

# THE TOWN COURIER

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The PMA Avengers marching band, comprised of 47 students from Pritchard Music Academy and led by Quince Orchard drum major Alex Liu, make their way down Main Street in the Kentlands Day Parade.

## Kentlands Day Draws Crowd Beneath Sunny Skies

By PAM SCHIPPER

**O**n a picture perfect Saturday, May 2, some 25,000 people came out to enjoy the 7th Annual Kentlands Day Parade, Taste of Kentlands and business fair, the Classic Car Show and live entertainment on two stages. Kids' activities featured a rock climbing tower and a variety of inflatables, including an inflatable mini-golf course run as a fundraiser by the Rachel Carson PTA.

Andrew Ross, principal organizer who worked on the event with the Market Square Merchants Board of Trade, said that Kentlands Day broke even again this year. The event, which is a public-private partnership, cost approximately \$40,000 to stage this year. Booth sales that totaled approximately \$35,000 in cash plus

in-kind support, some 35 volunteers, and support from the City of Gaithersburg all made the event possible.

Ross said that the city, which does "a fantastic job," will be reimbursed \$2,000 to offset costs. He added that public works and police "deserve particular kudos for their great work." Gaithersburg's Cultural Arts Director Denise Kayser said that city support included marketing and communications for the event, signage and important logistical support.

Set-up began around 11 p.m. May 1 and continued until 6 or 7 a.m. the next morning. Allied Party Rentals provided most of the tents, and Potomac Party Rental, which has worked with Kentlands Day since its inception, brought tables and chairs.

■ KENTLANDS DAY Continued on page 8

## Largent's New Chef Is Adding the Right Ingredients

By ELLYN WEXLER

**L**argent's is a work in progress. And the artisan in charge is Michael Harr. The 38-year-old executive chef is remaking Largent's: its décor, its menus, its standard of service—and eventually, even its name.

The two-story space at Center Point Way at its intersection with Market Street West, has gone through several incarnations. Its owners, according to Larry Dechter, one of the four, are determined to make it work this time, and thus, they have summoned the expert chef to take the helm.

Beatty Management Company's Chief Operating Officer Ken Miller, Kentlands Market Square's property manager, called Harr the restaurant's savior. "I'm extremely excited about him being there," Miller said. "Based on his prior accomplishments, I think he has the potential to turn

the business around."

Harr's interest in cooking is deep-rooted, and his credentials are impressive. The graduate of Gaithersburg High School and Johnson & Wales University's College of Culinary Arts has been interested in cooking since he was a child in his mother's kitchen. From his early teens, Harr worked as a busboy, dishwasher and line cook in local restaurants. He was a sous chef at Mark Miller's Red Sage, has worked in Las Vegas and Europe, including as personal chef to a French diplomat, and as executive corporate chef for Celebrity Cruises. Locally, Harr has been executive chef at D.C.'s Butterfield 9, Old Hickory Steakhouse and Moon Bay Coast Cuisine in National Harbor's Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, and Food, Wine & Co. in Bethesda. He claims Fish Taco in Cabin John and City Burger in Bethesda.

■ LARGENT'S Continued on page 11



Photo | Christine Darton-Henrichsen, Potshots by Christine  
Artist Donna Baron works in the patio area  
of Elaine Koch's home on Leekes Lot Way.

tions for the entire house. No longer a "work in progress," the home is a beautiful showcase for her talents.

Ten artists—Shirin Shahram Badie, Donna H. Baron, Chip Cissell, Kathy Edwards, Marianne Kost, Hang Nguyen, Jeanne Powell, Dot Procter, Lori "Art" Rounds, and Lida Stifel—captured scenes from the tour, working in oil, acrylic and wa-

■ HOME & GARDEN TOUR  
Continued on page 11

## Market Square Live Debuts

By PAM SCHIPPER

**P**erhaps you noticed people erecting a 20-foot dome in Market Square last week, and now you wonder why it was taken down. Many have wondered if summer entertainment will return to Market Square, and Bob Auxier, owner of Blitzed! Media and the 20-foot dome, is proud to announce that yes, it will.

Starting Friday, June 5, Kentlands downtown will be filled with music—all played beneath that 20-foot dome. In addition to the diner patio area, 100 folding chairs will be set up between the diner and Thai Tanium. Beverages, including alcohol, and food from Thai Tanium and Vasilis Mediterranean Grill will be available for purchase. Off-duty police officers will provide security as needed.

■ ENTERTAINMENT Continued on page 11

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# Beacon Place Spreads Kindness

By ELLYN WEXLER

**E**xreme heat led Katey Nelson to a cool idea. The Beacon Place Apartments leasing specialist was on a Megabus to Manhattan earlier this year. Despite the frigid outside temperature, something went awry with the bus' heating system, and all aboard were sweaty and uncomfortable. When the driver gave passengers the choice of stopping to fix the problem or proceeding to their destination, they chose the latter.

During her cab ride to Brooklyn, Nelson thought about the camaraderie among fellow travelers sharing their distress and their resources, as well as the gratitude of a young woman she gave cash for a bottle of water. Recalling the Valentine's Day flowers her coworkers delivered to appreciative residents confined to their apartments, Nelson had the germ of an idea. Back at work, Nelson bounced it around with property manager Laurie Dewey, who, Nelson said, refined the concept into a pay-it-forward initiative in which Beacon Place staff would make some small gesture of kindness on each of the 22 workdays in April.

"It was a chance to give back to the community," assistant property manager Brynn Mencarini said.

"And good customer service," observed Nelson, "comes back in a positive way." They hoped an unexpected gift might inspire the recipient to do something nice for someone else.



Photo | Submitted  
Beacon Place staff (left to right) Katey Nelson, Laurie Dewey and Brynn Mencarini delivered lunch to members of Fire Department Ladder Company 31.

Among the gifts were cash contributions to customers patronizing area businesses, from restaurants to the movies and gas station; flowers and cookies for the administrative staff at Rachel Carson Elementary School, and lunch for the members of Fire Department Ladder Company 31.

The Beacon Place staff was pleased with the results. "It felt so refreshing to do random acts of kindness to complete strangers and wonder if that one small gesture helped put a smile on their face," Dewey said. "We are a tight-knit team at Beacon Place, and each member of our team was part of this campaign. What we did cost very little, but confirmed that kindness is worth a lot more, both to the recipient and the giver."

"The random acts of kindness were fun to plan and carry out," Mencarini added. "Paying it forward is a great way to live every day."

The experience has reminded Nelson "that in this giant world of hustle and bustle, the little positive things matter. One small kind gesture can really make someone's day."

Beacon Place is collecting donation items for the Betty Ann Krahmke Center domestic violence shelter for women and their children. Items like toiletries, diapers and baby wipes, gift cards and new toys for toddlers may be dropped off in the office at 916 Beacon Square Court through the end of May. Visit [beaconplaceapartments.com](http://beaconplaceapartments.com) for more information.

## Capitol Benefits Is Cooking!

By PAM SCHIPPER

**C**apitol Benefits, an independent insurance company at 220 Main St., has a long history of donating meals to those in need, but for the first time ever staff purchased ingredients, prepared the meals themselves and delivered them to the Chase Partnership Men's Shelter in Rockville that provides transitional housing, substance abuse treatment and counseling for 36 homeless men. On Thursday, May 7, Capitol Benefits delivered 36 three-course meals that included salad, rotisserie chicken,

pasta and a homemade dessert.

"As a leader in the community, I think that it's important that we give back to those in need. We talk to people every day that are purchasing homes, adding new cars to their policy, etc ... and it's important that we remember that not everyone is as fortunate," said Joshua Lavine, president of Capitol Benefits. "I also want my employees to remember that giving is often far more rewarding than receiving."

This donation was made in partnership with Temple Beth Ami in Rockville.



Photo | Submitted  
Capitol Benefits staff who included (left to right) Tricia Palittala, Juliana Henao, and Wanda Ferrell cooked a three-course meal for the 36 residents of the Chase Partnership Men's Shelter in Rockville on Thursday, May 7.

## Patriotic Show to Kick Off the Main Street Music Festival



Photo | Submitted  
The Navy Brass Quintet returns to the Main Street Music Festival on July 2.

Pritchard Festival Productions is in the process of finalizing its lineup that will feature at least four great outdoor shows. Mark your calendars for July 2 when the Navy Brass Quintet brings its patriotic show to the Main Street Pavilion Park. The popular band Bad Influence returns to the Main Street Music Festival on July 23 with special guest, the legendary Daryl Davis. All concerts are free and made possible through public-private partnership. "We appreciate the City of Gaithersburg's sponsorship year after year," said Joe Pritchard, festival organizer. The city supports the festival through marketing and communications, stage and equipment setup, and rent-free use of the Main Street Pavilion.

— Pam Schipper

## AROUND TOWN

COMPILED BY PAM SCHIPPER

### Master Gardener Plant Clinics Return

The early bird gets the worm this year at the Main Street Farmers Market. That's because the first Saturday of every month through the growing season Master Gardener Plant Clinics return and start an hour earlier at 9 a.m. Drop by then or until 2 p.m. with your ailing plants, a garden pest or a photo of your lawn, and the Master Gardeners will help!

### No Merger

The Town Courier's offer to publish two pages of Town Crier news and information at no charge in each issue was rejected unanimously on April 29, by the Kentlands board of trustees. The offer, which would save the community \$14,000 plus countless staff hours (based on this year's projected net loss from publication of the Crier), was put forth in an effort to put the Courier on firmer financial footing. The Courier, which runs as a small, independent business, competes with the Town Crier and the Lakelands Leader for limited advertising dollars in a small geographic area. Both the Leader and Crier can cover much of their production and editorial costs with HOA dues, while the Courier relies 100 percent on its advertising to cover costs.

### Autism Night Out

The Montgomery County Police Department hosts its 3rd Annual Autism Safety Fair on Friday, May 29, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Montgomery County Police Academy in Rockville. The fair features resources and tools to help keep children safe, elopement prevention and safety tips, photo ops with police officers, face painting, a moon bounce, food and more. RSVP at [events.autismspeaks.org/AutismNightOut](http://events.autismspeaks.org/AutismNightOut).

### Memorial Day Means Pool Openings and Celebrations

The Kentlands pool opens for the summer on Friday, May 23, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The annual Kentlands Memorial Bash follows on May 25, 12 to 2 p.m. Just RSVP at 301.948.2071 and bring your own meat for grilling and beverages of choice. Grills, grilling tools, condiments, sides and desserts will be provided. [www.kentlandsusa.com](http://www.kentlandsusa.com).

The Lakelands pool opens on May 23 and hours Memorial Day weekend are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Prigal Brothers & Associates sponsors the annual Pool Opening Party on May 23, 1 to 4 p.m. A DJ and carnival-themed games will be part of the celebration. [www.lakelands.org](http://www.lakelands.org)

The Quince Orchard Park pool opens Friday, May 23 at 10 a.m. [www.quinceorchardpark.com](http://www.quinceorchardpark.com)

### Restaurants Invited to Participate in Community Dinner

Celebrate Kentlands 25th/K25 will host the Kentlands: Under the Lights *al fresco* community dinner in Market Square and surrounding streets on Saturday, June 13, 6 to 10 p.m. Local restaurants are invited to participate. Each 10'x10' restaurant tent costs \$300.

Guests at the event will purchase dinners from these supporting restaurants and enjoy a warm summer evening under the lights and stars with friends, family and neighbors. The Wine Harvest will offer an assortment of local beers and wines. Dining tables will be set up along the closed streets and in Market Square, and local entertainers will delight the crowd.

Restaurants interested in participating in the community dinner event should contact Andy Ross at 301.529.2056.

**MEETING CALENDAR**

**5/18**  
Mayor and City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

**5/20**  
Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

**5/21**  
Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance Annual Meeting, Casey Community Center, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

**5/26**  
Mayor and City Council Work Session, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

**5/27**  
Historic District Commission Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

**6/1**  
Mayor and City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

**6/3**  
Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

For the latest information on city meetings, visit the City of Gaithersburg website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

**POLICEBEAT**

By GINA GALLUCCI-WHITE

**Three Juveniles Charged in Shaare Torah Synagogue Vandalism**

**M**ontgomery County Police have charged three more in connection to the April 7 vandalism at the Shaare Torah Synagogue in Lakelands.

Three juveniles, all from the Gaithersburg area, received charges on April 29, police said. Police did not reveal the juveniles' names since they are underage. A 14-year-old received the same charges as Sebastian Espinoza-Carranza, 18, of Gaithersburg, who was arrested on April 14, police said. Those charges are property damage to a religious institution, defacement of a religious property, and malicious destruction of property over \$1,000.

The other two juveniles, a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old, were charged with conspiracy to commit the crime, police said. The three juveniles were released to their

parent/guardian custody.

During the early morning hours of April 7, an officer was flagged down by a resident who reported the vandalism that included spray-painted graffiti on walls, windows and doors. Officers found hate-based words and drawings including swastikas, KKK and Hitler references. Surveil-

lance footage captured several images and video of the perpetrators.

Espinoza-Carranza confessed to officers while being questioned, police said. He was later released on bond. A court hearing for Espinoza-Carranza is set for May 22, according to Maryland Judiciary Case Search.

**MCPD Sends Officers to Baltimore**

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) assisted the City of Baltimore for eight days following peaceful protests that turned violent and led to the enactment of a State of Emergency and the deployment of the Maryland National Guard to help keep the peace.

Around 40 MCPD officers including medics, special events response team members and supervisors helped provide support to local, state and national agencies from April 26 to May 3.

Residents took to the streets of Baltimore to protest the death of Freddie Gray, a black man arrested by the Baltimore Police Department on April 12 for carrying an allegedly illegal switchblade. The 25-year-old, who had initially run from police, was not buckled in to the

transporting vehicle and would suffer a severed spinal cord injury while in their custody. He died on April 19, seven days later.

The day Gray was buried, April 27, some protesters turned to violence by looting area stores, throwing rocks at officers and setting fires that destroyed businesses and vehicles. The six officers involved in the initial arrest are facing multiple charges including murder, manslaughter, misconduct and assault for Gray's death.

While MCPD officers were in Baltimore, the county did have adequate, regular staffing, police said. The Gaithersburg Police Department did not send officers, according to Officer Dan Lane, spokesman.

■ **POLICE BEAT** Continued on page 13

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**CITYSCENE**

By GINA GALLUCCI-WHITE

**Bike to Work Day Rolls Out**

Get ready to burn some calories and get to work without waiting in traffic because the annual Bike to Work Day is set for May 15.

With 79 total pit stops in the region, Bike Gaithersburg, Commuter Connections, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and the City of Gaithersburg will have one local stop at Md. 119 and Orchard Ridge Drive from 7 to 9 a.m. The stop will feature refreshments, raffle prizes from local businesses and entertainment. For more information, go to [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org).

**Flags to Honor Heroes**

Be sure to walk by Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm between May 22 to 25 and take note of the hundreds of American flags. Each flag, a total of 750, honors a local hero in the military, first responder, teacher, mentor or community member.

Presented by the Montgomery Village and

Gaithersburg Rotary Clubs and Foundations, the "Flags For Our Heroes" program benefits local charities and will host an opening ceremony at 11 a.m. May 23 featuring presentations by local community leaders. For more information, go to [www.flagsforourheroes.org](http://www.flagsforourheroes.org).

**Recycling Fee to Increase**

Townhouse and single family home owners will notice a \$20 increase in their annual recycling service fee. Beginning July 1, the City of Gaithersburg will increase the fee from \$69.49 to \$89.20. The fee includes weekly curbside pick of yard waste and single stream recyclables, as well as receptacles to keep the items stored.

The city will be working with Goode Companies Inc. this year after a new contract was authorized by the Mayor and City Council.

■ **CITY SCENE** Continued on page 14

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**Diane Dorney**  
Publisher  
[news@towncourier.com](mailto:news@towncourier.com)

**Matt Danielson**  
President  
[matt@eink.net](mailto:matt@eink.net)

**Pam Schipper**  
Managing Editor  
[pam@towncourier.com](mailto:pam@towncourier.com)

**Debi Rosen**  
Advertising Manager  
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# Confection Perfection at Brasserie Beck

By SHARON ALLEN GILDER

Just listen to the mouthwatering descriptions of desserts at Brasserie Beck, or better yet, see and taste them. Pastry chef Ashleigh Pearson has been masterfully preparing and presenting cakes, sorbets, ice creams, and a host of other confections ever since she had the gumption three years ago to walk into Chef Robert Wiedmaier's flagship D.C. restaurant Marcel's and ask to work in the kitchen.

"They said that they would give me a chance if I would be willing to work as hard as possible," she recalled, "and they would reassess me if they wanted to train me."

Her initial training was with Wiedmaier and his RW Restaurant Group's corporate pastry chef Chris Kujala. "I spent eight months in France staging and doing work overseas," said Pearson. She explained that "staging" is an industry term used to mean working in various kitchens, working under different chefs, and learning skills from different people. She has worked in all of the restaurants in Wiedmaier's group. "When they said they were opening this concept here, I decided to jump on and I've been here ever since."

Conceptualizing new offerings for the dessert menu is second nature to Pearson, who adds a seasonal flare to her fare. "Right now, we have a strawberry rhubarb cheesecake, and that's something that plays off of a lot of highly seasonal ingredi-



Photo | Sharon Gilder

**Brasserie Beck pastry chef Ashleigh Pearson has worked in all of Chef Robert Wiedmaier's restaurants.**

ents," said Pearson. The cheesecake's base is lemon scented, topped with a layer of strawberry mousse, and a dollop of rhubarb compote sprinkled with micro-mint. Two thin, translucent tuiles grace the top of the composition like graceful butterfly wings.

Pearson's new signature dessert is "petite sweets," a rectangular service plate of five petit fours that change depending on when you dine at the restaurant. In late April, these included an Oreo cookie nestled upon a powdery mount of Nutella mixed with tapioca maltodextrin, a blueberry tart, a slice of citrus olive oil cake, a profiterole with homemade ice cream speckled with white chocolate pearls, and a thick, half-dollar size peanut butter mousse coat-

ed with a chocolate shell that takes on the essence of a Reese's Pieces.

Crème brûlée fans might want to try Pearson's orange-vanilla variation that features a bottom of mandarin curd with a layer of fresh vanilla custard capped with caramelized Turbinado sugar finished with three orange-scented meringue kisses on top. "It's like a Creamsicle when you were a kid," said Pearson.

The only dessert that she prepares at the Kentlands restaurant that is not her original conception is the company's signature chocolate gateau. It consists of two layers of buttermilk chocolate cake with fresh mousse between the layers and a chocolate glaze. "But we kind of put a little spin on it by adding different things to accompany it. So, right now I do a hazelnut praline ice cream and an espresso sauce on the plate," she explained.

While at Marcel's her job was to work the soufflé station. Pearson said, "One night, Chef Robert came downstairs and said Tom Sietsema is here (Sietsema is the food critic at The Washington Post) and he wants a soufflé. And I'm thinking, oh, of course he wants something off my station, and I remember just making sure everything was perfect ... that I had a day-old egg white, which is very important aging an egg white for a soufflé, whipping it perfectly, and I made sure I put two in the oven and I picked the one that I thought

■ **BRASSERIE BECK** Continued on page 13

## SHOP TALK

By PAM SCHIPPER



Photo | Mac Kennedy

**On Thursday, May 7, fitness enthusiasts were out in force at Fleet Feet to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a two- to five-mile run or walk followed by Chipotle, ice cold beer, pinatas, ASICS giveaways and more.**

### Ten Years and Running Strong

This May, Fleet Feet Gaithersburg celebrates its first decade in Kentlands. To say thank you to the community, Fleet Feet invites everyone to some free community events. Mark your calendar for a morning fun run and walk followed by a pancake breakfast at the store on Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m., and an anniversary fun run and walk followed by cake at the store on Thursday, May 21, 6:30 p.m. [www.fleetfeetgaithersburg.com](http://www.fleetfeetgaithersburg.com)

### 'Another Mother Runner' at Fleet Feet

On Thursday, May 28, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Fleet Feet Sports Gaithersburg will host the authors of "Another Mother Runner," Dimity McDowell

■ **SHOP TALK** Continued on page 12

## Panda Programmer Computer Classes Teach Children to Code

By SHARON ALLEN GILDER

Junior computer programming entrepreneurs, who range in age from eight to 12 years old, are bringing their ideas to life through courses offered by Panda Programmer's design-based approach to learning the fundamentals of coding computers. The school-year courses and the new summer camp program taught by Will Corbin enables students to design customized animations and computer games. Classes are held at 504 Main St. in the classrooms at Chyten Premier Tutors & Test Prep.

Corbin, a Kentlands business owner for eight years, is president of Corbin Creative Databases, LLC, and owner and president of Panda Programmer. He has been working in the computer field for 20 years and has master's degrees in electrical engineering and linguistics. "I've been teaching pretty much all my life," said Corbin who began tutoring children when he was in high school. He said he was in sixth grade when he discovered computers and became "hooked" on wanting to make games. "I wanted to learn the building blocks, the basic tools, so I could make a cool game." He said developing games also appeals to his eight-year-old son, Natan. "He has fantastic ideas and he's learning those tools



Photo | Submitted

**Will Corbin teaches his new Panda Programmer computer classes to kids ages eight to 12 years old.**

and they keep him really motivated."

Creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication are skills the children learn to use to design their own games, animated stories and apps. There are no prerequisites for enrollment. "Kids usually come in knowing how to do basic things like use a mouse and touch a touch screen," said Corbin. If a child has intermediate skills, he or she will be challenged with more advanced lessons. Students are encouraged to bring a laptop, but one will be provided during class if needed.

Corbin's approach engages the students in a three-step process beginning

■ **PANDA PROGRAMMER** Continued on page 13

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# Northwest Seniors Share Their Journeys at Ulysses Fair

By ELLYN WEXLER

**S**enioritis is an alien concept to the 12th-graders in the Ulysses Signature Program at Northwest High School in Germantown. Instead of experiencing the usual decline in motivation, each of these students has devoted much of senior year to the arduous process of concluding a personal odyssey. On April 29 and 30, 35 Class of 2015 members presented their final projects at the Ulysses Fair; another 50 did the same in January.

Ulysses, which has been at Northwest for a dozen years, is named for the Greek warrior Odysseus—Ulysses in Latin—known for “his arduous but instructive 10-year journey home to Ithaca, as told by Homer in ‘The Odyssey,’” program coordinator Dr. Suzanne Borenzweig said. The epic poem, she explained, “serves as a metaphor for our work together over the four-year journey to the culminating research project during senior year.”

“We encourage the students to pursue a passion whether it’s palm reading, commercial drones, or the films of Hayao Miyazaki. Completing a Ulysses project is not about earning a grade or padding a resume; it’s about sharing what you love and teaching others what you learned about your deepest interests,” Dr. Borenzweig said.

The Ulysses students, she said, “learn skills they will be expected to know and apply upon arriving in college freshman year, but are never explicitly taught. For example, the students in Ulysses learn to



Photo | Arthur Cadeaux

Ethan Cadeaux discusses his Ulysses program project, “From the Field to the Booth: The Study of Former Athletes in Sports Media,” with Northwest students who attended the school’s Ulysses Fair on April 29.

navigate their way through specialized databases such as JSTOR to select relevant articles from scholarly journals. They learn to read those published research studies critically and carefully, with an eye toward validity, reliability, as well as relevance.”

In addition, Dr. Borenzweig noted, “they gain experience designing many different kinds of qualitative, quantitative, and experimental studies. They learn that the term ‘data’ does not only apply to statistical finding. They develop the confidence to contact experts in their field of interest, and then request and conduct meaningful interviews. Finally, Ulysses

students have many opportunities to share their research in a variety of forms whether through print, oral presentation, Ulysses Fair exhibition, and/or online platforms.”

Among the students at the fair was self-described sports fanatic Ethan Cadeaux, who also served as The Town Courier’s student sports reporter this year. His study, “From the Field to the Booth: The Study of Former Athletes in Sports Media,” explored the trend of athletes entering the sports media field and how that affects the overall profession—as well as how this will impact Cadeaux’s own career plans. “The only truly surprising thing I learned was how few Northwest students could name at least one non-former athlete journalist. Only 29 out of the 150 I surveyed knew who Stephen A. Smith, Skip Bayless or Jay Crawford was,” he said. Most important,

he added, “I learned was just how competitive sports media is, and that I will have to work very hard to get in the field.” Cadeaux will study sports journalism at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism in the fall.

Jade Lowenstein’s project, “Txtng Kills: How Effective Are Texting While Driving Laws?” came out of the death of a friend she idolized. Annalee, 20, a student at Virginia Tech and “probably the sweetest girl you could ever meet,” Lowenstein said, “was believed to be texting” when she had a fatal head-on collision. That tragic loss inspired Lowenstein “to see how effective the laws are in preventing death and accident rates.” She was “completely shocked” that a survey of 200 Northwest juniors and seniors revealed that 59 percent, or 118 students, text while driving. Having learned that 86 percent of 173 students know the state laws, she concluded that “my peers are very aware of the laws, but continue to break them, meaning they (the laws) clearly aren’t doing their jobs.” She was dismayed that students admitted to going on social networking sites, playing games and even Googling music lyrics while they drive. “I believe we need to make harsher laws and spread awareness,” Lowenstein said. As a University of Maryland student next semester, she plans to continue her personal crusade.

Hannah Kauffman’s “Art Knows No Boundaries,” grew out of her five years of involvement as a volunteer mentor with ArtStream, a nonprofit organization that brings “the transformative power of the arts to everyone, especially those who

■ **ULYSSES FAIR** Continued on page 14

## ASSIGNMENT EDUCATION

COMPILED BY PAM SCHIPPER

### Board of Education President Urges Gov. Hogan to Approve More Funding

Montgomery County Board of Education President Patricia B. O’Neill has authored an article for the board’s blog urging Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Jr., to fully fund the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). The GCEI provides additional money to school districts, like Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), where it is more expensive to provide an education. You can read the blog post here: news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mcps-board-of-education/urge-governor-hogan-to-do-the-right-thing-for-education.

### Time for Prom and Graduation

Quince Orchard and Northwest high schools will hold their senior proms on Friday, May 15. The Quince Orchard prom will be at The Fillmore Silver Spring, and Northwest will celebrate at the Gaithersburg Hilton. Both schools host After Prom parties.

Graduation ceremonies are held at DAR Constitution Hall and can be viewed live at www.dar.org/constitution-hall/watch-graduation-live-stream. Quince Or-

chard will celebrate senior graduation on Wednesday, May 27 at 10 a.m. Northwest will hold its graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 9 at 2:30 p.m.

### Rachel Carson Field Days Are Coming Soon

An annual harbinger of summer for countless elementary and middle school students is field day. This is the day when they can kick back, run around and have some fun—maybe even splash a teacher with water. Rachel Carson’s field days take place May 19 for Kindergarteners and first graders, May 20 for fourth and fifth graders and May 21 for second and third graders.

### Rachel Carson Bike to School Day Rescheduled for May 29

Due to the threat of hazardous weather, the Rachel Carson Bike to School Day organized by Bike Gaithersburg for May 5 was cancelled. The new Bike to School Day event is scheduled for Friday, May 29. Participants will meet at 7:45 a.m. at Darnestown Road and Main Street. A reverse bike train will get students home from school. bikegaithersburg.com

■ **ASSIGNMENT EDUCATION** Continued on page 14

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

COMPILED BY PAM SCHIPPER

## 6th Annual Gaithersburg Book Festival

May 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Gaithersburg City Hall

This festival features more than 100 best-selling and award-winning authors, who will participate in panel discussions and book signings throughout the day. You'll also find writing workshops for adults and children, a Children's Village with lots of activities, and food. [www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org](http://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org)

## 'The Landscape' art exhibit, Arts Entwine jewelry exhibit

Through May 17, Arts Barn

The City of Gaithersburg presents "The Landscape" featuring paintings by Joanne Bleichner, Rulei Bu, and Todd Baxter Dawson and jewelry from resident artists Arts Entwine at the Arts Barn Main Gallery. The Invitational Gallery will feature artwork from the students of Sue Kay. [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association Annual Juried Exhibit

Through May 22, Kentlands Mansion

A tradition for almost 30 years, this annual show brings to the mansion an array of beautiful artwork from our local artists. [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## 'Brighton Beach Memoirs'

Through May 24, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., Arts Barn

Presented by Sandy Spring Theatre Group, this bittersweet comedy is part one of Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy. It presents a portrait of the writer as a young teen in 1937 living with his family in a crowded, lower middle-class Brooklyn walk-up. Dreaming of baseball and girls, Eugene must cope with the mundane existence of his family life in Brooklyn. Populated with vivid characters, the play evocatively captures the life of a struggling Jewish household where, as his father states, "if you didn't have a problem, you wouldn't be living here." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for youth (14 and under). [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## Boxcar Lilies

May 16, 8 p.m., BlackRock Center for the Arts

The Boxcar Lilies have quickly made a name for themselves with their signature mix of folk, country, and bluegrass-tinged

Americana music featuring innovative harmonies and top-notch songwriting. Tickets are \$26. [www.blackrockcenter.org](http://www.blackrockcenter.org)

## Dolley Madison: Presidentress

May 20, 1-2:30 p.m., Arts Barn

"Dolley Madison: Presidentress" is an original, one-woman play about the wife of James Madison, president of the United States from 1809-1817. It stars award-winning actress Mara Bayewitz. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for youth (14 and under).

## Zumba in the Park

May 22, 7-8 p.m., City Hall Concert Pavilion

Brought back by popular demand, Zumba in the Park returns on Friday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at the City Hall Concert Pavilion through Aug. 28 (no Zumba May 15 and July 3). All ages are welcome for this free, family-friendly event. New this year: Yoga in the Park premiers on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. at the City Hall Concert Pavilion, June 16-July 7. Bring a yoga mat, towel or blanket. Beginners are welcome! [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## Kentlands Acoustic Jam

May 26, 6 p.m. Kentlands Clubhouse

June 2, 6 p.m., Kentlands Clubhouse

Bring your acoustic instrument and voice to join in the jam session, or just listen. Free. [www.reverbnation.com/kentlandsacousticjam](http://www.reverbnation.com/kentlandsacousticjam)

## Totally Tango!

May 29, 7-10 p.m., Arts Barn & Kentlands Mansion

Celebrate the eternal dance of love! The evening starts with a performance by acclaimed musical ensemble QuinTango, who bring their sizzling Latin musicality and captivating style to the Arts Barn, followed by a "milonga," tango dance party, at Kentlands Mansion on May 29. Dance instruction and refreshments are included. [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## Memorial Day Observance

May 30, 11 a.m., Christman Park, 304 West Deer Park Road

The public is invited to join the Mayor and City Council, City staff and honored guests in a tribute to Gaithersburg's sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The patriotic ceremony will include words and music to commemorate the occasion and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony. [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

## Thursday Morning Kids Concerts

June 4, 10:30 a.m., City Hall Concert Pavilion

Nao Baum: Storyteller kicks off this great summer series. Through July 30, each Thursday morning offers children's entertainment—from magic to theater and science. [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov)

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## KENTLANDS DAY

from page 1

The day dawned with a pre-Kentlands Day concert by the Kentlands Acoustic Jam on the Kentlands Starbucks corner at Market Street and Center Point Way. The group's music greeted early event-goers, and many sipped coffees.

A 10 a.m. parade signaled the official start of Kentlands Day with representatives of some 40 organizations traveling down Main Street to Market Street West and then Center Point Way, finally marching into the festival area near Potomac Pizza. Parade participants included Grand Marshals Ken Gemmell and his daughter Arabelle; the Mayor Jud Ashman and members of the City Council; community groups like the Kentlands Community Foundation, Bike Gaithersburg, Ride Allegheny, Cub Scout Pack 221 and Girl Scout Brownie Troop 3706; schools like Barnesville, Butler, Goddard and the Kiddie Academy; and many local businesses like Fleet Feet Sports, Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis, Perfectly Pressed, Melissa Bernstein, Bella Ballet and Two Left Feet Dance. Fun and entertainment lit up the parade route with dancers from Duffy School of Irish Dance, 47 marching musicians from the Pritchard Music Academy led by Quince Orchard High School drum major Alex Liu, the Free State roller derby ladies from the Black-Eyed Suzies, martial arts students from Kicks Karate, and the cast of "Shrek Jr." from Ridgeview Middle School.

Nine-year-old Meredith Abramson, a

third grader at Rachel Carson Elementary School and Lakelands resident, sang the National Anthem in Market Square. "She was fantastic," Ross said. "She really belted it out."

Sponsors Potomac Pizza and Morton's Towing brought out the big trucks, and the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department added two engines and an ambulance to bring the parade to an exciting conclusion.

That's when the party really started. Eleven Kentlands restaurants and food vendors were set up and ready to serve. Nutrition coach Mary Wellness and Nourish Now, a food recovery nonprofit that works with restaurants to feed those in need, also participated in this Taste of Kentlands.

Nearly 120 businesses and nonprofits offered a variety of information and activities. Tip's Toy Box offered a Sammy Seal raffle and encouraged kids to color their own fuzzy bookmark. Persiano Gallery gave away free soda and water, and offered a raffle for home furnishings. Kentlands Day sponsor Adventist HealthCare took care of the first aid station and offered a Derma Scan and BMI/Body Composition screening. MVP Smiles held kids' hula-hooping contests. Young artists were hard at work creating masterpieces at the Positive Energy Art Studio's (PEAS) booth.

Live entertainment was featured on two stages. The Main Stage hosted community groups like Two Left Feet Dance, Metropolitan Ballet Theatre and Dynamite Gymnastics.

The Good Vibes Music Festival on the Teen Band Stage hosted three bands. FUSE featured Kentlands/Lakelands residents

Devin Streight and Adam Berenzweig. Kentlands resident Jacob Elder brought his band Throwing Wrenches. Rounding out the afternoon was Lakelands resident Jack Burton-Buckley and his band Nauseous Hippos.

Between bands, pizza- and pie-eating contests drew crowds with food donated by Whole Foods Kentlands and Potomac Pizza Kentlands. Donations at the Teen Band Stage were collected for the Kentlands Community Foundation. Winners received free movie tickets from Paragon Theaters.

The Rachel Carson PTA raised \$686 for the school, according to Paula Ross, PTA vice president. Tickets to the school's inflatable mini-golf course, donated by Great Kids Events owner and Ross' husband Andrew, were \$2, and the activity was very popular.

The Rachel Carson PTA and Ride Allegheny were not charged for booth space, Ross said, and eight other nonprofits received a \$100 discount on their spaces. Ride Allegheny sold beer again this year to raise money for Operation Second Chance.

Giant Food Kentlands collected money for pediatric cancer care and research at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and The Children's Cancer Foundation, Inc. "It was very successful," said Michael Hartlove, manager. "This was the first time in many, many years that Giant was involved in it (Kentlands Day)."

Assistant store manager Tonja Withers, who organized Giants' Kentlands Day effort, said, "We look forward to being a part of it next year."

The new Precision Detailing at 971

Quince Orchard Road, owned by Smit Mehta, gave people who made a \$5 donation to childhood cancer a voucher for a free car-wash.

The Kentlands Community Foundation (KCF), that every year organizes a group of volunteers to make the parade a success, will receive a sizable donation from Kentlands Day. In years' past this has been \$3,000. The exact amount of this year's donation to KCF has not been determined yet. "They're very generous," said Carrie Dietz, KCF director, "and we're really grateful for that because it helps with our programs."

A number of event-goers were able to walk to Kentlands Day, but those who drove struggled to find parking with street and parking lot closures. Bike Gaithersburg once again paired up with Two-Wheel Valet to offer secure bike—and, as it turned out, scooter and City of Gaithersburg golf cart—parking. Jonathan Wiedman of Two-Wheel Valet said that at Kentlands Day last year, the valet had 80 bikes.

Ross estimated that the Kentlands Day economic impact was about \$200,000 for the local businesses—with much more to come from connections made.

"We try to showcase local talent and businesses with Kentlands Day," said Ross. "We local businesses are under a lot of pressure, and it's important to bring the community out to see how great our local businesses are."

Ross has organized Kentlands Day since its start seven years ago. He plans to let others take over next year.



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# The ParkPages

**News and Current Events for Quince Orchard Park** ■ E-mail your contributions to [ellyn@towncourier.com](mailto:ellyn@towncourier.com) ■ **MAY 2015**

## Message of Massage: Meet Monica Lenk

**Q**OP resident Monica Lenk offers her clients some peace of mind and body. The licensed massage therapist and holistic and natural health coach has been in business for 17 years. She works from 25 to 30 hours a week out of her Fountain Green Lane townhome office as well as in chiropractic offices; she even makes house calls.

Lenk knew her calling early. At age 12, she was diagnosed with stage four lymphoma and given six weeks to live. After three months in the hospital and two years of experimental chemotherapy, her oncologist called her recovery a miracle. The massages the hospital nurses gave her battered body felt so good that she decided on her career; she wanted to do the same for others, to give something back. By age 28, the Manassas native who moved to Kensington at 18 had done her two years of study at the Potomac Training Institute, taken her boards and earned her license.

Lenk, who has lived in QOP for 10 years, specializes in deep tissue therapeutic massage; she has trained in orthopedic, myofascial and neuromuscular massage. The gentler relaxation or spa-type massage that she also offers is more difficult for her, she said, "because I have to back off." Deep tissue "is more interesting. ... I like to dig into something, undo the knots, have a goal. I look at it like a puzzle to solve." Using her knowledge of body mechanics, "I have to think about what are the supporting muscles."

Massage therapists have to be strong, and Lenk accomplishes this by taking classes at Kentlands' Yoga Bliss and kickboxing in her garage.

Recommending massage as "another tool to better your



health," Lenk lists its benefits, among them, exercising and stretching weak, tight or atrophied muscles; stress relief, increased stamina, enhanced immunity, and for athletes, preparing for and recovering from strenuous workouts. Earlier this month, she volunteered her services in a mom's night out of pampering for mothers of special needs children, hosted by Kentlands chocolatier SPAGnVOLA and Zundance, an organization for children with special needs.

"It's the best job in the world," Lenk said. "People love to come to see me, and I'm my own boss." In addition, as a single mom, it allows her the flexibility to enjoy her 14-year-old daughter's activities.

Lenk said she has never advertised, but instead, has built her practice by word of mouth.

Her rates are \$75 for an hour, \$95 for 90 minutes. Contact her at 301.573.9099.

### QOP NEWS

#### Fitness Center Agreement Signed

QOP Community Manager Steve Leskowitz reports that the QOP Board of Directors has entered into an agreement to purchase consultation and advisory design services for the expanded fitness facility in the QOP Clubhouse. Corporate Fitness Works will provide recommendations on the fitness center's layout in terms of traffic flow, lighting, air flow, noise control, space requirements, functionality and ambiance. It also will include advice on the operation of the facility as well as suggestions related to the American Disabilities Act and audiovisual technology, and proposals on equipment and purchasing.

#### National Night Out Volunteers Sought

The Gaithersburg Police Department's Community Services Officer Dan Lane is looking for one or more volunteers from the Quince Orchard Park community to take the lead on organizing the community's National Night Out 2015, scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4.

National Association of Town Watch's Executive Director Matt Peskin introduced National Night Out in 1984.



Photo | Christine Darton-Henrichsen, Potshots by Christine  
Spring has sprung in Quince Orchard Park, bringing lush greenery and flowers to the Mews off of Highland Ridge.

#### Meeting Calendar

5/25 – Condo Board I, Clubhouse, 7 p.m.  
5/27 – Condo Board II, Clubhouse, 7 p.m.  
6/9 – HOA Board Meeting, Clubhouse, 7 p.m.

### MANAGEMENT MENTIONS

#### Trash and Recycling

Trash, which is collected on Tuesday and Friday, must be placed in lidded trash cans. Trash should not be left for collection in bags; these may be ripped open by dogs, birds and other pests, and trash is strewn throughout the community. Continued use of bags may result in fines.

Consider painting your house number on your trash cans and lids so they may be returned on windy days.

It is also helpful to label recycling bins with house numbers—and to place bagged newspapers and magazines atop commingled materials in the bin.

Trash cans and recycle bins must be stored out of sight on non-pickup days.

Recycling is picked up on Fridays. Containers, with lids, are now available from the City of Gaithersburg. Please contact the city at 301.258.6370 to have a lidded bin delivered and the old one picked up. The new bins will diminish problems with trash in the neighborhood. It is helpful to label recycling bins with house numbers. Lids may be attached to bins by drilling small holes and attaching with twine.

Bulk recycling pickups are the first Friday of each month. June 5 is the next bulk pickup day.

The City of Gaithersburg and Potomac Disposal (301.294.9700) both offer collection services for bulk items at no cost.

#### Dog Duty and Animal Services Information

Cleaning up after dogs is the legal responsibility of every canine owner walking a dog in the community. Dogs are not permitted off-leash on common property in the City of Gaithersburg.

#### Contact Information for Gaithersburg Animal Control

To report after hours/emergency animal service calls, City of Gaithersburg residents must now contact the Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center (MCECC) at 301.279.8000. MCECC will then notify and dispatch a Gaithersburg Animal Control Officer for response.

To report non-emergency animal service calls and for information on related animal matters during regular business hours, residents may contact the Gaithersburg Animal Control Office directly at 301.258.6343. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov/animal](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/animal).

#### Website

Agendas for meetings, as well as many important documents (minutes and meeting summaries) can be found at the QOP website: [www.quinceorchardpark.com](http://www.quinceorchardpark.com).

#### QOP Management Contact Information

Quince Orchard Park Community Manager  
Steve Leskowitz

QOP Assistant Community Manager  
Alex Deering

c/o The Management Group Associates, Inc.  
20440 Century Boulevard, Suite 100  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 301.948.6666

## ■ HOME & GARDEN TOUR

from page 1

tercolor paints.

Landscape painter Donna H. Baron said her medium of choice is acrylic paint that she uses on a Sta-Wet Palette. She said, "You paint your temperament ... just paint and keep painting. I'm not a planner in terms of composition, and you can correct anything with acrylics." Baron was stationed on the lovely, inviting patio and garden area at Elaine Koch's home on Leekes Lot Way and chose a large urn of flowers for her painting.

Dot Procter, who also finds a "comfort level" in acrylics because she said she is a "very fast, spontaneous painter," specializes in creating lush landscapes of the Washington, D.C., area with a particular focus on the C&O Canal in all of its seasons. Canine lovers will also admire the portraits she paints of dogs that capture their personalities.

Hang Nguyen, an artist of Vietnamese heritage, enjoys a technique called Chinese brush painting. Some of her work is composed on rice paper. Chinese calligraphy plays a role in her art that features mountains, rivers and flowers. She said she is influenced by the work of the impressionist painters Van Gogh and Monet. Sited in the median op-

posite 203 Tschiffely Square Road, Nguyen was painting a "portrait" of the home's facade in oil on canvas.

Inside the home, Irish fiddle players and competitive Irish dancers Emily McFadden and Claire O'Halloran, known professionally as The Kent Kellies, were playing the beautiful strain of the traditional Scottish tune, "Will Ye No Come Back Again."

A rockin' playlist was happening outside on the back porch of Kentlands Mansion that had passersby tapping their feet and singing along to the lively tunes of Kentlands Acoustic Jam.

The first floor rooms of Kentlands Mansion were staged with vendors. Mary Kay cosmetics, Artisans Unique Gifts, The Blue Hearth revitalized furnishings, Lipstick Lounge, JT Interiors, The Framer's Choice Gallery, Hammer & Nail Exteriors, Inc., Renewal by Andersen, Carousel's Flooring America, and E & R Home Solutions presented a variety of gifts and services.

The Carriage House held a historic trip down memory lane with a museum of photos and articles about the beginning of Kentlands and the evolution of the new urbanist community over the past 25 years. Aerial photographs depicted demarcations of

■ HOME & GARDEN TOUR Continued on page 13

## ■ LARGENT'S

from page 1

as his "brain children."

"I know that certain things work, and with consistent food and service, this can be a neighborhood-friendly, signature restaurant," Harr said. The lower level has had a complete paint job, and paintings by local artists have replaced all the televisions, except one at the bar. An awning and a sign bearing the new name—Kentlands Kitchen—will spruce up the outside entrance. He is in the process of "hiring the right staff."

As for the cuisine, changes have already

been made to the menu. Harr, who believes in "fresh produce sourced as much locally as possible," has added his own special dishes, including truffle and lamb burgers, fried potato tots with Gruyère and spicy ketchup, pickled deviled eggs, more seafood and steaks, and a better wine selection. "I'm still tweaking it, getting a feel for what works in this community," Harr said, adding that he would appreciate feedback from customers.

The upstairs, with its newly relocated stage, will retain its sports bar atmosphere, but with better bar food; the plan is to continue hosting parties and business functions, theme nights like trivia night, and performances by local bands.



Photo | Mac Kennedy

**Shaun and Bob Auxier of Blitzed! Media look over plans for their new Kentlands Market Square Live! music series, to debut June 5.**

ning. Event sponsors and business partners are welcome. "We're not doing this to get rich," he said. "It's quite a risk."

But one that he seems to love. Once he gets final approvals from the city, Auxier is excited to bring wonderful talent to the Kentlands. He has a list of more than 120 acts.

Each show will be professionally produced. Market Square Live music producer Brian Keith Gross has three decades of experience in the industry as a roadie, performer and producer.

According to Auxier, who also represents Beatty as spokesperson, a lease on the diner space has been signed. The name of the new tenant will be released in the coming weeks.

## ■ ENTERTAINMENT

from page 1

Bands will play 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights beneath the 20-foot dome, starting with local acts and then transitioning to up-and-coming regional groups. Acoustics or house sound will continue until midnight Friday and Saturday. The summer concert series will run through the end of September.

Three Kentlands vendors will be featured each night in tents near the dome. "There will be no outside vendors," Auxier said. "Our first choice is Market Square merchants, followed by those in the Main Street area and then Saul Centers."

Blitzed! Media has been working to make Market Square Live a reality for more than six months, speaking with Beatty Management Company, the City of Gaithersburg, and local business owners. While Auxier is waiting on some final approvals from the city, he said, "Everybody is on board."

"This will be extremely nice for the Kentlands," he emphasized. "It will be the Kentlands experience."

Auxier's company, Blitzed! Media that he runs with his son Shaun, will be footing the bill to get Market Square Live up and run-

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## SHOP TALK

from page 5

ell and Sarah Bowen Shea. This is the third book from the dynamic duo that created the Another Mother Runner community online. A women-only evening party, the free event at Fleet Feet will feature readings, wine and snacks, giveaways and swag bags. Be sure to register beforehand. Go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search "Fleet Feet Sports."

### Realtor Meredith Fogle Opens Old Line Properties Neighborhood Office

Longtime Kentlands Realtor Meredith Fogle will open an office at 361 Main St. on May 15, fulfilling a dream she had 18 years ago when she started in real estate with Long & Foster. "It's something I've always wanted to do," she said. "I have always wanted to have my own presence in the neighborhood."

Fogle and her team have concentrated in Kentlands since 2005, and she has long been active with Kentlands business owners groups. The physical storefront in the walkable community will make her even more of an integral part of the vibrant community, she said.

"Even if you're not transacting business, we want to see everybody," she said. The office will have mason jars full of candy for kids who drop by, and everyone is invited to visit. [www.meredithfogle.com](http://www.meredithfogle.com)

### Capitol Benefits Acquires Earll Insurance

You may have seen the new sign that just went up at 234 Main St., directing you to Suite 200. The agency has been operating at this location since December 2014, after it was acquired by Kentlands-based Capitol Benefits in September 2014.

"The Earll agency had a strong reputation for decades in Montgomery County," said Joshua Lavine, president of Capitol Benefits. "The most valuable part of the agency was their team of agents. Capitol Benefits is excited to have those agents become part of their own award-winning team! With this acquisition and several others in recent years, Capitol Benefits is now one of the largest and fastest growing insurance agencies in Montgomery County."

Capitol Benefits is an independent insurance agency representing hundreds of insurance companies and all types of insurance. They have won the "Super Service Award" from Angie's List for being rated among the top 5 percent of all insurance agencies in terms of customer service for five years in a row. They have also won the "Best Insurance Agency" award by the Gazette Newspaper for the past two years.

### MBT Tea Party and Recital Raises Scholarship Funds

On Sunday, May 17 in three sittings at 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 5 p.m., the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre and Academy (MBT) at 220 Perry Parkway will hold a special fairytale ballet tea party and performance to raise money for MBT's Annual Fund, including scholarship support. "We're hoping to raise up to \$2000 in tickets and donations, which will support one to two full-year scholarships for elementary age students in the Academy," said Paula Ross, MBT executive director.

Children will enjoy tea and a sweet treat, a performance featuring their favorite fairytale characters, a meet and greet with the dancers

and a ballet craft to take home. Tickets for children are \$18. One adult must accompany each child.

"MBT will have provided over \$20,000 in scholarship support this year to students in need, as well as free after-school dance programming to two local Title 1 elementary schools," explained Ross. "We fund these programs through a variety of fundraisers and corporate support, including with a grant from Capital One Bank. MBT is a designated 501(c)(3) arts education organization and all donations to MBT are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We also are currently accepting corporate sponsors for the next performance season (annual sponsorships stretch May 2015 to May 2016)." Visit [www.mbtdance.org/tickets.php](http://www.mbtdance.org/tickets.php) for more information.

### Hand & Stone Works With GBF to Promote Literacy

The Gaithersburg Book Festival (GBF), Politics & Prose Bookstore and Kentlands Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa are teaming up to encourage festival attendees to purchase books onsite May 16, which will then be donated to children in the Gaithersburg community. A list of requested titles will be on display in the Politics & Prose tent at the festival. All book drive purchases at the festival will be delivered by Politics & Prose Bookstore to Stephanie Brant, principal of Gaithersburg Elementary School (GES). Brant, in coordination with festival organizers and the City of Gaithersburg, will get them to local students.

"Promoting literacy in our community is one of the main goals of the Gaithersburg Book Festival. We give our local students a rare opportunity to meet their favorite authors, which fosters a stronger connection to reading and the books they love," said Jud Ashman, founder of the festival and mayor of Gaithersburg. "I'd like to thank Stephanie Brant, Hand & Stone and Politics & Prose for being the driving force behind this new initiative that will ensure we can get books into the hands of our young readers."

Everyone who donates a book will receive a coupon from Hand & Stone for free aromatherapy on a massage or \$10 off an Exceptional Facial. Hand & Stone will also hold a drawing, giving donors a chance to win a free massage or facial. Contact Kay Hechler, owner of Hand & Stone, at 240.743.9704 with questions.

### Tipo's Toy Box Launches 'Toy Passion Month' for June

Many preschoolers start their summer in May, and elementary schools quickly follow in June. Parents everywhere will soon be looking for ways to engage and motivate their children once schools let out for the summer. Don't fear. Tipto's Toy Box at 724 Center Point Way has you covered. Rotating through the month of June, Tipto's will focus on different themes that your child may be passionate about like dogs, dinosaurs, airplanes and magic. Toys, books and other items that fit each day's theme can be purchased at a 15 percent discount, and every Wednesday in June at 10:30 a.m. will feature a storytime on that day's theme. For more information on other activities planned to celebrate kids' toy passions, visit [tipostoybox.com](http://tipostoybox.com).

■ **SHOP TALK** Continued on page 17

## ■ BRASSERIE BECK

from page 5

rose the highest. Tom Sietsema ate the soufflé and he said, ‘Wow, the soufflé is amazing. Whoever made it is probably going to have a good future.’ That was a moment for me.”

Whenever she is making soufflés or macaroons, she cracks the egg whites the day before and puts them in the refrigerator to age them. “It’s funny because we have all these little things we do in pastry, like freezing macaroon shells for one day. ... It’s like little superstitions that kind of keep it fun. I guess at some point people say, ‘Does it really matter?’ and it really does.”

In addition to soufflés, a favorite creation

is French-style macaroons. “They kind of have like a cult following basically. Everyone loves them, but because of the humidity, we don’t make them in the summer months. There are so many ways you can manipulate them and so many flavors you can impart in such a small classic cookie. I just love taking things that are classics and putting a spin on them ... especially in Gaithersburg, putting in an ingredient like peanut butter that is so American. We did a peanut butter and jelly macaroon, and people just loved it ... they feel they’re trying something new and comforting at the same time.”

She credits her parents with her interest in pastry and food preparation. “I grew up with a single mom, and the most important part of our day at the end of the day

was eating together. She was an amazing cook but she wasn’t the best baker so there was always a little something to be desired. ... I was always inspired to try and make something sweet.” She said her father is fond of sweets and is her “dessert buddy.”

Pearson was a biology major, but in her last semester at the University of Maryland she decided to change course and become a pastry chef. Her brothers are in academic fields so she said she was nervous to tell her parents but they were very supportive. “My dad is a physician, so naturally I’ve always loved the sciences. Even though I loved biology, I knew I wanted to bake for a living. My dad said, ‘Just do what you love.’ I think his real motivation was wanting me to bake for him all the time,” laughed Pearson.

## ■ PANDA PROGRAMMER

from page 5

with basic manipulations of graphics and animations to move images on the computer screen. “Then we make them a little more sophisticated by introducing control structures like how to have things repeat ... it’s controlling which code is executed ... and the light kind of at the end of the tunnel that I try to keep them focused on is to create basic games, because that’s what really hooks them.”

Mitchel Resnick, LEGO Papert Professor of Learning Research, head of the Lifelong Kindergarten group at MIT Media Lab, and a developer of a program-

ming language called Scratch, said in his 2012 TEDTalk titled “Let’s Teach Kids To Code” that writing their own computer programs engages children in “learning to code and coding to learn.” He advocates that children become more fluent in technology when they are expressing themselves by creating animated stories, video games and interactive art.

Corbin said students are “uniformly excited” and look forward to the next class. “They leave with the confidence knowing that they’ve not just amused themselves with the computer, but they have created something. They’ve programmed the computer even from the very first class when we have them work with animations

and moving basic animations across the screen.”

He added, “They are telling the computer what to do as opposed to just playing a game or something. ... It’s a different thought process. ... They’re more of an active participant when I’m teaching them these things.”

The co-ed Panda Programmer summer camp classes are offered in six one-week sessions beginning on June 15. Time options are 9 a.m. to 12 noon or 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.pandaprogrammer.com](http://www.pandaprogrammer.com) or contact [info@pandaprogrammer.com](mailto:info@pandaprogrammer.com) or 443-26-PANDA (72632).

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## POLICE BEAT

from page 4

MCPD was one of several agencies in the Baltimore/Washington region to send additional officers to the city including Frederick Police, Harford Police, and Maryland State Police.

### Crime Rate, Call Volume Up in 2014 for MCPD

MCPD saw a 6.3 percent overall crime rate increase in 2014, according to their yearly crime statistics. Released in late April, the report also showed the department handled more than 823,000 calls for

service, which is an increase of 3.7 percent from last year’s total.

Each case is gathered as data for the FBI’s annual Uniform Crime Reporting program. Part I Offenses, which are composed of serious crimes, saw a 10.6 percent increase from last year, going from 16,920 in 2013 to 18,713 last year. The department saw increases in homicides, aggravated assaults, and larceny but noted decreases in rape, robbery, burglary and auto theft.

Part II Offenses, compiled of lesser crimes such as vandalism, disorderly conduct and arson, also saw an increase this year from 31,255 in 2013 to 32,518 last year—a 4 percent increase.

## ■ HOME & GARDEN TOUR

from page 11

the original farm compound known as the Old Farm District and the other the Gatehouse District that is considered the formal entrance to Kentlands; Hill District that extends the west edge; Lake District; and Midtown and Market Square—the final residential and commercial component that added a third dimension to the community.”

But most unique of all had to be Mr. Kent’s firehouse that has been converted into a residence by the Krakovsky family comprised of father, Alex, mother, Jackie, and daughters Eliana and Samantha. Krakovsky said he was attracted to the property, “By a spout of insanity.” He wondered why the space

was empty, contacted the City of Gaithersburg and put in a bid. “Possibly we won a winner’s curse,” he said. “It’s been a lot of work and we’ve put a lot of money in it. I’ve always wanted to renovate my own unique residence.” They settled on the property in March 2013 and moved in one year later.

The four fire truck bays on the front facade were fitted with custom windows made from Spanish cedar fabricated by Little Cove Furniture of Smithsburg, Maryland, the company that also made the cherry kitchen cabinets. Original heart pine floors are on the upper level reached by the main staircase whose treads are made from partly recovered, utility trimmed, old walnut logs and rough timber. When asked why he decided to take on this labor of love, Krakovsky replied, “We’re crazy.”



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## CITYSCENE

from page 4

### Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

During the May 18 Mayor and City Council meeting, this month will be declared Asian Pacific American Heritage month. The Activity Center at Bohrer Park will also host a Chinese brush painting art exhibit by the Harmonious Art Group from May 15 to July 3. Come see the work Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An artists' reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 21.

### Scholarship Program Seeks Applicants

College can be really expensive, so if you are a student and a resident of Gaithersburg, be sure to apply for the W. Edward Bohrer Jr. Memorial CHARACTER COUNTS! scholarship.

The scholarship will be given to a student who is in financial need, committed to future education, shows personal merit and exemplifies the six pillars of character: responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, trustworthiness and respect.

Fill out an application online at the CHARACTER COUNTS! web page. The deadline to submit is May 22.

### Water Park to Open May 23

Grab your towels and swimsuits because the Gaithersburg Water Park in Bohrer Park will be opening May 23.

The park will run on modified hours dur-

ing the pre-season from May 23 to June 12 and post-season from Aug. 31 to Sept. 7. Regular hours beginning June 13 will be weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays will see the pool close a half an hour later.

Admission is \$5.75 for Gaithersburg residents and \$8 for non-residents during the weekdays, and \$12 on weekends and holidays.

### View Saturn at Observatory Park

Let's face it. Saturn is one of the coolest planets with all those rings and moons but it's hard to see without a telescope. Fear not because Observatory Park, 100 DeSellum Ave., will be hosting a free viewing of 'Saturn in Opposition' from 9 to 10:30 p.m. May 23. The event, which is designed for those 11 and over, will show the ringed planet while it is opposite to the sun.

### Apply for Improvement Matching Grants

Beginning May 15, the city will begin taking applications for the Frederick J. Felton Neighborhood Matching Grant. This program gives neighborhoods and home owner associations the opportunity to receive up to \$5,000 for dollar-for-dollar grants for improvements in their area including sidewalk and parking lot enhancements, lighting upgrades, and signage.

The city has planned to give \$60,000 for the grants in the Fiscal 2016 budget. Applications are due by July 15 and may be downloaded at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

## ■ ULYSSES FAIR

from page 6

are challenged by disabilities or life circumstances." What Kauffman feels is the most important thing she learned is that "A therapy does not need to be for those with a disability. Anyone can use therapy to solve problems and overcome obstacles. ... That's also the biggest thing I learned about myself. I learned that I should not generalize. ... My research helped me learn that I need to do more research on the world and become more open-minded to what else occurs in the world.

About Ulysses, she said, "It's not one of your typical projects in school where you teacher constantly monitors you to make sure you're on the right path. You need to take it upon yourself and complete all the work you need to in order to make your project successful."

Kauffman will study musical theatre and speech pathology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and plans to "eventually open my own speech pathology practice and incorporate musical theatre skills."

Seeing double amputee Oscar Pistorius compete in the 2012 Olympics inspired track and cross-country runner Sam Wein-

gord to produce "Putting the 'Able' in Disabled: A Study of the Ethics of Prosthetics in Sports," which "examines the technical aspects of prosthetics and the personal experiences of amputee athletes to determine the role that prosthetics should play in professional sports."

While the subject is not as personal as many of his other classmates' choices, "it was something I found interesting," he said. "My teacher stressed the importance of researching something you are interested in because when you are not interested, researching becomes much harder and your work suffers."

Weingord was surprised about "the legitimacy of both sides of the argument. I did not realize the complexity of the issues and how there are many reasons both for and against prosthetics in professional sports. The most important thing I learned about my project was how each prosthetic/amputation is unique and affects an individual differently. This is the reason why it is difficult to make laws or generalizations about prosthetics in sports." As to the Ulysses program, he said he feels "better prepared for college research," and will use the skills he acquired to study engineering at the University of Maryland.

## ASSIGNMENT EDUCATION

from page 6

### Rachel Carson Rocks Variety Show Takes QO Stage

On Friday, May 29, the annual Rachel Carson Rocks Variety Show presents student talent from all grade levels. The event will be held in the Quince Orchard High School Auditorium, Act I: Grades K-2, 5 to 6:30 p.m. and Act II: Grade 3-5, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

### Public Comment Sought on Revisions to Child Abuse and Neglect Policy

The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking public comments on revisions to Policy JHC—Child Abuse and Neglect. The policy guides Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) procedures and protocols related to recognizing, reporting, and preventing suspected child abuse and neglect of students.

The board tentatively approved revisions to Policy JHC on Monday (April 27, 2015), which will now be posted for public review and comment.

A copy of the draft policy is available on the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy), as are draft protocols for reporting and investigating child abuse and neglect and an interim report from Praesidium, the external firm with whom MCPS has contracted to assist in the updating and improvement of policies and practices in this critical area. These documents can also be viewed in the Department of Public Information and Web Services by calling 301.279.3853.

Individuals who wish to provide comments should respond in writing by June 8, 2015. All responses should be sent to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850 or to the Board of Education at [boe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:boe@mcpsmd.org). All responses will

be shared with the Board of Education and the Interim Superintendent of Schools.

### MCPS Remembers Dr. Paul L. Vance

Dr. Paul L. Vance, who was Montgomery County schools superintendent, passed away May 2 from complications resulting from a stroke. He was 83. Dr. Vance served as superintendent from 1991 to 1999, and he was the first African American to hold the position.

Montgomery County Board of Education President Patricia B. O'Neill released a statement honoring Dr. Vance's contributions to the school system. She wrote, "My Board of Education colleagues and I are saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Paul L. Vance. We are grateful for his work as an educator, administrator, and community leader and the impact he had on generations of children in Montgomery County and throughout the region."

"From 1991 to 1999, Dr. Vance guided Montgomery County Public Schools through a tremendous period of change. Throughout his tenure, he remained focused on setting high expectations for all students while working to meet their individual needs and interests. Even after his retirement, he continued to work on behalf of students and families as a community leader, including serving as a leader of the Montgomery County NAACP and a member of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents."

"Dr. Vance's work in Montgomery County, Washington, D.C., and many other communities had a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of students and his legacy lives on in their success and achievement. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Vance's family as they celebrate his life, his work, and his commitment to making the future better for our children."

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## NORA'S CORNER

# Gifts My Parents Never Gave Me, Part I

**P**resident Richard M. Nixon used to lament about his childhood, saying, "I never had a pony." My parents did, however, give me a pony. He was a brown-and-white pinto with a hostile disposition. We shared an aversion to each other, from the day he was given to me. I hadn't asked for a pony, as I recall, but my mother had her own ideas of what I needed. To entice me further to get better acquainted with Billy, she acquired a green cart with rubber tire wheels that could be hitched up to him. But I was too uninterested to learn how to put a harness on Billy. If I wanted to ride in the pony cart, I had to ask Uncle Jim, our handyman, who was brought up on a farm in Taney County, Missouri. Even though he didn't say so, he probably thought I should know by then how to hitch Billy up to the cart, for he always seemed testy when I asked him for help.

My maternal grandmother, who had Quaker parents and grandparents, had had a similar experience when she had asked her grandfather to "put that thing on the horse so we can go to town."

"If thee can't say 'harness,' I'm not going to take thee to town," he had chided her.

I was given cello lessons that I also hadn't



By NORA  
CAPLAN

asked for. Since I was the youngest by far in our immediate family (my sister was 25 years older and my brother, 20 years), I think my mother wanted me to have every advantage my adult siblings had missed. And because they were available, I was given recitation lessons, which no one else since Edwardian times had even heard of. At the time I must have been old enough to read because the only part I enjoyed about these lessons was the fact that when I used the teacher's bathroom, I always noticed a pink jar of what was labeled as "vanishing cream" on her vanity. It intrigued me. What would happen if I put a dab of it on my hand? Would my hand disappear? How could I retrieve it? . . . One day during a break from practicing my current dramatic piece, I could resist no longer. I stuck my finger in the snowy cream and held it up. . . . No change. I waited. . . . Still no change . . .

"What are you doing up there?" My mother called.

With guilt, disappointment and relief, I hastily wiped the cream all over my hand. The cream, not my hand, vanished. "I'm coming," I yelled back at Mother. That was the end of my fantasy about a gift I would've liked—the ability to come and go like Alice in Wonderland.

My parents did have gifts I wish they had passed on to me. My mother was a superb cook. Not the Julia Child kind of gourmet chef, but a "down-home" specialist. Her

fried chicken was famous throughout southwestern Missouri when she had her Half-A-Hill Restaurant five miles southeast of Springfield. Her chocolate cake with caramel frosting was legendary. She never seemed to measure any ingredient, and whatever she made came out the way it was supposed to, even better, as a matter of fact.

Mother had once been a seamstress. She had fashioned gowns for some of the wealthy matrons in Springfield. Consequently, if I came home from school and announced, "I'm the Queen of the May and I need a costume by tomorrow morn-

ing!" she could do it. How I wish that I had acquired her sewing skill. But I am inept at sewing, by hand or machine.

However, the gift I was given by my parents makes me eternally grateful to them. My mother's love of education has been deeply instilled in me. From her entering me at birth in Greenwood, the lab school for what is now Missouri State University, to her determination that I would acquire a college education, which was an unattainable dream for herself. The day I was graduated from college was one of the happiest days in her life.

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# KAUFMAN'S KITCHEN

## Allergy Time Calls for Comfort Foods

**M**" in May must also stand for miserable, which is how I feel. While I and most of my friends are suffering from running noses, allergies, bronchitis, horrible coughs, and just plain feeling miserable, we want relief and to feel good. I turn to comfort through food. Here are some great recipes to help us through the good times and the bad.



By SHEILAH KAUFMAN

### Buttermilk Biscuits

My husband and I have loved watching Pauley on NCIS for years, now we can cook with her.

From NCIS star Pauley Perrette and her two best friends, Darren Greenblatt and Matthew Sandusky, comes "Donna Bell's Bakeshop: Recipes and Stories of Family, Friends, and Food" (Simon & Schuster). The recipes are from their all-natural, Southern-style bakeshop in Manhattan. Opened in honor of Pauley's late mother, the beloved inspiration for everything they bake, the book features gorgeous then and now photographs, delicious recipes, and heartwarming stories celebrating love and friendship. You will definitely want to cook and eat your way through this cookbook.

The friendship started in 1993, when Pauley met Darren in New York City's Hell's Kitchen, just blocks away from where the shop is currently located. The two became inseparable friends and Pau-

ley's Southern mom would welcome Darren to their home with mouthwatering treats. Darren loved this food and soon left his successful career in fashion to open a food truck that sold Southern desserts at the Jersey Shore. Eventually he wanted to expand and turned to Pauley and their friend Matthew—who worked in the Los Angeles food industry—for help. With recipes for favorites like buttermilk biscuits, chocolate chip-almond scones, and peach streusel muffins, and personal photographs from Pauley, Darren, Matthew, and Donna Bell herself, this is the story of how one fantastic bake shop brings warmth and happiness—one treat at a time—to the urban jungle that is New York City.

*Makes 10 – 12 biscuits*

3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons kosher salt  
4 teaspoons granulated sugar  
1 1/4 cups (2 1/2 sticks) cold, unsalted butter, cut into very small pieces  
1 1/2 cups buttermilk

Heat the oven to 400°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar.

Toss the cold butter pieces into the flour mixture and roughly mix with a wooden spoon, making sure not to break up or soften the butter.

Pour 1 cup of the buttermilk into the flour and butter mixture, and gently stir with the wooden spoon. Stir in the remaining ½ cup buttermilk until the dough comes together. Do not overmix.

With a large ice cream scooper, scoop heaping mounds of dough onto the prepared baking sheet, gently pressing down with the scooper while releasing dough onto the baking sheet.

Bake for 7 minutes. Lower the oven temperature to 325°F, and bake until golden brown, about 10 additional minutes. The melted butter in the pan will be absorbed by the biscuits as they cool.

Let cool on the pan for 5 minutes, and serve hot.

### Fromage Frais/Fresh cheese

Fromage frais has a smooth, creamy taste and a subtle acidic note, making it less smelly socks and more freshly washed white linen. Of course, an additional plus is that it's low in fat and cholesterol, but that doesn't mean it's low in taste. Great on biscuits! From: "The Little Paris Kitchen" by Rachel Khoo (Chronicle Books).

*Makes about 14 oz*

2 qt 2 percent or skimmed milk, preferably organic but not UHT or homogenized  
1/2 cup plain live or probiotic yogurt, preferably organic  
juice of 1 lemon (6 tbsp)  
a pinch of salt or sugar  
2 tbsp heavy cream (optional)

Pour the milk into a large pot. Heat very slowly, stirring gently, until it starts to steam and little bubbles form around the edge (it should not boil at any point). This should take about 20 minutes.

Allow to cool for a couple of minutes before stirring in the yogurt and lemon juice. Leave to sit undisturbed for a further 10

minutes. Return the pot to the heat and bring the milk to a boil.

Once it separates into curds (the solids) and whey (the liquid), remove from the heat.

Line a fine-meshed sieve with cheesecloth or a clean tea towel. Place the sieve over a bowl and pour in the separated milk. Scrunch the cloth tightly immediately above the cheese, like making a money bag, and twist to squeeze out any excess liquid. Now tie the corners of the cloth together to form a hanging pouch and thread a wooden spoon through the loop. Hang the cheese over a large bowl or jug (don't let it sit on the bottom), and refrigerate for 30 minutes or overnight. The longer the cheese hangs, the more the liquid will drip away and the drier the cheese will become.

To serve, twist the cloth as before to squeeze out any excess liquid, then remove the cheese from the cloth and season with salt or sugar. Serve as it comes for a firm version, or beat in a couple of tablespoons of heavy cream for a smoother, creamier cheese.

### Serving ideas

You can let your imagination and taste buds get creative to sweeten or spice it up. These are some of my favorite flavorings. Sweet: a drizzle of honey or maple syrup or a sprinkling of sugar can be quite sufficient. Or serve with fresh or stewed fruit (berries are especially good). For a crunch factor, try nuts or granola. Savory: cracked black pepper, a pinch of chili, or freshly chopped herbs (chives, parsley, etc.).

*Editor's note: For more edible delights by Sheilah Kaufman, go to [www.cookingwithsheilah.com](http://www.cookingwithsheilah.com).*

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# MIKEATTHE MOVIES

## Avengers: Age of Ultron (PG-13) \*\*\*\*

This fast-paced and frequently funny super spectacular entry into the Avengers' franchise has everything anybody of any age could want in a space thriller. The cast, headed by Robert Downey Jr. as Ironman, seems to like each other and their humor throughout, even at the tensest moments, leavens the computer-driven action. The result is a 2-hour and 20-minute film that seems much faster.

It starts with a bang with all of the Avengers rollicking through some baddies, introduced by the villains' concern, "Can we stop them?"

The answer is a matter of fact, "They ARE the Avengers!"

James Spader voices the arch-villain Ultron, a robot who has world domination and a wipeout of the Avengers in mind. Elizabeth Olsen as Wanda Maximoff and Aaron Taylor-Johnson as her brother, Pietro, are somewhat unwilling accomplices in Ultron's purposes and eventually switch sides most effectively.

A surprising twist in the plot is the blossoming love between Natasha (Scarlett Johansson) and The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) that slowly deepens as both of them get into more and more perilous situations. At every moment there's a deadly robot aimed at the couple, not to mention the rest of the good guys, and this means that the romance and the action are superheated to an unreal, but given the context, understandable level.

Notable scenes are many, but outstanding are the runaway train sequence in Tokyo (for once, NOT Manhattan or L.A.) and the destruction of an entire city by combinations of Ultronians and an Ultron-induced earthquake.

The computer work is unbelievable in a good way. There is also an epic fight between



By Mike Cuthbert

Ironman and The Hulk when Hulk goes out of control and threatens to destroy everybody, good and bad. Later, as the love story develops, Natasha gets close to the Hulk's other self, Bruce Banner, and comes even closer to murmur, "I adore you." Natasha then shoves him over a precipice, saying, "but I need the other guy." The long fall triggers the Hulk and away we go again.

Ironman has his moments as well. Asked by Hawkeye's (Jeremy Renner) wife, Laura (Linda Cardellini), to fix their tractor, Ironman goes out into the barn and greets the machine. "Hello, Deere." There are many similar one-liners scattered throughout the script, so many that the astute filmgoer can be forgiven for wondering how many of them are ad lib remarks.

I am not, as regular readers know, generally a fan of computer-driven spectacles, but when they are as creative, mind-blowing and funny as this entry, I join the raves.

The movie features explosive violence and lots of robot-innards scattered about the scene, but if your kids have perspective, it should be fine for them.

## Hot Pursuit (PG-13) \*

If only this movie were built like Sofia Vergara ... but, alas, it is not. While Vergara's contour flows from her head to her toes, the movie's script clunks along with humorless determination and tons of promise, but ultimately fails because of lack of skill. The writers have experience in television, but a firm hand was needed here and it's totally missing.

Vergara is a mobster's wife, Daniella Riva (Colombian), who is headed for Dallas with her ill-fated husband to testify against the Big Mobster, Vincente Cortez (Joaquin Cosio). The rest of the mob doesn't want her or her husband to testify, so they set upon them with two sets of assassins.

Cooper (Reese Witherspoon) has been assigned to accompany Daniella and her collection of shoes, and she runs into predictable problems when faced with real crooks. She is

infamous on the force for misunderstanding a civilian who she tasered into a major fire—of the citizen—and ended up permanently in the evidence room taking notes as a result.

Most of the film is, as anticipated, Daniella and Cooper cat-fighting and exchanging insults, many in Spanish. The anticipation is for more of that kind of exchange, but the reality is flat jokes, hapless slapstick, badly executed gunfights and one funny line when Vergara emerges from prison in her orange jumpsuit and Cooper cracks, "You look like a sexy traffic cone." Vergara looks sexy in a gunny-sack, let's face it.

Witherspoon, who has moments of cuteness, is simply not in Vergara's comic league and uses over-acting and phony emotion to cover up for her lack of timing. Vergara drops accented lines on her like grenades for the

whole picture—but they're not funny.

The proper spirit for this film is captured in the outtake reel at the end over the credits. The ad lib craziness of Vergara's accent and Witherspoon's real confusion is funny there. Too bad they couldn't capture more of that spirit in the film. I love both these actresses but was afraid going in that this would be a dud if not written carefully. I ended up right about it being a dud. This could have been cute, showing up Bullock and McCarthy, but it wasn't even close. The women clearly enjoyed making the film together and have had a hoot publicizing it, but the joy is buried in incompetent writing and direction. There are enough scenes that had promise that it makes you mourn for the lost opportunity to have a little fun with two very attractive actresses. And that's not good.

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## SHOPTALK

from page 12

### Precision Detailing Opens

Now you don't have to travel far to give your car a high-end wash and detail. Precision Detailing opened late April at the Kentlands Exxon, 971 Quince Orchard Road. Smit Mehta, CEO and founder, said that his company uses water filtered through reverse osmosis to provide a spot-free shine.

### SPAGnVOLA Wins in U.K. Academy of Chocolate Competition

On Thursday, April 23, SPAGnVOLA won the Silver Award from the Academy of Chocolate in London, United Kingdom, on three of their chocolate bars. One of the awards was for their own single-estate chocolate bar from the Dominican Republic. Most notably, one of the Chocolate Silver Awards was granted to the SPAGnVOLA chocolate bar from the Oda Cacao Estate in Ondo State, Nigeria.

"We are very proud to have won the Silver Award on our innovative premium Nigerian chocolate bar," said Eric Reid of SPAGnVOLA. "This was only the beginning of our

partnership with the Oda Cocoa Estate and we look forward to the next phase. We want to elevate our relationship with Ondo State and help the farmers improve the quality of their beans so they can grow the best cocoa in the world!" [www.spagnvola.com](http://www.spagnvola.com)

### Carefoot Wellness Center Opens

A new foot spa and massage studio has opened in the former Ace Foot Spa space at 321 Main St. Carefoot Wellness Center offers reflexology and acupressure treatments.

### My Gym Kentlands for Sale

After 10 years, owners Debbie Mathis and Kim Gaviria are selling their franchise. On their Facebook page, the owners posted, "We have loved every moment of running this business. We have grown to know and love all of you who attended the gym over the years and nothing gave us more joy than to see your children's faces each day. This was a difficult decision but the timing is right for us to move on now. We are so excited for the future of My Gym Kentlands....we know the right person is out there who will bring fresh ideas and energy to the business!"

# SPORTS

## Cougar Baseball Wins Section Semifinal

BY MAC KENNEDY

The Quince Orchard baseball program has a history of winning teams who make deep runs in the playoffs. Yet for the past four years, the Cougars have run into trouble in the postseason and haven't been able to pull out a win. That all finally came to an end on May 11, when the Cougars held off a late run by Clarksburg High School to win 9-7. Coach Jason Gasaway is optimistic about his team's playoff chances. He describes his team as a group who "knows how to win." Gasaway goes on to say that getting another shot at Gaithersburg High School is keeping the Cougars motivated, focused, and

most importantly, hungry.

The last time these two teams faced each other, Gaithersburg was able to pull out an 8-5 victory. That loss has been in the back of the Cougars' minds as they finished out the season waiting for another opportunity to face the Trojans. When asked about the rematch, senior Kevin Childs explained that "this is just like any other game. We've faced them before, we know what we can do, and we know we can beat them." Childs, who will be starting on the mound for QO, said his team is "pumped and ready to go" and won't be preparing any differently before Wednesday's match up.

Pitching will play a key role in the sec-

ond round of the playoffs. The Trojans held the Cougars to just eight hits last time they played. If the Cougars want to have a better shot at pulling out the upset, Gasaway thinks that a more aggressive approach at the plate will lead to more runs. He said, "Whoever they throw against us will be very good, and we have to go up there and hit strikes." With an on-base percentage of .438, the Cougars are confident they have what it takes to get runs on the board and pull out another playoff win.

Childs, Sam Williams, Nathan Kessler and Sam Sprecher will lead the charge for the Cougars as the four seniors. They all agreed they don't want their season to end at a loss



Photo | Mac Kennedy

**Kevin Gurcan, Ryan Krisoff, Kyle Rineheimer (standing) and Griffin Mann, Brian Edell, Carson Knight (sitting, behind) watch from the dugout during the May 11 sectional semifinals against Clarksburg.**

to Gaithersburg on Wednesday night. Childs added, "We want to bring back the winning QO tradition, and beating Gaithersburg would be a great start."

## Jaguar Lacrosse Eliminated, Cougar Lacrosse Wins Thriller to Keep Rolling

BY ETHAN CADEAUX

Last Thursday, the Northwest Jaguars boys' lacrosse team hosted their first-ever home playoff game in school history. Unfortunately, Magruder upset them 10-6 in a game played before what looked like the largest Northwest student body ever assembled for a lacrosse game. For the Cougars, they clashed with high-powered Wootton,

and won in a close game 10-9 on a game-winning goal by Colton Christensen.

Last Thursday brought the Jaguars' season to an end in heartbreak, but this does not take away from the success they had this season. First-year head coach Jon Kravitz immediately became a players' coach, communicating well with his team and fostering success. The Jaguars won two more games than last year, building off of their first playoff win in

school history in 2014. With the absence of senior captain Hunter Thompson, the Jags left it all on the field against Magruder.

"Take advantage of every opportunity you have to play the sport you love," said senior captain and defenseman Chase Notari. "Four years goes by fast. Can't believe it's done. I love my team."

"One word to describe this season," said captain middie Cory Hathaway, "and that is family."

Although the Jaguars ended up being on the wrong side of heartbreaking defeat, the Cougars were able to win a thriller against one of the county's best teams, Wootton, as they continue their quest for a state title.

Down 9-8 with just a few minutes left, senior attack Colton Christensen tied the game up. His twin brother and Colgate University commit, Jake, sniped a shot into the upper left-hand corner of the goal with 19 seconds left, to eventually be the game-winning goal.

The Cougars rallied from a five-goal deficit earlier to complete an epic comeback. Senior Tyler Milwit led the Cougars with four points, and seniors Troy Porter and Nick

Ransing each had three points.

The Cougars will play one of the county's best in Churchill, a team that they lost a tough one to in the regular season, 14-10.

On the girls' side, the Lady Jags lost to Gaithersburg 10-8 in the second round of the playoffs, but exceeded everyone's expectations for the season, including their own. After a tough year last year when the Lady Jags only won two games, they came back this year and won six games, including a four-game winning streak and a playoff victory over Clarksburg.

The Cougars had a very good season as well, as they earned a first-round bye in the playoffs. Just like the boys, the Lady Cougars faced off against Wootton in the second round of the playoffs. Unfortunately, they did not have the same result as the boys, as Wootton defeated them 14-6.

All four local high school lacrosse teams had remarkable seasons this year, and there is plenty of room for these teams to improve for next year. But not all four teams are done yet; best of luck to the Quince Orchard boys in the rest of the playoffs.

## QO Softball Looks Forward to Bright Season Next Year

BY MAC KENNEDY

The Quince Orchard High School softball team entered the playoffs facing a tough opponent in Wootton High School on May 7. The Cougars battled in what was a tight game until the very end, as QO came out on top 7-6.

Hoping the momentum would continue on May 11, the Cougars went to Northwest High School, looking to take down their rival. Although the "girls played well," said Coach Colleen Kelly, "we just weren't able to string any hits together." The Cougars fell to the Jaguars 11-0.

Even though Coach Kelly and the Cougars ended the season on a tough loss, there is still a lot to look forward to next year. When asked about the future, Kelly

said, "It is looking very bright!" QO will graduate five seniors this year who paved the way for an exciting future. Rachel Ellinport, Sophia Mallus, Katie Schuster, Sarah Palmrose and Julia Grinberg demonstrated great leadership, which is a big reason for the improvements throughout the seasons. The Cougars will return three pitchers who saw a lot of time this year, a catcher, and most of their infield and outfield. It is early to predict how QO will be next year, but there are already high expectations. Returning most players, all who have experience in their positions, is a great sign of things to come.

Coach Kelly said, "I am excited to see how much more they improve throughout the off-season."

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