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June 10-16, 2020

coronavirus

BY MAR

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Photos by Deb Stevens/The Almanac

Potomac REAL ESTATE

April, 2020 Top Sales

IN APRIL, 2020, 54 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,800,000-\$499,000.



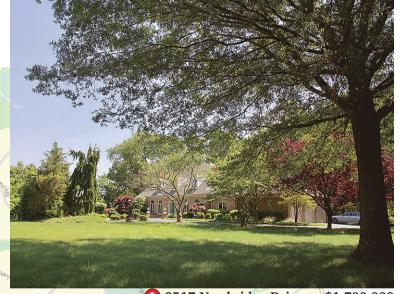
5 10913 Burbank Drive — \$1,570,000



1 10024 Kendale Road — \$1,800,000

4 9704 Sorrel — \$1,580,000





8821 Belmart Road\$1,500,000

3 9517 Newbridge Drive — \$1,700,000

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News

'All Moms Were Summoned' More than 200 gather in Cabin John to support Black Lives Matter.

The call-and-response was sometimes called by children:

"Say his name."

"George Floyd"

"Say his name."

"George Floyd."

The response from more than 200 people, spread out for social distancing over several acres of Cabin John Local Park, could be heard over the persistent supportive honking of cars driving by.

"Black Lives," called out the young one with the bull horn.

"Matter," came the reply.

"Black Lives ..."

"Matter."

"Say her name."

"Breonna Taylor."

"Say her name."

"Breonna Taylor."

The families that gathered on the fields of Cabin John Local Park on Saturday, June 6 settled an appropriate distance from other families, with almost every wearing masks. They came in support of Black Lives Matter, and for racial justice. Most were residents of Cabin John and arrived on foot, marching up or down MacArthur Boulevard. For many families, a first protest experience for children was also a first community outing after months of lockdown and the mood was festive. But the opportunity to support racial justice and come together with community members with shared values was a winning combination.

There were protests in downtown DC, all over the country and in many places in Montgomery County this weekend.

Meanwhile, Montgomery County Council

planned to declare racism as a public health crisis at its virtual meeting on Tuesday. "Research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health. Scientists now see race as a social, cultural and/or political construct wherein de facto racial segregation and race-based discrimination have real consequences on health and health disparities," the Council said. The full Council is sponsoring this resolution, which is spearheaded by Councilmember Will Jawando. Disparities in health outcomes have been amplified during the Covid-19 pandemic, as African Americans have the highest number of recorded cases and deaths. This is true across the United States, in Maryland and in Montgomery County, where African American residents account for 25 percent of the deaths, while representing 19 percent of the population.



Marching down MacArthur Boulevard with protest signs, headed to Cabin John



Wearing masks and at appropriate social distance, family groups urged action for social justice.



"Listen, Learn, Do Something" and "White Silence Is Compliance.'



Tom Scheetz, "I will never understand, but I stand"



The protest in support of Black Lives Matter drew more than 200 people on Saturday.



Susan Roberts on scooter, with her "Black Lives Matter" sign.



Catalina Burris, left, is "Phenomenally Black." With Constance Greiggs whose sign reads, "Use Your teacher voice, black lives matter."



The Hille family on MacArthur Boulevard, making their way to Cabin John Local Park. Sisters Addilin and Brooklyn with parents Gretchen Gaston and Craig Hille.



Monique Thomas with Juliana, Victoria and Aidan O'Brian. With signs that read, "Stop Pretending Racism Isn't Happening;" "All Moms Were Summoned When George Floyd Called for His Mama;" "Complacency Is Complicity, White Silence Is Violence."





News

Coping with Change and Anxiety

By Peggy McEwan Potomac Almanac

otomac Community Village will present a Zoom video talk on Coping with Change and Anxiety in the Age of Covid-19 at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17.

Speaker is writer Jane Barton, a national speaker on coping with change. This is a repeat of the original presented by Senior Planet Colorado on May 29.

"Change has always been part of the lived experience. However, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, we are experiencing change fatigue – one change after another. Nothing seems normal," according to the press release from Potomac Community Village. "So instead of resisting change, how can we engage it?"

First, Barton will help viewers understand the process of change, loss, transition, grief, and mourning.

Next, she encourages viewers to decide to move through the process and embrace a new way of being. Finally, she will show how to develop a mindset of resilience that will help in moving through the transition.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion among Zoom participants.

This program is free and open to all. To be sent the Zoom link, register by 6 p.m. June 16 by email to info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org, or call the Help Desk, at 240-221-1370,

Potomac Community Village is a non-profit network of neighbors and friends geared to enabling older Potomac residents to age in place in their existing homes by creating social connections and providing volunteer services such as transportation, computer assistance and simple home repairs.

For more information, to volunteer or get volunteer help, contact 240-221-1370, info@ PotomacCommunityVillage.org or check out www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org or www.Facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage.

Policing Advisor Commission Members

pplications for three-year appointments to the County's Policing Advisory Commission are due June 19, 2020. The goal of the Commission is to improve Council oversight of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and strengthen community trust in police. The Commission will advise the Council on policing matters, provide information regarding best practices, recommend policies, and engage in public

education and other programs.

Applicants should submit letters of interest and resumes via email to County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov or by mail to Sidney Katz, President, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

For more information about the Policing Advisory Commission email Anne.Brown@Montgomery-CountyMD.gov

Presents Via Zoom
Wednesday, June 10, 11.30am

The Art Theft of the Century-They took the Mona Lisa

Register at info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org

Learn more at 240-221-1370





Zoom and Circumstance MCPS Graduation week begins with Universal Virtual ceremony

By Peggy McEwan POTOMAC ALMANAC

he Thomas S. Wootton High School Class of 2020 had two graduation ceremonies this week. Twice the usual number, doing double duty for the graduates who might be wishing for just one "normal" graduation.

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Montgomery County Public Schools held a Universal Virtual Graduation Celebration Sunday, June 7. It was planned to honor students from all the 25 county public high schools plus graduates from Blair Ewing, Longview, RICA and Rock Terrace.

The event was televised on the Montgomery County Public TV channel and the MCPS website. It was hosted by Leon Harris, News4 Washington anchor, and the students took the spotlight with musical performances throughout the

MCPS officials, school board members and county politicians all recorded notes of congratulations and encouragement. Student Member of the Board, Nate Tinbite, told the students not to dwell on "what should have been. We are a generation of resilience, ... the path will grow brighter ahead."

Keynote speaker was Chef Jose Andres, founder of World Central Kitchen, an organization that has fed millions of people in crises around the world, and looking to "create smart solutions to hunger and poverty."

Andres used a number of cooking expressions in his talk to the students telling them, "You need to find your own recipe for life."

"Find your passion and dream ... empathy and compassion," he said. "Just do it now, don't wait for the perfect ingredients."

Andres confessed that he never graduated from high school, or middle school, but, he said, "If a cook like me began to try to change the world one plate at a time, [you can too]."

After the conferring of diplomas to all the school system's over 10,500 graduating seniors by the Board of Education, Harris led the students through the traditions of moving their tassels from right to left and throwing their caps in the

The ceremony ended with the names of all the graduates scrolling down the screen accompanied by remarks from a senior of each high school.

Wootton students marked their second graduation with a similar



Chef Jose Andres, founder of World Central Kitchen, was the keynote speaker at the Montgomery County Public Schools virtual graduation Sunday.

but more personal virtual ceremo-

Both ceremonies opened with the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance." That was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by the Wootton Chamber Singers.

Mason Miller, senior class president, addressed the graduates as did each of the other class officers: Hoala Ahmed, vice-president; Macy Fewell, secretary, and Nimisha Rangachar, treasurer.

"We are learning how to adapt in an ever changing [world]," Ahmed said. "The Class of 2020 is a force to be reckoned with."

Seniors from the school's choral groups sang "The Best is Yet to Come," each recording their part from home.

Offering the keynote address was Kimberly Boldon, Wootton principal.

Ms. Boldon was with the students through their four years at Wootton and recalled some of the highlights of the class. She spoke of academic honors, service hours and charitable work, music awards and sports highlights.

She also told the students she and other staff members were sorry not to have spent the last months of the year ushering the students through to a traditional end of a traditional senior year.

"Present circumstances in no way diminishes [your accomplishments]," she said. "We are counting on you; we are rooting for

Nate Tinbite, Student Member of the Board of Education conferred diplomas on the students virtually.

His declaration was followed by a list of the almost 546 graduates, most accompanied by an official senior photo and then by a second show of many of the seniors in their caps and gowns in casual home settings.

"It's not what I really wanted," senior Farah Reyal said Saturday about the upcoming virtual ceremony. "But it's the best we can do."



Though they cannot be together in person, graduates from Wootton High School are all listed on a sign in front of the school.



Wootton High School seniors were greeted with balloons and applause when they arrived at the school to pick up caps and gowns last week.







Nia Cresham, Wootton High School SGA adviser, hands a balloon to graduating senior Farrah Reya Saturday. A caravan of SGA members delivered balloons to their graduating colleagues.

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POTOMAC ALMANAC ❖ JUNE 10-16, 2020 ❖ 5

Potomac Week in Coronavirus

Montgomery County metrics still higher than rest of the state and an election during a pandemic within a pandemic.

	Monday, June 8	Monday, June 1
Potomac 20854 Cases:	75	261
Montgomery County Cases:	12,818	1,476
Maryland Cases:	58,404	53,327
United States Cases:	1,920,904	1,761,503
Montgomery County Deaths	593	576
Maryland Deaths	2,653	2,431
United States Deaths:	109,901	103,700

By Ken Moore The Almanac

Tuesday, June 9 PANDEMIC WITHIN PANDEMIC:

Racism will be declared a public health crisis, according to a Montgomery County Council resolution spearheaded by Councilmember Will Jawando and sponsored by the full Council. The resolution will be introduced at the Council's Tuesday meeting, after the Almanac's presstime.

Racism causes persistent discrimination and inequitable outcomes in many areas of life, Jawando said. An emerging body of research, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, has found that racism itself is a social determinant of health.

"Disparities in health outcomes have been amplified during the Covid-19 pandemic, as African Americans have the highest number of recorded cases and deaths. This is true across the United States, in the state of Maryland and in Montgomery County, where African Americans account for 25 percent of the deaths, despite being 19 percent of the County's population," according to Council documents. "According to the national COVID Racial Data Tracker, African Americans have been nearly twice as likely to die of Covid-19 than would be expected based on their share of the population."

Monday, June 8

THE LATEST: See up-to-date changes in Montgomery County and reopenings on https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus-open.html

Sunday, June 7

GRADUATION: The Class of 2020 took part in a live virtual Universal Graduation Celebration on Sunday, June 7th, featuring Jose Andres, world-renowned chef and founder of World Central Kitchen as the commencement speak-

er. Replays of the ceremony will be available on the Montgomery County Public Schools website and YouTube channel. Individual school virtual graduations will be held June 8-12.

RIDE-ON: Ride On bus service expands Sunday, June 7. The Bethesda Circulator and Silver Spring Van Go bus services will resume on Monday, June 8, to help economic recovery in the Bethesda and Silver Spring urban districts. Service hours and bus frequency will continue to be provided on a reduced basis, and riders are encouraged to visit the Essential Plus webpage for detailed information at https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/essential-plan.html.

During the Essential Plus plan, all Ride On services will remain free to all passengers — a temporary change made during the health crisis.

Saturday June 6

Maryland jurisdictions received \$34,985,870 in COVID-19 relief through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Emergency Solutions Grants, according to U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin and the Maryland delegation. These funds will be used to address the impact of COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They may also be used to support additional homeless services, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance for the families and individuals who are newly experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eviction prevention programs include rapid rehousing, housing counseling, and rental deposit assistance. The \$2.96 billion allocated today nationwide is allocated based on a formula which accounts for local levels of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness, levels of homelessness risk, and economic and housing market conditions.

58,404 60000 50000 51,251 40000 **MARYLAND** 30000 20000 VIRGINIA 10000 12,8<u>1</u>8 É 12000 12,603 9000 Montgomery 6000 3000 **Fairfax County** 3/30 4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27 5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25 6/1 6/8 Reres: Virginia Department of Health http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/ Maryland: Maryland Department of Health https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

Montgomery County will receive \$4,847,976 and \$10,739,230 is to be allocated among counties and qualified nonprofits by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Alexandria Source: City of Alexandria

Friday, June 5

WHAT'S GOING ON?: Guidance to help business owners as they bring their organizations back can be found on the Montgomery County website. FAQs guide business owners to the proper documentation in areas such as outdoor dining, requirements for reopening, and information about looking ahead to Phases 2 and 3 of recovery, among other topics.

HELP FOR-PROFITS: Microenterprise Stabilization Program will help for-profit businesses with five or fewer employees. Applications will be accepted from 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16. The program is open to businesses with no employees including sole proprietors and independent contractors. See www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ biz-resources/msp.

REST OF THE STATE: The rest of

the state moves into Stage Two of the 'Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery,' at 5 p.m on June 5. This comes after the state's positivity rate dropped to single digits, and total current hospitalizations fell to their lowest level in more than seven weeks. Montgomery County's positivity rate was still at 12.4 percent, on June 3, and the governor allowed flexibility for Montgomery County to delay moving into Stage 2 reopenings. See governor.maryland.gov/recovery

REOPENING GUIDANCE. As additional industries and activities begin to resume, the Maryland Department of Commerce continues to develop and issue guidance and best practices to help businesses reopen safely. These resources are available at open.maryland.gov/backtobusiness.

NEXT STEPS. State officials and the Maryland Coronavirus Recovery Team will continue to watch the data closely, and if encouraging trends continue, the next step, likely coinciding with the end of the school year, will be to consider opening additional amusement, fitness, sporting and other sum-

mertime activities.

GILCHRIST CENTER: Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, 240-777-4940, is available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., including: how to find health care; organizations that help with housing and eviction concerns; how to complete Census forms; free virtual English conversation classes; free online computer classes. They can help you in most languages. All staff are bilingual Spanish speakers, and have access to interpreters for any language.

CRITICAL HEALTH CARE: U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS) and 38 senators urged Congress to support community health centers that provide Americans with critical health care, including testing and treatment of COVID-19.

"We write to express our support for additional emergency funding for community health centers in the next COVID-19 relief package. Community health centers are vital to our response to the coronavirus pandemic and need appropriate funding to continue their front-line health care work," wrote the Senators.

"Community health centers provide affordable care to more than 29 million patients, including 385,000 veterans and 8.7 million children nationwide. These centers play a critical role in responding to the pandemic, offering coronavirus testing, primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, and other services to our nation's most vulnerable patients."

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-08) today wrote to Governor Larry Hogan to communicate concerns that have been persistently raised by his constituents attempting to access unemployment insurance during the coronavirus pandemic. "The most common complaints I hear are from Marylanders who have found it nearly impossible to get any sort of response from the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) – via phone or email – when they have a problem with their unemployment claim.

"I know that you and your team are working hard to process the massive influx of unemployment claims generated by this crisis, but I believe more has to be done – and quickly – to help Marylanders survive this pandemic and mitigate the financial fallout from COVID-19.

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Home Life Style



Photos by Janet Shalestik

Sunflowers make great backdrops in summer gardens.

Summer Blooms

Heat tolerant flowers that add bursts of color to gardens and landscapes.

> By Marilyn Campbell The Almanac

s spring flowers begin to wither under the heat and humidity of summer, the vibrant blooms that once graced yards and gardens begin to fade. It's during this time that landscapers and gardeners rely on a bevy of color rich flowering plants that are hearty enough to stand up to the relentless summer sun.

It's during this time that landscapers and gardeners rely on a bevy of flowering plants that are hearty enough to stand up to the relentless heat from the summer sun.

"There are many annuals that keep blooming and producing more flowers, so you have constant color and constant flowers throughout the summer," said Janet Shalestik, Plant Specialist, Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks, Virginia. "They can all be planted either in the ground or in containers."

One of the most popular is Lantana, which can be variegated in two-toned red and orange and Salvia, which can grow to be two to three feet tall. Both flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies, says Shalestik. "Salvia are often purple and blue and sometimes red. What a lot of people like to do is put them containers on their patio, deck so they can see the hummingbirds and butterflies while they're sitting outside."

Orange and pink Begonias, Petunias in deep purple and fuchsia, towering Sunflowers and Zinnias with blooms that burst in colors like orange, pink and yellow and deep pink are also top summer picks, said Shalestik. "Zinnias can get nice and tall so people sometimes want to use them as a backdrop in their garden."

Summer-Flowering Vinca are a low-maintenance choice. "They're very heat tolerant, they don't have to deadhead and they're very deer-resistance," said Shalestik.

"Hydration is key, especially for flowers that are planted in containers," said Janet. "It's important to water when it's hot and we're not getting much rain. We recommend watering in the morning so they're hydrated when the intense heat starts."



Salvia can grow to be two to three feet tall.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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"The News of My Death ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... is greatly exaggerated." So said Mark Twain. So said W.C. Fields. And so said Kenny Lourie. And the reason I am now saying it is because of what correspondence I received in my personal inbox accessed through my HMO's online site. What I received was a condolence letter (sort of a form letter, quite frankly), addressed to the Lourie family from my oncologist expressing his sadness at my "passing" and his "privilege to have participated in the care of Kenneth Blacker Lourie' (me). Then, a bit later in the day, I received a cellphone call from an unknown number (so I didn't answer it) but apparently, it knew me as a voice mail message was indicated. I entered my code and listened in associated shock as I heard my oncologist speak in a very heartfelt way about his "sadness" yet again concerning the death of yours truly. He spoke for nearly a minute, hemming and hawing and occasionally hesitating as if at a loss for words. Compared to the email, this message was personalized. Reading and then hearing what I have just written was an out-of-body experience of sorts, almost as if I was attending my own funeral and listening to the eulogies while standing off in the distance.

This experience was not totally unfamiliar to me. In fact, once before, pre-cancer, something similar happened though it was more curious than morbid. Scanning the Obituary section of The Washington Post, I noticed - for the first time, photos of the many of the deceased were a part of the page. They were located above the agatetype and mostly in black and white. Catching my attention as they did, I randomly went to the top right corner of the right-side page where I saw a photograph of an African-American man. Unknown to me except for one extraordinary fact. Printed below his photo was his date of birth: 9/30/54. The same as mine. It took my breath away. I have to tell you, seeing one's date of birth listed in the obituary section is a peculiar kind of the-future-being-now.

Subsequently, I was diagnosed with "terminal " non small cell lung cancer, stage IV and given a "13 month to two year" prognosis. And though my presumptive death was not listed in the obituary section, its inevitability was implanted in my brain where it has been gnawing at me since late February, 2009. And for the last 11-plus years, as you regular readers know, I have ebbed and flowed with the varying medicines and protocols which have amazingly managed to extend my life way beyond my oncologist's expectations, and never once had I being given last rites, so to speak, or advised to "get my things in order." Until today, that is.

After I thought a bit about what I had read and heard, a part of me drifted back in time to the 1999 Bruce Willis movie "The Sixth Sense" and whether unlike Haley Joel Osment, I was actually dead already. Being alone in my house with nobody to snap me out of my delusion, for all I knew, this is what death feels like. Nevertheless, I continued with my normal routine, presuming I was still alive and sure enough, it soon became clear that I was indeed still alive.

But my oncologist and maybe even my endocrinologist - with whom I have an appointment Monday, June 8th might think otherwise. And not that their thinking 'otherwise' will change their lives, but knowing what they think they know rather than what is actually true might blip their radar and cause some emotional misdirection. After all, they're only human and even though I might not be their most memorable patient, given my unexpectedly long life post diagnosis, I feel I'm not so easily forgettable either. Not dying does that to a person's "pagh," to invoke "the spiritual force inherent in all sentient beings" as believed by the inhabitants of Bajor. (See Major Kira Nerysfrom "Deep Space Nine")

For the moment/immediate future though, I am still present and accounted for. I just hope all my medical appointments haven't been automatically cancelled since I'm still a living and breathing cancer patient, and that's no exaggeration.

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

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