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Inside

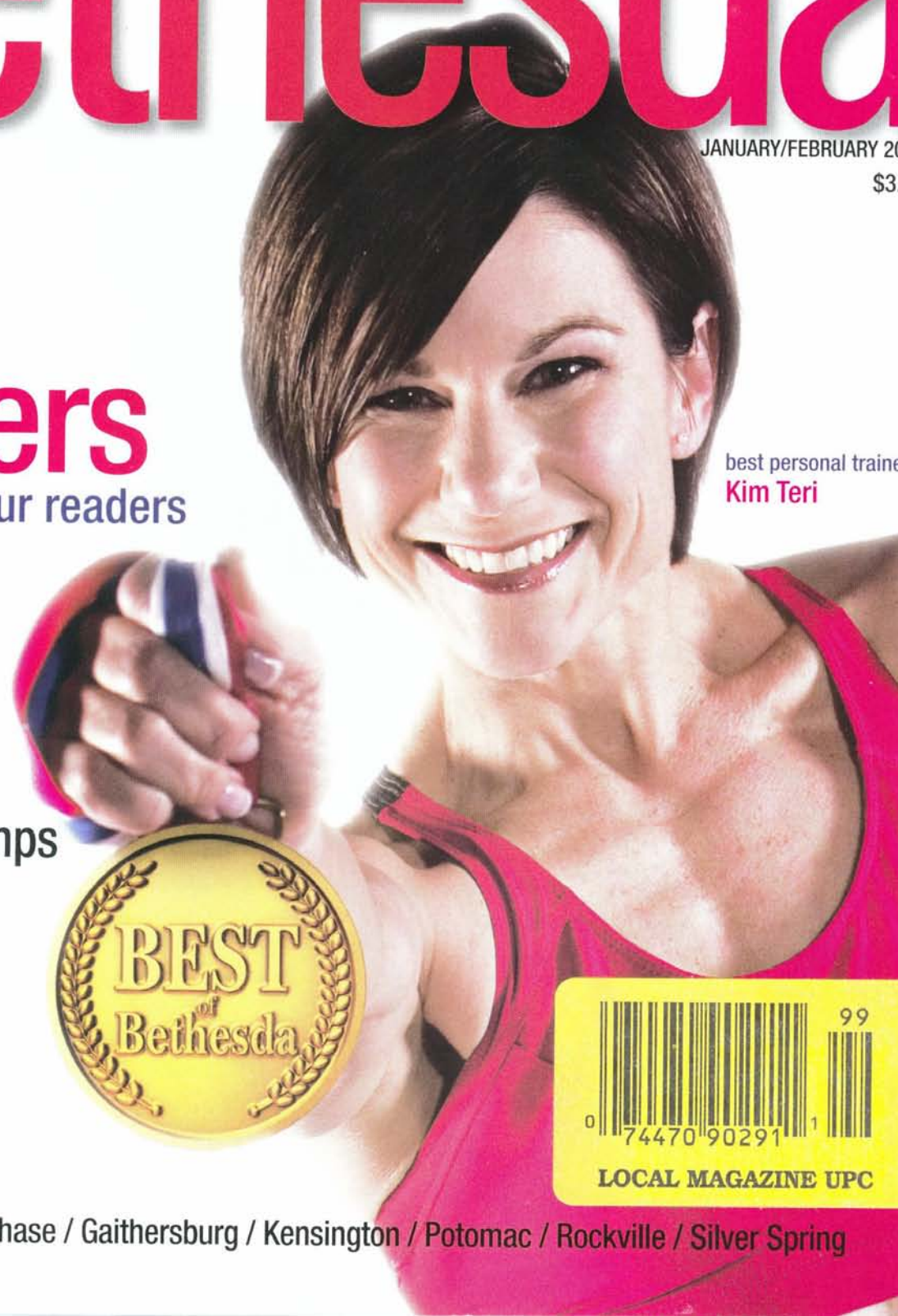
the best of Bethesda

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011
\$3

61 winners

as chosen by our readers

best personal trainer
Kim Teri



PLUS:

Wow Weddings

Uncommon Camps

'Bob Levey's
Bethesda'



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LOCAL MAGAZINE UPC

Bethesda / Chevy Chase / Gaithersburg / Kensington / Potomac / Rockville / Silver Spring

the best of Bethesda

January/February 2008
Volume 5 • Issue 1

readers pick their favorites in

61 CATEGORIES

68 Restaurants and Food

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86 Health, Fitness and Beauty

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STACY ZARIN-GOLDBERG



STACY ZARIN-GOLDBERG



COURTESY/ DISCOVERY GALLERY



readers'
favorites in

61

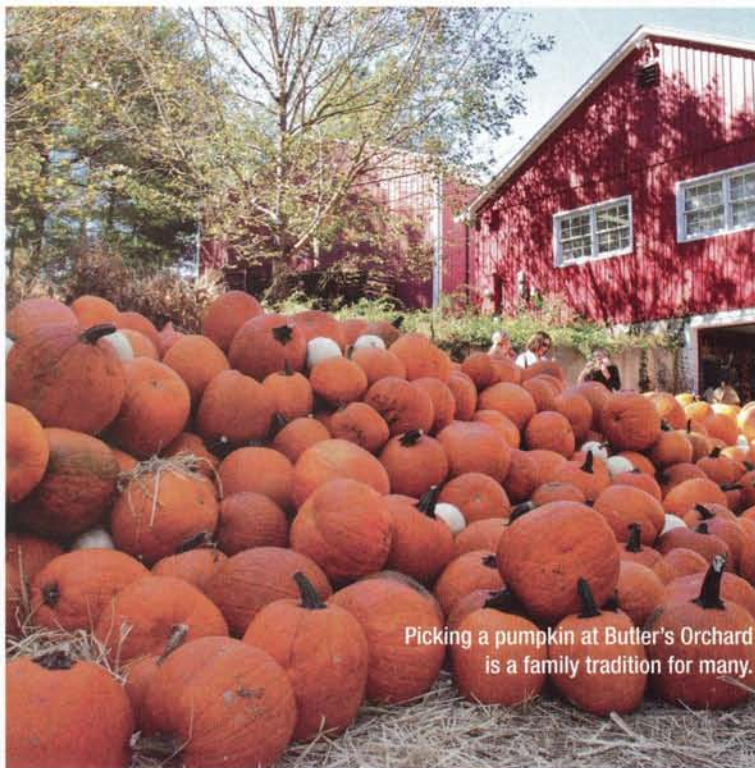
categories



PLUS

Check out readers' comments about the
'best' & 'worst'
of Bethesda and the surrounding towns.

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Picking a pumpkin at Butler's Orchard is a family tradition for many.

LAUREN GANAWAY

BEST pumpkin patch Butler's Orchard

Every October, Butler's Orchard (22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, 301-972-3299, www.butlersorchard.com) transforms into a fall wonderland to make the Great Pumpkin proud: People arrive by bus and car to pick the perfect gourd—ranging from fist-sized jack-be-littles to 125-pound behemoths—right off the vine. "They have more fun shapes and colors," says mother Christine Waltz Dallaire of Chevy Chase. The pumpkin patch started three decades ago as a high school farm project and has grown into a festival of hay rides, slides, mazes and more. Says Susan Butler, who along with brothers Wade and Todd run the farm started by their parents in 1950: "So many people come in and say, 'I used to pick pumpkins here when I was little,' and now they are coming back with their children. It's a family tradition."

OTHER TOP VOTE GETTERS:

Homestead Farm • American Plant Food Company

BEST tutoring company Peer2Peer Tutors

Parent Brigid Hastings attributes Walt Whitman High School sophomore and daughter Christina's higher grades and improved study skills to Peer2Peer tutor Sandy Htut of Bethesda, a senior at Whitman.

Peer2Peer Tutors (www.peer2peertutors.com, 240-744-2470, Potomac) believes students learn best from other students, so the company matches high-performing high school upperclassmen with younger students who need academic help.

"Kids really do relate better to each other," Hastings says. "Using Peer2Peer has alleviated our family's stress level around homework, and helped Christina get organized." Hastings also appreciates the flexibility Peer2Peer offers in scheduling, like doubling up on sessions in the days leading up to an important test.

Lynn Gertz of Peer2Peer only hires tutors who have good people and academic skills, he says, and matches students with tutors based on shared interests, such as sports or science. Gertz relates to parents; she's a mom and educator who taught in Montgomery County Public Schools for 35 years. Peer2Peer founder Erik Kimel of Potomac started the company when he was a senior at Winston Churchill High School in 2004. He expanded it while studying at New York University, adding service areas in New York and, more recently, in Fairfax County, Va.

OTHER TOP VOTE GETTERS:

Prep-U • PrepMatters

BEST summer camp Landon Day Camp

For the past 16 years, Landon Summer Program Director Hans Farnstrom has shepherded boys and girls ages 3 to 17 through day camps every June and July on the private well-kept grounds of the boy's school (6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, 301-320-1044, www.landon.net). Personal attention is paramount as the camper to counselor ratio average is 6:1, Farnstrom says. The day camp focuses on sports, such as baseball, soccer, swimming, tennis; and classic games, such as capture the flag and dodge ball. The games and physical activity are perfect for boys like Ben Goodfriend, 10, of Bethesda, who has attended the day camp for the past two years.

"They know how to keep them competitive and happy," says Ben's mom, Susan Emmer. "He [Ben] comes home tired and dirty, but happy."

Landon has separate summer camps for art, academics and music, as well as camps focusing on photography, Italy and navigating Washington D.C.

OTHER TOP VOTE GETTERS:

YMCA Camp Letts • Holton-Arms School Creative Summer • Valley Mill Camp • Bar-T Ranch