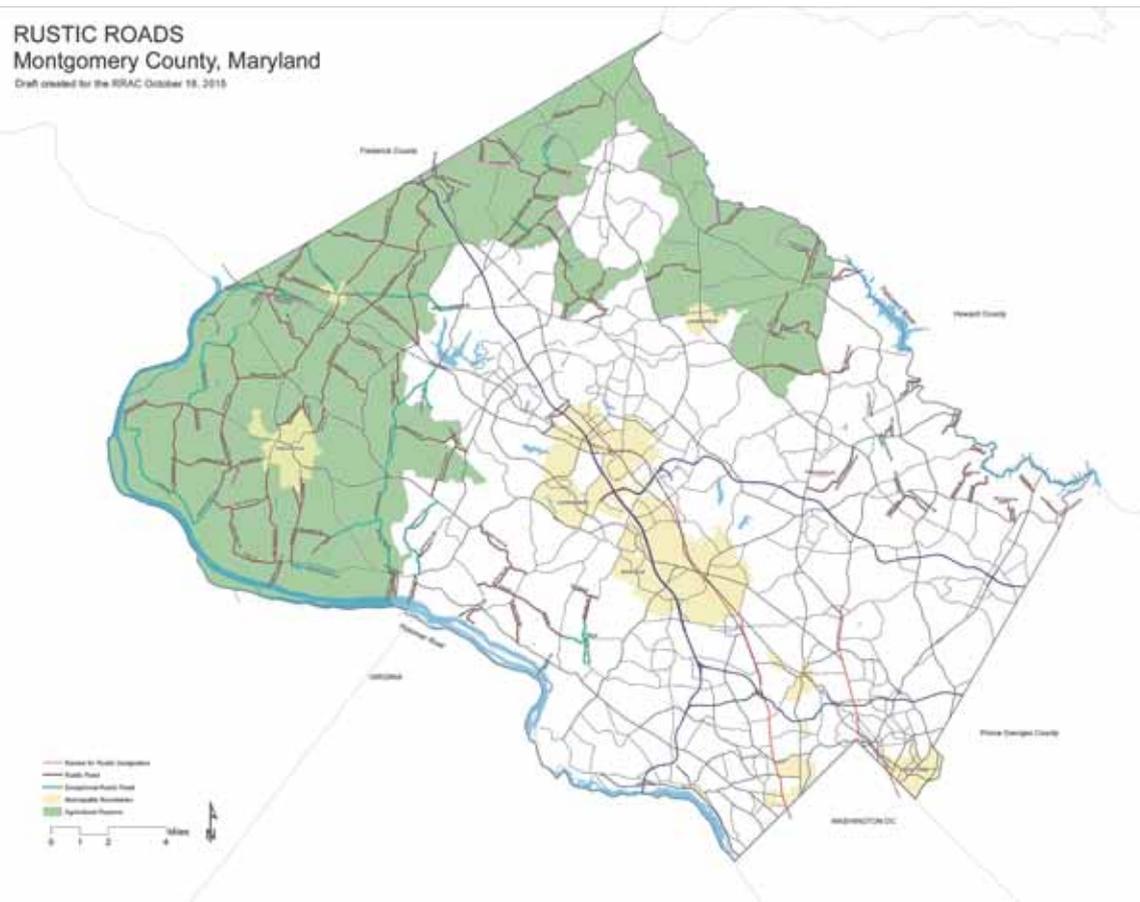
There are 99 roads that qualify as rustic. At a recent meeting in January, there were 20 more roads nominated for the program, and several were along or crossing the C&O Canal, while others had a link to farmhouses, bridges, farms and horse trails.

Criteria that was used includes historic value, outstanding vistas, natural features and travel characteristics. For example, Hoyles Mill Road was named for a saw and grist mill of John Hoyle’s in 1865, while the owners of a 1910 pony truss bridge over Dry Seneca Creek wanted to keep it as a one-lane bridge.

“The Rustic Roads Program was initiated in the 1980s in response to residents seeking to preserve the character of their unique roads. They also wished to retain their quality of life by keeping the roads narrow and the cars traveling slowly,” said Leslie Saville, Community Planner at the Montgomery County Planning Department.

The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee (RRAC) has requested a technical update to the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan in order to consider roads that have been nominated for inclusion in

RUSTIC ROADS
Montgomery County, Maryland
Draft created for the RRAC October 18, 2019



The Rustic Roads are primarily on the edge of Montgomery County.

the Rustic Roads Program, and to provide the necessary descriptions for several roads that are currently in the Program. In response, the Planning Board and County Council added this Master Plan Update to the Planning Department’s Master Plan and Major Projects Schedule.

In January, the committee focused on:

- ❖ Snowdens Manor, Old Orchard Road, rustic – subdivision
- ❖ Howard Chapel Rd, rustic, at NH Ave – Landscape contractor proposal
- ❖ Zion and Riggs Rds, both rustic – Landscape contractor amendment
- ❖ MD 28 at Big Woods Rd, rustic



In March 2019, the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee was awarded Montgomery Preservation Inc’s Montgomery Prize in recognition of the committee’s continuous, outstanding achievement in furthering history and preservation in Montgomery County.

tic – limited sight distance

❖ Solar farms – zoning text amendment (Ag Reserve) (county council)

❖ RRFMP Update (scope of work presented to the Planning Board on February 6)

❖ Monocacy Road Bridge rehab

❖ Glen Road Bridge rehab

❖ Sugarland Road repair

❖ Schedule tree trimming meeting (Feb/Mar mtg and June tour)

Road preservation was first suggested in 1990, and in 1993, the Council approved the addition of a new section to the County Code, Chapter 49, Streets and Roads, Article 8, Rustic Roads Program, which prepared the way for designating “Rustic and Exceptional Rustic roads,” through the master plan process.

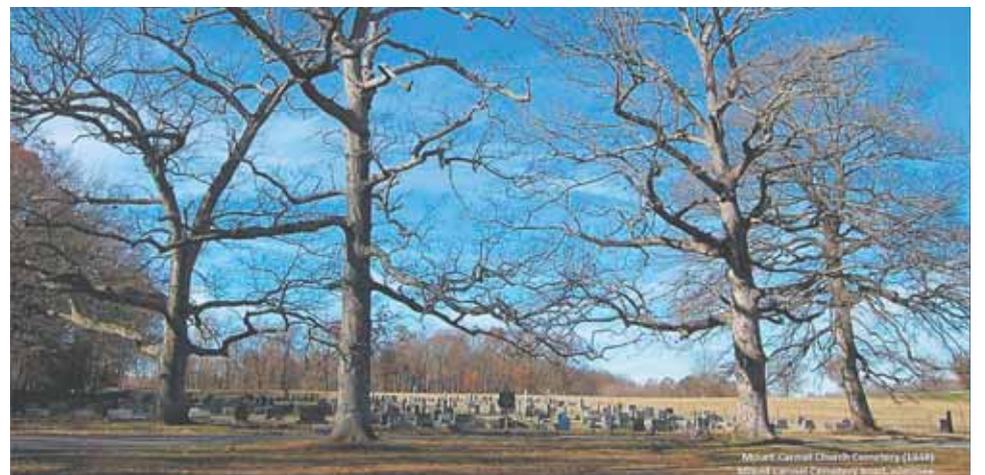
The program evolved from there. According to the county, “Rustic roads are historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County,” and this provides a system for evaluating, protecting, and enhancing these scenic roadways.

The proximity of the county to the Potomac River and the C&O Canal opens the door to recreational opportunities too. “In addition to the historic and scenic roads themselves, they lead to historic lockhouses, aqueducts, mills and quarries—and to recreational resources including the towpath for hiking and biking, and to several ramps for boaters,” Saville said. “The rustic roads have a lot of fans and supporters in Potomac,” she added.

The next Monthly Rustic Road Meeting is 6:00 pm, February 27, 9th Floor Conference Room of the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD.



Farm views are big Rustic Road contestants.



The Mount Carmel church cemetery is a nominee.

Special Edition: PET Connection

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HOME LIFE STYLE

Valentine's Day Gifts for the Home

There's still time to give the gift of style.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Boxes of chocolates and bouquets of flowers are ideas that might come to the minds of those who are still on the hunt for the perfect gift to give on Cupid's Day. Though we celebrate St. Valentine in just two days, home décor aficionados come to the rescue with a few chic gift ideas for the home design enthusiasts in your life.

"Whether you love to cook or you just love to eat take-out, a pop of color on the countertop will bring a smile to your face every time you walk into your kitchen," said Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design. "For a gift that will bring joy for years to come, surprise your significant other with a bright red Kitchen Aid Stand Mixer and a set of red silicone spatulas for Valentine's Day. Such a joy to use and a delight for the eye."

A set of Swedish towels can be a game changer for those who are environmentally conscious and obsessively clean, says Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence a home décor and gift boutique in Burke, Virginia. "You can use Swedish towels to clean anything you'd clean with a paper towel," she said. "But they're reusable and you can throw them in the dishwasher when they get dirty."

Eco-friendly and made entirely of biodegradable cellulose or a combination of wood pulp and renewable cotton, Swedish towels can be used for household cleaning projects that range from spills on a counter tops to water spots on a mirror.

For a gift that does double design duty, a candle in a reusable vessel is an option that Thomas suggests. "We have some candles that come in a pottery container and once the candle is gone, you can still use the pottery," she said. "It's like a two-for-one. Pottery is food safe and can go in the oven and dishwasher if you want to make a dip or something in them."

For those who decide to give flowers on Valentine's Day, add a vase for displaying those buds, suggests Walker. "Instead of spending more than \$100 on roses for your sweetheart, spend under \$100 on [an] unbelievably gorgeous cocoon Vase by Danish design house, Holmegaard," she said. "Fill it with a beautiful selection of fresh flowers [and] instead of having



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING

Textiles in vibrant colors like these throw pillows, can brighten the day of your Valentine.

the roses for a few days, your beloved will have this gorgeous, stylish vase for a lifetime."

Those who want to give a gift that offers a luxurious night's sleep should consider a silk pillow case, says Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished in Alexandria. "They're a wonderful gift because they're good for your hair," she said. "And silk stays cool which might be good for those who get hot at night."

There's nothing more classic than a silver picture frame adorning one's side table or book case, suggests Mertins. "When we are designing a living room, we often walk into someone's house and see photos of their loved ones displayed in a hodgepodge of frames like wooden frames and ceramic frames. Giving silver frames allows photos of your family or children to be displayed tastefully in classic silver frames"

Bursts of color in the form of textiles can brighten them home of one's valentine, advises Mertins. "Tablecloths, runners and napkins in silk, velvet and cotton by Ardmore Design make a beautiful table setting," she said. "There are some wonderful, washable throws in all different colors that make great gifts. People love because their pretty and washable."

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

First African American President of Rutgers

Churchill alum named president of Rutgers University.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
POTOMAC ALMANAC

Jonathan Holloway, a 1985 graduate of Winston Churchill High School, was named president of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, on Jan. 21.



Jonathan Holloway, provost of Northwestern University and an eminent historian, has been appointed Rutgers University's 21st president. Holloway is a graduate of Winston Churchill High School in Potomac.

He leads with remarkable integrity and is just the right person to build upon Rutgers' long tradition as an academic and research powerhouse," said Mark Angelson, Rutgers Board of Governors Chair who also chaired the presidential search committee. "Selecting our university president is perhaps the

The announcement of Holloway's appointment was reported in the University's official news source, Rutgers Today. It read:

"The Rutgers Board of Governors, with the advice and consent of the Rutgers Board of Trustees, today approved Holloway's appointment at a joint meeting of the two boards. The Board of Governors also appointed Holloway as a University Professor and Distinguished Professor."

Holloway, Rutgers' first black president, will begin his appointment on July 1, succeeding President Robert Barchi, who began his tenure in September 2012."

Holloway is married to Aisling Colón, also a Churchill graduate. They have two children, a daughter, Emerson, and son, Ellison.

Holloway, 52, has served as Northwestern University, [Evanston, IL] provost since 2017. He is Northwestern's chief academic officer, overseeing educational policies and academic priorities, preparation of the annual budget and faculty appointments and promotions at the Big Ten institution which includes a highly ranked medical school and numerous other nationally and internationally recognized educational programs.

Before moving to Northwestern, Holloway was the dean of Yale College and Edmund S. Morgan Professor of African American Studies, History, and American Studies at Yale University. At Northwestern, he also is a professor of History and African American studies, specializing in post-emancipation social and intellectual United States history.

"Jonathan Holloway is an extraordinarily distinguished scholar with an outstanding record as an academic administrator at Northwestern and Yale. He is thoughtful, visionary, inclusive and decisive.

Board of Governors' most important responsibility. We are confident that we have chosen the best person to lead Rutgers into the future."

Holloway received a bachelor's degree with honors in American Studies from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in History from Yale University. He began his academic career at the University of California, San Diego, before joining the faculty at Yale in 1999.

"I was drawn to the opportunity at Rutgers University because of its amazing history, its foundation of excellence in teaching and its ambition to continue conducting life-changing research that improves our communities, our country and our world," Holloway said.

"Bob Barchi's extraordinary leadership has helped place Rutgers among the preeminent public universities in the world," he added. "I cannot wait to help write the next chapter in the history of this magnificent institution."

Holloway serves on boards of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois Humanities, the National Humanities Alliance, the Society for United States Intellectual History and the Organization of American Historians. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of American Historians.

Holloway was a member of the Churchill Bulldogs football team while a student there and also played as an undergraduate at Stanford but said he did not quite make the grade on the gridiron. In an interview with Northwestern's student newspaper, according to Adam Clark writing for NJ Advance Media, Holloway said, "I was a hot shot recruit who ended up being a complete scrub when I got there. In my senior year, I wasn't even on the depth chart anymore."



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Action and Reaction by Mark Goldman. Now thru March 1. At Sandy Spring Museum, 17091 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring. Action and Reaction by Mark Goldman captures the most iconic moments in sports. This photographic exhibition showcases the intensity, athleticism, and success behind the action of D.C. area professional and collegiate level sports teams, while also revealing the competitiveness, heart, and emotion behind each player's reaction. Hours: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the First Saturday of each month 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit the website: www.sandyspringmuseum.org

Art Dolls: Figurative Sculptures Tell a Story. Now thru March 1. At Sandy Spring Museum, 17091 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring. Reception: Sunday, Jan. 12, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. This exhibit features the work of students enrolled in doll making classes at Montgomery College taught by Wendelin Daniels. The students explore mixed media art and the human form through the design and creation of original art dolls. The dolls span a wide range of persona, from portrait dolls of historical figures to fantasy dolls, and everything in between. Hours: Thursday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the First Saturday of each month 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit the website: www.sandyspringmuseum.org

THURSDAY/FEB. 13

Baby and Toddler Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive Potomac. A storytime experience for our youngest library users and their caregivers.

Play Date at the Library. 11-11:30 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. For preschool and kindergarten, babies and toddlers. This is a drop-in social playtime for toddlers/preschoolers/Kindergarten and their caregivers.

Davis Jewish Book Discussion Group. 1-3 p.m. At Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Join us as we discuss books with Jewish themes. This month we will discuss "The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness" by Simon Wiesenthal.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

Everything You Wanted To Know About Pruning. 1-3 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Learn all about the why's, how's and when's of pruning a variety of specimens in your garden. Gain invaluable advice and experience on how to make proper pruning cuts on trees and bushes of various sizes to achieve structural corrections and rejuvenate old overgrown shrubs. Discover how plants respond to pruning and how to get a shrub or tree to do what you want it to - in a way that is healthy for the plant (within reason, of course). Cost: \$25 / FOBG: \$22; registration required.

Alfio's Live Music. 7-10 p.m. At Alfio's Restaurant, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase. Featuring live music from Ed Rejuney in a special Valentine's Day presentation; free valet parking.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Do-it-yourself Solutions for Gardening with Boulders,



DuPont Brass, co-writers: Anthony Daniel Jr, Jared Bailey, Isaac Bell IV, and Jake Grotticelli.

Live Concert

Friday/March 13, **Live Concert.** 7:30 p.m. At Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. The sixth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, will once again feature a live concert performed by the competition finalists. The following five songwriters will perform their original songs at the concert. One will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. * DuPont Brass, D.C. Metro Area; * Co-writers: Anthony Daniel Jr, Jared Bailey, Isaac Bell IV, Jake Grotticelli; * Hayley Fahey, Derwood, MD; * Select songs co-written with Austin Bello of Bristow, VA; * Genna Matthew, Charlottesville, VA; Eric Scott, North Beach, MD; and Maimouna Youssef, Baltimore, MD. Tickets begin at \$15 and are available at www.bethesda.org or call 301-215-6660.



Klein plums at Artists & Makers Studio in Rockville.

Thesis Exhibition

Feb. 7-27, **Thesis Exhibition.** At Artists & Makers Studio, 11810 Parklawn Dr., Suite 210, Rockville. The graduates of The Compass Atelier's Master Artist Program, Class of 2020, will have their Thesis Exhibition at Artists & Makers Studios from Feb. 7-27, 2020. This exhibition will feature the work of 21 graduating artists completed during their Thesis Year of the Master Artist Program. Opening Reception on Friday, Feb. 7 from 6-9 p.m.

Crevice. 10-11:30 a.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton at the Brookside Gardens Visitor Center Auditorium. Featuring Jeremy A. Schmidt, Research and Grounds Supervisor at Plant Delights Nursery.

Remodeling Seminar. At Hopkins & Porter. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 12944 Travilah Road, Suite 204, Potomac. During this seminar you will learn: The differences in remodeling companies; The importance of design; Realistic remodeling budgets; What to expect when remodeling and more. Free. RSVP by calling 301-840-9121.

Potomac English Conversation Club. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Practice English

conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join us any time! For more information call 240-777-0690.

Celtic Harp Solo — All Kinds of Love. 2-3 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. In celebration of Library Lovers' Month.

Our Voice: Music and the Black Vote Recital. 2-3 p.m. At Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Celebrate the historical Centennial of the 19th Amendment as this humanities-themed recital brings music, narration, and violin selections to life. Sponsored by Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter.

Alfio's Live Music. 7-10 p.m. At Alfio's Restaurant, 4515 Willard Ave.,

Chevy Chase. Featuring Cheek to Cheek; free valet parking.

Stephen Wade. 7:30 p.m. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Tickets: \$30 adv, \$35 door; Children & Students w ID: \$25 adv, \$30 door. Contact Institute of Musical Traditions at 301 960-3655, or visit imtfolk.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

Jazz and Jam. 2:30-5:30 p.m. At Normandie Farms Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band opens with music with a jam session. All are welcome to sit in or just sit back and enjoy. Cost is \$10, students and jammers free.

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. At Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The ensemble Some Assembly will provide a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. The 45-minute dance lesson begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 p.m. Admission is \$13, \$5 for full-time students with student ID. No partner required. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

Alfio's Live Music. 7-10 p.m. At Alfio's Restaurant, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase. Featuring the Joe Burden Quartet; free valet parking.

MONDAY/FEB. 17

The President's Own. 7:30 p.m. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. The President's Own U.S. Marine Band will perform a special Gala concert with Grammy-winning conductor JoAnn Falletta on the podium. The concert is free, but tickets are required and will become available Jan. 20 from the Strathmore Box Office. Concert program, notes, and additional

information. Visit www.strathmore.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18

Scrabble@ Round Robin. 2-3 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Join us for a monthly Scrabble@ game! Call 240-777-0690.

Read to a Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Looking for a great opportunity to improve your little reader's language skills and interact with cool furry friends in the process? Then "Read to a Dog" is for you. Call 240-777-0690.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Potomac Adult Book Discussion. 1-2 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Adult Book Discussion of "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. Ask for the book at the Circulation Desk. No registration needed. New members welcome. Call 240-777-0690.

Make a Suncatcher. 4-5 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Show your love for the Potomac Library during Library Lovers' Month. Call 240-777-0690.

Make a Suncatcher. 4-5 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Show your love for the Potomac Library during Library Lovers' Month. They'll be making tissue-paper suncatchers that you can take home and hang from your windows. All supplies will be provided while they last. Open to all ages; children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Free.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Family Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. A 25-30 minute program designed to delight children of all ages. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. Call 240-777-0690.

Play Date at the Library. 11-11:30 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. This is a drop-in social playtime for toddlers/preschoolers/Kindergarten and their caregivers. Call 240-777-0690.

FEB. 21 TO MARCH 1.

"The Pirates of Penzance." At F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. The Victorian Lyric Opera Company presents a new take on a beloved classic, "The Pirates of Penzance." Director Amy Sullivan's Old Hollywood inspired production will dazzle and delight audiences with all the glitz and glamour of your favorite movie musicals. This fully staged production, including full orchestra, captures the spirit of vintage Gilbert & Sullivan while charting course to wow a whole new generation of opera-goers. Show times are Friday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 29 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28 adults, \$24 seniors, \$20 students with valid ID. Call the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at 240-314-8690 or go to www.vloc.org to purchase tickets online.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Potomac English Conversation Club. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Join us as we practice English conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. New members are always welcome. No registration. Join us any time! For more information call 240-777-0690.

Creating Snowmen (Snow-people?) at the Library

Crafts on the third Wednesday; coming up, suncatchers.

BY PEGGY MCEWAN
POTOMAC ALMANAC

About two dozen children showed up at the Potomac Library in January for a Build a Snowman afternoon activity.

None seemed at all concerned about how to make a snowman when the temperature was 53 degrees outside and there was no snow on the ground.

"I never made a snowman before," four-year-old Nicole Kayo, of Poolesville, said. "I tried once but it's too hard."

Nicole and her mother worked together to create the perfect snowman, one that will last all winter, even indoors.

Librarian Michelle Izuka told the children and adults, who seemed equally interested, how to make their snowmen.

First, select a white sock from the pile on the table set up in the library's community room, then let Michelle fill it about two thirds of the way to the top with rice. White, of course.

After that, knot the top, leaving enough sock to fold down to create the snowman's hat, then get string or ribbon and section the snowman off, creating a base and a head.

Then, help yourself to buttons, pom poms, fancy stick-ons, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, more ribbon, anything on the craft table and finish up with a fancy fantasy snowman.

"I think the best part [of this snowman] is his cute little hat," Nicholas C.W., 7, of Rockville, said pointing to the pom poms he glued to the top of his snowman's hat.

Nicholas named his snowman Charlie and his sister, who would not share her own name, went with Elsa.

Emily Turek was there with daughters Fiona, 3, and Cara, 1. She helped the girls choose decorations for their snowmen after Izuka filled them



Angels Macri and her 22-month-old daughter Dorothy Ellen play with the snowman they created during the Potomac Library make a snowman project.

with rice.

"This was fun," Turek said. "Especially with Frozen in the movies."

Yes, added another mother, there are a lot of Olafs in the group.

Izuka, who oversees the craft program at the library, said she plans a craft time for the third Wednesday of the month, a craft suitable for all ages.

The word is out about Potomac's craft time. Crafters come from all around the county. There were snowmen makers from Poolesville, Rockville and Montgomery Village as well as Potomac.

"This library is the best," said Kimberly King. "Give [Izuka] a big thumbs up. She is so kind and patient."

The craft for next month will be Make a Suncatcher. That will be from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. For more information visit mcpl.libnet.info and select Potomac Library.

PHOTO BY PEGGY MCEWAN

All Gowned Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

All Gowned UpAnd somewhere to go, or so I thought. I had checked in at the front desk. I was given a number, and almost immediately, it was called. I said good-bye to Team Lourie and was led back to a staging area (beds, curtains, doctors, nurses) where I was told I would see them both before surgery. There I was given a gown, no-slip socks and a hair net to change into, and instructed to place all my clothes (underwear, too) into two plastic bags and then told to pull back the privacy curtain and lie back on the bed.

Within a few minutes a female nurse, part of a very attentive and conscientious staff, began to attend me. She started an I.V. in my left forearm, wrapped a blood pressure cuff around my right bicep and then stuck half-a-dozen or so EKG contacts over the front me and down my legs to monitor my heart. In addition, the typical other vitals: oxygen, pulse and temperature were taken. At that point, it appeared that I had passed muster. My surgeon stopped by for a brief visit and all was progressing normally. Until that is when the anesthesiologist came by for what I thought was the final step. It was the final step alright. She said that "due to an abundance of caution," she was uncomfortable proceeding with the surgery. She explained that the facility (not a hospital) where I was to undergo the surgery, was not fully equipped to respond to certain potential complications which might occur which involved a breathing tube, a ventilator and the weakness of my lungs, so she sent me packing (unpacking actually). Disappointed, as you might imagine, we all left the facility and waited for further instructions.

By the end of the day, arrangements had been made to reschedule my surgery at a local hospital on Wednesday, a mere two day delay. I could live with that. At home, I resumed my post-shower, pre-surgery, infection-preventing scrub as I had for the previously scheduled surgery. This time surgery was scheduled for 1:30 pm instead of the 10:50 am it had been on Monday. Still, if all went well, I could be released that same day, under someone else's recognition of course, given the late hour, but likely recuperating at home in my own bed.

On Wednesday, I arrived at the hospital two hours before surgery as directed and began the now familiar process. Once again I was prepped and ready. This time there were no slip-ups. Around 2:15 I was wheeled into the operating room and introduced to the staff on hand. I was asked my name, date of birth and the reason for surgery that day. Answering correctly, the next step involved an oxygen mask coming down over my nose and mouth and being asked to breathe normally, which I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It turned out that the anesthesiologist was right to be cautious. My four-hour outpatient surgery turned into a seven-hour admission-to-the-hospital major surgery with complications. Due to my "Adams' Apple" tumor being embedded into/under my collarbone, a thoracic surgeon was brought into consult about possibly cracking open my chest to get at the remaining cancer. Fortunately, a decision was made not to do so and I was wheeled back to recovery and eventually to my room for the night where at 12:35 am, while lying in my bed, my eyes opened and I saw my wife, Dina and close friend, Rita, who had stayed into the wee hours in an amazing show of support.

The next day, after an uncomfortable night in my hospital bed, I was discharged, four hours after the process began. (As you may or may not know, getting discharged from the hospital is hardly a straight line from your hospital room to your curbside pick up.) I was given instructions, prescriptions and follow-up appointments. My thyroid gland, parathyroid, "Adam's Apple" tumor and a few lymph nodes stayed behind. Can't say that I miss any of them. Still, my body may miss them so I'll likely have some post-op work to do at home. Nevertheless, progress has been made for which I'm grateful.

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

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

Newspaper of Potomac
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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Potomac Almanac is published by Local Media Connection LLC

Five Time First Place Award-Winner Public Service
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