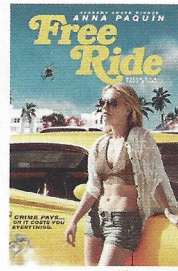


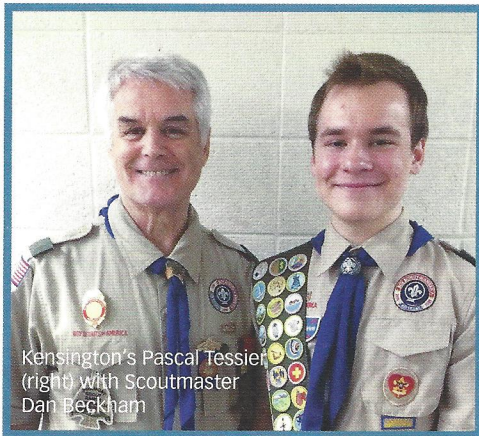
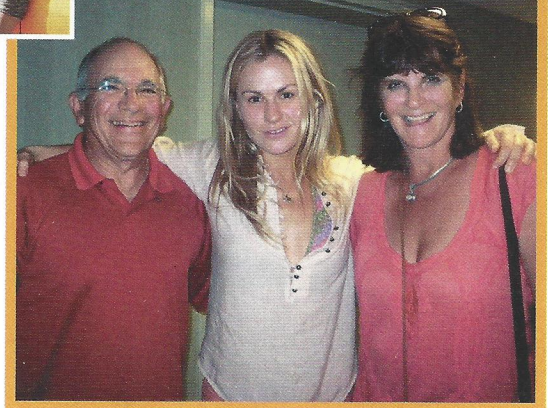
THE PRODUCER

Who knew? Montgomery County Planning Board member **Norman Dreyfuss** is a movie producer on the side. The former developer, who lives in Potomac, is executive producer of *Free Ride*, a feature film starring **Anna Paquin**, which opened in New York and Los Angeles in January with a video-on-demand release that same month. Dreyfuss got involved in the film through his son Brian, a Winston Churchill graduate who works as a Hollywood agent. Brian co-produced the movie. Set in the 1970s, the film is based on writer-director Shana Betz's experiences as a child. It's the tale of a mother (Paquin) who flees an abusive relationship, heads to Florida and becomes involved in the drug trade.

Dreyfuss says it's the fourth film he has backed for his son. The first was *Brick*, which starred **Joseph Gordon-Levitt** in 2005. "He's very good at finding young talent," Dreyfuss says of his son. And the movie? "It's great," Dreyfuss says. "Very emotional because of the family story, but also full of adventure."



Potomac's Norman Dreyfuss, actress Anna Paquin and Debbi Dreyfuss

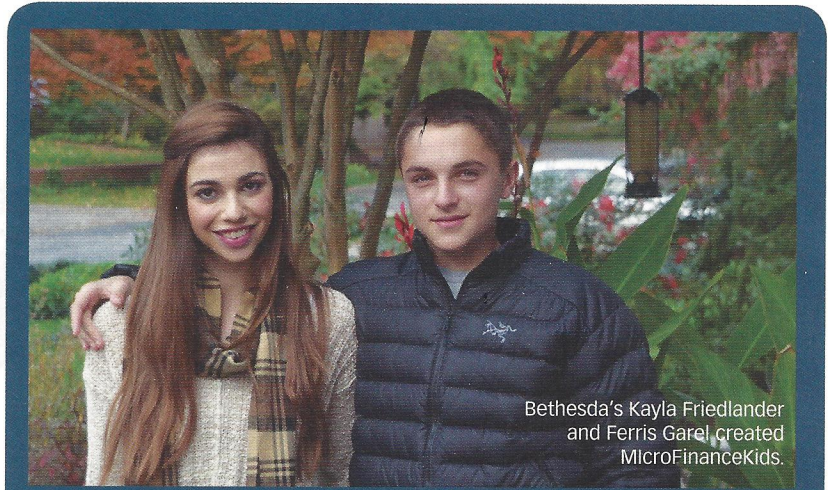


Kensington's Pascal Tessier (right) with Scoutmaster Dan Beckham

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

When the Boy Scouts of America lifted its ban on gay scouts at the beginning of this year, the organization made it possible for Kensington's **Pascal Tessier**, 17, to become one of the first openly gay Eagle Scouts. Tessier, a senior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, demonstrated against the ban last spring and was the subject of a *Bethesda Magazine* story at the time ("Scouts Dishonor," which can be read at BethesdaMagazine.com). Since then, Pascal has earned his final merit badges and completed his Eagle Scout Service Project, which involved reconstructing a walkway at the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase. He received his Eagle Scout badge in February.

Since gay adults continue to be banned from the organization, Tessier plans to "continue the fight for full inclusion." He hopes to return one day as a leader for the next generation. "I love the life lessons [scouting] teaches," he says. "It develops you into being a better person, and gives you all the skills you need to be a leader."



Bethesda's Kayla Friedlander and Ferris Garel created MicroFinanceKids.

HELPING HANDS

There's lots of evidence that young people today not only care about the world, they're increasingly savvy about how to make it a better place. Take **Ferris Garel** and **Kayla Friedlander** of Bethesda. Ferris' mom, Julie Garel, is director of a project on nutrition and wellness at Convergence: Center for Policy Resolution, and last summer she introduced the teens to Anum Fatima, a young Pakistani business student who was interning there. The teens, both juniors at The Field School in D.C., wondered how they could help poor people in Pakistan, and they ultimately came up with MicroFinanceKids, a person-to-person microlending network.

Fatima identifies families living in some of the poorest areas in Pakistan who need money to build or run their businesses in order to send their children to school. Then Ferris and Kayla email their school community and family members for help. They've raised enough for three separate \$500 loans—for a small grocery store owner, a small vegetable shop owner and an electrician. "I've always been interested in doing something like this," Ferris says. Kayla says they'll continue the program "until we go to college, and hopefully we can pass it along to someone else at school so it will continue to grow." ■

Maura Mahoney lives in Chevy Chase. Send People Watcher tips to peoplewatcher@bethesdamagazine.com.