

Potomac ALMANAC

Working With Veterans

NEWS, PAGE 4

Chamber Dinner Honors Three

NEWS, PAGE 4

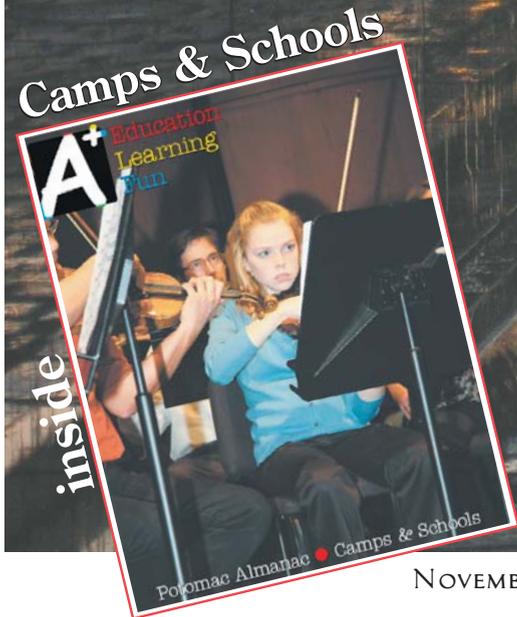
New Bakery Opens

NEWS, PAGE 2

Vikings in State Championship

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Churchill students work alongside veterans to wash the walls of Vietnam Memorial with soap and water in the first light of Saturday morning, Nov. 7. Participants arrived at dawn before the day's first visitors to scrub away the fingerprints of thousands who come to the wall and honor the memory of fallen soldiers.



Rockwood Manor's Future?

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY ANSLEY LABARRE / THE ALMANAC

CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

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NEWS

New Bakery Opens

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

The American novelist Louis Bromfield wrote "Bread is the king of the table and all else is merely the court that surrounds the king." A new king has been crowned with the grand opening of Breadsmith in Cabin John Shopping Center. The kosher bakery offers fresh baked bread that is hand made the night before for the next day. All breads are baked in a hearth oven to make the European artisan breads which are made with all natural whole grains. Each day there will be a signature bread offered along with sweet and dessert breads, coffee cakes, muffins, scones and cookies. For those watching their weight; bread can be sliced and chosen to fit into the Weight Watchers point system.

Before the grand opening of



PHOTO BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

Ron Spratt (center) gave a TAPS coin in appreciation to Tamir (left) and Brenda Bennaim of Breadsmith.

Breadsmith, Brenda Bennaim and her husband Tamir hosted a fund raiser for TAPS, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. All proceeds from that day's sales went to help military families. Brenda Bennaim feels "that our military are going overseas to defend us. Why not give back to them when they pass and help their spouses and children?"

Ron Spratt who is in charge of development for TAPS says the organization offers grief support, resources, seminars and workshops for families affected by as well as online chat and a 24/7 call center for crisis intervention. They also sponsor a summer camp for children of service men and women.

Brenda Bennaim who has a nutrition degree was looking for a simple bread to try for her daughter, who is a picky eater. "I wanted something I could put in their school lunches, but didn't want the preservatives. Now she eats our bread all the time." Brenda Bennaim grew up in Potomac, graduated from Winston Churchill High School and wanted to give back to the community. As for the future, Brenda Bennaim hopes that "people will love our bread and come back for more."

Breadsmith located at 7937 Tuckerman Lane in Potomac is open Monday-Thursday 7-7, Friday 7-2:30, and Sunday 8-3, closed Saturday, phone 301-983-6033.

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House Fire Yields Injury

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel responded a house fire on Monday, Nov. 2 at the 10800 block of Old Coach Road. Officials say the incident may have resulted from an altercation within the residence.

The elderly owners had evacuated their home by the time the Fire and Rescue team arrived just after 6 a.m. Investigators discovered a series of fires throughout the residence that they believe were intentionally set ablaze.

Assistant Chief Scott Graham said the team found numerous writings on the walls in conjunction with the fires. The 77-year-old wife and female occupant allegedly lit the fires throughout their home and allegedly struck her husband during the process, Graham said.

The 80-year-old husband sustained minor injuries and was transported to the hospital for evaluation. Graham said officials are unsure what caused the altercation between the couple that has been married for 53 years.

Montgomery County's Fire and Explosive Division is currently investigating the cause and origin of the fires, which Graham said may take longer than usual due to the circumstances surrounding the incident.

— ANSLEY LABARRE



Churchill students gather by the Vietnam Memorial to recite the Pledge of Allegiance after spending nearly two hours scrubbing the wall with soap and water with the Vietnam Veterans of America. The service project was intended to create a greater understanding of the historical and social impact of the time period in light of the students' upcoming performance of Ms. Saigon.

Working along side Veterans

Students gain insight for their "Ms. Saigon."

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

They had been there for over an hour, laboring through the frost of the early November morning. With their task complete, a group of 10 veterans faced the northern wall of the Vietnam Memorial in a salute, staring at the reflection of the sunrise in the black granite. Behind them, students from Winston Churchill High School watched the scene unfold in silence.

Saturday, Nov. 7, marked a special occasion for more than 20 students from the local high school, who worked alongside the Silver Spring chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America to wash the wall etched with over 58,000 names that com-

memorate fallen soldiers.

"For the Churchill students, it's an experience to remember," said Bill Gray, a former platoon leader in Vietnam who joins his chapter on the first Saturday of each month from April to November to shower the wall with soap and water. To the Churchill students, the feeling was mutual.

"We're interacting with the veterans and seeing how much this means to them," said senior Becca Murphy, who alongside other cast members found cleaning the wall appropriate in light of Veteran's Day.

The student participants were exclusively members of the Churchill Symphony Orchestra and Showstoppers Choir, who will be performing the musical Ms. Saigon this Dec. 11 and 12. The story chronicles the forsaken romance of Vietnamese girl and an American soldier during the war, exploring mature and realistic themes of the time

SEE LEARNING, PAGE 9

A Show of Unity Walt Whitman High to perform "Into the Woods."

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

The opening night of Walt Whitman High's School fall musical will begin as each performance that preceded it — with the cast's quick prayer to Saint Genesius, patron of actors. But while the pre-curtain ritual is laden with tradition, the show itself is not. "Into the Woods" is an intricate collaboration of classic fairy tales and performers.

The cast of "Into the Woods" agrees this year's show is distin-

guished by the prominent role of the orchestra. Rather than pausing dialogue for the standard song-and-dance piece, the music is a constant companion to each scene. The characteristics of the play make it more similar to an opera than traditional music theatre.

"The show is definitely music-heavy," said senior performer Tori Sharbaugh. "The vocals are more challenging in the sense that they are continuous throughout the show."

But the cast was up for the challenge. In the week before opening night, students devoted all their

extra-curricular time to rehearsals that often lasted until 10 p.m. after a full day of classes. Sharbaugh says she and others hoped to perform "Into the Woods" during their time at Whitman as they were drawn to its quirky costumes and family-friendly plot in addition to the musical composition.

Music and Choral Director Jeffrey Davidson said "Into the Woods" offers an outlet for his students to stretch their talents. Students with roles in both the orchestra and on-stage began practicing

SEE A SHOW, PAGE 11

For Rockwood Manor, A Future Unknown

Neighbors clash over National Outdoor Center.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

A business vision intended to create unity between outdoor enthusiasts is instead dividing local communities. The proposed National Outdoor Center — a renovation to the existing facilities at Rockwood Manor Park on MacArthur Boulevard — is stirring debate from its neighbors.

The development would create amenities at the 44.5-acre park currently maintained by the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission that include a bed and breakfast, outdoor store and bike shop, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation clinic, yoga studio and a full service café bistro.

Sunny Pitcher, current president of Potomac Paddle Sports and entrepreneur behind the proposal, said the development would create a hub for Montgomery County residents to make use of the national park space.

"We put together a sweeping plan based on the needs of the community, sustainability, and human power and recreation," said Pitcher.

The proposal is a public-private partnership between Park and Planning and Pitcher, who assumes all financial responsibility for the project and estimates expenses nearing \$1 million for the first of two stages of development.

THE PLAN does not look to increase the human footprint in the



Potomac Paddlesports is part of the group proposing the new outdoor center; they currently provide cleanup along MacArthur Boulevard near Rockwood.

park, but rather use the existing constructed space that was formerly willed to the Girl Scouts of America. Pitcher says in its current state, Rockwood Manor is only used by out-of-town guests for the occasional wedding and his proposal to revamp the nearly-abandoned space has been in the making for nearly a year.

"There is a ready audience that has been waiting for a long time for a facility of this nature," said Pitcher.

But neighbors with properties bordering Rockwood Manor say they knew nothing about the suggested renovation until Monday, Nov. 9, just eight days prior the first public meeting regarding the proposal. Many said they first heard about the plans for the National Outdoor Center during meetings with homeowner's associations and through local media coverage.

SEE AHEAD, PAGE 11



PHOTOS BY ANSLEY LABARRE/THE ALMANAC

The main building at Rockwood Manor Park.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild

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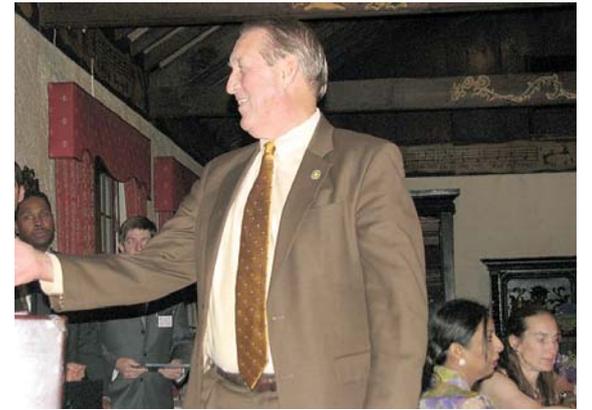
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NEWS



Del. Craig Rice presents a citation to Sharan London, Citizen of the Year. In the nominating letter for London, executive director, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless: "In this climate of tough economic times, skyrocketing gas prices and global natural disasters, most community members are trying to figure out how to weather this recent surge of challenges. However for Potomac resident Sharan London, her focus and determination remains steadfast — ensuring that every resident in Montgomery County has a place to call home. Sharan has spent her entire career advocating for social change, enlisting key stakeholders along the way to turn the vision of ending homelessness in Montgomery County into a reality."



Donald Dell steps up to receive his Business Person of the Year award. Dell was one of the four new members inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on July 11 in Newport, R.I. He was the first American tennis player to compete in the Soviet Union in 1961, served as the youngest non-playing team captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team in 1968 and 1969, co-founded the Association of Tennis Professionals in 1972, and founded the Legg Mason Classic in 1969. The local tournament has raised more than \$15 million for local children's tennis programs. Dell founded ProServ, the first management company to represent tennis players

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Chamber Dinner Honors Three

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State Sen. Rob Garagiola with Youth of the Year Meenu Singh. In the nominating letter from Dr. Joan C. Benz, principal of Churchill: "Meenu Singh is among the highest scholastically ranked students in the Class of 2010. In June, at the end of her Junior year, Meenu's weighted grade point average was 4.7. She holds membership in the National Honor Society; Mu Alpha Theta, the Mathematics National Honor Society and in the Science, English and Spanish National Honor Societies. She was selected as a National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar for her PSAT performance. In the spring of 2009 she received the Smith College Book Award for academic achievement, leadership qualities and concern for others in the community."



The Potomac Chamber of Commerce named the Diener School as its Charity of the Year, presenting founder Jillian Copeland with a check for \$4,000. Copeland, also a graduate of Winston Churchill, started the school to serve special needs students.



Tim and Elie Pizarra Cain



Grace and Bob Rood, former proprietors of Flaps, attended the awards dinner.



County Councilmember Roger Berliner with Adam Greenberg, president of the Chamber.

New Moon on Friday

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Friday the 13th was a perfect day for vampires to come out at night and in the rain. The Blockbuster video at Cabin John Mall was the scene of die-hard fans of the Twilight books to win tickets and prizes for the upcoming New Moon movie opening Nov. 20. New Moon is the second installment of author Stephenie Meyers' Twilight series about mortal Bella Swan and her love Edward Cullen, a vampire. The books are known worldwide and fans are eagerly waiting for the New Moon movie to open in theaters next week. The event at Blockbuster was hosted by radio station Mix 107.3. Morning radio personality Aly was on hand to give away tickets to a screening of the movie. She was there because "We know our listeners want to get tickets to see the movie before anyone else and they can win them tonight. We love events like this that have a huge fan base and a big following. The books by Stephenie Meyers just draw you in — especially with

the mysterious character of Edward Cullen."

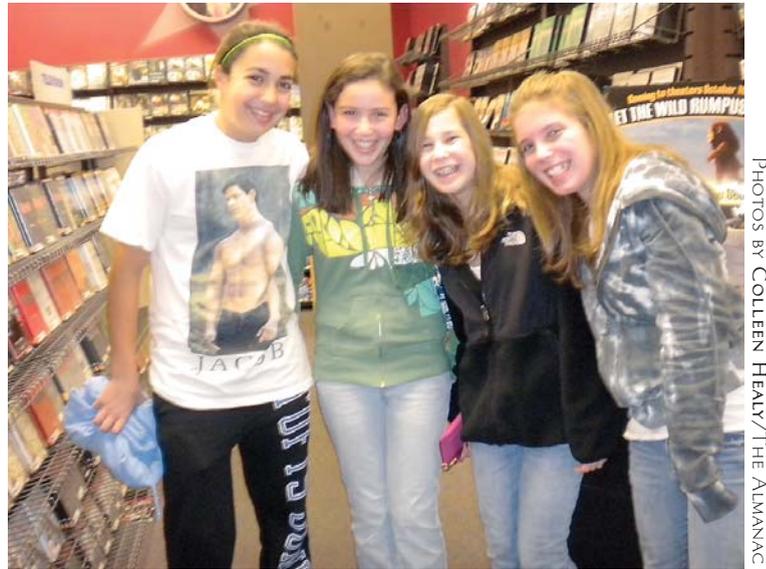
Farah Madi came dressed as a vampire in the hopes of winning tickets to the screening. She feels "the story has romance, adventure, fiction and fantasy in the series." She relates to the heroine of Bella because they are the same age. Another fan, who goes only by the name of Angel, thinks people are attracted to vampires because they are "weird, supernatural, attractive yet evil. It is the classic story of good vs. evil."

Tania Mamdouhi also came to the event in the hopes of winning tickets. She is attracted to the books "because they are action packed and suspenseful." Her friend Elizabeth Kitt is a fan as well and finds that in the books "everything goes wrong, but the characters still find a way around it." She relates to heroine Bella because "we are both klutzy."

Most fans are either cheering for the Edward the vampire or Jacob the werewolf. Ashley Statter is on Team Jacob because "Edward is kind of creepy." Fan Jordan Maser is torn between the two heroes. She feels that "Edward is super



Farah Madi models vampire fashion at the New Moon celebration held on Friday the 13th at the Cabin John Blockbuster store in Potomac.



From left to right, Tania Mamdouhi, Elizabeth Kitt, Ashley Statter and Jordan Maser look forward to seeing New Moon at the movies next week.

PHOTOS BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

protective, but Jacob is a friend that is always there for you."

Amy Smith of Write Ideas who helped planned the event remembers the Twilight DVD launch. "People were camped out around the store waiting until midnight to

buy the movie. It is fun to be a part of such a huge event that has a tremendous fan base." Blockbuster store manager Jay Rubin feels the event is "a great partnership with Mix 107.3, the movie studios, and Blockbuster. We love the neighborhood feel of Potomac. The people here tonight are customers and friends. We love

a crowd. Parents are here with their kids. They can enjoy reading the books and seeing the movies together. Twilight has become like another Harry Potter. It is truly a phenomenon. People have been fascinated by vampires since Dracula. They are creeped out by them. But these vampires are good and beautiful creatures."

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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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 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.

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

Poet Fady Joudah. 7 p.m. This event features Fady Joudah, a Yale Series for Younger Poets poet in 2007. The discussions will be led by Yvette Neisser Moreno, who teaches poetry and translation at The Writer's Center. At The Writers Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 or www.writers.org.

Book Signing and Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. \$22.50 for lecture; \$27.50 for lecture and lunch. David Stewart, attorney and historian, will speak with his wife County Council Member Nancy Floreen. Mr. Stewart is the author of "Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and The Fight for Lincoln's Legacy." At the Strathmore Mansion, North Bethesda. Go to www.folmc.org. To register, go to <https://mail.montgomerycountymd.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.folmc.org> or 240-777-0020.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

La Divina Milonga Party. 8:30 - Midnight. \$15 admission. Argentine Tango lesson from 8:30-9 p.m. Dancing to recorded Tango, Milongas, Waltz and Tango Nuevo music from 9 p.m. to midnight. Hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: Jennifer@foreverdancing.com.

Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company. 8 p.m. Ukrainian folk dancing. Tickets are \$40/regular, \$38/seniors and students. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. Lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. followed by dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Contra dancing as well as some square dances and waltzes. Chris Weiler calls to Nor'easter with Cedar Stanistreet on fiddle, Max Newman on mandolin and guitar, and Julie Vallimont on piano and accordion. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: fdcontra@yahoo.com.

NOV. 20-21

"Chicago, The Musical." 7:30 p.m. Winston Churchill High School stages "Chicago, The Musical." Tickets are \$12/\$10. Chicago will feature Ashley Austin as Velma Kelly, Alexandra Levenson as Roxie Hart, Shelby Sykes as Matron Mama Morton, Steven Rigaux as Billy Flynn, Josh Simon as Amos Hart, Peter Karp as Mary Sunshine, Becca Murphy as Liz, Molly Kiniry as Annie, Genny Austin as June, Bluma Millman as Hunyak,



From left to right: Mikey Ambrosino (Rockville), Josh Bernstein (Gaithersburg), Kyle Lefelar (North Potomac), Trevor Mooney (Germantown).

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Rock 4 a Cure. 6-7 p.m. "Pulse," a rock band of middle school students, will be holding a benefit concert for cancer research called "Rock 4 a Cure." At the Potomac Community Center (Social Hall), 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Admission is free. A \$5 donation to the Israel Cancer Research Fund is recommended. Contact David Bernstein at 301-452-8136.

Laura Butvinik as Mona and Tanaquil Marquez as Go-to-Hell Kitty along with an enormously talented ensemble of forty-four students. Nancy Newell is choreographing Lead Dancers Thalia Ertman, Ryan Kanfer, Josh Kaufmann, and Ariana Nasser. Under the direction of Jessica Speck, the musical leadership of Keith Tittermary, and dance choreography by Nancy Newell. At Churchill High School, Gertrude Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. Call 301-469-1246 or go to www.wchs.drama.org.

Orchestra. Tickets \$20/general, \$18/seniors. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Road, Rockville. Call 703-549-2010 or visit www.balalaika.org.

Live Simulcast of Philadelphia Orchestra. 8 p.m. At the Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park, located at the far end of the South Arcade, next to Adventure Theatre. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children under 18. For more information: www.washingtonconservatory.org.

NOV. 20-22

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. Some 350 artists will be exhibiting their handmade works from pottery to fine art to jewelry and apparel. At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7/adults online; \$8/door. Free for children under 12. Go to www.sugarloafcrafter.com.

NOV. 20-DEC. 6

Christmas Program. Potomac Theatre Company presents Meredith Willson's "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," Nov. 20-Dec. 6, Fridays and *Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 2 (*Saturday, Nov. 21 show is at 7 with Meet the Cast Party after show). Bullis School, Blair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Adults: \$20; Seniors/Students \$18. Pre-paid groups of 10 or more receive 20 percent off! Leave message: 301-299-8571.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Russian Revelry. 7:30 p.m. Featuring internationally acclaimed Russian basso Anatoli Panchoshny and WBS balalaika virtuoso Andrei Saveliev. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Road, Rockville MD. Tickets are \$20/adults, \$18/seniors, \$15/students. Go to www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre/. Call 703-549-2010.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Beginner lesson at 8 p.m. followed by the dance until midnight. With the Boilermaker Jazz Band. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Email: huh@thejamcellar.com.

Russian Revelry. 7:30 p.m. The Washington Balalaika Society concert featuring its 60-piece Russian Folk

NOV. 21-22

Holiday Bazaar. 70 vendors selling monogrammed clothing, jewelry, ceramic pieces, men's and women's clothing, accessories, stationery, original art, hand painted items including furniture; Shabby Chic Boutique, luncheon café and bake sale. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 10 to 4 p.m. at Connelly School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac. Go to www.holychild.org or call 301-365-0955.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Zydeco and Cajun Dance. \$15 admission. Lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. With the Dennis Stroughmatt and the Creole Stomp band, which plays "Real Deal Louisiana Creole Zydeco, Cajun, Blues, and New Orleans Swamp Pop". At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.DancingbytheBayou.com.

Concert. 3 p.m. Cellist Steven Doane and pianist Michael Adcock in concert. At Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. The concert, presented by the Washington Conservatory of Music, is offered on a free-will donation basis. Call 301-320-2770 and www.washingtonconservatory.org.

Sunday Blues Dance. 7-11 p.m. \$14 lesson and dance, \$8/dance only. Slow Blues dancing lesson from 7-8:30 p.m. Dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. DJ Mike Marcotte and guest DJs. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: dbarker@glenechopark.org.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/members. The newcomers' welcome lesson is at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HOLIDAY CALENDAR



Artistic Director Stan Engebretson will conduct.

DEC. 12-13

Handel's Messiah. Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. At the Music Center at Strathmore. The concert will feature the National Philharmonics 200-voice all-volunteer Chorale as well as soloists Danielle Talamantes (soprano), Victoria Livengood (mezzo-soprano); Robert Baker (tenor) and Leon Williams (baritone). Artistic Director Stan Engebretson will conduct. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org or call the box office at (301) 581-5100. Tickets are \$29-\$79; kids 7-17 are FREE.

School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac. Go to www.holychild.org or call 301-365-0955.

THURSDAY/NOV. 26

Community Thanksgiving Day of Service. 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Elton O. Smith Jr., Assistant Rector, will deliver the homily, "Thanksgiving in a time of Turbulence." Hymns will include "Now Thank We all our God" and "Come Ye Thankful People Come" and incorporates special prayers of thanksgiving in a service of Holy Eucharist. At St James' Episcopal Church, Potomac. Call 301-762-8040; office@stjamespotomac.org.

NOV. 28-29

Victorian Greeting Card Workshop. Free. Make your own Victorian-era holiday greeting card in the style Miss Barton sent to her friends. Participants will be photographed in costumes of the period. Then, each photograph will be used to make a holiday card for each participant. This is a cut-and-paste activity geared towards families and children. Reservations are required. At the Clara Barton National Historic Site. Call 301-320-1410.

Rocks! Extravaganza. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Go to www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Henry and Mudge, a TheatreworksUSA Presentation. 11 a.m. Tickets are \$7/regular, \$6 seniors and students. A musical based on the best-selling children's book, Henry and Mudge. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. Beginning swing lesson at 8 p.m. is followed by the band from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the 16-piece Tom Cunningham Orchestra. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

SUNDAY/NOV. 29

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/members. The newcomers' welcome lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by dances called by George Marshall to Clayfoot Strutters from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, and including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. <http://www.fsgw.org>.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

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.

SUNDAY/NOV. 29

Hanging of the Greens. 5 p.m. Learn the meaning of the various symbols associated with Advent while decorating the church with wreaths, candles, trees and ornaments. At Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-6007 or Elder Dowd at 301-299-3835.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Craft Show. 1-6 p.m. Jewelry, beads, Christmas items, wood crafts, prints, metalwork, ceramics, glass, fiber arts, books and more. At the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd. (at 75th Street), in Cabin John. Call 301-229-0010.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

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NOV. 20-DEC. 6

Christmas Program. Potomac Theatre Company presents Meredith Willson's "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," Nov. 20-Dec. 6, Fridays and *Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 2 (*Saturday, Nov. 21 show is at 7 with Meet the Cast Party after show). Bullis School, Blair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Adults: \$20; Seniors/Students \$18. Pre-paid groups of 10 or more receive 20 percent off! Leave message: 301-299-8571.

NOV. 21-22

Holiday Bazaar. 70 vendors selling monogrammed clothing, jewelry, ceramic pieces, men's and women's clothing, accessories, stationery, original art, hand painted items including furniture; Shabby Chic Boutique, luncheon café and bake sale. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 10 to 4 p.m. at Connelly

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

7 p.m., followed by dances called by Steve Gester to Mucho Gusto from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couples dances. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Go to <http://www.fsgw.org>.

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3-6 p.m. \$12 admission. Join the Hot Society Orchestra of Washington for an afternoon of dancing, featuring music and dances from the '20s, '30s and '40s. Lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Followed by dancing to live music from 3:30-6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Email: dave@hotsociety.net.

The Poet's Cookbook. 2 p.m. Join editors Grace Cavaliere and Sabine Pascarelli and poets published in The Poet's Cookbook, a bi-lingual Italian/English anthology. Readers include: Tina Daub, Pat Gray, Rose Solari, Katherine Williams, Rod Jellema, Judy Neri, Ernie Wormwood, Carole Wagner Greenwood, Anne Caston, Alexis Rotella, Carly Sachs, Nan Fry, and Sabine Pascarelli, who will read her Italian translations of the poems. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 or www.writer.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. The Friday Night Dancers present contra dancing with square dances and waltzes. Lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. followed by called dances to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Shawn Brenneman calls to Capitol Quicksteps. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

Brian Setzer Orchestra. 8 p.m. Presents the seventh annual Christmas

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Whitman Playing Like Favorite Despite No. 12 Seed

Vikings will face Urbana on Friday for 4A state championship.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

Despite holding the No. 12 seed, the Whitman boys soccer team emerged from the 4A West region and defeated second-seeded High Point, 3-2, on Friday to set up an improbable matchup with 4A North regional champion Urbana for the state championship on Nov. 20. Led by senior forward Scott Gerfen and senior midfielder Dominick Yin, the Vikings may be too talented to be characterized as a Cinderella, but no team faced a tougher road in its quest for a state title.

The playoff run was “not unexpected at all,” head coach Dave Greene said. “Did we think we were gonna get to this point? We didn’t think in those terms. We basically were playing one game at a time because if we got ahead of ourselves, we did not concentrate on the opponent at hand. We didn’t get too excited in one way or another. If we lost, we didn’t get too upset. When we won, we didn’t get too excited.”

Although Whitman held the fifth-best record in Montgomery County, only the top four teams are assured seeding based on their regular season finishes. The team with the fifth-best record through the team with the 13th-best record is randomly assigned seeds, thereby making Whitman’s fifth-place standing irrelevant.

The Vikings’ competitive Montgomery County schedule was made all the more daunting with matchups against elite local private schools.

“We played an unbelievable schedule,” Greene said. “We played two private schools that won their respective league tournaments in Mt. St. Joseph’s and Gonzaga. When we played Sherwood, they were undefeated and ranked in the area. Northwest was undefeated. The Montgomery County schedule was incredible. ... When we started scoring goals on a regular basis, we became more dependable, and our team changed for the best.”

While their strenuous schedule likely cost



Whitman senior Scott Gerfen, seen against Bethesda-Chevy Chase in the regional final, scored each of the Vikings’ three goals in Friday’s state semifinal victory over High Point.



Senior midfielder Dominick Yin is Whitman’s field general.

the Vikings a top-four seed in the region, it left Whitman battle tested and confident when the postseason arrived.

“We didn’t really think about the low seeding much because we expected to win every game we played in,” Gerfen said. “Because we had such a difficult schedule, we knew we weren’t going to see anything new and we knew we could play with anyone.”

OTHER COUNTY FOES knew better than to hope for an early round draw with the Vikings. Senior goalkeeper Zack Khalifa shut out opponents nine times during the year, while the team’s tempo and precision passing kept defenses off balance en route to 11 regular and postseason wins. The Wootton Patriots fell to Whitman on Sept. 16, 2-0, and then were ousted by the Vikings by the same score in the first round of the playoffs.

“Whitman has one of the strongest midfields in Montgomery County, which automatically makes them a tough team to beat because they can control the game,” Wootton senior midfielder Stephen Ho said.

“Our midfield was pretty well matched against them; they just have a little too much speed in some areas.”

“[Whitman] just keeps possession of the ball with [senior midfielder] Sam Lilek and [Yin],” Wootton senior midfielder Drew Ricci said. “And we haven’t played any teams where keeping up with their speed was ever a real challenge.”

The Vikings’ senior leaders exploit defenses in varying ways, but with similar success. In the regional final against Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Yin broke a scoreless stalemate with a hard, low shot that beat the goalkeeper with just under 14 minutes remaining in the game. In the state semifinal, Gerfen exploded for each of Whitman’s three goals of the game, providing the team’s singular scoring punch in a 3-2 victory over High Point. Yin is the field general, while Gerfen, who has garnered interest from Lafayette College and Emory University, is instant offense that must be accounted for at all times.

“DOMINICK SETS the pace for the whole

game for our team,” Greene said. “That’s his job, he determines how fast or slow we play. He determines whether we defend or attack more. He’s the coach on the field. He decides what goes on there. It’s not necessarily through him talking ... but everyone can see how he plays and they play off of him.”

“Scott brings speed,” Greene said. “He’s a lot to handle, he’s athletic, has very good technical skills, and one of the best things is he’s always working — he never stops. You have to deal with him pretty much anytime we’re on our attack.”

Despite consecutive losses to close out the regular season and a double-digit seed, the Vikings have the opportunity to complete this storybook run thanks to their talented seniors, strong presence in goal, and fearless attitude.

“Our whole goal this season was to peak for the playoffs and we did,” junior forward Elliot Markus said. “We have known since the beginning of the year [that] if we play our style and manage the game, we will always be in the game and have a great shot of winning.”

SPORTS BRIEFS

Whitman’s Season Ends With Playoff Loss

The Whitman football team lost to Paint Branch, 18-7, on Friday in the opening round of the 4A West playoffs. The Vikings finished the season with an 8-3 record and their second trip to the playoffs during Jim Kuhn’s three-year tenure as head coach.

Whitman led 7-0 at halftime but struggled moving the ball in the second half. Paint Branch took the lead with a pair of third quarter touchdowns and held on for the win.

“In the first half we were a little bit fresher,” Kuhn said. “As the game went on they kind of wore us down.”

Running back Kevin Cecala rushed 19 times for 63 yards and Whitman’s lone touchdown. Quarterback Henry Kuhn completed 7 of 21 passes for 66 yards. Michael Flack and Carson Kline each intercepted a pass for the Vikings.

Seven of Whitman’s 11 games were decided by six points or less — the Vikings won five of seven.

“We learned a lot about playing together as a team and working hard and working toward a common goal,” Jim Kuhn said. “We don’t have any All-American players, but [if] you work as a group you can accomplish things.”

Henry Kuhn and Flack, the team’s No. 1 receiver, will

return next season. However, the Vikings will lose Cecala, a three-year starter at running back, and defensive line standout Danny Lee.

“We’ve got some big things to fill,” Coach Kuhn said, “but we have a great nucleus to build on.”

Churchill Girls Soccer Loses in 4A West Final

The top-seeded Churchill girls soccer team lost to Bethesda-Chevy Chase, 1-0 on penalty kicks, during the 4A West final on Nov. 10.

NEWS

Learning about Viet Nam War

FROM PAGE 3
period.

Choral and Music Director Carlos Barillo searched for outlets to increase his cast's comprehension of the social and historical implications from the conflict that spanned more than 15 years and greatly influenced American culture. Barillo acknowledges his students are among the young generation who did not witness the direct impact of the Vietnam War. So, his performers exchanged their instruments for long-handled brushes in what Barillo describes as an opportunity to give back to the community while forming a deeper understanding of the war.

"It's more than just a show, it's based on real events," said senior cast member Sara Arizona Bonner. "Seeing the tens of thousands of names really hit home."

THE PROJECT was not mandatory for his class, but Barillo said he received a positive participation response from his students. Parents worked to coordinate the morning's wall washing by contacting the Vietnam Veterans of America, who readily agreed to the offer for help. Saturday marked the first time a group of high school students assisted in washing the wall, although the concept is not a new one. Since 1995, local chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America wash the memorial that acquires the fingerprints of thousands of monthly visitors.

Gray said his team typically arrives at the memorial at sunrise to complete the task

before the day's influx of visitors. But Gray said it is also an irreplaceable time to soak up the tranquility of the memorial before the mass of traffic consumes Constitution Avenue and the nation's capital begins its daily bustle.

Students agreed, and didn't mind the early hours of their service. Senior Liam Regan awoke to a 4 a.m. alarm, finding a sense of peace and a personal connection in the sunrise. During a break from washing, Regan searched the directory and found his great-grandfather's name among the thousands engraved into the memorial.

"I found my family member," said Regan. "It's a good day to look back on his sacrifice for our country."

Understanding this sacrifice was exactly the response Barillo hope to instill in his students. A running theme of the show, the director and parents of the teenagers knew the students would walk away from their task with more than just soapy sneakers.

"The morning creates a level of understanding in conjunction with the veterans to show our kids the meaning of respect and sacrifice," said choir parent John Melhus, who recently returned from his own year-long tour in Iraq with the Department of Agriculture. "It's hard to fully appreciate what the military does for us until you see it yourself."

For the students, Saigon is a proven lesson of combining history and art. "It's definitely not just another musical," said Bonner.

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A Big Shot I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I would have thought – or expected, that after nearly eight months since I received my cancer diagnosis and six months since I've been column-writing my thoughts on the subject, that I would (perhaps even, should) be able to actually talk about it. And in talk about it, I mean, actually say the word cancer out loud in response to a friendly inquiry about my appearance, my hair (or lack thereof), my water-drinking, my diet, my work schedule, etc. But I can't, apparently, at least not without a lot of stammering and stuttering, and hemming and hawing, anyway.

And here I thought I was so well-adjusted, so comfortable in my cancer-affected skin; Mr. Positive, Mr. What-A-Great-Attitude, Mr. I-Can-Handle-This, that a simple question asking the obvious wouldn't illicit such a verbal vacuum. I know silence is supposed to be golden, but this silence seems so awkward, so inappropriate, sort of, that I find myself trying, occasionally, to avoid the conversation/situation altogether. Sometimes it feels better to be simply left alone with my own unspoken thoughts rather than struggling to express them in public to a sincerely interested person but one who is not, quite frankly, someone who my life is not dependent upon (the kindness of others notwithstanding).

And not that my life is dependent upon anyone right now, thank God! And not that cancer patients in general, or anyone with serious medical issues, are not dependent in some way on said kindness and queries – and prayers of others, because I've certainly come to realize that we are. Moreover, it's not that I'm a private person fearful of the invasion of that privacy. Hardly. I'm comfortable writing about it (obviously) and comfortable having people know about it. But in the past few weeks, social situations have presented themselves that have made it clear that I'm not nearly as comfortable talking about it as my writing would have lead me to believe.

I don't think I'm in denial; I think I'm in reality. Heck, when they stick a needle in your arm every three weeks for chemotherapy and every week for lab work, there's not a minute (make that second) that goes by when you're not keenly aware that you're "Not in Kansas anymore," unless of course, you're a cancer patient who actually lives in Kansas. I know exactly where I am, what I'm doing and more importantly, why I'm doing it. I don't know the outcome, yet. However, if I were to guess as to why my words are more easily written than they are spoken, I would bet that not knowing my future may be the cause of some of the verbal problems I'm having in the present.

It's that uncertainty that ties my tongue, I believe. And in recounting various conversations I've had with my oncologist, my oncology nurse and miscellaneous other health care professionals with whom I interact (and who know my diagnosis), my prognosis is so interdependent on variables impossible even to predict and/or anticipate that receiving a definitive assessment/scenario/future summarizing them and in turn comforting me, is unrealistic, apparently.

Therefore, when I ask the existential question, "What does it all mean, doctor?" the answer I usually receive is unsatisfactory. But at least I'm alive to ask it (and to hear the answer, too).

For a stage IV lung cancer patient that may be as good as it gets.

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

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A Show Of Unity

FROM PAGE 3

their pieces in September. In order to achieve perfect synchronization with the music, Davidson said, the 18-student cast was forced to trade spotlight roles for teamwork.

"The show offers them the opportunity to grow as a community of actors and singers that work together for a common product that is greater than the sum of each individual," said Davidson.

THE GROUP mentality took pressure off individual performers. Senior performer Sammy Zeicel has been acting since age four, but found the ensemble presence in this year's production to be unparalleled.

"Every part is integral to this play," said Zeicel. "Everyone works together and you're not all alone out there."

To Zeicel and the crew, "everyone" not only includes the main cast performing Thursday Nov. 19 through Saturday Nov. 21, but the understudy cast performing in Sunday's show.

"There's no separation," said senior understudy Leah Chiaverini, who said an understudy role is typically comprised of individual work outside the theatre. "We're on the same level as [the main cast]."

Unity is the thread of the show — from the set designers who draped leafy vines from the rafters to the technicians working discreetly behind the scenes. The team approach was the only option to create the constant flow of music and lyrics that defines the performance.

"It's a lot different than playing individually," said senior Duncan Wales, a drummer in the pit who noted the challenge in synchronizing with the actors onstage. "But when the music starts we all get focused and relaxed."

The relaxation and the fun are the foremost reasons students participate in productions like "Into the Woods." Performing in the show gives them the opportunity to expand their musical passions while working together.

"Our collaboration brings out the best in everyone," said senior performer Itai Farhi, "It makes for a better finished product."

And when the curtain finally drops?

"It's a little sad," said Wales, "But there's definitely a sense of accomplishment."

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An Actor's Life for Them

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Many parents of Potomac Theatre Company cast members were involved in theater and passed the acting gene onto the next generation. Tricia Weiler (Hendrika's mother), who has been doing community theater for 10 years, grew up in a family of clowns. Her parents performed at children's birthday parties on weekends so she grew up in an acting family. She feels the show is "fun and light hearted and the cast is a wonderful, family oriented group to work with and everyone should come support them. This show ['It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas'] has been a wonderful experience."

Joy Gerst (Clara) was born and raised in the theater: her father had a degree in theater and directed and acted; her mother was a singer. She feels community shows are: "user friendly, close, affordable and the productions are top quality theater."

The journey to the stage began the same way for many actors in the cast. They tried out for a play in school, found out



The ensemble for Potomac Theatre Company's "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" sings and dances during rehearsal this week.

they enjoyed the experience and have been acting ever since.

Brian Polk (D.A. Thomas Mara) tried out for a play the first year of college and feels "that once the theater bug bites you it never lets go. This show is inspirational and uplifting and an enjoyable start for the Christmas season. It has a story line people can relate to."

Thomas Copas (Sawyer) describes the acting process as "working collectively with people

to create something that other will enjoy." He auditioned for a play in 7th grade and found that it was really fun and has "had the acting bug ever since." He hopes to act professionally as a career and is studying theater in college.

Upcoming Performances

Potomac Theatre Company's "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" runs at The Blair Family Center for the Arts at The Bullis School weekends Nov. 20–Dec. 6. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. except on Saturday Nov. 21 when the show begins at 7 p.m. with a special Meet-the-Cast wine and cheese party after the performance. For tickets call 301-299-8571 and leave a message. Tickets are \$20; \$18 for seniors and students with a special 20 percent off prepaid groups of 10. The Bullis School is located at 10601 Falls Road in Potomac. For more information visit www.potomactheatreco.org

What's Ahead for Rockwood Manor Park?

FROM PAGE 3

Pitcher says the plans became public knowledge on Oct. 23, but the recent news of his proposal did not seem to elicit the response the entrepreneur was expecting. Neighbors with concerns about the development looked to community groups like the West Montgomery Citizen's Council Association and Montgomery County Council Member Marc Elrich (D – At Large) for support, saying they were unprepared to publicly testify with such short notice on the matter.

AS A RESULT of their requests, Division Chief of Special Programs for the Department of Parks Terry Brooks said the public comment period has been extended until Jan. 22. Brooks said the meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17 is the first of several, and the preliminary meeting before the Planning Board on Dec. 10 has been deferred.

Brooks said the proposal for the National Outdoor Center is seen as feasible in the surrounding community, and so it has progressed to the stages of public testimony. However, the Planning Board cur-

rently has no position on the proposal, and the foremost job in front of them is to listen to the public's comments and concerns about the project — the list of which is becoming increasingly extensive.

While Pitcher reasons the proposal offers amenities that are otherwise not available on MacArthur Boulevard, residents who call the surrounding neighborhoods home do not agree.

"We don't need this," said Woodrock resident Barbara Hoover, who is an avid kayaker and biker herself. "The C&O Canal is already a premier kayak destination. We have Old Angler's and we have Big Wheel Bikes in the Village. To open up the center will really mess with the status quo."

Neighbors also voiced concerns that come with increasing traffic — both automotive and human — in the park. Woodrock resident Nancy Altman says the hills of Rockwood Manor are conducive to reverberating noise, a small nuisance she was willing to endure with the occasional weekend wedding. But the proposed amenities, Altman said, make Rockwood a functioning — and therefore

noise-producing — place during every day of the week.

"The real fact of the matter is that 70 percent of year or more, our property will not have a lot of activity due to the seasonal and weather-dependent nature of the park business," said Pitcher in response to the concern. The second phase of his plan looks to implement a shuttle service to relieve traffic on MacArthur.

RESIDENTS ALSO wonder if the National Outdoor Center will be a sustainable business if it warrants such limited use.

"I don't think he is committed to it," said Hoover of Pitcher's proposal. "But you can't undo this kind of development."

While Hoover is prepared to voice her opposition, some of her neighbors in Woodrock share Pitcher's vision for the proposal. Patricia DeLuca Kaunitz created a list of the benefits she believes the Center would offer — from an accessible yoga studio and job opportunities to the organic bistro menu and nearby housing amenities for in-laws.

"It is a very positive thing," said DeLuca Kaunitz. "It is a sustain-

able model that I would be more likely to use."

Riverfalls resident Marcy Markowitz agrees, saying she would be inclined to take advantage of the outdoor space that she has otherwise overlooked.

"People are opposed; they think its commercialization just because money changes hands," said Markowitz. "But it's a service to our community."

The fate of the National Outdoor Center lies in the decision of the Planning Board after hearing testimonies from both sides of the argument. For Pitcher, the hope is for surrounding communities to see his vision of bringing outdoor enthusiasts and local residents together to enjoy their natural surroundings.

"There is a short-sighted and selfish concern this will become a local hangout for dirt bags," said Pitcher, who also said those in opposition are a minority that do not grasp the long-term benefits of the center.

"We're confident when the public scopes the depth of what we've proposed, they'll not only support it, but sustain it with their patronage," he said.

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