

# Potomac ALMANAC

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## Celebrating History, Heritage

NEWS, PAGE 2

## Stimulus Funds For Canal?

NEWS, PAGE 2

The Quince Orchard High School Step Team — Emily Choquette, Bianka Roy, Chinenye Monde, and Karen Cordova — performs at the Scotland Community Center's Black History Month celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21.

## Second Act For Former Race Horse

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Bulldogs Win Metros Swim Meet

SPORTS, PAGE 13

CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



The Scotland ballet youth group performs at the Scotland Community Center last weekend as the community celebrated Black History Month.



The Quince Orchard High School Step Team performs.

PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

## Celebrating History and Heritage

### Scotland celebrates Black History Month.

After four weeks of preparation for several singing and dancing performances and an hour of performing them all, Jeremiah Lindsay still couldn't pick a favorite.

"I have two favorites," said Lindsay, a student at Cabin John Middle School as he caught his breath after the Black History Month celebration at the Scotland Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 21. "The African dance and 'Wade in the Water.'"

Lindsay and dozens of Scotland and local youth put on the variety of performances in the annual celebration that this year highlighted the accomplishments of both national and local African Americans.



Scotland youth sing "Wade in the Water" at the Scotland Community Center's Black History Month celebration on Saturday, Feb. 21.

In addition to reading short biographies of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama, Scotland AME Zion Church Rev. James Phifer was also recognized and thanked for his years of service to the community.

Tiana Bagley, a Cabin John sixth-grader, also took part in several of the performances on Saturday, and said that it was important "to celebrate our religion and to represent our community."

But celebrating black history shouldn't be relegated to just one month of the year, said the Rev. Julie Harriday, and children learning about their heritage should be an ongoing endeavor.

"It's important for them to know where they come from and those who paved the way for them," said Harriday. Black history isn't something that should be celebrated, "not just February — it's every day of their life."

— AARON STERN

## Hoping for a Large Slice of Stimulus Pie

### National Park Service officials wait to see if stimulus funds will be designated to repair breach in C&O Canal towpath.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Within the next 90 days, C&O Canal National Historical Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt expects to know one way or the other if funds will be allotted to repair the breach in the Canal towpath near Old Angler's Inn.

The \$787 billion stimulus plan passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law last week directs over \$900 million to the National Park Service, nearly \$600 million of which is slated for construction projects, said Brandt. The park service is now working on a preliminary plan for that spending to be ready within 30 days of the Tuesday, Feb. 17 signing into law of the bill. A final plan should be ready within 90 days.

Those plans will specify how much money will be given to each of the regions within the park service, and then how much is given to each park within those regions. Located in the National Capital Region, the C&O park will compete with 45 other parks in the region for whatever that final dollar amount is. With an emphasis being placed on so-called shovel-ready projects but no clear parameters as of yet for what that

means within the National Park Service, determining which projects will actually break ground is still a guessing game, said Matt Logan, founder of the C&O Canal Trust, a private organization that raises money for the C&O park.

Two projects long in waiting — repairs to an unpassable portion the towpath at Big Slackwater in Washington County and the restoration of the Catoctin Aqueduct in Frederick County — would likely have precedence over the Old Angler's breach because they have waited

SEE STIMULUS, PAGE 4

# Second Act for Former Race Horse

Angus enjoys a new life.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Working in the ring on a recent Tuesday morning, Katy Rich was getting Angus, her 12-year-old thoroughbred warmed.

"I want you to come to the track and shoulder in," called trainer Laura Chambers to Rich. "Bring his shoulder in, lean there. Inside leg at the bottom of the post."

Facing the wall at roughly a 45-degree angle, Angus progressed down the track stepping sideways, an exercise he had been doing off and on for the better part of a half-hour, though not to Chambers' or Rich's liking. Now he stepped more fluidly.

"Now that's not bad," said Chambers.

"That's not bad, he's nice and loose now," Rich called back.

Stepping sideways isn't easy for any horse to do, Chambers said, but for Angus — a former race horse — it's particularly hard. After spending the first six years of his life following the instruction of his trainer, his riders, and his bloodlines to be a fast, straight line runner, becoming a more agile, well-rounded athlete is not only difficult, but it's dull.

"This is the boring part [for Angus]," Rich said. This is like ballet, cross country is like rock-and-roll. This is like the daily homework."

Rich bought Angus five years ago, and in the years since has trained him to become an event horse, meaning that he competes in shows that test his agility and leaping abilities in addition to his speed. Five-plus years of training



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE CONRAD/CANTER MID-ATLANTIC

**Katy Rich onboard Angus at a recent competition. Rich found Angus through CANTER mid-Atlantic, an organization that connects retiring racehorses with prospective buyers.**

has made him a more well-rounded athlete, said Chambers. Rich works Angus twice a week in the ring practicing his flatwork, once a week practicing jumps, and once a week doing riding outside or on trail runs, said Rich. He has steadily improved — last November the pair finished fourth out of 28 horses in their division in their last event of the season — but after five-plus years, the thing Angus likes to do best is still to go fast.

"When we're getting loose, I let him go," said Rich. "He loves it, he's like, 'woo hoo.'"

**ANGUS LIVES** a fairly pampered life these days. Stabled at Merry

Go Round Farms off of River Road, he spends his days outside of training in the field or in his stall chewing a high-protein, vitamin-fortified blend of oats, barley, soy beans and molasses.

Not all race horses end their careers like Angus. Rich met Angus through the mid-Atlantic chapter of the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses (CANTER), an organization begun in 1997 that connects retiring race horses and their owners with prospective buyers around the country.

Based primarily out of Charles Town, CANTER mid-Atlantic relies on volunteers to check in with racehorse owners every Saturday

during the racing season to see if they have horses they are trying to unload. Such constant face time is the best way to stay in touch with busy people who tend not to be computer savvy, said Allie Conrad, the founder of CANTER mid-Atlantic. It also helps to ensure that as few horses fall through the cracks as possible, because when a racehorse owner decides to get rid of a horse, they don't want to wait long to do it since boarding a racehorse can cost as much as \$200 a day, Conrad said.

"If a horse gets injured the owner will say get it out of here and what they mean is get it out of here that day," she said.

Going out to stud is a retirement

"With horses sometimes ... you just like the look of them. It's kind of like meeting a new friend, it's like, 'you know what? I just kind of like you, I can't really put my finger on why ...'"

— Katy Rich

for only the most successful of racehorses, but the clichéd notion of old racehorses being sent to factories to be turned into glue or dog food is all too true, said Conrad. And many places in the world eat horse including parts of Europe and Asia, Conrad said, meaning that in both instances a horse will be sold at auction based on its weight for a fraction of what it was worth when it was racing. So Conrad and her volunteers find the horses that owners are looking to unload and then function essentially as a classified advertising service by posting the horses online and contacting prospective buyers.

"We've set up this safety net to try to prevent that from happening and find a home for these horses," Conrad said.

**IT'S WORKED OUT** for Rich and Angus. From the moment she saw Angus, she knew she wanted him.

"With horses sometimes ... you just like the look of them," said Rich. "It's kind of like meeting a new friend, it's like, 'you know what? I just kind of like you, I can't really put my finger on why.'" But there was more — he had a visible confidence that Rich was drawn to.

"He also looked like he owned the whole farm. He had a lot of presence and I liked him immedi-

SEE LIFE, PAGE 4

## Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: Annoying, Abundant

Non-native species of stink bugs has proliferated in mid-Atlantic region.

They seem to turn up everywhere in a home. Climbing the door molding of the bathroom, navigating the crevice between couch back and cushion. Pull out a seldom used pair of pants and one might fall out, likely dead.

Stink bugs have long been a part of the local ecosystem, but in recent months and years their presence has gone from occasional to seemingly perpetual. That's because a species imported from Asia that first

turned up in Pennsylvania in 2000 has no natural predators and has boomed in population, say local naturalists. It is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug — or *Halyomorpha halys*, its scientific name — and it likely caught a ride on cargo shipped to the United States sometime in the late 1990s, said Debbie Ricigliano, a horticulture consultant with the University of Maryland's Home and Garden Information Center.

"Most likely, that's the one we've been

getting the majority of calls on this winter," said Ricigliano, whose office has been beset with complaints and questions about the bugs this winter.

Stink bugs range between 15-20 millimeters in size and they get into homes by any means necessary, exploiting cracks, screens, or open windows and are naturally attracted to light sources.

"A light on near a cracked window is the holy grail for stink bugs," said Lynn Etheridge, a naturalist at Locust Grove Nature Center in Cabin John Regional Park.

They strive to get inside for the winter not to hibernate, but instead to overwinter,

said Etheridge, meaning that they simply look for a cozy home in which they can be less active when it's cold out. Once in, they tend to wander or fly — slowly and clumsily — around a home, and tend to be more active on unseasonably warm days.

Because the bugs feed on fruits and vegetables, they will starve to death before long unless a plethora of such food is laying around. Otherwise their pointy beaks won't find any use unless, of course, someone picks them up to throw them outside, at which point the bugs may either poke them with their beak or emit the foul odor — the

SEE ANNOYING, PAGE 11

## Help U.S. Census Bureau

With the U.S. Census Bureau preparing to conduct a national census in 2010, the bureau is looking for part-time employees to serve as numerators and supervisors. So far the bureau has gotten a weak response from the Bethesda and Potomac areas and is looking to ramp up their efforts. Salaries are advertised as being competitive, and hours as flexible. Numerators check addresses on file to determine if the addresses still exist, an essential task to be performed this year to ready the census for next year. To learn more about the upcoming census and how to help, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>.

## Stimulus To Repave I-495 Section

A Maryland State Highway Administration project to resurface I-495 between I-270 and the American Legion Bridge is slated to begin this summer. The project was made possible by the recent passage by the U.S. Congress of an economic stimulus bill that has targeted infrastructure upgrade projects as a means of creating and preserving jobs. The 3.7-mile section of the Capital Beltway carries 226,000 motorists per day between Virginia and Maryland. The project will resurface the six-to-eight lane roadway in both directions, along with resurfacing the MD 190 (River Road) interchange ramps from both the Inner and Outer loops. This section of I-495 was last resurfaced in 1991, according to the Maryland State Highway Administration.

The project is being put up for bid now and is estimated to cost \$10 to \$13 million and to begin this June.

## March Senior Forum

Montgomery County Councilman Roger Berliner (D-Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase) will host a forum for local seniors on Friday, March 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Bethesda to provide advice on financial, personal, and home safety matters. Speakers will include U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), author Stan Hinden, Montgomery County Police Commander Russ Hamill. The meeting will be held in the Anastasia Room of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad located at 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda (the intersection of Old Georgetown Road and Battery Lane). Call 240-777-7828 for more information. Exhibitors at the event will include: Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, Community Partners, Family and Nursing Care Inc., G.R.O.W.S, Interages, Jewish Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Service, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Office of Aging and Disability, OASIS, Senior Checked, Senior Connection, Senior Health Insurance Program, Strategies for Independent Living, Suburban Hospital, The Beacon, Top Banana Home-Delivered Groceries, Vamoose Bus.

## Garagiola To Host Meetings

State Sen. Rob Garagiola (D-15) will host a series of town hall-style meetings at Giant food stores over the next few weeks as he does each year during the General Assembly to get input from constituents. He will also hand out questionnaires soliciting opinions on fiscal, health care, transportation and energy issues.

The meeting times and locations are scheduled as follows:

March 7, 1-2: Selby Market, 19610 Fisher Ave., Poolesville

March 7, 11-12: Traville – Giant, 9719 Traville Gateway Drive, Rockville.

## Canal Pride Days Coming

The C&O Canal Trust, in partnership with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, seeks community-minded individuals and organizations to complete over 35 revitalization and stewardship projects throughout the park during the upcoming C&O Canal Pride Days. Locations and dates are as follows: April 18 at Great Falls, April 25 at Brunswick and Lander, and May 2 at Williamsport and Hancock. All interested groups and individuals must pre-register. Sign up at <http://www.canaltrust.org/canalpride-app-2009.php> or by calling the C&O Canal Trust at 301-714-2233.

## NEWS



PHOTO BY ARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

**The view of the breach in the C&O Canal towpath near Old Angler's inn from the temporary towpath built around it. Park officials will know within 90 days whether or not repairs for the breach will be funded by the economic stimulus legislation signed into law last week.**

## Stimulus Funds for Canal?

FROM PAGE 2

longer and are further along in preliminary planning stages.

**LAST SEPTEMBER** rains from Tropical Storm Hannah exploited a small crack in the towpath and turned it into a 125-foot-wide chasm. Two members of the C&O Canal National Historical Park's volunteer Bike Patrol program discovered a crack in the towpath the day before the storm hit. The towpath was cordoned off hours before it gave way beneath heavy rains. Since then an arcing, temporary towpath has been built on the Canal bottom to bypass the crater, and both sides of the breach have been rewatered, and visitors have once again have full use of the local park.

"It's just fine," said Norman Liebow, who coordinates the Bike Patrol. The temporary towpath "gives you a good view of the break, it kind of goes around and by doing that you can stop in the center and almost look over it."

While such a scenic view may be interesting, Brandt would like to restore the Canal to its original condition, but only time will tell if and when that

will happen.

"I wish I knew," said Brandt. "I wish we could start at noon today."

**THE ESTIMATED COST** of repairing the Canal breach, including design and construction, is \$2 to \$3 million, said Logan, who has raised to this point \$63,000 to be put towards initial design engineering for the project. Should the project get the green light from the park service that money could be used to secure engineers who will likely become highly sought after as the construction funds are put to use, said Logan.

The Catocin Aqueduct has languished since it collapsed in 1973 because the perpetually underfunded park service couldn't find the money to rebuild it. If the Old Angler's breach repairs aren't funded through the stimulus package, said Logan, it will be back to the traditional road of private fundraising and fighting for scant federal dollars, a prospect made dimmer as charitable donations dry up in the current economic climate.

"It would be a significant project for the park, one of the top priorities getting addressed, so I think we'd all be thrilled," Brandt said.

## New Life of a Former Race Horse

FROM PAGE 2

ately," she said.

Which isn't to say it's been all roses. Former racehorses come with their own sets of unique issues, Rich said. For one, they tend to be high-strung since they naturally have a lot of energy but, as racers, spend most of their day cooped up in their stalls. That can be countered with time and a change in lifestyle, but other things cannot be addressed so easily. Racing is hard on a horse's body, so the early

onset of arthritis is pretty much a given in racehorses, and like any accomplished athlete — Angus earned over \$75,000 in 35 races at Charles Town — Angus can be a little bit of a prima donna.

"He's been a challenge, don't get me wrong," she said. "He's opinionated and he lets me know when things are not to his standards." And that, Rich said, is maybe the best part, that combination of confidence, intelligence, and passion.

"The thing I love about thoroughbreds — if you ask they'll give," Rich said. "They have huge hearts."

## SCHOOL NOTES

Lafayette College sophomore **Dean Weiss** of Potomac used his skills as a computer science major to help Kristen Sanford-Bernhardt, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, explore new ways to operate and main-

tain a system of roadways. Sanford-Bernhardt has been working on this project since 2006.

The 2007 graduate of Winston Churchill High School thinks that this experience helped him understand more

options for a computer science major in the job market.

**Jennifer Kuo**, from Thomas Wootton High School, won third place in the "Together We're Better" contest.

# BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Bulletin Board, e-mail [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com) or fax the submission to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-917-6407.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

**Ash Wednesday.** Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. to introduce the season of Lent. The service will feature the imposition of ashes, the poetry of Ann Weems and more. 301-424-4346.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**Blood Drive.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington. Fans of Washington Capitals can donate blood, receive a limited-edition Peter Bondra bobblehead and meet him. First 500 registrants receive tickets to a home game. Appointments required, [www.my-redcross.org](http://www.my-redcross.org) or 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

**Workshop.** 7 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Parents can learn how to interact with children. Free. 301-229-1347 to register.

**Support Group.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Raphael's Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville. Families and friends of people who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar illness. Free. Visit [www.dbsanca-family.org](http://www.dbsanca-family.org) or 301-299-4255.

**Class.** 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

**Meeting.** 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Leadership Montgomery." Visit [www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org](http://www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org) or 703-501-5941 to register.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 5

**Health Meeting.** Pain Connection Chronic Pain Support Group will meet at 1:30-3 p.m., Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, sponsored by Pain Connection for anyone with chronic pain, their family and friends. Participants are welcome to bring pillows, mats, ice or hot packs to be comfortable. Call 301-309-2444 or visit [www.painconnection.org](http://www.painconnection.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 7

**Contemporary Praise Service.** 5 p.m. at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy singing, skits, stories and more. Free. Pizza supper follows. 301-424-4346.

**Diabetes University.** 9 a.m.-noon at Theatre Arts Arena at Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Enjoy speakers and samples and more. Free, but registration required. Visit [www.diabetesaction.org](http://www.diabetesaction.org) or 202-333-4520.

## MONDAY/MARCH 9

**Meeting.** 7:45 p.m. at County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Learn about how to balance the utility bill with

protecting the environment. Free. Visit [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

**Class.** 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

**Meeting.** 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Relationship between the Canadian and US Military." Visit [www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org](http://www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org) or 703-501-5941 to register.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 12

**Night of Beauty Seminar.** 6 p.m. at Dermatology & Clinic Skin Care Center, 6410 Rockledge Drive, #201, Bethesda. RSVP required, 301-968-1200.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

**Health Symposium.** 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. at National 4-H Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Learn about eating disorders, how to identify symptoms and more. \$155-\$165. Visit [www.jssa.org](http://www.jssa.org) or 301-816-2682 to register.

**Class.** 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

**Meeting.** 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Hospice Care." Visit [www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org](http://www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org) or 703-501-5941 to register.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

**Class.** 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

## ONGOING

**Writers** from the community are encouraged to participate in downtown Bethesda's annual literary festival. Young adults in grades 9-12 and adults age 18 and over can write a 500-word short story or essay about what is the one thing in their life they would change if they had the opportunity to do it all over again, for the Bethesda Literary Festival's Writing Contest. Additionally, young writers grades K-8 can share their insight in the youth writing contest featuring the topic, "What Would You do to Make the World a Better Place." Entries for both contests must be received by Friday, March 20 by 5 p.m. Completed entry forms must be submitted with each essay. For entry forms, call 301-215-6660 or visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region of the **American Red Cross** is seeking **volunteers** to assist its blood collections staff at blood drives and blood donor centers. To register for training, or for more information, please call the American Red Cross Volunteer Office at 1-800-272-0094, ext. 1, or e-mail [karlofft@usa.redcross.org](mailto:karlofft@usa.redcross.org).

in 1997, has been a real estate professional for 20 years.

**Ziva's Spanish Dance Ensemble**, from Potomac, has been selected for the second year in a row to perform as a part of the award-winning Dance Bethesda dance concert coming up on March 7.



## On Screen

Potomac resident and actor, Kris Arnold, landed a love scene with Gretchen Mol, the star of "An American Affair," in his first role on the big screen. Arnold began his acting career in 1996 in a Potomac Theatre Company production of "Chain Links." He later moved to New York City to continue his acting career and has landed numerous roles on TV including "The West Wing," "Homicide" and "As the World Turns." "An American Affair" opens at the Landmark E Street Theater this Friday, Feb. 27.

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**LET'S TALK Real Estate**

by **Michael Matese**  
**THE LENDER'S APPRAISAL**

Many sellers think the price of their home is determined solely by what they will accept and what the buyer will pay. There is one more variable that can influence the selling price of a home assuming a bank loan is involved--the lender's appraisal.

To protect the interest of their investors, the mortgage lender hires a licensed appraiser to give their professional opinion of what the property is worth. Home appraisers compare the condition, features and amenities of the property with neighboring homes of comparable size that have sold during the past several months. If repairs are needed or code violations exist, the appraiser subtracts these factors from the value of the home. Improvements or renovations add value. All the factors are then tallied and a final "opinion of value" is given.

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## PEOPLE NOTES

**Ellen Katz** of Weichert's Potomac Office was named Manager of the Year for the region in 2008. The award is designed to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional management skills and led their office to achieve outstanding results in 2008. Katz, who joined Weichert

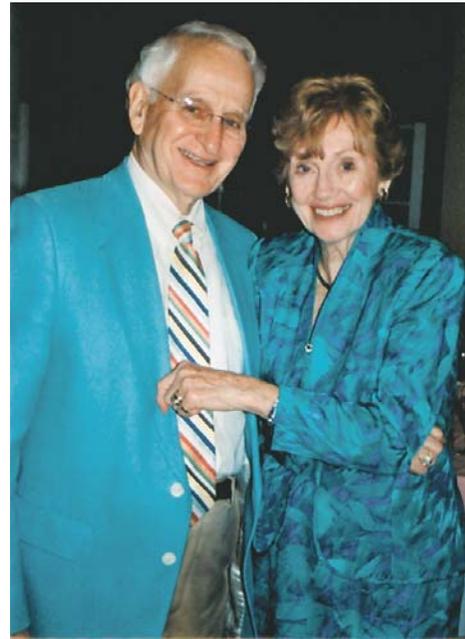
## GETTING AROUND



Potomac residents Betsy and Jim Rill were in Vero Beach for the party as were others from the Potomac area.



Anne Plamondon McNamara, and her brother, Peter, Jr., flew from their Maryland homes for their mother's party.



Florida "snow birds," Edna and Joe Lynott, whose daughter and son-in-law are still Potomac residents, now call Maryland's eastern shore home.



Celebrating her 75th birthday at the Quail Valley River Club, Vero Beach, Fla., Lorrie Plamondon, and her husband, Peter, Sr., compiled a guest list that included friends from Potomac and several dozen others representing years of friendship.

PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

# Potomac South

## Friends, neighbors, celebrate Lorrie Plamondon's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT  
THE ALMANAC

It took a combination of representatives from present and former neighborhoods, present and former club activities, and old college classmates to celebrate Lorrie Plamondon's 75th birthday.

For 27 years, she and her husband, Peter, lived in Potomac, moving "up county" to Beall Creek Court from Bethesda's "Old Farm" where they lived for 17 years. Two years later Peter Plamondon retired from the Marriott Corporation, where he was executive vice president of restaurant operations, and went into business for himself, an endeavor that eventually included hotel ownership and a chain of Roy Roger's restaurants.

His sons now run the business and Lorrie and Peter Plamondon winter in Vero Beach Fla. It was here in Vero, on Feb. 3, that she chose to celebrate her birth date. The Quail Valley River Club, with a spectacular view of the Indian River (after which those luscious oranges and grapefruits are named) was the gathering spot for the party that included Lorrie and Peter Plamondon's daughter Anne Plamondon McNamara and son, Peter, Jr., (their daughters are all Holy Child graduates, as is Anne) who flew down from Maryland for the party.

For the senior Plamondons, both Cornell graduates, no important celebration would be complete without a few college class-



Guitarist Frankie Holiday kept the party bouncing.

mates, although Lorrie Plamondon is quick to mention, "Peter was two years ahead of me." Remarkably, Dot and Mike Hostage, Marlene and Sandy Robbins, Helen and Peter Panarites and Rody Johnson didn't burst into "Far Above Cayuga Waters."

Johnson, a well known author of four books including one on the history of the L.A. Dodgers and their spring training years at Dodgertown, grew up in Vero Beach where his family lived long before Dodgertown was established. Sadly, the team moved on last year, but the lovely little stadium, where Tommy LaSorda brought his team for many years, is still used for various activities.

Throughout the cocktail dinner party,



Lorrie Plamondon heard many "Happy Birthday" wishes like the one she received from Georgia Smith Kaldes, one of her tennis partners at Columbia Country Club.

Frankie Holiday, an absolutely fabulous guitarist, entertained non-stop with a repertoire of music that made it very difficult to sit still. Peter Plamondon Sr., after first hearing the entertainer several years back, liked him so much that he flew him to Potomac to play at his own birthday party. By profession, a flight instructor at the local airport, Holiday plays three nights a week at the recently opened Gloria Estefan Hotel in Vero.

There were several former Old Farm neighbors at the party including Sarabeth and Don Smith, Carole and Bob Plante, Joanne and Heman Ward and Ellen Lawther Kowalyk, she qualifying as a representative for both Old Farm and Potomac. Ellen, and



Lorrie Plamondon prepares to delve into the strawberry shortcake "with real whipped cream" she requested for her birthday party.

her late husband, John Lawther, lived in Potomac prior to their move to Vero Beach.

Current Potomac residents Betsy and Jim Rill, annual visitors to Vero, also numbered among the gathering as did several dozen Vero Beach residents and "snow birds," including Rockville attorney Joe Lynott who was reminiscing about the days when the late Judge Thomas Anderson held forth at the old Rockville courthouse. Years later, when the judge's son, Tommy, died, Lynott attempted to buy the Anderson home on Montgomery Avenue and rues the day he missed the opportunity.

Old days in Rockville reminded Lynott of

SEE POTOMAC SOUTH, PAGE 12

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Chase**

Chase is a two-year-old, 45 pound, neutered, male Golden Retriever mix. Chase was rescued from a bad situation, but still has a sunny disposition and adores people. He walks well on a leash and has a Retriever's desire to please, so he will train easily. Chase will make a great pet for some lucky adopter.



**Luke Skywalker**

Luke Skywalker is a 5-month-old, neutered, male DSH kitten. Luke is part of the "Star Wars" litter of kittens rescued from a citizen's basement addition on Thanksgiving, where they had gone to escape the cold. He's a lively kitten and sports a black "Mohawk" (natural) patch on his white head, sort of a kitten Jedi apprentice hair-do. Luke is the perfect playful kitten for a cat loving family.

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org), call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



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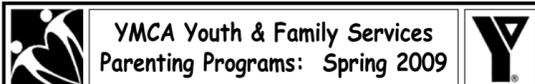
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Library Workshops: Free, donations appreciated  
**Registration and Information:**  
 Call (301) 229-1347 or email: parenting@ymcadc.org

**Ending Power Struggles Without Casualties Two sites!!**  
 Fighting or giving in tends to increase the child's or teen's desire for power. Come and learn new approaches that will change the patterns of interaction and develop cooperation within the family. *Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación.*  
 Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac  
 Monday, March 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Avenue, Silver Spring

**RESPECTO: cómo manejar la actitud negativa.**  
 ¿Está observando mucha "actitud" negativa en sus niños? Este taller le ayudará a menjar respuestas contradictorias, la conducta insolente, el lenguaje inadecuado y los comportamientos no cooperativos. Se discutirán las estrategias para construir un ambiente familiar más respetuoso. Se agradecerán donaciones. **Este taller será en español.**  
 Registración/información en español: (301) 252-4154  
 Miércoles 11 de Marzo, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Gratis.  
 Biblioteca de Silver Spring 8901 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring

**Take out the papers and the trash!!! Giving Kids a Purpose through Chores**  
 An essential aspect of raising confident and caring children is to involve children at an early age in activities that contribute to something greater than themselves. Discover how to design a family plan including logical consequences that reduce the need for punishments whenever chores are neglected. *Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación.*  
 Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring

**Step-Parenting: Realistic Expectations**  
 What are the factors that make it more difficult to earn the respect and cooperation of step children? We will explore the importance of creating new rituals in the family while maintaining respect for differences among family members. *Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación.*  
 Thursday, March 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda

**Life Lessons Learned Through Sports Dr. Caroline Silby**  
 Sports have the potential to empower or defeat young people. Dr. Caroline Silby, Sport Psychologist, will detail ways that parents can use athletics to encourage the development of a healthy child and maximize the positive benefits for a lifetime. *Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación.*  
 Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda  
 To foster the spiritual, mental and physical development of individuals, families, and communities according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect for all.  
 www.ymcawashdc.org

# CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. For more information, call 703-917-6407.

**WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25**  
**Afternoon Tea.** Guitarist Paul Bangser is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.  
**Artist in Residence.** Herb and Hanson perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$10; call 301-581-5100.  
**London Philharmonic.** The London Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$47-117; call 301-581-5100.

**FRIDAY/FEB. 27**  
**Peking Acrobats.** Chinese acrobats perform at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$18-45; call 301-581-5100.  
**Theater Performance.** Imagination Stage presents "The Magic of Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m. at Reeve Studio Theatre, 4908 Auburn Ave. \$10/person. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.  
**Contra Dance.** 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd \$9/person. E-mail [fdcontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fdcontra@yahoo.com) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Hear music for the piano. Pay as you can. Visit [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or 301-320-2770.

**SATURDAY/FEB. 28**  
**Painting Workshop.** Lillian Fitzgerald leads a painting workshop from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$50 plus \$25 material fee; call 301-581-5100.  
**National Philharmonic.** The National Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets from \$29, children 7-17 free. Call 301-581-5100.  
**Dance Performance.** 8 p.m. at American Dance Institute, 1570 E. Jefferson St. See Robert Moses' Kin and Edgeworks Dance Theatre. \$25/adult; \$15/student, senior, member.

## FINE ARTS

Send announcements to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com).

**"Art You My Valentine,"** an exhibit of the artist members' creations runs at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, from **Feb. 2-28**.  
 Potomac artist **Marshetta Davis** is showcasing her art at DeJabel Café, 2519 University Blvd. West, Wheaton, through **February**. All artwork is on sale. Visit [www.artsymars.blogspot.com](http://www.artsymars.blogspot.com) for more.

See **"Moving Stone: Works by J. Jordan Bruns"** at Glen Echo Park's Popcorn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. through **March 1**. It is a journey from realistic depictions of the natural world into the more imaginative realms of abstraction. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org)

Visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org) or 301-984-3003.

**Park Movie.** 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Carousel Tours.** Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Nature Programs.** Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit [www.discoverycreek.org](http://www.discoverycreek.org) or 202-488-0627.

**Theater Performance.** Imagination Stage presents "The Magic of Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m. at Reeve Studio Theatre, 4908 Auburn Ave. \$10/person. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

**Art Show.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. See the "Paintings by Amanda Horowitz." Free. 301-371-5593 or [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**Dance Party.** 7:30-11 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville. Dance to music by Pine Leaf Boys. \$18/person. Visit [www.dancingbythebayou.com](http://www.dancingbythebayou.com) or 301-762-6730.

**Dance Performance.** See Robert Moses' Kin and Edgeworks Dance Theatre perform at 8 p.m. at American Dance Institute, 1570 E. Jefferson St. in Rockville. \$25/adult; \$15/student. Visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org) or 301-984-3003.

**Theater Performance.** 8 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. \$15/person. Comic plays by Precipice Improv theater. Visit [precipiceimprov.com](http://precipiceimprov.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Dance Performance.** 3 p.m. at American Dance Institute, 1570 E. Jefferson St. See Robert Moses' Kin and Edgeworks Dance Theatre. \$25/adult; \$15/student, senior, member. Visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org) or 301-984-3003.

**Park Movie.** 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Carousel Tours.** Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Nature Programs.** Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org) or 301-984-3003.

301-634-2222.

The **Third Annual High School Student Art Exhibit** is on display at John Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus 9605 Medical Center Drive, Building 3, Rockville. The exhibit will be on display through **March 27**.

**"Come See What I Saw"** by Haley Bohlen is on display through **March 20** at Bethesda Public Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda. Contains 82 little travel drawings from a Peru expedition. For more about her works visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com).

See **Yellow Barn Faculty** exhibition from **March 7 through March 29** at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Includes oil, acrylic and watercolor art. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

non member. Visit [www.discoverycreek.org](http://www.discoverycreek.org) or 202-488-0627.

**Art Show.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. See the "Paintings by Amanda Horowitz." Free. 301-371-5593 or [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**Waltz Dance.** 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$8/person. Live music. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Contra and Square Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$12/nonmember; \$9/member. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org) for more.

## MONDAY/MARCH 2

**Reading and Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St. Martin Moran performs "The Tricky Part: One Boy's Fall from Trespass into Grace." \$10/member; \$15/nonmember. 301-654-8664.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 3

**Chinese Book Club.** Join in a Chinese book discussion in the Chinese language from 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.  
**Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Discussion in Chinese. Call for title, 240-777-0690.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

**Babies.** 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children under 3 enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and more. Free. Register at 240-777-0690.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 6

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Hear music for the piano. Pay as you can. Visit [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or 301-320-2770.

**Contra Dance.** 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Enjoy dancing to live music. E-mail [fdcontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fdcontra@yahoo.com) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore. Hear piano by Daryl Davis Band. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for tickets.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 7

**Clay Workshop.** Carol Zilliacus will lead a polymer clay workshop from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$75; call 301-581-5100.  
**Park Movie.** 4 p.m. at Arcade Building

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Strathmore Membership Juried Exhibition** runs at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, from **Feb. 28-April 4**.

See **"Mirror to the World: Documentary Photography 2009"** from **March 7 through April 12** at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Features up and coming documentary photographers. Free. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

See **"Transformations: The Artists' Journey"** from **March 14 through March 29** at The Art Glass Center, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

A basic **introduction to the potter's wheel** for teens. These classes



**Ziva Cohen Dance Ensemble in Potomac will be one of the groups featured at Dance Bethesda on Saturday, March 7. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) for more.**

at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Carousel Tours.** Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

**Nature Programs.** Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit [www.discoverycreek.org](http://www.discoverycreek.org) or 202-488-0627.

**Dance Bethesda.** 8 p.m. at Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Highway, Bethesda. Enjoy ballet, cultural dances and more. \$20/adult; \$10/child. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or 301-215-6660.

at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/glec](http://www.nps.gov/glec) or 301-320-1400.

allow students to throw at their own skill level. Classes meet for six weeks from 4 - 6 p.m. on Tuesdays (Feb. 17 - March 24) or Thursdays (Feb. 19 - March 26). Tuition (\$108) includes tools and supplies. For students attending middle and high school (age 11 - 16). At Glen Echo Pottery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. 301-229-5585 or visit [www.glenechopottery.com](http://www.glenechopottery.com).

**Yellow Barn Gallery** at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Free exhibits of emerging artist work and art sales. Each weekend features the work of a different artist. Every Saturday and Sunday from 12 - 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com).

The **Bethesda Art Walk** allows art lovers to visit downtown Bethesda's gallery community from **6-9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month**.

# To Do List...

**Option 1**

- Clean Gutters
- Repair leaky sink
- Fix squeaky door
- Change filters
- Hang shelf

**Option 2**

- Enjoy your family
- Play golf
- Go shopping
- Watch the game
- Relax & have fun

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## POTOMAC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### THE HUNTER'S INN

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## NETWORKING EVENT!

Wednesday, March 4, 2009  
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
 10123 River Road  
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Cost: Potomac Chamber Members: \$10.00  
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 Cash Bar available

HUNTER'S IS GENEROUSLY PROVIDING HORS D'OUERVES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!

To reserve your place and/or for additional information, Call the Potomac Chamber of Commerce:  
 301-299-2170  
 R.S.V.P. by March 1, 2009

Bring your business cards and plenty of conversation!

If you would like to donate a door prize, please call Jennifer at the Chamber office.

Potomac Chamber Of Commerce  
 P.O. Box 59160  
 Potomac, MD 20859-9160  
 301-299-2170

# OBITUARY

## John Shumanis

John F. Shumanis, 67, a 25-year resident of Potomac, died Feb. 19, 2009 of a sudden coronary at Suburban Hospital. Born eight weeks early on Nov. 17, 1941, in Pottsville, Pa., he graduated at the top of his class from Northeast Catholic High School for Boys in Philadelphia and was the first in his family to earn a college degree, which was a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1963. Upon graduation, he worked for two years as an electrical engineer for DuPont in Parkersburg, W.Va. He then began a long and distinguished sales and management career with IBM, initially selling IBM's revolutionary electric typewriters and eventually the first personal computers. Working at the forefront of the computer revolution, he continually made IBM's 100 percent Club for meeting his quota for the year and was twice awarded IBM's Golden Circle award for the company's top 1 percent of sales personnel worldwide. He was transferred to the Washington area in 1984, and he retired as the branch manager of a former Washington, D.C., office in 1991.

In his retirement he pursued his interests in flying, computer gaming, and cycling,

and he taught himself how to play the piano. He enjoyed teaching English as a second language at Berlitz, and he also volunteered his time by providing reading support at Bells Mill Elementary School in Potomac. He was a member of St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Rockville.

He will be remembered for his intelligence and sense of humor. Even his four-year-old granddaughter, upon hearing the news of his death, remarked, "Gran pop was funny?" as well as for his devotion to his wife of 42 years, Charrel Shumanis. The couple had renewed their wedding vows in 2000 and recently celebrated 40 years of marriage in Italy. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sister, Vivian McCann of Philadelphia; an aunt, Virginia Sisak of Barnesville, Pa.; two children: David Shumanis of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and Nichole Shumanis Rowles of Wynnewood, Pa.; and three young grandchildren.

A wake, immediately followed by the funeral, was held on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at St. Raphael's Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. See <http://www.americanheart.org> or call 1-800-AHA-USA1.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

To have an item listed mail to 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102, e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com), or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. If you have any questions, call Matthew Razak at 703-917-6457.

Montgomery County's Office of Public Information, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Historical Society, has updated and revised its booklet called "Montgomery County, Maryland: Our History and Government." The 30-page booklet contains historical information about the County, as well as principal historic events and County demographics. Also included are historical photos and explanations of the County's official symbols. The book provides a comprehensive accounting of the County's history and is a valuable tool for County residents and for students studying local history. Montgomery County's history book is available online by going to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and clicking on the Richard Montgomery icon on the homepage. Call 240-777-6530.

Speakers of languages other than English can now find information about **Montgomery County Public Schools** (MCPS) in one click from the MCPS Web site's home page.

Web sites have been created in Chinese, French,

Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese to enable non-English-speaking families to more easily find news, documents, and information about services. Links to the sites can be found just below the featured story on the MCPS home page. Each site also can be accessed via the following Web address (simply replace the language name after the slash to go to another language site): [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/chinese).

Each language site links to the Navigating the System guide for parents, Parent Connection newsletter, and Aim High booklets. Each site also features links to streaming video of the Our Schools Today TV program and to the QuickNotes e-mail newsletter. Visitors also will find links to Web sites for English as a Second Language/Bilingual Programs, the Downcounty Consortium, and the Middle School Magnet Consortium. This is the first phase of a project to improve access to information in other languages on the MCPS Web. Information and links on these sites will grow in future months. Suggestions and comments can be e-mailed to the Web Services Team at [webmaster@mcpsmd.org](mailto:webmaster@mcpsmd.org)

**Mom's Club of Potomac** offers activities for stay-at-home mothers and their children and meets on the third Monday of every month at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road at 10:30 a.m. Playgroups meet weekly and there is a full calendar of activities every month. E-mail or call Jennifer Klein at [momspotomac@gmail.com](mailto:momspotomac@gmail.com) or 301-299-2711.

**sumer Affairs** (DCA) is seeking volunteers who speak Spanish to assist with investigating and resolving consumer complaints. Volunteers will review complaints, draft letters, and contact merchants and consumers in an effort to resolve disputes.

Volunteers must have good writing, analytical and listening skills and basic computer operations knowledge.

They must also be able to quickly learn and apply laws enforced by DCA. DCA offices are located at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteers are needed during any of these hours. To apply to volunteer or for further information, call Nellie Miller at 240-777-3727. For more about DCA, call 240-777-3636 or visit the Web site at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer).

## FAITH NOTES

To have an item listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. If you have any questions, call 703-917-6407.

**The Seven Locks Baptist Church**, 11845 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, holds **weekly prayer meetings**, Wednesday in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. Call 301-279-9388.

**"Prayer Book Hebrew,"** Tuesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087.

This is a continuing course for those who have completed a basic Hebrew siddur series of classes using Level I of "Alef Isn't Enough." This course is designed to open the door to understanding the Hebrew of prayers. The fee is \$30 in addition to registration fee.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist holds testimony meetings** every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 100 Nelson St. Rockville. Free child care and parking is provided. Call 301-762-8222.

**Rockville Presbyterian Church** welcomes all Presbyterians for Sunday School, worship service, refreshments and fellowship after worship. They also provide comfort and solace with spiritual support and organized funeral services. Located at 215 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Call 301-762-3363.

**Shalem Institute** offers a guided mid-day **Prayer Peace Circle**, on Wednesdays from noon-12:45 p.m. in the Shalem Meditation Room & Library, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 140, Bethesda. For more information, contact 301-897-7334 or visit [www.shalem.org](http://www.shalem.org).

## SENIOR LIVING

**Montgomery County's** "Something for Everyone" Program, an ethnic meal program for seniors, was honored recently with an Aging Achievement Award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). "Something For Everyone" is a program of the Montgomery County Area Agency on Aging, part of the County's Department of Health and Human Services, designed to improve the health of ethnic seniors by establishing a group of local lunch sites that meet both dietetic and social needs. There are currently 14 sites, which include Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Kosher (Russian) sites, serving 32,000 meals annually. Information on services for seniors is available at 240-777-3000.

Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) is the full-service agency for all seniors regardless of faith, race, or economic means. JCA also possesses a comprehensive database of senior resources and services (both national and regional) and certified specialists able to help find the information needed. E-mail [jcagw@gcagw.org](mailto:jcagw@gcagw.org) or visit [www.jcagw.org](http://www.jcagw.org) for more.

For general information, call JCA's **Rose Bente Lee Senior HelpLine** at 301-255-4200, which provides free information about senior centers, support groups, homecare services, and nursing homes, and a wide range of other resources.

For computers call the **SeniorNet Program** at 240-395-0916, which offers affordable computer and Internet training programs developed by seniors for seniors at two Maryland locales, with new classes starting all the time.

For **classes**, call 301-255-4205, which teach how to improve health and well being by incorporating more physical activity into the daily routine, are available at several Maryland locations. Call to find the nearest location.

For transportation call **Connect-A-Ride** at 301-738-3252, which gives free information about available senior transportation services in Montgomery County and eligibility for assistance, while its ElderBus program (310-468-6280) provides limited, low-cost bus transportation to grocery stores. JCA also can arrange group transportation for outings or social events at low rates (301-468-6280) in our wheelchair-accessible buses operated by professional drivers.

Job searching call **Senior Employment Services** at 240-395-0918, which provides free, one-on-one job coaching, resume preparation, and job-search support as well as a special program for low-income Montgomery County seniors.

For adult day-care, ask about the **Misler Adult Day Center** in Rockville, which provides a structured, comforting environment weekdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., complete with stimulating activities, socialization, and ongoing supervision of health needs. JCA also offers round-trip bus transportation for Misler participants from many Montgomery County locales.

The county's **Ride On bus service offers a free transportation option** to seniors ages 65 and older and persons with disabilities Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Seniors may ride free by showing either a Metro Senior Reduced Fare Identification Card or a Medicare Card and valid

photo identification (driver's license, passport, or state issued identification card). People with disabilities and, if applicable, their attendant, may ride free by presenting a Metro Disabled Identification (ID) Card or Metro Disabled "Attendant Eligible" ID card. Most current Ride On customers who are seniors or persons with disabilities already have the Metro ID cards, as these allow them to qualify for reduced fares on transit throughout the region. Seniors who wish to obtain the Senior Reduced Fare ID Card must fill out the Metro Senior Citizen Reduced Fare Program application. Persons with disabilities who need an ID card must fill out the Metro Reduced Fare Program for People With Disabilities application. ID card applications are available at County senior centers, libraries, The Commuter Express store in Silver Spring, and regional service centers. Seniors must fill out their application on site and present a valid picture ID that has the birth date at the time of application. Persons with disabilities may mail their application to Metro. For more information about Ride On, visit the County's website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rideon](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rideon).

**Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute's** fall schedule available. Older adults looking to enhance their education or simply expand their horizons will find a wide variety of courses to match their interests through Montgomery College's Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), a program of the College's Workforce Development and Continuing Education unit. Course offerings include such varied subjects as languages, literature, music, interior design, history, personal finance, photography, writing, and anthropology. Registration is currently underway for all classes. To view the schedule of classes online, long on to [www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu) and click on the Continuing Education link. Residents interested in receiving a free guide by mail and being placed on the mailing list should call Suzi Thom at 301-353-7809.

Montgomery County offers **help to keep older drivers safe on the road** with a free computer-based tool called AAA Roadwise Review. The program allows a senior to identify areas of physical strength as well as driving techniques that can be improved. Along with results, the tool provides advice regarding what the test taker should do.

The abilities examined include: leg strength and general mobility, head/neck flexibility and more. To request a free AAA Roadwise Review, call the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services at 240-777-3000 (TTY 240-777-4575).

**Potomac Seniors** gather on Tuesdays and enjoy a wide range of activities together between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The program offers entertainment, health screening and education, chair exercises, crafts, informational speakers, counseling on issues of interest to seniors, occasional intergenerational activities, theme parties and lots of camaraderie. Mini-trips to local points of interest add another dimension to the wide range of possibilities offered at Potomac Seniors.

# Annoying and So Abundant

FROM PAGE 3

defense mechanism by which the insect earned its name. The beak poking feels like a pinprick, and the bugs pose no harm beyond a simple nuisance.

"They fall into the category of just being a pest," said Ricigliano of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. "They don't destroy your home like termites, they don't spread diseases — they're just annoying."

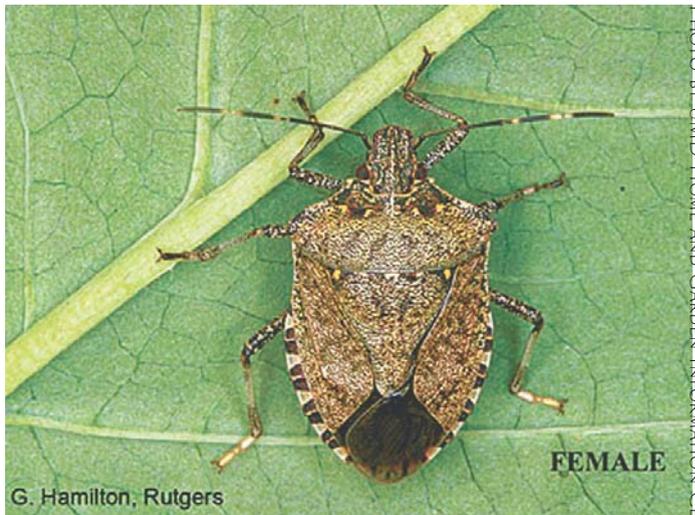
They also don't reproduce indoors, said Etheridge, so home owners don't need to fear opening up a sock drawer in the spring to find it crawling with newly-born insects.

Yet like so many non-native species of plants and animals, being out of their element is good for them, but not necessarily the world around them.

"They have no natural predators, so their numbers increase because there's nothing here to control them," said Ricigliano. Another non-native species, the emerald ash borer beetle, has decimated forests around the country in recent year and scientists are struggling to combat it.

That does not appear to be the case with the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug — unless abundance and annoyance counts as a threat.

"It does seem like they're everywhere now," said Etheridge, and everywhere even includes the offices at Locust Grove. As Etheridge spoke to The Almanac



G. Hamilton, Rutgers

**A female Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. The species native to Asia has exploded in population in the mid-Atlantic region since the year 2000.**

by phone recently she said they could be seen all around her office nestled in Cabin John Regional Park, and that they have even begun settling for an indoor home in temporary shelters. "They're in the car, they're on the car — they're just everywhere right now," she said.

To learn more about the stink bugs visit [hgic.umd.edu/content/brownstinkbug.cfm](http://hgic.umd.edu/content/brownstinkbug.cfm), or to track a Rutgers University study about their recent population explosion, visit [njaes.rutgers.edu/stinkbug](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/stinkbug).

— AARON STERN

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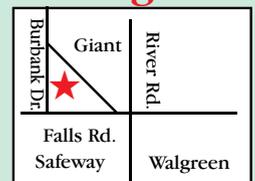
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[www.Potomacseniorsvillage.com](http://www.Potomacseniorsvillage.com)



# PEOPLE

## Potomac South

FROM PAGE 6

the former banks. Neither he, nor this reporter could recall the names. (A follow-up phone call to Montgomery County Historical Society luminary Jane Chinn Sween solved the memory lapse. The Farmer's Bank and Trust and the Montgomery County National were the only two banks in Rockville at the time.)

The Lynott's daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Jim Bonan are Potomac residents, and Joe Lynott's wife, Edna, is part of a tennis group of Lorrie Plamondon's at Columbia Country Club, as is Georgia Smith Kaldes who was at the party with her husband, Paul.

From cocktails to a scrumptious roast beef dinner and a huge strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream, it was fascinating to discover the link of friendships established over the years. How, from college days to retirement, neighborhood to neighborhood and paths and interests that crossed in many directions, enabled so many friends to gather nearly a thousand miles away from Montgomery County, to celebrate a 75th birthday, was quite an achievement and a grand tribute.

### CLASSES

To have an item listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send mail to 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102, e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com), or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. If you have any questions, call 703-917-6451.

**Joy of Dance Class.** Fall semester begins new dance classes at Joy of Motion Dance Center, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 180 E, Bethesda. Call for more information 301-986-0016.

**Children's Movement Classes.** Creative 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.

**PEP Parenting Classes.** Parenting classes for parents of children from birth through age 18. Learn vital skills that will bring out the best in children and parents. Classes are offered both during daytime and evening throughout the area. Call 301-929-8824 or visit [www.parentencouragement.org](http://www.parentencouragement.org).



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### LENT 2009

#### COFFEE & CONVERSATION

February 28, March 7, 14  
Saturdays after 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Enzler Room  
Dr. Anthony Tambasco,  
Georgetown University  
Central Themes of St. Paul: the Cross,  
Resurrection, and the Spirit

#### DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 7, 9:30-5:00 p.m.  
Retreat Leader:  
Father Mike Mellone  
Lunch included. Reservations:  
Parish House, 301-365-1415

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Church

#### RECONCILIATION

Wednesdays during Lent,  
6:30 -7:30 p.m.  
  
Parish Reconciliation Service,  
Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 4,  
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### BIBLE STUDY

Thursday evenings: 7:30-9:00 p.m.  
Enzler Room.  
Wednesday mornings: 9:30 a.m.  
Bryon House  
Monday mornings: 7:30 a.m.  
Parish House

#### PARISH LENTEN REREAT

Saturday, March 28, 9:30-5:00 p.m.  
Retreat Leader:  
Fr. Godfrey Mullen, O.S.B  
Includes lunch with  
weekend Mass at 4:00 p.m.  
Reservations: [lbudney@olom.org](mailto:lbudney@olom.org) or  
call the Parish House, 301-365-1415

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel is open for visits  
from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily.  
From 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.,  
the chapel will be locked-  
those wishing the code to access  
the chapel during overnight  
will need to call 301-365-1415.  
On Wednesday evenings during Lent,  
the chapel will remain  
unlocked until 7:30 p.m.

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## SPECTACULAR OPEN HOUSES February 28 & March 1



When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in the Almanac. For more real estate listings and open houses visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

### Potomac

|                             |                  |                    |                      |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 10210 Democracy Ln.....     | \$997,000.....   | Sun. 1-4.....      | Chana Sky.....       | Long & Foster.....  | 240-497-1700 |
| 6 Eaglebrook Ct.....        | \$750,000.....   | Sat./Sun. 1-4..... | Kelly Vezzi.....     | Weichert.....       | 301-793-5700 |
| 7762 Heatherton Ln.....     | \$549,900.....   | Sun. 1-4.....      | Rebecca Plesset..... | Long & Foster.....  | 301-468-0606 |
| 12812 Maidens Bower Dr..... | \$2,199,500..... | Sat./Sun. 1-4..... | Margaret Mancuso..   | WC & AN Miller..... | 888-287-8129 |
| 7700 Mary Cassatt Dr.....   | \$869,900.....   | Sun. 1-4.....      | Nancy Gittleson..... | Long & Foster.....  | 240-350-8222 |
| 10513 Rivers Bend Ln.....   | \$2,750,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....      | Nancy Moritt.....    | Long & Foster.....  | 301-215-4733 |
| 8704 Snowhill Ct.....       | \$1,295,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....      | Parvin Navid.....    | Long & Foster.....  | 301-469-4700 |
| 9800 Tibron Ct.....         | \$1,649,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....      | Leslie Friedson..... | Long & Foster.....  | 301-455-4506 |
| 9411 Turnberry Dr.....      | \$1,325,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....      | Nancy Itteilag.....  | Long & Foster.....  | 202-905-7762 |

### North Potomac

|                             |                  |               |                      |                    |              |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 116 Alderwood Dr.....       | \$1,134,500..... | Sun. 1-4..... | Marc Infeld.....     | Coldwell Banker... | 301-637-1617 |
| 15743 Ambiance Dr.....      | \$287,900.....   | Sun. 1-4..... | Audrey Primozic..... | Weichert.....      | 301-528-9770 |
| 11450 Game Preserve Rd..... | \$850,000.....   | Sun. 1-3..... | Creig Northrop.....  | Long & Foster..... | 301-770-0760 |
| 112 Longpoint Way.....      | \$459,900.....   | Sun. 1-4..... | Sean Summerall.....  | Long & Foster..... | 301-760-8433 |
| 10701 Tuckahoe Way.....     | \$765,000.....   | Sun. 1-3..... | Creig Northrop.....  | Long & Foster..... | 301-770-0760 |

### Bethesda

|                                 |                  |                 |                       |                    |              |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 7224 Armat Dr.....              | \$3,499,000..... | Sun. By App't.. | Zora Dugan.....       | Long & Foster..... | 301-233-6550 |
| 8200 Hampden Ln.....            | \$699,000.....   | Sun. 1-4.....   | Lisa Stransky Brown.. | Coldwell Banker... | 301-718-0010 |
| 9124 Kirkdale Rd.....           | \$685,000.....   | Sun. 2-4.....   | Nancy Cameron.....    | Llewellyn.....     | 301-529-2606 |
| 4808 Moorland Ln. #910.....     | \$595,000.....   | Sun. 1-4.....   | Jackie Lawrence.....  | Century 21.....    | 301-977-4663 |
| 7806 Orchard Gate Ct.....       | \$1,295,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....   | Wendy Banner.....     | Long & Foster..... | 301-356-9090 |
| 5225 Pooks Hill Rd. #A20 N..... | \$219,000.....   | Sun. 2-4.....   | Bruce Robinson.....   | Nancy Mellon.....  | 301-951-0668 |
| 5108 Saratoga Ave.....          | \$1,399,000..... | Sun. 1-4.....   | Gene Asmuth.....      | Long & Foster..... | 301-996-3937 |
| 6012 Southport Dr.....          | \$1,350,000..... | Sat./Sun.....   | Hans Wydler.....      | Long & Foster..... | 301-986-6405 |
| 6002 Springfield Dr.....        | \$725,000.....   | Sun. 1-4.....   | Josette Skilling..... | Long & Foster..... | 240-497-1700 |
| 7500 Woodmont Ave. #S1118..     | \$529,000.....   | Sun. 1-4.....   | Chana Sky.....        | Long & Foster..... | 240-497-1700 |

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Kenneth Lourie 703-917-6475 or e-mail the info to: [klourie@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:klourie@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

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# Churchill Girls Save Best for Last

**Bulldogs are first public school to win Metros swim meet in more than a decade.**

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

**F**orgive her for the hyperbole, but Churchill sophomore Yvonne Huo couldn't help but ask the question after the Bulldog girls had finished winning the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championships last Saturday night.

"Has a public school ever won metros?" she wondered.

It's understandable given the fact that the last time a school not named Good Counsel won the girl's title, President Bill Clinton hadn't even begun his second term in office.

But led by Huo and the other three members of

Churchill's first-place girl's 400-yard freestyle relay team (freshmen Shannon Ridge and Natalya Ares and sophomore Alicia Watkins), the Bulldogs (414 team points) dethroned 12-time defending champion Good Counsel (337 team points). Coupled with an impressive fourth-place finish by the Bulldog boy's, Churchill also took home the combined team championship.

"It's amazing because we made history," said Huo, whose anchor leg of the 400-yard relay closed out the 43-team event with a Churchill win.

"This has been a long time coming," said drenched coach Rodney Van Tassell, who was thrown in the Germantown Indoor Pool

**"It's amazing because we made history."**

— Churchill sophomore Yvonne Huo



Churchill's 400-yard freestyle relay team of (from left) freshman Shannon Ridge, freshman Natalya Ares, sophomore Yvonne Huo, and sophomore Alicia Watkins is all smiles after closing out last Saturday's Metros meet with a dramatic first-place finish.

following the victory. "And you couldn't have asked for a better finish than the last relay."

**THE MOST REMARKABLE** part of it all was that throughout Churchill's undefeated season this year the girl's 400-yard freestyle relay had never taken first place against top competition. They lost to Walter Johnson in a dual meet during the regular season, and finished behind the Wildcats at both the divisional and county championships.

Churchill won just one individual event at metros, a testament to the tremendous depth that has carried the Bulldogs throughout the season. Churchill had a top-10 finisher in 18 of the 24 events that took place Saturday.

It had Van Tassell in a jubilant, but wet mood afterwards. He remembered back when he first started coaching the Churchill

**"You have to come and dethrone the previous champion before you actually know that you're the best."**

— Churchill coach Rodney Van Tassell

swim team in 2001, the Bulldogs qualified just one swimmer for this meet.

But thanks to an infusion of freshmen talent this year, those days are a thing of the past.

"For us to come in here and be the favorite and make good on everyone's predictions, it was intense all night," said Van Tassell. "I still think you have to come and dethrone the previous champion before you actually know that you're the best and they



Churchill's Jerry Sun prepares to dive in the pool during the boy's 200-yard freestyle relay.

did that tonight."

Leading the charge for Churchill throughout was Watkins, who took home the 500-yard free style crown with a blazing time of 4:56.38, almost seven seconds faster than any of her previous recorded times.

"I've never swum that fast before," said Watkins afterwards. "I almost didn't even believe it."

On the boy's side, Churchill's fourth-place finish as a team was due in large part to senior Drew Fisher (fourth place 100-yard backstroke) and junior Chris Verbancouer (fourth place 100-yard butterfly). Both were a part of Churchill's fourth place 200-yard medley relay as well.

**Whitman** took home first-place honors in the girl's 200-yard medley relay behind the team of freshmen Victoria Kuhn and Reia Tong and juniors Danielle Schulkin and Lauren Poole.

# Grapplers Succeed at County Tournament

**Whitman has three champions, places second at MCPS wrestling tournament.**

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

**W**hitman's Eric Beverly and Wootton's Michael Barbaro had never met in a match before the finals of the 145-pound weight class during last weekend's Montgomery County Public Schools wrestling tournament.

And after Beverly defeated his Patriot counterpart, 12-7, to take home the county crown, both sides were well aware of the

ramifications. Unlike other high school team sports where opponents will sometimes face each other two and three times over the course of an entire season, Beverly and Barbaro could see each other two or three times in the next two weeks.

So even though Beverly won this battle, the two may meet again this weekend at the 4A/3A regional tournament with seeding for the following week's state tournament — another event the two could face

SEE WHITMAN, PAGE 15



Whitman's Taylor Leighton tries to pin B-CC's Collins Nitcheu last Saturday in the 171-pound consolation finals.

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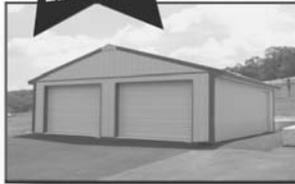
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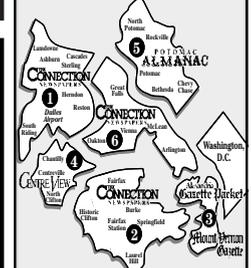
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## 'Total' Confusion



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, my wife Dina, was in a car accident on Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., through no fault of her own, admitted to on the scene by the other driver. Fortunately, no one was hurt. However, Dina's car appears to have been "totaled." At present, two weeks after the accident, we're still waiting for both sides to adjust/agree on the car's assessment and therein lies the confusion.

Both companies, brand name insurers of unquestioned and unparalleled integrity, have reacted quickly to their respective client's call-ins. So quickly, in fact, that neither company has had the real-time information in as timely a manner as we have since the claims process has been tended to with the utmost care and concern. What I mean is, Dina (as the driver) and yours truly (as the owner) are both receiving calls from both insurers seeking information and status concerning what action has been taken (car seen/adjusted, car towed, where towed; and hearing who else had to determine what in order for all interested parties — insurers and insureds — to agree) or still needs to be taken, all in an extremely efficient and responsive pursuit of the truth, justice and settlement of the pending claim and ultimate disbursement of funds.

The problem is that both insurers' proactiveness has caused Dina and I to act cautiously, so cautiously in fact that, two weeks after the accident, no decision has been made; no repairs have been authorized, and of course, no settlement has been offered. Let me amend that. A settlement offer was made to me by my insurance company. However, when I told the other driver's insurance company's claims person of my company's offer, she balked at its legitimacy, so to speak, because she said that her company's adjuster hadn't even seen the car yet. As a result, rather than upset the other driver's insurance company, who I had hoped would settle with my insurance company — and its subrogation department, and include my \$1,000 collision deductible in the "total" check, I called my insurance company and withdrew my consent to their settlement offer, paperwork concerning which I had not yet "over-nighted" due to the criss-crossing of customer service/claims phone calls we were still both continuing to receive.

When I advised my car insurance company's claims representative of this decision/further delay, she was a bit perturbed (I realize it was costing them money; storage fees, no sale at auction, etc.) and asked what insurer I wanted to "go through" to settle this claim. I replied that I didn't preferably want to "go through" anybody (my insurance company versus the other driver's), I simply wanted to involve all the parties that, based on the number and variety of insurance company phone calls that Dina and I were receiving, sounded like I was supposed to, to facilitate the claim. At the very least, I thought, both sides needed to have an equal opportunity to gather all the information deemed appropriate/necessary to assess the damage/make a settlement offer (what do I know?). Given her attitude, apparently, I wasn't supposed/expected to do that.

I guess I was supposed to do what my insurance company advised me to do. Whatever confusion I was experiencing, whatever cross-communicating we were still receiving, would all be sorted out at settlement, if and when a final offer was made, and I should let the professionals work it all out on my behalf.

And though it all still sounded reasonable, I couldn't help wondering exactly who wants to know what and why, and how all of it affects Dina and me, and what's all the rush anyway?

*Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.*

## SPORTS

# Twice Is Nice for Wootton

## Patriots win second straight hockey state championship.

By MIKE WEINER  
THE ALMANAC

**A**fter escaping with close victories in its first three playoff games against Churchill, Whitman, and Easton, the Wootton Patriots erased any doubt that they would defend their state championship against Linganore High School, scoring the first four goals en route to a 5-2 victory and its second-consecutive state championship.

Coming off of a 7-5 upset against favored Glenelg, in which they scored four goals in the last five minutes of the game, a confident Linganore team looked to dethrone the defending champion Patriots. It was Wootton, however, that saved its best performance for the biggest stage.

"They thought they were going to beat Glenelg then come in and take us," said Wootton forward Jonathan Cohen, who had a hat trick in the game. "No shot. We skated well, passed well, hit well, we did everything well. This was our best game, a complete game."

It was a dominating performance by Wootton in the first period that essentially took the Lancers out of contention long before the final buzzer sounded. Six min-



COURTESY OF DAVID HARTZMAN

**Wootton senior Jon Cohen celebrates the Patriots second-consecutive state title last Saturday.**

utes into the game, Wootton drew two penalties in the span of six seconds, and the Patriots wasted little time converting on the 5-on-3 powerplay. Senior Dylan Skarupa quickly found defenseman Josh Bretner streaking down the middle for a one-time slapshot past Linganore's Mark Gryzbinski. Wootton dominated the puck for the majority of the period, and the Patriots put goal

number two past Gryzbinski at the 2:25 mark, as Neofytos Panagos corralled a rebound off the backboards and slid it into the net.

Notwithstanding the offensive effort, it was the Wootton defense that was the key factor in taking the Lancers out of their comfort zone early. Against Glenelg, Linganore junior star Ethan Klauka had four goals, including two in the last five minutes, to give the Lancers the victory. The Patriots blueliners, in particular Bretner, held him to just one assist.

The rest of the game belonged to Cohen. The senior sniper struck first just under six minutes into the second period on a quick deke and snap shot past a surprised Gryzbinski. Less than 90 seconds later, Cohen pocketed his second goal, and the celebration started early as Wootton increased their lead to 4-0.

"It doesn't get better than this, it's the best feeling ever to go out with a [hat] trick," Cohen said.

"Josh was excellent in defending [Klauka] and Cohen had the goals, but those were an accumulation of the efforts of the other guys," said coach Dave Evans. "Those guys stood out though, and some of Cohen's goals tonight were unbelievable."

In winning its second-straight championship, Wootton becomes the first repeat champion in the six-year history of the Capitals Cup Championship. The Patriots overcame the graduation of 10 seniors from the 2007-2008 team and the departure of two more.

## Whitman Places Second at MCPS Tournament

FROM PAGE 13

one another — on the line.

Also, with many of the area's wrestlers seasons now over following the conclusion of the county tournament, many high schools will travel around to different wrestling rooms this week as a means of changing the pace of small and stale practices.

Who knows, maybe Beverly and Barbaro could be rekindling their finals match on a practice mat somewhere this week?

"I know him better now," said Beverly, who controlled much of last Saturday's match against Barbaro (30-4) after giving up an early takedown. He now sports an undefeated 22-0 record this season.

"Beverly, he's a real strong kid," said Wootton coach Kevin O'Neill. "It'll be interesting to see if they match-up again."

**IT SEEMS NORMAL** for two wrestlers from opposing schools to go at it during the wrestling postseason, but two standouts from the same team just doesn't make much sense.

But that was the case for the Whitman wrestling team this past week, as coach Derek Manon allowed senior 189-pounder Aaron Norris and junior 171-pounder Taylor Leighton to wrestle off in practice for who would compete in the lowest weight class at counties.



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC

**Wootton's Michael Barbaro (far) and Whitman's Eric Beverly (near) face off during the finals of the 145-pound weight class at this past weekend's county wrestling tournament.**

Both were stalwarts for the Vikings' state semifinal team this season, and it showed when they wrestled one another. Leighton came out on top, 2-1, in a double overtime match he described as "just really tiring."

It didn't affect his performance all that much, though, as Leighton took home third-place honors in the 171-weight class by defeating Collins Nitcheu of Bethesda-Chevy Chase in the consolation finals. The ironic twist is that despite losing the wrestle-

off, Norris (27-3 record) was the big winner in the 189-pound weight class by defeating Magruder's John Rinaldi in the county championship match.

Senior Danny Lee (215 pounds) also was an individual champion for Whitman, which finished in second place in the team competition behind Sherwood. Senior Steven Fisher (160 pounds) came in second place, while Michael Follman (125 pounds) came in third.

**FOR CHURCHILL SENIOR** Mike Chen, last weekend's county tournament will always come down to what ifs.

What if he had been more aggressive in the finals of the 119-pound weight class? What if he hadn't taken a wait-and-see approach against Magruder's Max Schneidermann? What if Churchill hadn't finished a disappointing 13<sup>th</sup>-place in the team standings?

But after his bittersweet 10-4 loss in the finals, Chen (29-5 record) could take solace in one thing. There's always next week. Asked if he had any plans for the regional tournament and a possible rematch with Schneidermann, there was no question his thoughts had already begun spinning that way. "Revenge is sweet," he said with a smirk. "It's always good to get to the finals, but it's even better to win it."

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