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Change For Change

NEWS, PAGE 3

St. Luke's Transitional Home

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Three Generation Potomac Wedding

GETTING AROUND, PAGE 4

Last year Marcus Mason, shown here at last week's offseason practice, lost out in the numbers game as the Redskins kept an extra wide receiver with their final roster spot. This year Mason hopes to make himself indispensable by becoming a difference maker on special teams.

Mason: A Return Engagement

NEWS, PAGE 3

NED DISHMAN/THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

JUNE 3-9, 2009 ♦ VOLUME LIII, NUMBER 21

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

NEWS

Great Falls Park Road Construction

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park was scheduled to begin a construction project this week at the Great Falls Maryland area of the park. The project will improve the entrance road through widening to a consistent width, clearly marked shoulders and complete reconstruction to remove potholes and other hazards. In addition, the overhead utilities along the entrance road will be placed underground. The large parking lot will be repaved and the walkways will be improved to allow full accessibility under the Architectural Barriers Act. The final completion date for the project is anticipated to be in spring 2010.

Visitors are asked to observe posted construction signs, obey traffic direction provided by flaggers, and exercise caution when driving along the park entrance road. The work is being performed under a contract administered for the Park by the Federal Highway Administration.

Cabin John Farewell

With Cabin John Middle School slated for modernization this summer, current and former students, parents, staff, and neighbors are invited to a farewell visit to the original school building on Thursday, June 4. The open house will include self-guided tours and light refreshments on from 3:00-5:00 pm. Cabin John Middle School is located at 10701 Gainsborough Rd, Potomac. For more information call the school at 301-469-1150.

CIP Forum

On Monday, June 15 the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board is scheduled to host a Capital Improvement Program Public Forum in order to receive input on the county's next six year capital budget. Capital projects include public facilities such as sidewalks, bikeways, libraries, schools, recreation centers, parks and ball fields that serve the community. Storm water management projects that address drainage and flooding problems are also part of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Representatives from county agencies will provide an overview and answer questions about capital projects in the Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville communities.

The CIP Budget Forum will be held on Monday, June 15 at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda. The forum begins at 7 p.m. Residents who wish to know more about the forum, or if who need special accommodations to attend this meeting, should call Karen Thon at 240-777-8210.

Makeup Game

Due to a scheduling conflict, players from the Bethesda Big Train Baseball Team were unable to visit Bells Mill for the Read Across America Celebration on Monday, June 1. To make up for their absence the Big Train invites all Bells Mill families to attend a free baseball game on Saturday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m., at Cabin John Park's Shirley Povich field. All Bells Mill families will be admitted free of charge.

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC



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grade school gymnastics	sports skills development
karate	dance
cheerleading	camps
birthday parties	parents' survival night

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COME HIKE AT MADEIRA

Sunday, June 7: 1-3pm

Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt: Led by Madeira biology and environmental science teacher, Heidi Freeman. Appropriate for kids of all ages and their parents.

Flora and Fauna of Potomac Gorge: Brent Steury, Supervisory Biologist and Natural Resources Manager of the George Washington Parkway, will guide the hike and identify endangered plant life and abundant wildlife.

Bring a picnic to enjoy before the hikes set off at 1pm. Remember sunscreen, bug spray and sneakers. Please don't bring your dog. Rain or shine. Parking information available at the gatehouse.



The Madeira School
8328 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22102
703-556-8273
www.madeira.org

Change For Change at Bells Mill Elementary

Earlier this spring Melissa Kupferschmid saw a 20/20 special report on poverty in Appalachia. She realized that her children, growing up in Potomac, were not only blessed and privileged, but unaware that life could be different.

Fast forward to the middle of May and students at Bells Mill Elementary School were getting off of their buses in the morning with their pockets jingling with coins. With the help of Bells Mill fifth-grade teacher and SGA advisor Loren Williams, Kupferschmid launched Change 4 Change. In four days Bells Mill students brought in \$476 worth of change, dumping their pocket loads into buckets on their way into school. That money will be donated to the Appalachian Region Missions, a non-profit organization based in Tennessee that provides assistance to poor families in the Appalachian region and to Native Americans and other families around the country.

"Kids would come in with rolls of 20 pennies," she said. "One girl dropped off a crumpled dollar bill each morning."

Kupferschmid hopes to continue the program next year and to add a letter-writing component whereby Bells Mill students will have pen pals in the rural United States.

"Hopefully they'll have a moment to realize how fortunate to live where we live ... and to have the opportunities that we have," said Kupferschmid.

That notion has already taken root with her two children, fourth-grader Matthew and first-grader Jenna, both Bells Mill students.

"If people are poor and they don't have anything they might not live," said Jenna. Poverty is more than just not having a home or having clothing, said Matthew — it's being able to take care of one's self and one's family "so if they get sick they can cure it," he said.

— AARON STERN



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Melissa Kupferschmid and her children Matthew and Jenna helped organize Change For Change at Bells Mill Elementary School last month.

Transitional Home

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The residence at 10660 River Road in Potomac may look like one of the other similarly large homes that surround it, but it is actually the spiritual hub of more than 100 local Serbian Orthodox Christians. Soon that reality will be noticeably more visible, though mostly from the back of the building.

The St. Luke Orthodox Church purchased the home from restaurateur Gus Triantis in 2002 with long range plans of converting it into their new church, which was formerly on 16th Street in Washington, D.C. Those

plans are now well under way as the church hopes to gain approval from the Montgomery County Planning Board for a one-story, 3,700 square-foot addition that will house a sanctuary and a multi-purpose gathering space.

At a meeting with neighbors on Thursday, May 21 church officials outlined their plans. Residents expressed an overall acceptance of the project despite minor concerns about traffic, noise, and lights from the headlights of cars as they turned around in back of the house at night, but the largest concern involved a 20-ton HVAC system that many neighbors worried would produce a lot of noise. Church officials promised to

St. Luke's Orthodox Church looking to build addition to River Road home.

have a decibel study done before installing the system.

Attorney Jody Kline is overseeing the approvals process and said he hopes to have a hearing scheduled with the planning board by the end of the summer.

SUNNY BEETHAM-HERNANDEZ lives next door and said that she was OK with the overall scope of the project but was concerned by plans for a drainage pipe to be installed by the State Highway Administration that might jeopardize the health of a 75-year-old silver maple tree that sits in her backyard right on the property line.

The new building will be able to seat 180

people, said Bob Vujcicaia, a church member who has overseen the construction plans. Neighbors also expressed concern that the church would rent its facility out to the community for non-church functions and thereby create a steady influx of traffic but Father Alex Micich said such rentals would be exceptions, not a rule.

"My feeling is a church is made for its congregation," Micich said. And after providing years of services to those members at Beverly Farms Elementary School, Micich said it would be nice to have a permanent home of their own.

"Of course, you don't want to stay in an elementary school," said Micich.

Exemplifying Sweetness

Annual Strawberry Festival draws hundreds for games, crafts, and strawberry shortcake.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Twenty years ago the annual bazaar at the Potomac United Methodist Church gave in to changing times after 35 years. Traditionally the annual event was organized by the church's female parishioners and featured the crafts that they made at home, but as a new generation of women went to work and spent less time at home, continuing the bazaar became impossible.

Twenty years ago Judith Dubowy was in her third year as a member at Potomac United Methodist. With the bazaar gone, the

church had a hole in its annual fund-raising efforts and was without its most popular annual community tradition. Dubowy recalled then that her church in her hometown of Pittsburgh held an annual strawberry festival. She decided to bring that tradition to her new church, and a new annual tradition organized by the women of Potomac United Methodist was born.

The annual strawberry festival has grown over the years and Saturday, May 16 marked the 19th annual celebration and featured games for children, a silent auction, a craft bazaar featuring 22 vendors — a throwback

SEE SWEETNESS, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Team biscuit: Kathy Ku, Linda Roberts, D Shinkle, Vernice Christian, and Janet Airis prepare Judith Dubowy's (left) secret homemade recipe for the biscuits at the Potomac United Methodist Church's annual strawberry festival held on Saturday, May 16.

GETTING AROUND

A Three Generation Potomac Wedding

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

The bride and her father appeared in the shadows of the trees. They walked down the path, through the woods where the bridal party, the officiant and bridegroom waited. From where the 150 wedding guests were seated, on the lawn next to a fish pond encircled with candles, it was reminiscent of a scene from a romantic novel.

But, this was reality, when Christine "Christi" Phillips and Chad Michael Mitchell, representing three generations of two Potomac families, were united in marriage on the grounds of Stronghold Mansion at Sugarloaf Mountain.

The Mitchell family name has been synonymous with Potomac since Chad's grandfather Clyde Mitchell was the "Mitch" of Mitch and Bill's Exxon (now Texaco) station opened at the Potomac crossroads in 1949. Christi's dad, David Phillips, moved to Potomac as a youngster 58 years ago when his mom, Winnie Gordon, and step dad, the late, Bill Gordon, moved to South Glen Road.

Like her dad, Christi grew up on the back of a pony, joined the pony club and competed in horse shows. Chad, a Bullis School graduate, continued his family's tradition in the gas station business, presently working with his dad, Mike Mitchell, who hosted the rehearsal dinner party the evening before the wedding at O'Donnell's, Kentlands.

To continue the hometown saga, it was when Christi, a graduate of the University of Maryland, was in school, she worked part time at The Surrey, located a few steps down the hill in Potomac village, from the Mitchell's Texaco station. "I used to do the soft drink run for the shop and saw him one



PHOTO BY REX REED

Mr. and Mrs. Chad Mitchell

day. I thought he was kind of cute," she recalled. Needless to say the soft drink missions became more frequent. "He finally asked me out," she said.

Her encouragement culminated at a beautiful 4:30 p.m. service on May 9, where the bride wore a strapless, full length, multi-layered gown with a beaded bodice and a fingertip tulle veil. The bridegroom, who chose his Potomac friend Andrew Seaton as best man, was accompanied down the wooded path by his dad, Mike, and grandmother, Marie Guthridge. He, like the ushers, Michael Phillips and Charles Moore, wore dark suits, and dark ties with silver accents, the latter quite significant. Four little boys, in the wedding party, Justin, Cody and Josh Tice, and Josh Johnson, all under 8 years old, and the junior groomsman, Zachary Johnson, were all in dark suits and wore bright silver bow ties.

Anyone planning a formal wedding with five young boys in the wedding party has great courage. These guys did not disappoint. Josh Tice and Josh Johnson were in charge of the Monarch butterflies. They each had an enclosed box, and at the proper signal released the Monarchs, well almost. Some refused to go at first but were enthusiastically persuaded by their handlers that they better get out or get unceremoniously



PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT

Clyde "Mitch" Mitchell, grandfather of the bridegroom, Chad Mitchell, and Barbara Asher, mother of the bride, Christine Phillips.



Father of the bride, David Phillips, and his wife, Lyne Morgan. The bride and groom represented three generations of Potomac families.

dumped.

"The butterflies were in honor of relatives no longer with us," the bride said. Among those mentioned was Chad's late mother, Donna Mitchell.

Twin brothers, Cody and Justin Tice, the bride's nephews were ring bearers. As Cody made his way down the bridal path he stopped to pick up sticks en route. Following the ceremony, his mother, Deana Phillips Tice, reminded him it wasn't part of the rehearsal, and wondered why he did it. "Because I didn't want Aunt Christi to have to step on them," he explained.

Mother-of-the-bride, Barbara Asher, escorted by her son, Michael Phillips, chose a satin empire-styled gown with a beaded jacket. The metallic clay color of her gown was a complement to the taupe dresses with spaghetti straps and perky back bows worn by the bridal attendants, matron of honor

Heather Moore, and bridesmaids Katie Sullivan-Rosende and Rachael Phillips. The silver motif was again apparent. Their shoes glistened, as did those worn by the bride's stepmother, Lyne Morgan. It was what one might call a sterling wedding.

The formalities concluded without a hitch. Some consider the graceful fainting of a wedding party member unusual, but the officiant, Deborah Cathers, remarked, "Don't worry, this happens frequently,"

As the reception got under way in a huge white tent, guests perused a display of frosted, almond flavored cookies that doubled for place cards. Each cookie was inscribed with names and table numbers. Naturally, the most significant was of the bride and groom. It read, Christi and Chad Phillips! Don't you love it?

SEE THREE GENERATION, PAGE 9

Kay, Preis Engaged

Nancy and Doug Kay of Potomac and Niza and Rami Preis of Baltimore are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Julia B. Kay and Ido S. Preis.

Julia and Ido both hold undergraduate degrees from Brown University, where they met.

Ido also holds a medical degree from Brown and is currently a resident in internal medicine at Boston University Medical Center. Julia works in the Boston life sciences practice of pricing consultancy Simon-Kucher. This fall, she will begin a joint MBA and biomedical enterprise program at MIT Sloan and Harvard Medical School.

Julia is the granddaughter of Lois and Robert Kay of Rockville, MD, and Faye and Bernard Rosenberg of Annapolis.

Ido is the grandson of Avigdor and the late Bella Preis of Haifa, Israel and the late Saul and Malka Rotberg of Tel Aviv, Israel.

A 2011 wedding is planned.



Julia B. Kay and Ido S. Preis

North, Scheler Are Married

Mr. and Mrs. C.O. North of Potomac are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Hilary Anne, to Lt. John Carl Scheler (USMC), the son of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Scheler of Murrysville, Pa. The couple were married on April 25, 2009 at the Washington National Cathedral. Hilary is a graduate of the National Cathedral School, The University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Neuroscience at Georgetown University. John, a graduate of Northwestern University, is a ground intelligence officer in the United States Marine Corps. He has recently returned from a tour in Iraq and is now stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Hilary Anne and Lt. John Carl Scheler

Sweetness

FROM PAGE 3

to the old days — and, of course, several strawberry deserts and strawberry goods for sale. Strawberries were for sale by the box, and the chocolate-dipped strawberries sold out at 2 p.m. this year, an hour before they usually run out, said Becky Queen. Strawberries were served in generous portions with whipped cream and ice cream over shortcake or over Dubowy's top-secret recipe biscuits.

"People say that's too much dessert," she said. "I don't see anybody throwing anything out."

The annual fundraiser is the church's biggest moneymaker all year, typically garnering between \$25,000 and \$35,000 with proceeds this year going to over 20 local and international charities, said festival chair Renee Antosh. Just as importantly the annual tradition, run by the church's Women's Mission, is an opportunity for the church to invite the community into its home.

"Our thing is open hearts, open minds," said former festival co-chair Tracy Hoffman. Hoffman said her favorite part of the festival is "opening up to the community and welcoming them to our church family. And having strawberry shortcake."

Next year's 20th anniversary festival will last the whole weekend prior to Memorial Day weekend, and Antosh promised that the celebration will be the best strawberry festival to date. And while she was mum on the details, she offered up a tasty promise.

"We're going to do something that'll knock Potomac's socks off," she said.



PHOTO BY ARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Gretchen Alexander (right) and Jimmy Alexander (not pictured), a sixth-grader at Mater Dei School, sold strawberries and baked goods during the day.

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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.

ONGOING

The Bethesda Farmers Market will be open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Veterans Park, corner of Norfolk and Woodmont Avenues, through Oct. 31. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660.

GlasScene, An Exhibition of Fine Art Glass, June 6 to July 5. Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Maryland. Opening Reception: June 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Gallery Hours: 12 to 6 PM Saturdays and Sundays and by appointment - 301-634-2273.

The Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo will present paintings and photographs by native Washingtonian Estelle Schwalb on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14. Gallery hours are from noon to 5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday in the gallery. The public is invited to all events.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Big Train vs. TBA. 5 p.m. Povich Field, Cabin John Park, Bethesda. Gates open at 4 p.m. First pitch is at 5 p.m. This game is a free pre-season scrimmage. Ticket Prices: Adults, \$7, Kids 6-12 \$3, Kids 5 and under or in baseball uniforms, free.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Love Songs. 8 p.m. Zemer Chai, Washington's Premier Jewish Choir, presents Love Songs. Features songs of love in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino. At Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase. Tickets: \$40 preferred seating; \$20 general seating in advance (\$25 at the door). Tickets can be purchased at www.zemerchai.org or by calling 301-963-3462.

Potomac Farmers Market Opens. 1-4:30 p.m. Located on River Road, behind the Presbyterian Church and next to Potomac Elementary. Features your favorite vendors: McCleaf Orchards, Plant Masters, Farm Fresh Chef and more. Call Suzanne Hermes - Potomac Farmers Market Manager 301-792-6054.

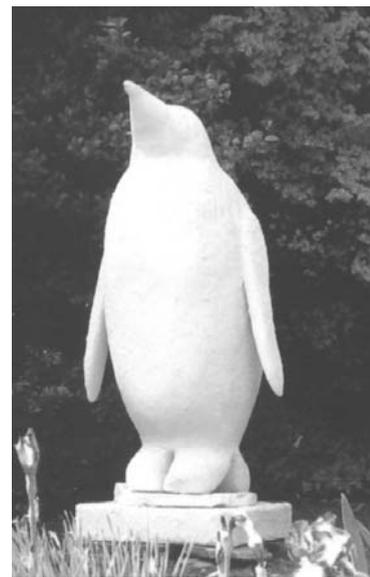
FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Big Train vs. Youse's Orioles. 7:30 p.m. Povich Field, Cabin John Park, Bethesda. Gates open at 6 p.m. First pitch is at 7:30 p.m. Opening Night! Ticket Prices: Adults, \$7, Kids 6-12 \$3, Kids 5 and under or in baseball uniforms, free.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Bethesda Big Train vs. College Park Bombers. 7:30 p.m. Shirley Povich Field, 10600 Westlake Drive, Cabin John Park, Bethesda. Gates open at 6. First pitch is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: Adults, \$7, Kids 6-12 \$3, Kids 5 and under or in baseball uniforms, free. Go to www.bigtrain.org or call 301-983-1006.

Sing-Along Celebration. 8 p.m. Join song leader Elise Kress and guitarist Lawrence Brand for a fun evening singing along to your favorite songs from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's, from pop, folk, country, and rock & roll classics. The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Go to



Potomac artist Irma Spencer will have an art show at her home on June 6, 7 and 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Spencer, a graduate of the University of Maryland, is a sculptor and jewelry designer. She works in stone, metal and found objects. Her jewelry is one of a kind, including summer colors. Her studio and gallery are in her home at 10410 Crossing Creek Road. Go to irmaspence@verizon.net.

www.SingAlongCelebration.com
Tickets: \$20. Call 301-639-7608.

Six Things Parents Need to Know . . . That Only You Can Teach. 2-4 p.m. This is a seminar for dog trainers, shelter and rescue staff and volunteers, veterinary staff and other dog-related professionals. Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac. Speaker: Colleen Pelar, CPDT, CDBC, All About Dogs (www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com). FREE, but register at www.yourdogfriend.info or 301-983-5913.

"Tiny Tots at 10". 10 a.m. At the Puppet Co. Playhouse. \$5/adults and children. Running time is 30 minutes. June 6 is "Second-Hand Stars;" June 13 is "Clowning Around;" and June 20 is "Magic Toy Shop." At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-634-5380.

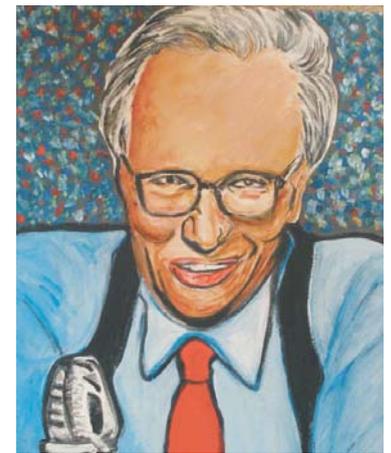
Garden Tour. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Garden Conservancy's Open days Program. Enjoy a self-guided tour of six private gardens in Potomac, Great Falls and McLean. Visitors may bring the tour at either Orchard Farm - Garden of Gay & Tony Barclay, 11600 River Road, Potomac, or Domaine St. Charles, 9315 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls; directions to the gardens will be provided. Cost is \$5/garden. Go to www.opendaysprogram.org or call The Garden Conservancy toll-free weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, 1-888-842-2442.

Imagination Bethesda. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodmont Ave. and Elm Street. Live entertainment, hands-on creative activities for kids, street performers, face painting and more. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

JUNE 6-7, JUNE 13-14

Music Recitals. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The International school of Music showcases 800 students' performances in 19 recitals, every two hours. At Montgomery College, Recital Hall, Music Building, Rockville campus. Free and open to public. Call 301-657-0763 or visit www.ismw.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7



Painting of Larry King

A solo exhibition of paintings by Northern Virginia Community College art professor Rosemary Gallick will be on display from June 19 to 21 at the Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo Park. The gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m., with a reception for the artist scheduled for June 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. Hosted by the National Park Service, the exhibit is titled "The American Dream: Politicians, Musicians and The Media." Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo, Md. Call the Yellow Barn Gallery at 301-371-5593 or Gallick at rgallick@nvcc.edu.

Geology of the C&O Canal. 10 a.m.-noon at C&O Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Callan Bentley will use rock evidence to deduce geologic history of the region. Free. Visit www.potomac.org for more.

Voices of the River. 12:30 p.m. at C&O Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Hear music by Reed Martin. Free. Visit www.potomac.org for more.

The Visions of Six. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Meet the Artists reception for Jane McElvany Counce, Gertrud Mohr-Freidrich, Carol Higgs, Pauline D. Lorfano, Concetto C. Scott and Marie K. Shaughnessy. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

Strings and Friends. 6 p.m. A concert for works for soprano, clarinet and string quartet. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 202-316-1646.

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. 3 - 3:30 p.m.: Introductory Waltz Workshop. Waverly Station Band. Admission is \$8. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

"Penguin's Playground". 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. At the Puppet Co. Playhouse. \$5/adults and children. Running time is 30 minutes. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-634-5380.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Walk Season Kickoff. 2009 National Walk Now for Autism and Studio Tour of WUSA-9. 7-9 p.m. Complimentary buffet and drinks.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Teacher's Thursday. 7-8 p.m. In-depth exploration of topics relevant to science and outdoor education. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at www.ParkPASS.org or call 301-299-1990.

SCHOOLS

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper.

Emma Dixon, an Earlham College senior and daughter of Mary Kimm of Potomac, and Alan Dixon of Washington, D.C., is completing a three-week study in the Bahamas during an Earlham May Term.

Dixon is an integral part of a team doing field research on a population of endangered iguanas. This 30-year study represents the second longest continuous field study of any lizard in the world. While in the Bahamas, students lived on a sailing vessel and spent about 11 hours each day on the islands performing data collection and analyses.

Kevin Maroney of Bethesda graduated magna cum laude from Wofford College on May 17 with a bachelor of arts in government and a concentration in political thought.

The following local residents graduated from Marymount University on May 10:

❖ **Miguel Sacasa**, a Business Administration major and a resident of Potomac, MD.

❖ **Paul Tanjutco**, a Nursing major and a resident of Potomac, MD.

The following students graduated on May 17 from Bucknell University:

❖ **Katherine L. Beckett** of Potomac, daughter of Steven and Polly Beckett of Potomac, MD, and a 2005 graduate of Winston Churchill H S, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

❖ **Rachel E. Sherbill** of Potomac, daughter of Raymond and Barbara Sherbill of Potomac, MD, and a 2005 graduate of Winston Churchill H S, gradu-

ated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Theatre. Sherbill also received the C. Willard Smith Award for creative imagination in the theatre.

These students have been named in the first round of college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. The students are among 27 winners in Maryland of scholarships sponsored by colleges and universities throughout the nation.

❖ **Walt Whitman High School: Rachel H. Zhang**, business, University of Maryland

❖ **Thomas S. Wootton High School: Katherine R. Chao**, biology, University of Maryland; Anna T. Pham, biology, University of Maryland

McDaniel College awarded more than 440 bachelor's degrees May 23 at the College's 139th Commencement.

❖ **Alexander Chambers Dennis of Potomac**, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology.

❖ **Ben Irving Dorfman of North Potomac**, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology.

❖ **Amanda Mushro** of North Potomac, graduated with a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

❖ **Tracy O. Tomlinson** of Potomac, graduated with a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Desson (Howe) Thomson, former movie critic for The Washington Post, will teach "Let's Go to the Movies: Film Studios" for summer camp sessions at Bullis School in Potomac beginning June 22 and July 6. Students will learn what makes movies scary, funny, astonishing, flawed or successful. Visit www.bullis.org, or contact Phyllis Elperin, Director of Summer and Auxiliary Programs, at 301-634-3660 or Phyllis_elperin@bullis.org.

PEOPLE NOTES

Ray Chappell, regional vice-president of Weichert, Realtors, announced the following regional awards for April:

At Weichert, Realtors' Aspen Hill office, neighborhood specialist **Eileen Rosenberg** led the sales associates in the region for new home dollar volume. Leading the region for resale listings was **Helene Zrihen**. The entire Aspen Hill sales team, under the leadership of branch manager **John Radcliffe**, led the offices in the region for new home dollar volume, resale listings, resales, resale revenue units, and resale dollar volume.

At Weichert, Realtors' Potomac Office, **Helen King** led the sales associates in the region for resale dollar volume.

At Weichert, Realtors' Falls Grove Office, **Luis Martinez** led the Weichert region in resale revenue units and resales. The region consists of 14 offices throughout Maryland.

David L. Katz, M.D., J.D. was named to the Board of Trustees of The Treatment and

Learning Centers. Katz has been serving as executive director of The Advisory Board Company for 13 years, a firm serving a membership of more than 3,000 leading hospitals, health systems, universities and other mission-driven enterprises.

Valerie Puddington, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac, has earned the Energy Smart Real Estate Specialist designation from Energy Smart Real Estate Professionals Company in Alexandria. Puddington is specially trained to guide buyers and sellers through the process of making their homes more energy efficient.

Air Force Airman **John F. Conafay** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Stephen Conafay of Persimmon Tree Road, Bethesda, and Jackie Conafay of Pembroke Jones Drive, Wilmington, N.C. Conafay is a 2005 graduate of Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda.



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A Return Engagement

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Having lived and worked in Northern Virginia, Baltimore, and New York City in the last nine months, Marcus Mason has gotten used to life on the road. After being cut by his hometown Washington Redskins last summer, Mason re-signed with the team on April 28 and soon the Potomac native found himself once again in familiar surroundings — stuck in rush hour traffic on the Capital Beltway.

“I’ve been all up and down I-95,” Mason said of his recent itinerant lifestyle as he drove home from practice last month. “It just feels good to be back home in a familiar place with my old teammates.”

Such is the life of a 24-year-old running back trying to make it in the National Football League. Two years ago, Mason made local headlines when he earned a roster spot on the Redskins’ opening-day roster as an undrafted rookie free agent. After the team’s first game he was cut as the team juggled the roster in the wake of injuries, but was signed to the Redskins’ practice squad — an eight-player group that NFL teams can use to develop young players but who are then ineligible to participate in regular season games. Last summer Mason had another strong training camp, leading the NFL in rushing yards during the four-game preseason, but was promptly released from the team in the last wave of cuts as teams were required to trim



Potomac native Marcus Mason led the NFL in rushing yards in the preseason for the Washington Redskins last year before being released prior to the start of the season in the last round of roster cuts as teams pared their rosters to the 53-player regular season limit. He then joined the Baltimore Ravens’ practice squad before signing with the New York Jets during the regular season. The Jets released him late last month, and the Redskins claimed him off of waivers.

down to the 53-player regular season roster.

Instead of re-signing with the Redskins and spending a second year on their practice squad, Mason opted to join the practice squad of the Baltimore Ravens. Eight weeks later Mason joined the active roster

of the New York Jets, where he finished out the season without getting any carries. The Jets released Mason on April 27, and on April 28 the Redskins claimed him off of waivers.

Mason, who grew up in Potomac’s Scotland neighborhood, has already gotten him-

self an apartment in Fairfax and is happy to be back where he can see his family whenever he likes.

“Feels great, feels good to be back home,” Mason said. “Scotland’s that home cooking, you know what I mean? My whole family was pretty much excited. When I got released from the Jets, my whole family was sad but I had to let everybody know it was OK.”

Being able to see her son and talk to him face to face is nice, said Patricia Mason, Marcus’ mother. Once again Marcus pops in from time to time, she said, and now she can see past whatever front he might be able to put up on the phone and have a better idea of exactly how he’s feeling about things.

AFTER HIS FIRST week of practice with the team — the Redskins held a series of offseason workouts last month and began another round this week — Mason said he was already back in the swing of things.

“After the first couple days it was like I never even left because that’s how good the team chemistry is

there. It makes you feel at home,” he said.

The dynamics of the team are much the same as they were a year ago, and Mason knows that may not work in his favor. Again, he has three talented, versatile backs ahead

SEE ENGAGEMENT, PAGE 11

From One Mason to Another

Seven months after the Dallas Cowboys won their second straight Super Bowl in 1994 Mark Mason came to town to try out for the team. The former star running back at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac had gone on to an up-and-down career at Maryland marked by explosive play on the field and injuries that kept him off of it.

“I tell you what, it was the greatest experience you could ever imagine,” Mason said of trying out for the Cowboys. The buzz that circulated around the team was exciting to be a part of, the players were personable, and the parties were legendary.

“I was coming from [the University of] Maryland, so I did my parties,” Mason said with a laugh.

Mason played in a preseason Monday Night Football game against his childhood favorite Minnesota Vikings but was cut in the final round of roster cuts when they held a spot for Emmitt Smith’s injured backup, Derrick Lassic, said Mason. At the urging of

the Cowboys, Mason entered the NFL’s developmental World League of American Football. He was chosen 12th out of some 600 players in that league’s draft and went to training camp in Atlanta. Once there Mason realized that he was no longer in love with the game.

“You get some injuries like [he had in college] and you miss a lot of football and you understand that you can live without football,” Mason said. He returned to Maryland to finish his studies and went on to work as a financial broker. Today he lives in Atlanta and works as a software communications specialist, but once again he is up close and personal with NFL flirtation as his nephew Marcus Mason tries for the third year in a row to make the Washington Redskins’ regular season roster. He talks with his nephew by phone regularly.

“They have their man talk, their conversations,” said Patricia Mason, Mark’s sister

SEE ADVICE, PAGE 11



Mark Mason starred at Winston Churchill High School and the University of Maryland before trying out unsuccessfully for the Dallas Cowboys. Now he passes on his experience in weekly conversations with his nephew Marcus Mason as he attempts to make the Washington Redskins for the third straight year.

GETTING AROUND

A Three Generation Potomac Wedding

FROM PAGE 4

When dancing followed cocktails and dinner, nothing personified the warmth of this wedding more vividly, than the sight of the bride's grandmother, Winnie Gordon, 92, constantly surrounded at her table by attentive grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Chad's grandfather, "Mitch," 83, who was escorted in his wheelchair to the dance floor by his granddaughters, Lindsay and Ashley Bowling, where they danced around him.

It was the moment silver slippers turned to gold.



PHOTO BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT

It's cookie time for Josh Tice, left, and his twin brothers, Cody and Justin.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

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SPORTS

Growing Pains



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Oregano, thyme, rosemary, sage, basil, mint; some of the home-grown herbs and spices a few of our friends are growing/cultivating; with distinction, from what I've heard. And as I was listening to the ebb and flow of how their gardens grow, I could not imagine for a moment, why in the world I would ever undertake such an endeavor. Nevertheless, the passion and enthusiasm with which these friends were discussing their gardening gains — and losses, was so heartfelt, so filled with conviction, I couldn't help but be drawn into the conversation.

And the conversation was wide-ranging, too, gardening wise; from south-facing, to potting, to planting, to trimming and pruning, to plant-life expectancy, to harvesting, to the impact of weather and watering. The tips/anecdotes/words-to-the-wise just kept coming. As for the words to the stupid (yours truly) all I could do was ask questions and listen in amazement as these friends spoke about the care and feeding, locally, of these centuries-old and historically popular spices. The conversation sounded similar to many I've had about sports; using past, present and imperfect examples of players, performances, statistics, tendencies, championships, etc., rather than planting location, depth, proximity, and too many other planting considerations lost in translation, to determine an appropriate course of action/pursuit.

As I listened, and unfortunately didn't really learn, since it was established that my life didn't really depend on the outcome, (which if it did, it was suggested, I might pay more sincere attention), I nonetheless marveled at the depth of information that our friends possessed on the subject, information I presumed existed, but never previously bore witness to.

It never ceases to surprise me the things; categories, hobbies, avocations, vocations, pursuits, that people are into, and aware of, most of which are usually beyond my comprehension — and grasp, quite frankly. And it's not that I'm stupid when I sit and listen cluelessly; it's more that I'm incredulous how little I know about so many subjects, one of which was discussed this particular evening: the trials and tribulations — and rewards, of growing herbs and spices in your own backyard. Who knew there would be such back and forth — and such knowledge, about such things? Not me (in case you didn't know that previous sentence was rhetorical.)

And though I am now not the least bit interested in tilling the soil at "Belly Acres," (our two-acre, non-ancestral home), I am nevertheless intrigued by the possibility. The only problem I foresee, other than all the obvious problems that you readers foresee, is what exactly would I do with all the herbs and spices if I were able to actually grow them? The closest I get to a spice is my aftershave. The closest I get to an herb is my neighbor across the street. I realize that herbs and spices have something to do with food and taste and cooking and food preparation, but that's no more my world than growing the stuff was in the first place. Oh, I can certainly appreciate the effort required to grow your own; my problem is, if I did grow it, would I have to eat it?

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

For Mason, a Return Engagement

FROM PAGE 8

of him on the roster. Again, there is a crop of wide receivers that includes two young, highly touted players virtually guaranteed roster spots, and once again there is a corps of linebackers that will likely rely on quantity to answer questions about the reliability of its starters.

To make the team this year Mason will have to prove himself as an important contributor on special teams to avoid being bounced in the roster crunch, said Redskins running backs coach Stump Mitchell. That means that he must go beyond simply participating on special teams and instead must be the player flying down the field taking on blockers or making open field tackles on coverage units or setting up blocks for the return men on return units.

"In terms of running skills there's no question in our mind that Marcus Mason has the skills to be a running back," Mitchell said. "He has to make things happen on special teams for him to really have a legitimate shot of making it this year. And he understands that challenge."

To that end, he has two talented and committed teachers — special teams coach Danny Smith, and running back and special teams ace Rock Cartwright. Cartwright took Mason under his wing two years ago when Mason was a rookie despite the fact that they were essentially competing to be the third running back on the team. Mason said this year Cartwright is continuing to help him learn the nuances of special teams dirty work, and he knows that his improvement in those areas is the key to his success.

"As far as last year the difference is — yeah, we have the same guys, but I just feel like I'm a little stronger on special teams right now," Mason said. "I [learn] about it from watching Rock. He lets me know when I do something wrong, what I can do to get a better release [from blockers], stuff like that."

Mason will also have to be more focused than he was a year ago, said Mason's uncle Mark Mason, who played running back for the Maryland Terrapins in the early 1990s and tried out unsuccessfully for the Dallas Cowboys in 1994. He will have to convince coaches that in addition to running the ball he can protect the quarterback on passing plays and he will have to wow them with his knowledge of the playbook, a deficiency

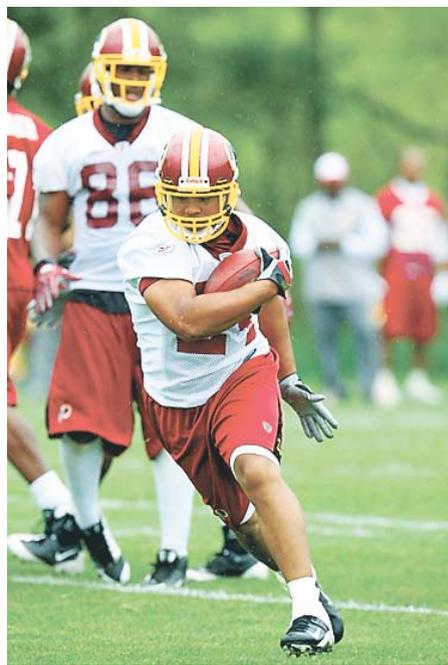


PHOTO BY NED DISHMAN/THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Last year Marcus Mason, shown here at last week's offseason practice, lost out in the numbers game as the Redskins kept an extra wide receiver with their final roster spot. This year Mason hopes to make himself indispensable by becoming a difference maker on special teams.

that may have cost him a roster spot last year.

"That last preseason game when it was on him to really make the team he went the wrong way a couple times," Mark Mason said. "Right after the game he called me and told me 'I messed up.' When you're playing for your livelihood it's a lot of pressure. He didn't step up the way the team expected."

FOLLOWING A STELLAR career in high school and college, Mason has adjusted to life as an athletic everyman after going undrafted and bouncing between teams.

After setting the Maryland high school rushing record with 5,700 yards at Georgetown Prep, Mason went on to play at the University of Illinois for two years before transferring to Division II powerhouse Youngstown State and setting a school record with 1,847 rushing yards his senior season.

Then, in the 2007 NFL draft Mason went unselected and the only call of interest he

got after the draft was from the Redskins. Success for him now is simply making the team.

"It was a humbling experience because you learn nothing's going to be given to you," Mason said. The recent emphasis on special teams compounded the humbling nature of his experience.

"Coming out of high school and college, I didn't do much special teams. Now after being on the practice squad it just kind of helped me," Mason said. "I feel like I got a better chance."

Mitchell said that despite Mason's short stature — the Redskins generously list him at 5-foot-9 — his size (218 lbs), vision, agility, and ability to make tacklers miss in the open field could make him a valuable contributor to any NFL team.

Mark Mason said that his nephew's instinctual running abilities are second to none that he has ever personally seen play, and that includes the NFL's all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith. Redskins officials say that Mason would be eligible to return to the practice squad again this year but entering his third season in the league Mark Mason said Marcus' window of opportunity is beginning to narrow.

Mitchell said he likes the improvement he's already seen in Mason's special teams duties, and if that trend holds up Mason may just shine through on the game field someday soon, be it with the Redskins or with another team.

"He's a very talented guy, it's no question he should be playing in the league and I know for him, this is where he would love to play because it's home," Mitchell said. "I think he's going to get every opportunity and I think he's going to do very well."

If that day comes Mark Mason, for one, won't be surprised.

"When he gets the opportunity I guarantee you this, he's going to blow it up," he said. "He will do extremely well."

On Monday, June 1 the Redskins opened their next round of offseason practices and afterwards held a fan appreciation event at Six Flags amusement park in Maryland. Mason broke briefly from the ceremonies to chat by phone. Practice went well, he said, and he felt great. His voice full of energy, he sounded relaxed and confident when he talked about his performance of late and his outlook on the coming months.

"I know what I'm doing," he said. "I'm ready to go."

Advice from One Mason to Another

FROM PAGE 8

and Marcus' mother. "He speaks to Marcus at least three times a week to see, one, how it's going and two, to make sure mentally he can handle this."

Mark Mason saw firsthand how a running back with good ability and unlimited determination can succeed. Emmitt Smith never blew anyone away with his speed but his ability to find holes and to fight for

yards after contact should be Marcus Mason's blueprint for success, Mark Mason said.

The first time he ever saw his nephew play pee-wee football Mark Mason said he was so blown away by his ability that he cried.

"I was way faster than Marcus, but Marcus runs with his eyes. He's an incredible running back," said Mark Mason. In his heyday at Maryland, Mark Mason said he ran

the 40-yard dash in close to 4.3 seconds; Marcus, he said, runs in the 4.4 to 4.5 range.

"Fast as lightning, bro — you have no idea how fast I was," Mark said with a chuckle. He has relished the opportunity to advise Marcus and he still loves to watch the game — especially Terrapins games.

"I enjoyed the football field," he said. "It's awesome. You're playing for the school that represents your state. I'm still proud. I'll be down here at a bar singing the fight song."



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