

Potomac ALMANAC

Back to School

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New faculty members lead
the changes in September at
Winston Churchill High School.

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AUGUST 19-25, 2009 ♦ VOLUME LIII, NUMBER 33

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Getting Ready for High School

BY LAUREN PIRES
THE ALMANAC

As summer reaches its last few days, parents and students alike are in a back-to-school frenzy. As a new school year rolls around, local high schools open with many changes and build upon their previous curriculums, faculty and facilities.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

New teachers at Winston Churchill High School for the 2009-10 school year include: Matthew Reilly, English; Bharati Umarji, Foreign Language; Jennifer Lubenetski, Guidance; Paige Pagley, Media Center; Chester Hwang, Science; James Nugent, Science; Jamie Frank, Social Studies; Clarinda Gordon and Eileen Lieber, Speech Pathologist; Kent Thompson, Special Ed; Brian Kuglak, Special Ed; Howard Carter Gilliams, Special Ed; Judith Nyakondo, Special Ed; Annie Gehringer, Paraeducator Special Ed, and Elizabeth Columber, Paraeducator Special Ed. Churchill also has a new cafeteria manager, Brenda Tam.

Students and parents are welcome to check out any changes on Sept. 10 at Back-to-School Night from 7 to 9 p.m. Or browse the new, and student-created Web site: www.churchillhs.org.

WALT WHITMAN

While Whitman has seen a few changes. "There is always new faculty at a high school," school administrative secretary Angela Cook said. Whitman students and parents can get the details on Sept. 10 at Back-to-School Night, or Sept. 22 at Welcome to Whitman Night.

WALTER JOHNSON

This school has been undergoing major renovations for the past year and the beginning of this school year will also see the unveiling of the newly improved building.

Middle Schools Prepare for Students

BY LAUREN PIRES
THE ALMANAC

While students are preparing their first day of school outfit to show-off their new styles, their schools have also been undergoing a few changes.

CABIN JOHN MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year Cabin John will be remodeled and updated, so students will attend a holding school in Rockville.

According to the school's Web site, all 6th, 7th and 8th grade CJMS students are invited to an orientation on Aug. 27, 7:55-11:20 a.m. "designed to give students an opportunity to preview the temporary CJMS facility."

Further information can be found at its Web site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cabinjohnms/> or on Back-to-School Night.

HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Although the Hoover building itself isn't being changed, it's still undergone some preparation for the first day of school.

"The building has been scrubbed, painted, and waxed in anticipation of the arrival of our students



PHOTO BY LAUREN PIRES/THE ALMANAC

Churchill High School Sophomore Abby Jackson in the lobby after sports tryouts.

"Of course the big thing is the renovations our school has been undergoing, so in the fall we open with a brand new front as well as a new stadium, new tennis courts and new and updated softball and baseball facilities," Principal Christopher Garran said. "One new thing we will have which not many schools have is a student union. These are more common in colleges, and really it's a place where the kids can eat and hang out with their friends."

In addition this year, Walter Johnson is continuing to run AP Economics (both Macro and Micro) for its second year and adding on three sections of AP Physics B.

"We have always offered Physics C, which is physics designed for students interested in majoring in engineering or physics," Garran said. "However this year we are also offering Physics B which is just for students who are interested in physics, but maybe not necessarily as a major."

As a high school, faculty is ever changing and this year is no exception.

"There is always new faculty and actually as a high school we have quite a few this year," Garran said. "There are going to be some changes in leadership for the science and foreign language departments."



PHOTO BY LAUREN PIRES/THE ALMANAC

Herbert Hoover Middle School may look empty now, but on Aug. 31 this hallway/entrance will be filled with students.

on Aug. 31," Principal Billie-Jean Bensen wrote in her Welcome Back letter.

One change is that Hoover now only sells its PE uniforms online at: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/hooovers and if ordered before Sept. 1 can be picked up on Back-to-School Night (Sept. 10) at no cost for shipping. "Please save the evening of Thursday, Sept. 10, for Back-To-School Night," Bensen wrote. "At that time parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers, learn about the curriculum and the policies and procedures for each class."



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

Head of Bullis Tom Farquhar shows the campus' organic garden.

What's New in Private Schools

BY NOAH GOETZEL
THE ALMANAC

Bullis School expects to complete its installation of an eco-friendly 140 kilowatt photovoltaic solar panel array in October. The array will cover almost the entire roof of the Blair Arts Center and provide power to the whole building. This energy-saving device will offset 20 percent of the school's electrical energy consumption on sunny days.

The faculty and student body welcomes five students from China into the Upper School who are interested in attending American universities. Their presence is expected to benefit the school's Mandarin Chinese program that started last year and the Chinese students' English proficiency.

Bullis begins the year with a revised design for the Marriot Family Library. Social lounge areas and advanced new HP computers replace typical reference sections of dictionaries and encyclopedias. The new library permits food and drinks, conversation and student access to previously banned Web sites including Facebook, Myspace and Gmail.

The renovated library uses acoustical panels on the ceiling to absorb sound and reduce echoes, enabling students to converse without distracting classmates who are studying.

Video announcement and information PowerPoints will play continuously on flat-screen video, micro-computer monitors throughout the campus. Each monitor will display a different video loop to reflect either routine announcements relevant to the students and faculty in lower, middle or upper schools, or to alert them to emergency situations.

A new staff person will create brief

video highlights of student activities, for daily posting on Youtube.com to keep students current with school events.

An organic garden will offer campus grown fresh vegetables on the dining room's daily lunch menu to keep students and staff healthy.

Admissions Open House is Sunday, Nov. 8 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

After merging with St. Francis Episcopal Day School last summer, St. Andrews Episcopal School (SAES) now adds a fourth grade program comprised of new and graduated St. Francis students this fall. Previously, a preschool through third grade private school in Potomac Village, St. Francis is now the lower school of SAES. Director of Operations Joseph Phelan has constructed a new playground and classrooms for the incoming class.

Next fall, the upcoming fourth grade students will become the school's initial fifth grade class. This will complete SAES' transformation into the only continuous Episcopal preschool through 12th grade educational institution in Washington D.C./Montgomery County.

This year, SAES unveils its refurbished athletic center — complete with an upgraded dance studio, weight training facility, locker room and athletic office — which restores its 30 year old gymnasium. The renovated building contains new outer walling material, ceilings and lights fixtures to prevent it from rotting or damaging the environment.

The approximately 530 students attending SAES this year will be the most internationally and socio-economically diverse class in school history.

New courses at SAES this fall include a reading program for kindergarten and first graders called "Good Habits, Great

SEE PRIVATE SCHOOLS, PAGE 8

Home Invader Receives Life Term with No Parole

Bond grows between victimized widows.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

One by one, rows of friends and family stood from wooden courtroom benches last Thursday, Aug. 13, and identified themselves before Judge Michael D. Mason, asking him to reaffirm their belief in the justice system. The community members came to the Rockville Judiciary Center in support of the four local elderly women victimized in a string of home invasions that began in 2007.

Judge Mason sentenced Jose Garcia-Perlera, convicted May 14 on charges in connection to the invasions that included first-degree murder, to life in prison without parole.

"It's the perfect ending to a traumatic experience," said Betty Tubbs, 79, who was the second victim of Garcia-Perlera's attacks. Tubbs says she considers herself lucky; noting the level of violence in the attacks increased as Garcia-Perlera became more familiar with his crime.

The 34-year-old felon was linked to six home invasions in the Maryland and D.C. area, targeting widowed women over the age of 70 who were living alone. The victims were hog-tied, gagged and, in some cases, beaten before their homes were ransacked for jewelry and cash.

Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy said these acts created a "reign of terror" over the county during the course of the year in which they occurred. McCarthy identified the crimes as a premeditated selection of victims based on the vulnerability of their age. The State Attorney read from the victim impact letter of 94-year-old Margaret Arnold, the first target during Garcia-Perlera's Maryland invasions and the only widow absent from the sentencing. Arnold said the attack altered her life so extensively that she has never spent another night in her own home.

MCCARTHY FURTHER explained the physical and mental injuries sustained by the elderly victims through acts of escalated violence that left Ann Wolfe, 79, with a crippled right hand from being so tightly bound and culminated with the death of 63-year-old Mary Frances Haverstein who suffered blunt force trauma to the head at her home on Seven Locks Road. Haverstein's family and friends attended the sentencing and delivered a tearful display of family photos while imploring Judge Mason for the strongest sentence possible.

The crowd of extended family and friends who gathered for the morning hearing was so large that the group was forced to relocate to a larger courtroom before the sentencing commenced. Wolfe acknowledged

the support system from friends, family, and the Montgomery County detectives who worked with care and diligence for her and her fellow victims since the invasions began.

Upon delivering the life sentence, Judge Mason said the case deserved no leniency and recognized the strength of the victims. "They have come to be recognized and celebrated for what truly remarkable women they are," he said.

GARCIA-PERLERA did not make a statement during the sentencing. The El Salvadorian native displayed no reaction when given the details of his life term. The victims and their supporters voiced concern over his possible deportation based on Garcia-Perlera's arrest in 1999 for illegally entering the U.S. Both McCarthy and Judge Mason asserted Garcia-Perlera would remain in the U.S. to serve the terms of his sentence.

"This man will never walk the streets again," McCarthy said.

But to Wolfe and the other victims, the most important fact is that it's all over. Tubbs described her feelings as sheer relief, and Wolfe said she continues to return to her home that she considered a safe haven even in the worst of times.

The two women were allowed to sift through the box previously labeled "evidence" to reclaim their personal possessions stolen during Garcia-Perlera's invasions following his sentencing.

"It doesn't matter what he stole that we didn't get back," said Tubbs. "It matters that they caught him."

Tubbs says she and the other women victimized by Garcia-Perlera became friends during the investigation, creating another support system that enabled them to cope. McCarthy praised the victims for their display of courage, and all recognized that the Haverstein family suffered the ultimate loss.

Walt Haverstein, stepson to Mary Frances, delivered the family's statement after the sentencing. He said that although the family could not be described as pleased on the basis of circumstances, they did find the sentencing appropriate and reassuring for the safety of the community.

"Bad things that happen to good people are met with justice," he said.

"It doesn't matter what he stole that we didn't get back. It matters that they caught him."

— Betty Tubbs

OPINION

Public Options

Government jumps into business for a variety of reasons.

While private options of this amenity are plentiful, they are so expensive that they are out of reach for many even in our affluent area.

So government has jumped in to offer the opportunity at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone. It's not clear what the impact of the public option has been on the private businesses involved.

We're talking, of course, about golf courses.

Joining a private country club can cost tens of thousands of dollars in original membership fees, plus thousands in annual fees.

But around Northern Virginia, there are many public options for golf, some nationally acclaimed, where one can swing the clubs around 18 holes for under \$30.

Offering access to recreational facilities at cost well below private options is a common activity for local governments. Water parks, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor

tennis are all available in our area at reduced prices via government involvement. Recreation centers provide an affordable alternative to health clubs.

Localities offer summer day camps of many varieties, all at a fraction of the cost of private camps.

Public colleges and universities offer lower cost tuition than private colleges and universities.

Publicly owned historic sites and park facilities compete with restaurants and banquet halls to host weddings and other events.

Do these public options hold down the prices at private camps, private colleges, private country clubs? That's unknown, but what we do know is that the public options make many things affordable and accessible to people who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Meanwhile people continue to pay a premium for the amenities, services and added value and availability of the private options, keeping those businesses in business.

Local 'Public Options'

For public recreational opportunities, see:

- ❖ Montgomery County Department of Recreation, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>
- ❖ Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, http://www.mncppc.org/commission_home.html

Governments are also offering a private option for many things that previously have been strictly free public goods. One example is roads.

A private company is widening the Beltway, 495, from the Virginia side of American Legion Bridge to the Springfield Mixing Bowl. When it's finished, drivers will have the option to pay a significant toll to the company to ride in the "High Occupancy Toll" lanes to avoid the crowded but free lanes. Vehicles with at least three occupants will be able to ride in the new lanes for free.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Autism Speaks' Yields Results

To the Editor:

A heartfelt thanks to all of the community groups, businesses and corporations who lent their support to help make the 9th annual Autism Speaks Run/Walk on July 4 in Potomac Village an enormous success. The event raised more than \$200,000 for autism research and an additional \$25,000 in in-kind support. Close to 2,000 participants, 60 volunteers, and several hundred spectators helped to make this 5K run/ 1 mile walk so wonderful. We are grateful to the many individual and family supporters. This year, 110 teams participated and helped us raise over \$100,000.

A special thanks to U.S. Rep.

Chris Van Hollen, state Sen. Rob Garagiola, Del. Kirill Resnick and Chief Meteorologist for 9 News Now Topper Shutt for taking time out of their holiday schedule to attend the event. Their commitment to the race and quest for the cure is truly remarkable. Three additional individuals deserve recognition for all that they do to continue to support this community event over the years. They are Adam Greenberg from Potomac Pizza and Potomac Village Deli, Steve Kirstein of BOWA Builders and Ben Landers from Drink More Water. It is because we can depend on people like this that we have been able to grow this event year after year. We would also like to thank the Potomac Giant, Safeway and Whole Foods for their generosity. Since it has become increasingly difficult for many of the national franchises in our area to participate in community events, we are especially grateful to the local businesses that support this event and continue to give back to the many causes that affect our community.

This year, our presenting sponsor was StretchAlicious. We thank the owners of this Potomac based-store, a fun women's active wear boutique, for their tremendous generosity to the cause and support of this event. Other sponsors include: The Brickman Family, The Rocksprings Foundation, Comcast, The Gazette, Nancy & Roger Lob, The Williams Family, Bethesda Magazine, BOWA Builders, Design at Large, United BioSource Corporation, USEC, Inc., The Barpoulis

Family, The Guterman Family, Tom and Natalie Liniak, The Morris Family, The Pereles Family, Phil and Joyce Schneider, The Srour Family, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilde, Greater Washington Orthopaedics, P.A., The Bechtel Foundation, Carnival Day, Chicken Out Rotisserie, Montgomery Orthopaedics, Family Orthopaedics of Northern Virginia, Giffords Ice Cream, Goodman-Gable-Gould/Adjusters International, Potomac Financial, Potomac Pizza, Potomac Village Deli, Roly, Safeway, Giant, Whole Foods of Bethesda, Atlantic Services Group, Inc., Drink More Water, Jane and Bob Dalrymple, Mrs. Joan Heller, Dr. Amy Light, The Pingho Family, Blair and Susie Thomas and the Potomac United Methodist Church, White Energy Coal of North America.

Additional supporters included the following: Art & Chemistry, As Kindred Spirits, Ballroom Balloons.com, Belina, BOWA Builders, B-Scene, Cabin John Fire Department, Café Deluxe, California Tortilla-Cabin John, Cava, Chicken Out - Do Good Foundation, Clover, Colella Photography, Connection Newspapers, Ellie Pissarra Cain, Emily Grace, Fred Foster Fitness Company, Georgetown Running Store, Good Earth, Hunter's Inn, Mamma Lucia Restaurant, Metro Run & Walk, National Jean Company, Next Level, Potomac Day Spa, Potomac Library, Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac River Running Store, Potomac Village Shopping Center, Red Orchard, Regal Cin-

ema, River Falls Seafood, Road Runner Sports, Salon Jean, Saturn, Shoe Train, Sling Box, Spring Mill Bakery, Starbucks-Potomac Village, Studio 1080, Tickled Pink, Titus Trash, Tom Grooms at Smooth Jazz 105.9, Totally Polished, Toy Kingdom, Toys Unique.

Given the current economic climate, prize/donations were harder to come by this year. Autism, however, is not subject to the market's ups and downs. The challenges that individuals with autism face on a daily basis remain, regardless of what's going on with the market or the economy. Therefore, we are especially grateful to the vendors who were able to make the donations and enable us to offer a fun and competitive event.

Autism continues to affect 1:150 children. The numbers are staggering and indicate that we have a national crisis. Next year we will come together on Sunday, July 4 for the 10th anniversary of the Autism Speaks Potomac 5K Run/ 1 mile Walk. With this event, we will aim to raise \$300,000 but we can only do it with your help.

As a community, your proactive partnership for this cause has been awe-inspiring. This level of community support proves that we can — together — continue to do our part in increasing awareness and making the dream of curing autism a reality.

See you at the starting line in 2010.

**Susan Pereles,
Sarah Barpoulis,
Barbara Guterman**

Write

The Almanac welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Vision of Hope

Third generation Potomac entrepreneur creates series.

BY STEPHANIE SPERNAK
THE ALMANAC



Joe Zeibert

1987, a very young Joe Zeibert was at his grandfather Duke Zeibert's eponymous restaurant at Connecticut and L Street, in downtown D.C. He

was standing with a crowd of diners who were watching Mikhail Gorbachev's motorcade roll slowly down the Avenue. As reported by the New York Times, when Gorbachev caused a sensation by getting out of his limousine near the restaurant to greet bystanders, Duke Zeibert shouted to him: "Come up for lunch. We've got borscht." Gorbachev passed on lunch that day, but would be back to eat at Duke's a few years later.

Gorbachev was the first Soviet leader to visit the United States since Nikita Khrushchev pounded his shoe here in 1960 during President Kennedy's administration. In

1991, after the fall of the "Evil Empire," as President Reagan referred to the Soviet Union, Gorbachev made another highly anticipated visit to the U.S. Media personality Larry King interviewed

Gorbachev on his television program and they both came to Duke's for dinner. Zeibert was at the restaurant again to witness history and this time his grandfather arranged to have him in a photo taken with Gorbachev.

SEVERAL PRESIDENTS and congressmen, as well as celebrities and sports figures, were patrons of Duke's. Zeibert said his grandfather, who died in 1998, "was a huge presence and a larger than life character." Above his desk, Zeibert keeps a photo of his grandfather taken with President Kennedy. Zeibert's father Randy also owned and operated the restaurant along side Duke until it closed in 1994.

Zeibert is moving to Charlotte, N.C., to work for the Bank of America. His wife, Marisa, a pastry chef who trained at the Culinary Institute of America, plans to open a bakery there.

Sample chapters of "Global Watch" can be read on internet at the Web site jzeibert.wordpress.com. Sequels to the book are in progress, according to Zeibert, and their availability, among other related items of interest, can be followed on the Web site.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

HOUSE FLIPPING IN TODAY'S MARKET

"House flipping" is when a buyer purchases bargain-priced residential properties and quickly resells them at a profit. With the market strongly favoring the buyer these days, house flipping involves more risks than in the past boom years, but the more determined investor can still make very good money at it. Savvy investors must do their homework first by calculating a reasonable sales price, expected length of time on the market, and any repair costs they should expect from their investment property. A trusted REALTOR® can help them decide on the most profitable cosmetic improvements to make to the home for best resale results.

The upside to flipping in the current marketplace is the growing number of homes available at bargain-basement prices coupled with historically low mortgage interest rates.

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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. Call 703-778-9412.

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.

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.

Bluegrass Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. With Orrin Star, guitarist and banjo player, and Jimmy Gaudreau on mandolin. Orrin Star is an award-winning guitarist and mandolin player who combines hot picking, cool singing and good humor. Under the Travilah Oak Tree at the Potomac Oak Center, Travilah Road and Glen Road in Potomac. Call 301-983-1857.

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 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



FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Bluegrass Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. With Orrin Star, guitarist and banjo player, and Jimmy Gaudreau on mandolin. Orrin Star is an award-winning guitarist and mandolin player who combines hot picking, cool singing and good humor. Under the Travilah Oak Tree at the Potomac Oak Center, Travilah Road and Glen Road in Potomac. Call 301-983-1857.

David at focusrockville@earthlink.net, 301-275-7459 or log onto www.focusmusic.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 28

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15-midnight. \$15 admission. Beginner lesson from 8:15-9 p.m. for Salsa beginners and up. Dancing from 9 p.m. - midnight with teacher and DJ Fabio Bonini playing the best of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha-Cha, Reggaeton and more! At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com

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

FRIDAY, AUG. 28

Volunteer Day at Lock 8. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Conservancy and the National Park Service are working to improve the area around Lock 8. On Volunteer Day, volunteers will remove an old stairway down to the river and plant native shrubs in its place, as well as do trail maintenance. RSVP to Bridget. At the River Center at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave, Cabin John, MD. Contact Bridget Chapin, chapin@potomac.org, 301-608-1188, x206 or visit www.potomac.org/site/discover-rc8/

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.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Greg Greenway with Special Guest Kate Klim. 8 p.m. At Branded '72 (formerly O'Brien's BBQ), 387 E. Gude Dr. in Rockville, Md. \$15/general, \$12/members or in advance. Contact



WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

Hot Soup, a Vocal Trio. 8 p.m. Band featuring Christina Muir, Sue Trainor and Jennie Avila. At Branded '72 (formerly O'Brien's BBQ), 387 E. Gude Dr. in Rockville, Md. \$18 general, \$15 members or in advance. Contact: David at focusrockville@earthlink.net, 301-275-7459 or log onto www.focusmusic.org.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

"Teddy Bears' Picnic." 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.

Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 8 p.m. - Midnight. Admission includes an introductory Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m. with Michael and Sharon, followed by dancing from 9 p.m. until midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom. Email: Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net

Montgomery County Public Schools will kick off the school year with a Back-to-School Fair at the school system's central office location in Rockville. The event for MCPS families will take place on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., on the grounds of Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville.

SUNDAY/AUG. 30

River Center Dragon & Damselfly Walk with Kevin Munroe. 1-3 p.m. Join Kevin Munroe as he takes us on a journey along the C&O Canal towpath to explore the life of dragon and damselflies. At Lockhouse 8 at the River Center, 7906 Riverside Ave, Cabin John, MD. Contact Bridget Chapin, chapin@potomac.org, 301-608-1188, x206 or visit www.potomac.org/site/discover-rc8/.

FINE ARTS

SEPT. 8 THROUGH OCT. 3, 2009

Waverly Street Gallery opens its fall season with landscapes by Chevy Chase artist Barbara French Pace. Aptly titled "Encounters," her exhibit showcases paintings that capture arresting moments in nature and rural life. Rugged rocks and sudden flashes of fall color play against the softer drama of windblown cypresses, tall grasses, and water reflections. Pace has studied painting locally and in Italy. She draws inspiration from extensive travels, including workshops overseas with artist colleagues. Her work can be seen regularly at Waverly Street Gallery. Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 p.m.

Reception: Friday, Sept. 11, 6-9 p.m.
Meet the Artist: Saturday afternoons
Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Md. Entrance and parking on Waverly Street. One block from Bethesda Metro station. Call 301-951-9441

AUG. 21-23

Paintings by Mauricio Suarez
The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by Mauricio Suarez. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

AUG. 29 -30

Works by the Participants of Walt Bartman's Workshops to Ireland, Bahamas, and Mexico
The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by participants in Walt Bartman's workshops in Ireland, the Bahamas and Mexico. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit



Painting by Chevy Chase artist Barbara French Pace.

www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

SEPT. 4 -7

Paintings by Brian Coyne. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by Brian Coyne. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

THROUGH SEPT. 7

"Grey Matters" - Advanced Master Printing Class Exhibit. Photoworks at Glen Echo Park presents "Grey Matter," an exhibition of photographs by students in its Advanced Master Printing class. The exhibit features works by: Carole Lewis Anderson, Andy Currie, Heather Dorsey, Brenda

Hanning, Ann Harding, Mike Jones, Peter Kozloski, Tom Kraly, Joanne Miller, Alejandra Vallejo, and Kelly Williams. Open Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays and Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

THROUGH SEPT. 7

4th Annual Student Art Show. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture presents the 4th Annual Student Art Show, featuring two and three-dimensional work created at Glen Echo Park by students of all ages and levels. The exhibition, in the Park's Popcorn Gallery, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and by special arrangement. Go to www.glenechopark.org or 301-634-2222.

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SCHOOLS

Changes, Additions at Private Schools

FROM PAGE 3

Readers," "Critical Media and Cyber Literacy in the 21st Century" for seniors and two new classes in the History Department. Also, teachers will take a training seminar on learning and how students' brains process information called "Schools Attuned."

Admission open houses dates for the intermediate, middle and upper schools (grades 4-12) will be Nov. 11 and Dec. 5 while the lower school will hold open houses on Nov. 17 and Dec. 12.

McLEAN SCHOOL OF MARYLAND

McLean will expand its American Sign Language (ASL) program to incorporate a third level for upper school students. ASL is popular among students with kinesthetic and visual learning styles who rely upon their hands and eyes for communication.

Head of School Darlene Pierro has appointed a committee of parents, school nurses and friends of the school associated with the American Red Cross and the CDC to prepare for the swine flu.



Tom Farquhar Head of Bullis, shows a new seminar-style computer lab.

PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

Guest speaker David Ghoogasian, a researcher and educator on how the brain learns, will hold a full day of workshops for the staff Oct. 14. He will address differential learning techniques to accommodate various learning styles. Afterwards, he will advise parents on the topic "Learning and Your Child's Brain"

McLean faculty will introduce

five new teachers to its staff including a '03 alumnus as a P.E. teacher and coach to accompany the four other alumni employed on McLean's staff.

The day before classes begin, the school hosts its parent orientation and student visiting day Aug. 31 while the upper school holds its leadership retreat. The first of five open house dates will occur Oct.

21.

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

The Western Academy in Houston, Texas, a future Heights brother school, has hired former Head of the Heights' lower school Jeffery Presberg to become its Headmaster for the school he will help open next fall. The administration promoted English teacher and head of the basketball program Austin Hatch to become the new Headmaster of the lower school to replace Presberg who taught at The Heights for 15 years.

During the last week of school, seniors completed their class project of erecting a ship mast that serves as a flag pole which lights up at night. According to Headmaster Alvaro de Vicente, each year the seniors work with the administration on a project to improve the campus through something visible to the entire community for coming years. The projects serve as a part of the curriculum and permit students to give back to the school.

This year is the 40th anniversary of The Heights and its 10th

straight year of holding a full capacity of 460 students.

For the second year, 14 qualified seniors will be offered the opportunity to complete the Jackson Scholars Senior Thesis Program, a course of research and study that they must defend before a faculty panel.

Ice cream socials for the lower and middle schools are scheduled for Sept. 1 and 2 respectively to allow students and parents to meet their teachers prior to the start of school. Rising upper school freshmen will go on an annual overnight freshmen class orientation retreat from Sept. 2-4 to learn about high school and bond with their classmates.

Back to School Night will occur at Tuesday Sept. 22 for the lower school (Grades 3-5), Thursday Sept. 24 for the middle school (Grades 6-8) and Tuesday Sept. 29 for the upper school (Grades 9-12). All back to school nights will be at 7:30 p.m. An Open house will take place Sunday October 25 for all three schools.

SEE PRIVATE, PAGE 11



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Churchill Offense Remains Similar during Change

Bulldogs retain triple option under first-year coach Allen.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

First-year Churchill head football coach Joe Allen has spent the offseason placing his prints on the Bulldogs program.

The leader of an up-beat staff which encourages athletes through vocal vigor, Allen, who came to Churchill after two seasons as head coach at Bethesda-Chevy Chase, has worked to improve a program which fell just short of the postseason in 2008. But while some aspects of the transition might have involved time and teaching, Churchill's triple-option spread offense has been a familiar facet to all parties.

Allen decided to continue running the scheme the Bulldogs featured under former coach Greg Neuendorf, eliminating the growing pains and tedious technique teaching of a new system.

"It's a huge advantage because we can literally hit the ground running," Allen said of retaining the triple-option spread attack. "We can start repping our plays instead of having to re-teach new techniques. ... The coaches have a great understanding of the offense. The players have a great understanding of the offense and it just makes the whole transition phase a lot smoother."

THE OFFENSE, led by returning 1,000-yard rusher Ryan Quinn, could be even more potent on the ground with the addition of senior Alex Kantor at quarterback. Kantor, who makes the move from slot receiver to signal caller, provides a running threat at the position, forcing defenses to respect more than just Quinn.

"I feel like we have a lot of weapons," Quinn said. "Last year, we had more of a throwing quarterback. This year, we have a running quarterback who can take it the distance every play."

Allen also spoke highly of Kantor's ability.

"AK is going to make a lot of plays with his legs because of his ability to run the football," the coach said. "Last year, in the triple option, when they ran it their quarterback was never a run threat, and that takes away from the integrity of the offense."

What has been the hardest part about Kantor's move to quarterback?

"Just learning what everybody else has to do, rather than just my responsibility," Kantor said. "I have to know where everybody is."

WHILE KANTOR figures to improve the offense, the senior Quinn, who scored 19 touchdowns last season, will likely remain the focal point of opposing defenses. The 5-foot-11 Quinn gained 15 pounds in the offseason, putting him at 185.

"Ryan is a very hard-nosed, disciplined runner," Allen said. "... (E)ven at 170 pounds, he was a tough runner. Now at 185, I think he's going to be even tougher. ... We're going to give him the ball and see what he can do with it."

Senior Nader Toosi could see carries for Churchill. Seniors Matt Cole and Brandon Swepson are receiving threats.

The Bulldogs' offensive and defensive lines were thinned by graduation, but Allen didn't seem concerned.

"A lot of people are expecting a big drop off on both ... our offensive and defensive lines because of the amount of seniors that have left," Allen said. "But we've got a bunch of rising seniors and juniors that I think are going to step in and contribute and they'll



Churchill head coach Joe Allen enters his first season with the Bulldogs after two years as head coach at Bethesda-Chevy Chase.

"This year, we have a running quarterback who can take it the distance every play."

— Ryan Quinn



Churchill running back Ryan Quinn, seen taking a handoff last season, returns as one of the Bulldogs' most potent offensive threats.

be just fine."

The offensive line is led by center Zach Davis (5-9, 225), tackle Jonathan Milbourn (6-8, 287) and guard Kaijie Zheng (5-8, 220).

Defensively, Churchill will operate primarily out of the 3-4. Senior Matt Risk and sophomore Bret Sickels are expected to

make an impact at linebacker.

Bobby Hirsch, Danial Dadkhoo and Jeremy Bernitt will see time on the defensive line, and Cole and Toosi could be playmakers in the secondary.

Churchill scrimmages Saturday at Fort Hill and Aug. 28 at Blake before opening its season Sept. 4 at home against Gaithersburg.

SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call 703-778-9412

The Potomac Elementary School PTA relies on its parent volunteers to coordinate and support the many programs and fund-raisers that are offered at the school each year. Below are the committees and programs that are in need of parent volunteers. To chair or be a committee member, email Susan Danziger at sbdanziger1@aol.com.

❖ Teacher & Staff Appreciation — Plan and organize monthly lunches and appreciation events

❖ Back To School Picnic Oct. 12 — Promote and plan a casual social evening event at the school

❖ Principal Coffees: Grades K & 1 Oct. 7 / Grades 2 & 3 Oct. 14 / Grades 4 & 5 Oct. 29. Purchase food & beverages for one grade level coffee.

❖ Math Night Oct. 28 — Chair Marcie Robinson is looking for a co-chair and volunteers to help with this program. The responsibilities will be to work with Tova Irving, math specialist, to come up with fun math-related activities for this evening event.

❖ Chinese New Year Feb. 17, 2010 — Chairperson Susan Danziger is looking for co-chairs and volunteers to help organize and run this event. This program includes art work, dinner and performances.

❖ Restaurant Nights — Various dates throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Responsibilities include scheduling and publicizing the fundraisers. This role takes only

a few hours the entire school year.

❖ Giant/Safeway/Harris Teeter — Most of the work is done in September and can be done in the evening from home. Responsibility is to gather support and ensure that PES families are properly registered for these free programs.

❖ Arts Integration Committee — Chair Susan Danziger is looking for volunteers to help promote the awareness and growth of this program. This group will be working closely with Arts Integration Teacher, Shelley Johnson.

❖ Safety Committee — A chair is needed to attend monthly (evening) MCCPTA Safety meetings and manage a team of volunteers to assist the school administration with safety related issues.

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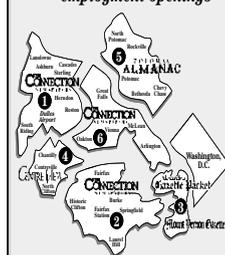
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Infuse to Lose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Your hair. Your appetite. Your energy. Your sense of taste. Your sense of immortality. Your sense of order. Your boyish figure. But you can never lose hope or your dignity, and you especially can't lose the battle with your emotions. Moreover, you absolutely can't lose your sense of humor. If I've heard it from one health care professional, I've heard it from many; if I've heard it from one friend and/or acquaintance touched by cancer, I've heard it from many: staying positive about this incredibly negative set of health circumstances in which I find myself immersed, is the best way to fight.

What's the alternative, really? Be a dismal Jimmy? A gloomy Gus? A stick in the mud (to quote one of my wife, Dina's, favorite Kenny-characterizations)? Hardly. Where's the fun in any of that? Or rather, what's the point in feeling sorry for yourself? From what I've seen and read and heard from friends, family members and readers (thank you all very, very much), there are already plenty of people feeling sorry for me; sending and remembering me in their prayers, encouraging and supporting me in my hours of need, offering assistance and information, all of which I definitely need and appreciate.

However, moving forward, I am not going negative nor am I feeling hopeless. An unexpected outpouring of emotional back-stopping will do that. Life goes on, although when I look in the mirror, I do see Uncle Fester (Jackie Coogan) from The Addams Family staring back at me (a chemo moment, you might say). In this incarnation, Fester is not wearing that black tunic thing with the Elizabethan-type collar he always wore; he is bald, though, with no eyebrows, minimal facial hair and eyes with no lashes. As a result of this stark – and somewhat self-conscious – appearance, I am often seen wearing a Boston Red Sox baseball cap (unlike Fester), forever supportive of my hometown team.

The hat/head cover has been my only concession/acceptance of the cancer. I just can't go around bald; having had a full head of thick, curly black hair my whole life; seeing myself without a strand would have been too much to bare. I don't mind feeling the fear, living the life and walking the walk (one of the side effects from one of the chemo drugs makes it hard to run), but looking the part is a bit more than I can take. In my mind, so long as I don't look like I feel, I won't feel like I look lousy. I suppose it's sort of like mental gymnastics, a kind of mind-over-what-really-matters. However, when the going gets tough, it's tough not to react in ways unforeseen and maybe even unanticipated. Finding ways (or rationalizations) to hold your head up high and reinforce whatever positive vibe you can emotionally embrace helps to defeat the demons.

As Herman Edwards, former head football coach of The New York Jets and most recently, The Kansas City Chiefs, is famous for saying: "You play to win the game!" And that's exactly what I'm trying to do. Except this is no game of football, this is the game of life.

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

Changes, Additions at Private Schools

FROM PAGE 8

NORWOOD SCHOOL

Dick Ewing, the Head of Norwood, and his administration, are working to submit a long-term master plan to the Park and Planning Board and Board of Appeals. This plan calls for future renovations to the school's facilities, including expansions to the lower and middle school buildings, a creative and performing arts facility with underground parking and a covered swimming pool.

The master plan also intends to allow auxiliary programs during the school year similar to the current summer camp session. Norwood School also plans to offer training sessions for students' parents in educational technology.

Bus transportation will be available to students along Connecticut Avenue and the Palisades neighborhood starting the first day of school, Sept. 8. Nine students have already signed up to take part in the service and Ewing expects more students to become involved throughout the school year. The new bus system will pick up students living in the same general area from a cluster bus stop and will avert River Road traffic.

As a result of receiving a grant from the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education (CSEE), Norwood plans to work with other



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

Head of Norwood Dick Ewing displays the new student transportation.

independent schools in emotional and social character development. Norwood's non-religious focus on ethical education highlights community service as a key facet of moral development. Head of School Ewing hopes connecting schools will adopt similar programs focused on community service. The school will hold an orientation for

students and parents on Sept. 8. Orientation will consist of technology training for middle school students, students-teacher meetings, parent-administrator discussions and parent-teacher conferences.

Norwood's middle school will hold its back to school night Sept. 17 and the lower school's back to school night will be Sept. 24.



PHOTO BY NOAH GOETZEL/THE ALMANAC

SAES Director of Operations Joseph Phelan.



COURTESY OF LINDA MAHER

Heights senior project 2009.

Performance To Benefit McMurphy Foundation

Spotlight On Festivals presents Jason Robert Brown's "Songs for a New World," to benefit the Patrick Michael McMurphy Memorial Foundation (PM3 Foundation), which supports the arts through scholarships and grants. Performances of this limited engagement run will be held at the Beckett Theatre, Theatre Row (410 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y.), from Aug. 20-22.

"Songs for a New World," which debuted Off-Broadway in 1995, underscores the moments that determine whether someone is up for life's challenges — those instances that define a person indefinitely.

All net proceeds from the production will

benefit The Patrick Michael McMurphy Memorial Foundation (The PM3 Foundation), which was established shortly after the death of 23-year-old actor Patrick Michael McMurphy on Aug. 30, 2008 in Brooklyn. McMurphy was a Churchill High School graduate.

The PM3 Foundation provides scholarships and grants to support the arts, specifically theater, film, and music. First seeded with McMurphy's life savings, the foundation has grown through the contributions of family, friends, and others whose lives he touched. The foundation currently funds a scholarship to the Stella Adler Conservatory, from which McMurphy graduated

"Songs for a New World"

Aug. 20- 8 p.m.
 Aug. 21- 8 p.m.
 Aug. 22- 2 p.m., 8 p.m.
 Beckett Theatre at Theatre Row
 410 West 42nd St., between 9th and 10th Avenues, New York, N.Y.
 Tickets: \$18 and may be purchased in advance at <http://www.ticketcentral.com> or 212-279-4200.

only a couple of weeks before his death. Spotlight On Festival's benefit production of "Songs for a New World," features Executive Producer Kim Kalish, who was Patrick Michael McMurphy's college sweetheart, in a lead role.

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