Two snow storms last week each gifted Montgomery County with about 4 inches of snow, and closed school for three days. But it was beautiful in Potomac.
Potomac REAL ESTATE

September, 2023 Top Sales

In September, 2023, 24 Potomac homes sold between $2,949,000-$750,000.

1. 10406 Holbrook Drive — $2,949,000
2. 10109 Logan Drive — $1,675,000
3. 11501 Dalyn Terrace — $2,350,000
4. 9906 Avenel Farm Drive — $1,850,000
5. 9427 Fox Hollow Drive — $1,700,000
6. 2 Purcell Court — $1,350,000
7. 11508 Deborah Drive — $1,395,000
8. 10012 Chartwell Manor Ct — $1,350,000

News

Snow Days!

Two snow storms last week each gifted Montgomery County with about 4 inches of snow, and closed school for three days, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It’s been so long since there has been significant snow here that some people had started to believe it might never snow again.

How many deer do you see? Three young bucks are camouflaged by the beech tree which will hold onto its leaves until spring.

A white throated sparrow and a dark eyed junco. Both are birds that winter here and will migrate up north to breeding grounds in the spring.

A bluebird pair will raise multiple broods in this bluebird house in the spring and summer. In winter, many bluebirds will pile into a box to keep warm.

A female cardinal and a dark eyed junco wait for their turns at a feeder.

Eastern bluebird and a dark eyed junco.

Tiny downy woodpecker at the suet.

Male cardinal are a favorite in the snow.

It’s a rare opportunity, but what goes down must be pulled up before it can go down again.

The stream meanders through the snowy woods.
Emotions

NAME: Imir Ruka
Age: 12

The good news reaches your ears.
Happiness
Rejoicing
And yet,
Crying
Weeping
Sobbing.

Anger fills the heart.
They ask, “To whom thy anger?”
To which you respond, “To life, to life I
anger.”

Happiness,
Fun,
Yet distraught.
Torn
Scarred.

Emotions

Thou shalt feel, yet not.
Numbness, coldness,
And yet,
Warmness, peacefulness
Comforting yet uncomfortable.

And then, life wins the battle.
And thou cry
But thou art relieved,
You do not have to fight in thine battle

Anger
And sadness
And dread
And yet not all shall be sad
And disgraced
But thou shalt be
Happy
Beautiful
Congratulated
Not alone

Life usually wins
But that doesn’t mean you can’t be happy.

“A Relationship Between Two”

NAME: Layla Greene
Age: 11

A good friend you say,
Well each person has another way
To describe the person fit for them
But there are qualities you need to not condemn.

Looks might matter to some, but it’s from within.
What really matters is under the skin.
Your heart, your brain, should have more to
give
When mistakes are made they can forgive.
When you are down, not feeling ok,
They help you find the right roadway
To keep you on the path, not holding back
On your full potential making sure you

Don’t lack to give
Within
condemn.

Between Two”

“A Relationship

NAME: Rehan Van Dam
Age: 12

Devices control humanity
Work, school, and video games
Going outside
Devices waste time
Time lost, forever
Hours pass fast
Years pass faster
Devices
Endless scrolling
It never ends
Devices
Working all day on a screen
Stress
Eye strain and back pain
Devices
Video games
Addiction
Devices
At home
At school
By day; by night
Devices
Social media
Likes and follows
Approval seeking
Devices
Mental health crashing,
Missing out
Addiction
Anxiety
Depression
Devices

Lad: A Dog

NAME: Joanna Wang
Age: 11

That stubbornly sweet Lad,
So brave and enduring.
He rescued many, making them glad,
Willing to get hurt, even die securing.

So brave and enduring;
He’s sincere and wants sincerity,
Willing to hurt, even die securing,
He saved and loved Lady sincerely.

He’s sincere and wants sincerity,
Affectionate and friendly to Lady.
He saved and loved Lady sincerely;
Devoted to his Master and Mistress, and
loyal? Completely

Affectionate and friendly to Lady;
He rescued many, making them glad.
Devoted to his Master and Mistress, and
loyal? Completely,
That stubbornly sweet Lad.

“Making Mom’s Favorite Food”

NAME: Annika Sebastine
Age: 12

Every year
(Although there’s no exact day)
My family gathers
Around the marbled kitchen counter
To make pani puri,
My mom’s favorite food.

We start with her describing to us about
What life was like
“Back in my day”
She chatters away about how she
Would always get pani puri
From one of the vendors
Lining the streets of Mumbai.
She tells us how much she loved
One of the vendors pani puri
And how it’s now her favorite food
Blah, blah, blah
I think,
Great story!
When can we start eating?
Finally, she stops
And we can finally start making
The food.
I snatch one of the shells
Out of the plastic carton.
Crack! Pop!
Goes the spherical shell
When we crack a little hole
In it
With our fingers.
As I grasp the pale yellow oval
With two fingers.
From one of the vendors
And maybe just
A little bit of potato goes in
Then some red sauce with yogurt and
Aloo bhujia
The first time
And maybe just
Black liquid and potato
The next.
The first bite
Is the most special.
Crunch!
Goes the shell when
It snaps between my teeth
And the spicy sauce soaks
Into my tongue
As I grab a glass of water.
I take another
Shell
Out of the box
For my brother.
He hates spice
So I make sure

Green, black, or red
Gets poured into the hole of our shell.
A little bit of yogurt is added to cut
Back on the spice
And it is topped with aloo bhujia,
Crispy pieces of fried potato.
We mix and match the different
Liquids
Trying to find out our favorite combo.
A little bit of potato goes in
Then some red sauce with yogurt and
Aloo bhujia
The first time
And maybe just
Black liquid and potato
The next.
The first bite
Is the most special.
Crunch!
Goes the shell when
It snaps between my teeth
And the spicy sauce soaks
Into my tongue
As I grab a glass of water.
I take another
Shell
Out of the box
For my brother.
He hates spice
So I make sure

Devices

NAME: Serena Huang
Age: 12

“Back in my day”
What life was like
“Back in my day”
She chatters away about how she
Would always get pani puri
From one of the vendors
Lining the streets of Mumbai.
She tells us how much she loved
One of the vendors pani puri
And how it’s now her favorite food
Blah, blah, blah
I think,
Great story!
When can we start eating?
Finally, she stops
And we can finally start making
The food.
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Out of the plastic carton.
Crack! Pop!
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And it is topped with aloo bhujia,
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We mix and match the different
Liquids
Trying to find out our favorite combo.
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The first time
And maybe just
Black liquid and potato
The next.
The first bite
Is the most special.
Crunch!
Goes the shell when
It snaps between my teeth
And the spicy sauce soaks
Into my tongue
As I grab a glass of water.
I take another
Shell
Out of the box
For my brother.
He hates spice
So I make sure
To make it extra spicy 
Just for him. 
I fill up a plate 
With three 
Or four puris 
And sit down 
At the dining table 
Crunching away 
Happily. 
One more through the lips 
My mouth overwhelmed by a wave of 
sauce 
Rushing down my throat 
I guess that one had 
Too much liquid 
I think 
So I get up 
To make another one 
Once again I taste it 
This time it's too spicy 
Standing up again 
And again 
And again 
As I cram 
More 
And more 
And more 
Down my throat 
Critiquing myself on each one I make. 
I race 
With my family 
To see who can eat 
The most puris 
My mom says 
Her friend has eaten 
Sixty at once. 
The most I can eat 
Is thirty. 
Then 
My mom tells me 
That that was just an appetizer 
As she brings out more food to eat. 
But after all that 
I can't eat any more. 
So I collapse on the sofa 
With a full belly 
And a wide grin on my face.

Hope Within 
The Air...

NAME: Ashra Siddiqui
AGE: 12

The flowers blooming slowly 
The sun giving life to all, 
Shining through my room 
Not a single cloud in the sky 
I smile, a big wide smile 
The birds dance in the sky gliding with the 
soft wind 
The bees were buzzing along hovering 
above the flowers 
The air is crisp, with the smell of flowers 
blooming all around 
The grass is verdant full of little insects 
hopping joyfully 
A little boy plays in the fields, 
Giggles merrily 
The sun’s beams brushed my face to feel 
warm all over 
I take a deep breath,

Taking in all of the beauty 
As the day goes on, 
The sun rises within the sky 
More beauty and life emerge 
The senses of nature pleased my eyes, 
And tears formed in the corners 
A small Blue Bird perches on my window-sill 
It sings it’s heart out, whistles flowing 
gracefully 
Until it’s voice cracks to a piercing screech 
The clouds darken 
Flames emerge gradually 
The grass loses its verdant color 
The flowers sink down into dust 
Branches falling with might 
Everything turns gray 
And the whole world bursts into chaos 
right in front of my eyes 
Loud noises coming from every which way 
Glass breaking 
Scarring into my skin 
It cuts deep, 
Blood drips out 
Just like the color drained out of the 
world. 
As the night emerged things only got 
worse 
The wolves woke up from their sleep and 
moaned through the night 
The last leaf falls on a dead tree, 
slowly drifting down to the ground 
I crawl on the creaky floor, 
And I find a small puzzle piece 
It's full of vibrant colors 
It felt strange, 
Something was not right 
The piece glowed with a golden hue 
I placed it on my palm 
It grew brighter by the second 
As the hours went on 
For what seemed like eternity 
I was filled with glowing puzzle pieces 
Bundled up in my hands

With my scarred body, 
I scrambled every nook and corner 
To find more 
Of these mysterious pieces

As I put the pieces together one by one, 
They grew even brighter all together 
The shine blinded my eyes 
Piece by piece 
The world trickled back with color 
I could sense it, 
There was HOPE in the air 
I could smell it 
Tickling the hairs in my nose 
I could hear it 
Soft, joyful noises filling my ears 
I could taste it 
Tingling my taste buds with its sweet fla-
vor 
I could feel it 
Brushing my face and goosebumps all 
over 
I could see it 
There was HOPE in the air

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Enjoy special $30, $40, or $50 per person prix fixe dinners.
Potomac REAL ESTATE

October, 2023 Top Sales

In October, 2023, 27 Potomac homes sold between $2,125,000-$738,000.

1 9464 Newbridge Drive — $2,125,000
2 9215 Bells Mill Road — $2,000,000
3 11013 Balantre Lane — $1,925,000
4 11007 Fawsett Road — $1,895,000
5 11201 Spur Wheel Lane — $1,810,000
6 8710 Belmart Road — $1,805,000
7 10001 Chartwell Manor Court — $1,700,000
8 9820 Newhall Road — $1,699,000
9 9464 Newbridge Drive — $2,125,000

Address..................................BR FB HB... Postal City...Sold Price ......Type ....Lot AC .Postal Code...... Subdivision........ Date Sold
1 9464 NEWBRIDGE DR......5 ...4 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $2,125,000 .... Detached ...2.00 ...... 20854 .... FALCONHURST ....10/06/23
2 9215 BELLS MILL RD ....6 ...5 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $2,000,000 .... Detached ...0.50 ...... 20854 .... PINE KNOLLS ....10/06/23
3 11013 BALANTRE LN .......4 ...5 ...2 ...POTOMAC . $1,925,000 .... Detached ...2.00 ...... 20854 .... POTOMAC VIEW ESTS ....10/20/23
4 11007 FAYSETT RD .......6 ...5 ...2 ...POTOMAC . $1,895,000 .... Detached ............... 20854 .... POTOMAC OUTSIDE ....10/30/23
5 11201 SPUR WHEEL LN ....7 ...5 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $1,810,000 .... Detached ...... 20854 .... SADDLE RIDGE ....10/17/23
6 8710 BELMARD RD ........4 ...3 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $1,805,000 .... Detached ...2.06 ...... 20854 .... POTOMAC FALLS ....10/30/23
7 10001 CHARTWELL CT ....5 ...4 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $1,700,000 .... Detached ...0.48 ...... 20854 .... AVENEL ....10/30/23
8 9820 NEWHALL RD .......3 ...2 ...1 ...POTOMAC . $1,699,000 .... Detached ...1.06 ...... 20854 .... POTOMAC OUTSIDE ....10/27/23


SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS

Montgomery County Recreation is once again hosting safe, fun and exciting camps that promote children’s active and healthy lifestyles this summer. Camp registration begins at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16 for County Residents. Non-County residents will be able to register beginning Thursday, Jan. 18. Montgomery County Recreation camps offer a broad range of summer programs located across the County. Campers will spend most their time outdoors, which emphasizes on safety and fun. Programs will become viewable online Friday, Jan. 5. Residents will also be able to view a digital guide and build their own.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO PROVIDE $300,000 TO JEWISH, MUSLIM, SIKH, AND ZORASTRIAN COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich has expedited $311,700 in Nonprofit Security Grant funding to Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Zoroastrian communities to enhance security measures.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY SEeks VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST

Residents file income tax for 2023

The Montgomery County Community Action Agency’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is recruiting volunteers to become IRS-certified VITA tax preparers, community leaders, greeters, quality reviewers and site coordinators during the upcoming tax season (January–April). VITA provides free tax help to Montgomery County residents, including ITIN taxpayers, with household incomes of $54,000 or less.

The program links residents to valuable tax credits that can provide critical financial support to lower income households. Last year, volunteers served 2,600 hours, helping Community Action’s VITA programs serve 1,946 households. That represented a tax impact of nearly $7 million. Online information sessions for prospective volunteers will be held from 10:30–11:30 a.m. and 6–7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The sessions will provide an overview of the program and the various volunteer positions available. Please register online for one of these sessions. Visit montgomerycountymd.gov/CASHBACK or call 240-777-123 to learn more about volunteering, or email VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

STUDENTS CAN RIDE COUNTY BUSES FOR FREE

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is offering a free student fare for all MCDOT Ride On buses, and most Metro buses operating in the County. The Youth Cruiser SmarTrip card is for Montgomery County residents ages 5 to 18 (older if still in high school) who rides the free rides on all Montgomery County Ride On buses, including Ride OnExtra, Ride On Flex and Flash. The card also will waive fares on most Metro buses operating in the County. Value also can be added to the card for service on Metrorail and Metrobuses outside the County.

Rides can be mounted on the front of all Ride On buses or taken aboard the Flash bus currently operating on U.S. 29 (Little WARRANTY) street. The card requires using a busby option for young riders.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXPANDS LIST OF ELECTRONICS FOR RECYCLING

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has expanded its electronics recycling program. The County is now accepting more electronics and is accepting a video and audio tapes for recycling.

The list of additional recyclable electronics includes:
Audio tapes
Cameras
Cell phones
Drones
Empty printer ink and toner cartridges
Remote controls
Small handheld electronic tools
Small handheld vacuum cleaners
Surveillance cameras
VHS/cassette tapes

The Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station is located at 16101 Frederick Road in Darnestown. The facility is working with organizations and recycling facilities that refurbish electronics for reuse or disassemble them to sell the metal and plastic components.

The County requires its contractor and nonprofit partners to engage data-management practices during the recycling process, to be reused and to destroy remaining memory devices. To protect unauthorized useoid information, it is recommended to erase personal data before dropping off computers and other electronics.

Community members and businesses can take their electronic recyclables to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. The electronics drop-off is open daily and is in the Recycling Area of the Transfer Station site. Residents are responsible for the off-loading of material from their vehicles.


ONGOING

Potomac Area Neighborhoods Club. The Potomac Area Neighborhoods club is a group of more than 100 members who live in the Potomac and surrounding areas. The club offers bridge, Mah Jong, Canasta, book club events, and trips to museums and local attractions as a way to help new and current residents form friendships, expand social networks, and take advantage of local opportunities. Visit PANC clubhousepotomac.com.

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 to learn more about the Senior SmarTrip Card. There is a SmarTrip 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–Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or half fare at all other times. The cost of the Senior SmarTrip card is $2. There is no initial purchase or time of purchase. Visit any library in Montgomery County, the Silver Spring TRIPS Store, the Mobile Commuter Store, or the Montgomery County Treasurer Office and bring proof of age (state ID, birth certificate or passport). For more Montgomery, call 311.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

A Bit More to Say

By KENNETH R. LOURIE

To dive deeper into my Kenny-with-cancer dilem- ma, it’s quite possible that my future treatment, or lack thereof, will come down to whether I restart my cancer treatment – possibly harm my kidneys (leading to dialysis) or don’t restart my cancer med- icine and subsequently don’t damage my kidneys? Don’t use the word “cancer” because, as a consequence, the cancer grows unmedicated which leads to predict- able complications that don’t end well for me.

This darned cancer darned it if I don’t; if I don’t, it is my lifelong experience, my cancer kicks kidney dialysis choice, I’m not the least bit amused (except as I remember this exchange between Larry and Curly).

Unfortunately, no one’s options are not mutually exclusive. They can even appear simultaneously if the lack of a clear alternativeplan “B” exists. Which I feel to be a hazard is, is not an uncommon outcome for cancer patients. In fact cancer’s side effects of the treatment overwhelm the body’s the body’s immune system and part, so to speak comes to an end. A ‘party’ which, for me anyhow, has been going on for nearly 15 years, to my oncologist’s surprise. He of the original; ’13 month to two years’ prognosis offered up during the original Team Leaders meeting in late Feb. 2009.

And to invoke the late Maurice Chevalier, “I remember it well” (after all New Year’s Day in 2009) when my symptoms, which had manifested a few weeks earlier in pain in my right thigh, migrated to my right butt cheek. By the time of purchase. Visit any library in Montgomery County, the Silver Spring TRIPS Store, the Mobile Commuter Store, or the Montgomery County Treasurer Office and bring proof of age (state ID, birth certificate or passport). For more Montgomery, call 311.

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