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*Kentlands – Lakelands –
Gaithersburg – all Maryland 208**
zip codes*

Maryland 20878® magazine began as [Kentlands Dot Us](#) which focused on Kentlands. We rapidly acquired both readers and contributors from Lakelands and added both the Market Square area as well as Lakelands to our coverage areas. As we have now added Gaithersburg city news, we have expanded.

Kentlands is a neo-traditional, or new urbanist, community. The community design is based on the concept that the most pleasant living environments were nineteenth century villages in which homes were grouped around a town center with shops, community buildings, and schools. New urbanism has developed architectural communities going back to this design.

Lakelands is a similar, and neighboring, community built on property which was also once owned by Otis Beal Kent. Lakelands has its own distinct character. Both communities are within walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, and shops.

Kentlands and Lakelands were built on the estate of Otis Beall Kent. His mansion is now the cultural arts center for Gaithersburg, Maryland. The barn, which is now the Arts Barn, houses a rich center for community

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theater and artists' workspace as well as offices and a pleasant shop selling the works of local artists. The former barn loft is now a 99-seat theater for the performing arts. Kentlands is thought to be the largest and most successful neo-traditional project in North America.



Kentlands Dot Us focuses primarily on Kentlands, while [KentLakes](#)[®] adds Lakelands, and *Maryland 20878*[®] is the over-all publication with city news and information for the area covered by the 20877 and 20878 zip codes. We thank our readers and advertisers for their interest which has led to our expansion.

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- ["Magical" Evenings Await at Winter/Spring Comedy & Mystery Society Meetings](#)
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Maryland 20878[®]  *Archetypal Towns and Villages of Country and City*  *v. II i.12*

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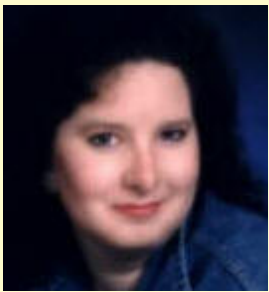
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COLUMNS

Quarterly

Tulip Time at Keukenhof, Holland

By Graceann Macleod



Springtime in Holland means one thing to many people – tulips. There is a beautiful, sprawling garden about an hour's ride from Amsterdam where Spring is celebrated every year, and that magical Eden is called Keukenhof. It would be very easy to spend an entire day here and not see everything (actually, that happened to us), but I can promise that every moment will be saturated with sensory delight. The original layout was designed in 1857 by the landscape architect Zocher around what was then Castle Keukenhof, and the garden is still based on the English landscape garden that began with Zocher.



From late ... [click to continue](#)

Quarterly

Ruby and Emerald Rings

By Marie O'Donnell



I cherish the good times spent with Uncle Otis and the time living at Kentlands.

Looking back, it was the happiest and most care-free time of my life. I never wanted for anything because, if I wanted it, either my grandparents got it for me or I mentioned it to Uncle Otis and it was like rubbing the lamp and making a wish; it would just appear. He got me a ruby ring—a real ruby for a four year old. I looked at it, and, with the honesty that only a child possesses, told him it was nice, but my favorite color was green.

Shortly after that I had a ruby ring AND an emerald ring. When winter came, I had a green snow suit that he got me with real leopardskin collar and cuffs.

I told you earlier about the pram he bought me to push my dolls (and my poor, long-suffering cat) around in.

I think I told you the story about the school bus. I had to meet the bus at a little store along Route 28, called Burnlee's. (They had one of those Coke coolers that used cold water, and the greatest penny cnady. It was run by an "older couple." Of course, they could have just been in their 20's and they would have been older to me. But, I think they were probably in their 50's or so.) It didn't seem like it was that far from the front gate of the estate, but it meant that every morning my grandmother would have to drive me there and then drive back ... [click to continue](#)

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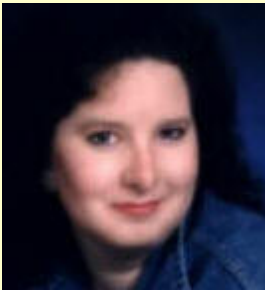
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Graceann Maciolek Macleod's Past Columns



We are pleased to present columns by Graceann Macleod. She is a writer whose greatest loves are her husband David, her cat Spike of dubious intelligence, silent and early sound cinema, and road trips (usually to silent film events or historic sites).

Graceann Macleod is the recipient of the Apex Award of Excellence for her column "Scents Memory" which appeared in [Word Worth in May 2006](#).



Graceann Macleod's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



- [St. Simons Island – Going Coastal](#) April 2005 [Quarterly]
- [Stepping Into the Past – Gettysburg](#) July 2005 [Quarterly]
- [The New Orleans I Remember](#) October 2005 [Quarterly]
- [St. Simons Island – The First Visit](#) January 2006 [Quarterly]
- [‘Wonderful People Out There in the Dark’](#) April 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Travel Then and Now](#) July 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Mackinac Island–Of Lilacs and Long Ago](#) October 2006 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [HOO-RAY For Hollywood!](#) January 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Two Weeks in London; What a Whirl!](#) April 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Milwaukee – Friendly Folks on a Great Lake](#) July 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Aberdeen, Scotland – The Granite City](#) October 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Amsterdam – Boats and Bikes](#) January 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [The Mississippi – Where the River Runs](#) April 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Jekyll Island – Georgia’s Jewel](#) July, August, September 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns



...continued from the [columns](#) page:

March to late May each Spring, Keukenhof puts on a spread of colour, scent and visual pleasure to stimulate the senses overwhelmingly. When I stepped off of the coach at the gate, my first thought was that I had stepped into a Douglas Sirk film – Technicolor that could have been orchestrated by the Freed Unit at MGM surrounded me. The whole landscape was positively drenched in bright, stunning colour, and romance was in the air.

The 2008 theme at Keukenhof was the Olympic Games – Beijing, with many cultural and historical nods to China. Inspirational Gardens, Chinese Events, and The Olympic Experience all added to the festivities. In addition, there are competitions, exhibits and various other diversions that speak to those with green thumbs. There are even opportunities to buy your own bulbs and seedlings in order to create one's own

little Keukenhof at home.

Our Day Tiptoeing Through the Tulips

Our visit to Keukenhof began quite early, because we first had to get there. The first coach took us out to the airport, where we caught a second that took us to Keukenhof. By the time patrons were done boarding, the coach was well and truly packed to the doors, and many of our fellow passengers had to stand for the 30-minute ride. Many services offer transport to the area, and it is wise to book ahead in order to make sure you are able to get a seat, as this is a very popular attraction. This has the added advantage of allowing you to skip the queue of visitors who have to buy their tickets when they arrive. Book ahead, and you walk right in.

Two young ladies in traditional garb offered us the opportunity to buy a programme regarding the event. This is a purchase I highly recommend because it includes a map of the very large expanse of attractions. It would have been quite easy to get lost, and we referred to this guide many times during the course of the day.

The first view to which we were treated was that of a lagoon and calliope, which set the tone for the entire day. Most guests were in a relaxed, friendly mood, and many of us stopped briefly to enjoy the music and get our bearings, all while being entertained by a family of newly hatched ducklings. As we moved further into the grounds, we were immediately confronted with a carpet of gorgeous flowers, and here is where fun truly began for those of us who love using our cameras.

Keukenhof is the most photographed location in the World. It is so popular with photographers that the printed guide even offers tips for getting the best snapshots. I don't think we saw a single visitor who didn't have a camera, and many had very sophisticated equipment indeed. One of the biggest reasons we weren't able to see everything in one day was that we had to constantly stop to take pictures of the beautiful scenes surrounding us. It's only a shame that cameras can't record scent, because between the flowers and the delicious food, this was a delightfully aromatic place to be.

We strolled through the gardens without any particular destination in mind, just enjoying the views and taking photos when the mood struck, when all of a sudden we discovered that we were at the foot of the Windmill, which was built in 1892 and has been present at Keukenhof for 51 years. Even more pleasing was the fact that there was a boat tour at the foot of the Mill, which took us through the canals in a relaxing ride offering many photographic opportunities. One of the guests in our boat brought along her Australian Cattle Dog, who also seemed to enjoy the excursion immensely.

By the time we had been enjoying all this fresh air for so long, we realized we were famished. Thankfully, Keukenhof has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to feeding its many visitors. Whether you want a waffle or a full meal, you won't be disappointed. We were able to sit and relax while enjoying a hot chocolate and a sweet, all the while taking advantage of the many people-watching opportunities.



Sculpture at Keukenhof



In addition to the floral delights here, those who appreciate artwork will find much to love. Keukenhof is the largest sculpture park in the Country, with a total of about 150 exhibits. I took as much pleasure in the sculpture as I did in the flowers surrounding it, because the two together created a combination that soothed my senses. I often found a quiet bench and just contemplated the beauty surrounding me, all the while listening to the birds, the various languages and accents, and my own breathing.

Unfortunately, after we had been at the gardens for six hours or so, the skies opened up on us and Poured, thus putting the lie to the weather forecast we had heard earlier, which predicted “light showers, ending by Noon.” We were soaked to the skin and very cold by the time we got back to the coach; we presented a miserable spectacle to the World when we stopped for supper in the evening. I suspect the horrible cold I experienced shortly after our return home had something to do

with that drenching, but it was completely worth it. I can’t wait to return next Spring.

Links to Explore:

- Information about Keukenhof: <http://www.keukenhof.nl/nm/english.html>

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Marie O'Donnell—The First Kentlands' Child

Marie O'Donnell was the first child to play in Kentlands after Otis Beal Kent gave the land that name. In the picture on the left, the Arts Barn is visible, and the child stands in front of the house which is now white with black trim and stands at the entrance to the Old Farm district of Kentlands. The house was doubled in the early nineties before it became one of the early properties of what we now know as the present community. Kentlands was then a part of Rockville and was not annexed into Gaithersburg until the plans for the current community were under way. Marie rode the school bus to school in Rockville.



Ms O'Donnell called Kent "Uncle Otis," and he occasionally referred to her as his "granddaughter." She moved to Kentlands at approximately the age of two and has fond memories of sitting on Kent's lap while he played *Beautiful Dreamer* for her.

Marie O'Donnell now lives in West Virginia.

- [Life as the First Kentlands' Child](#) March, April, & May 2008 in Columns
- [Building the Kentlands Lakes](#) June, July, & August 2008 in Columns
- [Mud and Swimming](#) December, January, & February in Columns



Continued from [Columns](#)

and wait for me.

She contacted the school and asked if they could at least drop me off at the front gate, but was told the bus did not run that far. Then, Uncle Otis contacted the Board of Education and reminded them of how much he paid each year in school taxes, and that he would like for his "granddaughter" to be picked up closer to her home.

The next day the school bus dropped me off at my back steps, and that was where I was picked up and dropped off for the few weeks that I went to school before we moved to my great-grandmother's. I remember the "oohs" and "ahhs" of the other kids on the bus as we turned in the gate and drove up and around Inspiration Lake and to my house.

I was such a little snob. I remember when we were "up at the big house" one day and it came up that I had asked for something that my grandmother thought was too extravagant. I spoke up and said that I should have it because I was special and should have whatever I asked for. She got very upset, but, Uncle Otis chuckled and told her that I was a Princess and should have everything I asked for, and that he would make sure I got it. No wonder I was such a spoiled brat.

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Quarterly

Growing Up In Gaithersburg

Charlie



By Marien Helz

When I was growing up in Gaithersburg, it was a very small town surrounded by farms, and in those farms, of course, farm families—farmers who feed the country. Because

they work so hard, they are nearly always honest. Farmers learn discipline. They rise before dawn to care for animals. They learn compassion for if their animals are not healthy and well cared for, their livelihood is at risk. They learn judgment for if they do not plant and harvest at the right time, if they are not sensitive even to the force of vegetation, they and their animals may starve. They learn patience since the cycles of Nature cannot be rushed and animals don't respond well to hostility. Farmers learn dedication. They have to hold steadfastly to a schedule since the well being of plants and animals depend upon them. They cannot take off for vacation, nor headaches, nor flu. Farmers learn determination. If a horse they have loved and worked with for years becomes ill and racked with pain, they must make tough decisions for the good of all and put their own emotions aside.

We are all carried on the shoulders of farmers and builders. The farmer family I knew best was in Ohio, and Charles Porter was the fourth child in that family.

A life beautifully lived is always too short. Charles – Charlie – Chuck—my mother always called him Charlie, so I will here too—lived beautifully and lived a charmed life. Only the very wise would have guessed that the baby brought into the world on a September day of 1934 could possibly ...

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Marien Helz's Past Columns



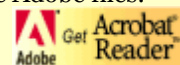
Marien Helz is originally from Gaithersburg and began writing the *Growing Up in Gaithersburg* column for an HOA paper in 2003.

She published fiction in college, and later, four books of poetry under her married name and decided to continue publishing prose under the pen *Helz* and poetry with the pen *Perry*.

She holds a Master's degree in English and American literature from the University of Iowa, a Master of Fine of Arts degree from the world renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop [the only organization to receive the National Humanities Medal, presented by the U.S. government in 2003], a Master's degree from the University of Buffalo Reading Specialist Program, and a PhD in English Research from the University of Buffalo.

She splits her time between Kentlands and a classic village in the Buffalo-Niagara region of Western New York state where she is a college professor—a profession she began at the age of twenty-two. She lives with her husband, Franklyn (Lyn) Perry, and their Belgian Malinois Shepherd and is devoted to her four children, a daughter, a son, a son-in-law, and a daughter-in-law, and especially to her new grandson.

Marien Helz's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



1. [Happening](#) September 2005
2. [Wedding](#) October 2005
3. [Figurine](#) November 2005
4. [Gifts and Giving](#) December 2005

5. [Names](#) January 2006
6. [Moving to Gaithersburg](#) February 2006
7. [Children and Safety](#) March 2006
8. [Grave Danger—for Jonathan](#) April 2006
9. [Sugarloaf Mountain](#) May 2006
10. [Gardening](#) June 2006
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13. [Real Class—True Grace](#) September 2006
14. [Harvest and Halloween](#) October 2006
15. [Trouble](#) November 2006
16. [Santa Claus](#) December 2006 in Commentary



Winner of the 2007 Grand Award for Writing

The Apex judges say this about Helz's work: "Marvelously told stories of growing up—poignant, and written with passion and clarity. Vignettes are filled with beautifully detailed word pictures. A storyteller's tour de force."

17. [Treasures](#). January 2007 in Commentary
18. [Paperboy](#). February 2007 in Commentary
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25. [Magic Soil](#). September 2007 in Commentary
26. [Mean Teachers](#). October 2007 in Commentary
27. [Sound](#). November and December 2007 in Commentary
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...continued from the [Commentary](#) page:

be the start of such blessing. He was born to Elmer and Ethel Porter who married early and brought their first child into the world at the brink of the Great Depression. Charlie was born while the depression raged

leaving families homeless and children starving. He would be followed by six more siblings left fatherless when Elmer died of cancer in 1950.

As a child, Charlie was a farmer as all farm children are. As an adult, Charlie became an artist and retained all that he had learned in childhood. His studio was a piece of land; his marble was wood and mortar from which appeared the finest houses as Michelangelo made the statue *David* appear from a block of stone. His craftsmanship was apparent in everything he touched.

When Charlie was still a boy, he fell in love with a girl. They ran off to Maryland to get married. Almost anyone thinking of his well being would have said, "Don't do this! You're too young. There is no way this can work."

But it did work. The Heavens had again chosen him as one of their favorites and gave him a love that lasted beyond death.

Chuck and Joan had five children, practically one a year, and then another several years later. I was astounded once when Aunt Ethel told me, not too long ago, that she had worried about how they would manage having all those children—she who had raised half her children from infancy and childhood completely on her own. Perhaps that's why she worried.

I confess that there were moments when I thought that Charlie and Joan were a little too strict with the children, but the proof is in the product: they all turned out perfectly and are a tribute not only to their parents, but to their family and community.

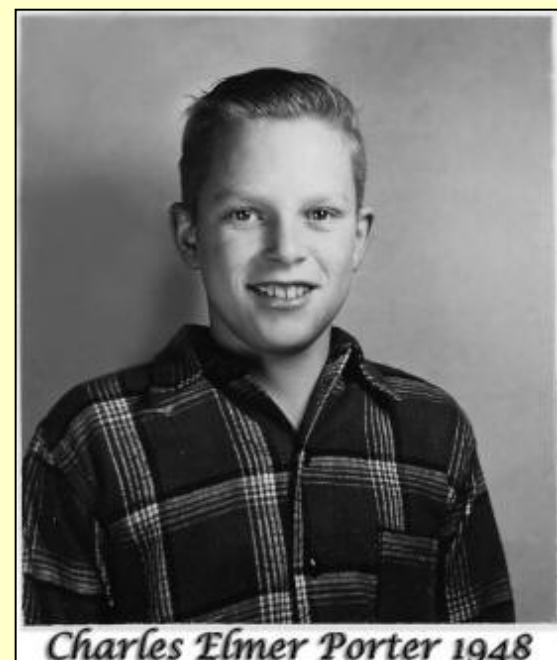
While Charlie was infinitely blessed with the family he was born into, and then the family he created, it wasn't simply a gift from the Cosmos that gave him this blessing.

He had a spirit that, if you could bottle it, would be worth five hundred dollars an ounce. He worked harder than many people know how, always keeping both a high level of integrity and sense of humor.

He refused to feel sorry for himself or demand less of himself if things were tough. He once fell off a roof and landed on his feet. His back hurt and troubled him for a long time after that. I asked him about it once, and he replied, "Well, if I don't think about it, it's not quite as bad." He never let up on work despite the back pain.

He cared for the love of his life through her years of fighting cancer. After she died, he said in deep tones of gratitude and great pride, "I had her for forty years."

His charmed life was due to some extent to fortune smiling on him, but more to his character and resolve. He always had his humor, his quick wit, and his interest in everyone he knew.



Charles Elmer Porter 1948

After Joan died, he kept the home just as neatly as she had, and took pride in his antiques which he showed Lyn and me once when he invited us to stay with him. I counted his antique clocks—one, two, three, four, five.



CLOCKWISE FROM CENTER:
DICK, CHARLIE, GLADYS, JOHNNY, WANDA

“Charlie! You need one more.”

He laughed and said, “Yes, I know. Six children, six clocks.”

As much as we all hate what happened on that beautiful October day, it may have been another blessing from the Cosmos. He had fallen from a roof before and landed on his feet. Perhaps there was some nascent illness that had not yet manifested itself outwardly but made him less capable, less cautious. Perhaps the Heavens said, “We have tested him enough through the tribulations visited on his Joan. We must spare this heroic man the trials of the decaying illnesses of age that many of his kind must bear. Let’s allow him to go on a most beautiful autumn day, practicing his art, in the company of one of his beloved children.”

Or perhaps a memory of some past joy or vision of a future glory distracted him.

We can never know, but it is we, not Charlie, who are suffering.

I keep thinking of the song, by James Taylor, “I’ve seen fire, and I’ve seen rain./ I’ve seen sunny days that I thought would never end....But I always thought I’d see you again.”

Yes, Charlie, we always thought we’d see you again.

Though I never will see you walking on this earth again...I will see you in that golden land on the other side of the sunset, beyond all rainbows. We will see you in the golden land.

Godspeed, dear cousin, and farewell.

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Monthly

Some Observations about Politics

by *Louis P. Solomon*



The election is over. The populace has voted, and their voice has been heard. A revolution has occurred. The President Elect, Barak Obama, was overwhelming elected. He has some characteristics which are both unusual and interesting. First, and most startling, he is black. While people have spoken about the possibility of electing a black, or non-white man to national public office, almost everyone thought it would occur in the far future. It was sobering to hear noted black leaders from throughout the country state that they never expected that a black man would be elected to the nation's highest office while they were still alive. While it is true that there are and there have been many remarkable black leaders, many of them have reached high office at the national level through *appointment*, rather than at the ballot box. There have been two black Secretary of States: Colin Powell and Condoleza Rice. I am not arguing their skills and capabilities in that office, but rather the route they took to get there. They served at the pleasure of the President. But, when you are *elected* to the nation's highest office you serve by virtue of the authority given to you by the voters of the United States.

Senator Obama (when he began his campaign) from Illinois had served one term. Not a long time on the national stage. He had no military experience, and not much other experience, either. It was not mentioned that many of our most successful Presidents didn't have much experience, nor was it mentioned that many of our least successful Presidents had outstanding resumes in almost every area of national interest.

Senator Obama took on the old very skillful, experienced professional ... [click to continue](#)

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Louis Solomon's Past Columns

We are pleased to present viewpoint columns by Louis P. Solomon.

Most of Louis Solomon's career was spent in the military-industrial community working on anti-submarine systems. He has also taught at the university level and founded the firm, Planning Systems. His current interests include co-authoring books of fiction and non-fiction. Solomon holds an MS degree in Aero/Astro from MIT and a BA and PhD in Engineering from UCLA.

Solomon is an avid amateur small boat sailor and cruises his sailboat, *Dream Maker*, on the Chesapeake Bay and up and down the East Coast. He lives in the Kentlands with his wife, Leslie Marks.



Louis Solomon's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



1. [The Birth of a Column](#) June 2005
2. [Concepts of Responsibility and Courtesy](#) July 2005
3. [Living with Gusto](#) August 2005
4. [The Rise and Fall of Organizations](#) September 2005
5. [The Real Issue in Dealing with Katrina](#) October 2005
6. [Some Comments on the Supreme Court](#) November 2005
7. [Confusion: Mine](#) December 2005
8. [Working as Catharsis](#) January 2006
9. [Government Eavesdropping](#) February 2006
10. [Government Eavesdropping](#) How They Do It March 2006
11. [The Coming Catastrophe](#) Our Helplessness and Our Response April 2006
12. [The National Anthem](#) May 2006
13. [Alternative Power Sources](#) with Dick Van Orden June 2006
14. [The Energy Problem](#) with Dick Van Orden July 2006
15. [Nuclear Power \(Fission\)](#) with Dick Van Orden August 2006
16. [Hydrogen and its Uses](#) with Dick Van Orden September 2006
17. [Fuel Cells](#) with Dick Van Orden October 2006
18. [The Ultimate Automobile](#) with Dick Van Orden November 2006
19. [Nuclear Power \(Fusion\)](#) with Dick Van Orden December 2006 in Viewpoints
20. [Global Warming: True or False?](#) with Dick Van Orden January 2007 in Viewpoints
21. [A Potential Partial Solution to our Oil ...](#) with Dick Van Orden February 2007 in Viewpoints
22. [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders \(ADRD\)](#) with Dick Van Orden March 2007 in Viewpoints
23. [To the Hilt](#) April 2007 in Viewpoints
24. [A Bittersweet Trip](#) May 2007 in Viewpoints
25. [Musings on Old Age](#) June 2007 in Viewpoints
26. [The Language Corps and the National Security Education Program](#) July 2007 in Viewpoints
27. [The Language Corps—Reprise](#) August 2007 in Viewpoints
28. [The Michael Vick Incident](#) September 2007 in Viewpoints

29. [Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow](#) October 2007 in Viewpoints
30. [I Don't Get It](#) November 2007 in Viewpoints
31. [What Shall we Do?](#) February 2008 in Viewpoints
32. [Some Ideas on What To Do](#) March 2008 in Viewpoints
33. [Random Thoughts](#) April 2008 in Viewpoints
34. [What Is Going On?](#) May 2008 in Viewpoints
35. [Our Veterans](#) June 2008 in Viewpoints
36. [Liberals and Conservatives: Who is Who?](#) July 2008 in Viewpoints
37. [Fear for the United States of America](#) August 2008 in Viewpoints
38. [Priorities and Decision Making: Energy in the U.S.](#) September 2008 in Viewpoints
39. [Some comments on a National Energy Policy](#) October 2008 in Viewpoints
40. [More thoughts on Energy Issues](#) November 2008 in Viewpoints



...continued from the [Viewpoints](#) page:

members of the Democratic Party. He, and his staff, concocted a campaign that was remarkable. It used every tool that was available from modern technology. The organization and focus of the Obama campaign staff was amazing. His opponents were vanquished as if they, rather than Senator Obama were the neophytes at campaigning on the national stage.

When it became clear that Obama would win the election, even before the actual vote itself, there began to be remarks made along the lines that “campaigning is one thing; running the government is another.” These are serious concerns and are not just voiced by disgruntled losers associated with another candidate, either in the primaries or the national election.

President-Elect Obama has assembled one of the most remarkable groups of senior people in the history of the Republic. They have several interesting characteristics. First, they all have remarkable successful careers in many different areas. They have demonstrated these skills in many ways, for many years. Second, they come from different political parties, Democrat and Republican. Third, they cover the spectrum of political philosophy from liberal to conservative. Fourth, many have been political opponents of Mr. Obama in different ways throughout the *entire two year campaign*.

I suggest that the reason that Mr. Obama selected them was essentially that they had the skills that are needed by the nation to deal with foreign and domestic policies in a number of areas. The military operations in Iraq appear to be drawing down under the aegis of Secretary of Defense Gates, a Bush Republican. He has agreed to continue his excellent work. His team in the military are notable for their skill and operational experience, not only in Iraq but in Afghanistan and other areas where being an American is not a good thing. Secretary of State designate Hillary Clinton *based much of her Presidential campaign* on her foreign policy experience which President-Elect Obama admits to only minimal experience. The same general remarks can be said about Governor Richardson of New Mexico and Timothy F. Geithner who is the Secretary of Treasury designate, who currently is the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. A former Secretary of the Treasury, Larry Summers is going to be the head of the White House's National Economic Council. A former commandant of the US Marine Corps (and other major positions), General James Jones, (who I worked with in a very casual way on a small project) is going to be the National Security Advisor. There is no one who is more aware of the operational and political problems associated with National Security than General Jones. And these people with remarkable skills and proven success are just *representative* of the Obama Team. They are not the complete team.

It is my belief that the team members are all serving because of the honor being bestowed on them, and their desire to help the United States of America in its time of need. Are they some who will probably take advantage of their new jobs for feathering their political nests in the future? Probably. But I think that the great majority are motivated by patriotic impulses and will act *as a cohesive team* to serve the citizens of the United States in this time of crisis.

It is one thing to talk about what they are going to do; all plans look great before implementation. But, if you had

to select a group of people to run the country, recover our greatness as a nation, and turn this sorry current state of affairs around, who would you choose? I couldn't suggest a better group than those which former Senator, then President-Elect, and now President Obama has chosen and given them the opportunity to serve.

I don't anticipate that I will be disappointed in the operations of this group in the next several months and years.

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Columnists write on topics of their own choice, and their views do not necessarily reflect those of Maryland 20878®.
If you would like to write for Maryland 20878®, contact us at columns@kentlands.us



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ARTICLES

“Watercolor Journeys” Featured at Kentlands Mansion Gallery

The City of Gaithersburg presents “Watercolor Journeys,” a multi media exhibit at the Kentlands Mansion Gallery November 21, 2008 through January 25, 2009. The Mansion is located at 320 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg.



Lieta Gerson

The artists of Watercolor Journeys share the love of painting as a common bond. Their mutual respect and admiration for one another’s artistic abilities are the basic grounds upon which this group was founded. Each member brings a unique perspective of life as it is represented in art. Their paintings depict places, people and scenes that are meaningful to the artists and pleasing to the viewer as well.

Recycling on the Holidays

The City of Gaithersburg announces that the collection of recycled materials for residents whose regular recycling day is Thursday, December 25, 2008 will take place the FOLLOWING Saturday, December 27. For those whose regular recycling day is Thursday, January 1, 2009, pick up will be on the FOLLOWING Saturday, January 3. This includes newspaper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, and commingled materials, as well as brush, branches, grass clippings, leaves and other yard trimmings, picked up by the City’s recycling contractor.

Regular trash and garbage

Arts Barn Invitational Gallery Presents “Life at 12°09’N”

Images Above and Below the Waves of Bonaire
by Nick and Britta Monaco

The Arts Barn Invitational Gallery presents “Life at 12°09’N” a photographic exhibit depicting life above and below the waves on the island of Bonaire by Gaithersburg residents and scuba diving enthusiasts Nick and Britta Monaco. The photographs will be on display December 2, 2008 through January 4, 2009.



Nick Monaco was drawn to the ocean at an early age. Perhaps it was as a result of him crossing the Atlantic as a toddler when his mother and father returned to the U.S. on a troop ship from an Army deployment in



Carol Bouville

They have named themselves “Watercolor Journeys” because they all began artistic endeavors in the medium of transparent watercolor. Yet during their artistic journeys through life, they have come across other media in which they choose to experiment and develop their talents. In this exhibition viewers will find works of watercolor, gouache, acrylic, pastel, watercolor crayon and pencil, tinted paper and even fabric. The members of Watercolor Journeys include Debra Halprin, Julie Smith, Carol Bouville, Lieta Gerson, and Kay Sandler. All are award-winning artists whose works can be found in public and private collections and galleries throughout the United States and Europe.

collection for City residents is handled by private contractors. Please contact your HOA or your private contractor regarding the holiday collection schedule for these materials.

For more information please contact the City’s Department of Public Works, Parks Maintenance and Engineering at 301-258-6370, or visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.



Your holiday tree can give new life to other plants once it’s chipped for mulch and compost by the City of Gaithersburg’s Public Works Department. Pick-up service is offered free to City residents.

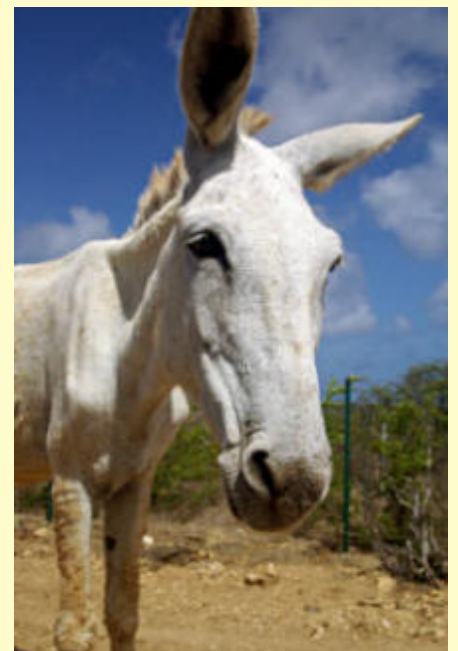
- Put trees out curbside next to your green recycling bin on your regular recycling day between December 25 and January 31
- Trees must be in their natural state
- Remove all decorations, including tinsel and angel hair
- Be sure there is no metal attached to the tree
- Do not wrap trees in plastic
- Artificial trees will not be recycled
- Trees with root balls will not be recycled
- Trees will only be picked up from your residence. Do not take the trees to other sites such as schools or public buildings.

For details please visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov, or contact the Department of Public Works at 301-258-

Germany. He also credits his love of the sea to visiting his paternal grandparents’ northern New Jersey beach home regularly, and vacationing at the family beach home in Delaware. That desire eventually took him below the waves when he became a certified scuba diver in 1995.

His wife, Britta Monaco, who is the Public Information Director for the City of Gaithersburg, developed an early interest in photography. Her father was an avid photographer, and she became fascinated with the concept of capturing a moment in time on film.

As often happens with couples who have been together for decades, their interests merged over time. Britta Monaco took up scuba diving in 2005, and Nick Monaco extended his photography interest to life below the waves. They have traveled extensively to share their mutual interests, but find themselves returning time and again to the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles. This Dutch island is known for its easy shore diving and pristine coral reefs due to early conservation efforts, and after six visits, the Monacos almost feel like “honorary” residents.



“The sea is an amazing treasure,” says Nick Monaco. “An abundance of diverse and colorful life is just a few feet below the waves. We hope that by sharing these images with others we are not only offering a glimpse into another world, but we are also encouraging conservation and



Debra Halprin

preservation of this incredible natural resource.”

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. The Arts Barn is located at 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg. Viewing hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call Andi Rosati, Arts Barn Director, at 301-258-6394 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. Viewing is by appointment only. For more information and viewing appointments please call Gallery Director Natalya Parris at 301-258-6394

Enjoy the Excitement of New York City and American Girl Place on a City Sponsored Bus Trip

The City of Gaithersburg invites you to spend a day you'll never forget at American Girl Place New York. Situated in the heart of the Big Apple's most prestigious shopping, cultural, and business neighborhood, American Girl Place New York is more than a store, it's a place for magical experiences and memories.

A deluxe motor coach will depart from the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Avenue, at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2009. It is scheduled to arrive at American Girl Place New York at approximately 11:30 a.m.

The day includes lunch at the American Girl Café at Noon, followed by free time from approximately 1:30 until 4:45 p.

City Sponsors Bus Trip to see Cirque du Soleil's KOOZA™ in Baltimore

KOOZA, Cirque du Soleil's astounding portrayal of the "Innocent," a melancholy loner in search of his place in the world, is sure to delight audiences of all ages. The City of Gaithersburg is sponsoring a bus trip to see this electrifying show on Sunday, March 22, 2009. It takes place under the Grand Chapiteau on the grounds of M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. The bus departs from the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg at 11:15 a.m. for a 1 p.m. performance.

Registration for City of Gaithersburg residents will open on Monday, December 15. Nonresidents may register beginning Monday, December 22. The registration fee, which includes transportation, is \$85

“Magical” Evenings Await at Winter/Spring Comedy & Mystery Society Meetings

The Comedy & Mystery Society, combining astounding magic and sleight of hand with interactive theater and hilarious fun, announces its Winter/Spring 2009 season at the Arts Barn.

Award-winning magicians Mark Phillips, Bob Sheets, Barry Wood, and Brian Curry invite you to join them as members of the exotic, strange and amusingly interactive Comedy & Mystery Society. As audience members enter the theatre, they'll step into the secret and very kooky world of the CMS, a collection of zany characters not quite clever enough to take themselves lightly. This season's periodic "Society Meetings" - each with a different agenda, frequently with guest artists - will be held

for City of Gaithersburg residents, \$95 for nonresidents, \$80 for all seniors, and \$62 for all children 12 & under. Please note that children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. You may register at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, or online using RecXpress at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Please call 301-258-6350 for more information.

KOOZA combines two circus traditions – acrobatics and the art of clowning. The show highlights the physical demands of human performance in all its splendor and fragility, presented in a colorful mix that emphasizes bold slapstick humor. Visit www.cirquedusoleil for show details.

m. Spend your afternoon at American Girl Place, or visit nearby FAO Schwarz, Rockefeller Center, the Museum of Modern Art, or the Radio City Avenue Store. Return to the Activity Center is anticipated by 10 p.m.


The fee of \$75 per person for City residents and \$100 for nonresidents includes deluxe motor coach transportation and lunch. Children must be at least 6 years old and in the company of an adult.

For more information and to register please call 301-258-6350 or use RecXpress online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

at 8 p.m. on the following Fridays: January 2, February 27, March 13, April 24, May 22, and on Wednesdays, June 3 and June 17.

The Arts Barn is located at 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg. Tickets are \$12 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents for Wednesday performances, and \$18 for residents and \$21 for nonresidents for Friday performances. The family-friendly shows are perfect for ages ten and up. For information and tickets please call 301-258-6394. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/RecXpress. For information and directions visit the City of Gaithersburg's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.



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SECTION A

Gaithersburg 4th Graders Encouraged to Enter “If I Were Mayor...” Essay Contest

Fourth graders in the City of Gaithersburg are encouraged to share what they would do if they were Mayor in a statewide essay contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors’

Association. The theme for this year’s contest, to be explored in 275 words or less, is: If you were Mayor, how would you encourage your citizens to get on board and “GO Green?”

One winning essay will be selected from each of the Maryland Municipal League’s 11 regional districts. Each winner will receive a \$250 savings bond and a plaque. MML will also select two winners at random from each district to receive runner-up prizes.

The City of Gaithersburg is taking the program one step further by selecting a winner specifically from our own community. Essays submitted to the statewide contest from students who are residents of Gaithersburg will be reviewed by members of the City’s Education Committee. One winner will be selected as Gaithersburg Junior Mayor, with the opportunity to participate in a number of programs and special events throughout the year. The winning Gaithersburg essay will also be published on the City’s website and in its quarterly newsletter, the *Communiqué*.

“Entering this contest is a great way to learn about local government,” said Mayor Sidney Katz. “This past year we had the pleasure of welcoming Andy Sanchez of Gaithersburg Elementary School as our Junior Mayor. He served as a wonderful representative of the young people in our community as he stood side by side with the City Council and I at many official events.”

Gaithersburg Camp Scholarship Fund Receives \$10,500 Donation from Kentlands Community Foundation

On Monday, December 15, 2008 Kentlands Community Foundation Chair Lee Wilson, Vice Chair John Schlichting and Race Director Steve Solbeck presented the City of Gaithersburg with a check for \$10,500. The donation represents a portion of the proceeds from the annual Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Race and Kids Fun Run, held on September 1, 2008. The gift to the City is earmarked for Dolores Swoyer Camp Scholarships, offering summer camp opportunities to City of Gaithersburg residents who might not otherwise be afforded these enriching educational and recreational experiences.

As a nonprofit and philanthropic organization, the Kentlands Community Foundation hosts the 5K Race to raise funds, promote volunteerism and showcase the benefits of new urbanism and walkable communities. In 2008 the race drew over 1,600 runners and was supported by more than 200 volunteers. The 2008 race also served as the opening event for the Maryland Senior Olympics, hosted by Montgomery County. Eighty one year old Nianxiang Xie of Rockville ran the race in 27 minutes and six seconds, well ahead of hundreds of younger runners. In all, 22 Montgomery County runners aged 50 and older qualified for the 2009 National Senior Olympics in San Francisco.

Donations for the camp scholarships are accepted throughout the year. For more information on the Dolores Swoyer Camp Scholarship Fund and the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Race, please contact Michele Potter, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture for the City of Gaithersburg at 301-258-6350 or mpotter@gaitthersburgmd.gov.

Deadline for entries is March 6, 2009. For more information visit the Community Services page on the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov, or call 301-258-6395.

Activity Center Gallery Hosts Multi Media Exhibit

The City of Gaithersburg hosts a multi media exhibit of the works of Munir Eltobgi, Miriam Rylands and Gala Spivak at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg November 7, 2008 through January 4, 2009. Viewing hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A native of Egypt, Munir Eltobgi believes that he has discovered what modern culture has lost – the fundamental element of existence: magic. In his opinion, magic is the essence of mythology and its most powerful representations are in symbols, which he feels artists are the only ones still intent on capturing. Tragedies in his life, including a heart attack, bypass surgery, and the loss of a young son, have added elements of sorrow to his visual perception. Eltobgi has visualized and adapted the iconography, a new technique that helps him create art which relates to his Egyptian heritage and his more recent experiences in the Western world.



Since her youth, flowers have been a source of inspiration for Miriam Rylands, an artist born in Bahia, Brazil. It is enough for Rylands to close her eyes and imagine a profusion of exotic colors and flowers of many shapes. Her flowers are abstractions, memories – some faded, other punctuated by moments of visual clarity. She sees and paints general shapes, not photographic details of her flowers. For Rylands, the flowers are metaphors that portray a history based on her life.



Gala Spivak was born in the south of Russia in the republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. The snow covered peaks of the Caucasus, shining with shades of purple and light blue, outlined with pink and orange, left her breathless. She grew to love color and her early drawings and paintings use bright hues to create dynamic portraits of both real and imaginary characters. Eventually moving to the United States, Spivak earned a Bachelor's degree cum laude from the Corcoran College of Art and Design. Her work is a



journey into the world of the dynamic relationship between figures and shapes, with bold, vibrant elements that celebrate life's beauty.

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. For more information contact Gallery Director Natalya Parris at 301-258-6394

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NEWS

November Saw Increase in Thefts from Vehicles in Gaithersburg

There were an unusually high number of thefts from vehicles reported in November within Gaithersburg. Many of the thefts were of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), although other electronic equipment, laptop computers, and cash were also taken. There were approximately 101 thefts from vehicles reported in November, 2008 compared with 63 reported in November, 2007. In October, 2008 there were 71 reported.

Police would like to remind residents to take precautions, especially during the holiday season, to ensure that they are not victims. First, residents should remember to lock their cars each time that they get out of their vehicle. Second, residents should not leave valuables visible in their vehicles. Criminals are aware that shoppers during the holiday season often leave gifts in their vehicles and will be looking for vehicles with packages within view.

A large number of thefts from vehicles have involved the theft of GPS units. Police recommend that GPS units be removed from the vehicle or concealed in the glove box or

Police Seek Help in Solving Robbery Case

Gaithersburg Police are asking the public for help solving an armed robbery case in which the victim, a 74 year old man, was assaulted and hospitalized.

On November 15, 2008 at approximately 6:00 p.m. a 74 year old man was walking in the parking lot of the 400 block of West Side Drive when he was passed by two males of unknown race and ethnicity wearing hoods and masks. The two men then came up behind the victim; one grabbed him and the other struck him over the head with an unknown object. The two suspects stole money from the victim's wallet and his Ride-On bus pass. They walked away from the scene, leaving the victim unconscious on the ground.

The victim sustained a severe brain injury and a fractured skull. He remains hospitalized. Police are asking anyone who may have information to contact the Gaithersburg Police Department Investigative Section at 301-258-6400.

Police Rescue Missing Woman

Gaithersburg Police located a missing 74 year old woman on Friday December 5, 2008 after she had been reported missing by relatives in the 1100 block of Southern Night Lane in Gaithersburg. The woman was located lying next to a creek drenched and suffering from hypothermia.

Police received a call from the woman's daughter at 7:28 p.m. on Friday advising that her mother was missing from their home on Southern Night Lane. Family members had returned home at approximately 5:00 p.m. to discover the woman missing. The family searched the house and neighborhood as well as local hospitals prior to calling the police. The family advised that the woman possibly suffered from Alzheimer's or Dementia, although she had not been diagnosed.

Corporal Kathy Fairfield of the Gaithersburg Police Department was the first officer on the scene. It had been dark for some time and the temperature outside was about 30 degrees. The woman had been missing for several hours so Corporal Fairfield immediately requested additional officers and a bloodhound for a search. Gaithersburg Police Officer Brian Hurtt responded and began searching the area. As he was walking in a field near the house, he heard a faint sound. He called out the missing woman's name and heard the faint sound of a woman calling out "hello". Officer Hurtt located the woman lying across the

trunk when the vehicle is unattended. In addition, power cords and attachments should be concealed as well. Wiping the circular mark left on the windshield from the suction holder of the GPS can also prevent a potential thief from realizing that there is potentially a GPS unit in the vehicle.

Gaithersburg Chief of Police John A. King stated, "Thefts from vehicles continue to rise throughout the City and Montgomery County. We are trying to get the message out to residents to make them aware of this trend, and to encourage them to take precautions to prevent becoming victims of these thefts."

Any resident who is a victim of theft or who is a witness of suspicious activity is encouraged to call the police at 301-279-8000 or the emergency number by dialing 911.

Anyone who may have information about the suspects in this robbery and wishes to remain anonymous is asked to call Crime Solvers of Montgomery County at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477). A cash reward of up to \$1,000 will be paid for information provided to them that leads to an arrest and /or indictment in this felony crime.



stream from where he was. In order to access her, Officer Hurtt had to wade through the knee high freezing water.

The woman told Officer Hurtt that she had fallen into the water and that she could not move her legs. "Her clothes were wet up to the neck and her pants were frozen stiff" he said. The woman was barefoot, as her shoes had come off when she entered the water. Her arms and legs were red and swollen and her skin was cold to the touch. She appeared very weak. Officer Hurtt placed his jacket over the woman and requested an ambulance. Additional officers from the Gaithersburg Police Department and the Montgomery County Police Department responded and assisted Officer Hurtt carry the woman to a location more easily accessible by Fire Rescue. Chief King said, "I am very proud of the officers for their quick action which most likely saved this woman's life."

The woman was transferred to an area hospital where she was treated for severe hypothermia. The woman remains in the hospital.

Gaithersburg Winter Lights Festival Set To Dazzle in December

Sneak Previews, Walk and Trolley
Rides Lead up to Festival Opening

The City of Gaithersburg's Winter Lights Festival returns for a thirteenth season of magical delight December 5, 2008 through January 3, 2009. But before thousands of cars join in the traditional drive-through experience, we've lined up some new features that allow you to enjoy the lights from a whole new perspective!

Gaithersburg Adopts Commercial Green Building Ordinance

At its meeting on September 15, 2008, the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council approved a commercial green building

First, enjoy a sneak preview of the lights when you drive through Seneca Creek State Park on Friday or Saturday, November 28 or 29. During the two-day premiere the

ordinance, which became effective on October 6, 2008.

This new ordinance compliments Gaithersburg's residential green building ordinance and the City's own municipal green building policy which requires that all new City-funded occupied structures achieve LEED® Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The Youth Center at Robertson Park, which opened in 2006, is the City's first LEED certified structure. The planned Youth Center in Olde Towne and the potential Aquatic Center on Route 28 are designed for LEED Silver certification as well.

Commercially, the Monument I office building has already achieved LEED Silver certification, and the Washingtonian South building, currently under construction, is seeking LEED Gold certification.

The City's commercial green building ordinance applies to commercial, high rise residential and multifamily (4-story+) structures. Commercial and high rise residential structures between 10,000 and 99,999 square feet are required to achieve basic LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Buildings in excess of 100,000 square feet must achieve the more stringent Silver certification level. Multifamily buildings that are four stories or less in height must comply with the City's residential green building requirements, which were adopted on October 15, 2007.

Gaithersburg's commitment to environmental stewardship was demonstrated when City leaders joined 307 other cities nationwide in signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006. Gaithersburg pledged to think globally and act locally by striving to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution. Residential and commercial green building requirements are significant steps in these efforts. Other initiatives already in place include the promotion of the use of wind energy, an urban forestry program that has earned Gaithersburg a Tree City USA designation for 19 consecutive years, a green street stormwater management pilot program set to kick-off in the spring of 2009, and a municipal equipment fleet that runs on biodiesel fuel.

For more information please contact the

festival will be open from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$12 per car.

On Sunday, November 30 we invite you to put on some comfortable shoes and join us for a 2.2 mile walk through the park. This is a great way to see the dazzling displays from the ground up. Registration is required for this event. No parking will be allowed at Seneca Creek State Park. Satellite parking is available at 9 West Watkins Mill Road. A free shuttle will run back and forth to the park from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. Admission is \$12 per person for those over 13, \$5 for those between the ages of 3 and 12, and free for children 2 and under, who must be carried or in a collapsible stroller. Walk registration forms are available on the festival website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/winterlights.

Because of their popularity we're also adding more open air trolley rides to the program this year. Bring a blanket and snuggle up to enjoy the lights from a whole new perspective. Rides are available Monday, December 1 through Thursday, December 4 at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. The fee is \$5 per person. Seating is limited, and is available on a first come, first served basis. Parking is available at the Park Visitor Center.

The festival will then be open nightly for drive-through traffic December 5 through January 3. It is closed on December 25 and January 1.

Driving through the enchanted forest setting of Seneca Creek State Park, visitors will enjoy more than 380 illuminated displays and 60 animated vignettes that light up the night. Themed areas along the 3.5 mile drive include Winter Woods, Teddy Bear Land, Victorian Village, the North Pole and much more. The park is located at 11950 Clopper Road, a few miles west of the intersection with I-

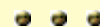
Gaithersburg Announces 6th Annual Young Artist Award Competition

The City of Gaithersburg and the Kentlands Community Foundation announce the 6th Annual Young Artist Award competition and concert.

Outstanding young musicians, ages 12 to 18 years, are invited to apply. First, second, third, and honorable mention prizes may be awarded in each of four categories: vocal, woodwind/brass, string, and piano. The top prize winners will be presented in concert at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road in Gaithersburg.

The competition will be judged on Saturday, January 31, 2009. Participants will be notified of their audition time and place. The Awards Concert will be held at the Arts Barn on Saturday, March 7, 2009.

Applications and general guidelines are available online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn. The deadline for application is Friday, December 12, 2008. For more information contact Suzanne Takahashi at 301-258-6394 or stakahashi@gaitersburgmd.gov.



Several contests will take place during this year's event, including a drawing contest for children, a trivia contest for all ages, and a chance to win one of two \$500 shopping sprees at Lakeforest Shopping Center. Complete contest details are available in the official Winter Lights Festival program book, which will be distributed to all visitors.

In the spirit of the holidays, proceeds from the 2008 festival will benefit local charities, including the Dolores Swoyer Camp Scholarship Fund, Friends of Seneca Creek State Park, Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc., Upper Montgomery Assistance Network, and the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

This year's festival is sponsored in part by MIX 107.3 FM, Comcast, Lakeforest Shopping Center, The Gazette, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, OBA Bank, The Beacon Newspaper, Hughes Network Systems, Insight Magazine, MedImmune, Washington Parent, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Winter Lights is open Sunday through Thursday from 6 to 9 p. m., and Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. The Festival is closed on December 25 and January 1. Cash-only admission is \$10 per car Sunday through Thursday and \$12 per car Friday and Saturday. Two dollar discount coupons valid Monday through Thursday only are available at nearby Lakeforest Shopping Center.

For more information and group admission rates please call 301-258-6350.

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SECTION B

Gaithersburg Announces First Quarter FY 2009 Employee, Team Awards

At the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, October 6 Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz and City Manager Angel Jones presented the Employee of the Quarter Awards for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 to Pam Truxal, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture and Officer John Duke, Police Department. The Team of the Quarter Award was presented to the Summer Camp Team.

The City's Employee Recognition Committee, made up of peers from each department, reviews nominations for Employee and/or Team of the Quarter. A maximum of two individual and two team awards may be presented in each quarter, with the winners then entered into nomination for the annual Employee and Team of the Year Awards at year's end.

Pam Truxal, Recreation Coordinator III, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, was nominated for exceptional performance in the development of two innovative programs that promote wellness for older individuals. Senior Pin Busters, an informal eight-week bowling league for seniors, now has nearly twenty participants while Retro Fitness fosters strength and conditioning using nostalgic childhood activities

reflects the high standards of a City employee and fosters the principles of CHARACTER COUNTS! in all of her programs.

John Duke, Police Officer III, Police Department, was nominated for exceptional performance in gathering and relaying information that resulted in three arrests and numerous weapons being taken off the streets. His actions helped avert what could have been a very dangerous situation.

In late July, a woman came to the Gaithersburg Police Station to report that her nephew had become involved with another teenager who had brought an assault rifle to her home. She had been to other police agencies but her concerns were dismissed. Officer Duke did a thorough event report and notified the Montgomery County Police Department Firearm's unit. The woman returned to the City's police station a few days later with additional information about her nephew and the same associate being involved in bomb making, purchasing illegal guns and stealing from a County police station. Once again Officer Duke alerted the proper investigative units.

Two search warrants were performed during which large



Kimie Alcorn, Devon Buchanan, Monique Comstock, Siobhan Halmos, Dave Ludington, and Rachel Tailby, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, was nominated for exceptional performance in planning, organizing, and implementing the City's Summer Camp program.

Gaithersburg residents look to the City to provide quality summer camp programs that are fun and safe for children. Meeting the needs, ages, disabilities, and interests of over 1,000 campers each summer takes months of planning and a sincere desire to provide the best experience possible.

As individuals the team strives to provide excellent programs; they also take time to assist each other in accomplishing collective goals. From sharing part-time staff to coordinating the use of operating supplies and City vehicles, every effort is made to make the most efficient use of resources.

The team coordinates trips and activities at eleven camp sites and three summer school sites for 1,000 participants. This includes supervising 170 part-time staff and 100 volunteer counselors-in-training during a camp day that begins before sites open at 7:30 a.m.

and games set to music. In addition, Truxal introduced several low impact activities at the Senior Fun & Fit Fest this past May, she supervises various youth sports programs and clinics, and coordinates the very successful adult coed softball program.

Truxal's energy is contagious and participants in her programs praise her program management. Highly respected by co-workers, participants and coaches, she consistently [continue](#)

amounts of bomb making materials and several assault rifles were recovered. Information indicated that the two suspects may have been planning action against a private school in Washington, D.C. Additional information revealed maps of Camp David and the presidential motorcade routes as well as a false Central Intelligence Agency identification.

The **Summer Camp Team** comprised of [continue](#)

and doesn't end until every camper is picked up at 6 p.m. In between, the staff is prepared to deal with a wide variety of problems, parent concerns and any number of unforeseen circumstances.

The organizational skills, conscientiousness and dedication of all the team members helps ensure that the summer camp experience in the City of Gaithersburg is as positive and enjoyable as possible for everyone involved.



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Response to "[Pay as You Go](#)" editorial:

October 18, 2008

So, I find this interesting. While I respect each of our City Councilpersons, and while they may SAY that they support pay as you go, the fact is that our budget is spending \$3M+ of our reserve this year which is the same thing done by a different Council last year.

Also, the Mayor and Council know that Fred Felton, our doleful Assistant City Manager is conducting secret negotiations with the County to swap the GE Site for a pool that the City will run.

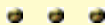
This violates Maryland's sunshine law about transparency in government and also rockets Gaithersburg toward bankruptcy. Not only will we lose the tax revenue generated by the commercial ownership of the GE site, we will eat the \$1M+ operating loss of the aquatic center.

We seem to have learned nothing from the financial excesses of Wall Street where a small number of insiders twisted the system to their own benefit and then let everyone else pay for their selfishness.

Same stuff, different day.

But with O'Malley and Leggett already spending like drunken sailors, who will bail us out?

Brett Cosor
Kentlands



August 6, 2008

Opened letter to The Honorable Mike Knapp from Adrienne Gillien

Dear Councilmember Knapp:

I plan to attend the Sept. 23 County Council meeting specifically to learn more about the Property Use Initiative. I have attended local meetings in the Lakelands and Kentlands to hear County Executive spokespersons say they have a plan for a land swap—no rationale or budget justification—just a plan. For the last five months I have been seeking planning data about this land swap, likely worth more than \$200 million, to no avail.

I ask the County Council to consider these questions which do not compromise the County's ability to negotiate, but do address legitimate taxpayer concerns:

- Why is the Property Use Initiative being considered with no fundamental data on how and why this plan is best for taxpayers?
- How can the market value of the taxpayer-owned properties be considered a secret?
- If this is a buyers market for real estate sales, why is Montgomery County entering into what is truly a sole source procurement?
- If the entire deal does not take place in one fiscal year, can it really be "cost neutral?"
- What if the "land swap" is not "cost neutral" next year?

I respectfully ask you as a County Council member to differentiate between privileged information for negotiations and public information. The County Council and the County Executive have a fiduciary obligation to clearly explain why this "Initiative" is the best use of our tax dollars and how this plan was derived--not just the "what" of the plan, which is the only part of the plan currently outlined on the County website.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to attending the September 23rd County Council session.

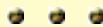
Adrienne Gillen
Gaithersburg



August 6, 2008

Hello,
I would like to find out how to add our new business listing in the Kentlands to this website. Please contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Thank you for contacting us. We tried to reach you by e-mail, but your address wasn't working. We don't currently list businesses, except for restaurants, but a good way to get noticed is to place an ad on our site. Our ad prices are very low, and the ads reach thousands of people in the area. In addition, they are always available for people to check for addresses and phone numbers, and they are linked from the front page. A list of the advantages of advertising with us and our costs is available at <http://www.20878.biz/>.



July 23, 2008

We're new to the area, and thoroughly enjoyed reading the current Maryland 20878. We look forward to reading future editions. Maryland 20878 is one of Gaithersburg's best kept secrets, ... let's spread the word, it's a great read!
—J. D.

Welcome to the neighborhood! We are delighted that you enjoy our magazine, and we're working to ensure that the secret is no longer kept. We're pleased to have thousands of readers each month, and we're glad to have this chance to serve the community.



July 11, 2008

Hello,
Thanks for the Vasilis gift certificate — it was fun figuring out the answer to the trivia question. I enjoy reading 20878 and wish you continued success with future issues.
—J. B.

Thanks for letting us know.



May 18, 2008

I especially enjoy your restaurant reviews. I do have a question about the restaurant list below the featured reviews. It lists the name of the restaurant, address and phone number. Are these paid advertisements or just a courtesy directory?

I noticed that the Japanese restaurant I have frequented is not listed. Can that list be updated? Itoyanagi Authentic Japanese Restaurant) 200 Main Street 301-330-9018

—M. H.

Thank you for contacting us. The list on the restaurants page is a courtesy, and we have added their name.



May 3, 2008

Thought of the day overheard at Starbucks: "If you work out, you prolong your life—but all those extra hours you're going to live, you spent in the gym, so what's the point?"



March 17, 2008

I never knew this existed - I'm excited!

Thank you.

—W., Kentlands, Gaithersburg MD

Thanks for writing. We're glad that you are enjoying the magazine.

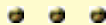


February 19, 2008

Thanks for the informative article [Editorial: [County Plans Threaten 20878 Area](#)]. Is there anything we can do to prevent this trampling of our neighborhood rights?

—S.B., Kentlands, Gaithersburg MD

Thanks for writing. The KCA officers have written positions in the Crier, and several groups are getting started. Anyone who knows people living in the areas across Route 28 should let them know about this threat.



February 4, 2008

The Gaithersburg City Council and I express our condolences to the family and friends of two esteemed colleagues, Eugene "Gene" Lynch of the Montgomery County Planning Board and Marilyn Praisner, long time Montgomery County Council Member. Both of these officials served with distinction, working tirelessly on behalf of residents throughout the county to preserve and safeguard our future.

Gene's commitment to Smart Growth initiatives is echoed throughout our community, especially in neighborhoods like Kentlands and Lakelands. We also remember him for his commitment to housing, and recognize him for his

efforts to co-found the Montgomery County Housing Partnership.

Marilyn's twenty five years of service to the people of Montgomery County, first on the School Board and then for 18 years on the County Council, are a testament to her tenacity and her passion for public service. Marilyn could always be counted on do her homework, express her opinions, and stand by decisions that were made in the best interest of her constituency

The City Council and I join the residents of Gaithersburg in extending our sympathies to the colleagues, friends and families of these two remarkable public servants. Our prayers are with them.

Sidney A. Katz
Mayor



2007 letters are available in the December issue in the [Archives](#) page. Earlier issue letters are available from the Archives page listed separately.



You may write to us from the [Contact](#) page, and you may use that submission box to request an e-mail notification. We never share or sell our e-mail lists, and we send notices, on the average, less than once a month. We will be delighted to hear from you.

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