



# Bannockburn Banner

AN EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION  
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE  
BANNOCKBURN ESTATES

MARCH 2016

SAINT GRACE



Grace Gorlitz

Cover photo: Timothy Beam





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**CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE** *some are included below (please submit your pictures to be included)*

Your BCA Board Members, Block Captains and the Residents of The Bannockburn Estates, Ted Garrett, Edith Miles, Jennifer Kawar, Jane Pettit, John and Isabelle Hannula, Rod Cormier, Joyce Siegel, Pauline Reeping Nadol, Elizabeth Kellar, Julie Keefer, Leila & Cade Afas, Girish and Pavi Tumpabaura, Jenni Cloud, John Noble, Lele McAdoo, Rebecca Kahlenburg, Jacqueline Barnes and many others that I am gathering “headshots” from for inclusion here. I have left out many—send me your hi-resolution headshot and I will include it on this page for each submission!

We are always looking for residents to follow up on leads, find great stories and send us ideas. Let’s celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please call Sarah Taylor @ 240.204.4336 or e-mail [sarah.taylor@n2pub.com](mailto:sarah.taylor@n2pub.com) with your pictures, suggestions or requests.

If you are interested in being a part of our staff here at the *Bannockburn Banner*, we are always looking for great people -- writers, photographers, columnists and a content or an event coordinator. It's fun, easy and a great way to get involved with your neighborhood. Contact Timothy Beam at [timothy.beam@n2pub.com](mailto:timothy.beam@n2pub.com)

*Thanks for your participation in Bannockburn Banner.*





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*“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. –Charles Dickens”*

## Publisher's Note

### ON THE COVER: GRACE GORLITZ AND SELF-PORTRAIT SAINT GRACE.

Spectacular pics from resident artist Grace Gorlitz (Bannockburn resident since 1965) – could not fit all her masterpieces in the February issue of *Bannockburn Banner*. Also included: pictures from the neighborhood – Snowmageddon 2016.

I hope you enjoy working with your new *Bannockburn Banner* publisher, Sarah Taylor, as much as I enjoyed working with the Bannockburn Estates residents and the BCA over the last two years!

### Celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Timothy Beam

Please send in your winter snowstorm and early springtime pictures and neighborhood or family/holiday get-togethers/ experiences, and don't forget to nominate your favorite homes and yards or share your family's back to school or off to college stories to feature in upcoming issues! they can be e-mailed to: Sarah Taylor at 240.204.4336 or e-mail sarah.taylor@n2pub.com.

*Respectfully,*  
Timothy Beam, Publisher  
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT } TED GARRETT

**I HOPE THAT YOU FARED REASONABLY WELL DURING THE BLIZZARD OF 2016 AND EXPECT THAT, LIKE ME, YOU ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME CALM AND WARMER WEATHER WITHOUT SNOW**

**Next meeting.** Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3. As usual, this will be an opportunity to visit with your neighbors and for our committees to report on their many activities. More information about that meeting will be posted later.

**Register.** If you have not registered to receive e-mails, you may have missed Alice McDermott's wonderful remarks at our December meeting. Registering will allow you to receive email announcements about activities, meetings, incidents and other developments. Your e-mail will address will remain confidential. Please go to the BCA website and register: <http://bannockburn-citizens.org/register/>.

**Construction.** Our covenants committee, headed by Ben Schlesinger, continues to monitor construction and permit applications in the neighborhood and communicates with owners and builders about compliance with the BCA covenants. If you know of or have questions about a new construction, renovation or sale, contact Ben at [bschles@bsaenergy.com](mailto:bschles@bsaenergy.com).

**Neighborhood security.** The committee acts works with the block captains and is considering other ways to improve neighborhood security. If you have suggestions or wish to volunteer to be a block captain, contact committee Chair John Hannula at [john\\_hannula@yahoo.com](mailto:john_hannula@yahoo.com). Remember: if you see something suspicious, call the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000 or 911 for a crime in progress.

**Welcome Committee.** Jane Pettit and Cecily Abrams visit and welcome new BCA neighbors. You will often know about new neighbors before we do. If you know of new arrivals to the neighborhood or would like to help on this committee, please email [janepettit1@verizon.net](mailto:janepettit1@verizon.net) or call: 301-229-5932.

**Seniors.** Edith Miles is Chair of our very active Good Neighbors Committee. The committee organizes various activities and works to help BCA seniors who want to continue to live in their homes in their senior years. You can contact Edith for information or suggestions at [ewmiles@comcast.net](mailto:ewmiles@comcast.net).

**Environment Committee.** Our BCA environment committee is a resource to the neighborhood and to our covenants committee. Contact committee Chair Seth Goldstein [sethrgoldstein@verizon.net](mailto:sethrgoldstein@verizon.net) if you have suggestions or wish to volunteer.

**Bannockburn Banner.** The goal of the magazine is to improve our communications with neighbors. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact BCA board member John Noble at [johnnoble@mac.com](mailto:johnnoble@mac.com) or your publisher Timothy Beam directly at [timothy.beam@n2pub.com](mailto:timothy.beam@n2pub.com) or your new Bannockburn Banner publisher Sarah Taylor at 240.204.4336 or [sarah.taylor@n2pub.com](mailto:sarah.taylor@n2pub.com).



*Best wishes,*  
Ted Garrett  
BCA President

## BANNOCKBURN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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### SEND TO:

Bonnie Garrett, Treasurer, BCA 6604 Broxburn Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817

## MEET YOUR BANNOCKBURN BANNER CONTRIBUTORS

*Thanks for your participation in Bannockburn Banner!*



Inaugural Bannockburn Banner publisher  
Timothy Beam in NYC



Edith Miles



Jennifer Kawar



Ben Schlesinger



BCA Board President  
Ted Garrett



Daivson Duo – Madison  
and Davis Gestiehr



Pauline Reeping Nadol  
and Bernie



Jane Pettit



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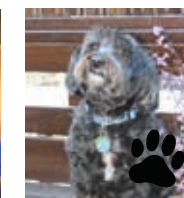
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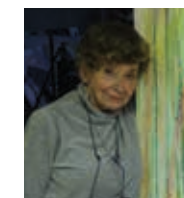
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Grace Gorlitz

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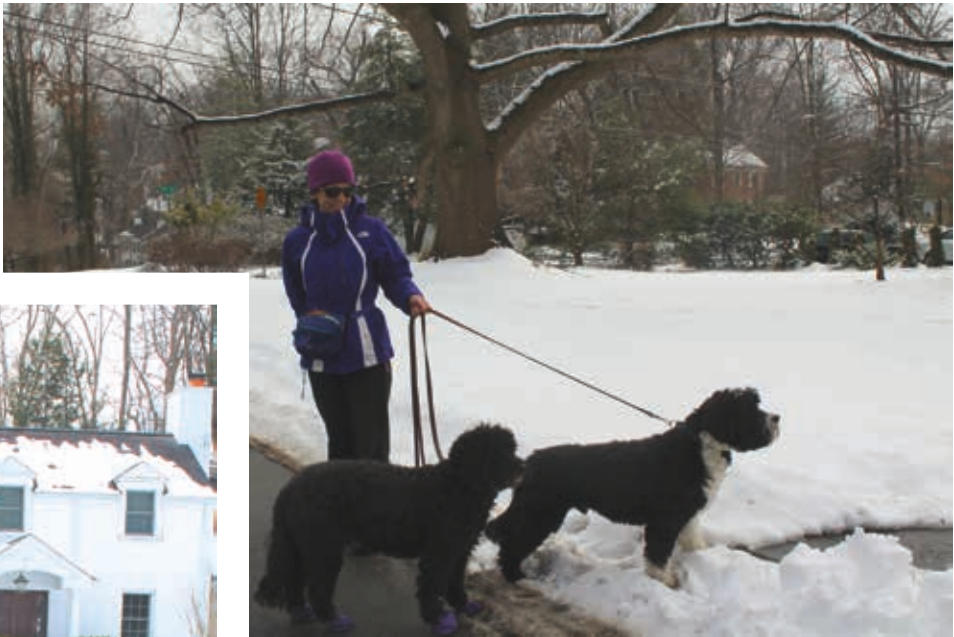
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Katie Katinas with Beel (in purple snow booties) and Niko, Portuguese Water Dogs



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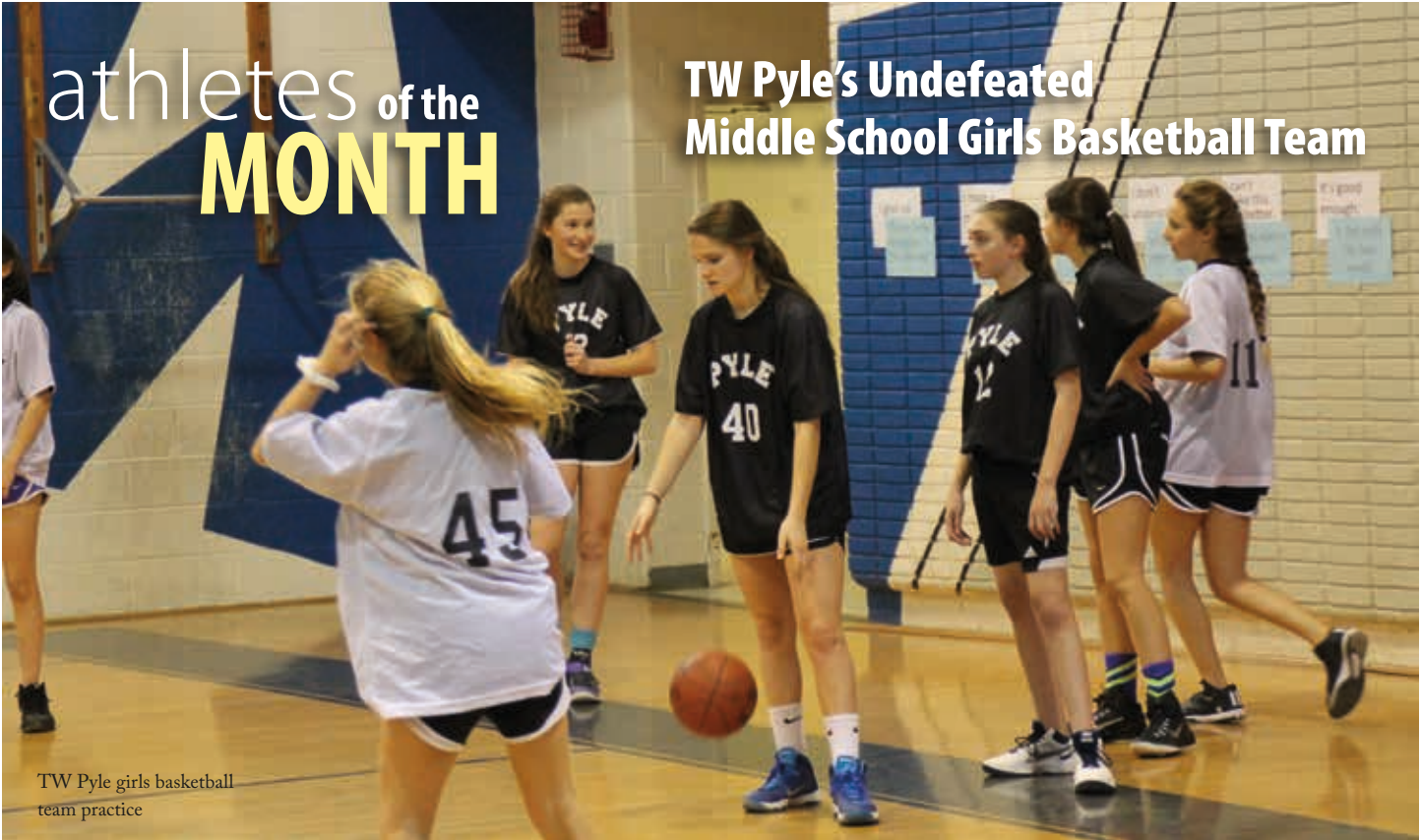






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If you know a family or individual we should feature in Bannockburn Banner, please nominate them and have them contact me at [timothy.beam@n2pub.com](mailto:timothy.beam@n2pub.com).

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## BITE ME CANCER

By Sharon Ferraro

My daughter, Nikki, was diagnosed with Sporadic Medullary Thyroid Cancer on April 6, 2010, at the age of 17 while she was a junior in high school. I never imagined how inspiring, spiritual and stressful the journey would be ... or how strong I would have to be as a mom.



At diagnosis, we were told there was no treatment for Nikki's type of cancer other than surgery. While I was very scared, my faith did keep me strong. My husband and I decided to move forward with normal activities, and I kept up a very positive mindset with my daughter. While we may have been happy with normal activities; very quickly, Nikki became focused on going above and beyond expectations. This included giving in when she wanted to set up a Relay for Life team a week after diagnosis (a month before major surgery), and where she raised \$20,000 by the time the Relay event occurred a month after her surgery.

Then, a few weeks after the Relay event, Nikki began begging to have a foundation so she could continue to help others. We were in the middle of critical medical discussions about more surgical options for the cancer, wondering what treatment would bring voice would come back (after losing a vocal cord in surgery), possible external beam radiation that was not a normal treatment option, and getting her ready for her senior year of high school! A foundation wasn't in my plan; but, Bite Me Cancer became



a foundation in September 2010, five months after her diagnosis. Whew!

At diagnosis/surgery, I could not have imagined all that Nikki would accomplish and experience. While she has had cancer throughout the past 5.5 years, has had a variety of surgeries as well as numerous scans, and has been on a new oral chemo since October 2011, she continues to push forward and live with passion and positivity. She was even able to graduate from James Madison University on time in May 2015!

Throughout, she has successfully led Bite Me Cancer to meet its annual goals to raise research funds for Thyroid Cancer (the fastest growing cancer in the country) and also to support/inspire teenagers battling all cancers. Since September 2010, the foundation has raised almost \$175,000 for Thyroid Cancer research grants and has distributed our special Teen Support Bags to almost 2,000 teenagers with cancer in about 60 hospitals across the country (in 29 states)! We were also able to have the Commonwealth of Virginia institute a Teen Cancer Awareness Week (3rd week of January) each year, statewide, starting in 2015. We have a board of directors and five committees as well as other advisors who help Bite Me Cancer meet our goals, and Nikki leads them all with her vision and commitment.

Throughout our journey with cancer, I have prayed more deeply and have lived a more inspired life. I've tried to focus on the blessings of everyday life, staying in the now, recalculating when needed, and feeling gratitude as much as possible. Nikki has inspired so many people, including me. To learn more about our goals, events and volunteer opportunities, please visit: [www.BiteMeCancer.org](http://www.BiteMeCancer.org).

Bite Me Cancer is a member of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce as well as the Dulles, Reston and Fairfax County



Chambers to help us raise awareness and donations. We have lived in Fairfax County since 1984.

**Sharon Ferraro**, Co-Founder of Bite Me Cancer and mom of Nikki, the founder.

**Phone:** 703.709.2539, [info@bitemecancer.org](mailto:info@bitemecancer.org)

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# In & Around THE ESTATES

Pictures & Stories From  
January 2016 Snowstorm

**SNOWFLAKES**  
Yesterday they were denticulate as dandelion greens, they  
locked together in spokes and fell so weightlessly

I thought of best friends holding hands.  
And then of mating hawks that soar into the air to link their claws

and somersault down, separating just before they touch the ground.  
Sometimes the snowflakes glitter, it's more like tinkling

than snow, it never strikes, and I want to be struck, that is  
I want to know what to do. I begin enthusiastically,

I go in a hurry, I fall pell-mell down a hill, like a ball of yarn's  
unraveling trajectory — down and away but also surprising ricochets

that only after seem foretold. Yesterday I took a walk because  
I wanted to be struck, and what happened was

an accident: a downy clump floated precisely in my eye.  
The lashes clutched it close, melting it against the eye's hot surface.

And like the woman talking to herself in an empty church  
eventually realizes she is praying, I walked home with eyes that melted snow.



Jane's snowed-in project – cleaned off the telephone table!



David Goldberger's perspective (above and below



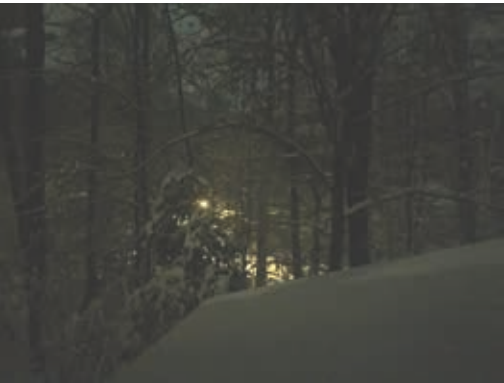
Got a special feature article idea? To share your favorite story, idea or intimate historical knowledge of the Estates (best gardens, trails, bird watching, or favorite historical anecdotes, etc.) reach out to Sarah Taylor @ 240.204.4336 or e-mail sarah.taylor@n2pub.com



**SNOWMAGEDDON 2016**  
Ben & Joyce Schlesinger

Joyce and I managed to grab one of the last planes out of DC on Friday, Jan. 22, amid gathering flurries! This was actually a business trip for Joyce and me. We were booked to leave Saturday, but United finally blinked and let us change, and be snowmageddon refugees by the Pacific, spend an extra day with our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, Ira! Joyce is in San Francisco now and I'm en route to Tucson - but we're due to return home on Wednesday afternoon, and starting to worry about the house, the roof, or ever seeing our driveway again!

Hope everyone stays safe, warm, well fed – see you all soon!



Above Left: After  
Above Right: Snow  
pictures: before  
(photos by Bekki Sims)  
Left: Jane's  
winter view



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# Resident Recipe

## AUTHENTIC IRISH LAMB STEW – Traditional Irish Lamb Stew From Country Cork, Ireland

Recipe courtesy of Giana Ferguson

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 medium-sized onions, chopped
- Oil, for frying
- 1 ounce butter
- 1 sprig dried thyme
- 2 1/2 pounds best end of lamb neck, cut into large pieces
- 7 carrots, chopped lengthways into 2-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons pearl barley
- 5 cups chicken stock, recipe follows
- Salt (recommended: Fleur du Sel)
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 bouquet garni (parsley, thyme, and bay leaf)

- 12 medium potatoes
- 1 bunch parsley, leaves finely chopped
- 1 bunch chives
- Serving suggestion: herb butter, recipe follows
- Made in 30 minutes or less

### DIRECTIONS

In a large heavy-bottomed saucepan, cook the onions in oil and butter, on medium-high heat until they are translucent. Add the dried thyme and stir. Add the lamb and brown on a high heat to seal in juices. Add carrots and pearl barley. Pour in the chicken stock so that it almost covers the meat and vegetables. Season with salt and pepper and add Bouquet garni. Cover and cook on low heat for two hours, being careful not to boil. Place potatoes on top of the stew, cover and cook for 30 minutes until the meat is falling beautifully off the bones and the potatoes are fork tender.

Serve the stew in large flat soup bowls, and drizzle herb butter over the potatoes or garnish with parsley and chives.

### Stock

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chicken carcass                  | Bay leaf                             |
| 1 onion                          | Salt and freshly ground black pepper |
| 4 cups water                     |                                      |
| 3 stalks celery, roughly chopped |                                      |
- Preheat the stockpot. Combine ingredients in a large heavy-bottomed saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil and simmer for approximately 30 minutes. Then let it cool down and skim off the fat. Yield: 6 servings

### Herb Butter

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 stick butter         | 1 small bunch chives, |
| 1 small bunch parsley, | finely chopped        |
| finely chopped         | 1 sprig thyme         |

Melt butter in a small saucepan. Add parsley, chives and thyme. Yield: 6 servings

To share your favorite recipes in the next issue of the Banner please send them to [timothy.beam@n2pub.com](mailto:timothy.beam@n2pub.com).



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# DUAL PERSONALITY SUVs

By Beverly & Steve Smirnis

Dependable And Comfortable During The Week . . . Ready And Willing On The Weekend

Jeep’s **Grand Cherokee** is the most awarded SUV ever for its supreme delivery on every front—off-road capability, class-leading towing and luxurious interior design. The 2016 model will vault this luxury midsize SUV to the top of its class in fuel economy as well. You can opt for the 3.0-liter EcoDiesel V-6 powertrain on Limited, Overland Summit and SRT models and get up to 30 mpg and a highway driving range of 730 miles with no compromises on its 240 hp and 420 ft-lb torque. The award-winning 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6 power platform will also improve its MPG rating by adding Engine Stop-Start technology, a cooled Exhaust-Gas Recirculation system, an advanced two-step variable valve lift system, and variable-valve timing, while simultaneously improving its output to 295 hp. The 5.7-liter V-8, with 475 hp and 470-lb-ft of torque will set the bar as well, employing electric power steering, decreased tire rolling resistance and weight reductions thanks to new aluminum elements.

While fuel economy is not exactly its forte, **Land Rover’s LR4** comes at a price that undercuts many of the large luxury SUVs, and is one vehicle that can turn as many heads in the valet line as it can on the back roads. Considered a midsize luxury SUV, the LR4 is offered in a single well-equipped trim level. Five seats are standard and a third row is option. Under the hood is

a 5.0-liter V8 cranking out 375 hp and 375-lb-ft of torque via a 6-speed automatic transmission with full-time 4WD. Off the pavement, LR4’s Terrain Response system offers the choice of mud, rocks, snow, or sand modes and automatically dials in the optimal suspension and powertrain settings for each. On or off the road, LR4’s suspension is well-tuned in terms of ride quality.

In the fiercely competitive small crossover SUV category, the **Subaru Forester** has continually proven to hold its own with sure-footed standard all-wheel drive, above class cargo room and seating comfort, a top five-star rating for overall protection in crash tests, superior-rated automatic emergency braking system, and just enough creature comforts for those who value the “functional simplicity” of the Subaru brand. Continuously variable transmission (CVT)-equipped 2.5i models are rated at 27 mpg combined—excellent for an AWD crossover. The 2.0XT’s standard turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder churns out 250 hp and 258 lb.-ft. of torque, making it one of the strongest engines in this class while still delivering 25 mpg combined. The 2.5i Limited, 2.5i Touring and 2.0XT models have an additional driver-selectable mode that optimizes various functions to improve traction on slippery surfaces. Generous ground clearance and hill descent control on the higher level trims also come in handy for the occasional trip off-road.

# JUMP START YOUR SPRING GARDEN!

By N2 Staff Writer, Amy Lynn Howlett

Are you yearning to get back in the garden but Mother Nature isn’t ready? Get a jump on your spring garden by growing seedlings indoors! Growing your own seedlings allows you to save money and grow interesting or unusual varieties of crops and flowers. Veggies with short growing seasons can reach maturity or at least get a good head start by growing inside with controlled conditions and protection from weeds, bacteria, fungi and our hungry furry friends. Planting crops that have already grown indoors results in an earlier harvest and greater yield.

The length of time seedlings need to grow before planting in the garden varies, so consult a growing calendar for your area to determine when to start sowing seeds in your region. Do not plant before the last frost in your area; remember, it is better to plant late rather than too early and watch your hard work wither in the cold.

Before sowing, always read the seed packet for the recommended planting depth and any special instructions, such as pre-chilling or pre-soaking before planting. Select a sterile, “soilless” seed-starting mix, which has a light and fluffy texture and can hold moisture, to help prevent disease and encourage root growth. You can use just about any container with drainage holes to start your seedlings, including something as simple as paper cups with holes punched in the bottom.

To begin sowing, fill containers with your growing mix and moisten with warm water. Scatter the seeds and cover with the mix. A good rule of thumb is to cover seeds with a layer that is three times its thickness. Tap the soil down to eliminate air pockets and gently water. Cover with a clear plastic dome like those sold at gardening centers, or lightly cover with plastic

wrap to retain moisture until seeds begin to germinate. The soil should be moist but do not overwater, which may cause root rot. Be sure to label what you plant and keep the seed packet for future reference.

Once a seedling breaks through the planting mix it quickly runs out of fuel from the seed and begins to use light as its primary energy source. The sunlight in most homes is too weak or insufficient to give seedlings the energy they need, which is the most common reason why planters complain that their windowsill seedlings are lackluster with leggy, spindly stems. Consider supplementing or even replacing window light by using fluorescent bulbs to give your seedlings the light they need to thrive.

Three weeks after shoots are visible, the nutrients in the planting mix are usually depleted and it is necessary to use a liquid fertilizer. If you use a soilless, sterile planting medium fertilizing is imperative. Nourish seedlings with a half-strength fertilizer the first four weeks after germination, and then continue to fertilize with full-strength fertilizer weekly.

Spring will be here before you know it! Sow seeds now to literally reap the benefits later!

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## Give Your Technology A TIME OUT

Written by N2 Staff Writer, **Elizabeth McCabe**

The ping of an email. Notification of missed calls, voicemails and text messages. Are you being bombarded by your iPhone, tablet or PC? Devices that were designed to simplify our lives have complicated our lives more than we ever could have imagined. Families and individuals are being driven to distraction in today's electronic age. Work hours are no longer confined to 9-5. Now with emails, text messages and cell phones, the standard hours of the work week have eroded with the passage of time.

Parents aren't the only ones struggling to unplug. According to a recent study, kids 13 to 17 years send and receive more than 3,700 text messages a month. According to a recent report by Common Sense Media, teens in the United States devote nine hours a day using media for enjoyment. Girls flock to social media while boys often pass their time playing the latest video games.

Considering that two-thirds of teens own a smartphone, parents are forced to compete with the demands of a digital age. How many parents are tired of seeing children texting, checking Facebook, or posting on Instagram? Is it time to give your technology a time out?

#### Take Time To Unplug

Put your phone on "Do Not Disturb." Refuse to answer email after 8 p.m. or break up with your phone during family time. Consider unplugging and connecting with family and friends without social media – just authentic face-to-face communication. Take back family meal time with the DinnerTime app. This clever app can disable the Internet, texting, and even calling friends for the dinner period (or bedtime). Richard Sah, the co-founder of DinnerTime, was tired of seeing his children dis-

tracted and decided to take action. He wanted to enjoy quality time with his children and designing an app was his answer.

#### Engage in Family Activities

Take time to invest in your family on a weekly basis. Consider implementing Technology Time Out Tuesdays. Break out the board games, boost your endorphins with a walk in the neighborhood, or simply go out to dinner and talk face to face. Or give back to the community by lending a helping hand at a soup kitchen.

#### Cultivate Friendships

Who needs virtual friends when you can have real, authentic friendships? Join a Bible study, a Bridge club, a bowling league, or a men's group. Learn how to connect to others without social media. Meet a friend for coffee and chat or join a walking group in your community.

In today's digital age, don't get into the trap of comparing yourself with others. Take a break from Facebook. A study by the Happiness Research Institute showed that quitting Facebook for a week caused participants to be happier, less worried, and even less lonely. Unplug on a regular basis and reap the rewards. You'll be glad that you did!

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# Monaco

By N2 Staff Writer, **Tracy LaFon**

## LUXURY VACATION OF A LIFETIME



Everyone should be treated to the ultimate in luxury at least once in a lifetime, and there is no better place on earth for that than Monaco. While second only to Vatican City in claiming the title of smallest country in the world, there is no doubt that Monaco offers the largest assortment of high-flying vacation extravagance to be found. This year, treat yourself to a vacation fit for royalty in the fairytale land of princes and princesses. A sliver of land nestled between the towering Alps cliffs and the shimmering Mediterranean Sea, the world famous city of Monte Carlo is where jet-setters, celebrities, haute couture and excitement meet. Monaco is accessible only by its bordering neighbor France or its yacht-laden harbors as there is not an

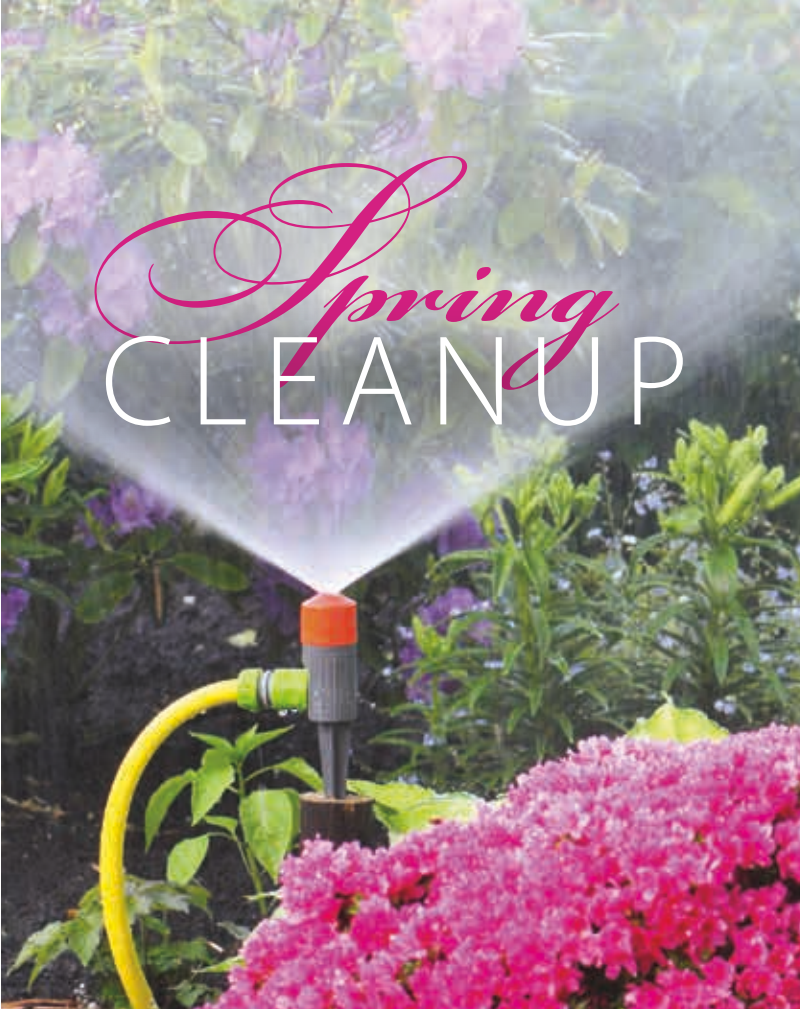
airport located in the country; however, there are no boarder checks and transportation is effortlessly available by water taxi, bus, helicopter, train and easily traveled roads.

Planning your trip around your personal pleasure is the way to go when visiting Monaco. Book for May if you love the world of celebrities and movie magic, as the Cannes Film Festival is the ultimate, high-brow cinematic indulgence. During this time, celebrity sightings are even more common among the land where a Prince romantically courted a young American actress into becoming his Princess, and James Bond roamed in *Casino Royale*.

Speaking of casinos, if the cards or dice call you, prestigious gaming abounds at establishments such as the Casino Monte-Carlo, Monte-Carlo Bay Casino and Casino Café de Paris. Remember to pack your finery as many places, both dining and gaming, have a dress code for the glamorous enjoyment. If speed is one of your pleasures, the ultimate in Formula One racing is Monaco's Grand Prix. The city magnificently dresses out for the royals, celebrities and fans to celebrate this exciting race. One of the most pleasurable ways to experience the race is by booking a cruise that anchors in the harbor and provides transportation to the race, as well as other related celebrations, historical locations, shopping and spas.

Monaco also offers up only the finest in luxurious pampering. After enjoying a day visiting the palace of royalty, hours of shopping, or a night of dining, dancing and gaming, a trip to one of Monaco's spas is a must. Offering everything from Turkish mud-baths to cutting-edge beauty treatments, be prepared to be pampered at La Maison de Beaute' Carita, Margy's, Willow Stream Spa or any one of Monte Carlo's indulgent spas.

Monaco, operating with the euro as its currency, is a pricy indulgence but the experience is worth every penny ... or €0.01. Everyone deserves that unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime experience and there is no doubt that Monaco is the fairytale place that can provide it, so treat yourself and head to the land of ultimate luxury!



## Tips To Ready Your Home For A Fresh Season

By N2 Staff Writer, **Megan Weatherly**

Spring is the time of year for new beginnings. After a long winter, chances are your house may be in need of a little refreshment, as well. These tips will help you jump-start your spring cleaning and get your home ready for warmer weather.

### WINDOWS

For a clear view and fresh air, start by cleaning up your windows. Check the screens for any tears and replace those that are damaged. Screens should be cleaned annually to remove buildup of dust and dirt. Use a soft brush and mild soap and water mixture to scrub both sides of your screens, then allow to air dry. Before reinstalling your window screens, take the opportunity to clean up your window glass and frames.

### DECKS, PORCHES AND PATIOS

To maximize your enjoyment of outdoor spaces, make sure

they are prepped for warm-weather use. Check the stability of any wood, stone or cement structures and make sure there are no cracks or crumbles. Some surfaces may require sanding or pressure washing to remove splinters, mildew and other discolorations. Reapply paint, stains and sealers as needed. Freshen up your outdoor spaces with colorful plants and outdoor furniture.

### SPRINKLERS AND SPIGOTS

Test all sprinklers and outdoor spigots to be sure water is flowing correctly and no damage has occurred during winter freezes. Repair or replace any pipes and sprinkler heads that are faulty in order to prevent further damage.

### SWIMMING POOLS

Before going for a swim in your pool, test the water's chemistry. Make sure that chemical levels are not too high or too low, and adjust as necessary. If your pool needs to be drained and refilled, now is the ideal time to do that. Have your filters and equipment tested to ensure that the system is working properly.

With these basic updates out of the way, you can enjoy your home and the warmer weather with no worries.



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# March local events

## TUESDAY, MARCH 1

### Wine Classes

**Where:** The Urban Winery, 949 Bonifant St., Silver Springs, MD

**When:** 7-8:30 p.m.

**For more information:** <http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/calendar#march-2016>

## FRIDAY, MARCH 4

### Bernard Ebb Songwriting Awards

**Where:** Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD

**When:** 8 p.m.

The Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, founded by Cathy Bernard, is named in honor of Fred Ebb, one of the great American songwriters and creator of Broadway hits such as Cabaret and Chicago and iconic songs including New York, New York.

**For more information:** <http://www.bethesda.org/>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 5

### Slayer

**Where:** The Fillmore Silver Spring, 8656 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

**When:** 7:30 p.m.

**For more information:** <http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/calendar#march-2016>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 12

### Art Explorers Parent/Child Drop In Art

**Where:** Candy Corner Studio, Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD

**When:** 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Playgroup in the Park (PGiP) and the Partnership present Art Explorers Family Studio for parents and children. Each week explore a new art form or theme in the Candy Corner Studio. Drop-in only; no pre-registration. \$10 per child/parent combo.

**For more information:** <http://www.pgip.org>

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18 THROUGH SATURDAY, MARCH 19

### Bethesda Film Fest

**Where:** Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD

**When:** See website for more information

The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District invites filmmakers to submit recent, original work for the fourth annual Bethesda Film Fest, set for Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19 at Imagination Stage. Up to five films will be selected to be shown.

**For more information:** <http://www.bethesda.org/>

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

### Art Explorers Parent/Child Drop In Art

**Where:** Candy Corner Studio, Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD

**When:** 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Playgroup in the Park (PGiP) and the Partnership present Art Explorers Family Studio for parents and children. Each week explore a new art form or theme in the Candy Corner Studio. Drop-in only; no pre-registration. \$10 per child/parent combo.

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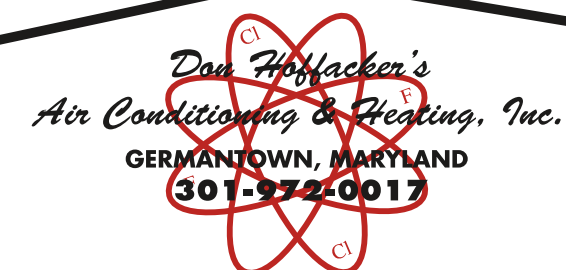
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| Address             | Neighborhood        | Sale Price  | DOM | Beds | Baths | SqFt   | Parking | Yr Blt/Style       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----|------|-------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| 7017 LOCH LOMOND DR | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,200,000 | 146 | 5    | 3.5   | 21,287 | Y       | 1964 Colonial      |
| 6812 SELKIRK DR     | BANNOCKBURN HEIGHTS | \$1,250,000 | 21  | 4    | 3     | 16,885 | Y       | 1937 Contemporary  |
| 7008 CARMICHAEL AVE | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,399,000 | 138 | 6    | 4.5   | 27,223 | Y       | 1967 Colonial      |
| 6726 SELKIRK CT     | BANNOCKBURN HEIGHTS | \$1,495,000 | 162 | 6    | 4.5   | 27,816 | Y       | 1939 Colonial      |
| 6916 HEATHERHILL RD | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$999,500   | 25  | 4    | 2     | 20,000 | Y       | 1970 Colonial      |
| 7204 ORKNEY PKWY    | BANNOCKBURN HEIGHTS | \$1,089,000 | 64  | 6    | 4.5   | 28,337 | Y       | 1951 Contemporary  |
| 6913 NEVIS RD       | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,099,900 | 126 | 5    | 3     | 22,036 | Y       | 1968 International |
| 7107 ARRAN PL       | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,195,000 | 31  | 5    | 3.5   | 20,000 | Y       | 1963 Contemporary  |
| 7024 HEATHERHILL RD | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,250,000 | 45  | 5    | 3     | 21,255 | Y       | 1965 Colonial      |
| 7200 HELMSDALE RD   | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,295,000 | 13  | 5    | 4.5   | 22,857 | Y       | 1964 Colonial      |
| 6904 NEVIS RD       | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,399,000 | 29  | 5    | 4     | 21,850 | Y       | 1967 Rambler       |
| 7300 BARRA DR       | BANNOCKBURN ESTATES | \$1,450,000 | 239 | 5    | 4.5   | 28,313 | Y       | 1970 Colonial      |
| 7101 ORKNEY PKWY    | BANNOCKBURN HEIGHTS | \$3,495,000 | 10  | 6    | 8     | 26,589 | Y       | 2007 Colonial      |



“Being licensed in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia allows me to show my clients all the possibilities.”

**What makes you different than others in your profession?** I’m a certified Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES), which means I have taken courses necessary to qualify to help people downsize from that big house where they raised a family and move onto a new phase of life. Through my network of resources, I help with organizing, fix ups, staging and donating. Sometimes adult children are involved, and I like forming a team of sorts with the sellers and their adult children. It can be a challenging process, but one I enjoy and that brings great emotional rewards.

**What is the one thing that your clients should know about you?** I am able to find my buyers hidden gems and surprisingly great areas since I’ve lived in Bethesda all my life. Being licensed in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia allows

me to show my clients all the possibilities. This knowledge benefits those who may not know what city they would like to live in yet or those who may be moving for a new job.

**How would your clients describe you?** My clients have described me as trustworthy, efficient and responsive. Here is part of a recent note that I appreciated: “Working with Vicki was like working with a trusted friend who had only our best interests at heart. Not only did she sell our condo quickly, she helped us with every aspect of the move and preparation. Since I was trying to manage the sale long distance, she took my place in handling all of the many on-site activities. She was always available and responsive to my many questions, and went well beyond our highest expectations.”

**Vicki L. Porter, SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist)**  
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