Teachers and students alike try to get to know each other on the first day of classes at Montgomery County Schools on Aug. 26.
Back At It
Students return to school classrooms.

By Aaron Stern
The Almanac

Standing in the front entrance of Wayside Elementary School, school media specialist Katherine Grosso propped the steel door open against her leg and, with clipboard in hand, directed the flood of children and parents that rolled past her.

“Parents — you can not go to the classrooms,” she said, her voice booming. “Say goodbye, say ‘have a lovely day,’ say ‘have fun,’ but you can not go to the classrooms.”

Parents stopped in their tracks and children rushed on, toting bulging backpacks and chatting with months-lost friends.

“Parents are the worst,” said Wayside principal Yong-Mi Kim. “I think it’s harder for them than the kids.”

“I’m going to miss the summer but I kind of like being here because I get to see all my friends,” said Wayside fifth-grader Madison Farrand as she and fellow fifth-grader Noah Fogelson stayed behind the crowd on its way indoors to check off the final buses delivering students for the first day back to school in Montgomery County on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

**TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS** have been tinkering in their schools all summer, but the last two weeks have been the time of the most heavy lifting. At Wayside that has been more literal than in other places, as the final touches were put on the school’s new addition and new Promethean interactive white boards were installed.

“This thing is amazing,” said Kevin Zelin, a fourth-grade math and science teacher as he experimented with some of the tool’s features.

The addition in back of the school also features a new drop-off loop for parents that Kim said will hopefully eliminate traffic from backing up down Glen Road, so students now enter the building from the front and the rear. As students lined up by grade

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Wayside 4th-grader Jimmy Cutler with his brother Zachary, a Wayside Kindergartner: “Seeing my friends.”

Wayside teachers Katie Zettel, 4th grade, and Lynn Stuart, 5th grade: “The excitement of the kids, they’re usually excited to be back.” “The freshness and newness of it.”

Wayside 5th graders Noah Fogelson and Madison Farrand: “I like seeing all my friends.” “I’m going to miss the summer but I kind of like being here because I do see all my friends.”

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**Back to School**

**Viewpoints**

What’s your favorite part of the new school year?
Full Speed Ahead

New Bells Mill Elementary nearly half done, on pace for the 2009-2010 school year.

The renovation of Bells Mill Elementary School is on schedule to open for the 2009-2010 school year. The entirely new building being built on the site of the old Bells Mill on Bells Mill Road is roughly 45 percent done already, said James Song, director of the Montgomery County Public Schools construction division.

“Bells Mill’s right on track, in fact it’s a little ahead of schedule,” Song said. When it is completed, the 77,244-square-foot structure will be more than double the size of the old building (37,871 square feet) and will feature the “latest and greatest” in classroom technology, said Song. That technology will include new computers, built-in computer outlets, wireless computer access in classrooms and promethean interactive whiteboards.

The building itself will have a more logical layout, Song said, with the administration offices given a clear sight line to the bus loop and student drop-off areas for security reasons and the new gymnasium will be built within a close proximity both to parent parking areas and the school’s new ballfields.

Classrooms will also be clustered into learning pods that will keep children of each grade in short distance from their other classes, Song said.

— Aaron Stern

Moving Forward

4th Presbyterian School agrees on limited covenant for Edison Road property.

Neighbors of the Fourth Presbyterian School on South Glen Road continue to be encouraged by the open dialogue that has developed with school officials.

In the third public meeting with community members in two months, school officials announced on Thursday, Aug. 21 that the school’s board of directors that day voted to create a limited covenant that would prevent an adjoining property from being converted into an alternate driveway entrance to the school as long as the school owns the property. The establishment of such a covenant was requested by Edison Road residents at a meeting earlier this summer who feared the school might consider using the property to alleviate traffic along South Glen Road and would thereby turn Edison into a busier street. School officials said that the Edison Road property will instead be used to build a new home for incoming headmaster Jon Murray.

The school hopes to break ground on a new $12.9 million, 67,000 square-foot facility in early September pending the finalization of bond financing, said Tim Horst, president of the school’s board of directors. When completed the new building—which

See School Agrees, Page 11

See Party Benefits, Page 5
MCHS Interim Head Wades In

Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery may be part of the Montgomery County Humane Society’s financial troubles.

By Aaron Stern

A s the interim CEO of the Montgomery County Humane Society, Nicholas Gilman has set out to clarify the operating and leadership structure of the organization as well as to initiate a nationwide search for the next permanent head of the group and to attract new members to the board of directors with fund-raising expertise.

Gilman is the founder of Humane Logic, a consulting firm that works with humane societies around the country. He was brought in last month after then-CEO and president of the board of directors JC Crist stepped down following a six-month span in which five of the board’s 13 members resigned. At least three of those board members did so as a result of personal and working conflicts with Crist that they said became prohibitive to serving on the board. Earlier this month a sixth board member stepped down from the board, followed shortly by Crist, leaving the board with just six active members. In departing, Crist said that he was burned out and ready to explore other options.

Crist took charge of the organization in his dual capacities as CEO and president of the board in 2005 and in the next two years the organization’s cash and equivalent assets fell by nearly half, dropping from roughly $1.8 million to just over $900,000 in 2007. At the same time contributions dropped by more than 40 percent in the same time span, from just over $235,390 to $140,541. During that time, however, the organization boasted annual placement rates for the animals it took in near 95 percent, and euthanasia rates fell as well — in fiscal year 2008 the shelter put down 1,039 animals, 30 percent fewer than it did the year preceding Crist’s ascension.

Crist acknowledged in an interview with The Almanac last month that fund-raising had been a weakness since he took over in part because there was no specific development plan or employee in charge of instituting one. Crist said that he briefly hired one such employee last year who was quickly terminated for reasons Crist did not disclose, but he also said that the drop in fund-raising dollars was due in part to the weakening economy as well as the organization’s increased expenditures on animal care and veterinarian bills. That increased level of spending to save animals was a major reason that his shelter boasted some of the lowest euthanasia rates in the country, Crist said.

“I know the [economy] is bad but people who care about animals still care about animals,” said Margaret Zanville, who headed the Humane Society for 14 years before Crist took over.

IT WILL BE GILMAN’S JOB to reverse the financial trends at the Montgomery County Humane Society and to ensure that the organization is on sound footing when he departs. In doing so he will need to analyze and develop business plans for other ventures that the Humane Society is involved with.

“A problem with fund-raising is a financial albatross,” said Blizard. "It’s not a drain, it’s a plus, plus, plus," Crist said.

Crist said that the property more than pays for itself … and would be able to utilize it … Unfortunately we’ve run into some problems.”

— Dorothy Shapiro

During Crist’s tenure, the group opened The Ark, an overflow shelter and pet supply store in downtown Rockville. It also moved the organization’s Wagging Tails thrift store into a larger space in a shopping center around the corner from the main rescue shelter, and last year the organization acquired the Aspin Hill Pet Cemetery in Silver Spring.

Evaluating these three operations and devising previously non-existent business plans for the three ventures is something else that Gilman must do during his stay.

“We need to put a business plan behind each of those to determine the best way to utilize them,” said Gilman. “We don’t have those now.”

THE ACQUISITION and operation of the pet cemetery is indicative of the Humane Society’s operation under Crist’s leadership, said Rob Blizard, who stepped down from the board of directors in May. Blizard joined the board last year so that he could utilize his professional experience in fund-raising to assist the organization and its animals but said that whenever he asked questions about the organization’s finances he was met with either vague or hostile responses.

Aspin Hill, the pet cemetery that began originally in 1920 and contains thousands of former pets on its 7.79 acres.

Blizard said that when he asked about the property’s financial viability or if a financial analysis was done prior to its purchase he was told it was paying for itself but he said that he never got a clear answer or any supporting figures. According to the organization’s 2007 financial report more than $10,000 were spent on the property last year but there are no revenues specific to the property cited in the report.

“That was the wrong question,” said Blizard. “I was worried … that this would become a financial albatross,” said Blizard.

Crist said that the property more than pays for itself through, he said, that can be mailed in or dropped off at the front desk at the community center. Each application must be accompanied with the $50 registration fee and a self addressed, stamped envelope. Soon after, $50 applications will be randomly selected to receive memberships.

Club Friday is for children in grades 3 – 6. Club Friday activities include basketball, billiards, Bingo, dances, games, ping pong, gym hockey, soccer, crafts movies and special theme nights. Flyers have been distributed to the following elementary schools: Cold Spring, Potomac, Bethesda, Wayside, Beverly Farms, Seven Locks, Farmland, Luxmanor, Travilah, and Stone Mill. Cabin
of sales and marketing at Rockville Rooftop, the venue that housed the Sounds of Souljahs’ event. “The cause is fantastic. These girls, the S.O.S. organization, I’m really impressed with what they did. They really went after it.”

“Giving the money to someone who can actually use it makes me feel a lot better.”
— Hanna Walston

Their peers have been swept up in the girls’ enthusiasm. Though they are currently in the middle of recording, local band Hotspur took a break from the studio to show their support for Lakew and her friends. “It’s for a good cause, and we’re all about that kind of stuff,” said Coop Cooper, Walt Whitman High School graduate and bass player for the band.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, the girls raised hundreds for the Fistula Foundation, which helped aid in the construction of a hospital for those who suffered from the affliction. Their proceeds on Aug. 21 will go towards the United Nations Refugee Agency. Lakew’s parents are refugees themselves, and Lakew acknowledged that events like these remind the girls how fortunate they all are. “I mean, we’re from Potomac, so we don’t really need the money. We’re all comfortable and everything, but there are others out there who aren’t.”

The girls have taken something recreational and turned it into something meaningful. “I feel like it was good to help people. It was fun to plan a concert and throw one, just for friends and stuff, but it just feels bad keeping the money. Giving the money to someone who can actually use it makes me feel a lot better,” said Walston.

THEY ARE SHOWING their friends and parents, youths their age and adults, that though the news they see on television narrates hurts and horrors taking place hundreds and thousands of miles away, to people they have never met, in places they have never visited, they can still care. Youth lends an extra dash of cheer to Walston’s smile, propels her with a bit more vigor from wall to wall and all around the rooftop this evening, but it has not sunglassed her to the needs of those without, struggling somewhere over the horizon of buildings autumn-dyed by the setting sun.

“People say we don’t get involved in charities, but we do. It’s nice to have something like this to demonstrate that,” said Lakew.

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“People say we don’t get involved in charities, but we do. It’s nice to have something like this to demonstrate that,” said Lakew.
Students Head Back to School

As the crowd of swirling students and parents began to dissolve outside of the school’s front entrance, a small boy wearing glasses and a backpack nearly as big as he was looked around calmly then poked a teacher standing nearby.

“Excuse me sir, which door do I go in?” he asked. He was headed to his first day of Kindergarten.

The remaining parents walked back toward their cars, or across Glen Road toward their houses. For veteran parents like Barbara Kalin, it was business as usual. She and her twin second-graders had done this before.

“They’re used to it, they’re fine,” she said.

Greg Thomas with his daughters (from left) Natasha, 5th Grade, and Rhiannon, 4th Grade, Potomac Elementary School:

“Oh my gosh, it’s exciting. We’re coming to a new school. We just moved back from overseas in China and we’re starting a Chinese immersion program here in the United States, so it’s really exciting that we get to continue with what they were learning overseas.”

— Greg Thomas

“I kind of like meeting new friends and meeting my new teachers and stuff. I’m usually just excited to learn.”

— Natasha Thomas

Potomac Elementary Assistant Principal Dwayne Ross:

“It’s very exciting. Everyone’s happy to be back, lots of energy, everyone’s focused, so it’s just a really great time of the year.

Potomac Elementary Student Max Rubanenko

“That I get to be a patrol.”

A line of school buses signals summer’s end and the school year’s return at Potomac Elementary School.
People

Lester L. Greer and Lauren T. Greer, husband and wife, have graduated from the Uniformed Services University, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine in Bethesda, Md. Both graduates were promoted to the rank of captain and commissioned as a U.S. Army Corps officer.

He is the son of William L. and Karen L. Greer of Wyndham Lane, Lansing, Kan., and brother of Robert W. Greer of Summer Meadows Drive, Colorado Springs, Colo. He received a bachelor’s degree in 2003 from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

She is the daughter of Peter H. and Dale C. Turza of Cammack Drive, Bethesda. She received a bachelor’s degree in 2004 from Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

Army Cadet Evan R. Ellsworth is one of 267 cadets who attended the 2008 George C. Marshall Foundation Awards Seminar at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. The cadet received the George C. Marshall ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Award at the seminar. The award is presented annually to the most outstanding senior Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) cadet in military science studies and leadership values in each battalion at host universities or colleges.

Upon graduation from the host college or university and completion of the ROTC program, the cadet will receive a bachelor’s degree and a commission of second lieutenant in the Army. The senior cadet is a student at Wheaton College, Ill. He is the son of Phillip C. and Victoria M. Ellsworth of Garden Court, Potomac.

Ellsworth is a 2004 graduate of St. Andrews Episcopal School, Potomac.

Air Force Reserve Airman Moses A. Ross has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Wellmon and Ranjana Ross of Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Ross is a 2007 graduate of Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda.

Air Force Airman Matthew Day has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Candace Gains of Rockville, and Michael Day of Lewis St., Havre De Grace. Day is a 2007 graduate of Havre De Grace High School.

People

Long & Foster announces top sales associates in Montgomery County for July.

❖ At the Potomac North/W.C & A.N Miller, A Long and Foster Company, Debbie Norris was the top producer and top seller, with a sales volume of $680,000. Jean Pagan Bullock was the top lister and the agent with the most new listings (three).

❖ At the Potomac/Cabin John Long & Foster office, Leslie Friedson was the top producer and the top seller, with a sales volume of $2.4 million. Diann Gattron was the top lister. Elaine Koch was the agent with the most new listings (six).

❖ At the Potomac Village Long & Foster office, Sondra Mulheron was the top producer, with a sales volume of $2.4 million. Krystyna Litwin was the top lister and the agent with the most new listings (four).

❖ At the Potomac/W.C & A.N Miller, A Long & Foster Company, Toni Koerber was the top producer, with a sales volume of $2.3 million. Graciela Haim was the top seller. Sue Brenner was the top lister, and the agent with the most new listings (five).
Auction

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Accomplishments Unrecognized

To the Editor:

As a Montgomery County Humane Society employee, I’m appalled by the self-aggrandizing statements of the former MCHS Board members profiled in Aaron Stern’s article [“Split Ranks at Montgomery County Humane Society,” The Almanac, July 30, 2008], and by their obvious failure to honor their commitments to work for positive change within.

Those interviewed attempted to justify walking out MCHS’ door, flinging back firebombs and duplicitously claiming that their doing so is for MCHS’ ultimate good. Ex-President Zanville wants to return to MCHS, but under her “watch,” the conduct of management and the morale of staff reached horrific lows. In contrast to Ms. Zanville’s statements, Mr. Crist’s hallmarks are his approachability and integrity. His intelligent leadership led MCHS to nationwide renown for its adoption rates and ethical, compassionate treatment of staff, volunteers, the public, and the animals in its care.

We look forward to the county replacing the dilapidated building in which MCHS cares for over 10,000 animals each year. As we wait for this long-deferred development to occur, we welcome our community’s on-going support of our work, and of our 50th Anniversary Year events and celebrations, including our annual dance. I’m honored to work for MCHS, proud of its accomplishments during Mr. Crist’s term, and hold Mr. Crist and my colleagues in highest regard.

Shelley Moore Janashek
(MCHS staff)
Brookeville

Build New Animal Shelter Now

To the Editor:

I’m reminded of telling my husband over and over about some changes that needed to be made in our handling of our son. It wasn’t until we visited a professional therapist, for a large sum, that he suddenly recognized the need for the changes I’d been suggesting all along. But the bottom line then, and now, is that the message may finally have been received regardless of the messenger.

Please, please, Mr. Leggett, Ms. Hughes, et al — build that new animal shelter now so the homeless animals of Montgomery County are taken care of. More than anything, that is what is needed to really improve conditions and make MCHS more effective in administering their contract.

MCHS board of directors, please stop the finger-pointing and get out there and raise some money.

Susan Share and JC Crist brought in so much money for so long. It is easy to assert that less money came in when Susan wasn’t there to do what she did so well — and the entire U.S. economy continues to decline. You can’t blame Mr. Crist for that.

That said, it was an honor to work under the MCHS board of directors. The various members, presidents, and executive directors of both the board of directors and the shelter itself, taught me and guided me to realize my potential as humane advocate. They may not have always agreed on the path to take, but I learned a great deal from whom I worked closely with over the years, and am proud to have been a part of the organization.

Debbie Wood
former employee MCHS
Blair  
Blair is a female, 4-year-old, 15 lb., spayed rat terrier/dachshund mix. She is a very cute loving girl who likes cats, playful dogs and has perfect house manners. She enjoys walks and would probably be good at agility. Blair would reward a patient adult adopter with love who would help Blair with her minor medical issues and provide her with a forever home.

Petey  
Petey is a male, 7-year-old, 20 lb., neutered Fox Terrier/JRT mix. Petey is a great dog that is housebroken, walks well on a leash and loves fetching tennis balls for exercise. He loves belly rubs but would do best in an adult home as an only dog in a house with no cats. Petey has a special diet and some medical issues but with care will lead a good life.

Workshops

Your Dog’s Friend, a non-profit organization that educates and supports dog owners, has set its schedule for this fall. Free workshops will be held at Potomac and Wheaton community centers from Sept. 7 through Nov. 16.

Dog training classes, using positive, reward-based methods, will be run, for a fee, at the National Lutheran Home in Rockville. These include Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners, and Dog Training for Kids. The fee for these classes helps support Your Dog’s Friend’s other free services. Dog owners can find more information and register for the workshops and dog training classes by going to www.yourdogfriend.info or calling 301-983-5913. This fall’s workshops will include:

❖ Three Lessons That Every Dog Should Know, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m., at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road.
❖ The Emotional Life of Dogs, Saturday, Oct. 4; 2-4 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road.
❖ What if My Dog Bites Santa?, Saturday, Nov. 15; 2-4 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road.
❖ Bring on the Doggy Police (when neighbors just can’t seem to get along), Saturday, Oct. 18, 2-4 p.m. at the Wheaton Community Center, 11711 Georgia Ave.

How Dogs Can Help Individuals with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2-4 p.m. at the Wheaton Community Center, 11711 Georgia Ave.
❖ Helping Your Older Dog Live a Better Life, Sunday, Nov. 16; 2-4 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road.

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LET’S TALK
Real Estate

by Michael Matese

THE WALK-THROUGH INSPECTION

Before the title transfer of your new home, you will want to do a “walk-through” inspection to ensure that the property is in the same condition as it was when the purchase and sale agreement were drawn up.

Some sellers convey the appliances and major systems “as is,” offering no promise that they will be in working order. Other agreements require all of the major mechanical systems, such as heating, plumbing, and air conditioning, to be operational. It depends on the contractual terms that are agreed to in writing between the buyer and seller.

During the walk-through inspection you should check the appliances by turning each one on and letting it run a full cycle. This gives you a chance to work out any potential problems that might be more difficult to identify later. You should also check for leaks, clogs, and other common issues that could affect your comfort or the value of your home.

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Alma Brito
240-497-1700

8311 Snug Hill Ln. $899,900
Sun 1-4
Ross Wiczer
301-652-8822

Happy House Hunting!

Horst said that meetings would continue regularly during construction, and after an initial wave of backlash when neighbors learned of the school’s plans most of the handful of neighbors in attendance on Thursday indicated that they are pleased with the continued outreach from the school.

“They don’t have to do any of this, they really don’t,” said Brafford. “They’ve really made an effort.”
FRIDAY/ AUG. 29
Contra and Square Dance. The Friday Night Dancers presents Contra dancing as well as some square dances and waltzes in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance from 8:30 to 11 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Two evenings features the band Some Assembly. Admission: $9. Contact Donna Barker at 301-389-7939 or visit www.potomac.org.

Glen Echo Open House. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture will host an open house in conjunction with the Labor Day Art Show from 12 - 4 p.m. Through free classes and guided tours, visitors will be introduced to the wide range of performance art classes being offered at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, this fall. Visitors will also be able to view resident artists at work in their studios and browse through a student art exhibition in the Popcorn Gallery.

Swing Dance. Flying Feet Enterprises presents Swing Dancing with Daryl Davis Bin in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. A beginning Swing dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle, followed by dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Contact Email: dance@flyfeetorg.org.

Sunday/Aug. 31
Caroussel Tours. Caroussel tours start at 12 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, and give visitors a closer look at the 1921 Dentzel carousel. Find out how it was made, how it works, and about the rest of the amusement park attractions that were built around it. Visit www.nps.gov/glec.

Nature Program. Come visit Discovery Creek Children’s Museum Forest Tales exhibition at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Spend time with the entire family while participating in engaging science and nature activities. In the former Glen Echo Park stable building, near the park entrance. Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free for members and children under 2, $5 for nonmembers. Call 202-337-5111 to make arrangements or visit www.discoverycreek.org.

Medicine Wheel with Randy Stoffel. Discover the healing powers of plants in the watershed from 10:10 a.m. at the park entrance. Find the location where Bethesda Lane meets in Bethesda. Visit www.cabinjohn.org.

Carousel Tours. Carousel tours start at 12 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, and give visitors a closer look at the 1921 Dentzel carousel. Find out how it was made, how it works, and about the rest of the amusement park attractions that were built around it. Visit www.nps.gov/glec.

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SATURDAY/SEPT. 6
for Families
with Teats. Performances begin at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. Located where Bethesda Almanac is published, 11230 Grandview Ave., Bethesda. Visit www.bethesdarow.com. Call 301-961-6060 or visit www.imaginationstage.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5
held from 5 – 7 p.m. at Imagination School, 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda. Call 301-961-6060 or visit www.imaginationstage.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10
Parenting Without Threats or Bribes: 1-5, watch a preview of this season’s upcoming performance and sample classes or hands-on arts activities. Call 301-961-6060 or visit www.imaginationstage.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 11
Waltz Dance at Glen Echo Park begins at 3 p.m. Wilderness Dance and Grill at Rockland Farm begins at 5 p.m. Pathways of Peace at Friendship Environmental Center begins at 6 p.m. All at the National Arboretum, Washington. For more information, call 202-448-1425 or visit www.arboretum.gov.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8
“Waltz Dance” at Glen Echo Park begins at 3 p.m. Call 301-634-2222, send e-mail to dbarker@glenechopark.org or visit www.glenechopark.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7
Montgomery County Birthday. “Happy Birthday Montgomery County!” is a community day celebrating Montgomery County’s 226th birthday. Explore Montgomery County’s history at this special day and yearlong celebration. Visit on Sunday, September 7 or throughout the year for more information, call 301-749-2600 or visit www.montgomeryhistory.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6
for Families. Performances begin at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. Located where Bethesda Almanac is published, 11230 Grandview Ave., Bethesda. Visit www.bethesdarow.com. Call 301-961-6060 or visit www.imaginationstage.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 11
Waltz Dance at Glen Echo Park begins at 3 p.m. Wilderness Dance and Grill at Rockland Farm begins at 5 p.m. Pathways of Peace at Friendship Environmental Center begins at 6 p.m. All at the National Arboretum, Washington. For more information, call 202-448-1425 or visit www.arboretum.gov.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8
“Waltz Dance” at Glen Echo Park begins at 3 p.m. Call 301-634-2222, send e-mail to dbarker@glenechopark.org or visit www.glenechopark.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7
Montgomery County Birthday. “Happy Birthday Montgomery County!” is a community day celebrating Montgomery County’s 226th birthday. Explore Montgomery County’s history at this special day and yearlong celebration. Visit on Sunday, September 7 or throughout the year for more information, call 301-749-2600 or visit www.montgomeryhistory.org.

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Going Deep
As the Churchill Bulldogs wrapped up practice on Monday, Aug. 26, they lined up across the field for a sprint drill.
"If I see too many people jogging we'll go longer," head coach Monica Malanoski told her players. The message seemed to get through — no extra drills were needed and practice ended on time.

Just because she will field a veteran squad this year doesn't mean that Malanoski will take it easy on her team. In the past they have played down to the talent levels of lesser teams and it has cost them. That type of play won't be tolerated this year of all years, when the Bulldogs have a deep and experienced team that Malanoski thinks has a realistic shot at going the distance.

"Undefeated — I think we can do it all," Malanoski said.
"We have the potential to win the states this year."
The Bulldogs return 12 seniors — and nine of 11 starters — from last year's squad that fell in the quarterfinals to Quince Orchard. With her team's experience and depth, Malanoski thinks that her players should have only the highest goals for this season. Leading that charge will be three senior captains. Forward/midfielder Jenna Hawk is a versatile contributor on a defense that Malanoski thinks will be a strong competitor again this year. Midfielder Rachel Baron, senior; Jojo Goldberg, defense, junior.

"Our defense, every person on the field and communication with her teammates constantly, said Malanoski.
"They're born leaders, they've been with me actually on the varsity for three years," said Malanoski.
Jojo Goldberg, a junior, and Ariel Arnold, a sophomore, will be big contributors on a defense that Malanoski thinks will be tenacious.
"Our defense, every person on the field are true defenders no matter what position they are," she said.
"I think we have one of the strongest teams we've had here in a while."

Churchill Bulldogs At a Glance
Coach: Monica Malanoski, 4th year
2007 Record: 14-2
Last Season Ended: with a loss to Quince Orchard
Key Players: center back Ellen Suttle, senior; forward/midfielder Jenna Hawk, senior; center-mid Shannon Disbrow, senior; Jojo Goldberg, defense, junior.

"We hope to be back in the regional finals again this year."
— Mike Parrish, coach, Wootton Patriots

"We have some good kids returning and some good young kids coming up."
— Mary Pat Veihmeyer, coach, Whitman Vikings

Field Hockey Preview
While Whitman and Wootton will need senior-laden Bulldogs look to go the distance
Rubello, Rachel Baron and Amy Eaton. Junior goalie Caitlin Zolet also returns as a starter a year after giving up just 10 goals in the regular season and postseason combined, Parrish said. After that the starting squad will be filled out by juniors.

"Our defense, every person on the field and communication with her teammates constantly, said Malanoski.
"They're born leaders, they've been with me actually on the varsity for three years," said Malanoski.
Jojo Goldberg, a junior, and Ariel Arnold, a sophomore, will be big contributors on a defense that Malanoski thinks will be tenacious.
"Our defense, every person on the field are true defenders no matter what position they are," she said.
"I think we have one of the strongest teams we've had here in a while."

Churchill field hockey senior captains Jenna Hawk, Shannon Disbrow, and Ellen Suttle will lead a deep and experienced Bulldog team that has its sights set on a deep run in the playoffs.

"The key ... will be the junior class now that's in the lineup," said Parrish. "We lost some very special players last year. We have to develop our own identity, so we're trying to do that right now."
The forging of that new identity will get an early test when Wootton squares off against Springbrook on Sept. 10, and then Quince Orchard the following week. If the Patriots can make it past that tough hurdle in the schedule, Parrish likes his teams odds.
"We hope to be back in the regional finals again this year," he said. "Getting there is the first big battle and we'll worry about it game by game after that."

"We have some good kids returning and some good young kids coming up."
— Mary Pat Veihmeyer, coach, Whitman Vikings

"It's how well these kids can hold it together and step up," said Veihmeyer. "But I think they have potential so we'll see how they do."

Pottery Classes for Teens. A basic introduction to the potter's wheel. These classes allow students to throw at their own skill level. Classes meet for six weeks from 4 - 6 p.m. on Tuesdays (Sept. 2 - Oct. 7) or Thursdays (Sept. 4 - Oct. 9). Tuition ($108) includes tools and supplies. For students attending middle and high school (age range: 11 - 16). At Glen Echo Pottery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-229-5585 or visit www.glenechopottery.com.

Joy of Dance Class, Fall semester begins new dance classes at Joy of Motion Dance Center, 7115 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 180 E, Bethesda. Call for more information 301-986-0016.

Movement fall session starts at Kids Moving Company, 7475 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Classes held on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Times vary by ages. 9 months-9 years. $25/class or $375/session. 301-656-1543.

Dance Music. There is dancing every week from 3:30-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Blend together swing, waltz, tango, foxtrot and others for $8/person. Free dance lesson at 3 p.m. 703-425-7926.

City Dance Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, is now enrolling all ages and abilities for classes. Call 301-581-5204 or visit www.citydance.net.
**Health & Fitness**

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Re-Evaluating Pet Cemetery

FROM PAGE 4

years the cemetery’s patrons complained about the handling of their animals while neighbors complained about the property’s increasing state of disrepair. In April of 2007 a Montgomery County Circuit Court found that Chesapeake Wildlife was in violation of the terms of the operating covenants under which the organization had originally acquired control of the property and subsequently ordered Chesapeake Wildlife to surrender control of the property to the Humane Society in an agreement arranged between the Humane Society and Potomac resident Dorothy Shapiro.

Shapiro, a long-time proprietor of the cemetery, acquired the property in the mid-1980s when it was threatened by development and deeded it over to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in 1988. The deed was then passed to Chesapeake Wildlife in 1996 when PETA vacated the property.

Crist pushed for the acquisition of the property because he said it would be an asset to the Humane Society, said former board member Allan Cohen, of Potomac.

Under the terms of the legal agreement by which the Humane Society took control of the property it would continue to be operated as a pet cemetery and a foundation was to be established that would run educational programs, said Shapiro.

Crist said that he hoped the property, which is also home to an old barn and a historically-designated house built originally in 1933, would eventually be a site for local school field trips, court-ordered humane education programs and “a humane university where we could have accredited courses and do that in conjunction with other accredited universities and colleges in the area and the mid-Atlantic.”

FIGURING OUT THE FUTURE of Aspin Hill is just one piece in Gilman’s puzzle as he figures out what’s next for the Humane Society. He planned to visit Aspin Hill, Waggling Tails and The Ark this week as he begins developing business plans for each, and he said he is currently devising the features of a chief executive and expects to launch a nationwide search shortly. Despite the controversy surrounding the organization now, he said these are growing pains that will lead to a stronger entity down the road.

Crist said that he hopes that the welfare of the animals isn’t lost in any of the ongoing controversy, a sentiment that Blizard and Cohen also expressed.

Zanville said that she expects the organization to make a turnaround.

“It’s a shame what they’ve done to that organization, the money is so shot,” she said. “I think once they get some credibility back the money will start coming in again.”

Participants can earn up to 40 Student Service Learning Hours, work from home, work with small groups, and attend monthly meetings. Selected applicants will serve on the management team between Sept. 1-10.

For more information, call the center at 240-777-6960. Potomac Community Center is located at 11315 Falls Road.

County Looking for Teen Publicity Help

The Montgomery County Public Library System is looking for teens interested in joining its Teen Advisory Group’s (TAG) programming and publicity team.

Members will write reviews of books, music or films; help plan library programs; suggest some weblinks; identify local teen artists or writers to feature; and promote the library in the community. Teens will also help produce library programs and new teen spaces and initiate podcast and video productions.

For more information, contact Susan Levine at 240-773-9420.
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Gaithersburg, MD 20878
At Wootton High School

Michael Doran, principal of Wootton High School, responds to questions from The Almanac.

Q. What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

Doran: We are just completing a new Grandstand in our stadium and two new science labs for our science department. These will help our ability to continue to meet the needs of our student body.

Q. Any new academic programs, initiatives?

Doran: We have a new and exciting course with one class of 12th graders and one 11th grade class. The Laboratory for Experiential Education and Design (LEED) is a student-designed program in which participants are given design challenges and charged to develop, test, and then construct a solution — bringing theoretical ideas to actualization. The program is designed to create an interface between engineering and the arts. LEED students pursue transdisciplinary areas of interest and research that transcend the conventional classroom experience and approach in problem solving. Teamwork and leadership are skills emphasized throughout the program. LEED courses will draw upon the vast network of community resources, mentors, businesses and universities in the local area to create a “school without walls”.

Q. Changes in personnel?

Doran: Administration the same and just some normal teacher turn-over.

Q. Number of students?

Doran: 2,483 wonderful students.

Q. Important days in the fall school calendar?

Doran: First back-to-school night — Aug. 28
Homecoming Week — Oct. 27
Second back-to-school night — Jan. 29, 2009
Exam week — Jan. 15

At Potomac Elementary School

Linda Z. Goldberg, principal of Potomac Elementary School, responds to questions from The Almanac.

Q. What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

Goldberg: We are excited about hosting a visiting teacher from Beijing, China. She will begin next week.

Goldberg: Grade 1-Joanna Abramson, Grade 2/3-Brittany Greenberg, Grade 1-Mary Catherine Kohler, Meghan Grana.

Q. Any new academic programs, initiatives?

Goldberg: We are excited about hosting a visiting teacher from Beijing, China. She will begin next week.

Q. Changes in personnel?

Goldberg: We are excited about hosting a visiting teacher from Beijing, China. She will begin next week.

Q. Number of students?

Goldberg: 556 Students

Q. Important days in the fall school calendar?

Goldberg: Sept. 10 Back-to-School Night, Grades 2-5, 6:30 p.m. Grading and Reporting for grades 2 and 3, and 7 p.m. Meeting, Grades 3-5
Sept. 18: Shadow Puppetry Workshop for Teachers, 4-5:30p.m.
Oct. 13 Open House-Parent Visitaton, Walk for the Homeless, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Oct. 15: Principal’s Coffee, Grades 2-3, 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 22: Principal’s Coffee, Grades 4-5, 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 31: Halloween Parade and parties, 2 p.m.

At Beverly Farms Elementary School

Dr. Beth Brown, principal of Beverly Farms Elementary School, responds to questions from The Almanac.

Q. What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

Brown: There is no single most important news item for our school community. There is always a lot of new excitement surrounding the opening of school. We will embark on meeting the goals of two grants we recently received. Our goal with our Green Kids project is to make environmental education an integral part of the instructional program at our school. We also just received a small Exxon Grant to purchase books so that we can integrate literary experiences with our math curriculum. Thirdly, the study that will drive decisions about our school building changes that will occur in 2013 will begin this fall.

All community members are invited to be part of this process. The first community feasibility meeting will take place in the Beverly Farms All Purpose room on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

Q. Any new academic programs, initiatives?

Brown: This year MCPS has a new 5th grade science curriculum that is filled with rigorous instruction. Mrs. Cashmere our 5th grade science teacher is very excited to work with all of our 5th grade students in teaching and learning our new science curriculum.

Our third grade will be including two new programs that will enrich our 3rd grade students learning experience. Ms. Gorinson and Ms. Varno will be working with half of our third graders to create and develop exciting projects using different kinds of technology. Half of our third graders will be working with Mrs. Vasilla, Mrs. Emery and Ms. Griffin to create their own opera.

Q. Changes in personnel?

Although our changes in personnel are always rather low, our changes in teaching staff always enable us to bring new, positive and highly qualified teachers to our building.

Q. Number of students?

Brown: 603

Q. Important days in the fall school calendar?

Brown: First PTA Meeting Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. Back to School Night — Sept. 18 from 7-9 p.m. Community Building Feasibility Meeting — Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. Churchill Cluster Elementary Schools’ Parent Academy at Hoover MS on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.

At Herbert Hoover Middle School

BillieJean Bensen, principal of Herbert Hoover Middle School, responds to questions from The Almanac.

Q. What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?

Bensen: We hired an architect to begin the long process of planning, designing and building a new Hoover. The renovation is currently scheduled to begin in July 2011 with a completion date of August 2013. All dates are budget pending.

Moseley Architects in collaboration with school and MCPS staff will be holding open meetings for the community to provide input into the design. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. All meetings will be held at Hoover Middle School.

Q. Important days in the fall school calendar?

Bensen: Mt. Kevin Lendo - math and Ms. Staci Volles- math, Ms. Mary O’Byron-Jones- part time French and Ms. Yvonneke Weitzel- part time social studies. Ms. Kristen Collins, Mrs. Barbara Carlstrom and Ms. Amber Layani join our special education staff in our Bridge Program.

Q. Number of students?

R. Bensen: On opening day we expect 1023.

Q. Important days in the fall school calendar?

Bensen: Back to School Night is Sept. 4. Per. 1 begins at 7 p.m.
We are Proud to Announce

Jan M. Evans
has joined our firm

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