

More top stories**Montgomery gets new park director**

Former associate director of the National Park Service, Mary Bradford, will take the helm of Montgomery County's park system under the Montgomery County Planning Board. Bradford oversaw all human resources, technology and financial operations for the \$3.5 billion-a-year federal agency and has lived in Silver Spring for 25 years. She assumes control of the 32,600-acre park system Feb. 21. — Karl B. Hille

Weekend delays for Red, Blue and Yellow Metro lines

The Red, Blue and Yellow lines will have up to 15-minute delays this weekend due to track maintenance. The Red Line will share one track between Friendship Heights and Van Ness-UDC from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Blue Line trains will share one track between Benning Road and Addison Road-Seat Pleasant at 10 p.m. today to midnight Sunday. The Yellow line will share on track between L'Enfant Plaza and Pentagon from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Saturday. — Christy Goodman

Bethesda investment fund to invest in ethanol plant

A Bethesda investment fund said Thursday it will invest \$85 million in a firm that plans to build three large-scale plants in the Midwest to produce ethanol, an environmentally friendly alternative fuel and gasoline additive. — AP

Washington's dc.gov Web site wins award for best site

The District government Internet

February blooms at Washington Home & Garden Show

Vendors may see millions in sales

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Tons of dirt, hundreds of flowers and trees and millions of potential dollars in sales are what the 46th annual Washington Home & Garden Show at the Washington Convention Center is all about.

The largest home and garden show on the East Coast, this year's four-day event features 18 full-sized gardens and 800 exhibits. Last year, the exhibit drew more than 600,000 visitors.

"Basically we're hoping to land some high-end clients," said James Landot of Serene Ponds and Landscapes in Bowie, as he and his 18 workers laid out his 1,200 square feet of space into two gardens Wednesday afternoon. "We've titled this 'The call of nature with a touch of class' because we're splitting the space into a natural and a formal garden.

"The nature garden uses lots of boulders and moss" and the formal garden has "two three-foot waterfalls illuminated with fiber-optic lighting and features trimmed boxwood in linear lines."

Howard Cohen, from Surrounds in Sterling, Va., said he, too, was looking for new upscale clients.

"We do high-end jobs, averag-



Andrew Harnik/Examiner

Landscapers get their displays ready Wednesday for the Washington Home & Garden Show at the Washington Convention Center.

ing about \$50,000 to \$100,000," said Cohen, who is participating in the event for the fourth year in a row.

The theme of this year's show is "Outdoor Living: A Festival of Color," offering landscapers the opportunity to showcase their skills, Cohen said.

"Often you meet people who want something who discover you can do it, leading to jobs," he said.

Cohen compared contemporary landscaping to contemporary housing stock.

"There are a lot of amenities in

houses today that weren't available 20 years ago," he said. "Today a garden can be an extension of your house, an outdoor living room with fireplaces or grills."

On the home side, visitors will find vendors offering everything from custom libraries and home theaters to wine cellar storage and the ultimate floored and sectioned "Taj garage."

"For me, this is a chance to show people my products and create product awareness," said Jane Arason, who was an unemployed tech industry worker until she

SHOW INFORMATION

- 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday
- 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday

■ Adult tickets are \$10, children ages 6-12 are \$5. Children under 5 are free when accompanied by a paying adult.

■ Advance tickets can be charged through Ticketmaster at 202-397-SEAT. For further information, visit www.washingtonhomeandgardenshow.com.

founded Arason Enterprises Inc. in 2002 after looking for and not finding the right kind of spare bed. She asked her husband to create a bed that could be stored — and that was the birth of her fu-chest and ZZZ-chest, beds in boxes which appear to be cadenzas and bureaus when closed.

"So many people come up to me and say, 'Gee, I wish I'd known about this a couple of months ago.' I would have bought one of these," Arason said.

The show also offers vendors themselves a chance to learn about new products and materials.

Said Landot: "I learned about some Turkish marble last year. It's a real nice alternative to brick pavers and flagstone. And it's got a nice mid-range price."

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