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Matthew Lowinger "Rocks the Fakey" at the Potomac Community Center's in-line skating and skateboarding symposium last week.

Rocking The Ramps

NEWS, PAGE 3

Berliner
Looks
Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 3

'A Faith-Driven
Life of Love
And Service'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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PHOTO BY LAUREN PIRES/THE ALMANAC

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Tiger Paws is a 2-year-old neutered male DSH Tabby cat. He was rescued from the wild as an older kitten and has turned out to be a real love. He's such an affection hound he will sometimes push his way to his foster mom past her own cats. Tiger Paws is a handsome, lively boy that will compliment any adopter's group of kitties.

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

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CRIME

A residential burglary occurred in the 9600 block of Traville Gateway Drive in North Potomac between 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 23 and 6 a.m. on Friday, July 24. No forced entry, property removed. Suspects also removed property from two unlocked vehicles inside the open garage.

A burglary was reported at St. Andrews Episcopal School, 8804 Post oak Drive in Potomac at an unknown time between Friday, July 17 and Monday, July 20. No signs of forced entry, nothing taken, but the interior was vandalized.

A residential burglary occurred in the 10600 block of Rivers Bend Court in Potomac on Sunday, July 19 at 12 p.m. Unknown type entry, nothing taken.

A theft from a vehicle occurred overnight in the 11800 block of Cherry Grove Drive in North Potomac on Tuesday, July 14. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed coins.

A theft from a vehicle occurred in the 14500 block of Antigone Drive in North Potomac between Thursday, July 16 and Friday, July 17 at an unknown time. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed an iPod and camera.

A theft from a vehicle occurred in the 11400 block of Flints Grove Lane in North Potomac overnight between Thursday, July 16 and Friday, July 17. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed coins.

A theft from a vehicle occurred in the 11500 block of Brandy Hall Lane in North Potomac at an unknown time between Sunday, July 19 and Monday, July 20. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed coins.

BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail almanac@connectionnewspapers.com or fax the submission to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-917-6407.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 12

Open House. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Montgomery County Public Schools Residency and International Admissions Office will hold an open house at the Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, in Rockville. Call 301-230-0686.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Grief and Healing. 1:30-3 p.m. Montgomery Hospice Drop-in Discussion for anyone mourning the death of a loved one. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

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'A Faith-Driven Life of Love'

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, longtime Potomac resident and advocate for people with intellectual disabilities, dies.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy and the late U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy, died early Tuesday morning, Aug. 11, 2009, in Massachusetts.

"She was the light of our lives, a mother, wife, grandmother, sister and aunt who taught us by example and with passion what it means to live a faith-driven life of love and service to others," said her family in a statement.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was the force behind President Kennedy establishing the President's Committee on Mental Retardation in 1961, the development of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development in 1962, and she founded the Special Olympics in 1968.

On May 9, 2009 family and friends gathered in the vast courtyard of the National Portrait Gallery to honor Eunice Kennedy Shriver at a ceremony celebrat-



Artist David Lenz created a portrait of Eunice Shriver that addressed one of her many legacies: the athletes of Special Olympics. The painting, unveiled May 9, is part of the National Portrait Gallery's permanent collection.

ing the unveiling of her portrait, now part of its permanent collection.

"This is a portrait for the 21st century," said Gallery director Martin E. Sullivan at the time. "It is of a strong woman who has changed lives."

Shriver is shown in the portrait with several Special Olympics athletes.

"She set out to change the world and to change



Eunice and Sargent Shriver in October 2008

SEE EUNICE, PAGE 4

Berliner Looks Ahead

Heading into an election year, Potomac's first-term County Councilman eyes challenges.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The day before the Montgomery County Council held its final hearings before recessing for the month of August, Councilman Roger Berliner (D-Potomac, Chevy Chase, Bethesda) was a man ready for a vacation. Just back from speaking at a weekend conference of the National Association of Counties held in Tennessee, Berliner's voice was raspy as he sat in his office in the late afternoon on Monday, July 27, and he talked of the following day's work like a weary marathon runner approaching his last mile.

Three years into his first term as the first Democrat to represent District 1, Berliner, of Potomac, is the first representative from Potomac to ascend to the vice presidency of the Council since it adopted districted representation in 1990. If tradition holds in the coming year, Berliner will ascend to the presidency of the Council, another first for a District 1 representative.

In an interview with The Almanac, Berliner analyzed his first term in public office and saw a lot to like. Three years ago he ran on a platform of finding common ground between disparate points of view, promoting progressive environmental and energy policies, fiscal restraint, and providing strong constituent service. In the 2006 election year of political upheaval when

SEE BERLINER, PAGE 4

Berliner

ON THE COUNCIL: First-term representative to the Montgomery County Council representing District 1 (Potomac, Chevy Chase, Bethesda); lead member for Energy and Environment; Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E).

PAST EXPERIENCE: president of Berliner Law, PLLC, specializing in energy law; Montgomery County Democratic Area Coordinator; former host of the Montgomery Community Television show "Search for Common Ground in Montgomery County," a program that brought adversaries on local issues together in order to forge compromises; former legislative director for U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum; former senior policy advisor to U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman; former director of Congressional liaison in the Carter administration

EDUCATION: Dartmouth College, McGeorge School of Law

PHOTO BY LAUREN PIRES/THE ALMANAC

Youths Learn To Rock the Ramps

Community Center offers camp for rollerblading, skateboarding.

BY LAUREN PIRES
POTOMAC ALMANAC

"Rocking the Fakey," "Crossovers" and "Rock and Roll" are just a few of the basic tricks young skaters strive to learn.

From August 3-6, the Potomac Community Center held an in-line skating and skateboarding symposium run by American In-Line Skating.

"The intent was to give skateboarding and rollerblading opportunities," said Cindy Cheamitru, PCC activity coordinator. "A skateboarder was featured in our summer guide, so it sparked all the kids interests."

The class, which took place from 9 a.m.



Caroline Kahn lands a jump with the help of counselors Chris Church (right) and Zach Linzer.

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ALMANAC**

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Ivan Ross, 9, takes a swing at one of the game stations during Saturday's Community Day in the Scotland residential area.



DJ Mike Hall entertains a group of dancers during Scotland's Community Day on Saturday, where residents gathered for games, music and a cookout in the residential area.

PHOTOS BY ANSLEY LABARRE/THE ALMANAC

Community Day in Scotland

Scotland's youth make their way to the moon bounce, as the residents enjoyed a variety of activities during Saturday's Community Day. "My daughters look forward to Scotland community day every summer vacation," said resident Chuckie Arrington.

Berliner Looks Ahead

FROM PAGE 3

many longtime Republican representatives at all levels of government in Maryland and around the country lost out in the political groundswell away from the Republican party, Berliner ousted incumbent Republican Councilman Howie Denis who had served since 2000.

Since then, say those who have worked both with him and against him, Berliner has forged an identity as a willing negotiator, a proponent for environmental and energy legislation and an advocate of controlled growth supported by mass transit. His detractors say he can be wishy-washy and too quick to compromise.

IN NOVEMBER, 2007, Berliner successfully opposed a proposed development in an open space area near Bethesda Row and he drafted a letter to Montgomery County Planning Board chairman Royce Hanson that detailed his opposition to what was described as a "Tokyo-style linear park" that included an eight-story hotel. In his letter Berliner included architectural renderings for a less obtrusive design that preserved the open space presently there, and

eventually the developer withdrew their initial plan. It was a win for the community, said Berliner, and one that he points to as one of his major accomplishments in the past three years.

"To me, if I don't do anything else but I've saved that public commons in the heart of Bethesda that will be an accomplishment that I'll be most happy with," said Berliner.

That type of constructive debate is what Berliner — who used to host the Montgomery Community Television show "Search for Common Ground in Montgomery County" — prides himself on.

"He's one of the more civil personalities on the Council," said political observer Adam Pagnucco, who runs the blog Maryland Politics Watch.

An energy lawyer by trade, perhaps Berliner's most significant strides have come in energy and environmental legislation. He successfully introduced a package of legislation — passed on April 22, 2008 (Earth Day) — that requires

SEE POTOMAC'S, PAGE 5

Eunice Shriver

FROM PAGE 3

us, and she did that and more. She founded the movement that became Special Olympics, the largest movement for acceptance and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities in the history of the world. Her work transformed the lives of hundreds of millions of people across the globe, and they in turn are her living legacy," said the statement of the family on Tuesday.

In March, 2008, the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development was renamed the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. At the ceremony NIH director Elias Zerhouni, M.D. said Shriver's effort was a beacon for scientists and for the millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"She lobbied President Kennedy with a vengeance," said her brother U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy in his remarks at the institute's 45th anniversary honoring Shriver on March 3. "As we all know, she was a very successful advocate."

At the event, Shriver, then 86, challenged those present with the words: "I ask you: Stand up for people with intellectual disabilities for the rest of your lives."

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Potomac's First-Term County Councilman Eyes Challenges

FROM PAGE 4

new homes in the county to be built to "Energy Star" energy efficiency ratings, mandates that the county develop and periodically review a climate protection plan, and takes steps to eliminate the use of SUVs in the county vehicle fleet, among other initiatives.

Berliner also introduced the Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) that was passed earlier this year through which residents can

obtain a low interest loan from the county to make home improvements that will reduce their energy costs. The loan is repaid through a voluntary line item on the property tax bill that runs with the property. Berliner estimates that the money saved each year will more than pay for the cost of the loan.

"He seems to have a grander design of how can Montgomery County truly become more energy efficient, reduce greenhouse gases, address global warming," said David

Hauck, head of the Montgomery County chapter of the Sierra Club. "Roger seems to be trying to take it up to the next level."

Councilman Marc Elrich (D-At large) described Berliner's environmental legislation measures as "genuinely progressive" in an email to The Almanac.

Berliner put his "common ground" approach to work two years ago when he brought together members of the development community with members of the community to create the Infill Development

Taskforce en route to producing legislation that placed greater restrictions on the size of homes and additions that can be built in existing neighborhoods. Early in his tenure Berliner helped pass legislation that created a buffer zone along the C&O Canal National Historical Park in which residents can install only "rustic-style" split-rail fences and restricts the types of auxiliary structures they can build near the Canal.

"He's good at bringing people together" SEE BERLINER, PAGE 8



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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.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 12

The Brilliant Inventions, an indie folk duo from Atlanta (Eliot Bronson and Josh Lamkin). 8 p.m. at Branded '72 (formerly O'Brien's BBQ), 387 E. Gude Dr., in Rockville. \$15/general, \$12/members or in advance. Call 301-275-7459 or go to www.focusmusic.org.

Diggin' the Bone Pit. 7-8 p.m. Ages 5-16. \$2. Death is part of the cycle of life. But what happens to dead things? Come explore our 'bone pit' to find out. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at www.ParkPASS.org or call 301-765-8660.

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Professional Development/Adult Studies. 7-8 p.m. Ages 18-up. \$7. An in-depth exploration of topics naturally relevant to science and outdoor education curricula. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777



PHOTO BY ERICA LAND

Jonathan Helwig is Daddy Warbucks, Corrieanne Stein is Annie, and Baby Newton is Sandy in the Musical Theater Center's "Annie."

Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at www.ParkPASS.org or call 301-765-8660.

Blues Dance. Beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. Rotating DJs and instructors to inspire and challenge you. \$8 admission. No partner is necessary.

AUG. 14-16

"Annie, The Musical." Starring Corrieanne Stein from Rockville. The 13-year-old student at Robert Frost School was a part of the original cast of "Billy Elliot, the Musical" on Broadway from June of 2008 through this past July, playing Margaret Gormley of the Ballet Girls ensemble for over 300 performances. There will be four performances of this production, including evening performances on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Single show tickets are \$18.50 for adults and \$16.50 for children, students and seniors. A "Senior Special" admission of \$8.50 is available for the Saturday, Aug. 15 matinee for seniors 60 and older. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Tickets can be purchased by calling 240-314-8690. Go to www.musicaltheatercenter.org.

At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact Email: info@capitalblues.org.

Tribute to Woodstock's 40th Anniversary. 7:30 p.m. The roster of 35 national and local artists includes Eddie from Ohio, playing favorites of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; Tommy Lepson and Bill Kirchen, performing Joe Cocker and Credence Clearwater Revival respectively; and Margot MacDonald, channeling Jefferson Airplane. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 14

Moths at Night. 8-9 p.m. Ages 6-14. \$5. Moths far outnumber butterflies in number of species and population. By drawing them to our blacklight and baits, learn to recognize common groups and see how they differ from their flashier cousins. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register for programs at www.ParkPASS.org or call 301-765-8660.

The Bethesda Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Features 13 galleries and studios that showcase artwork created locally, nationally and internationally including painting, photography, sculpture and mixed media. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Super Fiesta Latina Party. Lesson from 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At Glen Echo Park's ballroom Annex. With teacher and DJ Fabio Bonini playing the best of Salsa, Bachata, merengue, Cha-Cha, Reggaeton and more. \$15 admission. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com.

Contra Dance. Beginner lesson 7:30-8:15 p.m. Contra dance 8:30-11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. With the Glen Echo Open Band. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

Swingin' the Blues. 8 p.m. to midnight. Choose either an introductory West Coast Swing lesson with Ken Roesel or a slow Blues lesson with Mike and Donna from 8-9 p.m. Dancing to live music by Big Boy Little. \$14 admission. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact Email: dbarker@glenechopark.org

SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$14 admission. With Natty Beaux, a combo featuring musicians from Billy Coulter Band, The Junkyard saints, Alexandria Klezmet and Western Bop. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: wscdvolunteer@hotmail.com

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Sunday Blues. 7-11 p.m. Mostly Blues Dance with the ACME Blues Co. Slow Blues lesson 7-8:30 p.m. Dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Admission \$12 dance only/\$17 lesson & dance. Email: dbarker@glenechopark.org.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Newcomers' welcome lesson at 7 p.m. Dancing from 7:30-10:30 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Admission \$12 nonmembers/\$9 FSGW members. Contact: www.fsgw.org.

Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. Beginning waltz lesson 3-3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. to the music of Addison Bleufonte. \$8 admission. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: info@waltztimedances.org

Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 3-6 p.m. Cajun/Zydeco dance with live music. Dance lesson 3-3:30 p.m. followed by dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net

Canoeing 101. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Have a great day on the water on the

Bethesda Art Walk Is Friday, Aug. 14

Patrons can delight in eight downtown Bethesda galleries at the Bethesda Art Walk. Scheduled for Friday, Aug. 14, the Bethesda Art Walk allows art lovers to visit downtown Bethesda's gallery community from 6-9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month.

Bethesda's galleries feature painting, sculpture, photography, pottery and mixed media. Many galleries change exhibits monthly and hold receptions showcasing the featured artist in conjunction with the Bethesda Art Walk. Attendees are invited to delight in the artwork, enjoy free refreshments and to shop at these galleries.

Downtown Bethesda has become one of the most respected gallery communities in the Washington, D.C., area. One of the first initiatives produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, the Bethesda Art Walk has given art patrons, residents and guests the opportunity to explore Bethesda's galleries during Friday evenings since June 2002.

The Bethesda Art Walk will continue through 2009, with guided tours returning on Sept. 11 and Oct. 9. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Potomac River while learning the basics of canoeing. Outfitter Byron Bradley will offer a hands-on learning experience with some basic canoe skills needed to navigate the river. Must RSVP to chapin@potomac.org by Aug. 14. Bring your own canoe or, if one is needed, reserve one when you send in your RSVP. River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Cabin John, Md.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Blues Dance. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. \$8 admission. Beginner workshop from 8:15-9 p.m. Rotating DJ. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: info@capitalblues.org

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

La Divina Milonga Party. 8:30 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. In addition to a warm-up time from 8:30 - 9 p.m., the evening will include two lessons from 9 - 9:30 p.m. The lessons are followed by dancing to recorded music from 9:30 p.m. - Midnight with Teacher and DJ Fabio Bonini, playing Traditional Tango, Milongas, Waltz and Tango Nuevo. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: Jennifer@foreverdancing.com.

Contra Dance. 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. Lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. followed by called dances to live music. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

Diggin' the Bone Pit. 7-8 p.m. \$2. 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. At Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Register at www.ParkPASS.org or call 301-765-8660.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. - midnight. \$15 admission. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. Beginner swing lesson at 8 p.m., followed by the band from 9 p.m. to midnight. At

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Go to www.tomcunningham.com.

"Bunny Business." 10 a.m. Part of the "Tiny Tots" program. Designed for the youngest theater patrons (ages 0 - 4). The shows are shorter, the lights stay on, the doors stay open and the show is set up on the floor. The performance begins at 10 a.m. before the regular main stage production. Tickets, \$5, adults and children (including babies). Reservations strongly recommended. At Glen Echo Park. Call 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Contra and Square Dance. 7 - 10:30 p.m. \$12 admission. Focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Newcomer lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances called by David Millstone and the band, Ethan & Anna. At the Bumper Car Pavilion of Glen Echo Park. Contact: www.fsgw.org.

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3-6 p.m. \$12 admission. Dance lesson at 3 p.m. followed by dancing to live music from 3:30-6 p.m. Dancers will enjoy foxtrot, two-step, waltz, cha-cha, rumba, swing and more. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: dave@hotsociety.net

B'Nai Tzedek's Family Fun Day. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. End of summer celebration for the entire family. Fun includes: games, moon bounce, rock wall, obstacle course, Guitar Hero, DJ, Israeli dancing, great food, and lots more! Free and open to the community. Nominal charge for food. Call Jamie at 301-299-0225 or jperkins@bnaitzedek.org.

Jewish Health, Wealth & Lifestyle Expo. Noon to 5 p.m. 100 exhibitors. Fun, entertainment, shopping and Jewish culture. At the Bolger Center, Democracy Blvd., Potomac. Go to www.JewishLifestyleExpo.com

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

"Knight Time". Part of "Tiny Tot Tuesdays," a program designed for the youngest theater patrons (ages 0 - 4). The shows are shorter, the lights stay on, the doors stay open and the show is set up on the floor. Performances on two Tuesdays each month at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Tickets, \$5, adults and children (including babies). Reservations strongly recommended. Call 301-634-5380 visit www.thepuppetco.org. At Glen Echo Park.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese SUPPORT FOR UPSCALE HOMEBUYERS

Median-priced homes in many desirable metropolitan markets are approaching the half-million-dollar mark, so even people with six-figure salaries are feeling challenged when buying a home. While these buyers may have access to a comfortable amount of cash for a down payment, it may not be enough to purchase the high-end home or upscale urban apartment they really want.

A recent article published by MSN Money reports that new programs are providing assistance for borrowers whose yearly income places them in the top 10 percent of American wage earners. For example, there is the Phoenix Realty Group in Los Angeles and San Diego, who are investing \$190 million to build housing for families who earn up to 200% of the median income. There is the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA), which started as a non-profit housing advocacy corporation and now operates a \$10 billion mortgage lending program. NACA offers homebuyers no-money-down loans with interest rates a point or more below prime. Borrowers pay no closing costs, points or private mortgage insurance, and there are no income restrictions to qualify for the program.

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Berliner Reviews First Term of Office

FROM PAGE 5

when it is possible to do so," said current Council president Phil Andrews (D-Dist. 3), the council's longest serving member who is now finishing his third term.

On development issues, Berliner tends to be a swing vote, sometimes favoring developers and other times siding with conservation and smart growth advocates, said Pagnucco. For instance, said Pagnucco, Berliner helped craft a more restrictive growth policy for the county in 2007 and last month voted to support a widening project for I-270.

One of Denis' strengths, said Berliner, was his constituent service and in the 2006 campaign Berliner pledged that he would be just as responsive. At public forums he urges the audience to contact his office with their concerns and to take advantage of what he calls "the best staff in the world."

"He's always been a person we can go to listen to our concerns," said Liza Durant, president of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association.

Despite his successes, Berliner has not pleased everyone. He up-



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

First-term Montgomery County Councilman and Potomac resident Roger Berliner (D-Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase) is in line to become the council's president next year.

set some of his constituents in Chevy Chase when he backed a light rail option for the proposed Purple Line to run beside the Capital Crescent Trail and he upset other Chevy Chase residents when he voted — along with the rest of the council — to reject the Rollingwood community's petition to establish its own municipality. He has had a lukewarm relationship with the Montgomery County Education Association — the county teachers union — beginning from the time they backed

Denis in the 2006 race and continuing through the budget process for the 2008 fiscal year when he publicly criticized the organization for resisting a cut in a scheduled 8 percent cost of living pay increase for its members.

"There have been times we wish Mr. Berliner had been a stronger voice for our schools and students. His position on next year's school budget will be telling," said Jon A. Gerson, director of community outreach for MCEA.

Opponents of the Intercounty

Connector — including some Potomac-based activists — have been miffed by Berliner's unwillingness to publicly express his opposition to the \$2.5 billion project. Efforts to get the County Council to issue a statement of opposition stalled in part because Berliner did not join the effort, said Hauck. A similar measure was passed unanimously by Prince George's County but Berliner said he didn't back such an initiative because it would be divisive and strictly symbolic.

"It would not be a project I would champion today. But it is what it is," he told The Almanac.

Many of those interviewed for this story said that they like Berliner's stances on energy and environmental issues but that his accomplishments have been of the "low-hanging fruit" variety, that they do not always sense that he is willing to push legislation that would be unpopular with his colleagues and that his desire to find common ground sometimes strays towards appeasement.

Giny Barnes, the environmental chair of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association said that while Berliner's climate

SEE BERLINER, PAGE 11

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POTOMAC ALMANAC

SPORTS

Lawrence Moves On

Aubree Lawrence, the Churchill girls' basketball coach the past three seasons, is leaving the school as both a teacher and coach



Former Churchill girls' basketball coach Aubree Lawrence

The Bulldogs went 16-8 this past winter, losing in the 4A/3A West regional semifinals to Northwest. Lawrence compiled a 46-26 record over her three years at the school. "I'm excited about the opportunity, al-

though it was very hard to leave the Churchill kids," Lawrence said in an email. Lawrence also served as an assistant athletic director. No announcement has been made about a replacement.

to take the same positions at St. Charles East High School outside of Chicago, effective next month. Lawrence, a Chicago area native, helped bring the Bulldog girls' basketball program back to the upper echelon of the county ranks following a couple of down years. Churchill won state titles in girls' basketball in 2002 and 2003.

though it was very hard to leave the Churchill kids," Lawrence said in an email.

Lawrence also served as an assistant athletic director. No announcement has been made about a replacement.

Ares Shatters Swim Records

At the MCSL All Stars Relays meet last month, the Inverness Forest Nessies set two county-wide relay records. Eric Eig, Bridget Dromerick, Natalya Ares, and Austin Cole broke the 13/14 Mixed Freestyle record by more than two seconds, while Bridget and Natalya joined with Laura Garcia and Natalie Kronfli to smash the 13/14 Girls Medley record by almost four seconds.

Then, at the MCSL Individual All Stars meet on Aug. 1, Natalya Ares, a standout on the Churchill swim team this past winter, broke the MCSL Girl's 13-14 age group butterfly record. The most remarkable part was her time (28.70) would have also broken the county record for the 15-18 age group had she been eligible.



Natalya Ares of Inverness Forest Pool during her record breaking butterfly swim at the MCSL All-Stars meet on Aug. 1.

Georgetown Baseball Camp

The Georgetown University baseball team will host its annual Fall Prospect Camp on Sept. 13 at Georgetown Prep. The camp is open to all high school students and will involve instruction from Head Coach Pete Wilk, assistant coaches Curtis

Brown and J.J. Brock and various Hoya baseball players. The day-long camp will start at 10 a.m. and includes drills to improve throwing, hitting, infield defense, outfield defense, pitching, catching and base running. Hitters will also take batting practice and learn techniques to improve these areas of their game, while pitchers will throw off of the mound to hitters as coaches provide advice.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS TRYOUT INFORMATION

The dog days of August have descended upon the area, which can only mean one thing: the fall high school sports season is just around the corner. Practices for all fall sports teams begin Aug. 15. To tryout for any sport in Montgomery, prospective athletes must bring a completed physical form. Here's some more information for those looking to tryout.

CHURCHILL

Football: This is new coach Joe Allen's first training camp at Churchill and he's making sure everything runs smooth. Equipment pickup will be on Aug. 14. Incoming seniors must show up at 9 a.m., juniors at 10 a.m., sophomores at 11 a.m., and freshman at noon. For more information, contact Allen at jallen65@verizon.net.

Field Hockey: Prospective field hockey players should meet on the field hockey field at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15. All those trying out must bring a completed physical, sneakers for running, shin guards, a molded mouth guard, and a field hockey stick. For more information contact coach Monica Malanoski at Monica_l_malanoski@mcpsmd.org

Cross Country: All cross country run-

ners should meet coach Steve Bettis on the track at 9 a.m. Aug. 15. Contact coach Bettis at coachbettis@yahoo.com

Girls Tennis: Tennis tryouts will be conducted Aug. 15 at 8 a.m. on the tennis courts. Contact coach Ben Woods at Benjamin_h_woods@mcpsmd.org

Boys Soccer: All prospective players must meet on Aug. 14 in the main gym at 6 p.m. to collect the necessary forms. Tryouts will be held Aug. 15 at Bretton Country Club beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, contact coach Arnold Tarzy at atarzy@aol.com.

Golf: All prospective players should meet at 8 a.m. on Aug. 15 at the Falls Road Golf Course driving range. Contact coach Michael Fisher at ACEMifi@aol.com.

Girls Soccer: All prospective players should meet on Aug. 15 on the school's baseball field at 7 a.m. Contact coach Haroot Hakopian at Haroot_hakopian@mcpsmd.org.

Girls Volleyball: Prospective players should meet at 9 a.m. on Aug. 15 in the main gym. Contact coach Amanda Cook at Amanda_cook@mcpsmd.org

WOOTTON

Football: Some conditioning work has

already started, but equipment pickup and a season kickoff picnic will take place Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. Formal practice begins Aug. 15 at 8 a.m. Go to www.woottonfootball.com for more information.

Field Hockey: Field hockey practice begins Aug. 15 at 8:30 a.m. All prospective players must bring signed forms, cleats, running shoes, two mouth guards, shin guards, and a water bottle. Email Coach Parrish at smparrish49@comcast.net for more information

Cross Country: Official practice begins Aug. 15. Contact coach Kellie Redmond at kellie.redmond@yahoo.com.

Girls Tennis: Tryouts will take place on Aug. 17 at Frost Middle School at 8 a.m.

Boys Soccer: Preseason registration, with all completed forms, will take place on Aug. 14 at 7:30 a.m. Tryouts begin Aug. 15 at 7:30 a.m. at Frost Middle School.

Golf: Tryouts will be held at Poolesville Golf Course on Monday, Aug. 17 and Tuesday, Aug. 18. Tee times will begin at 2:30 on Monday and 10 on Tuesday. If interested, email Erin Williams @ Erin_C_Williams@mcpsmd.org. Specific tee times will be assigned and communicated over email.

Girls Soccer: Meet at 8:45 a.m. on the

Wootton track on Aug. 15.

Girls Volleyball: Tryouts will be held starting Aug. 15 at 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Because of roof repairs in the Wootton gym, the location of tryouts has yet to be determined. Check www.woottonathletics.org for updates.

WHITMAN

All prospective athletes must bring a completed health inventory form, medical card form, and a signed athletic code of conduct/contract. All three can be found at the Whitman athletics website. All tryouts take place Aug. 15 unless otherwise noted

Football: Meet at 8 a.m. on top field
Field Hockey: Meet at 9 a.m. on field hockey field

Cross Country: Meet at 10 a.m. on track

Girls Tennis: Meet at 7:30 a.m. on tennis courts

Boys Soccer: Meet at 7 a.m. on stadium field

Golf: Tryouts will be on Aug. 17 beginning at 1:45 p.m. at Falls Road Golf Course

Girls Soccer: Meet at 7 a.m. on field hockey field

Girls Volleyball: Meet at 9 a.m. in main gym.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Miami University awarded 3,217 degrees to students during spring commencement exercises Saturday, May 9, at Yager Stadium.

❖ **Drew Chiartas Hunsinger** of Potomac received a B.S. in Business.

❖ **Richard Wallace Luchs** of Potomac received a bachelor of arts degree.

❖ **Caitlin Brent Slowinski** of

Potomac received a B.S. in Business.

❖ **Jennifer Gayle Tucker** of

Potomac received a B.A. in Architecture.

❖ **Lindsey Ann Kane** of North Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

❖ **William Lee** of North

Potomac received a B.S. in Business

❖ **Katheryn Marie Phillips** of North Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The following Miami University students who achieved a 3.5 or better

grade point average for second semester 2008-2009 have been named to the dean's list recognizing academic performance.

❖ Richard Wallace Luchs of Potomac;

❖ Caitlin Brent Slowinski of Potomac;

❖ Jennifer Gayle Tucker of Potomac.

The following residents are participating in a summer internship program through Connecticut College: **Claire Dufek**, resident of Potomac, is interning for A Friendly Hand in Santa Barbara, Honduras, working in the social services field. **Justin Levy**, resident of Potomac,

is interning for Yunnan Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Dikar, working in the nongovernmental organization/non-profit field.

William Thompson, a resident of North Potomac, received a Bachelor of Arts in Markets & Culture during the May 2009 Commencement at SMU.

Daniel Wolk, son of Potomac residents Lawrence and Susan Wolk, was named to the dean's list at Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences and Human

Performance for the spring 2009 term with a GPA of 3.5.

Heather Mueller, daughter of Potomac residents Michael and Janice Mueller, was named to the dean's list at Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences for the spring 2009 term.

Paris Magaziner, a resident of Potomac, received a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communications and Public Affairs during the May 2009 Commencement at SMU.

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Time Out

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



It's been nine consecutive weeks of cancer-columns and though I have every intention (and need, quite frankly) of continuing them, this week I will be deviating from that most recent norm. And the reason for this deviation is a sad one. After 14 years and nearly two months, and after careful consideration and consultation with our veterinarian, we made the extremely difficult decision to euthanize Bailey, our sweet, affectionate and loving golden retriever.

Purchased as an 8-week old, pure-bred puppy in Aug. 1995 (born June 10), Bailey was my constant companion. As is common with goldens, they tend to bond with one member of the family; I was that family member. I nurtured him, attended obedience classes with him, trained him, fed and watered him, "treated" him, played with him and slept with him. And for that, I received his loyalty and devotion, as only dogs can give.

His death, from complications from pneumonia (of unknown origin), a mega-esophagus, a cancerous tumor in his spleen which required major surgery, and hips which couldn't support his weight, were too much to overcome.

Trying not to be selfish, and trying to consider what would be in Bailey's best future-quality-of-life interest, given his age (88 on the relative-to-humans age chart), we all agreed that the medical demands on an old dog with limited life expectancy under ideal circumstances, let alone one needing anesthesia, surgery, post-op recovery and rehabilitation, multiple medications to treat his miscellaneous infections, all to be followed by weeks of chemotherapy, seemed excessive.

Three hours after the first phone call with our veterinarian when she outlined Bailey's multiple health problems, we decided to end Bailey's suffering and so we called back. A verbal authorization was needed. A second veterinarian came on the phone and asked me the necessary questions. With tears streaming down my face and my answers a jumbled, cracking mess, I got the words out to euthanize Bailey. And then it was over. We said we wanted Bailey's ashes and then they asked if we wanted a clay-mold paw print. Which of course we did; physical reminders we will always cherish. We'll likely bury Bailey's ashes next to his cat-brother Smokey, with whom Bailey was raised. They began their lives together (as kitten and puppy) and they now they will spend their after-lives together as well.

Bailey's demise seemed to happen so suddenly. Days before, he was trotting around the yard with a huge rock in his mouth (as usual). Then his eating slowed down, then he had trouble getting out of his bed, then he started throwing up; all in matter of days. I called the vet that morning and got an appointment later that same day. After an initial examination, the vet asked if he could take x-rays of Bailey.

With my help, we lifted Bailey on to the x-ray platform. A few minutes later, the vet showed me Bailey's x-rays. There was a huge mass/blockage in his throat, which explained why Bailey hadn't been eating. He had a temperature as well. The doctor's mood was grim. He recommended that to get Bailey the immediate medical care he needed (rather than waiting weeks to see a specialist; they're all so busy, he said) I should take Bailey to the Emergency Veterinary Hospital in Bowie, one with specialists, that night, for an immediate assessment, which I did. And the rest you've read. The end came approximately 20 hours later.

Bailey was a great dog. He was the center of our lives for more than 14 years. We loved him and miss him terribly. We think we see him and hear him all over the house. The last thing I did with him was hug him and kiss him on the mouth. We know he's at peace now and out of pain.

I imagine that soon we will be as well. Time is all we need.

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

COMMUNITY



Sam Strasser (11) "grinds" on a skateboard.



Corinne Chapman (11) coming off a game of Star Wars.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN PIRRES/THE ALMANAC

Youths Learn To Rock the Ramps

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to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, were led and supervised by five camp counselors: Arturo McCarthy, Ian Warner, Griffin, Chris Church, Zach Linzer and operations manager Mike Krivin.

"[This camp] is so much a fun," 11-year-old Sam Strasser said. "I really wanted to go to a skate camp and we have such great counselors."

The youths were given instruction in either in-line skating [rollerblading] or skateboarding, and ran through exercises before lunch, and games afterwards.

"I love it," six-year-old Jessie Friedman said. "We learn how to skate backwards and to do crossovers even though some kids didn't even know how to skate."

The symposium, while educational — in

the art of skating — and quite demanding, got rave reviews from the participants who learned new things and had fun while doing it.

"[The camp] is fun," 10-year-old Alexei Gonzalez said. "Sometimes it's challenging, because the more challenging something is, the more fun it is."

"The camp is really fun," Abraham Chowdhury said. "You learn a lot if you really try, and [the camp] is challenging when [skateboarding] is new to you, but [the camp] is also really helpful if you're a beginner."

Montgomery County runs this specific camp twice a year, but has the same program at Olney Skate Park every week in the summer.

"We had it scheduled twice this year," said Cheamitru. "We had one special session but

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 - Two:** Wear appropriate safety gear
 - Three:** Be aware of environmental hazards like uneven surfaces
 - Four:** Never ride in the street
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due to inclement weather it was cancelled, but we had the one in August, and hopefully [will have] one in June of next year."

This program has been running at the Potomac Community Center for many years, and hopefully will continue to, for summers to come.

"I'm loving it," Caroline Kahn said. "It's a really nice experience."

Berliner Eyes Challenges, Second Term

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change initiatives have been commendable that he has failed to push meaningful legislation on smaller scale, more local levels.

"When it comes to forest [conservation] and storm water and those things that really link together [in terms of environmental] sustainability I feel he's been absent and not proactive," Barnes said.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL returns from its summer break in mid-September and the coming year will be a busy one. With master plans in the Gaithersburg West and White Flint planning areas scheduled to come before the council — as well as amendments to the county's growth policy — many pivotal decisions will be made that will determine what the county will look like in the future, said Andrews.

"Our land use policies define the quality of our communities," said Berliner.

Add in another difficult budget process — the deficit is already projected at \$370 million and Berliner said he expects that to grow as property tax revenues decline and

cuts to state aid are considered — and 2010 will be "uncommon" in the number of arduous, definitive processes that will take place, Andrews said.

Seated in the center of the council's crescent-shaped table in its main hearing room as those issues are weighed is likely to be Berliner. Since 1990 only once has the council vice president not been voted to the presidency the following year and that was because the vice president lost the election, said Steve Farber, the County Council's staff director.

Berliner said he has heard rumors that he could be bypassed for the head slot but that he feels confident that tradition will not be bucked.

"I have heard those rumors as well and, you know, ultimately if my colleagues believe someone else would serve the body better than that's the will of the majority," Berliner said. "I do think that it would interject a note of destabilization into our body that if this is always up for grabs it would be a destabilizing [force]. I actually believe that I am at the center of our coun-

cil ideologically and otherwise, and therefore I believe [I] would represent our council best in an election year."

Adding to the pressure of the coming year's work on the council is that it will be an election year. As of right now there do not appear to be any clear challengers to Berliner's seat. Two District 1 residents — longtime schools activist Jane de Winter and Becky Wagner, executive director of the non-profit Interfaith Works — are mounting campaigns as at-large candidates but both declined comment as to why they chose to run at-large instead of for the District 1 seat.

Berliner said he looks forward to campaigning with a "promises made, promises kept approach."

"I feel like I demonstrated that in a campaign mode I know how to run a good campaign and I will have a well-funded campaign, [and it] will be an aggressive campaign ... so I combine a track record of having a well-funded campaign with hopefully a service to the community that people will think has been a plus," said Berliner.

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