

Potomac

Love That Parade

NEWS, PAGE 3

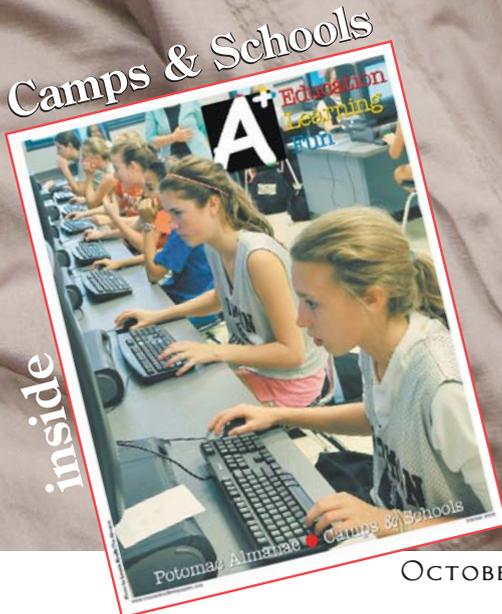
Maria Passero and her granddaughter Lola Passero watch the parade during Potomac Day.

Helping 'Extreme Makeover'

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Bijan's Team' Supports Autism Walk

NEWS, PAGE 4



Nejad, Defense Help Whitman To 6-2 Record

SPORTS, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE / THE ALMANAC

CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

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PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Chrissellene Petropoulos sang the National Anthem.



The parade goes up River Road toward Falls Road.



Underneath the costumes are Friends of the Potomac Library Denice Shaw, Mark Badalamente and Griffin Badalamente (as Clifford the red dog).

All Out for Potomac Day



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Horses lead the Potomac parade each year, including horses from the Potomac Hiking and Bridle Trails Association. Here, polo ponies and their riders watch the rest of the parade go by after leading off.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Witches take over the parade route.



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Jim Seavey, longtime fire chief of Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, served as Grand Marshal of the parade. Seavey was recently named national "Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year," selected from a national pool of candidates by Fire Chief Magazine.

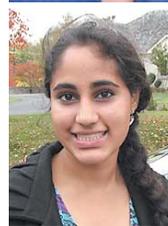


PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE

Joining in the festivities are members of Brownie Troop 4741.



Wesley Richter watches the Cabin John Fire Department ladder truck go by.



Potomac Day also honors the Citizen, Youth and Business Person of the Year. All three will also be honored at an awards dinner at Normandie Farm Restaurant on Thursday, Nov. 12. Call the Potomac Chamber at 301-299-2170 for information on attending the dinner. Sharan London (top left), executive director of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, is Citizen of the Year. Youth of the Year is Churchill student Meenu Singh (bottom left). Business Person of the Year Donald Dell, who this year was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, was not able to attend the parade.

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Shulman Rogers Staff Help To 'Move that Bus'

Volunteers from law firm join with 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.'

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

When the e-mail went out calling for volunteers to build a home for a family in need at the law offices of Potomac-based Shulman Rogers, the conference room was overflowing with eager builders. Working with the United Way, the lawyers of Shulman Rogers built a brand new house for the Tripp Family of Hyattsville. Their efforts will be featured on an upcoming episode of

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

They hammered and painted on the 9 p.m.-3 a.m. shift for several days to complete the home. Many wondered how they would stay awake, but it turned out to be an energizing experience. According to founding partner Don Rogers, "It was hard to be tired. We built a spectacular home in seven days. The feedback from the employees was fantastic. It was a very worthwhile experience."

As for the lawyer jokes he added, "Everyone has this stuffy, mean-spirited, selfish and uncaring image of lawyers. It is not true. We run, bike, walk swim, read, teach and now build for charity. As lawyers we see a lot of bad things. There is pressure in the practice and volunteering is a real relief and a sense of doing good, not just pushing papers."

SEE HELPING, PAGE 5



PHOTO FROM SHULMAN ROGERS

Barbara Hawes, Traci Neville, Jenny Kamachaitis, and Ruth Buchanan — from Shulman Rogers.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by

Michael Matese

INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR LUXURY HOMES

When you own a property that is valued in the millions, insurance risk management reaches a whole new level. The typical policy coverage is not sufficient to guarantee peace of mind for those with larger estates, multiple properties, yachts, classic automobiles and valuable collections of jewelry, art and antiques.

High-end homeowners want extended property and liability options that are not provided with most "brand name" insurance policies. Many owners of trophy homes need individually tailored plans that will cover expenses associated with identity theft, background screening of household employees and security system planning and updates.

Expensive home furnishings, jewelry and art collections must be meticulously accounted for in the detailed documentation of the contents of each home. Affluent homeowners may want to select from a broad schedule of deductibles based on the calculated risk for each property. Above all, the range of client services offered by the insurance company should ensure that each homeowner feels utterly confident in both the level of insurance protection and the management of the policy.

Ask your real estate agent about insurance carriers that specialize in the luxury marketplace.

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NEWS

'Bijan's Team' Supports Autism Walk

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Bijan Bagheri is a computer whiz who works part-time at two high tech companies. He is also an athlete who loves to run, swim, play tennis and basketball. Like many students, the River Falls resident will graduate in June. Unlike many students, however, Bijan has autism. He will walk 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 31, with his family and friends in the National Autism Walk on the National Mall. More than 50 people will participate on "Bijan's Team" and, along with thousands of participants, will walk the mile for autism.

Bijan's mother, Fatimah Bagheri, founded this walk eight years ago. The national organization Autism Speaks now sponsors the walk which currently has pledges of over \$500,000 for global biomedical research on causes, prevention, treatment and cures for autism.

Autism is a developmental disorder which usually shows up in the first three years of a child's life. This disorder is characterized by

difficulties with social interactions and communication, and often by repetitive behavior and lack of response to sensory activities. According to the organization Autism Speaks, one in 150 children is diagnosed with autism (one every 20 minutes) and one in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum. Autism appears in boys 3-4 times more often than girls. Family income, education and lifestyle do not seem to affect the risk of autism. Improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered to explain the increasing prevalence of autism, but the real cause is unknown.

Bijan was first diagnosed with autism when he was two and a half years old. His mother noticed a regression in his skills along with constant movement of his hands, an obsession with lining up his toys and a delay in his verbal and social development. Bagheri's observations were confirmed by his pre-school teachers, who recommended educational and psychological evaluations. He was enrolled in Ivy Mount School in Potomac when he was four years

To Help

To join the Autism Walk, register at www.NationalAutismWalk.org, call 202-955-3111, or email dcwalk@autismspeaks.org.

old and has remained there, receiving an individualized education with an emphasis on academic, social and personal skills as well as on career development. When he graduates, he will qualify for services from SEEC, a non-profit agency which provides community-based support to adults with developmental disabilities.

Even though Bijan was diagnosed with autism, Bagheri was very determined that they would have a normal life and he would be treated like his siblings as much as possible. Bijan's family has focused on encouraging and supporting him in everything he would like to try. Bijan, an enthusiastic cook, prepares an extensive breakfast for his family every Sunday morning. He is the family expert on the television remotes as well as on their home computers. He loves music and attends concerts at the Kennedy Center and Strathmore regularly. As Bagheri



Bijan Bagheri

said, "Bijan is helpful in every way. He loves his jobs at ManTech International and at AVECtra where he helps input data into the data bases. He is a quick learner, very accurate and loves going to work. However, at home, he is expected to perform the same chores as his sisters. He is very sweet, loving and does not have a mean bone in his body. He is truly a beautiful soul."

Funding Leaves Academies on Thin Ice

Signature programs' budget frozen at Churchill.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

Marla Hirsch never doubted sending her two children to Churchill High School. Both participated in the high school's International Studies Academy, the signature program that Hirsch says motivated her son to attend law school and kept her daughter from transferring to a magnet program. Hirsch witnessed the Academy galvanize her children into an early discovery of their passions.

But like other Churchill parents, last week Hirsch learned of the budget freeze affecting the high school's Academy programs. A series of cuts reduced the signature programs' funding by 55 percent in two years, and now the influx of money is frozen at a standstill.

"These kids have worked very hard," said Hirsch. "They should be given an opportunity to complete what they started."

HIRSCH'S DAUGHTER and other students in the International Studies program have not been

able to tackle some of the Academy's curriculum requirements this school year without the stipend funds to teachers for work outside the typical class schedule. Signature Programs Coordinator Barbara Blazer says students have missed timeline benchmarks for their annual research projects. Blazer sees the International Studies Academy deteriorating, noting the program did not admit new freshman this year and is ultimately being phased out.

But Blazer's concern is growing for each of Churchill's three Acad-

emies — international studies; the arts; and math, technology, and science — whose futures are now unclear.

"I've been waiting and waiting to hear about our budget," said Blazer, who was originally told to cut her responsibilities with the program by 40 percent for the 2008 fiscal year. Blazer watched the funds decrease until they were frozen last December, and was asked to teach 11th grade English in addition to running the programs. She now divides her time between three classes and administrative work each school day. Blazer says she understands the county was forced to make cuts with the current economic environment, but is disappointed with the impact on the Academy programs.

Marshall Spatz, budget director for Montgomery County Public Schools, said the cuts were applied to signature programs across the county. Spatz said the original budgets were large in order to obtain the resources necessary to get the signature programs up and running, and the money was reduced as the programs became successful and self-sufficient.

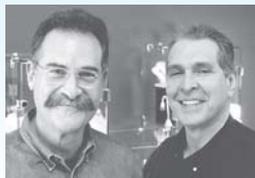
Spatz said the termination of a program, like that of Churchill's International Studies, is an indi-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 8

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Helping with 'Extreme Makeover'

FROM PAGE 3

The Tripp Family, Nikema aka "Tripp" and Tamara Tripp and their young sons Micah, 5, Ethan, 3, and Aaden, 9 months went to Disneyland while the Extreme Makeover team transformed their crumbling 900-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-bathroom, house into a beautiful spacious home. The Tripp family was chosen to receive this home makeover because of their generosity in their community. About 40 children each week and over 90 children on holidays board their "Big Blue Bus" for fun and safe activities that have ranged from bowling on a Friday night to flower arranging for Mother's Day. Since their church cannot afford to fund the activities, the Tripps cover the cost.

The idea for this project began with Shulman Rogers attorney Aaron Ghais, whose client is The United Way. He brought the idea to partner with them on the home makeover project to the firm. He was happy the the idea "was met with excitement and enthusiasm. There was an overwhelming response to help out from the management to all employees. It was energy times 10."

As a fan of the show, when the call went out for volunteers at Shulman Rogers, attorney Tina Hsu knew how moving the Extreme Makeover episodes are and she "wanted to pull together for a family in need."

Hsu enjoys making and building things with her hands. She helped build furniture for the children and painted inside the home late into the night before the big reveal the next morning.



COURTESY OF TINA HSU

Ty Pennington, host of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," reviews his script.

"There was so much energy in the neighborhood. The street was lit up with the huge spotlights. My colleagues were already there wearing hardhats. It was a great and enjoyable thing to do together." After working all night Hsu went home for a few hours of sleep and came back to watch the big "Move that Bus!" chant that reveals the new home to the family.

She was part of the last crew at night and, in the morning, even had her 15 minutes of fame on camera with designer Ed Sanders. As for watching the family see their new home she said, "They were knocked over when they saw what had been built and started to cry. It made the long night well worth it to see that special moment."

Despite the late nights, all the employees showed up the next morning for work; gallons of coffee were consumed. The whole firm is looking forward to watching "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" as a group with buckets of popcorn.

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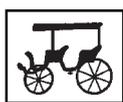
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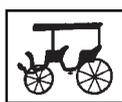
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Go, Dog. Go! The production brings to life the delightful, colorful world of dogs through juggling, rhythmic music, and dance. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 301-634-2270 or online at <http://www.adventuretheatre.org>. Tickets are \$12 for children 12 and under and \$15 for adults. Children under the age of 1 are free. At Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, in the historic Glen Echo Park.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Folk Singers Perform. Joe Crookston and Dave Potts play at 8 p.m. At Branded '72 (formerly O'Brien's BBQ), 387 E. Gude Drive in Rockville. \$18 general, \$15 members. Contact: David at focusrockville@earthlink.net, 301-275-7459 or log onto www.focusmusic.org.

"Honey, I Wrecked the Kids!." 7:30-9:30 p.m. Parenting presentation by author, psychotherapist and parenting expert Alyson Schafer. At the Blair Family Center for the Arts, Howard Auditorium, Bullis School, 10601 Falls Rd., Potomac. Tickets are \$25 (\$45/couple) and may be reserved by calling PEP at 301-929-8824. Visit www.PEPparent.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Blues Dance. 8:15-11:30 p.m. \$8 admission. Beginner's workshop 8:15-9 p.m. with dancing from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Email: info@capitalblues.org. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo.

FRIDAY/OCT. 30

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$10 admission. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance to live music with the band Contranella from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is the annual Halloween Costume Dance and also a fund-raiser for Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. The dance is hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. Lesson from 8:15-9 p.m. for Salsa beginners and up. The lesson is followed by 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, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Haunted House. 3-5 p.m. Free. For children of all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center, with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation. At the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Contact the Center at 301-229-0010.

The Crimestoppers. 8 p.m. to midnight. Appearing at the Pony Express Bar & Grill, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac.

National Philharmonic — Bach, Brahms and Beethoven. 8 p.m. The concert will feature a gem of the Baroque literature, Bach's Piano Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, Brahms's powerful Double Concerto and Beethoven's heroic Triple Concerto for piano, cello and violin. With Violinist Elena Urioste, cellist Zuill Bailey and



OCT. 31-NOV. 1

Casavant: "New England and Beyond." The plein air landscape paintings of Boston artist Arnie Casavant on display at the Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo Park, Maryland. Reception from 4-6 p.m. both days. At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Md.

pianist Brian Ganz. At the Music Center of Strathmore. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore ticket office at 301-581-5100. Tickets are available from \$29-\$79; kids 7-17 are free.

Fall Frolic. 1-4 p.m. Decorating pumpkins, trick-or-treating in Glen Echo Park's studios and galleries, and a costume parade through the Park. After the sun goes down, join us for a costumed dance in the Spanish Ballroom, and other Halloween haunts! Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org.

Mutts Masquerade, a Halloween hike to benefit the Washington Animal Rescue League. 8-11 a.m. Two-mile fund-raising walk, trick-or-treating for dogs, vendors of upscale pet products, canine costume contest, microchips, veterinary booth. Cost is \$25/individual. At Meadowbrook Park (Rock Creek Park, Chevy Chase). Go to www.warl.org or call 202-726-2556.

Halloween Swing Dance. 8 p.m. - Midnight. \$14 admission. Featuring the Boilermaker Jazz Band, which performs authentic hot jazz, ragtime and swing music. Beginner swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle, followed by dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Costumes are encouraged. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

Waltz Dance. 3-3:30 introductory Waltz Workshop, 3:30-6 p.m. dancing. Admission is \$8. With the Honeysuckle Rose band presenting a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

Contra and Square Dance. Newcomers' welcome lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances called by Peg Hesley to Dr. Twamley's Audio Snakes from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couples dances. Visit <http://www.fsgw.org/>. At the Spanish

Ballroom at Glen Echo Park.

MONDAY/NOV. 2

Lyle Lovett and His Large Band. 8 p.m. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Tickets on sale at www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

TUESDAY/NOV. 3

Potomac Yoga Classes. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$15 a class. With free introductory classes on Saturday, Nov. 7 and 14. At Potomac United Methodist Church, 10300 Falls Road, Potomac. Taught by Stacey Milchman, Owner/Yoga Teacher/Thai Massage Therapist. Visit www.potomacmdyoga.com.

NOV. 5-7

"Noises Off." The Bullis School Players presents this comic masterpiece written by Michael Frayn. Thursday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$4. Bullis School, The Blair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-634-3631.

THURSDAYS, NOV. 5, 12, 19

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Slow Blues Lesson 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests will play a wonderful variety of styles including traditional and contemporary blues music, and classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues music. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

NOV. 6-7

Shabbaton. Chabad of Potomac is hosting a Shabbaton with Alan Veingrad, professional speaker, motivator, entertainer and Super Bowl XXVII World Champion. The schedule is as follows: Nov. 6 at 5:45 p.m. Friday night meal. 7:30 p.m. "The Journey" — How does a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn win a Super Bowl ring with the Dallas Cowboys? Nov. 7 at 11 a.m. Shabbat Day sermon by Alan Veingrad: "Everything I learned in the NFL applied to life." Teens only talk at 3:30 p.m. "How to score a touchdown in life."

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. for Salsa beginners. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. At the Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. 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. Beginners are always welcome. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. - Midnight. Admission is \$14. The Washington Swing Dance Committee presents Junkyard Saints. Junkyard Saints is a DC/Baltimore-based seven-piece band with full horn section performing its own brand of New Orleans-style party music, blending funk, swing, Latin, R&B, with a splash of zydeco to round out the mix. Contact Email: wscdvolunteer@hotmail.com. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo.

PETS OF THE WEEK



Molly is a 1 1/2-year-old female German Shepherd mix. At 46 pounds, Molly is without a doubt one of the sweetest, friendliest and most playful dogs you'll ever meet. She rides well in cars, is housebroken and became homeless when her owner passed away. She will be a great family member for some lucky adopter.

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.



Callie is a 3-year-old female Calico Cat. She is a very nice cat that was adopted from PAW as a kitten but recently returned when the owner's situation changed. She's shy until she becomes comfortable in a setting and turns into a constant companion when comfortable. Callie loves to be petted and will make a great companion.

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THEATER

NOW THROUGH NOV. 1

Ferdinand the Bull. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m. Cost: \$10-\$21. Charming musical based on the book and lyrics by Karen Zacarias, music by Deborah Wicks La Puma, based on the story by Munro Leaf. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Go to www.imaginationstage.org or call 301-280-1660.

OCT. 27-31

Storyteller Alison Gee. 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. Show runs 40 minutes. Not-so-scary Halloween-themed tales especially for ages 2-5. Cost is \$7. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660. Buy tickets online at www.imaginationstage.org or by calling the box office at 301-280-1660 daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

"TINY TOTS"

Wednesday, Oct. 28 — "Monster Merriment"
Wednesday, Nov. 4 — "Old McDonald's Farm"
Saturday, Nov. 7 — "Knight Time"
Wednesday, Nov. 11 — "Panda-Monium"
Saturday, Nov. 14 — "Clowning Around"
Wednesday, Nov. 18 — "Second-Hand Stars"
The Puppet Co. presents "Tiny Tots @ 10:00," a program designed for our 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 select Wednesdays and Saturdays each month at 10 a.m. Tickets, \$5, adults and children (including babies). Reservations strongly recommended. Call 301-634-5380 visit

BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-778-9412.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Preschool Open House. Tour the building, observe classes in progress, meet the director. At Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087, ext. 244. Email: llaor@harshalom.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

Scouting for Food Program. Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts will leave an empty bag on doors to collect food in the Potomac neighborhood. They will return on Saturday, Nov. 14 to collect the bags. The food will be taken to Manna Food Center in Rockville. Go to www.mannafood.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 9

Talk on Utilities. 7:45-10 p.m. What do you need
www.connectionnewspapers.com

NOW THROUGH NOV. 20

"Toyland." The Puppet Co. Playhouse specializes in live puppet theater. This adaptation of Victor Herbert's musical fantasy includes such familiar pieces as "Toyland" and "March of the Toys." 40 minutes. Age recommendation: PreK - Grade 4. Performances on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets, \$10; group rates available. Call 301-634-5380 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 15

Go, Dog. Go! The production brings to life the delightful, colorful world of dogs through juggling, rhythmic music, and dance. Performances on Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4 p.m. and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for children 12 and under and \$15 for adults. Children under the age of 1 are free. At Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, in the historic Glen Echo Park. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 301-634-2270 or online at <http://www.adventuretheatre.org>.

Adventure Theatre continues its literary series with seven popular children's book adaptations. Experience the journey from reading the books at home to seeing the plays unfold before your eyes. Book Club performances are always on **Sundays at 1:30 p.m.** at the theatre in Glen Echo Park. Recommended for children ages 4 and up. \$10/family. Call 301-634-2270 or visit www.adventuretheatre.org.

to know about Maryland's Public Service Commission (PSC) - especially its role on the rates you pay for utilities? PSC's Executive Director will be the featured speaker at the next monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Following the program, there will be question/answer period as well as reports on other County issues of interest to local residents. At County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville (free parking in adjacent garage). All County residents and representatives of civic associations welcome. Visit: www.montgomerycivic.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 10

Free Stroke Survivor and Support Group. 7-8 p.m. A program by attorney Marcia Fidis entitled, "Legal Problems After a Stroke: How to Plan Ahead of Time" from 8 to 9 p.m. at Suburban Hospital (8600 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Visit www.mcstroke.org or call 301-681-6272.

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NEWS

Budget Tightening Hits Programs

FROM PAGE 4

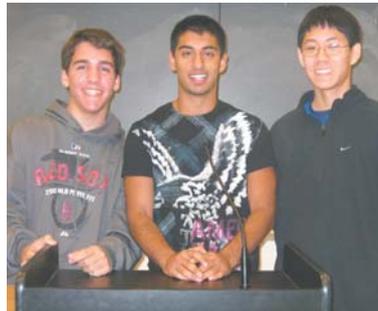
vidual decision of the school. To Blazer, the lack of funds has left the program with no alternative and the remaining two academies survive on private donations. Spatz acknowledges the current freeze on funds is a direct result of the school system's current fiscal situation.

"We don't want to cut these programs," said Spatz. "But it comes down to priorities."

Nearly 530 students participate in the Academies at Churchill to pursue career initiatives and develop small learning communities. The Academy curriculum is compared to a collegiate environment, offering professional lectures, internships, competitions, and in-depth research. Students have worked with professionals at outlets including the National Institute of Health and the Smithsonian, while maintaining GPA minimums based on the requirements of their specific Academy.

WHEN THE PROGRAM began, Blazer and her staff marketed the Academy work at the local middle schools, for students to apply and be accepted. She says the program has grown reputable and now thrives on word of mouth as it is embraced by students seeking an enrichment experience.

"The students are passionate about what they're doing and you can tell it comes from the heart," said



Pablo Hernando-Kaminsky, Curran Chabra and Eric Chen discuss their internships through the math, technology and science academy last year to 9th and 10th graders.

Saida Dim, a Spanish teacher who dedicated four years to the International Studies Academy before it came to a halt.

To parents who have witnessed this success in their own Academy students, the programs remain a priority. Sandy Bonner, mother to a senior in the Arts Academy, says the signature program offers a full-circle curriculum to teenagers incorporating higher-level education and professional direction.

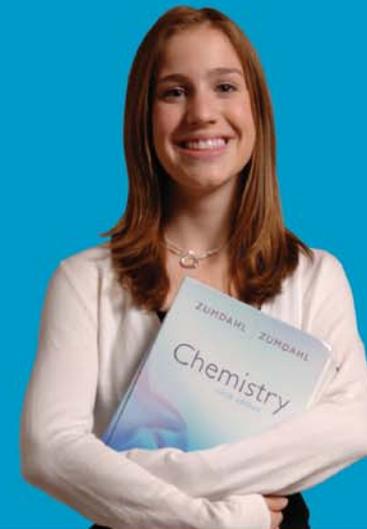
"The dedication level is extraordinary," said Bonner. "It's a commitment that goes beyond taking a class."

Parents, like Bonner and Hirsch, are taking an activist stance in

light of the frozen funds. They collectively believe the Academies require a modest budget and the program benefits outweigh the cost. After the information on the signature programs' struggle became public, parents worked at forming a committee to lobby for support of the programs. They will meet for the second time in two weeks in hopes of determining a course of action that will convey the importance of the signature programs and its impact on students.

"If the result of the programs is a dedicated kid who will make contributions to society, that's a great product of our school system," said Bonner. "If you take it away, you're missing this whole other dimension of what Churchill has to offer."

Speak. Declare. Debate. Share.



If your daughter is looking for an academic environment where she can really develop her sense of self and her unique abilities, we encourage your family to attend one of the following Open Houses:

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COMMUNITY

Dressing Up for the Season

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Katie McDonald, 8 years old, won the "most scary" award for the 8 and older group at the Halloween Costume event held at the Potomac Community Center.



Hope Humphries, 6 years old, won the "Most beautiful" award for the 5-8 year old group.



Navid Farzanpay, 3 years old, won the award for "most creative" in the 4 and under group.



Corey Levin, 4 years old, won the "most scary" award for the 4 and under group.

A New Planning Paradigm

BY LIZA WILSON DURANT, PH.D.
WMCCA PRESIDENT

Zoning is at the heart of almost every issue that impacts the quality of community life in Potomac. Most of us live in residential zones of one or two acres, with the central commercial zone in the heart of Potomac. But there are countless exceptions throughout our community and they often come with protests and heated debate about the intent of the code. Terms like special exception, country inn zone, rural density transfer zone, and planned development

WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

zone invoke confusion, and the Montgomery County Code for these uses does not provide much additional clarity. The complicated, difficult to use, easily misunderstood

behemoth of a document that comprises the County Code is at long last in the process of a complete overhaul under the direction of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

The process began over a year ago when Planning Staff began to study the code and consider opportunities for consolidation and streamlining the language and utility of the document. Aiding them with stakeholder input is the Zoning Advisory Panel, a volunteer body consisting of over 25 persons (including WMCCA's Diana Conway), with knowledge of the zoning code and experience with its implementation and its limitations. Recently, the Planning Board engaged an expert consultant with experience in drafting zoning code in other regions of the United States who promises to help bring our code to a place where its clear interpretation will yield clear implementation of our planning policies.

INDEED, THE GOALS for this team and the Planning Board are lofty, and include: simpli-

fying and streamlining the standards and process, especially development review; matching land use to development patterns; providing rationale for the development standards; modifying the language to make it consistent; using plain English, supported by tables, flow charts and graphics; and making the code more transparent and easier to understand while still respecting the Federal, state and local zoning laws. The team also promises to embrace sustainability, and we can expect to see innovations such as transit-connected development, water conservation, tree canopy requirements, and new lighting standards.

I think any stakeholder can embrace these goals and support this important work. But the strategy by which they achieve the goals is what we might find unsettling. While there is talk that the code will help established communities like Potomac maintain and preserve the character of their single-use community, there is also serious talk about a paradigm shift to address how we plan mixed-use communities to ensure neighborhood completeness, including abandoning the old density and use based standards and emphasizing instead the form and character of the community. It will be interesting to see how the new code will include standards for form without regard for density and still preserve the single use communities which comprise the bulk of the County. How will the new code preserve the environmental basis for Potomac's low density "green wedge" so critical to the protection of the Potomac River and the buffer to the Agricultural Reserve?

CONCURRENT WITH this effort and pending before the County Council is a Zoning Text Amendment to the existing Zoning Code for a new C-R zone – a mixed-use commercial and residential zone. Clearly, the new C-R zone is a glimpse of things to come, but again, it is the strategy for its implementation that we might find unsettling. As the Zoning Text Amendment

WMCCA Meeting

The next meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association will be Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Potomac Library. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled. Guest speaker will be Rollin Stanley, director, Montgomery County Planning Department. Since February 2008, Stanley has served as director of the Planning Department, one of the largest planning agencies in the United States. In that position, Stanley has directed work on community plans — including visions for Germantown, Gaithersburg West and White Flint — as well as shepherding reports on such high-profile issues as the Purple Line, the Falklands redevelopment, and affordable housing. Stanley will speak about his department's effort to revise the Montgomery County Zoning Code and the process for its approval and implementation. The public is welcome.

is written, the new zone could be applied by sectional map amendment, and therefore the County Council would only need to find that re-zoning to the C-R Zone would be "in conformance with the zoning recommendations" of any master plan, including existing master or sector plans. This is a significant departure in process for rezoning, and has implications for any community where the C-R zone might be proposed. The only public hearing on C-R Zone was scheduled to be held by the County Council on Oct. 27.

The process for development of the new code will be lengthy, and there will be opportunity for the public to hear what is being proposed and provide stakeholder input. This could be a very exciting time for Montgomery County as it finally moves into the 21st century in terms of land use and planning for sustainability. But we must participate in the process to ensure that our planners preserve what is best about Montgomery County while simultaneously improving the way we look at mixed-use and commercial development.

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Less Turns Out To Be More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Chronicling, as I have, my unexpected ride on the cancer train these past three months, I thought I'd acquaint you, in this column, anyway, with some of the unexpected benefits I've enjoyed, benefits I never would have thought would have mattered under such trying (I'm trying, I'm trying) circumstances.

Chemotherapy causes problems/has side effects (front effects, back effects, too): nausea, vomiting, fatigue, loss of appetite, increased risk of infection, nose bleeds, loss of hair, and the list goes on. The prospect of losing my hair, however, didn't sit well with me initially, but as the follicles fell, that hairy loss (scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes, nasal, body and anywhere else hair grows) created certain opportunities/efficiencies that I didn't anticipate:

No more shampooing and conditioning, no need for more shampoo and conditioner; no more shaving, no more shaving cream and razors needed; less deodorant used since less in its glide path, less deodorant purchased; less soaping since less hair/obstructions to absorb it (and more sedentary lifestyle), so fewer bars bought. In summary; less time, effort and money spent on hair-related personal hygiene (and believe me, no one suffered as a consequence).

Surprisingly, I began to realize other advantages of my condition: much less appetite so much less time and money spent on food and food preparation; commuting to work one day a week instead of five leading to much less wear and tear (stress) on the driver (yours truly) and of course on the vehicle, too, including much lower commuting costs for gas, oil, tolls, etc; fewer in-office and business appointments as a result meant less dressing for success and less laundering of "success" efforts, so less time and money spent on clothes and their cleaning and maintenance; and most importantly, greater control of my life and more freedom, too; for appointments; business, pleasure and medical; for errands; banking, shopping, activities of daily living; and so forth, all at my convenience.

To summarize further: I am now spending much less time doing the things that I don't want to be doing and spending a lot less money not doing them. Moreover, regaining freedom from my previous nine-to-five focus and in turn now being able to spend more time at home, doing more of the things that I never had time to do while working – and never being at home, as enhanced my life immeasurably, health and budget constraints/realities notwithstanding. Control and independence, that's what I feel. Empowered, too. As odd as it might sound, the stress/reality of the lung cancer is almost offset by the corresponding reduction in stress brought on by this change in lifestyle.

As my oncologist first advised, in response to my first question after hearing him read the reports from all the various doctors/scans (X-Ray, C.T., P.E.T, biopsy) identifying my cancer: "No, you shouldn't be working, and should also consider taking that vacation you've always dreamed of." WHAT!

It was brutal to hear. So unexpected, too. Surreal was the first word that came to mind to describe my/our emotional state. But eventually, over time, over treatment (it's now been seven months since I started chemotherapy) and over the fear, you find a place for it (I did, anyway). And the place that I have found, and chosen to focus, are the positives that have resulted, some of which I've listed in this column. Perhaps in your reading of them, they seem rather insignificant in the scheme of things. Not to me. To me, they feel like building blocks of normalcy, fuel to energize my emotional engine and salve to soothe my furrowed brow.

I have to admit, though, a furrowed brow is the least of my problems (heck, I don't even have a brow). Nevertheless, life is easier. Much less stress and a lot more control. Who says cancer is a bad thing? (Everybody, I know, and of course, it is; just go with my flow.) But my post-diagnosis life has been all right. It may be a funny perspective for a cancer patient to have but if humor is indeed the best medicine, then I am happy to over medicate.

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

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Nejad, Defense Help Whitman to 6-2 Record

Vikings D plays well, falls short against Springbrook.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

When Whitman quarterback Henry Kuhn crossed the goal line in Friday's fourth quarter, recent history suggested the Vikings were on their way to a victory.

Kuhn's run for a two-point conversion, which followed his 24-yard touchdown pass to Michael Flack on fourth-and-16, gave Whitman an 8-7 lead over Springbrook with 8:08 remaining in the game. The Vikings defense, which limited its previous two opponents to a combined seven points, had held Springbrook to 140 yards. The Blue Devils' only score came after a turnover gave them possession deep in Whitman territory.

Springbrook started its ensuing possession on its own 29-yard line. If the Vikings defense continued its dominant play, a one-point lead would be more than enough.

But on this night — and this key possession — Whitman ran out of stops.

The Blue Devils responded with a nine-play, 71-yard drive, ending with a 3-yard touchdown run by Devon Pestano, and held on for a 13-8 victory at WHS.

The 71 yards Springbrook gained on its go-ahead drive accounted for 1/3 of its total yards to that point.

"We just got a little tired on our defense," Whitman head coach Jim Kuhn said. "After we got up 8-7, we just didn't have an answer for [Springbrook]. ... [The] defense did play great. When we needed a big stop, they just didn't quite come up with it tonight. We've been outstanding defensively all year and we just kind of let things slide a little bit on that ... drive."

While Whitman fell short Friday, the Vikings are 6-2 and in the play-off hunt. One of the main reasons for Whitman's success this season is the team's defense. Led by senior outside linebacker Sassan Nejad, the Vikings have held opponents to 20 points for less in seven of eight games, and 13 points of less in five contests.

Whitman defeated Wootton, 6-0, on Oct. 9, and Gaithersburg, 12-7, on Oct. 16, but couldn't pull out another low scoring victory Friday.

"We just couldn't capitalize on our key moments," said Nejad, who also plays fullback for the offense. "The other [close] games, if we would get down, there would always be one play where we would just get back on with offense. It just didn't happen tonight."

Kuhn said Nejad is one of the team's hardest workers.

"He reads very well, he works incredibly hard, he studies film every day, he's the first one in the weight room and the last one to

leave — I have to kick him out of there," Kuhn said. "His work ethic is amazing. He's one of those kids that's a joy to work with — does everything to be successful."

Whitman defensive coordinator said Nejad is the leader of the team's 4-3 scheme.

"I call him a human wrecking ball. He'll take on anybody — any one, any time, no matter how big," Lee said. "That guy will give you everything he's got."

The Vikings are allowing 11.5 points per game, and the defense will need to continue playing well against its final two regular season opponents — Seneca Valley (5-3), Churchill (7-1) — to improve Whitman's chances of making the playoffs.

"Our defense is playing tremendously," Lee said. "They've responded to every challenge that I've put them up to. Our big thing on defense is we get 11 hats to the ball — 11 guys flying to the ball and being great tacklers. ... All year long our defense has kept us in ball games."

Kuhn also mentioned middle linebacker Tony Atkinson and linemen Danny Lee, Jeff Gruen and Jeff Schaeffer as standouts.

Offensively, Henry Kuhn completed 12 of 26 passes for 143 yards. Kevin Cecala led Whitman in rushing with 57 yards. Flack caught five passes for 60 yards.

Whitman travels to face Seneca Valley on Friday.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Whitman outside linebacker Sassan Nejad tackles a Springbrook ball carrier while middle linebacker Tony Atkinson pursues during Springbrook's 13-8 victory Friday. Whitman has held opponents to 11.5 points per game this season en route to a 6-2 record.

Kamdjou's OT Goal Lifts Wootton Past Churchill

Wootton will host Whitman in first round of state.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

Not a single goal could be mustered between the Wootton Patriots and Churchill Bulldogs boys soccer teams in regulation, or the first overtime period on Oct. 21. A scoreless final in this heated rivalry was avoided with just 56 seconds remaining in the second overtime period, when senior midfielder/forward Jeff Robinson's cross was finished near the far post by senior forward Josh Kamdjou to give the Patriots a 1-0 victory.

"I got the ball on the wing, and created some space with a step-over move," Robinson said. "At the end [of the play], I was beginning to cramp so I just hit a hard,

low cross. When I looked up, the ball was in the net."

Robinson, along with senior forward Stephen Ho, accounted for much of Wootton's offense on the night.

The Patriots' success this season can be attributed to their talented, senior-laden lineup. It features defender Jason Greenberg, midfielders Robinson, Ho and Drew Ricci, along with St. John's University commit Matt Harlow. Their leadership and experience has paid dividends in close games, as Wootton has won three straight contests by one-goal margins.

"[Our leadership] probably starts with Jason Greenberg," Wootton head coach Doug Schuessler said. "He's one of our starting defenders, a three-year starter and captain. He's not a guy that leads with his voice; he leads with his actions on the field. He's very calm, very steady, he sets a great example for everybody on the field. He anchors us in a lot of different ways."

Both teams had numerous scoring

chances, but the back lines, led by Greenberg and Churchill senior captain Cameron Kidwell, thwarted those threats for 99 out of a possible 100 minutes of play. Churchill freshman forward Patrick Tshiani ignited the Bulldogs' attack, but could not capitalize near the goal.

For the Bulldogs, a disappointing season is further diminished following a game they felt they let slip away.

"Of course, it hurts a great deal," Churchill head coach Arnold Tarzy said. "What makes it hurt even more, is that we've suffered through a tough season. With injuries to really, really important impact players on our team, we finally found a way to get results and we dominated large stretches of the match. ... Soccer can be such a cruel game. The better team doesn't always have to win, and that night, the better team didn't."

Although a blowout yields no more than a one-goal victory does in the standings, the Patriots hope to curb their habit of playing

these tightly contested games as the postseason approaches.

"I think that we've had an interesting run towards the end [of the season]," Schuessler said. "We haven't necessarily always been playing well, but we've been playing just well enough. That worries me a little bit because teams raise their intensity come playoff time. ... We tend to play up to our level of our competition, but we also sometimes play down to it."

Despite their close margins of victory, the Patriots are clicking at the right time and are poised to make a championship run.

"It's a good sign that no matter what the situation, our guys keep fighting until the end," Schuessler said.

Wootton, the No. 5 seed in the 4A West state tournament bracket, will host No. 12 Whitman in the opening round at 6 p.m. Saturday. Wootton was 7-3-3 entering Tuesday's action.

No. 13 Churchill (4-9) will travel to face No. 4 Blair.



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