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Photo courtesy Bullis School ❖ Real Estate Map, 8 ❖ Kenny Lourie, Page 7

Potomac ALMANAC

Students Provide For Needy During Coronavirus

News, Page 3

Clare Harvey, Bullis sophomore, prepares to deliver masks she made and food she prepared for women and children at House of Ruth in Washington, D. C.

Potomac Week In Covid-19

News, Page 2

HomeLifeStyle A Dream Home

Page 6

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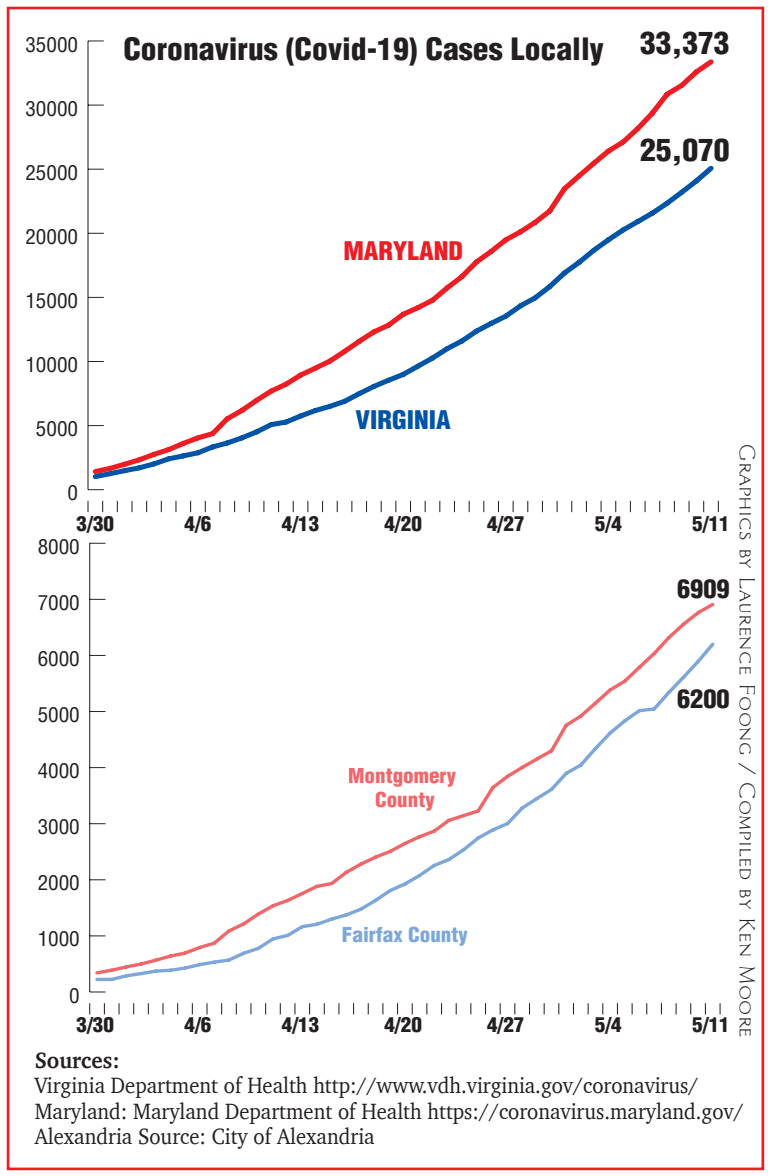
This Week in Coronavirus in Potomac

More than 200 cases in Potomac, more than 1,500 deaths in Maryland. County officials say they will be deliberate and thoughtful when lifting restrictions.

By Ken Moore
The Almanac



Sources:
Virginia Department of Health http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/
Maryland: Maryland Department of Health https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/
Alexandria Source: City of Alexandria

Monday, May 11
Potomac Cases: 201
Montgomery County Cases: 6,909
Maryland Cases: 33,373
United States Cases: 1,300,696
Montgomery County Deaths: 353
Maryland Deaths: 1,573
United States Deaths: 78,771

SECOND HIGHEST COVID TOTALS: County Executive Marc Elrich sends a message to county residents:

"I think all of us are grappling with the ongoing toll of physical distancing. I'm just like you. I want to go out, get together with friends, or go to a restaurant. But I realize, and hope you understand, that we're not ready for that yet. We are working toward a gradual reopening, but we cannot do so until the public health and science guidance recommend it.

"The number of residents with COVID-19 in Montgomery County continues to grow. We are the largest county in Maryland and have the second highest number of cases in the State. Unlike other areas such as western Maryland, we have many more densely populated areas. We need to base our reopening on the facts, or otherwise we are going to end up repeating what we are going through right now.

"One of the most important tools needed for a successful reopening is testing, and we are in the process of scaling ours up. We are contracting with additional sources of testing, and we have companies lined up to process those tests. We have already increased our testing substantially and will be doing even more, soon.

"Continuing to stay at home, and only traveling when it is absolutely necessary, is in all of our best interests. Our actions are helping to minimize the spread and a possible second wave. It would be a huge mistake to let up too soon and have this expand even further."

Sunday, May 10
Potomac Cases: 200
Montgomery County Cases: 6,762
Maryland Cases: 32,587
Montgomery County Deaths: 348
Maryland Deaths: 1,538

Saturday, May 9
Potomac Cases: 195
Montgomery County Cases: 6,555
Maryland Cases: 31,534
Montgomery County Deaths: 336
Maryland Deaths: 1,510

Despite restrictions being lifted at golf courses, Maryland waterways, and other places where six-foot distancing can take place, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles today said they are not ready to reopen the County until the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations is on a sustained decline. Citing Gov. Larry Hogan's recent order opening a limited number of outdoor activities, Elrich said Montgomery County officials will be deliberate and thoughtful in planning when to loosen restrictions and begin to reopen businesses and services.

"We are in a densely populated metropolitan area, and we share borders with other jurisdiction," said Elrich.

Testing capacity is key to having data to support reopening according to Gayles. "We have so far tested 2.3 percent of residents, above Maryland's baseline goal of 2 percent, but below the County's goal. Testing capacity is continuing to expand, and plans are in place to test as many residents as possible, particularly frontline and essential employees."

"While we continue to monitor the number of cases and hospitalizations, we ask residents to continue to be vigilant in practicing preventive measures such as keeping nonessential travel to a minimum, wearing a face covering when going out in public, washing hands frequently and practicing physical distancing of at least six feet," said Dr. Gayles. "Quarantine fatigue is real, and I know it is impacting everyone, including myself. It is difficult to stay committed to all the changes there have been to every aspect of our daily lives; but now is not the time to let down our guard."

Friday, May 8
Potomac Cases: 167
Montgomery County Cases: 6,316
Maryland Cases: 30,845
Montgomery County Deaths: 315
Maryland Deaths: 1,453

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will receive more than $30 million in Federal funding through the CARES Act to support Ride On bus operations during and after the COVID-19 health crisis. The legislation also recognizes the critical importance of maintaining transit services during the health crisis for essential workers and others who rely on public systems to access basic needs such as food and healthcare. The funding will help make up for Ride-on fare collection, which stopped March 13 in order to limit personal interactions; hazard pay for bus drivers; maintaining standby drivers on buses stationed strategically; increased cleaning and safety measures to keep riders and bus operators safe.

Thursday, May 7
Potomac Cases: 155
Montgomery County Cases: 5,790
Maryland Cases: 28,163
Montgomery County Deaths: 304
Maryland Deaths: 1,338

More than 1,200 businesses have received Montgomery County's Public Health Emergency Grants that were created to help businesses suffering losses due to the COVID-19 crisis. Montgomery County has already issued more than $10.6 million in funding; $25 million is available with $10 million dedicated to restaurants and retail businesses. In addition, $333,270 in grants for telework has been authorized.

Applications continue to be reviewed for grants that can be awarded of up to $10,000 per applicant. See www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Biz-Resources/pheg/.

Because of limited County funds and overwhelming demand, Montgomery County is encouraging businesses throughout the County to explore other forms of Federal, State and local assistance that may be available. Resources to assist in this search include:

https://reliefwizard.net/

https://montgomerycountymd.gov/Biz-Resources/covid19/

https://thinkmoco.com/covid-19-resources

Due to the closure of all Maryland schools through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, all remaining permits for indoor and outdoor community use of MCPS facilities will be cancelled through June 15, 2020. All fees will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process. Email CUPF.Finance@montgomerycountymd.gov.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) joined Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and seven other senators to tell President Trump it is imperative that the federal government fully use its authority to support and expand production of personal protective equipment and testing supplies.

"An analysis by Harvard University researchers found that the United States must, at minimum and under the best-case scenario, double the number of tests being conducted each week," wrote the Senators. "In many cases, even when state and local governments are able to get some supplies into the hands of their frontline medical personnel, they go unused because of shortages in other key supplies."

Wednesday, May 6
Potomac Cases: 155
Montgomery County Cases: 5,790
Maryland Cases: 28,163
Montgomery County Deaths: 304
Maryland Deaths: 1,338

Montgomery County Public Schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year. State Superintendent Karen Salmon made the announcement May 6 and Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools Jack R. Smith wrote a letter to parents, students, staff and community members: "We strongly believe this is the right decision for the safety and well-being of Maryland students and their families. While this news is not unexpected, it doesn't diminish the

See Coronavirus, Page 4

Bullis Students Work from Home to Support Community Needs

By Peggy McEwan

Students from Bullis School are continuing classes via distance learning while also doing what they can to help the community and those in need manage life with the changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I'm really proud to report that as soon as they stopped going to school, Bullis students began looking around for others they could help," Beth Crowley, Director of Communications at Bullis said.

She included this list compiled from information students supplied:

Clare Harvey '22 purchased supplies and made masks for the House of Ruth in Washington, DC. The House of Ruth is a shelter for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence. Clare did the project through her own volition and concern for others. She went online, learned how to make the masks, made them, and dropped them off at the House of Ruth.

Kade Friedlander '21 is working with Peace First to ensure all students in Montgomery County and their families have the information and resources available that they need to access school meal sites while schools remain closed. He has also served with So What Else, a nonprofit co-founded by Bullis alumnus Dave Silbert '96 to provide after school and summer programs in communities of need.

Rhyan Goozh '23 has redoubled her efforts on behalf of those in need at the Stepping Stones shelter, which she began serving before COVID. She had been collecting meals, toys and supplies for residents of the Stepping Stones Shelter, a shelter in Rockville that provides support for homeless families with children. For Easter, she decided to do something extra special and delivered an Easter feast of ham, macaroni and cheese, casseroles, green bean casserole, drinks, and desserts. In addition, she got donations to make Easter baskets for each of the children at Stepping Stones, and teamed up with her grandmother to work on making masks out of old sheets for everyone at Stepping Stones.

Sloane Bernstein, '21 co-founder and president of the Bullis Gives Back club, is hosting a donation drive in collaboration with So What Else. Donations of food, clothing, books, games, masks, diapers, and more are being collected to help families in need during the Covid-19 crisis. The donation drive will run through May 14. Please email officialbusinessgivesback@gmail.com for a drop-off address or make a direct donation on the So What Else website at www.sowhatelse.org.

Julia Vasco '21 is organizing a skirt drive to collect old Bullis skirts since the style has changed to the skort for next year. The Washington School for Girls in DC shares the same uniform and has girls in grades 3-8 who could use the skirts next year. Donated skirts would help their families to afford uniform skirts. This is a great opportunity to repurpose old Bullis skirts for an underserved community.

Carolyn Tang '22 teamed with students from Walt Whitman and Winston Churchill high schools, and Herbert Hoover and Crestview middle schools to come up with creative ways to make personal protective equipment (PPE). The team created easy ways to make face masks, protective gowns, and face shields by using simple household materials like plastic sheets, fabric, clear sheet protectors, a stapler, tape, rubber bands, yarn, and more. The team plans to donate the PPEs to local hospitals.

Adam Specht '23 is helping Masks for a Safer Community (MASC), a local effort to collect funds and new masks, mostly N-95 masks, for senior living communities. The initiative was started by Justin Huebl, a Winston Churchill 9th grader. MASC is collecting credit card donations through a GoFundMe page and offers ways to donate masks on its website mascinitiative.org.

Ethan Till '21 and Tyler Kuehl '21, asked Will Green '20 for help as they began producing masks in the Bullis BIT lab. Soon Ethan and Tyler began work with Bullis BIT lab Director Matt Zigler, improving on the design using faster production methods. Meanwhile, Mr. Zigler began making face shields in conjunction with a maker project based in Baltimore. Will is a student in the @BullisSTEM capstone program for seniors, and Ethan and Tyler have both taken multiple entrepreneurship electives.

"It makes us so proud to see them apply their skills to be a part of the solution to our common challenge," Crowley said.

Photos courtesy Bullis School

Kade Friedlander, a junior at Bullis School, helps deliver food at a Montgomery County elementary school. Kade volunteers with Peace First helping insure that those in need know how to access school meal sites.

Rhyan Goozh, Bullis freshman, left, arrives at Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville with masks for those in need. Rhyan made the masks with the help of her grandmother using old sheets.

Primary Election June 2, 2020

This election will be primarily a "vote by mail" election. This means that all eligible voters will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. You should receive your ballot in early to mid May. You do not need to ask for a ballot to receive one.

Election officials will mail your ballot to the address on file. If you want your ballot mailed to another address or download it from our website, please visit the Absentee Voting page elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html.

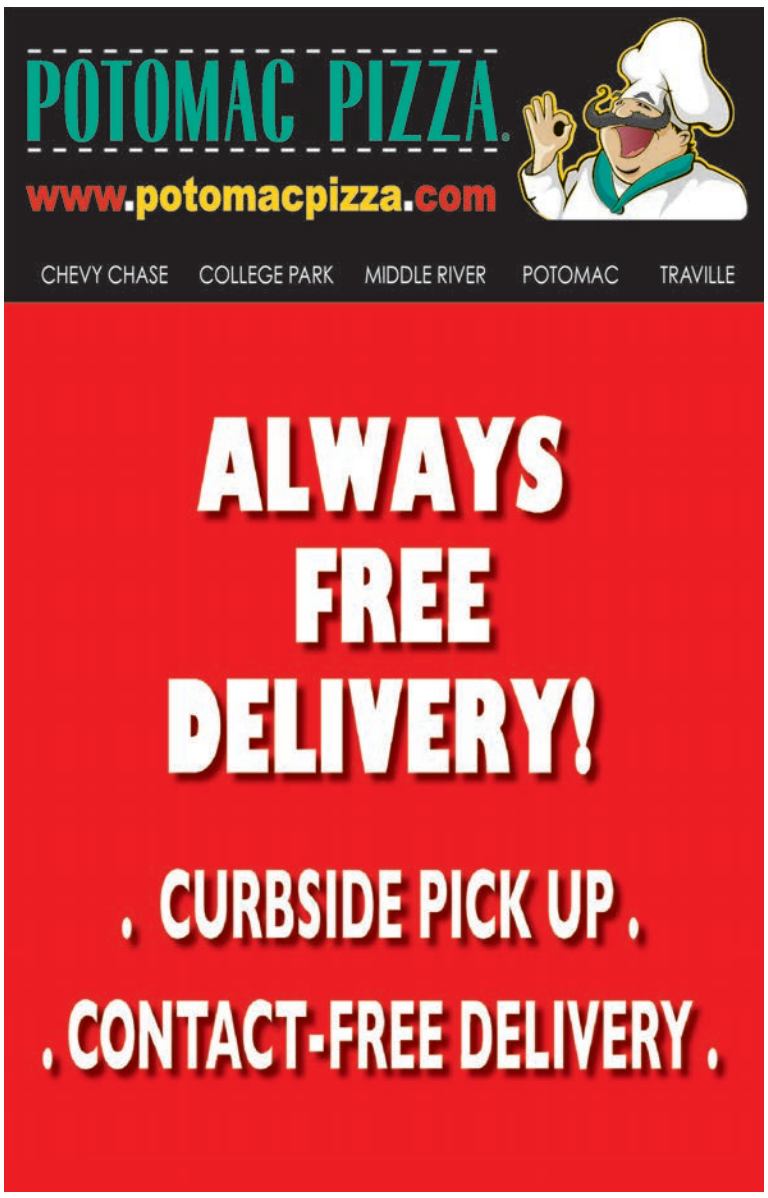
All mailed ballots included a return envelope and prepaid postage.

To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, we recommend that voters who can vote by mail do so. Voted ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Voters who prefer to drop off their ballots can do so at designated ballot drop off locations from - Thursday, May 21, 2020 through Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

If you are unable to vote by mail, you may vote in-person on election day, June 2, 2020, at one of the following locations,

See Primary Election, Page 5



News

This Week in Coronavirus

From Page 2

sadness and disappointment that many of us are feeling."

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich supported the decision. "I understand the Superintendent's decision, and as a former teacher, I know it was not an easy one," said Elrich. "We will be working with our school superintendent and the Board of Education as well as with our Library, Recreation and Health and Human Services staffs to support our families and our students to continue to learn and grow during this difficult time. I have heard and seen some great examples of creative solutions of teachers reaching out to students, and I appreciate the dedication and hard work. We will do what we can to support you."

The last day of school for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently scheduled for June 15. All MCPS school buildings will remain closed during this time.

ON MAY 6, GOV. Larry Hogan eased some stay-at-home restrictions and allowed the resumption of elective medical procedures. More outdoor activities are now allowed under the state's Stay at Home order.

"As of Thursday, May 7 at 7 a.m., I am lifting the restriction on outdoor pursuits like fishing, campground usage, boating and golf – and we are opening state parks and recreational areas.

At the same time, elective medical and dental procedures can also resume across the state," said Hogan. "I realize that these are only small steps, and that they may be of little comfort to those who are out of work and struggling," said Hogan.

County Executive Marc Elrich presented a different message:

"As we head into this Mother's Day weekend, we do so with new guidance from the Governor as to what is acceptable as far as outdoor activities are concerned.

While the Governor has said that people can now play tennis and golf, this doesn't mean that we should ease up on the physical distancing we have been practicing for nearly two months," said Elrich.

"While we want people to be physically active and get outside, we need to refrain from contact sports.

Please only go out for essential travel and the limited approved outdoor activities. While the governor has approved activities such as boating, camping, fishing, horseback riding, hunting and driving in off-road vehicles, these can only be done with members of your household. Regardless, when you are around others, it is still necessary to wear a face covering. In the end, our ability to fully return to normal activity depends on our ability to control the virus.

Elrich warned that even though some outdoor activities may resume on May 7, all Montgomery County Recreation facilities will remain closed until further notice. All programs and rentals are cancelled. And while the outdoor areas surrounding County Recreation centers remain open, the public is reminded that all playgrounds are closed.

Bulletin Board

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

GOVERNOR ISSUES ORDERS

Gov. Larry Hogan issued the following executive order this week amending his stay-at-home order. Marylanders will be able to enjoy the following low-risk outside activities, such as golf, tennis, boating, hiking, camping, fishing and hunting. State parks and beaches will be opened for exercise (only), such as running, biking and hiking. (Ocean City's beaches and boardwalk also will be open for walking, jogging and other exercise. Shops and restaurants will be closed, except those offering take-out and delivery services.) Hogan said this partial reopening is predicated on Marylanders continuing to take personal responsibility by social distancing, hand hygiene, not gathering in groups of more than 10 and wearing masks when possible.

Elective medical procedures at hospitals can resume, such as MRI and other screenings, orthopaedic surgery and other time-sensitive procedures. Patients with less serious health issues should feel free to consult with their doctors, especially via tele-health.

ROCKVILLE'S FARMERS MARKET OPENS

The City of Rockville's Farmers Market is scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, June 6. The market's opening, traditionally in mid-May, has been postponed as part of the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, some market vendors are offering delivery and pickup options. The market will be open Saturdays, through Nov. 21, in the jury parking lot at East Jefferson (Route 28) and Monroe streets in Rockville Town Center. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers for more information, including a complete list of participating vendors. For more information, call 240-314-8620 or email specialevents@rockvillemd.gov.

ROCKVILLE TO OPEN SOME PARK AMENITIES

Rockville's tennis and pickleball courts, and the dog park at King Farm, will open Saturday, May 9 as the city begins reopening some of its park amenities for individual and small group sports that allow for physical distancing. An updated state order, issued this week by Gov. Larry Hogan, broadens permitted outside activities at state facilities and allows local governments the flexibility to take similar actions at their discretion. The order still prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people, in an effort to reduce public contact and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and applies to athletic, social, cultural and community gatherings. If you visit a park, please:

Keep a safe distance. (Six feet or more.)

Avoid touching surfaces.

Do not gather in groups of 10 or more people.

Refrain from touching playground equipment.

Avoid activities that share equipment or involve touching.

Wash hands immediately after your park visit.

Playgrounds, bathrooms, fitness stations, basketball, Bankshot and volleyball courts, and athletic fields, will remain closed until further notice. In order to help slow the spread of COVID-19, city facilities remain closed to the public, and events, classes, programs, rentals and activities have been canceled through Friday, May 15. The facility closure applies to community centers, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Rockville Senior Center, Croydon Creek Nature Center, Glenview Mansion, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Montrose Discovery Preschool.

LIBRARY AFTER DARK GALA GOES VIRTUAL

"Beyond the Book" – and the opportunity to pay tribute and give back to Montgomery County Public Libraries – is the theme of the Sixth Annual Library After Dark Gala, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County.

The free event will take place "virtually" on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. – coming to your favorite digital device. Registration is required. This year's gala will recognize the library staff, volunteers, donors, and community leaders who make (MCPL) an outstanding, nationally-recognized system.

BEASTS AND BLOOMS SPRING READING CHALLENGE

Montgomery County Public Libraries has launched the Beasts and Blooms Spring Reading Challenge. The challenge is open to kids and teens, up to 17 years of age. Participants can read anything they choose – schoolbooks, ebooks, audiobooks, personal books – it all counts. For every hour of reading, up to eight hours, an online badge is earned. With the completion of eight hours of reading, participants will receive a tote bag, while supplies last, once MCPL branches reopen. The challenge ends on May 31. MCPL has many electronic reading resources available to anyone with a library card. For more information, contact Christine Freeman at christine.freeman@

See Bulletin, Page 5

Primary Election

From Page 3

7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Germantown Community Recreation Center 18905 Kingsview Road Germantown, MD 20874

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center 14906 Old Columbia Pike Burtonsville, MD 20866

Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza One Veterans Place Silver Spring, MD 20910

Activity Center at Bohrer Park Social Hall 506 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center 11701 Georgia Avenue Wheaton, MD 20902

Rockville City Hall 111 Maryland Avenue Rockville, MD 20850

Montgomery County Board of Elections 18753 N. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Independent, Democratic and Republican voters will all have two Board of Education races on the ballot, Board of Education At Large and Board of Education District 4. Board of Education seats are nonpartisan, and their is a lot at stake in these elections.

Board of Education At Large, Vote for 1 of the 13 candidates on this ballot; the top two vote getters will face each other in the General Election in November.

Candidates:

Mitra Ahadpour, Stephen Austin, Anil Chaudhry, Sunil Dasgupta, Paul Geller, Jay Guan, Lynne Harris, Collins Odongo, Dalbin Osorio, Cameron Rhode, Darwin Romero, Pavel Sukhobok, Lumpoange Thomas

Board of Education District 4, Vote for 1 of the three candidates on this ballot; the top two vote getters will face each other in the General Election in November.

Shebra Evans (incumbent), Ehren Park Reynolds, Steve Solomon

Voters registered as Republicans or Democrats will also vote for their candidate for U.S. President.

Bulletin Board

From Page 4

montgomerycountymd.gov.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS FESTING IN PLACE

The COVID-19 emergency forced the cancellation of the Hometown Holidays Music Fest and Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, but the city of Rockville is determined to keep calm and party on by changing up the plan in order to safely carry on this Rockville tradition. The revamped festival, dubbed Festing in Place, will allow the community to come together with music, food and video to mark Memorial Day on the City of Rockville Hometown Holidays Music Fest page on Facebook and at www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH. Here's how to participate:

Concerts -- Celebrate the Hometown Holidays Music Fest from the comfort of your home with performances from favorite HTH performers of years past, including Capital Effect, Ted Garber and The Nighthawks, posted throughout the May 23-24 weekend on Facebook and the HTH website.

Hometown Music Mile -- Walk or run a mile around your neighborhood or local park while listening to a curated Hometown Holidays Festing in Place playlist on Spotify, featuring bands from past festivals. Don't have Spotify? We'll post the playlist on the Facebook page and the website, so you can use it to create a lineup using your favorite music service. Take a photo or video and post it to Facebook using #HTHFestingInPlace or email it to FestinPlace@rockvillemd.gov. Photos and videos will be featured on Facebook and the website.

Taste of Rockville -- Enjoy the Taste of Rockville, organized by the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Community Reach of Montgomery County. Rockville restaurants will offer Memorial Day weekend specials. Support local businesses by ordering carryout, curbside pickup and delivery.

Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade -- Rockville's commemoration of Memorial Day spans 75 years. This year, they're asking the community to keep the spirit alive by creating a parade from your home, yard or driveway. To learn more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH.

ANIMAL ADOPTIONS DURING CORONAVIRUS

Since closing to the public on March 16th due to COVID-19 risk, Montgomery County Animal Services (MCASAC) has worked with area rescue groups to move animals out of the shelter. While MCASAC is unable to safely adopt out animals directly from its facility, privately run rescue groups have the capacity to perform adoptions directly from foster homes. MCASAC has partnered with Friends of Montgomery County Animals (FMCA) to place its shelter animals into adoptive homes through MCASAC's foster network. Historically, FMCA has supported many of MCASAC's fee reduced and fee waived adoption events, as well as being a valued rescue partner. FMCA has an established foster-home-based adoption process that will allow adoptions to occur while minimizing contact between people making them the perfect adoption partner for our shelter animals. Potential adopters are encouraged to visit MCASAC's website and view available animals. All available animals are in foster homes and potential adopters can reach out to the foster to learn more about the animal. Foster parents will put interested applicants in touch with a representative of FMCA to guide them through the adoption process. More information can be found at www.MontgomeryCountymd.gov/animalservices/adoption/covid-adoption.html

GAITHERSBURG BOOK FESTIVAL GOES VIRTUAL

Now in its 11th year, the Gaithersburg

See Bulletin, Page 7

A glass backsplash and beaded pendant lighting are paired with contrasting classic gray Silestone countertops and white cabinets.

A large screened porch with a fireplace was a "must have" for this Potomac dream home.

Accessorized with blue tones and marble tiles, the aquarium sits in the foyer and sets the color tone for the rest of the home.

Photos by Stuart Estler

Dream Home Becomes a Reality

Home designed to accommodate the interests of an active family of five.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

During a casual dog walk in her Potomac neighborhood, Laura Hoffman came across an expansive wooded lot. This spotting soon became the location of the dream home she built with her husband Keith and their three sons.

"We wanted spaces that we would use as a family doing activities we enjoy," said Laura. "Our must haves included a big kitchen with one work island and another for gathering, a large screen porch with an outdoor kitchen and fireplace."

The couple knew that an ideal home would have to accommodate the sports-loving clan and include space for watching football games and playing pool, golf and hockey.

To accomplish this ambitious feat, the Hoffmans hired Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design who created a concept for the home equipped with a basement that holds a golf simulator and a large indoor hockey room with indestructible rubber floor tiles.

"Obviously we had to make the home function practically," said Walker. "Beyond that we wanted the design choices to create a vibrant, happy, colorful space."

Some of those vibrant colors were reflected in one of the home's most prominent features, a dramatic, custom-made aquarium that stands in the foyer and separates the entrance from the family room.

"As a retired science teacher, I have a special affinity toward nature and in our prior home, we had with a 50-gallon tank and I fell in love with the colors and personalities of the fish," she said. "Now we have a tank that you see as you enter the front door, and more importantly, we can enjoy it in the family room."

Accessorized with blue tones and marble tiles - each cut in the shape of a circle to give the illusion of bubbles - the aquarium sets the color palette for the rest of the home.

"The fish tank steered many of the design choices we made with Anne," said Laura. "The kitchen tile is reminiscent of fish scales and the walls are painted soft blue."

A glass backsplash and beaded pendant lighting, both in shades of aqua, are paired with contrasting classic gray Silestone countertops and white custom cabinets.

"They were willing to take risks with color and pattern," said Walker. "The kitchen is a great example. We wanted to make aqua a highlight in the kitchen, but we didn't want it to overwhelm the space, so the quieter Silestone on the islands gives your eye a nice place to rest."

The Hoffman's filled their home with antique as well as custom furniture and added a few non-traditional elements along the way. "One of our more unusual design requests were to have a cozy pub instead of a formal living room," said Laura "No one ever sat in the formal living room we had in our old house, so no reason to have another."

Inside the pub is a custom-made bar equipped with a stone fireplace, custom woodworking and an adjoining wine cellar.

The house, built by R&R Custom Homes, features a 5-car garage which the family uses to store their antique Cadillac.

"Laura and Keith had specific requirements, some of them quite unique," said Rick Sullivan of R&R. "They wanted the exterior of the home to have a rustic look so we highlighted the Craftsman architecture with stacked stone and cedar."

Though the Hoffmans were committed to taking their dream home from a fanciful concept to a concrete reality, at times, the design decisions became overwhelming. "At one point, I grew tired of looking at so much tile, suggesting we just use the same in another bathroom," said Laura. "But wonderful Anne was there to remind me that this is our dream home and deserved to be custom."

> "Our must-haves included a big kitchen with one work island and another for gathering, a large screen porch with an outdoor kitchen and fireplace."
> — Laura Hoffman

Opinion

Statement on Gov. Hogan's Veto Of Blueprint for Maryland's Future

On May 7, 2020, Gov. Larry Hogan vetoed The Blueprint for Maryland's Future which would have implemented an overhaul of Maryland's public education system and significantly increased education funding over the next decade. Council President Sidney Katz, Councilmember Craig Rice, who is chair of the Council's Education and Culture Committee, Montgomery County Board of Education President Shebra Evans and Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Smith made the following statement:

"While we understand the fiscal challenges being presented by the global pandemic, we are extremely disappointed that Gov. Hogan vetoed The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. As enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in March, this historic education plan would have provided the funding necessary to create a world-class system of public education in Maryland. The legislation was clearly aligned with Montgomery County's long-standing goal of ensuring that all Montgomery County Public Schools' students have the resources and opportunities necessary to achieve excellence. "At this time of historic uncertainty, education is the one constant for many children and their families.

The veto of the Kirwan Commission legislation keeps us from getting started with new measures at a time when they are needed the most. The legislation included the expansion of pre-kindergarten, increased teacher compensation, determined college and career pathways and differentiated funding to meet the needs of all students including those in high poverty schools. The supports and resources the legislation provided remain critical in closing the digital and education gaps that stand in the way of all students achieving at the highest possible level."

Bulletin Board

From Page 5

Book Festival continues as a much-anticipated literary event that brings together thousands of people to hear favorite authors and share a love of books. On Saturday, May 16, Gaithersburg Mayor and GBF Founder Jud Ashman will launch the vGBF – the virtual Gaithersburg Book Festival – with a welcome video posted to the Festival website at www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org. The video will also consist of a vGBF overview and orientation by Festival host Phil Kominski of Freestyle Booking & Events, who will lay out the details of what attendees can look forward to throughout the month-long virtual event. Launch day then continues with three dynamic author presentations throughout the afternoon and evening, viewable on the GBF YouTube channel. The presentations can also be accessed from the GBF website. Join vGBF host Kominski for four consecutive weekends (May 22 – June 14) of author presentations delivered as part of three dynamic series, all viewable on the GBF YouTube channel: Schedules, presentation descriptions, author biographies and more can be found at www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org.

C&O CANAL SELECTS CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park welcomes Christiana Hanson as the new Chief of Interpretation, Education and Volunteer Operations along the 184.5 mile national park. Ms. Hanson will oversee a team of park staff that manage public programs and visitor service operations spanning from Georgetown, in Washington D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland, including a robust and active volunteer program. Ms. Hanson was selected for her strengths and prior experience in media communications and volunteer program management. Prior to joining the National Park Service, she worked at the National Archives and Records Administration as an Education Specialist focusing on in-exhibit educational experiences facilitated through a volunteer docent program. Her varied career background includes museum work at the county, state and national level, and experience working with a wide audience from preschoolers to lifelong learners.

LIBRARIES ANNOUNCE CHANGES

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) will make changes to its digital services beginning May 1. To enhance digital services, MCPL will launch Hoopla, a web and mobile library media streaming platform to provide cardholders with immediate access to digital movies, music, e-books, audiobooks and television. MCPL will also add The New York Times giving customers electronic access to the full online version including the Learning Network, Lens (photography blog), guides and more.

COUNCIL INTRODUCES $750,000 TO FEED RESIDENTS

The Montgomery County Council introduced a $750,000 special appropriation initiated by Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Nancy Navarro and Craig Rice to help address the County's increasing level of food insecurity among community members and their families. The economic hardships experienced by County residents as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic have created ever-increasing demands on food banks, nonprofit providers and community service partners providing food assistance. The $750,000 in funding would be allocated as follows: $400,000 for nonprofit organizations with existing contracts or grants to provide food assistance; $300,000 to secure ethnic and culturally appropriate food items from ethnic grocery stores located in the County to be distributed in areas with high concentrations of vulnerable populations; and $50,000 to increase the County's contract with the Montgomery County Food Council to provide continued planning, coordination and implementation of food security efforts.

YMCA OFFERS FREE PRODUCE

The local YMCAs are offering free produce distribution during the coronavirus crisis. Produce is available for anyone, free of charge, regardless of their affiliation with the YMCA. Produce will be distributed at the following location:

YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, 9401 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda. Available Wednesdays 4-6 p.m., Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

HELP FOR RENTERS DURING CRISIS

Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs is providing support to renters during the COVID-19 health crisis. There is a temporary eviction moratorium in place in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland that prohibits landlords from physically removing renters from their homes for any reason. Evictions also may not happen without an eviction order, which cannot occur as long as Maryland courts are closed. Maryland courts are currently closed through May 1. Montgomery County's DHCA Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs recommends that tenants experiencing financial distress contact their landlord to discuss their situation and possible payment arrangements. Residents with questions or concerns can also contact the County's Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

What's Today?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After six weeks or so of isolating at home and working hardly at all, I believe it's time to invoke Violet Crawley (a k a Maggie Smith), "the Dowager Countess of Grantham" and wonder aloud: "What's a weekend?" Every day feels like some other day or no day at all because the days in and of themselves are meaningless/indistinguishable. I mean, you can't go anywhere, you can't do anything; thankfully you can use your phone and access your computer, but at the end of the same-old-day, you're basically nowhere man, with apologies to "The Beatles."

If it weren't for the trash pick-up on Thursdays and the recyclable pick-up on Fridays, and of course, no mail delivery on Sundays, there really is very little to separate one day from the next (the four-week schedule relating to my thyroid cancer treatment notwithstanding). Actually, if it weren't for the thyroid treatment beginning May 11th and the very specific requirements/activities for the following 23 days, ending June 2nd when I return to the hospital for a post-script scan, I would be totally betwixt and between; so much so that I might not know the difference between "Downton Abbey" and "Belgravia." But I still do, thank God, even though they were both written by Julian Fellowes. I haven't completely fallen through the cracks. Although sometimes I do fear that if I indeed have a crack in my psychological armor, it likely would occur in the middle/late beginning of a pandemic when a possible lack of sanity might be exposed.

And since I'm not really allowed out of the house and retail stores and service providers are mostly unavailable, this would be a heck of a time to need any kind of help from outside one's house. You're not supposed to go anywhere and neither is anybody else so you're sort of left to fend for yourself. Now, generally speaking, I don't mind fending for myself or others for that matter, but at present, in the midst of pandemic pressures, we're all supposed to mind our own business (and/or others if we stay six feet apart) and watch our "ps" and "qs" as we're doing it.

And as well consider what other letters to 'watch.' The problem with living through a pandemic, aside from listening to all the opinions on "a" to "z" is believing any kind of reliable timeline. No one, despite their credentials and learned experience, can say with any accuracy or certainty when this pandemic will end, when the virus will stop spreading and/or whether and when a second viral wave will hit in the fall, when a safe and effective vaccine will be ready and when we can return to whatever the new normal will be. And though there's no shortage of hopes and prayers on the subject, unfortunately neither are there any simple solutions or definitive end to this mess. Somehow, we have to persevere in the present to get to the future by presuming nothing except more of the same. I guess it's an updated version of a definite-maybe or a "confirmed I doubt it" as BJ Honeycut frustratingly said on a M*A*S*H episode 25-plus years ago.

However, life went on for BJ and the rest of M*A*S*H characters as they all got to leave South Korea and return to The United States (except for Klinger who ironically enough chose to stay and marry a South Korean woman). And just as it seemed that the suffering they all experienced during the police action in South/North Korea would never end, it did. And so too will this pandemic end. Probably not by magic as President Trump has suggested, but likely through the collective efforts of the medical and scientific communities as well as our own mitigation and social distancing behaviors. As my Auntie Irene used to say decades ago, and as so many others say all the time now: "This too shall pass."

But not knowing exactly when 'it shall pass' is sort of the problem. As my late mother would say: "It's enough already." I imagine we'll have a better idea of whether it's 'enough already' when we see the effects of the 45-plus states which are "opening." If the virus reasserts itself, and thousands more are diseased and ultimately die, then we'll know exactly what day it is: a day of reckoning.

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

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Potomac REAL ESTATE

March, 2020 Top Sales

In March, 2020, 49 Potomac homes sold between $2,079,000-$593,000.

Photos by Deb Stevens/The Almanac

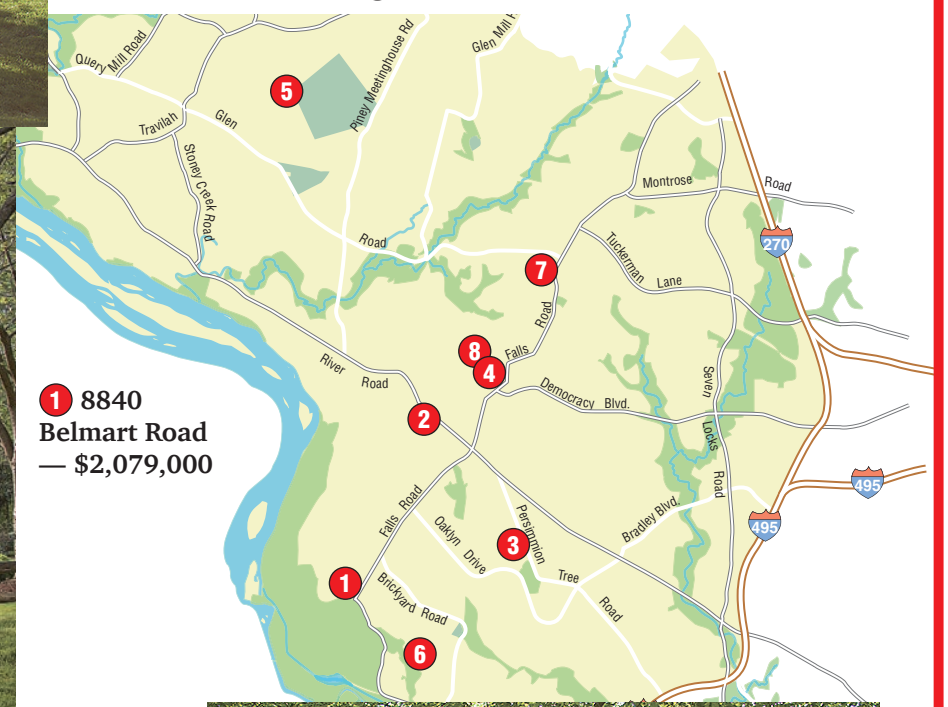
4 10004 Apple Hill Court — $1,540,000

7 11417 Ridge Mist Terrace — $1,175,000

3 9748 Avenel Farm Drive — $1,750,000

2 9908 Chapel Road — $1,950,000

1 8840 Belmart Road — $2,079,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 8840 BELMART RD	5	5	2	POTOMAC	$2,079,000	Detached	2.00	20854	POTOMAC FALLS	03/20/20
2 9908 CHAPEL RD	6	6	2	POTOMAC	$1,950,000	Detached	1.05	20854	POTOMAC MANOR	03/03/20
3 9748 AVENEL FARM DR	6	4	2	POTOMAC	$1,750,000	Detached	0.54	20854	AVENEL	03/12/20
4 10004 APPLE HILL CT	6	4	1	ROCKVILLE	$1,540,000	Detached	0.77	20854	NONE AVAILABLE	03/06/20
5 12624 TRIBUNAL LN	5	5	1	POTOMAC	$1,450,000	Detached	2.00	20854	PALATINE	03/31/20
6 7708 RIVER FALLS DR	6	6		POTOMAC	$1,280,000	Detached	0.36	20854	RIVER FALLS	03/20/20
7 11417 RIDGE MIST TER	5	4	1	POTOMAC	$1,175,000	Detached	0.23	20854	CLAGETT FARM	03/13/20
8 10711 LOCKLAND RD	4	4	1	POTOMAC	$1,167,000	Detached	2.00	20854	POTOMAC VILLAGE	03/26/20

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6 7708 River Falls Drive — $1,280,000