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## 'The End Of an Era'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Surrey owner Lyne Morgan and Devereaux Raskauskas had a laugh as they cut the cake to commemorate 56 years of business in Potomac.

## River Search Called Off

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## A Home Under Siege

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## PEOPLE

# Eco-Mobile

### North Potomac woman benefits from donation of a Toyota Prius hybrid car.

As a healthcare technician, Helen Seide of North Potomac commutes to work in Germantown everyday. As commutes go it may not be the longest one out there, but without her own car Seide has long relied on catching buses or rides from friends to make it. On top of that Seide has the commuting necessities of a single mother with busy children.

On Thursday, June 4, Seide went mobile when she received a used Toyota Prius hybrid car from the local non-profit organization Vehicles For Change. The car, with 180,000 miles on it, was sold to Seide for \$700 which she will pay in installments and has a six-month, 6,000-mile warranty. Once that warranty expires, Seide will have access to the organization's partner garage that will repair her vehicle at a discounted rate, said Vehicles For Change president Marty Schwartz.

As she stood next to her new car, keys in hand and her daughter Taja'ne waiting in the passenger seat, Seide said that for her the car means "the freedom to not have to rely on someone else." That it is an environmentally friendly gas-electric hybrid will send a positive message to her three daughters.

"Having this hybrid is just another step in doing what's right and setting an example," she said.

Vehicles For Change was founded in 1999 and since then has sold refurbished cars at reduced rates to



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

**Helen Seide and her daughter Taja'ne ready to drive home their new hybrid car.**

## Transformers

Vehicles For Change is a Maryland-based non-profit that grant's high-quality used vehicles to families in need, giving them the freedom to be more mobile. Thursday's donation of a used gas-electric hybrid Toyota Prius marked the organization's new efforts to distribute fuel-efficient vehicles that will save their users money on gas down the road. For information on Vehicles For Change's programs visit vehiclesforchange.com.

nearly 3,000 low-income families. The group found Seide through a partnership with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission.

"We've really seen over the years that cars make a big difference for these families," said Schwartz.

For Seide the impact will be immediate. This weekend she will drive 13-year-old Taja'ne to Philadelphia for a basketball tournament.

— AARON STERN

# For Brooks, Joining the Marines

### It's basic training, not beach week for him.

BY ALEX BROWN  
THE ALMANAC

Thousands of 18-year olds graduated from local high schools this month, most of them signing up for dorm rooms and writing checks for college; Jewish Day School graduate Josh Brooks, however, enlisted in the Marines. While most seniors were at beach week, Brooks headed for basic training.

"I don't think there is really one reason why I joined the Marine Corps but it's probably a mix — idealism, wanting to be a rebel and a desire to test myself" Brooks said.

Brooks is the only member of his family to ever join the Marines and he wants to make sure he did something that would make a mark. Brooks' father, David, is a New York Times columnist as well as a commentator on the PBS show "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer."

Both of Brooks' parents are supportive of Josh's decision to join the Marine Corps instead of going to college.

Josh's mother, Sarah, said that the decision was "extremely hard" and it was with "sort of our blessing."

Brooks explains that his father and his job as a nationally- syndicated columnist influenced his decision to fight for his country.



**Josh Brooks**

"I grew up very patriotic" Brooks said.

Since Brooks' father happens to work with two Ex-Marines, he thinks that may have influenced his family to be supportive of his decision.

Brooks also says he found inspiration in the book "One Bullet Away" by Nate Fick. The book describes the background of the Marines and success and pride that comes with being a

Marine.

Mentioning a key quote that he remembered from the book "to hold a sword not a pencil," Brooks said "I plan on staying in the Corps as long as I am doing a job that allows me to be active and to 'hold the sword.'"

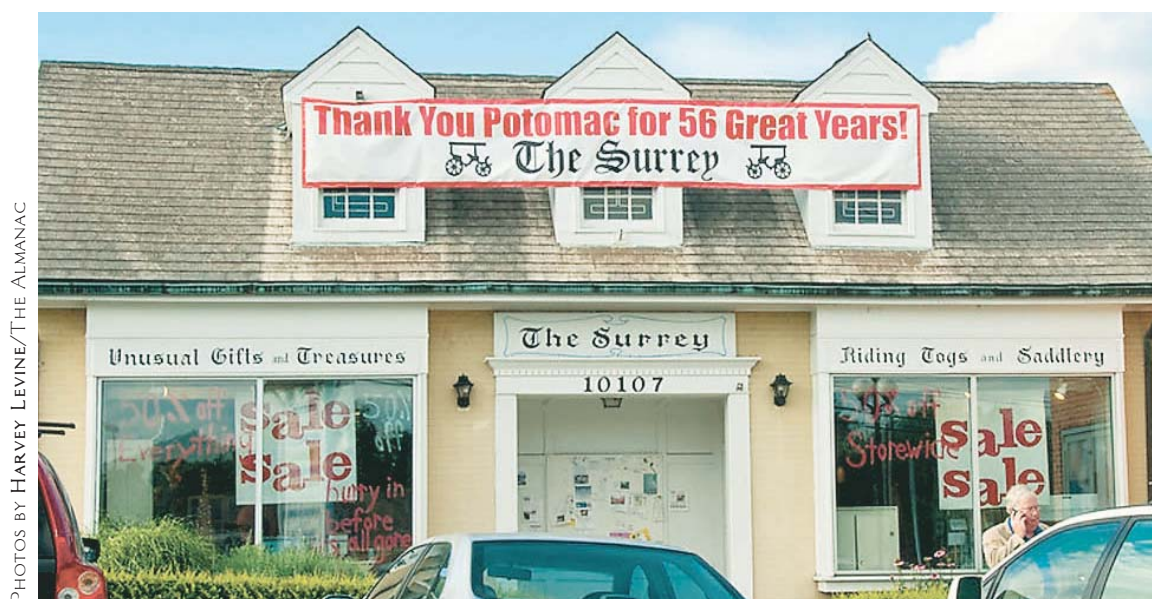
At some point "they put you behind a desk," he said.

Brooks makes it clear he intends to go on an adventure before hitting the books again. Brooks is looking to expand his horizons and meet people in the world who can teach him different lessons and values.

"Afterwards, I want to make sure I have gotten an education and then I either want to get involved in politics or own halfway houses that help people who are in trouble or going through a rough time," Brooks said.

Brooks admits that the Marine training and lifestyle "will be very tough. I hope I learn to deal with any situation and push my limits."





PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

The Surrey on its last day of business in Potomac.

## 'The End of an Era'

Like much of the local equestrian culture before it, The Surrey bids Potomac adieu.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Three weeks ago Austin Kiplinger was shocked when he found out that The Surrey tack and bridle shop was leaving Potomac Village.

"Oh my goodness, that's an earth-shaking event," he said after being informed that after 56 years The Surrey was slated to close its doors in Potomac in late June.

On Sunday, June 21, Kiplinger was in a better mood. As he watched Anne Davies standing with her Yorkshire terrier Bitsy in front of one of the Surrey's display cases he had a buyer's inclination.

"Is Anne Davies part of the deal? I'll take it," he joked.

Davies wasn't for sale but nearly everything else in the store was as The Surrey wrapped up more than half a century in Potomac Village with a frenzied final weekend of slashed prices and rapidly dwindling inventory. Nearly everything was for sale last weekend — and on sale — even items that hadn't intended ever to be sold like some of the store's light fixtures. Some things, however, were decidedly off limits.

"And of course people would love our boot scraper — but no," said 20-year employee Kay Titus of the well-worn, horse-adorned scraper just inside the store's front door. "Neither are the bells," she said of the entrance sleigh bell's whose jingling has long been music to the ears of the store's customers. As she spoke, Titus looked out over the store that had been well picked over, but was full of longtime customers and friends because as the store readied to shut its doors, familiar faces suspiciously began to pour in. Before long the surprise was out and a farewell party was afoot.

"This is fun to see everybody coming," said longtime customer Anne Bolen. "It takes the sting out of it."

As The Almanac went to press Surrey owner Lyne Morgan was close to finalizing an agreement to move her store to a location in Darnestown. For some of The Surrey's longtime customers who have followed the migration of the local horse community to parts north and west of Potomac that was music to their ears, but to others the move punctuates the change of Potomac in recent years from an unpretentious horse community towards a ritzy suburban enclave.

"You can see all the McMansions but it still sort of felt like old Potomac," said Holly Higgins, who lived in Potomac for more than 30 years before moving into Washington, D.C. four years ago. Like Kiplinger, Higgins said she was floored when she first heard the news.

"It was the end of an era. It was really one of the saddest things in terms of neighborhood and community that I've ever heard," said Higgins.

The Surrey opened 56 years ago at the corner of Falls and River Roads in what is now the Chevy Chase Bank building before moving to its current location just down River Road in 1959. Founded by Alyne "Lyne" Carroll, the store became a social hub for the riding community and Carroll was a fixture at the store until her death in 2003, when family friend Lyne Morgan — who gets her name from Lyne Carroll — took over. Morgan started working at the store when she was 14.

Morgan has watched in recent years as stores

SEE THE SURREY, PAGE 5



Austin Kiplinger talks with Anne Davies, who is holding her Yorkshire terrier Bitsy. Dogs were always welcome at The Surrey.

## Search Called Off

Two missing Leesburg men disappear while swimming near Old Angler's Inn.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

The search for two missing men who disappeared while swimming in the Potomac near Old Angler's Inn on Sunday, June 21 was suspended on Monday, June 22. Swift water rescue teams from Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department searched for the two men for two hours Sunday afternoon after they were reported missing shortly before 5 p.m. that day. The search resumed at dawn on Monday with rescue crews searching the Maryland and Virginia sides of the river unsuccessfully for signs of the two men and was called off shortly before noon, said Capt. Oscar Garcia, a spokesman for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue.

The National Park Police would continue periodic airborne sweeps via helicopter before reassessing the situation on Tuesday, June 23, said Sgt. Davis Schlosser, a spokesperson for the National Park Police. Garcia said that swift water rescue teams would continue to look for signs of the two men, identified as Asad Nabatzahi and Abdul Doraney, residents of Leesburg, Va. in their early 20s, during their patrols later this week but that the search efforts were now considered a recovery effort.

Though it is now a considered a recovery as opposed to a rescue, Schlosser said that working in the two men's chances of survival was the warm weather and subsequently small risk of hypothermia and the clear skies creating good visibility for emergency crews.

Nabatzahi and Doraney were sunbathing with four other men on Purple Horse Beach on the Virginia side of the river upstream from Old Angler's Inn on the Maryland side when they got hot and went for a swim, said Garcia. When only four made their way back to the shore rescuers were called. Swimming in the Mather Gorge, the 14-mile stretch between Great Falls and Key Bridge, is illegal.

There were initial conflicting reports of bystanders who said they saw the two men get out on the Virginia side of the river, but given the large number of visitors to the park that day and the fact that the two men made no contact with family or friends since their disappearance, the reports



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Swift water rescue teams from Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department searched for two Virginia men who disappeared while swimming on Sunday, June 21. The search was suspended on Monday, June 22 with no sign of the missing men.

were believed to be mistaken, said Garcia.

THE INCIDENT could potentially mark the third and fourth deaths in the Potomac Gorge this year after four consecutive years without drownings. Earlier this spring a child was swept away while fishing near chain bridge; a man who attempted to save the boy was also swept downriver and their bodies were found several days later.

There were five accidental drownings in the gorge in 2004, after which local authorities stepped up their interagency cooperation and increased efforts to alert the public to the dangers of the river.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue has primary rescue responsibilities on the river, which is Maryland's jurisdiction to the high water mark of the Virginia shoreline. The county's swift water rescue teams are based out of the two Cabin John stations on River Road and Falls Road which have first due responsibilities from Riley's Lock to the D.C. border, approximately a 12-mile stretch. Additionally the National Park Service, the United States Park Police, the Fairfax (Va.) County Fire and Rescue Department, District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Harbor

SEE SEARCH, PAGE 5

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ JUNE 24-30, 2009 ♦ 3



## PEOPLE

# A Kick to the Top

BY KRISTEN MCCARTHY  
THE ALMANAC

**A**fter two years of interviewing 21 famous humor writers, researching, drafting, editing and revising, Mike Sacks finally completed his first book. After spending hours in coffee shops meeting with these people and learning their stories, his book is now ready.

The book, titled “And Here’s the Kicker” will be available in July. Its focus is humor and provides advice on how to get started with writing and how to get hired on a late night show. “There are ways to go about doing things. I hope this book will help those starting out and help people with improving their writing and, more so, navigating the obstacle of getting hired as a writer on a late night show. These things

were never taught to me,” said Mike Sacks in a phone interview.

The book includes a diverse group of writers. Irving Brecher, who wrote for the Marx Brothers, had his last interview with Sacks before he died. Other writers in the book include Larry Wilmore (Daily Show), Dan Mazer (Ali G and Borat), George Meyer (The Simpsons), Larry Gelbart (Caesar’s Hour, M\*A\*S\*H) and Mitch Hurwitz (Arrested Development).

“By the time the interview came, I had 30 pages of notes and 20 pages of questions. The thing about these interviews is that they encompass a lot. I had 100 single space pages from notes after each interview,” said Sacks. He enjoyed being able to contact writers whose work he had always enjoyed.

Sacks grew up in Potomac and attended Winston Churchill High School. He went to



Mike Sacks

Tulane University where he majored in English. During college, he was a freelance writer for Mad Magazine, National Lampoon magazine and local magazines in New Orleans. He is now on the editorial staff for Vanity Fair in New York City. Sacks also writes for The Believer, Esquire, GQ, MAD, Maxim, McSweeney’s, The New Yorker,

## Excerpt

“If you are a student who wants to write humor as a career, or if you’re a humor writer who wants to improve your standing within the industry, or if you’re a reader who’s interested in a bizarre, secretive occupation at which few will ever succeed and those lucky enough to do so tend to go slightly mad (or, at the very least, become horribly depressed), this book might be for you.”

Premiere, Radar, Salon, Time, Time Out New York, Vanity Fair, Vice and Women’s Health. “I hope that this book will show people from Potomac or elsewhere that you don’t have to be a grad from the Harvard Lampoon to be in humor. You don’t have to come from New York or L.A. It takes hard work, but you can do it,” said Sacks.

## Q & A

**Q:** How did you originally become interested in magazines?

**Sacks:** I sort of fell into it. I originally wanted to write for late night TV. I thought by writing for a magazine, I would be discovered. I started writing for magazines in college. I made a lot of contacts and it worked to this day. Magazines were always my first interest. I went to Tulane.

**Q:** What was your first job after college?

**Sacks:** I worked at Kemp Mill Records in Maryland. I worked there from when I was 15 to 24 years. I worked selling CDs and records. I started freelancing at that time. I got published in Mad Magazine, National Lampoon Magazine and Cracked Magazine. I was trying to support myself as a writer. Then I worked for an association in D.C. as an editor. Then from there I went to Knight Ridder, a wire service. I would edit articles that were then distributed across the country. Then from there I went to the Washington Post. Then I went to Vanity Fair.

**Q:** What did you do at the Washington Post?

**Sacks:** I was an editor with the syndication section at the Washington Post.

**Q:** How did you decide to work for Vanity Fair?

**Sacks:** I was working with the Post and I wanted to move up to New York. I happened to see an ad. A lot of magazines were looking for people. I saw an advertisement that Vanity Fair was hiring.

I sent in a resume and cover letter and was hired.

**Q:** What inspired you to write this book?

**Sacks:** I write humor for magazines such as The Esquire and The New Yorker. Growing up, I never saw a book like this. None that had contemporary writers, as well as providing advice from real writers in the real world and how they managed to navigate. A lot of them had advice about how they would do it if they had to do it over again. My perfect reader would be a student in high school skipping math class to go to the library and stumbling upon this book. I wanted to write. It’s a very mysterious world. There are ways to go about doing things. I hope this book will help those starting out and help people with improving their writing and more so navigating the obstacle of getting hired as a writer on a late night show. These things were never taught to me. A lot of these professors do not have a real world experience. This is what will help you. What to do and what not to do. Just basic things. When you submit a query to a magazine, you shouldn’t have a long cover letter or send gifts. Things that piss off editors that you think are helping you.

**Q:** How were you able to contact these people and make the connections? Was this based on whom you know?

**Sacks:** What really helped was that I worked for Vanity Fair. Through Vanity Fair, I can find pretty

much anyone. I can at least get their contact info. I ended up spending 5 to 10 hours with each person. I ended interviewing 40 people and 21 made the cut.

**Q:** What was the most challenging thing about writing this book?

**Sacks:** A tremendous amount of research for each person I interviewed. I had to read everything that I could find that they participated in and articles about them. For any screenwriter, I would watch their movies and directors comments. By the time the interview came, I had 30 pages of notes and 20 pages of questions. The thing about these interviews is that they encompass a lot. I had 100 single space pages from notes after each interview. A lot of the pages that had to be edited down. It took a solid two years total.

**Q:** What was the most rewarding part about writing this book?

**Sacks:** Interviewed 94 year old who worked for Marx Brothers. Just being able to interview someone who wrote for the Marx Brothers made the book worthwhile. It was his last interview.

**Q:** What do you believe the future will be like for journalism and book publishing?

**Sacks:** I think that we are in a transitional period. We will look back at this period as a learning experience. This book may end up on Kindle in five years. But it is interesting to talk to the writers

about this too. The way they made a career up to now is not the way they will be making a career in the future.

**Q:** Who was the most interesting person that you interviewed for this book?

**Sacks:** The Brits were really sharp. They knew American comedy very well. Steven Merchant and Dan Mazer. The Brits are funny. They know American humor better than Americans. I could have talked to them forever about American humor.

**Q:** How did you contact these people? Did you travel to LA and various places to meet with them?

**Sacks:** Most of the people were contacted by phone or computer. I would meet with the people in a coffee shop who were in New York.

**Q:** What effects do you hope your book will have on your readers and the public?

**Sacks:** I hope that it will show people from Potomac or elsewhere that you don’t have to be a grad from the Harvard Lampoon to be in humor. You don’t have to come from New York or LA. If you work hard and make connections, you can make a career, even if you are skipping math class and going to the library. You can make a career as a writer, even if you aren’t such a good student. It takes hard work, but you can do it.

# Annual Fund-Raising 5K Liberated into ‘Run Anywhere’

## Autism Speaks 5K will kickoff on July 4 in Potomac Village — or anywhere else.

**S**ometimes adversity is a catalyst for innovation. Ask Susan Pereles. Faced with organizing a charity 5K run in the middle of a global recession on a national holiday that most people prefer to spend barbecuing that coincidentally is the same day of family-friendly county-wide swim meets, thinking outside the box was just the beginning. Running outside of the box came next.

The ninth annual Autism Speaks 5K Run will be held on Saturday, July 4 in Potomac Village — or anywhere else that runners may please. The biggest change this year is that the run features what Pereles calls a “Run Anywhere” feature where race participants can register to run, solicit sponsors and donors, then run their 5K wherever they like on July 4. That will help those people out of town for the

holiday or doing whatever else they might be doing that morning participate and donate to the Autism Speaks organization that works to increase awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to fund research into the causes of autism and to prevent and fund treatments for autism.

Last year’s race drew more than 3,000 participants and raised over \$250,000. As of Monday, June 22 about 500 participants had registered and a little over \$100,000 had been pledged, said Pereles, but she expects those numbers to rise sharply in the next week and a half.

Facilitating turnout to the July 4 event will be several local swimming pools that agreed to reschedule their Saturday morning A-team swim meets to accommodate the race, said Pereles, including Potomac, Seven Locks, Country Glen, Inverness and Eldwick swim clubs.

“It was a very good show of support,” Pereles said.

To register for the July 4 Autism Speaks 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk visit [potomac5k.org](http://potomac5k.org). To learn more about Autism Speaks visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org).

— AARON STERN



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN PERELES/AUTISM SPEAKS

**Team Cayelli came out in force last year to show their support for Autism Speaks. Teams of friends and family often participate in the race in support of loved ones who suffer from autism.**



# The Surrey Bids Potomac Adieu

FROM PAGE 3

throughout Potomac Village have moved out or closed down entirely as rents have soared, only to be replaced more often than not by banks and chain franchises.

Late in May Morgan made the decision to follow suit after being unable to get the store's rent lowered. The recent downturn in the economy has taken a toll on the store, and with the lease coming up for renewal the two sides were at odds.

"The rumors just flew and the horse community thought 'oh my gosh, The Surrey is closing,'" said Davies. "It's been a beacon."

**SINCE WORD** of the move got out, Morgan said the outpouring of support from longtime customers and friends has been immense and moving. Sunday was no different as familiar faces celebrated with champagne and an almond cake baked by the Surrey's Devereaux Raskauskas and talked about the Potomac they remember, a town of two-acre lots marked with old ramblers and backyard barns where people could ride into the Village, hitch their horses and go about their business; a place where the nearest horse show was a short ride away at a neighbor's home and trick-or-treating and

Christmas caroling was often done on horseback. "The memories are very vivid, still, for the old crowd," said Karen Kraushaar, a former editor at The Almanac who grew up sewing pillows and pin cushions that she sold on consignment at The Surrey.

"Old Potomac was horses and people," said Pat Flynn. "New Potomac is banks ...."

"And banks," finished Kathleen Flynn, Pat Flynn's wife. "It's just totally different now," she said.

David Phillips, Lyne Morgan's husband, recalled growing up on South Glen Road and having a girlfriend who lived off of Bradley Boulevard some four to five miles away.

"It was nothing to me to jump on my horse and ride down there," Phillips said.

Leonard Proctor moved to Potomac more than 50 years ago — though he now lives in Derwood — and worked at Mitch & Bill's Exxon — now Texaco — from 1951 to 1995. During much of that time he could ride up and down River Road on horseback but that changed as the area grew more populated and traffic more congested.

"Now it's something else," Proctor said. "I've seen a lot of things happen around here the last 50-

some years."

Some things remained the same as horse activity moved out to Darnestown, Poolesville, and Dickerson — like the simple fragrance of the Surrey, described as a mixture of leather, candle wax, and potpourri. "I'll tell you something, the smell is exactly the same as it was when I walked in in second grade," said Becky Evans, who

grew up in Bethesda but rode in Potomac regularly.

The Surrey was also a place where many dropped in not to shop but just to chat and find out about the goings on around town, said Higgins. Kathleen Flynn always dropped in after visiting the hairdresser — and heard about it if she walked by without stopping in.

Many of the longtime Surrey friends who attended Sunday's farewell party have moved in recent years out towards those areas where riding continues to thrive. For them the Surrey's relocation is good news because it means a shorter drive to their favorite store, but still, even in a more convenient location, they said something would be missing. "I think some of the ambiance of Potomac will be missing," said Davies.

## Search Called Off

FROM PAGE 3

Patrol, and District of Columbia Fire & E.M.S. also assist in water-based rescues, many of which are in response to hikers injured on the Billy Goat Trail in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Garcia said there was no apparent reason for the recent uptick in fatalities beyond bad luck and poor choices and he urged the public to use extreme caution near the Potomac River. While it may look calm, strong currents and large boulders beneath the surface of the cold water can quickly incapacitate swimmers with fatal consequences.

**CABIN JOHN CHIEF** Jim Seavey, who also heads the swift water rescue teams, said that the long stretch of good fortune on the river may have resulted in a lack of news coverage and a subsequently diminished public awareness of the Potomac River's danger. Seavey said that signage warning of the river's danger is ample on both sides of the river and is done in both English and Spanish,

and sometimes in Vietnamese.

Even given fair warning, youth often plays a hand in such situations, said Seavey. In late May local rescue authorities held an annual demonstration for local media of river rescue techniques that emphasized the river's danger. Subsequent stories appeared on television, radio and in print warning of the river's danger, but exactly one week later Cabin John rescue teams pulled two teens out of the river who had tried to swim across it near Old Angler's Inn — nearly the same exact spot the media demonstration had taken place.

While there was no indication that alcohol was at all involved in the current situation with Nabatzahi and Doraney, more often than not in such situations bad judgment of various kinds is involved, said Seavey.

"At some point common sense must prevail and unfortunately in dealing with youth and in some cases dealing with alcohol and [recreational drugs, in some cases] common sense is invariably going to fly out the window," said Seavey.

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## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by  
Michael Matese

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## CALENDAR

### JUNE 24-28

**Potomac River Ramble.** Four-day paddling event, canoeing and kayaking expedition featuring riverside camping, catered meals, live music, restoration projects and environmental education. Experienced river guides will lead participants along the Monocacy Scenic River, under the Monocacy Aqueduct and down the Potomac River, ending at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area near Potomac Falls, Va. Sponsored by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and by River and Trail Outfitters of Knoxville, Md. Visit [www.potomacriver.org](http://www.potomacriver.org) or call 301-984-1908.

### JUNE 26-28

**“Don’t Dress for Dinner.”** A delicious, side-splitting farce presented by the Potomac Theatre Company. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At Bullis School, Flair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Adults \$20, seniors/students \$18. Pre-paid groups of 10 or more: 20% off. Reservations: 301-299-8571.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 26

**Diggin’ the Bone Pit.** 10-11 a.m. Death is part of the cycle of life. But what happens to dead things? Come explore our ‘bone pit’ to find out. For ages 5-16. Cost is \$4. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at [www.ParkPASS.org](http://www.ParkPASS.org) or call 301-765-8660.

**Explore Wild Montgomery County.** 9:30 a.m. to noon. Discover beautiful public places close to home. Learn fascinating natural history from our experts. All programs are free but require registration. For ages 18-up. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at [www.ParkPASS.org](http://www.ParkPASS.org) or call 301-765-8660.

**“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”** will open Friday, June 26 and continue through Saturday, Aug. 8 at Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, Md. An American Sign Language (ASL) interpreted performance is Saturday, Aug. 8 at 4 p.m. \$12 for children, \$15 for adults, group discounts available. For tickets: Visit us online at [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org), or call the box office at 301-634-2270.

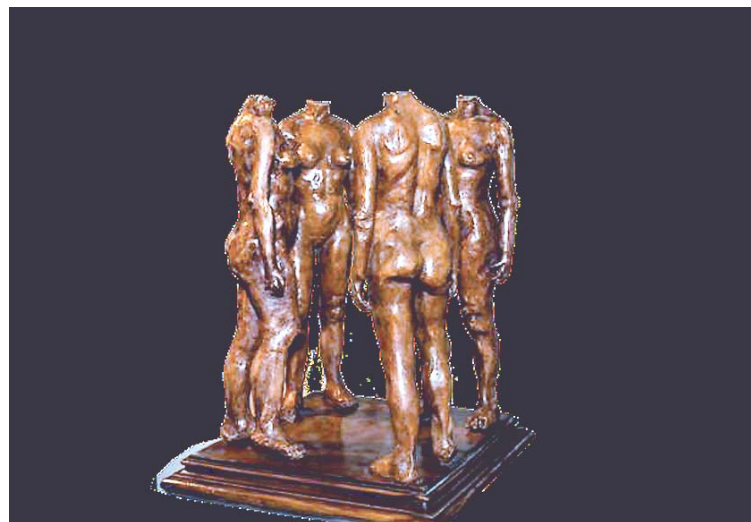
### SATURDAY/JUNE 27

**Heritage Days Celebration.** Noon to 4 p.m. As part of Montgomery County’s Heritage Days celebration, the Spanish Ballroom will feature a display of panels that tell the story of Glen Echo Park’s history from the late 1800s to 1960. Listen to a brief talk on the history of the ballroom, take a free dance lesson, and tour the entire park with a National Park Service ranger. The Park’s historic Dentzel carousel will be open. Call 301-634-2222 or visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Zydeco Dance Party.** Introductory Zydeco Dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the band Yankee Zydeco Company. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. \$15 admission. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to [www.DancingbytheBayou.com](http://www.DancingbytheBayou.com). Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Md.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 28

**Thrift Shop Half Price Sales.** Noon to 4 p.m. The Montgomery County Thrift Shop, 7125-27 Wisconsin Ave., in Bethesda, will hold two half price sale days on two Sundays – June 14 and June 28, from noon to 4 p.m. Everything in the shop, with the exception of consignment



### NOW THROUGH JULY 3

**Sculptures by Paula Stern** in Bronze, Terracotta & Resin at Waverly Street Gallery. View Paula Stern’s work at 4600 East West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441 [www.waverlystreetgallery.com](http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com). Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 12-6 p.m.

merchandise, will be half price. Go to [www.MoCoThrift.org](http://www.MoCoThrift.org).

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** Slow Blues lesson from 7-8:30 p.m. Dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, Md. Big Boy Little Band. \$17 for workshop and dance; \$12 for dance only. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222; [dbarker@glenechopark.org](mailto:dbarker@glenechopark.org) or visit [www.DanceDC.com](http://www.DanceDC.com). The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD 20812.

### JUNE 30

**Tuesday in the Park.** 11a.m.-noon. Join a park Naturalist at the Cabin John Regional Park playground to explore what’s happening outside. For ages 1-12. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at [www.ParkPASS.org](http://www.ParkPASS.org) or call 301-765-8660.

### THURSDAY/JULY 2

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** Lesson 8:30-9 p.m. and Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. Capital Blues hosts Slow Blues and Swing Dancing in the Back Room (East Addition) at Glen Echo Park. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to [info@CapitalBlues.org](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org). The Back Room entrance is located on the far left side of the Spanish Ballroom. The Glen Echo National Park is at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD 20812.

### SATURDAY, JULY 4

**Potomac 5K Run.** 8 a.m. The ninth annual Autism Speaks Potomac 5K Run, 1-Mile Walk will benefit Autism Speaks. Last year, 104 teams helped raise \$250,000. Specifics: 7:30 a.m. Pre-race warm-up (with professional trainer Fred Foster); 8 a.m. 5K road race; 8:05 a.m. 1 mile walk. Starts at Potomac Library at the intersection of River and Falls Roads in Potomac, Md. Entry fee is \$30 in advance, \$40 on the day. Children ages 14 and under is \$15. Packet Pick-Up will take place on Friday July 3 from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac United Methodist Church (intersection of Falls and South Glen Road). Online registration and fund-raising tools are available at: [www.potomac5K.org](http://www.potomac5K.org).

**Fireworks Display.** Germantown Glory will be held at the SoccerPlex in the South Germantown Recreational Park, 18041 Central Park Circle. A concert by Bobby and the Believers will begin at 7 p.m., with fireworks at approximately 9:30 p.m. Call 240-777-6820.

**Fireworks Display.** Mid-County

Sparkles will be held at Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Road, Kensington. Call 240-777-8115.

### SUNDAY/JULY 5

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30-6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Introductory Waltz Workshop 3-3:30 p.m. Dance from 3:30-6 p.m. The band Rhapsody will perform. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org) or e-mail [info@WaltzTimeDances.org](mailto:info@WaltzTimeDances.org). The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

**Medicinal Plant Walk.** 10-11:30 a.m. At River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Cabin John, Md.

### JULY 6 TO AUG. 15

**“Pirates! A Boy at Sea.”** At Imagination Stage. Performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances as well. Tickets from \$10-\$21. Visit <http://www.imaginationstage.org>.

### TUESDAY, JULY 7

**“Magic Toy Shop.”** 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.

**Northwest Boychoir of Seattle.** Forty singers ages 9-14. At 7:30 p.m. A 90-minute concert featuring sacred favorites as well as secular and patriotic songs. There is a free-will offering to benefit Community Ministries of Rockville. Under the direction of Joseph Crnko. At Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville. Go to [www.nwchoirs.org/](http://www.nwchoirs.org/)

### SATURDAY/JULY 11

**Pianist Michael Adcock.** 3 p.m. Presented by the Washington Conservatory of Music as part of the grand opening celebration and open house of The Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park. Adcock will perform music by Spanish, South American, and Spanish-influenced composers. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Boulevard in Bethesda, near the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and Goldsboro Rd. The Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park is in the South Arcade of the Park (by Adventure Theatre.) Call 301-320-2770 and [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org)



## FINE ART

**Local artist Mia van Zelst** won the First Place Award for Excellence in Clay at the 27th Biennial Exhibition of the Creative Crafts Council.

The exhibition of clay, fiber, glass and enamel artwork runs through July 11 at the Mansion at Strathmore in Bethesda, Md. Her winning entry, "Having All My Ducks in a Row," is a 7-piece display of high-fire stoneware duck forms finished in a buttery yellow semi-matte glaze.

**Images of San Miguel de Allende** by photographer Duncan Whitaker, now through June 28, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Md. Call 703-790-1835.

**Washington Printmakers at the Ratner Museum** will have a reception on Sunday, July 12 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Featured artists include: Barbara Bickley, Deron DeCesare, Jenny Freestone, Mike Hagan, Pauline Jakobsberg, Fleming Jeffries, Trudi Ludwig Johnson, Tonia Matthews, Margaret Adams Parker, Lee Newman, Terry Svat, Victoria Vogl, Max-Karl Winkler, and Ellen Verdon Winkler. Gallery hours are Sun. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Mon. - Thurs. 12 noon - 4 p.m.

**Strathmore Fine Art** presents the Washington premiere of Rubber Bullets and Feather Fountain, seven modern art sculptures by Daniel Wurtzel, from June 24 to Aug. 13. The Rubber Bullets are three sculptures over seven feet tall, plus three sculptures that are four feet 10 inches tall with butterflies suspended inside solid, clear, flexible, platinum based silicone rubber.

Held in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. The Mansion at Strathmore is located one-half mile north of the Capital Beltway and immediately adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore station on Metro's Red Line. There is no charge for admission to The Mansion at Strathmore. Gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call 301-581-5200 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery** announces the opening of the juried show "Antiquities" on July 7. The artists are inspired by ancient motifs and have interpreted them in the creation



**High-fire stoneware by Mia van Zelst**

of modern pieces. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. The show will close on Aug. 9. The gallery is located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street in Old Town Alexandria on the waterfront. The gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open until 9 p.m. Free admission.

## SCHOOLS NOTES

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

**Paulina Nicole Curto of Potomac** graduated from Stonehill College with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

**Alexander M. Gormley** graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland School of Law. He was ranked fifth in a class of 242. Prior to this, he worked for two years at M&T Bank.

**James F. X. Gormley** graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park with degrees in Education and History. He is teaching history to seventh- and eighth-graders at Redland Middle School in Rockville. Also, he is coaching JV lacrosse and is the assistant head lacrosse coach at Magruder High School.

The following local residents graduated from Connecticut College at the 91st commencement ceremony May 17.

❖ **Allison Rachel Weiss of Potomac** was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree. Weiss was awarded a degree with distinction in government and graduated cum laude.

❖ **Florent Mathieu Abaziou of Potomac** was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree. Abaziou was awarded a degree with distinction in French.

**Sonia Tabriz**, a Potomac resident and a junior at American University, participated in the Inaugural School of Public Affairs Undergraduate Research Symposium. She is currently majoring in law and society and psychology. The daughter of Maria Gholizadeh and

Sattar Tabriz graduated from Winston Churchill High School in 2005.

**Urania Dagalakis of Potomac**, daughter of Dr. Nicholas G Dagalakis and Artemis K Dagalakis of Potomac, was named to the Honor List of Oxford College, the two-year liberal arts division of Emory University located in Oxford, Ga., for the 2009 spring semester.

**The Holton-Arms School** announced the creation of the first-ever online school dedicated to secondary education for girls, The Online School for Girls. Developed by a consortium of independent all-girls' schools including Harpeth Hall School (Tenn.), Holton-Arms School, Laurel School (Ohio), and Westover School (Conn.), the School will begin offering pilot classes in the 2009-2010 school year.

**Villanova University students** with established outstanding academic records are honored by the dean of each college. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Engineering, one must be a matriculated full-time student and earn a semester grade point average of 3.25.

The following local residents are on the Dean List in the College of Engineering for the 2009 spring semester:

❖ **Daniel Kelly of Potomac**, College of Engineering

❖ **James Kruse of Potomac**, College of Engineering

**Montgomery County Public Schools** is now on Twitter, where news, information, and emergency messages are posted for those who choose to follow the school system, using this popular messaging service.

The brief messages and links posted on Twitter can be viewed online on many of today's cell or smart phone devices. To follow MCPS on Twitter, you must first sign up for a free account, then visit [www.twitter.com/mcps](http://www.twitter.com/mcps) and click on the Follow button.

**Allison Beatley** from Potomac has been named to the Dean's List for the 2008-2009 academic year in the College of Nursing at Villanova University (Villanova, Pa.). Beatley is a freshman.

The delegates from Montgomery County's District 15, Brian J. Feldman, Kathleen M. Dumais and Craig L. Rice are pleased to announce the recipients for the 2009-2010 Delegates Scholarships. In collaboration with the Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Delegates Feldman, Dumais and Rice are able to fund up to \$ 3,200 to each successful candidate. The local recipients are as follows:

❖ **Kathryn Byrne** of North Potomac  
❖ **Cyrus Garmestani** of Potomac;  
❖ **Samuel Kui** of North Potomac;  
❖ **Kiancarlos Linares** of Potomac;  
❖ **Stephanie Linares** of Potomac;  
❖ **Erin McCauley** of North Potomac;  
❖ **Arman Troncone** of Potomac;

The following students recently graduated from the College of William and Mary.

❖ **Marina Falcone** from Potomac with a Bachelor of Arts degree  
❖ **John Roche** from Potomac with a BBA degree  
❖ **Christine Liow** from North Potomac with a Bachelor of Science degree

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## SCHOOLS

# Partying for a Reason

How to top a blowout fifth-grade graduation party at the Potomac Community Center? Put the party to work. That was Marlo Sims' solution. Sims, a Beverly Farms Elementary School parent, decided to put together a graduation party for the graduates but in doing so thought it would be a good idea for the students to learn about charity. So on Tuesday, June 16, Beverly Farms students and families packed the Potomac Community Center — all of the graduates were invited and nearly all showed, said Sims — and through t-shirt sales and suggested donations, Sims and other parents raised more than \$600 that was given to two local charities, Autism Speaks and United Cerebral Palsy of the U.S.. Those charities were chosen because there are students in the fifth grade class who battle those disabilities, said Sims.

"This is really an opportunity to teach the kids [about philanthropy] ... that was really my personal goal," said Sims. "We should be always trying to give back at the same time, particularly in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLO SIMS

**Beverly Farms fifth-grade graduates partied last week at the Potomac Community Center and raised more than \$600 to donate to Autism Speaks and United Cerebral Palsy of the U.S.**

area that we're fortunate to raise our kids in."

The party was a blast too, with homemade decorations, a DJ, and

90-some 10 and 11-year-olds celebrating the start of summer and the end of elementary school.

— AARON STERN

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July 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

July 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

August 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

August 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

August 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

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# School's Out, MCSL Now in Session

Area coaches and swimmers welcome beginning of new season.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

To get a sense of how ingrained the beginning of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL) season has become in the eyes of children around the area, one only had to look to the assistant coaches during last Saturday morning's opening weekend matchup between Division C neighbors Potomac Glen and Seven Locks.

Potomac Glen's 22-year-old assistant, Dan Lucenti, had been swimming for the Gators since he was 10 years old so "as soon as I graduated from the team, I became a coach."

Robert Linnoila, a 19-year-old Churchill grad who will be a junior at Boston University in the fall, first learned how to swim as a four-year-old in the "winkies" program at Seven Locks and has been a part of the swim team ever since. So it only made sense to join the coaching ranks.

Swimmers can't get enough of the MCSL, now beginning its 51<sup>st</sup> year in existence with 89 teams throughout the county.

"I became a coach just because it's a lot of fun," said Linnoila. "It's competitive enough, but it's still a good time. It's a good transition being an older kid to an assistant coach because you have this general responsibility to lead everybody."

And though Saturday's meet between the two teams was called early thanks to thunder and lightning — it was resumed Monday night with Potomac Glen beating Seven Locks, 437-340 — nothing could dampen the spirit conjured up by the enthusiasm and buzz associated with another summer filled with swimming.

"The rain just kind of pumped me up even more," said 14-year-old Churchill student Todd Erickson of Potomac Glen.

"The opening of the pool and swim team, that's the kick off to summer," said 15-year-old Wootton student Julia Anderson of Potomac Glen. "There's just so much team spirit and you feel connected with people, since you don't normally see them in the summer outside of school."

IN AN AREA that has become known for its swimming thanks to the Olympic-level exploits of several area athletes from competitive winter club programs — Montgomery County-based Rockville Montgomery Swim Club (RMSC) and Curl Burke are the No. 1 and 2 ranked club teams, respectively, in the entire country, not to mention the North Baltimore Aquatic Club that produced Michael Phelps — the beginning of summer brings out the quirky celebrations, wild costumes, funny cheers, and even creative face paint displays.

Ask any swimmer and they'll say their love for the sport was born in the summer, in less-pressurized atmospheres like the MCSL. Because, most importantly, summer swim season reunites a family of sorts, the kind that has been built on a ritual of swimming fast, wildly encouraging teammates, and having fun each weekend over the course of several years.

"Meets like these remind me of why I started swimming, why I got into swimming, and how I started doing it a lot in the winter," said Serge Gould, a swimmer at Whitman who holds several Seven Locks Pool records. "A lot of other swim meets are really competitive and not so much fun. This is just really fun. You meet so many other kids, but the big difference is the amount of fun that you have."

"Self improvement is the main goal," said Linnoila of his coaching goals. "It's not so much that we want to win, we want people to do better than before and that's the



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

Potomac Glen erupts in a cheer during halftime of last Saturday's opening weekend swim meet against Seven Locks.

fun of swimming, seeing yourself get better."

IT DOESN'T HURT having choreographed cheers like Seven Locks' "Z Man" cheer in which 15-year-old Odin Soevik had a giant "Z" painted on his chest and ran around the pool with a towel draped around himself as a cape before doing a flip off the diving board.

Or when Lucenti stood atop a lifeguard chair, exhorting his team to get loud while

leading cheers at halftime. Even the end of one's age eligibility can't tarnish the genuine excitement the opening of the summer swim season creates.

"I miss the swimming the most, although I'm glad I'm not swimming anymore," said Lucenti. "Now these kids are faster than I was."

To have swim team results published in print or online as part of the Potomac Almanac, contact sports editor Mark Giannotto at mgiannotto@connectionnewspapers.com.

**Eighteen-year-old Sarah Olson of Seven Locks (left) uses a marker to write a giant "Z" on teammate Odin Soevik for the "Z Man" cheer, a Seven Locks tradition.**



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

The Potomac Glen team kneels down in anticipation of a cheer during halftime.



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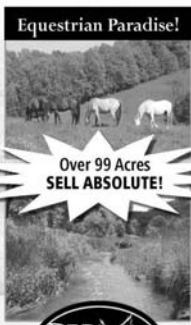
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# Skinny!?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I ever felt like Robert Di Niro (which would be never), it was recently when my co-worker, Winslow, called me skinny. She couldn't have been talking to me, could she? But since it was she and I speaking on the telephone (and it wasn't a conference call), it had to be me. Granted, I've lost weight, chemotherapy has an affect of doing that, but skinny?

If there's an adjective, disparaging or otherwise, that I haven't been called in my entire life, it's skinny. In fact, growing up, my nicknames (most often given to me by my older brother, Richard) almost exclusively had to do with my girth. Other than being called by my first and middle initials, K.B., I was called a variety of synonyms for fat: Fatso, Goodyear Blimp, Endicott "Chub" (after a former Massachusetts Governor, Endicott "Chub" Peabody; he wasn't skinny either) and my personal least favorite, corpulent. Look it up in the dictionary/thesaurus, my brother did; it means fat.

So for me to react, literally, when anyone calls me skinny, is beyond any sense of reality or proportion I've ever known. It's simply not relevant, accurate, possible, etc. However, as a cancer patient, surviving through six days of six-hours of chemotherapy (every three weeks) over the course of 15 weeks, give or take, will, as many of you might already know, dampen your eating enthusiasm, you might say. Food begins to matter less, sort of. Its unique taste disappears or worse, changes. Food you used to love now inspires zero interest. Food you never thought to eat becomes food you tolerate because it tastes no different (no worse) than the food you formerly loved but now only ingest as a matter of need/routine. And so, the passion for food is gone. The lust for food is gone. The desire to eat diminishes as the taste and flavor of food likewise diminishes.

Combine this disappointing change in your senses with the depressingly low energy level you're progressively struggling to maintain — a direct result of the chemotherapy destroying your red blood cells (in its battle to destroy the cancer cells) and causing anemia in the process, and your interest in food; physically, mentally, emotionally becomes practically nil. And unless you're incredibly diligent or disciplined, the result is, you lose weight. It's not exactly an ideal scenario for a chemo/cancer patient since your body needs sustenance/energy to fight/destroy the cancer but the demands on your body during this time can be overwhelming. As such, forces beyond your control (or so it seems) make it extremely difficult to maintain your weight.

And so I've lost weight. But skinny? 215 pounds is not skinny. Sure, it's 20 pounds that I've lost in the last three months, and perhaps 40 that I've lost in the last 30 months (due to a pre-diabetes diagnosis in Sept. '06), but 215 is a long way from skinny (especially so if I told you my lack-of-height). Heck, it's even a long way from the weight I've listed on my driver's license.

And though I'm hardly a shell of my former self, I can certainly appreciate and respect the perspective of friends and family members who've seen the changes, I'm not exactly shriveling up to nothing.

But neither am I "around" 250 pounds anymore.

Such is life as a chemo/cancer patient. I just hope its cheating death as well.

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

## PEOPLE

# Bringing Area Athletes to Israel

## Eleven Potomac residents to represent U.S. in Jewish athletic competition.

By NOAH GOETZEL  
THE ALMANAC

Lisa Reichmann, Open Half Marathon co-chairperson for team USA in the upcoming Maccabiah Games, hosted a send-off party on June 22 for all competitors in the Gaithersburg area participating in the upcoming quadrennial event.

The celebration featured many Potomac athletes who will compete in the July 13-23 Maccabiah Games scheduled to be held in several Israeli cities. Included in the festivities were Class of '09 Churchill alumni Gary Raizon and Marc Youngentob. After winning the Maryland State Golf Championship as part of Churchill's golf team this past fall, they will go against other international teams in the juniors golf tournament at their first Maccabiah Games.

"After playing for Greater Washington's golf team in the JCC Maccabi games from 2004-2007, I have always enjoyed traveling around the country and meeting new people," Raizon, 18, said. "The best part of my Maccabi Games experience was the opening ceremonies in front of huge crowds, so I can't wait to represent my country for an even more significant event."

The Maccabiah Games is Israel's version of the Olympics and is expected to host 5,300 athletes from around the world along with another 2,000 Israeli athletes during its 18<sup>th</sup> gathering this summer. According



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

From left to right: Gary Raizon, Harris Rosenblatt, Marc Youngentob, Yahly Levy, Sophie Jacobson, and Michael April will represent the Potomac area as members of Team USA in the upcoming Maccabiah Games in Israel.

to Maccabiusa.com, the Maccabiah Games is the largest sports event in the world aside from the Olympics and World Cup. This summer's event features participants from 60 countries playing 28 different sports.

"It is a fascinating, but nerve-racking experience that I'm sure I will never forget," said Sophie Jacobson, 17, a rising senior at Churchill who will run the 400-, 800-, 1500- and 3000-meter races for the Juniors Track and Field Championship. "I want to help my team get a gold medal and record my personal best time in the 800."

**JACOBSON RUNS** track and cross-country during the school year, but has been training every day over the summer to increase her mileage. Physician Michael April, 51, will also participate in his first ever Maccabiah Games when he plays catcher in the Men's Open Fast Pitch Softball Championships in Jerusalem this July.

A former Johns Hopkins baseball player, April says he trains year-round by running, lifting weights, playing for a local league,

and coaching Churchill's girls' softball team six days a week. However, April says he has upped his training since pursuing a spot on the USA Maccabiah team by traveling around the country and participating in various try-outs and tournaments.

"I value all of the friendships I have made with my teammates and look forward to meeting new Jewish athletes and strengthening my Jewish ties when I visit Israel for the first time," April said.

April may consider competing in the Pan American Games or Maccabi Australia International Games in the future, but at 51 he considers himself fortunate to compete in this summer's games.

Other Potomac residents participating in the Maccabiah Games are April's wife, Linda (men's open softball manager), Daniel Grunfeld (men's open basketball), Jashua Hafkin (open swimming), Yahly Levy (juniors swimming), Jonathan Missner (masters tennis), Harris Rosenblatt (masters tennis), and Amanda Saber (women's open field hockey).

# Potomac Author Writes New Lincoln Book

By STEPHANIE SPERNAK  
THE ALMANAC

Anthony Pitch, 70, historian and longtime Potomac resident, has written a new book about Abraham Lincoln titled, "They Have Killed Papa Dead! The Road to Ford's Theater, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance."

According to Pitch, Lincoln's assassination is the saddest event in American history. "Here you had a President," Pitch said, "who was an extraordinary human being, a rare man of compassion, wisdom, judgment, and humor, brutally cut down by a young megalomaniac." Despite thousands of books devoted to Lincoln's iconic journey from log cabin to White House, Pitch was convinced that a more intimate story about the emotional aftermath of the assassination remained to be told. So Pitch began what would be a nine-year effort to find his story among the private communications of Lincoln's contemporaries, in primary sources such as letters to family members, diaries, and journals.

Pitch did most of his research in the

manuscript collections archived at the Library of Congress on Capitol Hill, a public resource he described as a "pot of gold." Since his home in Potomac is relatively close to the library, he said he enjoyed the luxury of easily going back and forth as many times as he needed. He said his new book contains 1,900 footnotes that document every assertion.

About five or six years into it, Pitch said he began to feel burned out, and considered quitting the project. But, when his daughter, who is not a history buff, read his unfinished manuscript and told him the story was so sad it made her cry, Pitch said he was then motivated to finish the book.

Pitch said touching the personal effects of the long dead "is a solemn experience, it brings a connection, like visiting a grave site."

"When I held the actual, black-edge invitation to Lincoln's lying-in-state, Pitch said, "I felt as if I was there in the Capitol Rotunda." He also believes that handwriting style prompts additional insights about the writer, an extra dimension that future historians working in a digital world are likely

to miss out on.

Pitch was born in what is now Zimbabwe, Africa, and later moved with his family to England. He traces his interest in history to his formative years spent at the oldest school in England, the King's School, in Canterbury, dating from 597 A.D. In such well-preserved and ancient surroundings, Pitch said, "You grow up with history in your blood."

**PITCH IS THE AUTHOR** of seven other books, including "The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814," a recipient of the Maryland Historical Society Annual Book Prize and selection of the History Book Club. He operates a private history tour guide service and is a frequent speaker at area events. Formerly a journalist in England, Africa, and Israel, he came to the U.S. in the early 1980s to serve as senior editor for the U.S. News & World Report. He writes during his free time.

Pitch will be signing his books on Saturday, June 27, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the National Museum of American History, 2nd floor, 14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW.



# A Home Under Siege

In two years, five cars have crashed through the fence in the front yard of Jerzy Lamot's Falls Road home.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Two years ago Jerzy Lamot, a homebuilder by trade, built his dream home on Falls Road less than a quarter east of the Potomac Community Center. The inside of the 4,500 square-foot home is spacious and well appointed and in back of the home a sprawling deck overlooks a serenely landscaped backyard.

But in the front of the home cars keep crashing through Lamot's split rail fence and on to his lawn.

Five times in two years of living in his home cars have failed to negotiate the bend in Falls Road along which Lamot's home sits and have plowed through the ceramic imitation wood fence that lines the length of Lamot's yard. Just after 5 a.m. on Sunday, May 31 Lamot was awakened by a loud exploding sound. Outside it was raining and at first Lamot thought a transformer had blown but he immediately saw his home still had power. He looked through his bedroom

window and saw a taxi sitting on his lawn, surrounded by bits of fencing.

The good news was that the taxi had taken out a smaller portion of the fence than the last car that rammed through it. The bad news was that the last car to plow through Lamot's fence had done so just five weeks prior. That time more than half of the fence sustained damage and 10 small Leland cypress trees had to be replaced, Lamot said.

"He had to have been doing at least 80 miles per hour to do the damage that he did," Lamot said of the April incident. "You can see a lot of people just flying through this stretch. There's nothing you can do," Lamot said.

**ALL FIVE** of the crashes occurred under wet road conditions and four of the five occurred at night. Lamot said he has had trouble expressing his concerns to officials for the Maryland State Highway Administration, which maintains Falls Road.

Lamot said that over the last year he has had trouble expressing his concerns to officials for the Maryland State Highway Ad-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JERZY LAMOT

**Jerzy Lamot's Falls Road home has had five cars crash through it in two years. The most recent involved a taxi cab at 5 a.m. on Sunday, May 31.**

ministration, which maintains Falls Road, but State Highway's spokesman Chuck Gischlar said the agency has begun a 60-day evaluation of that stretch of the road and that that new signage and road striping could be options for getting drivers approaching that bend in the road to slow down. Gischlar said all components of the study should be complete by mid-August.

Andy Alderdice, a Realtor with W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors in Potomac said that people who live along busy roads can take certain defensive measures like putting re-

flectors on their fences or installing steel or stone fences. The best approach though, said Alderdice, is not to buy on busy roads.

That solution isn't an option for Lamot now, and Lamot said he doesn't like the defensive options because they would risk injuring or killing errant drivers. For now the best he can do is to continue haggling with the insurance company for the Washington, D.C.-based Midway Cab Association to repair his damaged fence, the price of which Lamot said has been estimated at \$2,800.

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