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NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC
CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ HEALTH, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 11



With synthetic grass fields growing in popularity across the region and the nation, grass fields like the surface at Winston Churchill High School could soon be a thing of the past.

Easement Amendments On the Rise

NEWS, PAGE 3

Business Backs Science City

NEWS, PAGE 3

Patriots Power Past Bulldogs

SPORTS, PAGE 10



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CRIME

Criminal activities reported by the Montgomery County Police Department through March 27.

A **residential garage burglary** occurred in the 9800 Bentcross Drive in Potomac on Tuesday, March 3 between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. The victim had left the garage door open for a delivery and property was removed.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 7600 block of Hamilton Spring Road in Potomac on Thursday, March 5 between 1:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. No sign of forced entry but property was removed.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 8000 block of Inverness Ridge Road in Potomac on Monday, March 9 between 11 p.m. and 11:40 p.m. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed change.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 8000 block of Inverness Ridge Road in Potomac on Monday, March 9 between 11 p.m. and 11:40 p.m. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a cell phone charger.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 8000 block of Inverness Ridge Road in Potomac on Monday, March 9 between 11 p.m. and 11:40 p.m. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed coins.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 13300 block of Signal Tree Lane in North Potomac on Thursday, March 5 between 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There was no sign of forced entry, but property was removed.

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PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



Since the Bullis School installed a synthetic grass field in 2005 the school hasn't had to cancel any athletic events for weather-related reasons.



St. Andrews Episcopal School last year became one of many local private schools to install a new synthetic grass field for its athletic teams.

Push for Evergreen Playing Fields

Synthetic grass fields offer minimized maintenance, but skeptics worry about cost and health issues.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

A single rain storm can wreak havoc on the athletic program at Connelly School of the Holy Child. Last Sunday the junior varsity and varsity lacrosse teams were scheduled to play against a team visiting from England on a tour of the East Coast. The heavy rains that fell on Saturday had left the school's lone athletic field water-logged, so the school does what it often does in such situations — it cancelled the games. That is because the single field in the back of the school is used not just for games, but also for its team practices as well as gym classes and graduation ceremonies. The all-girls Catholic school can not afford to risk the long-term damage to the field that one muddy game could cause.

"Where it really hurts our athletes is when it rains and they have to come in-

side and practice so we don't ruin [the field] for games," said Joe McDermott, the school's director of facilities.

In such cases teams improvise a tight schedule around the school's gymnasium and indoor fitness center, and that usually means that some practices are canceled altogether, said athletic director Sheila Wooters.

It's a situation that many schools with natural grass playing fields can relate to. Though Holy Child's juggling routine around one multi-use field may be more extreme than it is at other local private and public schools, athletic directors go to great lengths to protect their playing fields, typically restricting the main game field from practice use and sometimes canceling games if the field is too soaked with water.

To remedy that situation at Holy Child, the school hopes to spend nearly \$1 million later this year to install a synthetic turf field that would make the routine of scrambling through inclement weather a thing of



Connelly School of the Holy Child director of facilities Joe McDermott, athletic director Sheila Wooters, and head of school Maureen Appel are excited about the possibilities that a new synthetic grass field could afford their athletic program.

the past.

"It would be huge for the athletic department," said Wooters.

Synthetic turf fields are growing more and more popular both locally and nationally. Made of synthetic blades of grass

SEE TURF, PAGE 4

Business Supports Science City

Massive development would be good for business and local tax base, supporters say.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

When the mapping of the human genome was completed earlier this decade, it was a scientific breakthrough of historic significance, and much of the work that went into it was done by local residents in local, world-class laboratories. If the Gaithersburg West Master Plan is approved as planned, more such breakthroughs could soon be traced to Potomac's backyard with an economic benefit to boot.

That was the case put forward, time and again, by many of those who testified before the Montgomery County Planning Board as the public hearing draft of the master plan was presented on Thursday, March 26 at the board's headquarter in Silver Spring.

The focus of the new Gaithersburg West Master Plan is a planned, mass-transit and pedestrian-friendly science-based city where professors, students, researchers and science-based business professionals would live and work in a collaborative environment tackling cutting edge scientific work.

"Responsible development makes sense, and the life science industry makes a good neighbor," said Bruce Robertson, a Potomac resident and the managing director at H.I.G. Ventures, an investment firm that focuses on opportunities in the life science field. Robertson was one of many who testified

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 9

Applications for Easement Amendments on the Rise

Efforts to remove conservation easements to make way for building is a growing trend.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The Connelly School of the Holy Child hopes to build a new, state-of-the-art artificial turf field that will offer their athletic program a new level of flexibility by allowing teams to practice and play regardless of weather conditions. To build the new field though, it must partially clear ground that is currently protected by a forest conservation easement on

its property. That plan has riled local environmentalists and shed light on a growing trend in Potomac of applications to build in areas intended to be off-limits from construction to preserve forest and other environmentally sensitive areas.

The forest conservation law, enacted by Montgomery County in 1992, requires that subdivision applicants establish conservation easements to protect designated amounts of existing forest — defined by the county as a minimum 10,000 square foot

planted area — or set aside areas either onsite or offsite to plant in ratio to what is removed for construction. Those easements are administered by the Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Easements on individual properties must gain approval from the county's Department of Permitting Services (DPS) — and even sometimes from Park and Planning, said Ginny Barnes, the environmental chair of the West Montgomery Citizens Association, a local citizen and environmental advocacy group.

PART OF THE PROBLEM is that easements are typically only displayed on the

original plat for a given parcel, said Mark Pfefferle, the acting chief of environmental planning for the Montgomery County Planning Board. Unless that plat is pulled during the review process, the easement only turns up if the original plat of a parcel is reviewed. Often times private citizens violate easements on their property without knowing it because they applied for a building permit and got approval for their project from the county's Department of Permitting Services (DPS), seemingly because the original plat was never pulled for review, said Barnes.

SEE EASEMENTS, PAGE 4

More Efforts To Remove Conservation Easements

FROM PAGE 3

"I think DPS needs to coordinate more with Park and Planning and I think Park and Planning needs to pay more attention to conservation easements," said Barnes.

In recent months Park and Planning has been getting applications to amend subdivision plans that include proposals to eliminate existing easements and either replace them onsite or offsite. In his year at park and planning Pfefferle said that the only such case he had seen previously was three years ago on a property in Darnestown, and that was a highly unique circumstance in which two conflicting easements had been established and needed amendment. Right now the planning board's staff is reviewing four subdivision amendment applications that include at least partial removal of conservation easements, and all of them are in the Potomac subregion.

"We're just starting to see them now. I don't know why we're just starting to see them now," Pfefferle said.

Pfefferle surmised that perhaps part of the reason they are popping up in Potomac, is Potomac is home to many subdivisions established after the 1992 forest conservation

law was established, and with developers running out of spaces to build, those easements are looking more and more attractive.

OTHER THAN the Darnestown case three years ago, the only other easement removal requests that have been requested and granted that Pfefferle is aware of were in relation to the construction of the Inter County Connector. Now those applications are getting residential.

The first such application is scheduled to go before the Montgomery County Planning Board on Thursday, April 2. In that case Winterset Terrace homeowner Ramiro Paez has proposed clearing 17,569 (.40 acres) of the easement on his property to build a garage. The Planning Board's staff has recommended approval because the easement is overlapped by two easements from Wash-



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

At Connelly School of the Holy Child, softball and lacrosse teams share the school's lone athletic field for practices and rain can wreak havoc on practice and game schedules. The school hopes to replace its current grass field with a new synthetic grass field later this year but to do so they have requested permission from the Montgomery County Planning Board to clear trees from a conservation easement on their property and replace them elsewhere. The proposal is one of four in Potomac that the Planning Board is weighing and part of a growing trend.

ington Gas & Light that allow the company to clear as needed, and because much of

Planning Board for consideration, said Pfefferle.

the easement was never planted as required by Park and Planning of the original developer of the property.

Holy Child may propose replanting near a stream on their property with additional replanting offsite, but before they go that far with their plan, the planning commission will have to assess a penalty for previous violations of the existing easement where the school cleared beside a drive on the northern border of their property, said Pfefferle. The hearing regarding the violation isn't likely to be scheduled until the end of April, said Pfefferle.

"We're sensitive to that issue, too, there is a lot of concern," said Maureen Appel, the head mistress of Holy Child.

Later this year two similar applications for easement removals in Potomac are slated to the

Turf Battle Arises with Burgeoning Synthetic Grass

FROM PAGE 3

stitched into a playing surface covered in a rubber base often lined with artificial dirt, the fields are touted not just to offer athletic programs far more flexibility, but also to be long-lasting, require little maintenance and to be just as safe for athletes as natural grass, unlike previous generations of artificial turf.

There are those who question the growing popularity of the new generation of man-made grass fields, however, citing a variety of health concerns from lead poisoning to staph infection, and questioning whether the fields really have the life spans or the cost benefits as touted.

"It helps out the rest of our fields, just in terms of wear and tear."

— Mike DelGrande, Bullis School athletic director

RICHARD MONTGOMERY High School became the first Montgomery County Public School to install an artificial turf field when the school was rebuilt two years ago and Walter Johnson High School, currently under renovation, may become the second. The Board of Education recently approved such a field for the school, which is currently under renovation, but some local parents hope to prevent it from being installed. Richard Montgomery's new field which cost \$975,000 to install was paid for in a partnership between the county school system and a local Major League Soccer affiliate club, Real Maryland.

Many private schools in Montgomery County have installed versions of the new fields over the last decade, including St. Andrews Episcopal School which recently

began play and practice on two synthetic ball diamonds and a playing field, and the trend is particularly popular in public schools in Northern Virginia.

Though initial costs range close to \$1 million, supporters of the fields say that once installed the maintenance is negligible.

Right now Holy Child pays between \$35,000 and \$45,000 to water, fertilize, mow and line their athletic field each year, said Wooters. Though it will cost roughly \$1 million to install the artificial turf field, with those annual maintenance costs gone and with the potential of the field becoming a revenue stream through renting its use to local Catholic Youth Organization clubs, McDermott estimates that the school could see its investment returned in six or seven years.

Each school in Montgomery County is given \$11,000 to maintain its athletic fields, a figure that does not include water, which is part of a school's utilities budget, said Joe Lavorgna, the director of facilities for Montgomery County Public Schools. Water included, the base cost of maintaining a natural grass playing field at the average high school in Montgomery County is roughly \$17,000 per year, Lavorgna said. That figure does not account for schools that opt to spend additional money on their fields through booster clubs.

In 2005 the Winston Churchill High School Booster Club installed a Patriot Bermuda grass surface on its stadium playing field as well as its field hockey field and a

practice field and though it spends between \$45,000 and \$50,000 each year to maintain the those fields, Churchill does not have any plans to switch to a synthetic surface anytime soon, said athletic director Dave Kelley.

"We would prefer not to have turf given the time and effort we've put into the field," Kelley said. "It takes quite an effort and it's expensive to maintain, but I would argue that ours is one of the best fields in the county."

Churchill's maintenance figures are at the upper end of what a Montgomery County high school booster club pays annually to maintain its fields, said Lavorgna, and many schools don't have booster clubs at all, let alone money to spend on keeping their fields maintained.

"I would hazard a guess that the majority of our [natural grass] fields are not in what could be called excellent condition," said Lavorgna.

SPORTING PURISTS might prefer to have the occasional rainy, muddy gridiron classic, but Mike DelGrande, the athletic director and longtime head coach of the school's boys' lacrosse team, is not among them. Bullis installed their synthetic grass field in 2005 and DelGrande has loved the results, particularly the flexibility afforded during inclement weather situations. The Bullis field drains two to three inches of rain per hour and doesn't leave pools or puddles, meaning that not only do teams not have to cancel games to protect the field, but the level of play is higher than a game in inclement weather on natural grass. Using the synthetic field regardless of the weather also helps prolong the life of the school's natu-

ral grass practice fields. Unlike before, now schools can play a soccer game in the afternoon and a football game the same night on the same field.

"It helps out the rest of our fields, just in terms of wear and tear. It allows us to play more sports and multiple days on the stadium," said DelGrande. "You can't overuse the field and you don't lose practice time. I don't think we've had to cancel a game in the last four years since we've had it."

Flexibility is one reason that Holy Child wants its new field, but so is affordability. Once installed, Wooters said she expects it will cost about \$8,000 a year to maintain, between monthly grooming — a special grooming device towed by a golf cart is included in the price of installation, she said — and periodic application of anti-bacterial chemicals.

FOR ALL THEIR MERITS, the new synthetic grass fields are not without controversy. The fields themselves are expensive to install and between practices, games, and non-school use through lease agreements, some wonder if the 10-15 year life span of the fields is realistic.

As the Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education considered making Walter Johnson's new field a synthetic grass surface this winter the listserv and Web site run by the Parents Coalition — a group of parents that serves as a watchdog of Montgomery County Public Schools — buzzed with concerns about the new fields.

While the artificial surfaces make the environmental concern of fertilizer washing off into local watersheds a thing of the past,

SEE GRASS, PAGE 8

BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail almanac@connectionnewspapers.com or fax the submission to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 2

Support Group. Pain Connection Chronic Pain Support Group, 1:30-3 p.m., at Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, for anyone with chronic pain, family members and interested community residents. Free. 301-309-2444 or www.painconnection.org for more information.

SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Volunteer. 9:30 a.m. at Beth Sholom

Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Help make sandwiches. 301-279-7010 ext. 209.

MONDAY/APRIL 6

Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Montgomery College-Germantown. Dr. R. David Holbrook will talk about nanoparticles in aquatic environments. Free. 240-567-7740.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

Voice Matters. 6:30 p.m. at the Wellness Community, 5430 Gosvenor Lane, Bethesda. Victoria Wells, D.C. State Government Relations Director, American Cancer Society, will explain how to effectively communicate with elected officials

about the legislative needs of people impacted by cancer. Reservations, 301-493-5002.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Humane Society Adoption. Noon-3 p.m. at MCHS Foster Office, 603 S. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville. Visit www.mchumane.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

Autism Resource Fair. 3-7 p.m. at Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. Free. Learn about recreation, employment, behavior services for individuals with autism and their families. 240-777-1216.



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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

POTOMAC					
11715 Enid Drive	\$610,000	Sat 1-4 PM	Orlando Andino	Weichert	240-644-2833
9427 Lost Trail Way	\$775,000	Sun 3-5 PM	Denise Warner	Long & Foster	202-487-5162
9228 Copenhaver Drive	\$800,000	Sun 1-5 PM	Amy Lavine	Weichert	301-996-1061
12849 Huntsman Way	\$874,000	Sat 1-4 PM	Helen King	Weichert	301-257-4125
7803 Cadbury Avenue	\$1,199,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Mathew Segal	Weichert	240-277-1766
10408 Grey Fox Rd.	\$1,269,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Helen King	Weichert	301 257-4125
9800 Tibron Court	\$1,649,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506.
NORTH POTOMAC					
9645 Athens Place	\$455,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Ellen Cohen	WC & AN Miller	240-462-6000
568 Chestertown Street	\$519,990	Sun 1-4 PM	Lisa Hollaender	Long & Foster	240-751-2216
13520 Bonnie Dale Drive	\$999,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Douglas Crowley	Re/Max Realty	301-921-2659
BETHESDA					
5343 Pooks Hill Rd #403	\$512,800	Sun 2-5 PM	Thomas Hennerty	Net RealtyNow.com	970-531-7673
5171 King Charles Way	\$524,900	Sun 1-4 PM	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
9819 Tiffany Hill Ct. #70	\$579,900	Sun 1-4 PM	Rachelle Levin	Long & Foster	301-996-7245
5503 Christy Dr.	\$875,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Edward Duncan	Long & Foster	301-785-7966
8 Bolling Lane	\$949,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Long & Foster	Claude Pritchett	202-262-9389
9012 Seven Locks Rd.	\$1,399,500	Sun 1-5 PM	Gaylen Camera	ReMax	301-404-3001
8820 Saunders LN.	\$1,800,000	Sun 1-5 PM	Marjorie Heath	Weichert	301-718-4080
CHEVY CHASE					
7612 Lynn Drive	\$835,000	Sun 1-4 PM	Mary Lou Dell	WC & AN Miller	301-229-4000

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
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by
Michael Matese

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send e-mail to 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/APRIL 1

Fund-raiser. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. at Whole Foods Market, 5269 River Road, Bethesda. Whole Foods will donate 5 percent of all proceeds to Imagination Stage. Enjoy events by students, faculty and more of Imagination Stage.

Japanese Tea. 1 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. \$26/person. Reservations required, 301-581-5108.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear John Kocur, the artist in residence. \$10/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

THURSDAY/APRIL 2

Cabaret Act. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. See Bebe Neuwirth perform. \$32-\$78/person. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

Blues Dance. 8:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Learn the dances and then enjoy music from a DJ. \$8/person.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Hear Geri Allen perform on the piano. \$25/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Discovery Hike. 10 a.m. at Locust Grove, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Children 3-5 can enjoy a rainy celebration. \$4/child. Visit www.parkpass.org or 301-299-1990.

FRIDAY/APRIL 3

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear the soulful symphony. \$25-\$55/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Peeps in the Night. 7 p.m. at Locust Grove, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Children ages 6 and up can learn about animals in the park. Free. Visit www.parkpass.org or 301-299-1990.



See Bebe Neuwirth perform a cabaret act on Thursday, April 2 at Music Center at Strathmore. Visit strathmore.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

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 for more.

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 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 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 or 202-488-0627.

Lacrosse Day. Lacrosse players of all ages can get free instruction from Gary Gait. Boys time is 4-5 p.m. and girls is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Both at Champions Field House, 40 Southlawn Court. Registration required, www.championsfieldhouse.com for more.

From the Garden to the Bay. 1 p.m. at Bethesda Library, 6400 Arlington Road. All ages can learn about watershed gardening, recycling and more. 240-777-0970.

Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-noon around the Potomac River. Visit www.PotomacCleanup.org or 301-292-5665 to sign up and for locations. Free.

Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. see paintings by Erik Ramsey. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Climb Wall Weekend. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the old stables building at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and \$5/nonmember. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$14/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. \$25-\$80/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

SUNDAY/APRIL 5

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Cinema Art Bethesda. 10 a.m. at Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave. \$15/person. Watch "Roman De Gare." Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Author Reading. 2 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Richard Currey will read from "Fatal Light." Free. Visit www.writer.org or 301-654-8664.

Basket Making for Children. 1 p.m. at Locust Grove, 7777 Democracy



Hear McCoy Tyner Quartet play Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. Visit strathmore.org for more.

<http://CinemaArtBethesda.org> or 301-365-3679.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., Glen Echo. Hear Ed Trickett perform. \$15/member; \$18/nonmember; \$10/student, child. Visit www.fsgw.org or 202-386-8252.

Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. see paintings by Erik Ramsey. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Climb Wall Weekend. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the old stables building at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and \$5/nonmember. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 3-6 p.m. at Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Price to be determined.

Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$8/person. Live music. Visit 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 to member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear McCoy Tyner Quartet. \$25-\$68. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Author Reading. 2 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Richard Currey will read from "Fatal Light." Free. Visit www.writer.org or 301-654-8664.

Basket Making for Children. 1 p.m. at Locust Grove, 7777 Democracy

Bldv., Bethesda. Children 7-12 can learn to weave a paper basket out of grocery bags. \$6/child. Visit www.parkpass.org or 301-299-1990.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Family Splash. 1 p.m. at Locust Grove, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Learn about some underwater animals. Children 6 and up. Registration required. Visit www.parkpass.org or 301-299-1990.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. Violinist Nicolas Kendall will perform with the National Philharmonic. \$29-\$79/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Jessica Rush. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

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 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 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 or 202-488-0627.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$18/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear the National Philharmonic and Nicholas Kendall. \$29/adult; child free. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. \$25-\$80/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. \$25-\$80/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear Krystian Zimmerman on the piano. \$27-\$77. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$12/nonmember; \$9 to member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Champagne Sunday Brunch. 11 a.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear music by the artist in residence while enjoying brunch. \$42/person; \$15/child. Reservations required, 301-581-5253.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear Krystian Zimmerman on the piano. \$27-\$77. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

FINE ARTS

The 18th annual **Strathmore Membership Juried Exhibition** runs at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, through April 4.

See "Mirror to the World: Documentary Photography 2009" through April 12 at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Features up and coming documentary photographers. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

See "Transformations: The Artists' Journey" through March 29 at The Art Glass Center, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda, is showcasing paintings by **Douglas Wolfe April 7 through May 2.** Visit whitakerphotography.com or 301-951-9441.

Audrey Salkind presents "Visual Perspectives: Abstract and Interpretive" paintings and prints, a one-artist show at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RUUC), 6301 River Road, Bethesda, from April 3 through April 30. Visit www.audreysabstractart.com

Vian Borchert, a Potomac artist, is holding art classes at Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. For a list of classes visit www.vianborchert.com or 301-258-6394.

"Iconic Glen Echo Park," April 4 through April 26 at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibition features Daniel Schreiber's photographs of his-

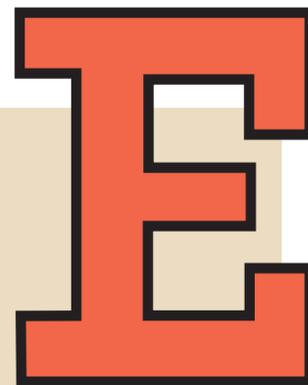
toric Glen Echo Park. Open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org.

Bright Side Pictures: A Fine Arts Photography Exhibition, April 18 through May 17 at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Photoworks at Glen Echo Park presents "Bright Side Pictures," a collaborative effort reflecting the creative talents and abilities of a trio of artists, including Rob Grant, Scott Grant, and Gary Jimerfield. Open Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays and Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

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 (March 31 - May 5) or Thursdays (April 2 - May 7). 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.

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.

The **Bethesda Art Walk** allows art lovers to visit downtown Bethesda's gal-



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

lery community from 6-9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Many galleries change exhibits monthly and hold receptions in conjunction with the Bethesda Art Walk.

Glen Echo Pottery. Glen Echo Pottery maintains ongoing exhibits in the Glen Echo Pottery Gallery in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. These feature a special selection of work by resident artists, instructors and students. Every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 301-229-5585 or visit www.glenechopottery.com.

Glassworks is the D.C. area's first glass school located in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. When classes are not in session, visitors can observe glassblowing and view the work of resident artist. Call 301-229-4184 or visit www.ricksberthglass.com.

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NEWS

Grass or Artificial Turf Fields?

FROM PAGE 4

now environmental advocates wonder about the ecological impact of the anti-bacterial chemicals that must be applied to the fields.

Of particular concern to some local parents is the very necessity of those disinfectant chemicals. In the wake of several cases of staph infections in local schools over the last two years, the possibility that these new fields could essentially become giant, germ-infested wrestling mats without rainfall or disinfectant application is troublesome.

The fields themselves raise health concerns about lead poisoning from the synthetic grass and the potential effects of ingesting the artificial dirt, which in many of the new turf fields is made of crushed truck tires.

One recent post to the Parents Coalition listserv urged other parents to lobby the County Council to prevent the installation of an artificial surface at Walter Johnson or anywhere else in the county.

"While we dither this toxic rubber/plastic outdoor rug is spreading like a cancer from field to field and school to school," the post warned.

In a statement on its Web site, the American Sports Builders Association, a non-profit association that helps designers, builders, owners, operators and users understand quality sports facility design, construction and maintenance, cautions that conflicting scientific studies make it difficult to know whether or not the health concerns surrounding the new fields are warranted.

"Scientific studies have been released over the past year that reach opposite conclusions on the issue of the potential health risks associated with use of such

surfaces," the statement says. "Some studies... have concluded that there is little or no health risk associated with the use of recycled tire rubber as infill in these surfaces; others have concluded that there is material health risk associated with such use."

Because of the inconclusive information currently available the organization cautions that "[i]t is not able to make a definitive statement on this issue, and suggests that consumers of these products look to the manufacturers and suppliers of synthetic turf surfaces and infill materials to provide further useful information."

DelGrande said that he has never had a player get sick or infected from the Bullis field and Lavorgna, for one, said he isn't concerned about the purported health problems with the new fields.

"The studies that have been conducted on the fields don't support that fields become harbors of bacteria or things like that mainly because sunlight and water dilute anything that's on the field," Lavorgna said. "In fact there's more mold, mildew, and bacteria in dirt than there is on the artificial turf field."

LIKE LAVORGNA, Wooters said that everything she has read makes her more than comfortable with installing the synthetic grass field at Holy Child, and in fact she is eager. At a school that prides itself on combining athletics and academics to build girls' self-esteem, such a field could do more than just help raise the school's athletic teams from their usual running place in the middle of the pack. Plus, the way things are going, Wooters thinks everyone will be playing on artificial grass surfaces within 20 years.

"It's a totally different game," said Wooters.



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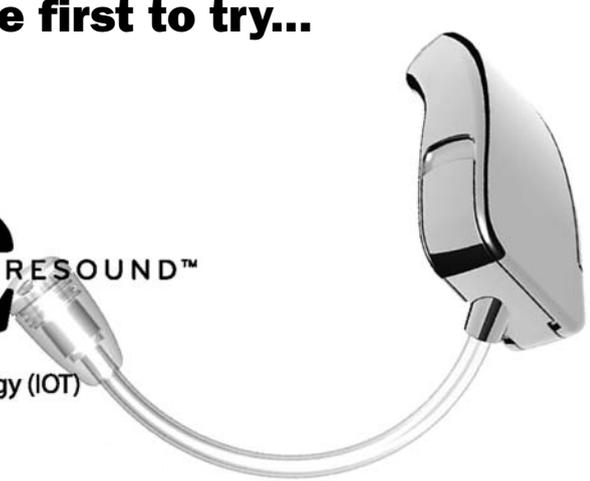
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PETS



Blair

Blair is a five-year-old, 15 pound, spayed Jack Russell mix. Brindle-coated Blair is a girl that plays with cats and dogs. She's intelligent, likes walks and a good game of fetch. Blair would do best in an adult home or anyone with older children.



Petey

Petey is a seven-year-old, 20 pound, neutered JRT/Fox terrier mix. Petey is one of those active terriers that also loves quiet time snuggling and belly rubs. Tennis ball fetch is his game and he'd be good at fly ball. Petey would do well in an adult dog-savvy home with no cats and other submissive dogs. As a small dog, he has many years left in his lifespan.

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, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

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Holy Thursday, April 9
 Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Sung Passion of St. John by Christopher Walker
 3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 11
 Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.

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Patriots Power Past Bulldogs

Wootton's fast start propels them to dominant victory.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

As Churchill senior midfielder Parker Middel sprinted with the ball down the left sideline late in the fourth quarter, two Wootton defenders converged on him near the midfield line. Middel lowered his head and took them on — the crunch of pads and helmets audible in the top of the stands — then spun out and

c o n t i n u e d
downfield, leaving the two defenders laying on the ground.

“This team I think has got the best chemistry we’ve seen in a while.”

— **Wootton's Mike Cresham**

The Churchill sideline cheered the collision heartily, but it was a small moral victory on a rainy, early spring night when a mark in the win column was well out of the question.

Wootton took most of the drama out of the game with a dominant first half that put them ahead 8-0 en route to a 10-3 win before roughly 300 fans at its home field. The Patriot defense stymied the Bulldog offense in the first half, and Wootton held serve time and again, cutting and weaving their way through the Bulldog defense with crisp passes and successful one-on-one



Matt Risk and the rest of the Churchill offense had trouble generating quality scoring chances against Wootton's experienced defense.

matchups to take the insurmountable lead in the first 4A West divisional game of the season for both teams.

“We played defense the whole first half — we had a great defensive effort tonight but the offensive effort wasn't there,” said Churchill head coach Jeff Fritz.

The game got physical in the second quarter as players started gunning for hits and drawing penalties. Wootton senior midfielder Mike Cresham was involved in much of the physical action, including a near-altercation at one point, but said that the team did its best to come out focused not on facing their cross-town rival, but on completing the job at hand.

“We didn't want to come out too hot, we know it's a big Wootton-Churchill game,”



Wootton's Jeff Zifrony carries the ball during last Friday's showdown between the Patriots and rival Churchill. Zifrony had four goals and two assists in the game.

said Cresham, who notched two goals; senior attack Jeff Zifrony led the Patriots in scoring with four goals and two assists. “[We] tried to keep our composure, keep our heads in the game and just do it,” Cresham said.

THE PACE slowed in the second half as a soft drizzle turned to steady rain and the refocused Bulldogs slowed down the Patriot offense. Fritz said he told his players at half-time that trailing 8-0, they needed to focus on the game one play at a time and on winning the second half.

“I felt they did that,” Fritz said afterwards. With a short turnaround before a home game against Magruder, Friday's loss was a reality check for the Bulldogs (2-1).



Wootton's Mike Cresham charges towards the teeth of the Churchill defense during last Friday's 10-3 win over the Bulldogs.

“We've definitely got offensive work to do,” said Fritz.

After the win over Churchill, the Patriots (4-0) defeated Walter Johnson, 12-8, Monday night. Still, Wootton head coach Colin Thomson said that he wanted to see Friday's first half execution extended through all four quarters of a game, but was pleased with his team's performance so far in the young season.

“They're a good group, they're tight... I'm real happy with them,” Thomson said.

Cresham echoed that sentiment and said that this team's potential was just as high as those that have won three straight divisional titles.

“This team I think has got the best chemistry we've seen in a while,” Cresham said.

POTOMAC SPORTS BRIEFS

Sorkin Commits to New Hampshire

Nick Sorkin, widely regarded to be among the top hockey players in the state, committed last week to play hockey for the University of New Hampshire in 2010. Sorkin, the Bullis School superstar, will play for the New Hampshire Junior Monarchs of the Eastern Junior Hockey League next year before matriculating to UNH for the fall of 2010. In his last season at Bullis, Sorkin tallied 20 goals and 25 assists despite missing games due to injury. His presence, or lack thereof, was felt, as Bullis stumbled to a 7-8-2 record. When he does get to UNH, Sorkin will be joining a team filled to capacity with talent. This season, the Wildcats qualified for the field of 16 in the NCAA tournament and then, as a third seed, upset second-seeded North Dakota before falling to top-ranked No. 1 seed Boston University in the Northeast regional finals.



Nick Sorkin

At 6-foot-2, Sorkin has the size to be a force on the offensive end at New Hampshire. But he will have to add on to his 160-pound frame in order to survive the rigors of Division-I hockey. The free-wheeling forward will have the opportunity to bulk up and improve on the rest of his skills next year with the Monarchs. Sorkin will also declare for the 2010 NHL Entry Draft. He will either be the property of an NHL team throughout his career as a Wildcat or will be a NHL free agent.

Churchill Beats Wootton

While the boys' lacrosse battle between Churchill and Wootton was decided by halftime, the girls' game that took place earlier went down to the wire. Churchill emerged victorious with a hard fought 14-13 win thanks in large part to the play of star senior Angela Biciochi. She accounted for half of the Bulldogs' offensive production, scoring seven goals to lead all scorers. Zoe Kabelac, Sofia Ein, and Katie Ruben all chipped in with two goals apiece as well. Churchill takes on Richard Montgomery Wednesday before Montgomery County schools go on spring break.

Hicks in All-Star Game

The list of alumni who have participated in the Capital Classic, now in its 35th year as an area high school basketball all-star showcase, could act as a list of NBA all-time greats. Current superstars like LeBron James, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, and Jason Kidd join past legends like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, and Dominique Wilkins as current and future Hall-of-Famers who have all participated in the event.

On April 9, Churchill senior Chase Hicks will be able to include his name on that list. Hicks was chosen to play on the suburban D.C. all-star team that will take on a team of Washington, D.C. high school all-stars as part of the Capital Classic festivities on the campus of American University at Bender Arena. The main event pitting a team of U.S. all stars against a squad of this area's best will follow.

Hicks was one of just four Montgomery County public school players to be selected to take part in the event after averaging 21 points per game for a Churchill team that went 14-10 this past season.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Nothing satisfies me more for breakfast than a big — make that oversized — bowl of cereal, cold cereal, not hot cereal. And even though I've matured in my cereal choices and am no longer crunching through Trix, Fruit Loops, Sugar Pops (now known as Corn Pops) and Frosted Flakes, to name just a few of my former sweet indulgences, I am still bowled over by my enthusiasm to snap, crackle and pop my way through a fairly uninspiring combination of milk and some kind of flakes, raisins, nuts, and miscellaneous other real or imagined (natural or otherwise) tastes.

Having written this first paragraph, the thought has now occurred to me explaining this adult-age fascination with cold cereal and even colder milk (chocolate milk if I had my druthers): combinations. I can still remember the time and place, The Huntley Lodge (named after the famous news anchor, Chet Huntley) in Big Sky Montana where the combining-cereal light went on and cold cereal became so much more to me than it had previously been.

It happened about ten years ago when Dina and I took our first ski vacation to Montana. We stayed slope-side at the Huntley Lodge, where, among other amenities, an all you can eat-type hotel breakfast buffet was included in the package. And aside from the usual assortment of eggs, pancakes, waffles, bacon, sausage, bagels, breads, muffins, pastries, desserts, juices, coffee, tea, milk, was of course, hot and cold cereal. The cold cereal was out of their boxes and piled high in metal tins lined up side by side. There were multiple varieties. Because of this presentation, it was fairly simple to scoop out your portion and move through the line. As I stood in line and waited my turn, I noticed a man in front of me filling his cereal bowl with not one but two different types of cereal. It was at that exact moment when eating-cereal-a-whole-new-way light came on. I wouldn't say I had an epiphany (hey, we're only talking cereal here, let's be realistic) but I did have a moment.

No more would I have to start and finish my cereal the way I had started and finished it for the past 30 years. Why pour only one variety in the bowl? Why eat a boring and mundane breakfast when it could be interesting and be my own creation as well? And so from that ski-vacation week forward, rather than eating cereal as an adult as I had as a child; one bowl, one variety, I evolved. I still have the one bowl, but is likely now filled with two different cereals, maybe even three if the cereal inventory allows. The possibilities have become endless. I now have cereal choices/combinations beyond my wildest cereal-eating dreams. No more is my morning cereal, either or, or a repeat of yesterday's singular non-sensation. Humdrum has now turned into dim sum, cereal-wise.

Today, this morning (although sometimes it can be lunch or even dinner), the cereal choice is mine. What combination, what creation shall I concoct? Cereal is not just for children, anymore. Thank you, Huntley Lodge.

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

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